

RECOGNISING Cold Ash Parish Volunteers

COLD ASH PARISH COUNCIL

Date: April 2021

Version: 3



Cold Ash Parish

We are blessed in Cold Ash Parish with many **voluntary organisations** and a **very strong community ethos** within our parishioners. This has been evident over many years, but none more so than during 2020.

The COVID pandemic brought many challenges. How well communities were able to deal with these was down to a number of factors, not least the support of volunteers. It was good therefore to see the **COVID Support Group** spring up spontaneously, to proactively support the community. CAPC is aware of many initiatives that kept the community going, including:

- Many groups reverting to **zoom** (or similar) for their meetings, to keep members engaged
- COVID-appropriate **activities** – Cold Ash FC putting on 1-2-1 coaching for youngsters during the summer, was a good example
- Groups issuing regular **newsletters** and arranging **door-step visits**
- **Exhibits** – who can forget the wonderful Nativity Scene at St Mark's Church
- The refurbishment of the **War Memorial**, that came at a very appropriate time

All of this was in addition to the community services provided by the **Post Office/Store**, takeaway meals from **The Castle** and **Spotted Dog** public houses, our schools (**St Mark's and St Finnian's**) and regular communication via the **Parish Magazine, Community News Bulletin** and various Facebook and WhatsApp groups

Overall, it's been a great year for community and voluntary support to our community.

Special mention to the COVID Support Group

CAPC nominated the group for an award as part of WBC **Community Champions Award Scheme**

Details of contribution to the community –

- It sprang up **spontaneously** and was **community-led**
- It was **self-managed**, nominating its own leader
- It established a **full range of communication vehicles** (leaflet drops, Facebook group, WhatsApp group, etc)
- It **liaised with local service providers** (EG. WBC and local pharmacies, to collect prescriptions)
- It established a **network of shoppers**, for those self-isolating
- It sparked spin-off groups that **made PPE** (gowns, masks, etc)
- It **publicised the needs of groups**, such as Food Banks and Soup Kitchens, **encouraging donations and collecting/delivering** them
- It identified local needs and met them (EG. **book sharing arrangements** in the local church)
- It **established a contact network for people**
- It **linked-in with CAPC** to ensure alignment of activities

Community Champions

The immense contribution the
COVID SUPPORT GROUP
made to the parish was recognised in the

Community Champions Award Scheme

Champion



Awards 2020

Cold Ash Covid Response Group

Congratulations on being commended by the judging panel and thank you for the amazing work you have done to support your local community throughout the Covid-19 pandemic.

Covid Response Community Group of the Year - supported by Greenham Trust

Councillor Graham Pask,
Chairman of the Council

Nick Carter,
Chief Executive



Community Champions

A Big Thank You to all involved!

Community Champions Award Scheme



January 2021

Year Volunteer

Subject: Thank You for Your Extraordinary Efforts

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for all your efforts in support of our local communities across Thames Valley Local through the COVID-19 response to date. In our capacity as the Chair of the Local Resilience Forum (LRF) and the chair of the Strategic Coordinating Group (SCG) we would like to formally acknowledge and extend our thanks to you for the role you have played in this response.

We are aware that the voluntary sector has been involved in a range of areas including undertaking deliveries of essential items to the Clinically Extremely Vulnerable (CEV) during the national lockdowns, involved in the delivery of surge testing, enabled frontline responders to be freed up to undertake critical tasks and more recently helped to facilitate the roll out of the biggest vaccine campaign in UK history.

In our strategic role coordinating the partnership response we have been assured to know that you and many others like you have been supporting the response. We are humbled by the amazing stories we hear about the extra mile you are going to help protect those in your communities from the impacts of the virus. Your work has not gone unnoticed and is a credit to you.

Your determination and selfless service has been a critical part of the multi-agency response through the Local Resilience Forum and is something to take pride in. The commitment that you have given which is an inspiration to us all and for those of you still involved thank you for your continued commitment helping us keep our communities safe through this national emergency.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul Jefferies".

