

WHITCHURCH ON THAMES PARISH COUNCIL

Whitchurchonthames.com

Report of the meeting of Whitchurch on Thames Parish Council on
Monday 5th July 2010 in the village hall

Present:

Cllr Harry Butterworth (chairman), Cllr Nigel Grove, Cllr Elizabeth Robinson, Cllr Keith Brooks, Cllr Lindsay Austin

In attendance:

Jo Wheeler (parish clerk), District Councillor Pearl Slater

Apologies for absence

Cllr Vincent Aldridge, Cllr Dr. Matilda Oppenheimer

Public forum

Residents spoke about their objections to the planning application for Eastfield House based on the following reasons:

- Over development
- Adverse impact on environment
- Would overlook neighbouring properties and impact on privacy
- Increase in traffic

They also drew attention to what they felt was misleading information in the planning application and an inadequate consultation process.

District Councillor Report

Cllr Slater confirmed that South Oxfordshire District Council will be picking up the rubbish collected at the weekend from the voluntary rubbish clearing, at no cost.

(The rubbish was indeed collected. There are pictures on the web site of the team clearing the "Cut" ..Ed)

Sports Field update

The planning application on which the whole project depends was expected to be sent to SODC by the end of the week. A great deal of effort, particularly by Dr Oppenheimer, has been needed and the Council was appreciative of the care and attention to detail that has gone into its presentation.

Planning

P10/E0852 Eastfield House Eastfield Lane

Partial demolition of existing care home, construction of an extension and associated works and change of use of land at the rear of the home.

Objection on the grounds of:

Gross Overdevelopment

Adverse impact on village and conservation area

Unacceptable loss of privacy for the neighbours

P10/EO790 Hartslock Cottage, Hartslock Bridleway

Extension to existing dwelling, external decking, solar panels and replacement shed

No strong views

P10/E0787 Uplands Cottage, Hardwick Road

Extension to convert roof structure and rear extension

No strong views

P10/E0720 Elm Cottage, Hartslock Bridleway

Formation of two new bedrooms and dormer windows in attic space.

No strong views

Environmental Matters

Cllr Brooks reported that the new lights are now installed. More rubbish clearing will take place on Sunday. A full report can be viewed in the Bulletin.

Traffic and road matters

The Roads & Traffic Group inspected the state of the highways around the village and produced a 17 point report on problem areas.

Village Hall matters

The last committee meeting was in April. The annual report to the Charity Commission listed the members of the Village Hall Management Committee. Quotes are being obtained to update the sanitary wear on the bathroom.

Financial matters

The annual return was agreed and signed.

The meeting closed at 9.45pm.

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The Greyhound

The Greyhound now has new tenants. Many improvements are planned but Frank and Dawn Olley are starting by renovating the kitchen and the toilets.

They will offer a wide range of beers and wines. Dawn says that refitting of the kitchen is a priority and this will be used to prepare delicious sandwiches and baguettes. .

.If you want the Greyhound to stay as a pub, then you must use it as a pub. More details are on the web site

South Oxfordshire District Council Report: Development Management Performance and Achievements 2009/10

The development management section of the SODC Planning Service (which comprises two area application teams and an enforcement & appeals team) recently collated the attached summary of its performance and key achievements over 2009/10.

The section met or exceeded all planning application targets and achieved a particularly high success rate in respect of enforcement appeals.

The improvements in performance have been achieved notwithstanding an overall increase in workload and a reduction in the numbers of staff.

