



LPC NEWS

Latest news & updates from Limpsfield Parish Council



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Goodbye 2020!

It has continued to be a very different and difficult year for everyone; both residents and businesses alike, but we continue to be hugely impressed and humbled by the spirit shown by everyone in the Parish.

The Covid-19 pandemic has changed the way we work, think and prioritise our lives. We have witnessed true community spirit; a renewed focus on family life; creativity, imagination and determination in our businesses who have had to adapt in order to keep going; and a resilience amongst our younger residents, who have shown great maturity in how they have adapted to their new school life.

As a council, we are now used to hosting virtual council and committee meetings, something we would not have even considered less than a year ago!

We have also made great progress with our Neighbourhood Plan projects and will continue to push forward in our projects in 2021 and are quite glad to see the back of 2020!

***Wishing you all a Merry Christmas
and a Happy New year.***

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "J. Thompson".

Improvements to Footpaths – the Next Step!



In our last newsletter we told you about our programme of footpath improvements following the walks undertaken by Parish Councillors in September 2019. We are pleased to report that we have resolved 79 of the 114 faults/improvements suggested by Councillors, with the valuable help of the East Surrey Walkers, landowners and Surrey County Council.

Progress has unfortunately been slowed by the pandemic, as East Surrey Walkers and local volunteers are unable to work. However, we have now replaced two more difficult stiles with kissing gates, one just off Grants Lane (which also involved repairing a footbridge over the stream) and one on Pastens going into the field owned by the water board. We paid a private contractor, who has done an excellent job.

We are also funding a handrail on Pitchfont Lane, which is due for completion soon and recently, the section of the Vanguard Way that crosses the Titsey Road was strimmed by a volunteer, so walkers do not have to walk on the fast road.

The programme continues with a further four stiles scheduled for replacement with kissing gates and we will shortly be addressing the muddy paths from Stanhopes up to Sandy Lane and at the entry points of The Glebe Field.

The fact that many more people are walking, is one of the more positive features of the pandemic, so please continue to do so and let us know if you spot any improvements or repairs needed, or if you have to negotiate a difficult stile! **Email: clerk@limpsfield.org**

Update on the Limpfield Way & Work with the Friends of Limpfield Common



This beautiful footpaths map was first drawn in 1994 by local residents, the Rutherfords who lived on Limpfield High Street.

We have a number of the black and white printed maps for sale £2.50 as they are, or £4.00 inc. postage tube. Free local delivery within Limpfield or pay for postage. Paint them yourself or Cllr Ashley Fosdike will paint one for you - see picture.

Great for your own wall or as a gift. Trimmed size approx 50 x 70cm.

To buy a map, please contact the Parish Clerk: clerk@limpsfield.org, 07514 011355.

Available from Memorial Stores and The Carpenters Arms.

We have now mapped a circular walk from Limpfield Chart to Limpfield Village and back, and are developing a map and information for this walk.

It is just over four miles long, and will point out the many local historical features along the way.

The Friends of Limpfield Common have kindly agreed that a Parish Councillor could attend their meetings, so that we can work in conjunction with them.

You may have seen the excellent survey that they recently sent out, and one of the key requests was for more directions and suggested walks on the common, so we are very happy to be helping with this.

The Limpfield Way is mostly on National Trust land, so will be a great asset to the community. The Friends are also mapping a short walk for children and an easy access way for wheelchair users and pushchairs.

We haven't forgotten cyclists either and with the help of keen cyclist Jon Rayner from Limpfield Fitness, who leads regular rides on Sundays, we are now developing a cycle route from Limpfield village to Limpfield Chart, on existing bridleways and quiet lanes.

We look forward to updating you more on this soon...

In the meantime, a selection of local walks are available for download via the link on our website:

www.limpsfield.org or direct from www.limpsfieldsurrey.com

Crime in Limpsfield & How to Prevent It

While we live in a largely low-crime area, that doesn't mean that we can be complacent about it. Recently in the Limpsfield area, we have witnessed crime sprees including home burglaries, car theft from driveways and thefts of tools and catalytic converters, as well as domestic violence.

Much of crime in this area is opportunistic, however there is also a fair amount of organisation going on, with police reporting that car thieves and burglars are coming in from other areas (principally SE & E London) with lists of cars and homes to target.

Lisa Cobby, our area's PCSO says: *"We are not in a high crime area, but crime does exist here and we all still need to be vigilant. At present catalytic convertor thefts and van break-ins have been more prevalent. As you can imagine, the type of crime changes frequently, criminals travel. We never can tell what a day may bring, and with Covid and people being at home more, that has also changed things."*

Mark Howells of Surrey Police's Design Out (Crime Prevention) department believes that good communication is paramount and should be the basics of a crime prevention scheme, so WhatsApp groups and Neighbourhood Watch Schemes can be very effective.

