

## **Churt Parish Council Newsletter June 2020**

### **Parish Council Meeting – Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> May**

Churt Parish Council held its first ever virtual council meeting on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> May, using the Webex video conferencing platform. Apart from a couple of councillors who experienced technical difficulties, all others were able to join the meeting along with Surrey County Councillor David Harmer and a member of the public. The meeting went exceedingly well and all business was appropriately dealt with. Meetings will continue by virtual means until the Covid 19 restrictions are lifted but rest assured that as soon as we are able we shall resume our meetings in the pavilion.

### **Joined up Churt**

The Churt Community continues to do wonderful things. The Churt Covid 19 Community Support Group has continued to help shielded and isolated residents with their shopping and prescription collections.

"Churt WI for Scrubs" and "Churt Scrubbers" led by Marion Mitchell and Lucy Petrie respectively have continued to sew scrubs, hats, bags and face coverings in partnership with Frensham Heights School. Their efforts were recognised recently when they and a few colleagues were invited to a reception at Frensham Heights School where they were personally thanked by Sophie, Countess of Wessex. Marion tells me that they had no idea they were to meet Her Royal Highness until they arrived!

We are now in the throes of overhauling all the village communication channels and many sections of the community are involved. It is imperative that we reach as many residents as we can. The village website has gained in popularity recently and has now passed the milestone of over 5000 hits. As we are keen to reach all sections of society we are expanding our communications network to include social

media. All existing channels of communication will of course remain, including the village website, newsletters, the village vizz network, the Parish magazine etc. Councillor Lisa Martin is leading on this and is chair of a Churt Communications Working Group. We have already rebranded "Churt Village Life" Facebook page as "Churt Parish Council and Village Life". More details will follow soon.

Councillor Myra Johnson has been posting regular updates on the village website. These were done on a daily basis but with the relaxation of lockdown restrictions we have decided that these updates should now be carried out twice per week for the time being.

As you can see from the above, "Joined up Churt" is still flourishing!

## **Frensham Pond**

With the relaxation of lockdown rules and the recent good weather, we have been inundated with visitors to Frensham Great Pond which is advertised as Surrey's secret beach with excellent swimming water. Churt and Frensham have been subjected to anti-social behaviour, inconsiderate parking, littering, BBQs, evening parties and so on. We have joined forces with Frensham Parish Council, Surrey County Council and Waverley Borough Council in an effort to find short and long term solutions. Many initiatives were put in place following the Bank Holiday weekend invasion which certainly helped. Much has already been done but there is much more to do and both Parish Councils are working hard on the problem without forgetting the Jumps Road parking issues.

## **Churt Pavilion**

The retiling of the pavilion roof is now scheduled to take place this month. Scaffolding is due to be erected during the week commencing 15<sup>th</sup> June and the retiling itself is due to commence on 22<sup>nd</sup> June. Weather permitting, the work will be completed by Friday 27<sup>th</sup> June. There will, of course be construction vehicles at various times and deliveries of scaffolding and roofing tiles. We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause.

## **VE Day 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and a Walk in the Park**

Following the Queen's address to the nation at 9pm on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May, the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of VE Day, our very own Dame Vera Lynn, Debbie Lawson led Churt's rendition of "we'll meet again" to coincide with the national rendition. It was

followed by "Bluebirds over the White Cliffs of Dover" and "Land of Hope and Glory". Debbie performed on the recreation ground in front of the pavilion. The performance lasted for 10 minutes and the idea was that all in Churt could hear and join in and most did! The event was so popular that two weeks later, Debbie performed again. She sang a handful of easy listening and swing songs which were greatly appreciated by those attending who strictly observed social distancing. My thanks to Debbie and husband Mark who was sound engineer. We all hope that Debbie and Mark may perform again in the future.

