

News from St Martha Parish Council

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As winter draws to a close and the days lengthen, the countryside begins to burst with bright colours you may have also noticed a display or colour not normally found at Chilworth Station. This is due to a display of amazing artwork created by the pupils of Chilworth C of E Infant School AND Tillingbourne Junior school.

Councillor Patricia Allen works very closely with David Daniels our Liaison officer at South East Community Rail Partnership, suggested the idea of involving the local community in a project to enhance the experience for users of Chilworth Station and to create a greater sense of involvement and interest in the station for everyone in the Parish. If you have not already seen the art display, it is well worth a visit.

As a parish council we are still working on ideas and measures to ensure our rural roads and lanes in our parish are as safe as possible and we are aware that the issue with HGV and other unsuitable vehicles using Halfpenny Lane as a cut through is still a serious and ongoing problem.

Councillor Clare Price is continuing to consult with Guildford Borough Council and Surrey County Council regarding better signage and other measures to effectively control the number and type of vehicles using Halfpenny Lane. A suggestion under discussion is a "HGV Watch" which would involve recording the number plates and / or taking pictures of unsuitable vehicles and sending polite reminders to the vehicle operators outlining the unsuitability of the road.

As we are all aware funding for road improvements unless absolutely urgent, is presently extremely difficult to obtain, so a local initiative such as the HGV Watch is likely to be the most effective option in the short term.

As funding is a very real concern and the cost of living generally is expected to increase over the next year, we are very pleased to report that after careful examination and consideration of St Martha Parish Council's finances we have been able to reduce our precept request from Guildford Borough Council by just under 10% which you will see is reflected in your council tax bill for 2022/23. We appreciate it is only a small saving, but every little bit helps.

We have also been asked to inform residents of St Martha Parish that Shalford Parish Council have now changed their name to 'Shalford, Peasmarsh and Chilworth Community Council'. This has caused a degree of confusion with the Chilworth residents who fall within the boundary of St Martha Parish Council. There have been no changes to any of the Parish boundaries, so there are no changes which affect the residents of St Martha Parish.

Councillors:

Jean-Pierre Pugh (Chair) - pugh.jp@stmarthaparishcouncil.co.uk

Patricia Allen (Vice Chair) - allen.p@stmarthaparishcouncil.co.uk

Graham Brown - brown.g@stmarthaparishcouncil.co.uk

John Peake - peake.j@stmarthaparishcouncil.co.uk

Clare Price - price.c@stmarthaparishcouncil.co.uk

Julia Tantram - tantram.j@stmarthaparishcouncil.co.uk

Parish Clerk: Anne Tait - clerk@stmarthaparishcouncil.co.uk

Next Meetings: Wednesday 27th April 2022 and Wednesday 25th May 2022 both to be held in St Thomas' Church Room at 7 p.m.

PLEASE NOTE that on Wednesday 6th April 2022 the **Annual Assembly of St Martha Parish** will be held in Chilworth Village Hall at 7:30 p.m. This meeting, arranged by the Parish Council, is for the electors of the parish to meet to discuss issues of interest or concern within the parish. Please let us know if you would like any topic to be discussed at this meeting – at least seven days prior to the 6th, thank you.