Detailed statistics:

Development Management Performance and Achievements

- 75% of major applications determined in 13 weeks (target 70%)
- 80% of minor applications determined in 8 weeks (target 75%)
- 90% of other applications determined in 8 weeks (target 90%)
- Number of applicants/agents “very satisfied” increased from 55% to 85%
- Expected income £646 560 actual income £657 133
- Introduced charges for pre-application advice (with the exception of householder development)
- Introduced charges for non-material and material amendments to planning permissions
- Introduced applications/charges to extend the life of planning permissions
- 72% of appeals were dismissed against a target of 75%. Dismissed appeals include 2 major planning inquiries – Benson Lane, Crowmarsh (210 dwellings) and land to the west of Reading Road, Winterbrook (106 dwellings)

Enforcement Team's Performance and Achievements

- 91% of sites visited within 5 working days (target 90%)
- 98% of initial assessments carried out in 15 days (target 80%)
- Course of action determined on 82% of cases in 12 weeks (target 70%)
- 30 enforcement notices issued
- 24 enforcement notices authorised but not yet issued
- 93% of appeals against enforcement notices successfully defended (29 appeals)
- 5th highest number of enforcement appeals in the country
- Pre-emptive injunction obtained to prevent gypsies occupying land at Stanton St John
- Cases on hand reduced from 400 to 350
- Old enforcement cases (pre 2006) reduced from 111 to 57 (in respect of which 23 have enforcement notices served)

For any further information please contact Paula Fox, Development Manager (South) on 01491 823471 or email paula.fox@southoxon.gov.uk

Report supplied by Pearl Slatter, District Councillor and head of the SODC planning Committee.

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Our Web Site

For the latest village news see our Village's own web site.

Whitchurch-on-Thames Parish Council Statement in support of the Planning application by the Parish Council and Messrs Hugh and Ben Whitelock

The Application

This Planning Application is a joint application by the owners of the land (the Whitelock family) and the Whitchurch-on-Thames Parish Council (prospective owners) for:

- Permission to build a single dwelling on the cricket ground adjacent to the existing easternmost house in Eastfield Lane
- Permission to construct a car park adjacent to the proposed house for users of the Sports Ground and the School

If the application succeeds the Whitelock family will retain ownership of the plot for the single dwelling and the rest of the land will be transferred to the Parish Council and secured for community and recreational use in perpetuity.

Restrictions on the land

As outlined in the application itself, the obligations which would be entered into by the landowner (the Whitelocks) and prospective owner (the Parish Council) under section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 would secure the use of the remainder of the land (i.e. other than the site of the new house) for sporting, recreational, school and other community purposes. This would also prohibit the commencement of the construction of the house until the rest of the land had been transferred to the Parish Council, and to restrict the future use of the land to sporting/recreational/school/ community purposes. The land would be secured for community use in perpetuity and this would prevent further development of the site in the future. The Parish Council believes that granting permission for the single dwelling with these restrictions would not set an adverse precedent for further development beyond the current confines of the village.

At the same time as the planning application we are also applying for a Certificate of Lawfulness so that the land can be legally used for sports other than cricket and for general recreation.

Benefits to the village

The Parish Council believes that this application provides a unique opportunity to acquire a Community Sports Ground for the village of Whitchurch. We believe that this is in line with local strategies being developed by the SODC to improve village amenities in the villages of Oxfordshire. A successful application would secure this important open space in the parish for village events, exercise and sporting activities, picnics and general recreation. The land could be used for the benefit of all those who live in the village.

Land Ownership and Maintenance

The land would be owned by the Parish Council and the maintenance and bookings for the use of the land would be organised by a subcommittee of the Parish Council with representatives from the Cricket Club, the School and other interested parties. This committee would ensure that the ground was kept regularly mowed, free of litter and generally looked after and maintained to the high standard necessary for public use.

The Parish Council would subsidise all necessary maintenance fees and arrangements for the land.

Future use of the Sports Ground

Cricket would continue to be played by the Whitchurch Cricket Club, as it has been for many years, and in the future the Whitchurch Junior Football Club would have a pitch adjacent to the cricket pitch on the land. There are several junior Whitchurch football teams for girls and boys already in the village that have to practice elsewhere at present. There is the potential in the future to apply for grants and to fund raise to improve the facilities, and the Parish Council intends (as appropriate) to make or to support such applications. These could include building a tennis court, supplying picnic tables and benches, and replacing the existing tea room and sheds on the ground that are currently in a poor state of repair and owned by the cricket club. The sports field would be available to be used by children from the adjacent primary and pre-schools. The proposed car park would provide off-street parking for the users of the ground and the school. The school has been involved with the discussions about the car park and will have the use of the car park as required. The school governors and head teacher are fully supportive of the project.

