



Year 11 News

As ever, the term has flown by in a flurry of deadlines and assessments, culminating in a fortnight of trial GCSE exams. However, Year 11 have managed to fit in a lot in between.

In early November, Mr Monk took our hardy athletes to Bath for the BANES cross-country event. Congratulations especially to Lewis Nightingale and Claire Hammett for finishing 2nd and 4th respectively. There were also creditable performances from Dani Radford, Joe Martin, Tom Yeatman and Katie Purchase. Claire and Dani were amongst those fortunate enough to meet World 400m Champion Dai Greene when he visited the school.



Mr Blower has been honing the talent of our Year 11 public speakers. Our ever-growing reputation was boosted after a double success at the First-Round stage of the English Speaking Union's nationwide competition. As the first school in the tournament's history to enter two teams, our talented orators fought off stern competition to reach the five-team Bristol Final that will take place at Bristol Grammar School on 17th January.

In Heat 1, relative veterans, Sophie Cotterill, Julia Lawson-Johns and Claire Hammett beat Colston's School to first place after an impressive all-round performance. Sophie spoke passionately, proposing the motion: 'Britain should pay reparations for the harm done by the Empire.' Heat 2 saw debutantes, George Merriott, Lydia Sinclair and Duncan Salkovskis showed great skill and nerves of steel before being named as runners-up ahead of Red Maids and Badminton. George gave a pulsating speech, arguing that 'Organ transplants should be prioritised on the basis of lifestyle.' We congratulate both teams and look forward to their continued success in the New Year.

After an injury-ravaged start to the season, Miss Daly's hockey team came good in a tournament

against Wellsway and St Gregory's. The team was successfully organised and led by Jess Hepburn and (with the help of 4 year 10 students) beat St Gregory's 4-0 and more importantly won 1-0 against Wellsway, our arch rivals.

Ralph Allen were the winners of their pool so Chew Valley and Ralph Allen now go head-to-head in the final in 2012. We wish them all the best of luck.

In late November, Mr Davis and Miss Vartuli took a large group of budding scientists to the Colston Hall to see some of the most prestigious scientists of our generation. The very charming Professor Jim Al-Khalili spoke on the nature of black holes and time travel. Professor Richard Dawkins led us through a fascinating argument about the nature of evolution and the consequences of 'winding back time', replaying evolution from the start. Professor Steve Jones led a brilliant and stimulating lecture on genetics and his work in contributing towards mapping the human genome. Dr Andrea Sella then explained the story of how the zebra got its stripes. The answer actually came from the field of chemistry this time, much to the surprise of the audience. Dr Sella also 'wowed' the crowd with some chemical amazement and offered a bang to the day! The final speaker was Dr Maggie Aderin-Pocock. An untraditional physicist, she spoke passionately on the 'wonders of the Universe' and revealed that you can achieve whatever you wish to do in life, regardless of your background. This was a perfect end to a great day and will surely inspire some Chew Valley students to follow a career in the sciences.

The recent Autumn Extravaganza was packed with talent from Year 11, both on-stage (Alex Newman, Amy Chard, Bonnie O'Brien, Rosie Filer, Ollie Edwards, Sam Snook, Jacob Straffon and Hardy Mills to name a few) and behind the scenes (thanks to Emerson Kent and Ali Dagger).

A group of Year 11 students are visiting Zambia next summer and have been raising money for the trip. Joe Martin works every Saturday in a Southville fruit shop, while Frankie Walford did a tandem sky dive at Redlands airfield in Swindon - very brave!

We wish Year 11 (and their parents) a restful Christmas, though also need to remind them there are several GCSE exams throughout January! Year 11 Catch Up sessions for ICT have been running for a few weeks now and are available each Tuesday after school from 3.45 to 5pm on the Mezzanine. If pupils feel they are behind in any part of their ICT work (including Unit 1 and Animation) then please see your ICT teacher in the first instance and turn up on the day. Mr Webber

Year 10 News

On November 1st, Julia Head (10H) attended a conference in Exeter, representing Chew Valley as part of a group of five "Young Ambassadors" from schools in Bath and NE Somerset. Their task is to inspire as many people in their schools to take part in sport (including non-competitive sport) and to make people more aware of the Olympic and Paralympic values. Well done Julia – we know you will do us proud!

