

# OWSLEBURY PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

April 2026



Owslebury.org



## WELCOME

I hope the spring time brings us more sun than this winter. I was starting to think we may all need to build an arc!

It has been a difficult beginning of the year with the loss of John Chapman our previous chairman and our ASCO's daughter Lucy. Our heart felt condolences go out to both families at this difficult time.

The Parish Council would like to welcome our new Councillor Chris North, he comes with a wealth of knowledge and is chairing the pavilion committee and is the driving force behind the new pavilion redesigning of the sports field.

The Council are hoping that they are reaching all of our residents with various communication methods and will update you on how to contact the council or follow local news and keep informed of what's on in the village on the last page of the newsletter.

I found these photos on the council computer and thought that you would like them. Who knew Owslebury sold postcards?

## GRANT APPLICATIONS TO FUND THE PARISH COUNCIL



The Parish Council has been awarded £270.00 from the County Councillor's Grant Scheme to purchase four trail cameras.

These will be used alongside the existing cameras to help identify and catch fly-tippers in the village. Our ACSO, Gary, does a great job in supporting this work. He knows all the high risk areas in the village and has some ingenious ways to conceal the cameras.

The Council have been successful in their grant for £4,500.00 from the Police and Crime Commissioners Emerging Needs Fund for a new Speed Indicator Sign and Laptop to download the data, as our current sign is nearing the end of its life. The council can no longer download the data from our current sign, however it will still be kept as it is a deterrent for motorists using our roads. This is great news for the village.

The Council have applied to the South Downs National Park (SDNP) for £300,000.00 from their CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) Fund towards the cost of the new Pavilion and developing the sports ground. This will be determined by the SDNP at the end of October. Fingers crossed that the Council are successful.

The Council have been receiving a grant from Boomtown for the last few years and this year we will receive another £2,500.00, which the council use to pay for the portable toilet in the sports ground.

## TRAFFIC & SPEEDING IN THE VILLAGE

The Council have been discussing traffic and speeding through the village over the last few months. The council looked into buying village entrance gates to be installed on Longwood Road and Whaddon Lane on both sides of the roads, however after Hampshire County Council (HCC) had assessed the sites there was not enough room for a set of entrance gates at both sites and HCC would only allow 1 gate per side at each site at the cost total cost of £7,850.00 to the parish council. The council made the decision not to install the gates as they felt that having one gate at each site was not the desired outcome and the money could be used better for other traffic calming measures.

The Council have put £3,500.00 into this financial year's budget for a new Speed Indicator Sign (SID), plus the we have £4,500.00 from the Police and Crime Commissions Emerging Need Fund. The council have agreed to buy 2 SID's, with this money to put up permanently around the village, plus use the existing one to put on the Portsmouth Road near Thompson Lane. Currently there are 3 sites that the SID can be displayed. The council have asked HCC if the SID can be sited at Longwood Road, this would be so the council can correlate data in the view to possibly lowering the speed limit on the Longwood Road from 60mph to 30mph with HCC consent.

The Parish Council have a Speedwatch group who are always looking for more volunteers. It has been difficult for them to go out as there has to be 3 volunteers at each session. The sessions that have been carried out were successful. The council have asked our ACSO Gary to head up Speedwatch and to get out regularly but to do that the council need more volunteers. To be a Speedwatch volunteer you need to fill in a form which will be sent to the police and then attend a 30 minute training session which is online. Please contact the clerk if you would like to volunteer.

Addressing speeding and traffic concerns in our village will require a coordinated, multi-faceted approach. By working together as a community, we can begin the process of making our roads safer for everyone.

The Parish Council recognises that meaningful change will not happen overnight. However, with the support and cooperation of residents, we can take positive steps towards reducing speeding and introducing effective traffic-calming measures throughout the village.

# OWSLEBURY PAVILION & VILLAGE SPORTS FIELD– LATEST UPDATE

The Council have agreed to start the process of applying for planning permission for the new Pavilion as discussed in the last Newsletter however due to new planning laws on Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) the Parish Council has had to reduce the size of the new Pavilion to a more modest one, with 2 changing rooms, showers and toilets, an officials room, kitchen and community space.



Biodiversity Net Gain means that any new developments that take place must replace any wildlife habitat that is lost and improve it by at least 10%. This could mean planting more trees, creating wildflower areas, improving hedgerows, or enhancing habitats for birds, insects, and other wildlife. However, this comes at a cost. If improvements cannot all be done on the site, BNG Credits must be bought from other sites within a certain radius of the development.



