



Colnbrook WITH Poyle

PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER



Spring **2022**

Published by COLNBROOK with POYLE PARISH COUNCIL



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Colnbrook with Poyle Parish Council

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For more information about the Parish Council, please go to our website,
www.colnbrookwithpoyle-pc.gov.uk



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Colnbrook with Poyle Parish Council

Tribute to Parish Councillor Arnold Richardson, 1942 – 2021

**By Cllr Joyce John,
on Behalf of the Parish Council**

I have been asked to share and show homage to our much beloved fellow councillor. Firstly, we would like to extend our condolences to Cllr Richardson's wife, Grace, their children, grandchildren and all extended family members, associates and friends.

Cllr Richardson was much loved and appreciated throughout our diverse community for his calm and sincere nature, that won the hearts of our residents.

As a council of 12, we are still trying our utmost to conduct business as usual but the cracks have been highly noticeable as the chain of completion has been broken around the table, and it is difficult to shift our focus in times of overwhelming circumstances, as the pain for our attention bombards our mind and emotions with grief, but we continue to find comfort as Cllr Richardson, also a Pastor, would remind us to rejoice in the midst of suffering with trust and focus in the Lord instead of the problems for solutions.

Cllr Richardson also served on our Finance Committee as our Vice-Chair, he also served as a member of the Neighbourhood Action Group where again he added value for better social principles and engagement for safe outcomes at all times for residents throughout our diverse community.

Cllr Richardson fulfilled his role with pride and honour as his aim was to ensure unity at all times, even amongst the challenges and obstacles we encounter as councillors during at times tough debates and decisions which required agreement.



Cllr Richardson would always look at the resident's needs with practical input at every opportunity; first and foremost, he stood for service above oneself.

He was one of a kind.

We have not only lost a Councillor, we have also lost a pillar of the Caribbean community, a man who wore many hats; Pastor, Councillor, mentor, coach, community connector, friend, and too many more to mention.

I would like to share a circle of love from the community about which Cllr Richardson was passionate. He always said it held a special place in his heart.

We miss him and we thank him for his service.

Colnbrook with Poyle Parish Council

Message from the Chair

Andrea Escott

Chair: Colnbrook with Poyle Parish Council



My personal commitments

Last time I wrote to you was very soon after being elected as Chair of the Parish Council, and I made some personal commitments to you all in light of some passionate feedback in our Parish Meeting.

I committed to you that our Parish Council under my leadership would listen to you and help you solve problems and lobby Slough Borough Council (and others) on your behalf.

I committed to keeping you informed about what we were up to, and improving our communication.

I committed to getting out and about in the Village and engaging with residents informally.

And most importantly, I committed to a mission to get our Parish Council back on its feet after a difficult couple of years, to function properly and be a Parish Council that was an asset to the community; one we could all be proud of.

I hope you have seen a change in how our Parish Council engages with you all. We're not perfect, we make mistakes, but I honestly believe that every one of our Parish Councillors, all unpaid volunteers, genuinely want to do the best they can for you, Colnbrook and our community. That's a pretty good start!

With Thanks:

My term as Chair has been a busy one. I want to extend my personal thanks to all of our Cllrs for working together, making important decisions unanimously and for getting things done, together.

Thanks especially to *Cllr Sean Oakley*, *Cllr Kashan Bennett* and *Cllr Chrissy Small*, our Vice-Chair and committee Chairs respectively, for being so supportive in ways that were both visible and at times personal.

We lost our friend and colleague, *Cllr Arnold Richardson* in October last year. It was a sudden and emotional loss for all of us. I would like to thank Arnold for his service to Colnbrook; we miss him.

The other (arguably much more important) team:

Joanna Cadman, our tireless Locum Clerk, has made an incredible contribution since joining us in late August by dusting us all off after a tough couple of years and getting us going again in the right direction! This is the first time we've had a fully qualified, experienced Clerk since the 2019 election; her guidance has been invaluable and we all owe her our thanks.

Thanks to *Judith*, our finance assistant, who resigned well over a year ago but still helps us out every month because she's so good, we won't let her go!

Thanks also to *Becs Curley*, our Community Development Officer from SBC, who has been crucial in gather feedback from residents in our Strong, Healthy and Attractive Colnbrook survey and suggesting projects to respond to the information you shared with us. And to *Esther Masters*, Senior Community Project Officer at SBC who has hit the ground running having returned from maternity, putting in substantial additional time to support our community.

I hope you enjoy reading our newsletter...

Andrea

Chair's and Vice-Chair's update

*Cllr Andrea Escott and
Cllr Sean Oakley*

Below are some of the things the Parish Council has done over the last municipal year:

The important stuff:

Precept:

As the dreaded Council Tax bills begin to thud onto our doormats, I hope you will see that your Parish Council Precept has been reduced. We took the decision to reduce this by 25% and have committed to try and keep it at this reduced amount for a further 3 years, giving everyone who pays the precept, a full year's reduction over four years.

Youth Engagement:

We know anti social behaviour is a constant worry to our residents. Not only when you are impacted personally, but also when you witness cruelty to animals and experience property damage.

Of course our Neighbourhood police team are aware and will do all they can to prevent this kind of behaviour. However, in addition, we have committed c£10,000 for professional youth workers to engage some of our young people.

This begins in April with an intensive programme for 15 weeks, where two youth workers will engage with some of our young people and their families.

