Welcome to our latest newsletter!

First the good news… In September West Parley got a Silver Gilt award in the South and South East in Bloom competition, up from our previous Silver awards. This improvement reflects all the hard work done by residents keeping outside their houses tidy, as well as the usual fantastic work done by all the volunteers, who spend many hours litter picking and tidying up around the village. More planters along the main roads and hanging baskets outside the shops at Parley Cross made these areas look good.

Over 20 residents entered the front and rear garden competitions that help the entry. More categories are planned for this year to continue the interest in the competition.

In our first entry into the RHS ‘It’s Your Neighbourhood’ competition, run alongside the ‘In Bloom’ competition, the West Parley Residents Association did really well, gaining just one mark beneath the top award of ‘outstanding’. Judges were impressed with the work being done in Parley Wood to improve access and recreate a traditional woodland setting for the benefit of all residents.

We hope you liked the roadside Xmas decorations put up for the first time in the village. Businesses have been encouraged to brighten their shop displays. More will be done in 2016. Christmas carols at the community event outside the Glenmoor Road shops went down well.

Now for the bad news… We have all suffered from the huge amount of extra traffic due to the work on the A338 and have experienced long tailbacks at Parley Cross at peak times.

Some vehicles are ‘rat running’ between the approach roads to Parley Cross to avoid the long queues and speeding on the side roads. One car was doing 47mph in Chine Walk!

Also some cars are parking too close to junctions on the side roads, off Christchurch Road and this is blocking the junctions.
Work will start before the Spring on the new woodland play area reusing cut timber from Parley Wood. Also in the Recreation Ground new items for younger children will be installed around March.

The volunteers do a great job clearing the verges but some work needs contractors to do it. We plan to have the overhanging trees along the main roads trimmed back in the next few months. This will make it easier for cyclists and horse riders as well as pedestrians. Horse riders will also welcome the work done by Eco to move the bridle-path in Chapel Lane away from the recycling facilities. Thanks also to Eco for their recent £5000 donation to community funds following planning consent to a further solar farm.

Change of Councillors
Simon Jordan has left the Council. Our thanks to him for all his very hard work in recent years. New Councillors are Kay Bundy, Barbara Manuel, John Dinsdale and David Allen.

For your diary...
This year’s Annual General Meeting will be on 22 April at the Memorial Hall. 7pm doors open. Meeting starts at 7.30. Come along and hear all the current news and have your say on what you want to see happen in West Parley.

If you have any ideas on how we can help improve the village and its society please let us know.

Thank you
Many residents do a tremendous amount to help village life but a few special thanks are needed. Especially to everyone who has put items in the new food and clothing banks in local shops and to the volunteers who have collected and passed on all the food and over 350 items of warm clothing to local needy. Thanks also to the shops in Parley Cross and Glenmoor Road who put up Christmas window displays and hosted the food and clothing banks. And to the naturalists who have come forward to survey Parley Wood to give us a ‘blueprint’ of what trees and plants are there and how we should be managing the Wood. THANK YOU!

You can also keep up to date with what is happening by looking at websites:
www.westparley-pc.gov.uk  www.parleycountryclub.co.uk  www.westparleymemorialhall.org.uk