



Election of Parish Councillors

Election Day – Thursday 4th May 2017

Statements of Persons Nominated

There are 15 nominated candidates for the 11 seats available on Urchfont Parish Council.

Overleaf you will find (in alphabetical order) photographs and a statement written by each candidate to assist you to make your preferred selection for the ELEVEN SEATS.

**If you are a registered elector, please be sure to
cast your vote on Thursday 4th May 2017 –
Urchfont Village Hall**

For further information / queries please contact:

Clerk to the Council, Mr Bob Lunn

Tel: 01380 848737 Email: clerk@urchfont-pc.gov.uk



John Chapman

**Aylesbury Barn, 12 Manor
Farmyard, Urchfont, SN10 4BA**

Brought up in South Wilts and educated at Bishop Wordsworth's School Salisbury and at Christ Church, Oxford, I have worked in banking, as a civil servant, as director of a professional services company and as a business consultant.

Retirement to Wiltshire offered an attractive option and combined neatly with my wife, Emma's move to a post with Wiltshire Wildlife Trust (WWT). Naturally, we chose Urchfont – the best village in Wiltshire – as our new home, moving into Manor Farmyard in autumn 2015. Our three dogs ensured that we quickly found our way

around.

I was co-opted as a Parish Councillor in May last year. My main focus so far is as Lead Coordinator of Urchfont Best, our application for Wiltshire CPRE's Best Kept Village Competition 2017. As a volunteer with WWT, with an interest in local history and the environment, I am keen to preserve what is best in our lovely village whilst always open to constructive change and fresh ideas.



Philip Cotell

4 Ostlers Yard, Lydeaway, SN10 3PS

I am a new resident having moved to Lydeaway in August last year.

I was a Fire fighter for 30 years, then a Local Government Officer for sixteen, being an assistant Clerk then Clerk to a large Parish Council. I held a number of managerial roles including Health and Safety, emergency planning, cemeteries manager and managing the workforce. I was a member of my old Borough Councils Emergency Planning committee and I clerked meetings on a regular basis.

I am passionate about local democracy and local communities. I am non-political and I have a good knowledge of criminal law, I believe in supporting local causes, charities and the local community.



Lewis Cowen

16 The Paddocks, Urchfont, SN10 4SH

I have lived in Urchfont for 33 years and have been involved in many aspects of village life, starting by helping out at playgroup while an unemployed actor and progressing through the roles of secretary of the parents' association of Urchfont School (where my son was educated), one of the first volunteer drivers of the community bus, one of the first scarecrow builders and a volunteer in the shop while my late wife was its first manager. I changed my career in 1990, joining the staff of Devizes News as reporter and sub-editor and continuing as a reporter on the Gazette & Herald in 2000 after the big takeover of Newscom by Newsquest. In the capacity of reporter I became familiar with council procedure and planning law, and I have a wide knowledge of the development in the Devizes community area over the last 27 years. I retired in 2014. My wife Lyndsay, who was also Market Lavington parish clerk for over three years, died in 2013 but I intend to continue to live in this supportive and active community of Urchfont.

The parish council has done a tremendous job in monitoring and encouraging beneficial development in the village and I would like to join them in this task, furthering the welfare of everyone in the parish.



Marjorie Cox

3 Peppercombe Close, Urchfont, SN10 4QS

I was born in Whyle, Wiltshire, later years moved to Surrey and then to Hampshire. We were very lucky to join a self-build group 8 pairs of 3/4 homes, it took 2 years to the day from start to finish We had a lovely 4 bed house and lived in it for 47 years. I am married to John with 3 grown up children 2 girls and a boy.

I worked in the NHS for 20 years on a ward and later in a large Out Patients Dept. My passion being Ear/Nose/Throat, such a diverse subject and so rewarding as the hospital is also NHS/Military. We searched for 13years all around Wiltshire in all that time Urchfont was first choice but it took all that time to find the right house. I then had to retire and move that was 3 years ago, never looked back Love walking and belong to the National Trust. I would like to get involved and be a useful member of the village and do something worthwhile with my time.



Graham Creasey

3 The Paddocks, Urchfont, SN10 4SH

I have lived in Urchfont since 1992 with my wife and originally our two daughters, one of whom still lives in the village with her own family.