After that, a different programme will begin, and a weekly youth session will be provided in Westfield, commencing in June / July. We're just finalising the details of this one and have sought funding by way of a grant from Heathrow. However, we have resolved to underwrite this so, if the grant application is not successful, the Parish Council will step in to ensure it is funded.

Police Surgeries

Our hardworking Neighbourhood police team have been coming along to speak to residents in two police surgeries so far. These guys work their socks off and are hugely under resourced so, we really appreciate it.

Please keep a look out for our next surgery.

Health and Wellbeing

Many of you will know that health services in Colnbrook has been high on my agenda since being elected in 2019. While our Community Hub was put on hold due to SBC's financial difficulties, we've teamed with Health & Wellbeing Slough to bring health checks to Colnbrook. Date info on the back cover!



Road Safety:

We know this worries many of our residents in many different ways.

We have now agreed to explore purchasing some new speed indicator devices to place around Colnbrook. This was a unanimous decision and demonstrates our Parish Council working together with a motion written by me and proposed by other Cllrs.

20's Plenty with the CCA

It was a privilege to be asked by the *Colnbrook Community Association* to support their fantastic 20's Plenty campaign to try and reduce speeding through Colnbrook. The Parish Council unanimously agreed to fund the posters that you will see near our schools, and provided book tokens for the children who drew some brilliant pictures for the posters.



Colnbrook with Poyle Parish Council

Cleaning up Colnbrook:

I've personally been on a mission to spot and report fly tipping. We will never stop it completely unfortunately, but it should be reported every time it appears.

We have also completed several litter picks in our Recreation Ground when our Vice-Chair, *Cllr Oakley* brings his children along to help.



We also have had two 'Clean up Colnbrook' events, with the whole community coming together to litter pick and spot fly tipping so it can be removed.

These are incredibly rewarding community events, and we receive a lot of positive feedback, so please keep a look out for the next one, probably in September, and come along and join in if you are able to!

Stuff we've fixed (or helped to fix)!

Many of you told us our wonderful *Jubilee Clock* had stopped. It felt a bit like a reflection of the whole pandemic because no matter how hard we tried, we couldn't get it going again. It's such a specialist piece of equipment we could only find one contractor to fix it. Eventually they managed to fit us in, after a herculean effort from *Cllr Anup Babuta* who was relentless in his efforts and it is now telling us all the right time again.



Recreation Ground:

We are incredibly proud of our Recreation Ground and we were once again awarded the Green Flag in 2021. We have submitted our application for 2022.

While our Services Committee, led by *Cllr Bennett*, have managed to make a lot of improvements in the Recreation Ground, the one that stands out is the entrance being made accessible! This was the result of many residents telling us the bollards were so narrow, they could not get double buggies through.

This is now fully accessible, having been expertly tested by our residents!



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Cllr Sean Oakley also completed his memorial project, planting two more trees and provided more seating, which residents had been asking us for.

Star & Garter

You simply cannot avoid seeing the state of this site in the heart of the village. I have spoken with the managing agent several times to communicate our concerns. Residents of the beautiful and historic King John's Palace contacted me to say they were (rightly) worried about fire risk, having spotted smoking trespassers, and infestation.

We were able to get the fire service to offer advice to the residents of King John's Palace to protect their properties. I'm pleased to say the owners have been on site and secured the windows and doors and a planning application has now been submitted to SBC.

The Fun Stuff we've done:

It was wonderful to see our residents come out and enjoy a **Fun Day** in our Recreation Ground after what had been, at the time, one of the most challenging 18 months our country had endured collectively since WWII.

We also had our **Family Disco** in October.

We managed to raise £170 for **Macmillan** during our **coffee morning** in the United Reform Church with Rev. Margaret's congregation creating some fabulous cakes.

Not to forget that our fantastic Services Committee, chaired by Cllr Bennett, organised our first official **Christmas light ceremony**. Cllr John did a fabulous job organising the food and refreshments and our friends Rev. Margaret and Susan from Colnbrook's United Reform Church allowed us to use the church to warm up. Significant contributions from myself and other Cllrs included eating our bodyweight in mince pies!

We are currently collaborating with CAST to bring you a **sing-along** with the film; **The Greatest Showman** – due to take place on 24th April!

We have decided that the Parish Council will be decorating Colnbrook this year for the **Queen's Platinum Jubilee**. If you have any ideas about how we should do that, please get in touch! We will also be contributing to the Queen's Green Canopy, by planting more trees around Colnbrook.

Andrea and Sean

Colnbrook with Poyle Parish Council

Cllr Chrissy Small

Many of you will know that *Cllr Small* is one of our most experienced Cllrs, having been a Cllr with SBC and Mayor of Slough.

While *Cllr Small* has been unwell at times over the last year, she has been continuously crocheting Poppies for the Royal British Legion. At the moment, she has made over 150, and is still going strong!

Chrissy was thrilled to receive this letter of thanks from the Royal British Legion and we're all very proud of her considerable effort for such a worthwhile cause.



Message from Cllr Kashan Bennett

During my tenure I've done lot of things which are benefiting our residents.

Last year alone, despite all the restrictions and different variants coming in, I was still able to achieve some of our goals.

If I talk about Christmas; we had a Christmas tree for the very first time inside our Westfield estate with proper connection.

At the same time we added a new location last year, Brands Hill in our list and installed a 6th Christmas tree there with proper connection and safety.

