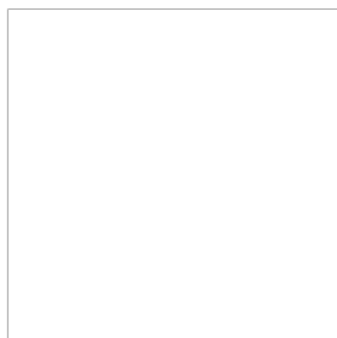




February
Sunday 26th April
Sunday June 28th
Summer/Autumn
Autumn – date TBC

Subscriptions Due
Spring Clean (see below for details)
Summer Street Party
Road resurfacing (Funds permitting)
Autumn Social (including AGM)

SUBSCRIPTIONS = ROAD SURFACING



This year you will each have received a household specific request for your annual subscription. We apologise for making such a direct plea for early payment, but we are anxious to start planning for asphaltting the next section of Chalklands, and in order to do so we obviously need to know how much money will be available. We have already set aside reserves for liability insurance, routine maintenance and signage, suction cleaning of the floodwater cisterns, grass cutting, and other expenditure so your contributions will complete the picture and determine our surfacing budget. We have almost reached our minimum target of £20,000, the point from which we can negotiate a decent deal from a proper highways maintenance company, but clearly the greater the sum at our disposal the longer the section of road that can be

surfaced. Our thanks go to all residents who have paid in a timely manner, and especially to those who have responded to our appeal for payment by (updated) Standing Order. Standing Orders really do save a lot of time for committee members and saves you from being chased by further mailings or, in our last resort, doorstep reminders! Please refer to our earlier mailings for details of payment options or contact any of the committee members below for help or advice. And thank you again for your continued support: last year just over 90% of households contributed, but we are hoping for even better this year.

PAVEMENTS

Our last newsletter described the widespread concern over the state of our pavements and advised you of Tim's enquiries into the possibility of a group purchase scheme to offer residents the option of a quality job at a discounted rate. As a follow-up to Tim's presentation at the AGM, a note outlining the proposals and seeking "expressions of interest" was circulated to each property and a good number of responses have now been received. If your response slip is still lying around would you please let us have your views without delay. We need to refine the level of interest in order to continue discussions with our potential contractors. If you have mislaid the slip or would like further details, please contact Tim or Pam.



ANNUAL SPRING CLEAN-UP DAY

Our ongoing objective is to keep Chalklands the cleanest road in Bourne End and this year we have selected the morning of **SUNDAY APRIL 26th** for volunteers to give the road a good Spring-clean. Our aim is to de-weed the gutters and kerbs and to remove the debris and rubbish that has collected over the winter. The whole thing normally takes about 1½ hours but the more people that turn out the more we can achieve. So please look out for reminders nearer the date and come and join us for an enjoyable morning with your neighbours.

FLOODING

As described in a previous newsletter, we have carried out extensive suction cleaning of most of the estate's soakaway drains. This proved to be both successful and cost effective and we intend to continue with annual emptying of drain sumps and jet cleaning of the soakaway pipes. However, the next session will concentrate on the three large cisterns (buried soakaway tanks) located at the corner by the school passageway. These are already beginning to silt up again after being dug out by hand only a year ago. Following our extensive remedial work at this corner, surface water now drains properly during normal rainfall and reasonably well after flash flooding, but we are confident that we can further improve the speed of flash flood drainage with the proposed suction cleaning.



SECURITY

Following reports of burglaries at a number of local properties we have recently installed pairs of deterrent CCTV cameras at the three entrances to the estate. The cameras are accompanied by yellow warning signs which, we are told by Neighbourhood Watch advisers, are an effective deterrent in their own right.

We have details of inexpensive indoor light timers and also TV simulators which you can use in your homes whilst you are on holiday. We will post these details on the website but in the meantime please ask a Committee member.

In the meantime, there are some simple actions that we can all take to help to deter unwelcome visitors and keep our own properties safe:

- **ENSURE SIDE ACCESS TO YOUR HOUSE HAS A GATE WHICH IS KEPT LOCKED**
- **LOCK UP SHEDS WHEN NOT IN USE, DAY AND NIGHT**
- **DO NOT LEAVE LAPTOPS OR VALUABLE ITEMS IN FULL VIEW THROUGH WINDOWS**
- **USE TIMERS TO LIGHT YOUR HOME WHILE YOU ARE AWAY**
- **BE VIGILANT FOR STRANGERS AND FOR SUSPICIOUS VANS CRUISING THE STREET**
- **ALWAYS ASK FOR PROOF OF IDENTITY FROM TRADE VISITORS AT THE DOOR**
- **MORE BUILDING SITES MEAN MORE STRANGERS – BE AWARE !**

WEBSITE!!

We are currently reviewing our Chalklands website which has, regrettably, not evolved as quickly as we would have liked. We are truly grateful to Adrian for getting our site up and running and for maintaining it as best he could with the limited material with which he was provided and while coping with the demands of work and a growing family, but it is now time for renewed focus and, hopefully, a bit of a step change. We are very fortunate that recent new residents

Jo and Al have experience in this area and have volunteered to help us design and launch a revamped site. We are also fortunate in having Malcolm, a retired IT specialist, who has volunteered to maintain the content of the new site. Naturally it will be up to all of us to provide that content. The new website will provide a valuable opportunity for better two-way communication between you, the residents, and us, your committee, and it will enable us to accumulate more reference material and to provide more information for the benefit of all Chalklands residents. We are presently preparing a statement of our proposals prior to meeting with Al and Jo and Malcolm. What would **YOU** like to see included in our new website? If you have ideas or suggestions, then please let us know and if you would like to be involved in any way, shape or form then we would love to hear from you.