As for those people claiming to be ex-army, ex-prisoners etc trying to sell products, artwork or just asking for money, these people are NOT legitimate and most likely there simply to gather information about you and your home. Mark Howells confirms that this is a scam: *"No such government scheme exists. It never has,"* says Mark. *"We advise 'do not buy, sell or trade on the door step'. All uninvited or unwanted approaches should be dismissed."*

Tips for crime prevention:

- Do not be complacent - thieves are brazen - they will take every opportunity they can get
- Do not leave backdoors and ground floor windows open if you are not at home or if you are in your back garden or away from the house
- Fit locks to side and back gates
- Alarms or Surveillance Cameras with sensor lights are definitely worth installing
- Lock cars when you are out or overnight
- Fit cars with steering locks - these do act as a deterrent
- Keep keys in pouches that block signals and do not leave them in view from outside
- Do not entertain door knockers
- Set up local crime prevention groups - e.g. Neighbourhood Watch Scheme or WhatsApp/email group for your road and designate a coordinator as a liaison contact for your local police or PCSO

Lisa Cobby urges everyone to report any crime in progress to 999. To report crimes that have already happened, e.g. car theft, burglary or assault (unless you require emergency assistance), **Call 101 or report it online. www.surrey.police.uk/contact-us/report-online/report-a-crime/**

"It's really important to report incidents", says Lisa. *"If we are not informed of problems, we don't have the opportunity to address them."*

To provide anonymous information on crime, call **Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111**. There is a full list of contacts and more information on: **<http://limpsfield.org/crime-prevention-in-limpsfield/>**

The Last 125 Years, Minute by Minute



Subscription by Mr. Saml Glover
for Bryant work house Bill

Saml Overy	4 weeks	3
James Tany	79	
James Hall	79	
James Howdell	79	
James Hayward	79	
James Cole for keeping the Washhouse Bill		
Mary Burnett	4 weeks	
James Moore	4 weeks	
John Coments	A Bill	2
John Dunn	A Bill	1
John Loveland	A Bill	1
Robt Wildes	A Bill	1
Subscription for last account	13:7	
Subscription for last account	4 16:9	13
Subscription for last account	8 16:10	

Robt. Loveland } Churchwardens
Edw. Loveland }
Samuel Glover } Overseers
Messrs Briers } Sanctioners

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Robt. Overy	4 weeks	3
James Tany	79	
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Robt. Loveland } Churchwardens
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In the last newsletter, we told you about the work that has been going on to preserve the parish records for future generations. We are pleased to say that the most severely damaged ones are now in the custody of Surrey History Centre, undergoing extensive conservation and preservation.

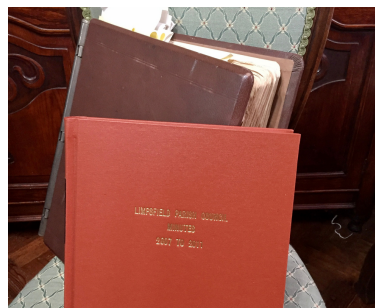
Although these records will reside at Surrey History Centre, they remain the property of the Parish and can be called back at any time for exhibitions/talks etc.

During our sort-out, we have also discovered a wealth of old maps, which show the progression of not only Limpsfield, but also the areas surrounding it. We are keeping these within the Parish and hope to be able to offer talks to local schools/clubs in the future. This is a fabulous resource to have at our disposal.

We are also continuing to catalogue other records and would like to say a huge thank you to local resident Deborah Langton who volunteered to help out after reading our last update. This is a huge task with records dating back to the inception of the Parish Council circa 1894.

We have complete minutes of every Parish Council meeting since that time and are currently getting the last of these bound.

We will keep you updated on our progress...



Marriage, Stocks & Smallpox

Did you know that it used to be the responsibility of each Parish to look after the poor with a 'poor rate' paid to the parish by every eligible person?

We have the disbursement books that detail how the money collected from the residents was distributed. They are beautifully hand-written, velum-bound books that will be exhibited when it is safe to do so. Here are just a few of the interesting entries that show Limpsfield's rich social history, including payments for the cure of smallpox and repair of the village stocks!

*February 1766 - Charges paid for marrying Ann Medhurst to Mr Thompson
- £7. 6s. 11d. and for beer and food. 9s. 11d*

August 1766 - Mending ye stocks. 8d

*April 1768 Paid to William Eldridge - For attending a man and woman in
Staffhurst Wood with smallpox £2 8s*

For curing Robert Wares and family of smallpox - £7 14s

May 1791 - Paid John Boyles for the building of the Poor Houses - £16 2s

January 1795 - Paid for making a gown for a foundling. Ann 'Founds' - 1s

Trim Trail Update

We have now obtained planning permission for the Trim Trail for children just behind Limpsfield C.E. infant school, which will be available for the school children and the general public.

