

Cholsey Village Voice August 2019

The monthly newsletter from the Parish Council. Available free in most shops and pubs, The Pavilion foyer, and the library. CVV can also be read on the Parish Council website in the News and Events section. If you have any short, topical articles that we could publish, please forward them to clerk.cpc@outlook.com

Scam Warning

Please be aware that there is a man approaching people in the village asking for money to buy a winter coat. The man, who may be Italian, initially asks for directions to Heathrow and then tries to sell the coat for a few hundred pounds. He offers to take the person to the cash machine to get the money. The police have been informed. Please, if this man approaches you, do not give him any money.

Fun in the Park 2019

Fun in the Park 2019 runs from 12th to 23rd August. Information leaflets are available in The Pavilion and information can be found on the Facebook Page.

Residents are being asked to comment on the location of polling stations that are used for elections.

The councils are carrying out a review of the polling districts and polling places to help ensure that they meet the needs of voters.

All views are welcome, and the council is especially keen to hear from disabled residents and those who have experience of assisting disabled people with access requirements. Margaret Reed, Returning Officer for South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils said: "It's important that all our polling stations are in suitable locations and that everyone can go and vote without having to worry about whether they will have problems getting in and out of the building.

"We'd like to hear from people about their experience of using polling stations during recent elections - whether there are any changes to the location or building that you'd

like us to make or to give us details of any alternative places that may be used as a polling station."

Comments are open until Friday 27 September. People can have their say by visiting our website:

- South Oxfordshire residents
– <http://www.southoxon.gov.uk/>
- You can also send a written response to Electoral Services, South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils, 135 Eastern Avenue, Milton Park, Milton, OX14 4SB

For more information about the review please email the elections team at elections@southandvale.gov.uk or call 01235 422528.

Pension Credit entitles over-75s to free TV licence – Citizens Advice

The BBC is planning to start charging over-75s for their TV licences unless they receive Pension Credit. Pension Credit is a benefit for people on low incomes who have reached the state retirement age.

Currently, those aged 75 or older receive free TV licences which cover them and anyone else they live with. However, as from June 2020, over-75s will be means tested for the free licence. It is thought that more than three million people will no longer be eligible to receive it.

But if you can provide evidence that you get Pension Credit, you can continue to receive a free TV licence. Over a million people who qualify for Pension Credit aren't claiming it, the government says, so it's worth checking your eligibility.

Call the Pension Credit claim line on 0800 991 234 Monday to Friday 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. to find out about your entitlement. Alternatively visit <https://www.gov.uk/pension-credit> You'll need to quote your National Insurance number and be able to give details of your savings and pensions, as well as the account into which you want your Pension Credit paid. If you live in a care home or sheltered housing you can get an Accommodation for Residential Care licence which costs £7.50. You only need this if you watch TV in your own separate accommodation.

If you need help understanding this change, telephone Citizens Advice Adviceline on 03 444 111 444 or come and see us in person. For locations of offices and opening hours visit

<https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/local/oxfordshire-south-vale>

Homeshare Oxford carefully matches older people who are looking for help or companionship at home, with another person who needs affordable accommodation, and is willing to lend a hand.

In return for the accommodation the Sharer gives the Householder up to 10 hours of their time each week as a combination of companionship and practical help.

Each Homeshare match is individual and carefully agreed. It may include some cooking and light housework, help with computers and technology, maybe some shopping or gardening, spending time together over a meal or cup of tea as well as occasional trips out. The reassuring presence of another person in the house overnight is often an important factor for the Householder. **A Homeshare match does not involve any personal care.**

This is what people currently Homesharing have to say:

"I thought it was such a clever idea because, first of all, it is nice to have a little bit of company. Second, there were some things I couldn't do in the house, things that were getting difficult, and the third thing was giving someone a lower price in rent. It really has been a tremendous success". Householder

"Homesharing for me has been great. I think it's wonderful for people who are alone or in a position like I have been to know there is a scheme like this". Householder

"When you're on your own, not working any more, and your family isn't around, it's lovely to come in and for somebody to say, 'How was your day?' Additionally, having someone who could drive was a great boon, as I had to stop driving just before I was 90 and I miss it so much". Householder

"I am sharing with a remarkable lady to whom I feel an immense gratitude for inviting me into her home, welcoming me into her family, and trusting me in her space. In return I hope that I am proactive, helpful, and compassionate – and enhance her life and home as she and her home have enhanced mine. I would recommend everyone to consider Homeshare as an alternative way of living. Sharer

To find out more about Homeshare please take a look at our webpage

www.homeshareoxford.org.uk and then email

us at Homeshare@ageukoxfordshire.org.uk or call us on 01865 410670.

We are on facebook and Twitter too.

COPA–Cholsey Older Persons Activities/Advice/ Befriending Service

COPA–Helping Hands for Cholsey's Older Community

Enquiries 01491 652100, 07979 188701 (Jennie Kent), COPA direct line 07526 291088.

Jennifer_kent@btinternet.com

COPA is a community service for older people, their families and carers, working closely alongside Cholsey's Older Persons Worker Vicky Beardall-Richards. We organise regular social activities, and have a team of volunteer befrienders to support those who are lonely, and would benefit from a "listening ear". Your community can help! Monthly Brunch Club, Film Club and Lunch Club, seasonal trips out Newsletter available at the Pavilion, Rowlands and the Day Centre.

August's What's Ons

Saturdays - The Pavilion Community Tea Shop – 10:00 – 12:00pm (Closed August 10th and 24th)

Wednesdays 10am – 1pm – The Pavilion Community Support Drop-In for adults with mental health conditions, includes lunch, activities and space to talk. Costs £4

Thursdays 12 – 12.45pm The Pavilion 'Time to Breathe' Gentle Exercise, Mindfulness and Meditation.

Sun 11th 2.30-4.20 Day Centre Afternoon Tea

Weds 21st 10.30 – 11.30 Day Centre COPA at The Day Centre

Weds 21st 7.30pm The Pavilion Parish Council meeting

Tues 27th 12pm The Red Lion COPA Lunch Club £10 for 2 courses Bookings via Jennie Kent 652100

Opening Times

Parish Office – Wednesday 10am-12pm, at other times call us for appointment. Phone 652255

Library Monday to Friday 2- 4.30pm, Friday 6 – 8pm and Saturday 9.30am – 12.30pm

Day Centre Monday, Wednesday and Friday 10am – 4pm. Phone 652970

Happy Hub Mon – Wed and Friday 9.15-11.30am, Thurs 9.45-11.15 at the Great Hall, Sat 10-11.30am. Activities and fun for under 5s.

Baby Group Wed 12.30-2.20pm at the Happy Hub.