On 21st November, 31 of our pupils attended a talk held by Stephen Dawkins as part of "Science Live". Thanks go to the Science Department for organising this wonderful opportunity.

Congratulations to Aaron Burford and Brandon Hewer (both 10C) who have gained the highest award they can attain as Scouts. They were both given the Chief Scouts Award. This is difficult to achieve and included completing nine separate challenges across a wide range of activities.

On 8th December, members of Miss Yana's RE group gave us a presentation about the methods used to train circus animals. This proved to be a most moving and informative presentation. Thanks go to Miss Yana and all the pupils involved.



This term, the Olympic theme for Chew Valley has been "Friendship". Four of our pupils, Healey Loader (10H), Lewis Horseman (10W), Alicia Showering (10L) and Elliott Joyner (10W) have been nominated to receive awards under this category. Healey, Lewis and Alicia received their award for their work as mentors for pupils at Chew Stoke Primary School and Elliott for his contribution as a "buddy" to the year 7 students since they started with us in September.

Many congratulations to Fergus Bowen (10C) who has been invited by the BANES Wind Band to participate in their forthcoming music tour to Leipzig and Wroclaw in July.

Steph Moreno (10V), Brandon Hewer(10C), Matthew Uppington(10C) and Natalie Palmer(10L) were given the opportunity to go to Bath University in November to take part in a gifted and talented maths day run by further maths network. They were introduced to advanced maths topics such as matrices and projectiles and had a really enjoyable day. Well done to them for representing the school.

A big thank you to Meg Abernethy-Hope and Lauren Tucker who, as part of girl band "Random Sound" entertained us so wonderfully in our weekly assembly a couple of weeks ago.

On 2nd November, Alex Monk (10W), Joe Clark (10V), Ollie Morgan (10A), Becky Fenn (10V), Laura Finch (10E) and Vicky Vipond (10L) all competed in the District Cross-Country Event at Odd Down. They all performed well – particular mention should go to Ollie, Vicky and Joe who all finished in the first 10 places in their category. We look forward to seeing how they get on in the Avon Championships in January

The girls' hockey team has grown from strength to strength this season with yet again wins in all matches played.

Recently they played Wellsway School and beat them 4-0 to reach the final of the BANES hockey tournament. They go on to play in the final in the New Year. A talented bunch! Well done!

BANES COUNTY CUP WINNERS

The year 10 rugby team continued their fantastic run with a well fought 40-19 win over Beechen Cliff in the BANES County Cup Final. Chew Valley started with real intensity and scored a well deserved try within 10 minutes as Oli Morgan and Lukas Gentle provided Robert Wembridge with just enough space to sprint past his opposition number. A superb individual run by Lukas Gentle saw him break three tackles on his way into crossing the line for the second try of the match. However, the ever threatening Beechen Cliff replied with a try of their own through a cleverly planned lineout move, which made the score 14-7 on the stroke of half time. Early in the second half saw Chew Valley take advantage of some loose passing as Oli Morgan intercepted to score underneath the post, while Ryan Parfitt quickly added a fourth try as he burrowed over the line from close range. Although Beechen Cliff replied with a fine individual try from their winger, this was quickly cancelled out by Charles 'Fenton' Pearce as he intercepted the ball in his own half to run the length of the pitch and score underneath the posts. Beechen Cliff did manage a third try of their own through their talented winger, although it was Chew Valley who



had the last word as Nick Manville capped off a fine man of the match performance by running through from the lineout and crossing the line for the teams sixth and final try. Further mention must be made to Ben Grant, Alex Monk and Chris Palmer who were all tenacious in defence, while Joe Cowell was like a young Dan Carter as he successfully kicked four out of five conversions.

Year 9 News

Danielle Ireland took her Tae Kwon-do Black belt in October after four long years of working up through the different coloured belts, passing with flying colours. In front of a five person panel she had to perform patterns, line work and sparring as well as learning all the moves and what they mean in Korean. She is hoping to carry on for many years to come!

Jessica Harding has been sailing her Topper dinghy for a number of years, so successfully she has now been selected for the National Intermediate Junior Squad! As one of only 16 girls in the country she spends at least one winter training with the squad all over the country. In the summer she spends most weekends competing in her boat. Do we have an Olympic sailor in the making?

