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Churt Parish Council Newsletter February 2023

Coronation Tree Planting

The tree to mark the Coronation has now been planted on Redhearn Green close to the War Memorial. We chose a *Liquidambar styraciflua* 'Worplesdon', a winner of an RHS Award of Garden Merit and which is well known for its Autumn foliage colour in brilliant shades of gold through deep orange to red. This species is often mistaken for a maple as the foliage is similar in appearance, but it is in fact a Sweet Gum which has its origin in North America. Sweet Gum trees are traditionally important resources for medicinal and other beneficial compounds, derived from the resinous sap. Its botanical name was derived by Linnaeus in 1753 from both Latin and Arabic words which can be loosely translated as 'flowing with fragrant sap'.

The 'Worplesdon' variety has its roots firmly in this country and was selected from seeds from the United States, by the Merrist Wood Agricultural College in Worplesdon. This variety is stronger and better withstands the wet, windy climates in north-western Europe, growing up to 15 metres high with a semi-open, pyramidal crown. Our tree was grown by the local *C G J Mathias & Son* nursery near Tilford.

Thank you to Cllr Johnson for sourcing the tree, and for those who helped her plant it.

Communication in an Emergency or Major Incident in Churt

Last year's fires on Hankley and Frensham Commons highlighted the importance of being able to communicate with residents in the event of an emergency or major incident.

The Parish Council's emergency response team are exploring whether community WhatsApp groups could be a quick way to keep people informed.

- *Do you have such groups for your local streets/neighbours (e.g. a Neighbourhood Watch group or Residents' Association)?*
- *Do any of your local community organisations have groups?*
- *Are you the Admin for such groups?*

If so, please could you contact Julian Spence (julian.spence@churt.org) or Steven Morgan (steven.morgan@churt.org) and let us know the name of your group and provide a number for your admin host.

New Councillor Needed

After nearly 20 years' service, Councillor Eunice Burch has chosen to stand down from the Council and will not be seeking re-election in May. Her service has been outstanding, most recently as Chair of the Recreation Ground Trust and Chair of the Planning sub-committee. She carried out her Council duties with great diligence and professionalism and will be sorely missed.

We are therefore seeking a new Councillor to join us on the Parish Council. If you are interested in being co-opted onto the Council, please apply to our Parish Clerk, Dawn Barrow, before 12th March or contact her for an informal chat first.

Lisa Martin, Chair

Lisa.martin@churt.org

The next meetings of the Churt Parish Council and Recreation Ground Trust will take place in the pavilion on Wednesday 15th March 2022 at 7.30pm. Anyone is welcome to attend.