In 2020, one of our trees outside Sovereign Heights was stolen, so my task was to make sure nothing such thing happens again. We hired a professional company not only to install these trees but also to maintain them and thank God none of our trees were stolen although one of our tree at Sutton lane was chopped into half but was replaced by a new tree within 2 days.



Also from the beginning of my tenure I started a Christmas light ceremony to celebrate the start of Christmas season. Last year I organised and

expanded the event with the help of my colleague Cllr Joyce where we invited our residents. It was well taken by our friends, we sang carols and had refreshments at URC church later.

Let's talk about our recreation ground. When I became the Chair of services in 2019, I took this project under me to reshape the recreation ground in accordance to our residents demand, but due to pandemic all our targets were setback.

Still I managed to achieve a lot last year, one of the biggest challenge for our residents was to get in the recreation ground with wheelchair or double pram. So we changed the whole entrance area on both sides of the entrance to be more wheelchair and double prams friendly but at the same time to stop quad bikes getting in.

There were few health and safety issues in our toddlers area which was rectified last year with the help of our contractor. Our zip line needed an urgent attention which was also given last year and now we are just waiting for the seat to be attached to make it working again.

Part of my responsibility was also to make sure our toddlers area is safe and secure of all our kids. Which with the help of our contractor I fixed any problems, but this is our ongoing project and I will be making few changes in coming months with the help of our residents.

Apart from the toddlers area my aim is to utilise the whole Rec according to its potential. And, with the help of my colleagues and residents, I will be making big changes.

I have lot to say about my achievements but I'm running out of my space and time, hopefully will continue next time.

God bless

Cllr Kashan Bennett

Colnbrook with Poyle Parish Council

Message from Cllr Joycelyn John

Firstly I would like to thank all the residents, CRA, CCA, 50's club, Wives group and all current Councillors, the former Chairs, community groups, local and neighbouring residents for their support and encouragement during and throughout the local COVID-19 pandemic and now working on the COVID-19 recovery programme as we transit to normal WORK, LIFE, BALANCE amongst the challenges. As your elected local Parish Councillors within Colnbrook and Poyle of which I reside with and ethics of highly created social principles through evolving community engagement, mindfulness and awareness with empowerment for better outcomes.

As an elected candidate I respect and implemented the Nolan principles of public life, as follows Selflessness, integrity, Objectivity, Accountability, Openness, Honesty and Leadership skill sets.

Since my official engagement I have help and work with local residents with the following caseloads consisting of residency, migration related issues, local businesses engagement, aggressive and abusive ABS with a satisfactory closure of which the residents were relieved, along with implementation of health and wellbeing advice on the processes on how to access and use the choose and book and referrals services of which they were grateful and fully receptive for my input and guidance due to time sensitivity in some cases. I endeavour to continue working and engaging with various organisations e.g. CPB (community programming board) and Arts Council (Consortium) to ensure Colnbrook is included at all levels as we have been hidden for too long as it is high on my mission statement. .

I will continue to engage closely with the two primary schools by securing donations from professional associates, businesses and sign posting them to any opportunities that may be of benefit for educational outcomes with social valued principles for our future generations.



The COVID-19 Recovery Programme is now another challenge for Colnbrook residents as we emerge back out into a more extraordinary world, along with preparation for the many festivals e.g. LoveSlough, Women International Day along with many more.

It was a pleasure to be appointed onto the LS Commission panel to review the various talents proposals for their projects funded by Home Slough for the LoveSlough festival which kick starts in March.

I continue to work with OneSlough, SCVS and Public Health Slough seeking, encouraging and the awareness to the unvaccinated residents and throughout Slough about the health risk of not been vaccinated especially the hidden groups, regardless of their personal circumstances.

I consider myself a true village community connector and since being adopted over 30 years, I have always engage and connect with professionalism, or systems within my area of expertise for social impact in Colnbrook.

Colnbrook is sacred as it still maintains many assets, in organisations, businesses, people, institutions and skills and a sense of community life experience which is rather rare for many other areas.

The Museum project is now the Crown for the village as it can encourage social interest, residual income and become a tourist attraction for guest

staying around the local area and a selling point for the primary schools, hotels and Inns.

I have become more involved and familiar with the processes of the SBC council, I am working as part of the Co-production on the Adult Social Care Team which I consider as another asset for the community.

I continue to help with work experience placements, further education, form filling, sign off of varied paperwork, documentations and residents

with character references in many formats.

I consider myself as an everyday evolving Councillor, and will endeavour to continue to engage as I do on a daily basis and remain vigilant to any related community issues and concerns within and around the Slough outreach areas.

I also worked on the Slough Matters Project looking at advancement and adversities and I am involved in the Health and Inequalities Board again, with insight visions.

Message from Cllr Puja Bedi

In such uncertain times, we as a community have pulled through so much together,

As an elected member of the Parish Council, and now in my second term serving you, its been a pleasure getting back out there and meeting you all, talking about and sharing our lives and experiences of recent times.

My remit towards our community has continued as my work towards a regeneration project for the Colnbrook Recreation ground continues, a smarten up of the conservation area, working with the Costa Coffee franchisees so as to help bring something new to our village and continue to work towards making our Colnbrook a greater place to live work and play.

I have lived in Colnbrook since April 2007!

With Colnbrook Cares being a huge part of my work, as a group, we have continued to support our community and are now reaching out to those affected by the Ukraine Crisis.

I am proud to be part of such a great community that has been so generous and has donated so much to help those stuck in the terrible conflict.