Nearly 40 year 9 students from 9E and 9W have been involved with Bristol University's Peer project. This pilot project is using three schools in the area to study the impact of the built environment upon physical activity levels. Pupils wore GPS tracking devices that also monitored their activity levels for a week. The devices have now been returned and Bristol University are studying the results to feedback later in the year when we may also be involved in further studies.

Congratulations to the girls netball team for playing so well in the tournament on the 17th November. Eight girls took part and each one played spectacularly! The match took place at Wellsway School where Chew played 3 other teams. Sadly we did not win the tournament however it was a lot of fun. Well done Freddie Cardew, Charlotte

Fowler, Kay Downey, Jess Harindg, Holly Williams, Amy Batt and Ellie Grace. Also all the girls would like to say thank you to Miss Butcher for all the help and hard work you have invested to make us a better team. Alice Cotterill

We are the Youth Involvement Group (YIG). We have been working with Off The Record Bath and Comic Relief on a National project raising awareness about violence against Women and Girls (VAWG) which includes (teenage relationship abuse, sexual bullying in school and gender equalities. Last year we developed a PSRE teacher resource pack to be used in our PSRE lessons and in other schools across B&NES. We have been involved in fun interactive activities through discussions, written and case study role plays which has raised our awareness.

This year we created an on line survey to find out how our school feels about issues such as safety, equal respectful relationships, sexual bullying and gender equalities. We have some really interesting results. Overall our school is very safe although we still found some room for improvements. So to decide on what area we need to work on we held a voting event. We tied this in with the national campaign 'End violence and abuse' white ribbon campaign. We held assemblies in each year group and asked everyone to come along and vote for what they felt was important for them to improve in our school. We did this by asking everyone to pick a topic that was colour coded and vote for the colour by stamping their hand on a sheet of paper to make a hand print. We will now be adding up all the hand prints and putting an action plan together.

Also in June 2012 we will be presenting our work and what we have learned to our Local Authority Education Department. Other professionals who work with children and young people and the Comic Relief team – watch out for more updates. Holly and Hazel.

Cross country was held on the first Wednesday back after half term. Halfway through the day a coach of students were taken to Old Down playing fields, where the B&NES cross country championships were taking place. The year nines were Charlie MacDonald, Ross Harding, Jake Sparks, Perry Cunio and the girls were Izzy Morgan, India Rogers, Nancy Portsmouth and Jazz Hill. Everyone did really well, and tried their hardest. We had some great results with Charlie MacDonald coming in at 2nd, Ross Harding at 21st and Jake Sparkes not far behind. As well as that all the girls tried their hardest and worked well together as a team. Charlie MacDonald.

Year 8 News

This term's Olympic and Paralympic value is *friendship* and Year 8 certainly are a pleasant bunch! From helping others with home work to carrying bags for injured friends, there is no shortage of friendly faces to help out whenever needed. The desire to achieve remains high on the agenda for the majority of Year 8s with house point certificates and commendations flooding into Mr Edwards' office. No less than fifteen pupils gained a Head's Commendation from Mr Mallett this term!

Sports News

The rugby team travelled to Beechen Cliff in Bath to play the semi-final of the B&NES Cup. The league winners met a strong, physical and well organised team in their opponents who have not lost a game all season. Despite losing the game, the boys fronted up extremely well and came close to scoring on several occasions. Louis Ridding gave his opposite number a torrid time in the scrum and Connor Davies put in big hits around the fringes.

After not winning a competitive game for over a year, the football team put their best performance in against a talented and physical Clevedon outfit in the County Cup. Chew deservedly led 2-1 up until the last minute when some poor defending of a free kick allowed the Clevedon centre back to head the ball past the otherwise outstanding keeper Kai Long to put the game into extra time. After a stalemate in extra time, penalties followed. After a tense shoot out, Chew emerged victorious 5-4. Louis Crimmons and Joe Calverley played some nice football in the middle whilst Jack Cronin and Will Pickford dominated the left. With Toby Harding playing like a man possessed and Tom Garland bleeding for the team's cause, the boys fully deserved their win. They play Priory in the next round.



Congratulations to talented sportswomen, Ailsa Mackie and Ella Gregory who recently competed in the B&NES badminton tournament. There were three schools involved and after some tough games in the singles and doubles competitions, both girls

have successfully progressed into the County Championships early next year. Well done!