After the school received lottery funding for the project, the Parish Council negotiated the lease with the National Trust and applied for the permissions. The school is currently negotiating the construction of the Trail, which we hope will be underway very soon.

This will be a great asset for the school and for the wider community.

CAAMP Update

As you'll probably know, the Limpsfield Village Conservation Area Assessment and Management Plan (CAAMP) is now underway, with Surrey County Council's Historic Environment Planning Team appointed to manage the project.

Following the initial communication and webinar, the opportunity for initial comments and suggestions has now closed and the first draft of the Appraisal and Plan is being written, with a view to an initial presentation to Tandridge District Council in January.

More updates on this project soon.

A Digital First Census for 2021

Every 10 years the Office of National Statistics (ONS) conducts a census that gives an overview of the country in terms of population, employment, living arrangements, marriage status and much much more... 2021 is the next Census year and it will be the first digital census in our history.

Census Day will be Sunday 21 March 2021 and will be mainly online - although paper questionnaires will also be available in local centres for those who need them. To make sure the census is as accessible and inclusive as possible, the ONS will offer a full range of support services, including:

- comprehensive guidance and support in many languages and formats
- help in local centres with trained staff and online access
- a contact centre to provide help via telephone, web chat and social media
- field staff contacting households that have not yet responded
- accessible census questionnaires, for example in large print
- the option to request paper questionnaires

NB. No one from the ONS or working for the census will ever ask for payment to help anyone fill in their questionnaire.

We will update you on the census nearer to the time and when we have further information.

Grants for Green Homes!



Did you know, homeowners in England can get vouchers worth up to £5,000 to make their homes more energy-efficient under the government's new Green Homes Grant scheme?

The scheme is part of a wider £3 billion investment in green technology, with the aim of making the UK carbon neutral by 2050.

Vouchers will cover two-thirds of the cost of eligible improvements, up to a maximum government contribution of £5,000.

If you, or someone in your household, receive certain benefits you may be eligible for a voucher covering 100% of the cost of the improvements.

Improvements that qualify for the grant could include insulating your home to reduce your energy use or installing low-carbon heating to lower the amount of carbon dioxide your home produces. You must redeem the voucher and ensure improvements are completed by 31 March 2022. Find out more and check your eligibility here:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/apply-for-the-green-homes-grant-scheme>

Community Facilities in Limpfield Village

One of the projects outlined in the Limpfield Neighbourhood Plan is to support St Peter's Church and Hall Committee in their aim to provide community facilities in The Glebe Meadow. To take this forward, we have so far:

- Part-funded a new noticeboard for the Church and the Parish Council, to be placed to the left of the entrance road to the Church Hall and Glebe. Local resident, Barry Chandler has done a wonderful job and the board is ready for installation soon.
- Contributed to the cost of regular mowing of the Glebe Meadow so that sports can continue to take place.
- Been working with the businesses in the Glebe Pavilion and Glebe Meadow on how we can support them and for the construction of a new board at the entrance to the car park.
- Worked with local website and social media @limpsfieldsurrey to create a better forum for Limpfield businesses to communicate and promote their products and services.

Community & Business Support

The community has continued to be exceptional in working together to help make sure those vulnerable people are looked after.

Limpfield CofE Infants School has been helping to support some local families who are having a particularly tough time during the crisis and we managed to secure a local Tandridge District Council Grant on behalf of the school, to help them continue to do so.

The Parish Council continues to play a central role in the coordination of volunteers for the area, so if you are in need of help or know someone who is, please contact the Clerk - clerk@limpsfield.org or call 07514 011355.

Please continue to look out for your neighbours and to support local businesses shopping local wherever possible. It is vital that we help keep our local economy thriving as well as our community. *#shopsmall #shoplocal #localbusiness*

Light Up Limpfield

We're encouraging everyone to deliver some Christmas cheer and *Light Up Limpfield* this year! We'd love to see everyone make an extra special effort to get out those twinkly lights and make Limpfield look lovely for Christmas.

How to contact us

Parish Clerk: Sophie Martin. Tel: 07514 011355. Email: clerk@limpsfield.org.

Website: www.limpsfield.org

Social Media: @limpsfieldparishcouncil (Facebook & Instagram) | @limpsfieldpc (Twitter)

Postal address: PO Box 309, Oxted, RH8 8EU.