Since retiring three years ago I have become involved in various village activities, I work on a voluntary basis in OakFrith Wood and hold the position of Secretary to the Trustees. I am also a volunteer at the Primary School and help the children in the Reception Class and Year One with their reading. Recently I became a School Governor. I also help with the Scarecrow Festival.

My career was spent in the Public Sector where I worked for five different Local Authorities, the final three all being in Wiltshire. I am a retired Chartered Surveyor and spent my whole career working in Property Services.

I believe wholeheartedly in the standards of conduct devised by the Nolan Committee to govern all aspects of holding office in public life, these principles include, Selflessness, Integrity, Objectivity, Accountability, Openness, Honesty and Leadership. If elected I would endeavour to bring these qualities to my work for the Parish Council.



Graham Day

The Farm House, Cuckoo Farmyard, Urchfont, SN10 4SL

My wife Valerie and I have lived in Urchfont since 2009. We are volunteers in the Community Shop, the Scarecrow festival, sing with the occasional choir in Church at major festivals, and recently helped with the Urchfont Players pantomime. We are keen participants in the monthly quiz. I drive the Community Bus.

Locally, I am a member of Devizes Musical Theatre and Devizes Chamber Choir. I am also a volunteer with the Kennet & Avon Canal Trust.

I have been a Parish Councillor since 2013, mainly responsible for Highways. I played a leading role in the establishment of the 20 mph speed limit within Urchfont, the new reduced 40mph speed limit to the west of Urchfont on the B3098 and the installation of the 3 crossing points on the B3098. These steps were designed to increase the safety of children and pedestrians in the village.

I had over 30 years' experience as an international business executive and have financial, managerial and negotiating skills, all of which I have brought to Urchfont Parish Council. I have played a leading role in resisting inappropriate property development within the village, and would like to continue to do so. I am also keen to protect our core village amenities and assets.



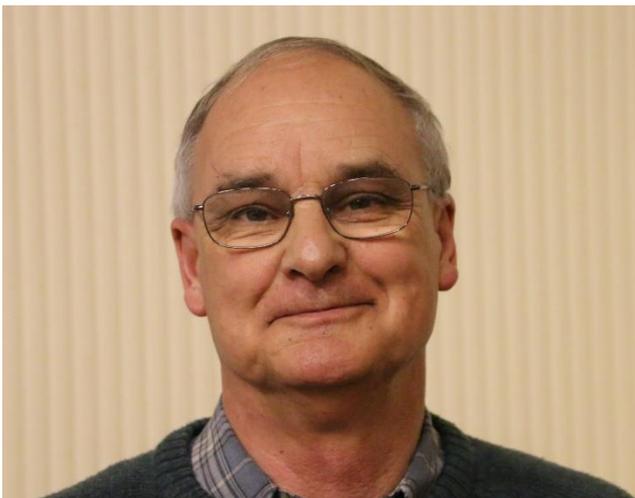
Bill Donald

**Paddocks, The Cartway, Wedhampton,
SN10 3QD**

I have been representing the residents of Wedhampton on the parish council for 5 years and hope to continue to do so. My wife Anthea and I moved to Wedhampton 8 years ago and have engrossed ourselves in many aspects of the community.

During my time on the council I have played an active part in our restructuring and am currently vice-chairman. I am very involved within the community, driving the community bus, chairman of the Urchfont Players (you may have seen me on the stage!), and on the Scarecrow Festival Committee. Having come from a management background with nearly 30 years' experience at Marks & Spencer, my

key aim is to present a balanced view within the council to ensure all sides get the opportunity to express their views. Pleasing everyone all of the time isn't possible but ensuring that all views from residents are heard is vital. I look forward to representing the community on the Parish Council for another term.



Richard Hawkins

2 Peppercombe Close, Urchfont, SN10 4QS

I am a retired consultant Civil Engineer and have lived in Urchfont for 35 years with my wife Janet. Our three children attended Urchfont School and during that time I was a Parent Governor and an active member of the Urchfont School Parents' Association.