A fantastic effort by Mollie Harper and Grace Harding saw them raise £55 for charity in aid of a local boy with Downs Syndrome. The keen P.E. students endured a 2.5 miles race – Grace even came 3rd! A fantastic effort girls, well done!



Twelfth Night

On 17th November 16 Year 8 students performed their 30 minute version of 'Twelfth Night' to a sold out Tobacco Factory theatre. The students were performing as part of the 'Shakespeare School's Festival' – a national festival celebrating the best school productions of Shakespeare's plays. Chew's cast was amongst some of the youngest and were commended for the clarity of performance and the confidence they exuded. Pupils involved included: Jake Benfield, Chrissie Francombe, Coni Thorne, Cam Wiltshire, Chloe Hillier, Rosie Pope, Beth Sydenham, Ella Spencer, Gabriella Kemp, Conni Tinmouth, Helen Merriot, Joe Thompson-Smith, Tom Stone, Jamie Harvey and Molly York. The students would like to thank Director Mrs Currie and Head of Performing Arts Mr Conway.



Readathon

Back in Year 7 many pupils took part in a sponsored readathon, in which pupils were sponsored on the number of books that they could read over a six week period. The challenge was a great success and the school have now reaped the rewards as the library took delivery of 25 shiny new books. Congratulations to all involved and Mrs Currie for the organisation.

Year 8 Working Group

Fourteen pupils: Rosie Pope, Tom Stone, Toby Cross, George Phillips, Gabe Kelly, Paige Allen, Ollie Chamberlain, Archie Simpson, Grace Harding, Bea Banks, Cam Wiltshire, James Vipond, Megan Ah-Tow and Ceara Chaplin have put themselves forward to be part of the Year 8 Working Group. The aim is for Mr Edwards and Miss Vartuli to gain feedback through the pupils about all the things going on in our year group from rewards to registration activities. The first two meetings have been a real success with some interesting points being raised. The group will work with the staff throughout the year and then feedback to tutor groups and through assemblies.

Chew's Got Talent 2

This term's inter-tutor group competition was Chew's Got Talent 2. Tutor groups (and tutors!) have been practising hard over the last two weeks of term to try and match the success of last year and win the coveted John Hack Cup. Look out for the result on the school website!

Tutor group of the term

This term's award for tutor group of the term goes to Miss Bainbridge's 8E. Well done!



Well done to all pupils in Year 8 for such a fantastic term. Nadolig Llawn!

Year 7 News

Well done to Year 7 who have thrown themselves into every aspect of secondary school life. Their great work ethic in the classroom has been rewarded by the fact that over 75% of the year group have achieved their Bronze Housepoint certificate. Congratulations to Phoebe Dunsmore who is the first Year 7 student to be awarded with her Platinum Certificate (125 housepoints). Phoebe, together with 50 more pupils will be receiving Miss Hellier's own special award: the Dartmoor Granite certificate! Head's Commendation have been received from Mr Mallett by Imogen Williams, Zoe Downey, Phoebe Dunsmore, Natasha Fowler, Lizzie Howie, Meg Grant, Izzie Jones, Ruthe Emery, Frankie Sommerfield, Eleanor Arrowmwith, Jason Dutton, Leonard Montague, George Morris, Imogen Williams, Charlie Parry, Caitlin Riordan, Abbey Thompson-Mayes, Mollie Wade, Kimberley Wade and Tristan Wren. Excellent Work!

With the termly learning focus for Year 7 being 'Effective Participator', students have been participating in everything from charitable events to sporting activities. On November 18th, Tristan Wren (7W), demonstrated superb commitment in an extraordinary challenge to raise money for Children In Need by attempting 2011 press-ups in the school sports hall. Encouraged by his mum, dad, sister and some of the 7W posse, Tristan completed his challenge in just over two hours, justly earning him the title of the 'Year 7 Pocket Rocket'. Raising over £1000, Tristan went on to appear on the BBC Children In Need Points West show. He said, "It was made much easier by all the help I got from my friends and the School. The teachers have been really supportive, and helped with fundraising, and loads of them came in on Friday to encourage me. Mr Mallett, even did a few press-ups with me. It was fun going on the TV programme, although I could have done without having to get up at 4:30 am the next morning to go to a judo competition!" Tristan, we salute you!



Tutors have been stepping up the pressure on their tutees in the last few weeks to try to bag the much coveted 'Termly Tutor Trophy' award. On December 7th, the year group were treated to a dazzling array of talent in 'Chew's Got Talent'.