Many of you know, that I wear many hats, and am proud to work with amazing people when Chairing teams on the Colnbrook Scouts Group, the Colnbrook Flood Action Group,



the Colnbrook Neighbourhood Action Group, Colnbrook Cares and being a Governor at Pippins School. All of these roles are not only rewarding but I am privileged to have had the opportunity of working with and for you.

I look forward to celebrating the Queens Jubilee with you all. As part of the Jubilee Events Committee, we start to prepare for a great weekend of celebrations in our village over 2 days, on 4th and 5th June, details of which will be promoted soon

I do hope to see as many of you as possible cheering on, and sharing our community spirit.... putting Colnbrook on the map as we come together once again.

I wish you all health and happiness, and thank you for your continued support.

Puja

Colnbrook with Poyle Parish Council

Message from Cllr Dexter Smith

As the only Parish Councillor who is also a Slough Borough Councillor, and as an SBC ward councillor for Colnbrook with Poyle, I want to use this opportunity to explain to you a little about the implications of Slough Borough Council declaring itself bankrupt last July, and what that means for the Parish Council. The Parish Council is financially sound but we often do things in partnership with SBC - so, essentially the Parish Council will have to do more in the future to maintain or enhance the overall level of services that residents expect or would wish for.

SBC is in an unsustainable financial position where one third of its spending is being consumed by paying interest on its debts, which are the third largest in the country even though it is the third smallest unitary council. It has a huge and ongoing cashflow problem as a result, which is why it had to issue a Section 114 Notice, and for a time could only spend on statutory services or fulfilling its contractual obligations, providing those services the law says it must provide and paying its debts. It came out of that situation by making a lot of unplanned cuts and agreeing to sell up to £600m of assets, essentially up to half of everything it owns (that we taxpayers have paid for).

These asset sales are meant to pay down SBC's borrowing debts and cover future cashflow problems paying for services. Using capital receipts to cover revenue expenditure in this way is normally not allowed, so a "capitalisation" permission is required from Government.

The Government have sent to Slough three "best value" Commissioners to oversee SBC's governance, improvement and recovery. The Government have also said it is "minded to" give this capitalisation permission only in stages and on strict conditions.

The first stage is dependent on SBC's External Auditors signing off its 2018-19 Accounts. SBC's Director of Finance has said that the last five years

Accounts are "inaccurate and incomplete", and he has said of these 2018-19 Accounts, "100% of the numbers and 60% of the notes have had to be re-written". Of this coming year's SBC budget, 78% of Council expenditure has to be covered by capitalisation, and the first stage, related to the signing-off of the 2018-19 Accounts, isn't enough to cover that, even though SBC has budgeted to find £20m of cuts this coming year and for each of the following 6 years. The scale of this problem is unprecedented in UK local government, and this is going to go on for years and will be a very bumpy ride.

There is thus a high degree of uncertainty about what SBC can provide residents, even with statutory services like refuse collection where whole areas are being missed recently, and the Council says it is due to it not paying overtime any more, it is also clearly about how the contract was specified in the first place. Some big SBC Highways projects continue because they are funded by grants given to the Council – this explains the slow completion of the road works on the A4 at Brands Hill over the last two years.

Despite SBC's financial crisis, SBC is still planning to go ahead with its 600-bay Park & Ride on the northeast corner of the junction of Sutton Lane and the A4 London Road, because they have a grant for it. It is unclear how its operation can be funded.

As your ward councillor, I oppose this development at each stage where it is brought forward by SBC, and I encourage others to object on the grounds of it being unnecessary and in the wrong place, on Greenbelt land, in a residential area, on a heavily congested road with the worst air pollution in the Borough.



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St Thomas Church - The Quiet Garden

St Thomas Quiet Garden was developed by The Revd Peter Abrahams and a group of church volunteers in 2004-5. The cross was dug out and flowers and bulbs were planted giving a spectacular all round display.

Gradually the volunteers moved away or died and when Peter Abrahams retired the garden fell into disrepair. Thanks to a grant from the Ground Work Trust in 2012 the garden was renovated and bought back into use.

The land has since been maintained by a very small group of church volunteers who cut the grass regularly and also occasional church work parties that help with pruning, cutting back and weeding.

Frequently asked questions.

What is a Quiet Garden?

A Quiet Garden is an outdoor space constructed and set aside for peace, quiet and contemplation, enabling visitors of any age to experience the beauty of silence and, perhaps, even to explore meditation or prayer. It should be a place of calm and rest and may inspire and refresh both mind and body.

Who Owns St Thomas Quiet Garden?

The Quiet Garden and fields are owned by the Oxford Diocese and leased by St. Thomas Church.

Who maintains it?

Volunteers from St Thomas Church.

Who pays for the maintenance?

The cost of petrol, machinery etc. comes from donations and church congregation collections.

Is it a public space?

It is not a public space. It is church land. The Quiet Garden is visited by classes from Colnbrook Primary School. It is used as 'Outdoor Church' on occasional Sundays.

Why has the Quiet Garden been closed for a time?

During the pandemic we were very pleased that many people found solace in taking their daily exercise around the church and in the Glebe Land. Dog walkers also enjoyed this area, unfortunately this has led to the ground being overused and damaged, especially due to people using dog ball throwers and along the bypass

To allow everyone to enjoy the garden for its intended purpose, we have now taken the decision to close the Quiet Garden completely to all dogs (except guide or hearing dogs) and 'dog ball throwers' will no longer be allowed to be used within the church grounds.