I have been a volunteer driver of the Community Bus since its inception in 1986 and have served on a number of committees including the Parish Millennium Group, The Queen's Diamond & Golden Jubilee Celebrations, Parish Plan, Parish Council, Scarecrow Festival, Cricket Club, the

Village Hall Management Committee and the St Michaels Project.

I chaired the Urchfont Community Shop Association steering group and, as a member of the Friends of St Michael's Church committee, organise with my wife the annual Candles around the Pond social event.

I have appeared in a number of the Urchfont pantomimes as a dog, cat, horse and lowland gorilla!

If elected I will use my position to pursue the provision of housing and community facilities for all, particularly for the young and old, maintain the special character of the area and seek to enhance the unique community spirit of the parish.



Trevor Hill

12 The Paddocks, Urchfont, SN10 4SH

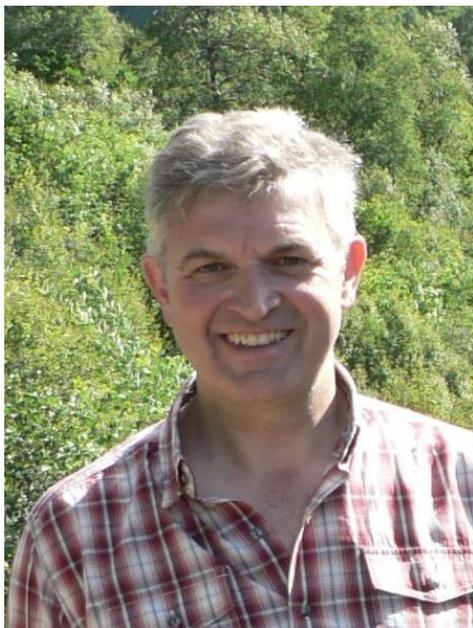
My wife Gill and I moved to the village 30 years ago. Our two daughters grew up here and attended Urchfont Primary School and as a result both Gill and I involved ourselves in many fund raising events for the school; I ran the school cycling proficiency programme for 9 years and became chairman of USPA.

I am an active member of the Tennis Club and Badminton group and have been a member of the Cricket Club. I have enjoyed nearly 30yrs involvement with Urchfont Players, sat on the Village Hall Committee, help with the Scarecrow Festival and I am currently a member of the Rights of Way Group and a Community Bus Driver. I was co-opted onto

the Parish Council 18 months ago and I am currently Lead Councillor for Planning and share responsibility for Highways.

Since retiring from Wiltshire Police 12 years ago I became self-employed and helped many local residents with small building projects and garden maintenance.

I have thoroughly enjoyed living and bringing up my family in this beautiful part of Wiltshire with its special and unique community spirit. If elected I look forward in helping UPC ensure our community continues to thrive and meet the needs of future generations so that they can enjoy this Parish as much as we have.



Steven Hodges

10 Manor Farmyard, Urchfont, SN10 4BA

I've been married to Alison for 31 years and we have 3 grown up children.

I was born in Devizes and have always lived in Wiltshire. We love the landscape, history and agriculture of the Vale and our aspiration to live here was realized when we moved to Urchfont in September 2015.

We were warmly welcomed into the village and quickly became involved in the Scarecrow Festival, pub quizzes, film nights and more! Through this we have made many friends. I frequently attend UPC meetings and responded to the Neighbourhood Plan consultation.

I am an active person with many interests including science, art, and archaeology. Nature is important to me, and I regularly enjoy it by walking and cycling the locality.

Urchfont is an attractive village with a vibrant community. I want to help preserve this character whilst ensuring its future sustainability by supporting rural business, tourism and sensitive development.



Maria Kemp

Moonacre, High Street, Urchfont, SN10 4RP

I moved to Urchfont in January 2016 with my husband Richard having recently retired from a varied career in nursing, workplace health and fitness. Our three daughters were raised in Wiltshire so we were already quite familiar with the county and were pleased to find Urchfont when looking for a new home.

After various homes in the UK and overseas we were both looking forward to becoming part of a thriving community. On our arrival we were made very welcome by the people of Urchfont and were impressed by the sheer volume of activities, clubs and volunteer opportunities.

I am a keen runner/walker and enjoy roaming the surrounding countryside without the need to get into my car. I currently volunteer with the NSPCC as well as the village shop and also enjoy working with the Rights of Way Group as often as I can.