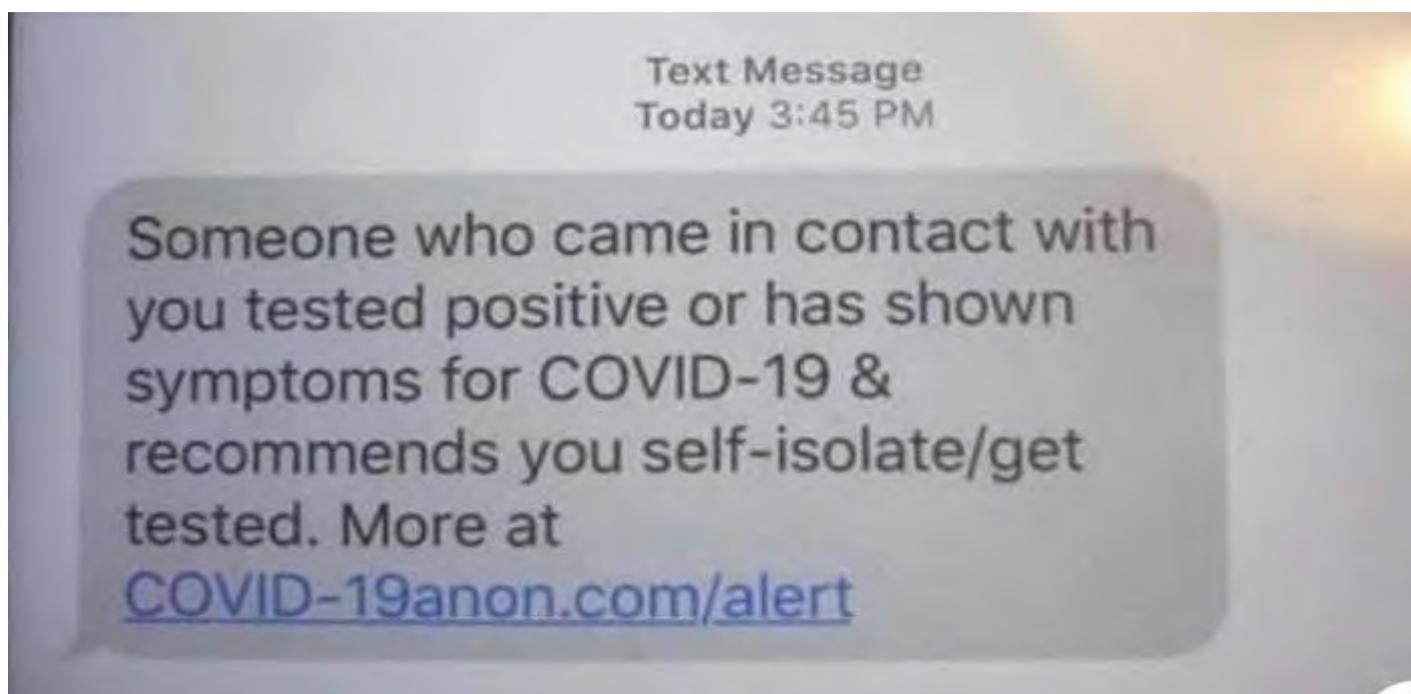
## The future?

With the relaxation of lockdown restrictions we must not become complacent. Please remain alert, observe social distancing and keep regularly washing your hands. That way, together with the introduction of contact tracing it could lead to a further relaxation of restrictions. Please, however, beware of contact tracing scammers. I received the following recently from my retired Police colleague network:

"Be aware of a fake SMS text that links to a made-up coronavirus contact tracing service. If you follow the link, the site asks for your personal details.

There is only one official contract tracing service you can trust, and that's the one being run by the NHS. Its web address is <https://contact-tracing.phe.gov.uk>.

This is what the fake text looks like:



### **How to tell if a contact tracing text is real**

*NHS Test and Trace might text or call you to warn you if you've recently been in contact with someone who tests positive for the virus.*

*You can tell if it's genuine if it includes a unique ID number. This ID number should allow you to log into the official Test and Trace website.*

*Instead of following any links included in the text, go to the website from your web browser and enter the ID number you've been given.*

*You could also check whether the text came from the only number dedicated to the NHS tracing service, which is 0300 013 5000. However, there are concerns it could be affected by number spoofing.*

*No other messaging services are being used to contact people. If you get a message like this on WhatsApp, Telegram or Facebook, for example, you can be sure it's fake.*

### **Be cautious and report suspicious messages**

*If you do receive a suspect Test and Trace message, report it to Action Fraud. The National Cyber Security Centre is also encouraging reporting phishing attempts to report@phishing.gov.uk.*

*Scammers are taking advantage of the pandemic in any way they can to try and steal information and money."*

*Be generally suspicious of any unusual or unexpected messages that ask for personal information about you or your friends and family.*

So let us all "Stay alert, control the virus and save lives"

David Crossley. Chairman

**The next meetings of the Churt Parish Council and Recreation Ground Trust will be held by virtual means on Wednesday 17th June 2020 at 7.30pm.**