Although we have made the decision to no longer allow dogs in the quiet garden area you are still welcome to exercise your dogs in the other two fields at the rear of the church, but please keep your dog on a lead until you are inside these fields.

It is important to note that we are a very dog friendly church and two of our families occasionally bring their dogs to services on a Sunday.



Colnbrook with Poyle Parish Council



Colnbrook C. of E. Primary School

Be strong and courageous (Joshua 1.9)

We have had an extremely busy time at school since my last article in January 2021. It has been especially challenging

with Covid restrictions but with strategic decisions made, we have succeeded in keeping all classes open since last year. Throughout, we have aimed to be 'strong and courageous' in line with our Christian vision. Sadly, we have had to limit the number of events and visitors to the school over the last year, but we have managed to alter arrangements accordingly to allow some events to take place safely

As we have not had visitors in, we have produced a short film that celebrates our school. You can take a look on our school website: www.colnbrookprimary.com We are now having visitors back in school; if you are considering Colnbrook C. of E. Primary for your child, please contact us to arrange a visit.

Our Parent Teacher Association (PTA) has been working tirelessly through this difficult period to raise money for the school and provide the children with some enjoyable experiences. They organised Harvest discos after school for each class; they also organised a class fundraising challenge where children were asked to bring in 5 pence pieces to fill a bottle in their class. The winning class; our Reception children, enjoyed a cinema and popcorn afternoon as a special treat!

During the run up to Christmas, the PTA designed and made Santa's Grotto and all the children visited after school, had their photo taken with Father Christmas and received a small gift from him. We are looking forward to future events, including 'Funky Friday', where the children will dress in stripey, bright coloured clothes to celebrate Chinese New Year.

Charity fundraising has again played a big part in our school life.



We have supported Slough Foodbank, Children in Need, Macmillan Cancer Support and Save the Children, as well as supporting our Parent Teacher Association in raising money for the school.

We continue to enjoy close collaborations with a variety of organisations in our community including the **Parish Council**, who very generously donate tokens and trophies for our end of term awards, the Colnbrook Community Association, where the children have designed posters to promote road safety for their '20 is plenty' campaign, and the Neighbourhood Action Group with our support in their involvement in the Keep Britain Tidy campaign. We also entered the Parish Council's competition to name the ostrich at the Colnbrook Museum!

A huge thank you must go to Heathrow. They have donated money and labour through the Heathrow Rangers to transform our quiet garden into a sensory garden for all the staff and children to enjoy.

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Fr. Darcy and Rev. Binns from St Thomas' church and Rev. Margaret Dudley from the Colnbrook Methodist church have continued to support our weekly collective worship via Zoom. We do hope to be back in our school hall as one group very soon.



As part of their topic 'Me and My Community', PCSO Sainsbury and her colleagues visited our Reception class children in their police car. The children all enjoyed sitting in the car and using the siren!

New members from Year 5 joined our mini-police team in September. This is a continuation of our collaboration with Thames Valley Police to create a fun and interactive volunteering opportunity for children age 9-11 years old. This project enables our children to have a positive experience associated with policing. Their first task was to assist the PCSOs in monitoring the speed of cars along the High Street; they learnt more about the dangers of speed and were also taught how to use the speed guns. They followed this event with being part of the parade through the village to mark Remembrance Sunday. PCSO Sainsbury is currently arranging for them to visit Windsor Barracks which I am sure they will enjoy. We remain very grateful to the police for this opportunity.

In the Autumn term, pupils in Year 5 and 6 were given the opportunity by Slough Borough Council, through the Bikeability scheme, to pass their level 2 certificate in cycling. All passed successfully and the instructors commented how hard they had all worked.

In November, we held our Remembrance Service, socially distanced in the playground. Each class created a wreath and laid them at the door to our dedicated prayer space.

Our Christmas festivities began with an invitation to our choir to perform again at the Observatory in Slough, which they weren't able to do last year. Our Nursery and Reception children followed this with two performances of 'The Wiggly Nativity' in front of their parents who were socially distanced in our hall. All the children did a fantastic job and I was very proud of every one of them. We do hope that next year, we will once again be able to invite the elderly members of our community to watch a performance. Our Christmas Church Service at St Thomas' Church took on a different format this year, with some of our children performing the Christmas Story and supported by our choir. Unfortunately, we were unable to invite parents due to Covid restrictions but hope to do so next year.

I continue to be extremely proud of how well our children have coped during these unprecedented times; they are a credit to their parents and our community

Tom Brunson

Headteacher

Tel: 01753 683661

Website: www.colnbrookprimary.com

Colnbrook with Poyle Parish Council



SCHOOL VISION

As we approach the midway point of the school year, I am in awe of just how much we have accomplished as a school. Collectively, with your support, and that of the governors, Colnbrook, Heathrow and the Parish Council, the school is indeed marching into the future, with enormous strength and excitement.

Following months of collaboration with the Chair of governors – Mrs Sharan Ghuman, the governing board, staff, children and parents, I am incredibly pleased to share with you, the school's new vision. Change brings forth a renewed sense of excitement, direction and purpose; working collectively, we have now encased this, to steer the school through the 21st century. We are more excited than ever before, to ensure that our children have access to greater life chances, equipping them with the tools they need to succeed. We have taken into consideration, the pandemic and its impact on mental health and wellbeing; we have taken into consideration the everchanging multi ethnic and multicultural spaces we live in, and we have taken into consideration the need for greater resilience and the compassion required, to be a good human being.