The Cricket Ground is situated within easy walking distance of all the houses in the village and it is anticipated that most village users of the ground will walk there to use the facilities.

Environmental features such as trees, hedgerows etc will be protected and part of the ground will be available to be maintained as a nature area by WOTHABS, the local environmental group.

Village support and the Parish Plan

In 2009 the Whitchurch Parish Plan was completed after 15 months' work by many of the village residents. The basis of the Parish Plan was a village questionnaire which was completed by 80% of the residents. The questionnaire was carefully analysed and from this the main issues and concerns of the residents of the village were determined. 84% of respondents were in favour of the acquisition of the cricket ground by the Parish Council for the village and thus the first of the Key Actions of the plan was to:

“Make continued and persistent efforts to acquire the Cricket Ground for the extended use of the Village.”

Representatives of the Parish Council were then chosen to pursue discussions with the Whitelock family, discuss the proposals with SODC, to appoint an architect to co-ordinate the project, and ensure all the necessary specialist advice was obtained.

Public Consultation

Following extensive public consultation the Parish Council has received widespread community support in the village for the project. A well attended public meeting was held in January 2010 to present the initial proposals for the project to the residents of the village. Many comments were made; all of which were given careful consideration and have now been reflected in the final plans. The public were further consulted at the Annual Parish Assembly in April, when the proposals were put on display and discussed further.

Discussions with the sports clubs (Cricket and Football) and school have been held throughout the planning phase of the project to ensure that their views were properly considered and that their needs were taken account of in the plans.

Summary

Although the new house extends the line of existing development by one further plot on the north side of Eastfield Lane, the Parish Council considers that the effect of this on the countryside setting of the village will be very limited and is certainly amply justified by the significant benefits that the application as a whole will bring to the residents of the village. Indeed this is the only potential site within the boundaries of the parish of Whitchurch on Thames that could accommodate such a facility. The beautiful setting of the ground surrounded as it is by mature trees hedges and plants will be very little affected by the house at the corner of the site.

The Parish Council is unanimously agreed that the visual impact of the new house would be minimal and the community benefit would be considerable. Local activities would be supported in the village. The acquisition of the ground is widely supported in the village and our Village plan showed 84% of respondents were in favour of acquiring the ground by the Parish Council for the village hence its position as the first “Key Action” of the Village Parish plan.

In short, this is a unique opportunity for the Parish Council to acquire an area of land on the edge of the village, easily accessible to all, which will be capable of serving the entire community in a number of different ways, and will enhance the lives of everyone living in the village. There is strong public support for the project and the Parish Council considers that it is plain that the benefits of the proposal are very significant and decisively outweigh any conflict with planning policy that there may be.

News as it develops will be posted on

whitchurchonthames.com

Watch That Space!

Whitchurch Village Fete

Saturday 4th September 2010

2.00pm - 5.00pm

Whitchurch Cricket Ground
Eastfield Lane, Whitchurch on Thames, RG8 7EJ

- * Circus Entertainer * Dog Display Team * Alpacas *
Granny's Attic *
- * Tug of War * Bouncy Castle and Games *
- * Quality Gift and Craft Stalls and much, much more.....

Grand Draw

Nintendo Wii, Nintendo Dsi, + Cash prizes + more
fabulous prizes to be won.

Beer Tent * Tea and Cake Stall * Ice Creams *
B-B-Q

Whitchurch VS Whitchurch Hill
Cricket Match
From 5.00pm

If you would like to join us with a stall, donate items for
Granny's Attic or purchase tickets for the Grand Draw, please
contact **Helen Bowsher** at helenbowsher@hotmail.co.uk
or Tel: 0118 9841826

*Fete organised by the parent committee of **Whitchurch Pre-school***

Main Sponsors

Warmingshams Estate Agents - Goring
Richard Wilson Solicitors - Goring
BP Technology Centre
Corporate Leisure International

Eastfield House

The owner of Eastfield House has submitted a planning application for a major extension to Eastfield House. The following is the reaction of people who would be affected if the project were to go ahead.