The Council are planning on planting new trees and hedges on the site, but this may not be enough to cover the development and would mean the council would have to buy BNG credits to allow the development to go ahead. The credits that the Parish Council would need to buy would cost up to £250,000.00.

However, the government are reviewing this policy as it has caused chaos in the planning process. Therefore, the council are hopeful that this policy will be scrapped in the summer, the council's intention is to wait until the law has changed so they don't have to pay the BNG cost. The Council will get all the reports for the planning application in place, agree the plans, and apply for the CIL Funding from SDNP. So the Council are ready to put the planning application in as soon as this policy is scrapped.

Hopefully you will have noticed that the sports field is starting to look more inviting, the council have cleared all the bushes at the entrance to the sports field to help with sightlines when driving in and out of the field and new benches with umbrellas have been ordered for residents to enjoy the field and watch the cricket.

## SPORTS IN THE VILLAGE THIS SUMMER

The Sports Club have engaged Active8 for All Stars and Dynamos cricket starting from May. Please contact Active8 if you would like to take part on [info@active8minds-winchester.co.uk](mailto:info@active8minds-winchester.co.uk)

The sports club have signed up for The Wildcats, which is non-competitive football for girls who want to give football a go for the first time, which is supported by the FA, and the sports club hope to have another Owslebury sports day and a social cricket match and get the cricket team under the new sports club this year.



# HILLY CLOSE PLAYGROUND

The Council have recently had the wooden playhouse delivered. The council aim to have this installed by by the summer as some grounds works will need to be completed to level the ground in the bottom right hand corner of the playground. A new rebound net will be installed against the fence by the basketball net.

The council have plans to turn the concrete area by the basketball hoop into a mini muga (multi sport area), which would include a basketball hoop, football goal and cricket stumps enclosed in a fenced area and will be consulting with the children at the school on this matter



# REMEMBERANCE DAY INSTALLATION



Back in November the Council brought 2 remembrance silhouettes, a male and female, which have been permanently installed at the Glebe field. The council would like to thank residents that crochet the poppies that were installed around the war memorial they were amazing - what talented people we have in the village.

The council, school and church worked together to put on a beautiful remembrance day service on the Glebe field. It was lovely to see all the school children take part, along with our ACSO Gary and residents of the village.

Hopefully we will start to see the poppies grow along the fence that the children planted if the rain hasn't washed them away.

# CHRISTMAS LIGHTS IN THE VILLAGE

The Council would like to thank the Christmas Lights team for putting on an amazing show this year. It was lovely to see the tree outside the Ship lit up and the turning on of the Christmas lights was a great evening - it was wonderful to see so many of you there. We all look forward to next Christmas.





# GROWS UPDATE

GrOws (Green Owslebury) is for all of us to share our experiences, tips and questions on how to live more sustainably. Between us we're discovering all sorts of ways to save money, resources, time and effort.

The most popular event is undoubtedly our regular Repair Café. We have a wide range of talented repairers who have fixed electrical goods, ceramics, jewellery, wooden furniture, and have darned, repaired and rejuvenated clothes, and sharpened too many garden tools to count, as well as fix bikes. The café always provides space for a chat over wonderful homemade cakes from the village and numerous cups of tea. Now part of a recognised nationwide success story, the cumulative impact is to stop landfill, reduce carbon footprint, and to become a pressure group for manufacturers of faulty goods. Please come along whether you have something to repair or just to have a sociable time. Next date: 25 April!

We tend to follow where people's interests lie. In October we went to the Veolia UK Portsmouth Materials Recovery Facility which was an eye opener. When we saw how much rubbish a whole town throws away (even while we were there) it shocked us all and gave us real insight into what more we can do to reduce rubbish. We realised how much 'hopeful' recycling creates the need for manual retrieval of stuff that can't actually be recycled.

In January we had an open event at The Ship to find out about all sorts of energy saving advice using the free expertise provided by 'My Home Made Better'. A number of households are converting to air source heat pumps and others have solar panels. If you ever want to find out what difference these make they are always willing to tell you their experiences. Just ask via [greenowslebury@gmail.com](mailto:greenowslebury@gmail.com) and let us know if you'd like to borrow our infra red camera to see where your home is losing heat.

Last summer we had a bug safari in the churchyard and created pollinator patches - they're clearly labelled, there's one outside the village hall for instance. We're keen to keep learning and doing more, so there are chances to help with regular surveys. We have several bee-keepers in the village and a few of them came to tell us more about it all in one of our climate cafes.

We put on climate cafes twice a year. These involve sharing food! And discussing how we can change or develop our own habits after listening to various experts - often people connected to the village. So, for example, we've heard about how industry-wide changes in plastic use are coming into use, how to find out about the sustainable impact of our pension funds, as much as financial growth, what's involved in running a hospitality business sustainably, and in April the focus will be on transport.