I feel passionate about protecting what we have here in our village and look forward to being proactive in contributing towards current and future projects.



Nicky Mitchell

**1 Oakston, The High Street, Urchfont,
SN10 4QL**

I moved to Urchfont with my daughter in 2004 from London, was immediately made to feel welcome and encouraged to join the Parish Council in 2005. It was a very different experience for me but I enjoyed being involved in the business of the Parish. I progressed from Chairman of Planning to Vice Chairman and was then elected Chairman for 5 years from 2009 - 2014.

Since stepping down as Chairman I have remained active on the Council. Due to my nursing experience, I was Chairman of the Defibrillator Working Party set

up to fund raise and install 4 defibrillators in the Parish 6 years ago. We have recently expanded our defibrillator network and held free CPR Training for members of the Parish.

I also volunteer in the Community Shop and am part of the flower arranging team for the Church.

Urchfont is such a friendly, proactive village I feel very fortunate to live here. I am very interested in its heritage and future development and keen, with your support, to remain on the Parish Council particularly to see the adoption of the UWL Neighbourhood Plan by Wiltshire Council and the benefits it will bring to the Community.



Dave Mottram

**Cranfield, Friars Lane, Urchfont,
SN10 4SD**

Vivian and I have lived in Urchfont for over 35 years and our children, Joe and Amy, were brought up in the village and went to school locally. Since retiring I have found the time to become involved in several local organisations. I am currently a driver of the village bus, Chairman of the Urchfont Village Cricket Club and a member the Village Hall Management Committee.

I have been a member of the Parish Council for the last 7 years, and have been privileged to have been elected as Chairman for the last 3 years. During my

time as a councillor we have seen the development of Manor Farmyard, and dealt with the fallout from the closure of Urchfont Manor as an adult education centre. I have also been heavily involved in the production of the Neighbourhood Plan, and I am optimistic that it will be supported at the referendum on 20th April.

If you choose to re-elect me then I look forward to being involved in the implementation of the Neighbourhood Plan which will give the Parish Council greater control over future developments within our Parish. The Parish Council will also be working on a 10-year strategy for the Parish based on some of the other initiatives which have been identified during the many consultations carried out in producing the Plan. There are plenty of other Parish Council activities that I still want to be involved in. These include the 'right trees in the right place' initiative; a 'freshening up' of the Parish Website; and entry into the CPRE Best Kept Village Competition.



David Stevens

9 The Orchard, Urchfont, SN10 4QX.

I have lived in the fantastic village of Urchfont for over three years, moving here from Gt Cheverell, having lived in Wiltshire all my life.

After leaving Lavington School I embarked on carpentry apprenticeship alongside studying at Trowbridge College. I am now a full time cabinet maker and craftsman based locally for over a decade. I have a keen eye for detail coupled with a strong work ethic.

I promote sustainability and enjoy providing fresh produce from my allotment. I am a member of the allotment association committee, taking advice, sharing ideas and promoting the wholesome lifestyle.

I actively engage in countryside management and sporting pursuits. I embrace the village fraternity and I enjoy actively taking part in the annual scarecrow festival.

I consider myself proactive with a positive 'can do' approach, I would relish the opportunity to serve this parish, enhancing and improving for all along the way.



Royston Thomas

17 The Orchard, Urchfont, SN10 4QX

I have lived with my wife Jean in Urchfont since 1989 and have served as a parish councillor since 2003. I believe it is important to listen to other's views and have a proper debate about parish issues without the debate becoming personal in nature.

During the last few years, a lot has been accomplished by the Parish Council and I have contributed to many of the Parish Council's projects. These have included working with the drainage designers on Manor Farmyard to provide an overflow from the pond, working with an arboriculturalist to survey all the council's trees in

Urchfont, a new "all weather" vehicle parking and turning area in the cemetery, new much safer arrangements for the village Christmas tree and a new permanent mains electrical system for use during village events round the pond. If I am fortunate to be elected to serve another term, I look forward to contributing to the future work of the Parish Council.

Please be sure to cast your vote on Thursday 4th May 2017, this is your opportunity to select the eleven candidates that you want to represent you and the Community for the next four years on Urchfont Parish Council.