I proudly set out below, the school's new vision: **See Tomorrow Grow.** The journey into tomorrow, starts today.

It is the journey of the child – which is at the heart of everything we do and say. With great fervour and ambition, as a staff, we have also worked on the rationale behind our curriculum, setting

out our intent, how we plan to implement our engaging and ambitious curriculum, which will be relevant to our school and locality, making learning both meaningful and purposeful. My staff and I acknowledge, that we too are learners, as we embark on enhancing our teacher learning, to strengthen our teaching at Pippins, especially in light of the pandemic and teaching through a variety of platforms. We are now a thinking and reflective school.

School Vision

See Tomorrow Grow.

Our Vision is a community where all children feel loved, respected and encouraged to develop to their fullest potential. We will help champion and celebrate their multiple identities, and their unique individuality.

Our vision will be to prepare and motivate our children for a rapidly changing world by instilling in them critical thinking skills, a global perspective, and a respect for core values of courage, respect, perseverance, and compassion.

Children will have success for today and be prepared for tomorrow.

We will prepare all children to become lifelong learners and responsible citizens, ready to meet the challenges of the future. In partnership with families and our community, we will create relevant learning opportunities for children — both inside and outside the classroom — that help them develop the knowledge, critical thinking skills, and character necessary to succeed in a technologically advanced world.

We will educate all children to the highest levels of academic achievement, to enable them to reach and expand their potential, and to prepare them to become productive, responsible, ethical, creative and compassionate members of society. Children's physical and mental health will underpin all that we do, to ensure the needs of the whole child are met.

Spring 2022 Newsletter

All children will be empowered to acquire, demonstrate, articulate and value the knowledge and skills that will support them, as life-long learners, to participate in and contribute to the global world and wholeheartedly practise the core values of the school.

We grow tomorrow, today.

Mission

Our Mission is to provide high quality education in a safe, respectful and inclusive environment that builds a foundation for life-long learning.

We strive to prepare all children to become responsible citizens ready to meet the challenges of the future, and approach life and learning with a sense of wonder.

We believe education should take place in a fully inclusive environment with equal opportunities for all and that all children should learn to value religious, cultural and socio-economic differences. Our school strives to be at the heart of the local community with positive and effective links to the wider and global communities.

School aims

We aim to provide a safe learning environment with a welcoming atmosphere which creates a sense of belonging amongst the families.

We maintain an inclusive environment which acknowledges and respects children from diverse family and cultural backgrounds.

We aim to foster an enthusiastic, creative community of learners prepared to continue their intellectual, emotional, and physical development.

Pippins principles

Our school prepares children for success in the 21st century by engaging them in rigorous and relevant learning opportunities that promote academic, physical, and emotional growth.

Therefore, every child leaving Pippins School is:

- A unique individual
- A global citizen
- A self-motivated learner
- Resilience
- Excellence

Pippins values

These principles will help us to decide what is right and wrong, and how to act in various situations.

- courage
- respect
- perseverance
- wonder
- awareness
- compassion

I hope you have enjoyed reading about the new direction the school is taking. Indeed, as a staff, we are incredibly proud to be able to shape Pippins to reflect the renewed optimism with which we raise expectations, and a heightened passion for learning. We are embarking on this journey collectively with the children, you and the wider community. I have now tasked myself with setting out in greater detail, what this will awe inspiring vision will look like at Pippins, over the coming months. I will share this information with you, in periodical cycles. In the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact me, should you want to discuss any aspect of the school's new trajectory and rationale. Please contact the school office to arrange a meeting.

I am deeply grateful to be serving the most spectacular community, children and parent body, one could possibly ask for, as a headteacher. I take great strength from seeing tomorrow grow, today.

With all good wishes,

Mr M Jalaf

Headteacher
01753 682 937

Colnbrook with Poyle Parish Council



The Colne Valley Regional Park

We are delighted to have the opportunity to write an article for the Colnbrook with Poyle Parish Council Magazine to explain about the work we do to Protect, Enhance and Promote the Park.

What Exactly is the Colne Valley Regional Park?

The Colne Valley Regional Park, **formed in 1965**, stretches from Rickmansworth in the north, to Staines and the Thames in the south, Uxbridge and Heathrow in the east, to Slough and Chalfont in the west. Covering 43 square miles the **landscape** is a mix of bustling villages, green spaces and waterways which are the first taste of countryside immediately west of London.

We aim to highlight this fantastic and varied area, its history, rich landscape and wildlife. Many people live, work and visit the Colne Valley, but too few realise it forms part of a vibrant regional park. Everything we do in the Park is guided by **six objectives**: Landscape, Countryside, Biodiversity, Recreation, Rural Economy and Community Participation.

Our **National Lottery Heritage funded Landscape Partnership project** brings together wildlife organisations, local authorities, and water companies, and is led by community charity **Groundwork South** to preserve and enhance the landscape for people and wildlife. Recent months have seen progress in the diverse collection of projects. Through this scheme, we are taking steps to bring a cherished landscape back from the brink of decline by co-ordinating conservation work, and helping connect communities with their local countryside.

Why does the Park Need to be Protected?