In the application it states that it will be: "almost completely concealed when viewed from Eastfield Lane" However, the elevation drawing below clearly shows that the extension dominates the original Eastfield House and the plot. What is proposed is a three storey extension providing 3 levels of living accommodation.



South elevation (front) outline massing elevation.

The black area identifies the scale of the planned extension



The new extension at approximately 17,700 sq ft will be approximately THREE times the size of the original Eastfield House. . By comparison, an average large house is generally between 1,500 and 2,000 sq ft.

Eastfield House is not listed, but has historic merit and is located within a Conservation Area. What is proposed is a large commercial building and would be completely out of scale compared to Eastfield House and almost anything else within the village.

The planned extension is un-neighbourly and will completely dominate and overlook the adjoining houses and gardens.

The owners have already removed a number of mature trees at the rear of the plot that were in a historic avenue of limes. As a result SODC has put Tree Preservation Orders on the remaining trees to prevent any more being removed.

Details of the proposals can be found at <http://www.southoxon.gov.uk>

SODC are seeking comments within the community and therefore those people wishing to make representations should ideally reply through the web site, or write to Mr T Wyatt South Oxfordshire District Council, Benson Lane, Crowmarsh Gifford Wallingford. Oxon, OX10 8ED

Comments should be sent to SODC no later than 23rd July 2010

Julie and Neil Huntington

From the Police: Whitchurch July

If you would like to bring an issue to our attention, you can download a consultation form from South Oxfordshire District Council website at:

<http://www.southoxon.gov.uk/ccm/content/corporate-support/community-safety/neighbourhood-action-groups.en>

If you want any advice or would like to contact the neighbourhood team you can call us on the police non emergency number 0845 8 505505 or email HenleyRuralNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk. Please note this email address cannot be used to contact Thames Valley Police to report crimes or for any urgent matters. Alternatively you can visit the force website at www.thamesvalley.police.uk to view information on your neighbourhood.

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whitchurchonthames.com

Have you “Had your say”?

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PANGBOURNE BOWLS CLUB

We want new and experienced bowlers to join our club in Pangbourne. With this in mind we are offering a special deal to encourage you!

Join us now or at any stage this season (and receive free coaching if wanted) and we will not require any annual subscription for the remainder of 2010 if you pay your subscription for 2011.

For further information contact the club secretary on 0118 984 4171. or come down to the bowls club green by the pavilion in the Pangbourne recreation ground (end of Thames Avenue) any Thursday at 6.00pm and we will be glad to see you!.

Nigel Cabeldu

ENVIRONMENT REPORT

We are experiencing cutbacks as a result of the economic climate and consequently it has become very difficult if not impossible to get the local or county councils to carry out simple jobs such as clearance of weeds and vegetation from the roads or maintenance of street furniture such as seats, street signs and railings.

In order to compensate for this loss it is essential that residents of the village become more proactive in keeping the areas in front of their houses free from weeds and overhanging vegetation as one resident has pointed out 'Everyone has to make a special effort to keep the verges outside their houses clean and weeded, especially in the High Street, recognising that some do this anyway. I walked the length of the High St this week and was also reminded of the need to cut back the overhanging hedges regularly. The pavements are narrow and dangerous enough without having to duck or leave them altogether to get past the hedges'.

This was part of the village plan and if we are to keep our village looking smart and tidy and so enhance its obvious natural beauty then we must all make an effort. Recently bands of villagers have been out and about as you probably have noticed and carried out various projects. The first was to clear vegetation from around the speed restriction signs and the village sign coming from the chalk hills along Hardwick Road, very important for ensuring greater safety for school children and parents when dropping off/ picking up mornings and afternoons. Also the light at the top of Muddy Lane very over grown causing light to be lost – essential from a safety aspect this was cut back.

More recently we have been refurbishing the seats around the village staining the wood painting the iron work and replacing panels where necessary.

