

THE EYEOPENER



HURN PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

Winter 2018

HURN CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING AND CHILDREN'S PARTY



Sunday 2nd December 4.30pm-7pm
Village Green & Hurn Bridge Sports Club

Members of Hurn Parish Council invite all residents to join them and the Mayor of Christchurch, Cllr Lesley Dedman, at the Annual Christmas Tree Lighting Service on Sunday, 2nd December 2018 at 4:30 pm, followed by refreshments and children's entertainment. **Please come to the Village Green OUTSIDE HURN POST OFFICE at 4.30pm.**

The Salvation Army will provide the music for the Christmas Carols and there will be a short service. Afterwards there will be mulled wine and light refreshments for the adults in Hurn Bridge Sports Club. For the children up to and including 12 years, there will be a disco, games and tea, finishing at 7pm.

We hope as many children as possible, resident in the village, will come along. To ensure we have enough food, **please fill in the tear off slip** below and put it in the **box at Hurn Stores by Wednesday 21st November 2018**. Thank you. If you are unable to take your slip to the Post Office, please telephone the Parish Clerk on 01202 872056 to reserve your place.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY: SUNDAY 2nd DECEMBER 2018



Childs Name:

Age:

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.....
.....
.....

Address:.....
.....

Contact Telephone Number:

Thank You to Lydia for Volunteering

Lydia Greenman lives in Hurn and is completing her Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award. Over the past few months she has cleared out and swept the bus shelter, mowed and tidied the Green outside Hurn Stores, and litter picked Moors Close and Parley Lane – see photo.

Some 300,000 adolescents and young adults participate in D of E Awards annually. The programmes are at three progressive levels which, if successfully completed, lead to a Bronze, Silver or Gold Award. With assistance from adult Leaders, participants select and set objectives in each of the following areas:

- **Volunteering:** undertaking service to individuals or the community.
- **Physical:** improving in an area of sport, dance or fitness activities.
- **Skills:** developing practical and social skills and personal interests.
- **Expedition:** planning, training for, and completion of an adventurous journey in the UK or abroad.
- At Gold level, which takes about 18 months, participants have to be at least 16 years old and must do an additional fifth Residential Section, which involves staying and working away from home for five days, doing a shared activity.

There are lots of great ways to complete the Volunteering section, such as helping charities or community groups, but Lydia felt it would be nice to put something back into her own village - Hurn. The Parish Council is very grateful to Lydia for her hard work and community spirit and wishes her luck in completing her Gold Award.



**You can also get involved in Volunteering – just google “Litter Free Dorset” to join a group,
or form you own local group
Please make sure you take your litter home and keep our environment clean and tidy**

Hurn Parish Council Contact Details

If you have any queries regarding any of the items in this Newsletter, or want to contact your Parish Councillors, their contact details are as follows:

Chairman Cllr Mrs M Phipps 01202 478266 – e mail hurnparish@fillybrookfarm.co.uk

Vice Chairman Cllr H Greenman 01202 486367

Cllr I Evans 01202 477566

Cllr Mrs J Jones 01202 485258

Cllr Mrs H Balkaya Shore 01202 485288

Clerk Mrs N Shaw 01202 872056 - email hurnparishcouncil@talktalk.net

Website: www.hurnparishcouncil.org.uk

Changes to Moors Close Play Areas

Most of the existing play equipment was installed as a Millennium Project in 2000 and is now in a bad state of repair. The Parish Council has already had to decommission and remove most of the equipment as it was unsafe. The only reusable equipment is the swings which were replaced not long ago. We held two community consultation events in August and September, about proposed changes to the Play Areas. At the first one we asked what sort of new equipment you might like to see, and at the second event we produced proposals for layout changes, and the type of new equipment, based on what you had told us.

This is what will be happening – starting after Christmas, to be completed by 1st April 2019:

Play Area 1 - (closest to Hurn Stores) – to be fully refurbished and tidied up with new bark chip, reusing the existing swings.

Play Area 2 - existing equipment removed; the area to be extended northwards; fully refurbished with new bark chip; and brand new play equipment installed. This will comprise: Play Tower with Bannister Bars and Covered Slide; Multi Seesaw; 2 Spinner Bowls.
See illustrations (not to scale).

Play Area 3 – to be removed.

Play Area 4 - existing equipment removed, area extended and refurbished as a “natural play area” with big logs for sitting and playing on, and small wood/logs for den building etc.



New Picnic Benches

The Parish Council requested that the Parish Community Fund purchase three new picnic benches for the Green in Moors Close, to replace the old ones which were removed for safety reasons some months ago, and they were installed in September. We had received many requests for them to be replaced, as they are very well used all year round.

The New Unitary Authority

We are sure you know that as from April 2019 Christchurch Council will be abolished, as will Bournemouth and Poole Councils. A new Unitary Authority incorporating all 3 Councils will be formed. At elections in May 2019, 76 Councillors will be elected to serve on the New Council, of which only 10 will represent Christchurch.

The new Council will need to set its Council Tax, and a Shadow Authority and Executive have been appointed to consider this and other issues. The current average council tax in Bournemouth is £1247, in Poole £1423 and in Christchurch £1601. The Government has said that it will allow up to 7 years for Council Tax “harmonisation” across the Council areas (i.e. everyone paying the same amount). This means that Christchurch Council Tax will remain the same at the moment, while Bournemouth and Poole’s Council Tax will increase slowly over 7 years until it catches up with Christchurch. This effectively means that in the new single Council Unitary Authority, Christchurch residents, whilst not having a Council tax increase, will still be paying more than the other two Councils. Some Christchurch Councillors, including Cllr. Margaret Phipps, have been pushing hard to try to get Council Tax across the new Authority harmonised from Day 1, in April 2019, so that Christchurch residents will not have to pay more and effectively sponsor Bournemouth and Poole residents for 7 years.

As far as Hurn Parish Council is concerned, it will remain the same as it is now within the new Authority. In advance of April 2019 Christchurch Council has formed some new Parishes. In addition to the existing Parishes of Hurn and Burton, they have formed 2 more, to be called - Christchurch Town Council and Highcliffe and Winkton Neighbourhood Council. Many Christchurch Councillors believe that because the new Unitary Authority will be so large, and with so few Councillors representing Christchurch, it will be centralised and more remote, so it is essential that there is local representation from Parish Councils.

Roadworks

A338 -We are all encountering massive traffic delays because of the works to Blackwater Junction and the A338. You may have already seen in the press that Ward Councillor and Chairman of the Parish Council, Margaret Phipps, has complained strongly about the ways of working which are causing such terrible disruption to residents. She has been attending regular update meetings with Dorset Highways and the Contractors, Hanson. They are all adamant that these works have to be done. They say we will just have to put up with the traffic chaos, and they are doing their best to get it all completed as fast as possible. This is their timetable:

Phase 1 of the scheme will be complete by 10/11 November when there will be night closures to switch to Phase 2.

Phase 2 will commence on 12th November and continue until 10th December, with one lane southbound remaining closed. All traffic cones should be removed overnight on 8/9 December with all 4 lanes of the A338 open on the 10th December until 6th January 2019.

Phase 2 will continue on 6th January 2019 with the southbound carriageway again being reduced to one lane.

The reduction to one lane on the southbound carriageway will be in place until completion in June 2019.

For information the Parish Council has requested, and it has been agreed, that the one way section of Hurn Court Lane remains closed until the end of the A338 works in June 2019. This is to stop drivers using it in a dangerous manner as a short cut, by travelling the wrong way up the one-way to try to avoid traffic queues.