

Dear Residents

**Elections** – Please be aware that whilst the politicians fight over Brexit, there are very important **local** elections due to take place on 2<sup>nd</sup> May this year. Your three councillors for the ward of Chilworth, Nursling & Rownhams, Nigel Anderdon, Phil Bundy and I have represented your interests for the past 12+ years and would like to continue to do so. We can only do so if you vote for us.

This year, due to boundary changes, our ward has expanded considerably in that we now include an area of Valley Park within our ward boundary. Valley Park has been represented for many years by three Liberal Democrat councillors but due to the considerable decrease in voters there, only two councillors will be eligible to represent that area. Meanwhile the excess of 500 voters will become part of the Chilworth, Nursling & Rownhams ward. Some are not particularly happy to be part of our ward, since geographically, they relate to a different area from Chilworth, the nearest part of our ward to them, and they sit close to Valley Park's village centre. Furthermore, on a county and parish level they remain under their existing Valley Park aegis so it is only on a borough level that we, if re-elected, will look after their interests. So, given this increase of 500 voters added to our 6000+ voters, it is even more important to us that you cast your votes and do so for us.

Last month, I outlined the measures which your current Borough Council employs to safeguard and increase its revenue. Unlike many councils, we have managed to maintain and, indeed, increase the value of the investments made on your behalf. In spite of central government's decreased funding, we are in a strong position financially. This enables us to fund many local projects important to you and to manage the area successfully. We stand by our record of our Conservative-led council. You have 3 votes and we hope you will use them all. Of course, we hope you will vote for us.

In addition, throughout Test Valley, there are Parish Council elections. For information on this, see your local notice boards.

**Postal voting** – If you are unable to vote in person on 2<sup>nd</sup> April, you can apply to the Borough Council for a postal vote or you can ask someone to vote on your behalf (a proxy vote). To request either of these options, telephone the Council on 01264-368000. Requests need to be with the Electoral Services department by 15<sup>th</sup> April. Forms are also available online at [www.testvalley.gov.uk/aboutyourcouncil/localdemocracy/registerofelectors/welcome-electoral-services](http://www.testvalley.gov.uk/aboutyourcouncil/localdemocracy/registerofelectors/welcome-electoral-services).

**Better broadband service** – This continues to exercise us locally and I will continue to liaise with various agencies to get better solutions for those who are disadvantaged here.

**Tennis Club** – Open Day, Sat 6<sup>th</sup> April 10am till 12:30pm- The club in the Old Village will be offering coaching for juniors and seniors including newbies who sign up. Tea, cake and new keys available. Rates £65 per family, £50 couple, £40 single, students (age 16-21yrs) and OAP's- £20. Info from [chilworth.tennis@gmail.com](mailto:chilworth.tennis@gmail.com) .

**Chilworth Old Village Fete** Early reminder – Sat 8<sup>th</sup> June – ever-popular event – **additional helpers needed** please. Contact Wendy ([wendydoherty1963@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:wendydoherty1963@hotmail.co.uk)) or other Old Village residents for more information

April dates for your diary:

9<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> Apr – Chilworth Hall closed for refurbishment

Thursdays @10am- Test Valley Health Walks – 1 hour- starting from North Baddesley Sports Pavilion

2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Fridays – 10-11:30am, Country Market, Romsey Town Hall

14<sup>th</sup> April – Sunday Farmers Market, Winchester

Best wishes, *Alison*

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