Lastly this weekend just passed saw a band of caring Whitchurchians descend on the cut and transform it from a scruffy weed infested mess to a smart path which is a joy to walk on and much more safe for mothers with children and prams and buggies or our more senior citizens. So thank you to James, Stephen, Pearl, Richard, Stephen F and David for turning out on a hot morning and SODC for supplying the sacks and collecting them – it was a real joint effort of Local Council and village residents – look out for more projects and come and make a real difference to your environment!

Dr Keith Brooks

WHITCHURCH PRE-SCHOOL

We are looking forward to our end of term summer picnic, when we will be lucky enough to have a circus entertainer present to help make it a very special ending to the term. Recently our sports day was held and the great weather helped ensure that all had a fun and enjoyable time.

Our gardening has been very successful this term, with sweet peas, tomatoes, runner beans and courgettes growing in the little garden.

The main topic for this term has been 'mini beasts'. We have been looking after tadpoles and watching them develop. Caterpillars have also been observed, which successfully hatched into painted lady butterflies, which were then released into the wild.

The Pre-School are organising the Whitchurch Village Fete, which will be on Saturday 4th September, from 2pm – 5pm. Please put this in your diary, as we would love to see everyone there to support the Pre-School. Over the next few weeks we will be selling Grand draw tickets (with some amazing prizes!) in the village, your support would be greatly appreciated.

Village Hall

We would like to remind you that the village hall has been refurbished and is now suitable for a whole range of village activities at extremely reasonable hire charges. The Committee Room is available separately for smaller groups.

So if you are thinking of having a children's party, starting a club or holding a meeting, please get in touch with the Hall manager, Mr Eddie Pilcher on 0118 984 4271 between 6.30 pm and 8.30 pm.

Stephen Trinder

WoTHABS

Surveys

Some of the members of WoTHabs have been very busy this year surveying several of the Local Wildlife Sites in the parish – and there are more LWS in Whitchurch than in any other parish in Oxfordshire. The existing sites are monitored every 8-10 years. Sally Woolhouse and Sandra Parkinson + Julie from TVERC, the Environmental Records Centre, surveyed Seymours' Meadow (the river meadow to the west of High Street). There's the orchid count still to do on land at Chalkhills (ex Boze Down) - it's surprising how many have survived in spite of the hot weather and muntjac deer. A return visit to the meadow is needed to complete work there, as well as visits to Straw Hill and Bottom Wood.

Do get in touch if you'd like to help. It's a great way to learn more about the wildlife on private land on your back doorstep. Email or ring Sandra: sparkinson7@googlemail.com Tel. 9844031. You don't need to know any botany –or entomology – just having someone to tick a list as names are called out is a great help, and to write labels and packet samples for identification. Some sites are flat, some steep. You can choose which type you prefer!

Field Courses

This summer, we are again taking advantage of the excellent courses on identifying and recording Invertebrates at Hill End Field Studies Centre, Farmoor, near Oxford: Sally on the subject of Beetles, Sandra and I on Moths and Martin Parham and Sandra on Snails and Slugs. These courses are for anyone at any level but are run by real experts in their specialist fields. Contact WoTHabs or look on the Hill End website if you would like details of these in future.

Sandra Parkinson and Gill Goodwin

Art and Craft 2010

Sat 20th November 2010

**Exhibition ONE day only
(enter day in diary NOW)**

Joyce Voysey Prize – Topic is “Green”

Morning Children’s Activity

Afternoon Teas

Exhibition from Local Groups and Societies

**We have bags of talent and expertise in the village –
this is our opportunity to share it**

**We plan to run workshops for adults in the Autumn and seek
volunteers to run an art or craft session with a view to
participants entering their work in the exhibition**

Volunteers contact Helen@bworth.co.uk

Watch the link on the village website for updates

WE ALL HAVE A STORY TO TELL

Part Two

In the first part of this article, I explained why I felt that the thousands of self-published books produced in the UK are such a valuable national resource. In this part I will explain how you go about publishing your own magnum opus. Most importantly I will try to show how to avoid unnecessary costs. As with everything else in this life, the more you do yourself when self-publishing your book, the more money you will save.