Here at the Colne Valley Regional Park, we have noticed an alarming increase in speculative, commercially-driven projects that are completely unsuitable in the Green Belt. It's no exaggeration to say the threats to the **Colne Valley Regional Park and indeed the Green Belt as a whole, have reached crisis point that is why we are urging the Government to review Green Belt policy.**

The Colne Valley Regional Park is not anti-development. We are pro-countryside, and view the Green Belt as a positive thing for a better natural environment with recreation opportunities and access to nature to improve physical and mental health for the benefit of millions of people who live nearby.

We aim to ensure the park thrives as a place for recreation, agriculture and wildlife, whilst playing its part to combat climate change.

In the face of this onslaught of development proposals, **we have written to Michael Gove with seven practical suggestions to improve Planning Policy** requesting that he incorporate them into planning reform.

You can see examples of our work to make the case for the countryside to Slough Borough Council, Government and developers on the **library** page on our website. Have a look under the headings 'Responses to local plan consultations' and 'Proposed Heathrow Expansion'

Protecting the Rivers in the Colne Valley Regional Park

We have also been working hard to protect the rivers and lakes in the Park and to raise awareness of their pollution. We organise many conservation events to remove invasive species a serious threat to river health. If you would like to come along

and help at one of these, please keep an eye on our events page or become a **River Ranger**.

Events, Walks, a Festival Fortnight – there's so much to do in the Park

Just some of the things you might want to try, more details can be found on our website: www.colnevalleypark.org.uk

- Conservation volunteering - for example on Saturday Feb 12th volunteers helped us remove 8 sacks of dumped rubbish from Arthur Jacob Nature Reserve and Poyle Poplars Community Woodland. We will be organising another task in March, watch our events page for more details.
- Try one of our many walk suggestions, our circular walks are especially popular, for example Staines Moor or the Colne Valley

Trail which runs on mainly off-road countryside paths from Colnbrook to Thorney Park, Denham Country Park and Rickmansworth Aquadrome

- Our Festival Fortnight will be returning this year

Other Ways to Get Involved

If you would like to support us in making The Colne Valley Park a greener and more enjoyable place in which to live, work and play, please do join **the Friends**.

To help the Colne Valley Regional Park protect and improve the Park and fight for your local countryside please donate here.

If there's something you'd like to know try our website, and particularly our FAQs or email enquiry@colnevalleypark.org.uk



Colnbrook with Poyle Parish Council



The CCA continues to work with residents, the Parish Council, SBC, TVP and various local agencies to help improve our community, initiate, and assist as required with projects based on matters brought to our attention, and report to the responsible authorities on matters that require their attention.

20'S Plenty for Colnbrook

In the summer of 2021 following the general easing of lockdown and a return to a normal routine in offices and schools, the increase in the amount and speed of traffic around and through our local roads was again thrown into focus. The CCA contacted the national campaign known as "20's Plenty for Us" which is a 'not for profit' organisation currently with 500 local groups campaigning to make cities, towns and villages around the world better places to live, work learn and play.

They campaign for 20mph to be normal on residential streets and in town and village centres as there is a wide belief, and one that the General Assembly of the United Nations endorses, that 20mph speed limit is the optimum speed where people mix with motor vehicles on their residential streets. Local people understand how higher vehicle speeds blight communities and inhibit their ability to walk, cycle and use public transport; they know that lower speeds save lives and reduce pollution.

To initiate our local campaign, we took the concept to our two local schools and were delighted with the immediate and positive reaction from the

Headteachers of both Pippins School and Colnbrook CofE Primary School, their Teachers, Children and Parents. Both schools became actively involved and the children created artwork that depicted "20s Plenty for Colnbrook" from their perspective.

The amazing artwork the children produced showed how engaged their young minds are with the challenges they face on the roads – their artwork that now features on the posters and banners that are now displayed at key points around the ward.

We are pleased to report that the Parish Council unanimously passed a motion of support for this campaign. Now that 20s Plenty for Colnbrook campaign has been launched visually across the ward, we have submitted this to Slough Borough Council and the relevant departments to seek that this project is implemented with their full support.

The Colnbrook Community Association thanks all residents, as well as the Colnbrook with Poyle Parish Council, Colnbrook NAG, Colnbrook C of E Primary School, Pippins Primary School and Borough Councillors for their support as we enter the next phase of the project.

Together we can make this happen!

Boyle Trading Estate / M25 Junction 14 Entrance / Exit

The CCA remains proactive in seeking a safe and imaginative approach to resolving the terrible state of Horton Road along the boundary of the Boyle Trading Estate at the southerly entrance to the village off Junction 14 of the M25.



The road surface and numerous manhole covers are not fit for purpose on this stretch of road is now extremely busy – large articulated trucks, quarry lorries, courier vans and private vehicles making this an extremely dangerous, narrow stretch of road; the speed and volume is at breaking point. As a result, the pavements and verges, especially where Swissport repeatedly have their HGVs lined-up waiting to enter their depot while all the loading bays are full - the highway infrastructure is being damaged and worn out; missing road signage, trees and bushes overhanging the highway as well as the verge, its not fit for purpose. Slough Borough Council have repeatedly gone quiet when our concerns have been raised but with ongoing expansion and developments in the Trading Estate this situation is only going to deteriorate. We will continue to lobby SBC to address the matter.

Flytipping & Anti Social Behaviour

Needless to say, we continue to cooperate and engage with Slough BC, Thames Valley Police, Colnbrook with Poyle Parish Council, our Borough Councillors and other agencies to resolve these issues that are a blight on our community.