We're all super aware of the danger traffic poses in the village. Between us we can come up with different ways of cutting speed and volume of traffic, some of which we can do individually. but for real change to happen we need data to present to the council and highways authorities. So we're proposing to get as many people trained as possible with Speed Watch which will help collect essential data.

On either 28th or 30th April (help us decide by email!) we go to Marwell to find out how zoo poo is used to generate fuel. We're very fortunate to have a world class zoo as our neighbour!

As you can see GrOws' interests are as diverse as any of us wants it to be. Several people follow their particular interest, and come back to tell us about the films, books, exhibitions, gardens, schemes they've been to and that way our collective knowledge is growing. No tip is too small, or concern too large to share. We do what we can, it's informal and works because of the energy people have for their particular interest rather than having any specific agenda beyond a focus on what does living sustainably mean?

We're a working group of the Parish Council, and under their umbrella we have support where its needed, and accountability to each PC meeting. Simply by being a resident you are welcome to join in. Look out for tips and news in each edition of the newsletter and email us to join our dedicated WhatsApp group.

# OWSLEBURY COMMUNITY *Awards*

Owslebury Parish Council are delighted to announce the inaugural Community Awards. The intention of these awards is to honour those who work for the good of the community. The awards will be given to people who, without financial gain and by their selfless actions, benefit local individuals or the Community as a whole.

The categories are as follows:

## **Community Champion Award**

For an individual who has made an outstanding contribution to parish life through long-term service, volunteering, or leadership.

## **Young Person of the Year**

Recognising a young resident (under 18) who has made a positive difference through volunteering, leadership, sport, arts, or community involvement.

## **Volunteer of the Year**

Awarded to an individual that has made a significant impact in the parish.

## **Environmental & Sustainability Award**

For an individual improving the local environment through conservation, climate action, biodiversity projects, or community clean-ups.

## **Good Neighbour Award**

Celebrating someone who consistently goes above and beyond to support their neighbours – especially through quiet, everyday acts of kindness.



## **Nominations should provide:**

The Nominator's name and contact details

The Award that you would like the nominee to be presented

Information with dates where appropriate, about the person(s), group and why they deserve the award (no more than 500 words). Only information provided by the Nominator will be used to prepare the Citation which will be read out at the Award Ceremony, so plenty of detail is always much appreciated.

The closing date for this year's awards is 21st April 2026, winners will be announced in May 2026 at the Annual Parish Meeting.

Please make your nominations to the Parish Clerk:

by e-mail: [clerk@owslebury-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@owslebury-pc.gov.uk)

in writing to: The Parish Clerk, PO Box 783, SO23 3RD

**PLEASE ONLY NOMINATE PEOPLE WHO LIVE IN OWSLEBURY OR MORESTEAD**

**WINNERS WILL RECEIVE A PAIR OF MARWELL  
ZOO TICKETS  
KINDLY DONATED BY MARWELL ZOO**

# CONTACT THE PARISH COUNCIL

**to stay in touch with local news  
and updates!**

## **Contact The Clerk:**

[clerk@owslebury-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@owslebury-pc.gov.uk)

## **Instagram:**

[owslebury\\_parish\\_council](https://www.instagram.com/owslebury_parish_council)

## **Sign up to the email service:**

[www.eepurl.com/dt8C2f](http://www.eepurl.com/dt8C2f)

## **Website:**

[www.owslebury.org](http://www.owslebury.org)



**Find all the links here!**

## **YOUR COUNCILLORS**

**Astrea Hurlock (Chair)** : [a.hurlock@owslebury-pc.gov.uk](mailto:a.hurlock@owslebury-pc.gov.uk)

**Yassir Mahmood (Vice Chair)** : [y.mahmood@owslebury-pc.gov.uk](mailto:y.mahmood@owslebury-pc.gov.uk)

**Mark Egerton** : [m.egerton@owslebury-pc.gov.uk](mailto:m.egerton@owslebury-pc.gov.uk)

**John Foster** : [j.foster@owslebury-pc.gov.uk](mailto:j.foster@owslebury-pc.gov.uk)

**Guy Baldwin**: [g.baldwin@owslebury-pc.gov.uk](mailto:g.baldwin@owslebury-pc.gov.uk)

**Paul Simmons** : [p.simmons@owslebury-pc.gov.uk](mailto:p.simmons@owslebury-pc.gov.uk)

**Chris North**: [c.north@owslebury-pc.gov.uk](mailto:c.north@owslebury-pc.gov.uk)