Let us imagine “Francis Lawrence” (the names have been changed to protect the innocent) wants to write a book about his family. It will be a simple account of who they are, where they live and work, what they eat and wear. In fact absolutely everything about the Lawrences. When Francis told his wife Sylvia of this project, she simply said: “that’s a bit boring isn’t? I mean what’s special about us?”

“Nothing, really,” Francis replied. “But imagine how fascinating it will be to social historians in 100 or 200 years time.”

With that eloquent explanation he half won Sylvia around although his twelve year old son Craig still thought the whole idea was “gross” whatever that meant.

When he was at school, Francis remembered seeing a picture of Sir Walter Scott at work on one of his famous novels. The great man was standing at an easel writing in longhand. Even then, the young Francis wondered how anyone could finish a book like that.

He was right to wonder. Virtually anyone writing their first novel in long hand rarely make it past the second paragraph. Why? Because they are making unnecessary work for themselves. Wisely, Francis chose an easier way by using the Microsoft Word, programme on his p.c. to write his book. He liked the Word programme so much that he even thought of publishing the whole book using it. But he soon encountered a problem that changed his mind.

When he inserted any photographs of the family to go with the text, they displayed an irritating tendency to jump around. He could overcome this by putting them on a separate page, but the whole work seemed rather bland. So he kept the initial manuscript in a Word document and took the trouble to save it on a memory stick. His sister who was a publisher in Canada also had a couple of good tips for him:

“In your original document, space the words one and a half lines apart, this makes it much easier to proof read.”

“Why do I need to proof read it?”

“Because we all make mistakes,” she replied patiently adding: “Unless you are the Almighty of course.”

“And never try to proof read from a computer screen,” she concluded. “Always use a hard copy of your work.”

“A hard what?” Francis asked.

“A printed copy of your work,” she replied marvelling at her brother’s innocence.

Why this should be the case, I simply do not know but I can confirm that it does work. Recently, as an experiment, I tried proof reading one of my manuscripts on the pc screen. I certainly picked up and corrected a few typos and spelling mistakes. Then I proof read it again using a printed manuscript. The number of typos, misspellings and plain bad grammar that had slipped through the net was truly humbling. In fact, it always is best for a disinterested but sharp eyed third party to do the proof reading.

Having decided that he did not want to use Word for his manuscript, Francis hunted around for a self publishing programme that would help him finish the job. One helpful computer buff said he should only use Microsoft Publisher. It is certainly true that Publisher is an excellent desk top publishing package, but as Francis soon found out, it came with a fairly hefty price tag. On Amazon the cheapest deal was nearly a hundred quid. Buying that for his little book seemed a bit like buying his son a Lotus Elise for his first car – expensive, unnecessary and, in the case of the car, downright dangerous.

Fortunately, before Francis took the plunge and set fire to his plastic, he happened to read a popular computer magazine. In it there was an article extolling the virtues of an online self publishing package from a company called www.blurb.com. According to the article, Book Smart as the package not only guided you through creating your book in easy steps but could also be downloaded for *free* !

Francis was a great believer in Milton Freidman's maxim: "There's no such thing as a free lunch." So naturally, he was sure there must be a downside to using Book Smart. Well, the only problem with Blurb is that if you create your book using their Book Smart programme it has to be printed and bound by them. Try and print it out yourself and you get a Blurb banner running diagonally through every page indicating the copy is for proofing purposes only. In view of the fact they are making their excellent software available for free, this is hardly an unreasonable restriction.

But, this is a company that is aimed at the Francis Lawrences of this world. That is to say people who only want to produce a few copies of their story or family history. In the case of Francis, he finally opted for ten copies of 5" x 8" paperbacks offered in the list of choices offered on Blurb's site. With shipping, this cost him about £42. A very cost effective solution for all those Christmas presents not to mention preserving his family history!