The 'problem areas' seem to consistently be around the side of the shops on Coleridge Crescent; Drift Way verges towards the fields; Horton Road; Sutton Road and along the bypass.

Cca Community Engagement

Please continue to contact us via the Facebook portal at <https://www.facebook.com/ColnbrookCommunityAssociation/>

Vicki

Vicki Brenner – Chair

Charles

Charles Burke – Secretary

Neighbourhood Action Group

Once again, as a community we have come together to support our community and those beyond.

Our meetings have continued to address issues such as fly tipping, late night racing on our roads, speeding, crime, parking issues and we have continued with our Keep Colnbrook Clean campaign, discussing an 'Adopt Your Street' style campaign and project for Colnbrook.

In the last year our neighbourhood officially became and launched a Neighbourhood Watch area, and we attend meetings to report back to the Wardens who support us on the issues that impact our neighbourhood.

Our next Clean up is in September 2022 watch out for the details!

Get involved with the Colnbrook Neighbourhood Action Group and help make Colnbrook a great place to live work rest and play!

Colnbrook Cares

As we get stuck into 2022, the year has started with the further easing of restrictions and for us all being able to come out to meet one another.

With the terrible events unfolding in Ukraine at the fore of all our minds, we here at Colnbrook cares are collecting and donating to those in Ukraine who need our support. If you wish to donate please contact us at: puja_59@hotmail.com.

As a group we have continued to support our village, and it has been wonderful to meet you all out and about. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those involved with Colnbrook Cares, for their time, support and commitment.

Take care, keep safe everyone and keep smiling!

Puja Bedi

& the Colnbrook Cares Team

Colnbrook with Poyle Parish Council

Colnbrook Museum

Compact and modest on the outside but fascinating and bursting with history on the inside.

Colnbrook has many stories to tell and for decades there have been calls for a Museum. Up until recently the nearest that had been achieved was a building attached to Gilson's bakery in the High St, which housed the Old Fire Engine and Clock, but this was demolished around 1997.

This was followed by a room on the ground floor of the Ostrich Inn which housed the same artefacts until 2016 when the space was converted to a hotel bedroom. Then for about four and a half years the Engine and Clock were stored in a barn at Stanwell Moor. It was at the end of 2020 that they returned to Colnbrook.

It was in 1995 only months after the formation of the new Colnbrook with Poyle Parish Council that representatives of both the Parish Council and The Colnbrook Residents Association were asked to attend a meeting with the owners of Gilson Bakery. At that meeting they were requested by the Gilson family to ensure that in the future if anything happened to the Bakery to do their best to ensure the Fire Engine and the Clock always remained in the heart of the Village. It was agreed they would. It was two years later after the sale of the Bakery that it was demolished for housing. Fortunately, the then owner of the Ostrich Inn was able to offer a room as a short-term storage facility.

Some fund-raising efforts were made to help establish a permanent home but it wasn't until nineteen years later that the real need for a new location became a reality. First thoughts were to buy, rent, or build a fairly simple storage building somewhere in Colnbrook.

Some fund-raising efforts were made to help establish a permanent home but it wasn't until nineteen years later that the real need for a new location became a reality. First thoughts were to buy, rent, or build a fairly simple storage building somewhere in Colnbrook.

Colnbrook Village Hall Trust had been considering a scheme to extend their original building to incorporate space for more storage and activities as well as the fire engine but the initial scheme proved too expensive to proceed.

Whilst the early thoughts were merely to provide a storage facility the Museum building, we have today is now a major part of an Annexe to the Village Hall and is the result of close co-operation and collaboration of a number of organisations. During the formative meetings it was stressed that a museum is a significant step up from an artefact's storage facility and that a committed team of volunteers would be required to run it efficiently. It was the wish of the majority of those attending that Colnbrook deserved a museum and that's what should happen.

Work commenced on site in March 2020 just as Covid struck. The green Oak timber frame of the building had been manufactured offsite and was ready and waiting for delivery when the groundworks were planned for completion.

The restrictions brought about by the emerging pandemic meant plans had to be modified throughout the construction and fit out phases; Labour and materials were in short supply. However, with the help of suppliers, donors, volunteers and contractors the project of building the facility was substantially completed by the year end and signed off by the Building Control Officer in December. The Engine and Clock had returned and the Gilson family's wish continues to be fulfilled.



We need more volunteers

If you live or have lived in Colnbrook and know just a little about its history and geography, we would welcome you to join us to learn more and see what you can offer to others by way of conversation and information. It's a nice sociable way to spend a few hours each week.

We have a small reading area where you can look through or study various publications, scrapbooks, photo albums and more. The museum is accessible, and we have our own wheelchair, donated by the late Dave Coe, should anyone need to use it. It's normally possible to get a cuppa and a biscuit in St Thomas' Church just opposite where you will normally find David Shields, Church Warden.

Peter Hood

Chair – Colnbrook Museum

Colnbrook with Poyle Parish Council



Multi agency surgery
Saturday 30th April 2022
10am – 12pm
Westfield Community Centre



Colnbrook Village Hall
Vicarage Way SL3 0RF

Sunday 24th April

Doors open 3pm,
Film Starts 3.30pm

Advanced Tickets:

Adults £4, U16s £3, Family £12

(Family = 2 adults and 2 children or 1 adult and 3 children)

On the Door:

All tickets £5

(subject to availability)

[www.ticketsource.co.uk/](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/cast-theatre-company)
cast-theatre-company