

Dear Residents

**Local elections and issues**– Although no elections are taking place which directly affect Chilworth, there are elections on our doorstep which indirectly affect us here. Being adjacent to Southampton and Eastleigh, both of which have local elections taking place, it is necessary to take notice of the results on our borders here. Thus far we have lived in harmony with our neighbours and I hope to see this state continue. We are, however, close to the major development taking place in Chestnut Avenue, Eastleigh, an area which is already congested at peak times. It seems that, unless roads are almost permanently congested, up and down the country, council traffic officers recommend approval for schemes which generate huge numbers of cars without prior requirements on developers to provide or ensure that adequate infrastructure is in place to support such developments. The traffic generated close to homes is a concern for the health of communities and needs to be considered when planning applications are put forward. We are more fortunate here in that, currently, we do have large areas of forestry which help to offset the effects of traffic. As our Borough Council begins to plan the next Local Plan for Test Valley to the year 2034 (yes, that is correct), it will be important to ensure that the air quality here, which depends so much on the greenery, is maintained. If you have any further views on what should be considered, let me know and I will see whether or not the Borough Council can promote them for the future.

**Local schools** – North Baddesley Junior School received an Ofsted rating of Good in January this year with 69% of pupils meeting expected standards in the 3 R's. The school has undergone expansion due to the increased development locally and this will increase further when the development at Hoe Lane, North Baddesley begins to be built in the next year or so. There are concerns about the traffic which emanates from the school and I will be looking at this with county engineers to see what improvements can be made to local signage etc. The Mountbatten School continues to make progress with 56% of pupils achieving Grade 5 or above in Maths & English GCSE's and with a host of other achievements to its name.

**Visit to West Dean Gardens** – The Gardening Club are visiting this well-known venue near Chichester on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> June. The visit will coincide with an Arts & Craft Show and with the annual occasion when the house itself is open to the public. There are a few tickets remaining at £22, which includes coach travel and admission to the gardens, house and the Craft show. There are additional craft sessions in which you can take part for a small fee. If you would like to join the group, let me know. Full details can be found on the website [www.westdean.org.uk/gardens/events/west-dean-arts-and-craft-festival](http://www.westdean.org.uk/gardens/events/west-dean-arts-and-craft-festival).

**Gardening Club** – 8<sup>th</sup> May 7:30pm. The speaker will be Andy Lester, a well-known speaker and writer on environmental matters. His subject will be on food but he will, no doubt, be prepared to answer questions on a range of environmental matters. The meeting will be at Chilworth Manor and visitors are welcome to attend for a small fee. Usual extras include fun quiz, raffle, wine tasting, etc.

**Quiz in aid of St Denys' Church Restoration Fund**- Fri 11<sup>th</sup> May @ 7pm– With Fish & Chip Supper. Bring your own drinks. The ever-popular quiz night organised by Helen and her family. At Chilworth Community Centre by the church. Get your team of 6 or fewer together or ask to join a team. Tickets £10 each from Gwen– Tel 023-8076-9207 or Helen – 023-8178-1566

**St Denys Church Fete** – Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> June -This very popular annual event will take place in the Old Village and the theme will be "70 years of the NHS." It will be opened by Dr Linden Stocker, an Old Village resident. If you have any items for a specific stall, let me know and I will pass the details to the organisers.

**Charity Bridge Drive** – Friday 15<sup>th</sup> June at Chilworth Hall. This Rubber Bridge event will be run by Chilworth Bridge Club with profits going to the Phelan MCDermid Syndrome Foundation UK charity. Places cost £8 per head. Apply to Elizabeth Marks on 01794-512199 or [elizabethmarks0@gmail.com](mailto:elizabethmarks0@gmail.com). Raffle etc.

**Local "knowledge"** – I keep lists of local service suppliers, from babysitters to plumbers, painters, decorators etc., which I supply via email on request. Some of my current lists are well out-of-date, so if you can make a recommendation or would like to be included on such lists requested by local people, let me know. The Village Hall website [www.chilworthhants.org.uk](http://www.chilworthhants.org.uk) is also a source of information.

Best wishes

Please contact me at [alisonf@btinternet.com](mailto:alisonf@btinternet.com) to be on the mailing list for more frequent updates about burglaries, utility failures, local news etc, Tel: 023-8076-9987

From Councillor Alison Finlay

May 2018

Alison

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