In the event, the whole family was surprised and delighted with the book. Even his harshest critic, his son Craig was impressed.

"Gosh Dad, did you really write this?" "Yes."

"But it's just like a real book! Cool!"

The stories of our families are the flesh and blood of history and what gives it a human face. If we allow these stories to die with us then we have lost an important part of our nation's social narrative. As Francis Lawrence found, with advances in computer and printing technology, it has never been easier or cheaper to see your story in print. But like him, you must start today because tomorrow may well be too late.

**SUMMER
GARDENING SHOW**
Goring Heath Parish Hall
Saturday
September 4th 2010

Schedules From-: Liz Gibson 0118 984 2012
Ann Lewis 0118 9842377
Sue Sexon 0118 9844236

Titles For The Photographic Section.

1. Messing about on the river.
 2. Doorways.
 3. Fur or Feather.
-

Dogs Again

""In the last 6 months an inconsiderate dog walker has allowed his/her dog to foul the pavement between Manor Road & the Church drive.

If anyone sees this person please let me know their name and I will point out to them that it is against the law & highly dangerous to the health of anyone walking there

Thank you

Tony Voysey""

Autumn Walk 2010

Just a forewarning – I plan to take you into the woods for the autumn colours again but this time I will try to choose a Sunday (probably in October) when they are more obvious! Keep an eye on the posters and the web site.

We will use a few paths you have seen before and I hope to introduce you to one or two more which may be new to you.

Our route will take us up to the Baulk, across to Collins End and to Keepers Cottage, past Querns and then to Ladygrove Farm. We will cross over to Woodlands Cottage and down the bridleway to Charity Farm (now Charity Cottage) and across the road to Bengrove Wood

With care we will wander through the woods to eventually emerge onto Deadman's Lane (I wonder who died – a tramp?) and cross over to the woodland on the other side. I plan to bring you out by the side of Haw Farm and back to the old Post Office at Goring Heath.

Thereafter you will have a choice of routes to return home. For those who want to shorten the walk you can start and finish from a convenient parking spot near the old Post Office.

(The walk is about 7 miles from the village, 5 from the black gates and 3 from Goring Heath).

Now to look at New Year's Day!

Eric

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whitchurchonthames.com

Our Village's own web site

WOODCOTE LIBRARY

There's a lot happening for children over the summer. Our Tuesday storytimes for the under fives continues (siblings welcome), and the Summer Reading Challenge starts on July 10th. The theme this year is "Space Hop" - should be fun! As usual we will have stickers to reward the reading of six books over the holidays, with a medal at the end. Come in to sign up and start your spacecraft exploring the heavens. On Friday 6th August from 11 to 12 we will have a Space Hop storytime for children 3 to 8 years old.

Please remember to ask for a holiday extension if your books will be due while you're away, or ask at the desk for a PIN number so that you can manage your account online yourself. If you do use the internet you will notice that reminders are now being sent out to tell you that your books will be due back in a few days. If you do not want this to happen please tell us and we will alter your record.

And finally, after 25 years of service at the school and now the public library I am to retire at the end of July - but Woodcote will continue to be my local library and I look forward to seeing everyone on the other side of the counter!

Vicky Jordan

August

Apart from holidays and summer weather there are two events to look forward to in August.

The first is a Storytime for three to eight year olds, to be held on Friday 6th August from 11 to 12 o'clock. There will be stories and poems on our Space Hop theme and then a craft activity. It is free, but please pick up tickets from the library desk as places are limited. Aliens welcome.

The second is an art session for adults and children with Pam Hobbes, again free, tickets at the desk. It will be held on Saturday 21st July from 10 to 12 o'clock, and aims to be an exploration of our different senses through the art.

The "Space Hop" summer reading challenge continues until September 18th, so there is still time to read six books and receive a gold medal. Come into the library to get your starter pack and begin the voyage among the stars.

There are books of all kinds for holiday reading for adults too, though sadly no medal, as well as DVDs for all ages.

In September we look forward to an exhibition of work by local artists from adult education classes. Hopefully this will be an inspiration and encouragement to sign up for autumn classes - details of which can be found in the brochures in the library.