The Year 7 audience await!



It were absolute rubbish' (only joking!)

Hosted by a welsh version of Dermot O'Leary, Mr Loynton introduced acts that ranged from 7C's original comedy show (it was 'well bing bing') to the impressively choreographed tribute acts to Lady Ga Ga (7E truly captured the spirit of the lady). 7H were equally confident in their interpretation of the boy band, One (No?) Direction (again, lovely shapes Sam Emery!)



7L's beautiful rendition of 'Someone Like You' brought silence to the house (some very impressive arm waving by the boys) whilst Connie Straffon and

Callum Waldocks' duet of 'Turning Tables' made even Mr Blower, cunningly disguised as Gary Barlow, all misty eyed.



7V's 'crew' of The Rizzlekicks 'Down with the Trumpets' demonstrated musicality and spirit with some impressive rapping. However, we can exclusively reveal that 7W's rendition of 'Thriller' bagged them the trophy. 'Highly polished, inventive, hilarious,' was the critics' verdict. Great moves from Lenny Jackson/Montague! Congratulations to all who took part, your efforts were spectacular!



The District Netball Championships saw Y7 win one of their four games against some tough competition, Amy McGowan was once again credited with her excellent performance. Lots of Year 7 girls are now training in the cheerleading squads and are busy preparing for their first major tournament in February. Congratulations to Carmen Jones, working especially hard in the Varsity squad.

On the sporting front, 12 Year 7 students took part in the BANES District Cross-Country Championships. Mr Monk was really impressed with the effort and results with Natalia Isherwood particularly excelling and finishing in the top 5.



Last week's Enrichment session included an excellent informative presentation from Cecilia Warren, from the Bristol Anti-Smoking group 'GASP'. Thank you also to 7A for an excellent assembly last week which helped raise awareness of cancer and in particular of the Harvey Hext appeal. We look forward to a fund raising event in the New Year. Lastly, inspired by an assembly for the School Council Amnesty group, Year 7s have been collecting Christmas shoe boxes as part of the Operation Christmas Child appeal. As the boxes mounted up, the organisation and generosity was clear – thank you! Merry Christmas Year 7

Maths Challenge News

On Wednesday 19th October Hal Kelly, Peter Miles, Matthew Uppington and Fergus Bowen went to Prior Park College in Bath to take part in the regional intermediate team maths challenge. They completed five tough rounds of maths questions, working fantastically as a team to pool their talents. They were competing against 11 teams from around Bath, Somerset and Bristol and finished a very respectable 5th, scoring the highest marks in one of the rounds. They were a credit to the school.

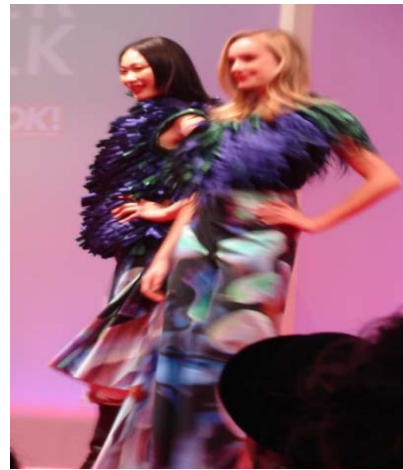
On November 15th four intrepid mathematicians from Chew Valley School took part in the senior maths team challenge at the University of the West of England against teams from schools all around the region. Cat Shaw, Louise Harrison, Ollie Vipond and Jamie Braidley competed against 18 other groups of sixth formers in a series of devilishly complicated tests with a mathematical theme. They finished a very creditable 7th, with a score of 115 out of 180 – the highest scoring comprehensive in the region. Congratulations to all of them.

Also, in November, the individual senior maths challenge saw 66 students from years 11, 12 and 13 sitting a multiple choice maths quiz. There were 16 Bronze prizes, 11 Silvers and once again Ollie Vipond got a Gold and qualified for the next round, the British Maths Olympiad, which is a national event. Well done to all who took part.

Clothes Show

On the 5th December KS4 and KS5 students went to the Clothes Show in Birmingham - the UK's largest fashion event with up to the minute fashion brands and catwalk shows.