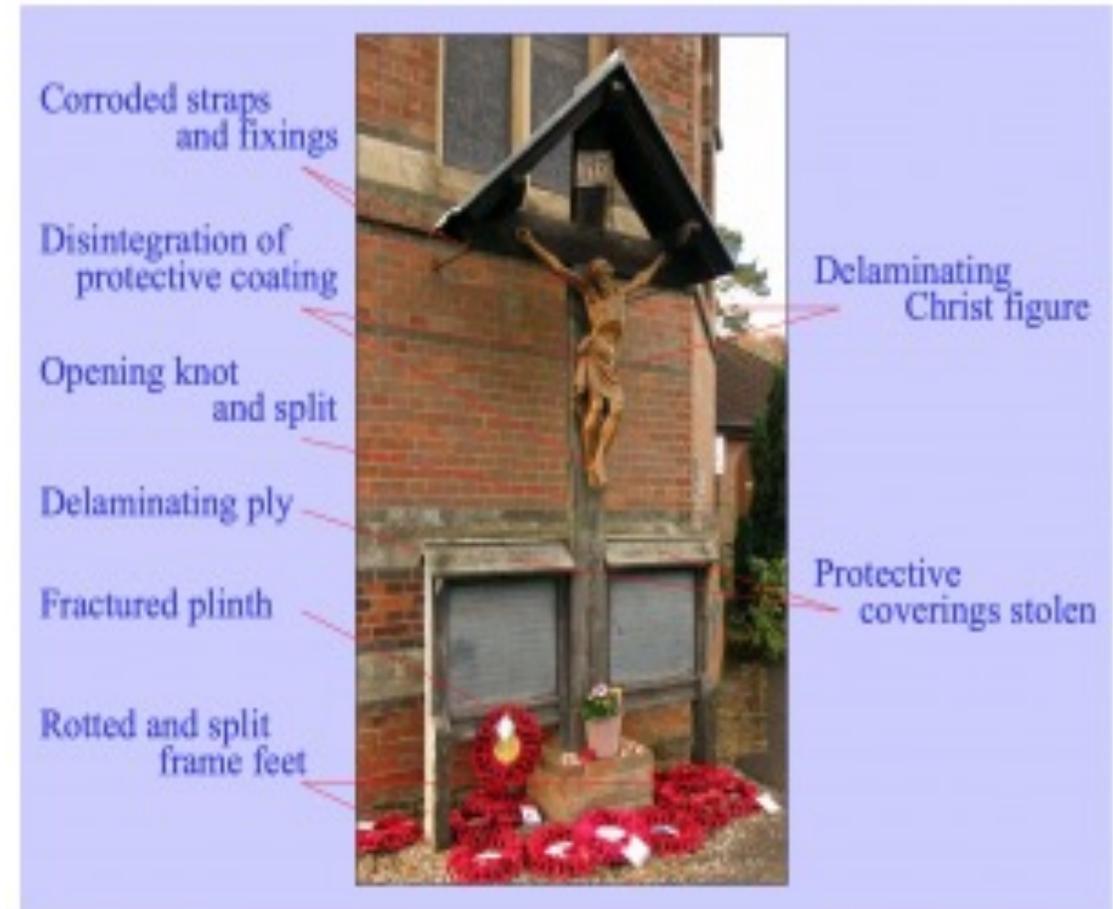
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul Jefferies".

Paul Jefferies

Special mention to the War Memorial Action Group

In 2016, Peter Seward initiated a **campaign to raise public interest and funds for the restoration and conservation of the memorial.**

In April 2018, Mr Seward made a presentation to the Annual Parish Meeting highlighting the poor repair of the memorial. He offered a possible scheme of repair and appealed for funds necessary to complete the work. As a consequence of the meeting the WMAG (War Memorial Action Group) was formed which included representatives from the Parochial Church Council, the Parish Council and the Parish Heritage Group under the Chairmanship of Mr Richard Avens.



A Big Thank You to the War Memorial Action Group

The restoration of the War Memorial was only made possible by **generous private donations** (see list of donors below), which were topped up by the Parish Council, and the **dedicated voluntary work of the War Memorial Action Group (WMAG)** members.

Donors: Walter & Jenny Barbour, Rowan & Kay Beeson, Rob & Sarah Bruce, Mike Eastham, The Incerti Family, Robert & Penny Pattison, Harry & Rose Ridgewell, The Seward Family, Paul & Marguerite Shave, Peter Wardle and other anonymous donors

War Memorial Action Group (WMAG) Members

Chairman: Richard B Avens

Technical Adviser: Peter Seward

Treasurer: Fred Davison

Publicity: Marguerite Shave

Parish Council: Dorothy Le Cornu

The Parochial Church Council will pay for rearrangements made to the 'Memorial Wall'.

Much more information is available on the CAPC website:
<https://coldashpc.org.uk/the-parish/cold-ash-war-memorial/>



And a Big Thank You to all the other groups!

Acland Hall Committee

Ashmore Green WI

Cold Ash WI

Community Bulletin

Cricket Team

Football Teams

Greening Group

Guides

Heritage Group

Post Office/Store

Pre-school Group

Scouts

St Mark's Parish Magazine

Tennis Club

The Castle

The Spotted Dog

Apologies to any groups or individuals that we've missed....