The trip was a great success with students getting ideas and inspiration and sketching designs to help with coursework. They visited the University and College forum with over 35 institutions where they could pick up a prospectus on courses available, speak to students presently studying and see the Graduate Catwalk of students work. There is also the Snitch section, where students can find out and see demonstrations of up to the minute textile techniques. In the 'hands on' section you can try and experiment with techniques and customise your own clothes.



There was also plenty to see and buy, but the finale of the trip was the Fashion Theatre Show. It has the world's largest catwalk with 40 models, over 350 outfits all based on a west end show. It was a thrilling and exciting experience enjoyed by everyone. A long, tiring day but well worth it!

Landscape Architect Angel Needed!

Parents may have noticed that the landscaping and planting at the front entrance to Reception is looking rather tired and uninspiring. Is there a garden designer or landscape architect out there who could provide the expertise to help us redesign the main entrance to the school? The catch, of course, is that the school has little budget for the work. Is there a willing sponsor out there? Please let Mr Mallett know if you can help!

Academy Status at Chew Valley?

At the annual parents' meeting in November, a parent asked the governors what their position was on Chew Valley School becoming an Academy. Governors felt it was important that our view about Academies was shared widely with parents. Essentially, we are unconvinced that the benefits would outweigh the additional risk which Academies

have to bear for matters as diverse as pension-fund deficits, insurance and business accountancy. Governors are not yet convinced of any benefit that is directly educational. Indeed the worry is that staff would have to spend much more time on business-related matters and reduce focus on standards of teaching and learning. The much-trumpeted curriculum freedoms are already largely available to successful foundation schools like Chew Valley. The governing body will continue to maintain a watching brief and consult widely with parents and the local community before opting for Academy status. For the time being, the school is thriving with its current status and no change is being proposed.

Extra Curricular Activities

Following feedback from parents and students, we have revised our Extra-Curricular Activities page on the school web-site. Chew Valley offers nearly 100 different Extra-Curricular Activities including Sport, Performing Arts, Academic Support, and the thriving School Council Teams. Students can get involved in everything from gardening to gymnastics, from cheerleading to chess, from rugby to rock guitar...

<http://www.chewvalleyschool.co.uk/Extra-curricularactivities/>

German Markets Trip

Another highly successful trip to Germany took place over the first weekend in December. Although less Christmassy than last year (wet and windy rather than crisp and snowy) we were all soon in the festive mood. Highlights included a guided tour around the 1000 year old Cochem Castle where the Chew Valley students were complimented on their good behaviour and a trip up the Rhine on a pleasure cruiser. Unfortunately we did not get to sing "Die Lorelei" in the exact spot because the level of the river was too low but we enjoyed looking for Ms Straw's elusive Rhine Hippos nevertheless! Mr Cordle's quiz on the last night was challenging but the prizes this year were of such a high quality that competition was keen.



School Society News

On the 8th November we hosted our annual Craft Fair, which saw a wide range of fantastic stalls set up in the school hall, enabling those who came to stock up on unique Christmas presents. An enjoyable night was had by all at our annual bingo night, which took place on the 1st December. Thanks to everybody who donated gifts for the hampers, and raffle prizes. These two events have raised in excess of £1400 for use by the school. We have been asked to help on various projects and will advise you of these at a later date.

The Carol Service took place at St Andrews, Chew Magna on the 13th December. The combination of mince pies, mulled wine and festive song was a pleasant introduction to the Christmas season.

Fundraiser band night 28/01/12

Popular valley bands Rockola and Mid Life Crisis are kindly donating their time and talent to raise funds for Chew Valley School and the Chew Valley Youth Trust. The bands are playing at the school on Saturday 28th January 2012. Doors open 7.30pm and the bands will play until midnight. All modern hits catered for from 60s to current. There will be a full bar, all are welcome. Tickets are priced at £8.00 and are now available from school reception, the bands, or the school society representatives. Sarah Price one of the school representatives can be contacted on 07766 381819. Please support the school and get your tickets now for what promises to be a sell out night.

Wanted

The Art Department are desperate for any working hairdryers no longer needed
Thank you

Art Shop

Art Shop now open every Monday break time in the store cupboard next to A4.
Buy your own art materials.
Price lists are available in the art studios and from Mrs Pearson.

School Society

Contacts:

Chair – Kate Wright (01275 333646); Vice-Chair – (vacant), Treasurer – Suzy Matthews (01275 333765); Secretary – Rachel Burnell (0117 9358881);