Pangbourne and Whitchurch Sustainability group

PAWS

We have had an exciting two months. In April Anthony Armitage, Energy Efficiency officer for West Berkshire attended the group to give us an overview of his job as well as to provide us with information about other West Berkshire 'Green' Groups and to offer help towards our Green Day held on the 12th June. The atmosphere at the meeting with 23 people from Whitchurch and Pangbourne confirmed the commitment and excitement felt about enabling our two communities to become part of the growing movement around the country towards greater energy efficiency and sustainable life styles.

The Sustainability Day held at Pangbourne Village Hall continued that excitement. Exhibitors of Solar Power, LED lights, Biomass and Solid Fuel Stoves, all of them local suppliers, joined with local veg and food producers and advisors from TV Energy, Green Banking, and Berkshire Business Advisors to provide solid, usable information to those interested in living in a way that reduces the strain on rapidly diminishing resources. Sir Brian Hoskins was on hand to answer questions about Climate Change, bringing with him his hybrid fuel car. Peter McManners was able to show the electric car he has been trialling for the last six months. One of the aims of the day was to encourage people to 'Buy Local' and with this in mind, village shops were represented by Garlands Organic and Natural and Mountain High who brought a range of bicycles. Collins contributed a large bag of seed potatoes and all but three were taken from the stall encouraging 'Grow your Own.' Hopefully all those who have planted them will enjoy a good crop.

PAWS members themselves created an exhibition of differing insulation materials and created computer programmes enabling identification of individual home energy usage. One member nobly manned the Veolia stall, providing a wealth of information about local recycling and recording all the complaints about the deficiency in the present service. All of these will be fed back to Veolia.

The WhotHabs group from Whitchurch presented some of their work in respect of understanding and conserving the biodiversity of our local area and several people have signed up to help in mapping the natural environment in and around Pangbourne.

About 140 people visited the exhibition, enjoyed tea and cakes provided by Pangbourne WI and admired the results of the Primary School Sustainable painting competition, won by Natalie. The craft table attracted the children who made butterfly feeders and created beautiful butterflies.

As a new group in the community we were delighted by the interest shown and aim to offer much more information on how we can all work together to economically support our local community, improve our energy efficiency and protect and enjoy our local natural environment. The next meeting will be held on the 22nd July with a visiting speaker. Following meetings will be on 23rd September, 28th October, 25th November and 16th December. All meetings start at 8.00pm in Pangbourne Village Hall.

For information contact us at www.pawsg.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

Land between Hardwick Road to Eastfield Lane, Whitchurch-on-Thames
Public Right of Way Footpath 23

Southern Gas Networks is investigating the possibility of laying a new 250mm polyethylene medium pressure gas main in land linking Eastfield Lane and Hardwick Road. The land in question, over which a public right of way runs, borders the cricket field to the west and the school playing field and allotments to the east and is known locally as Muddy Lane.

As Agents for and on behalf of Southern Gas Networks, (SGN) we have used best endeavours to identify the legal owner of the freehold interest but without success. Before undertaking any works, the Company is required to give anybody or person legally responsible for the said land over which a public right of way (Footpath No 23) runs the opportunity of stating any objection that they may have to the proposal.

Any person(s) legally responsible for the repair and upkeep of this land or the footpath who wishes to object to the Company's proposal should give notice in writing of his/her objection to the person indicated below within one month from the date hereof.

Dated 12th July, 2010

P.R.Thwaites FRICS , Savills , Wessex House, Wimborne, DORSET
Telephone : direct 01202 856888 or mobile 07967 555664

DIARY DATES

Contributions welcome for this column if anyone knows of a date that would be of interest to the village.

August

Saturday 7th Maze working party

September

Saturday 4th Whitchurch Village Fete

Monday 6th Parish Council meeting

THE NEXT ISSUE OF THE BULLETIN

will be published in September 2010.

Please send your contributions **preferably by e-mail to**
Sarah.pongo@talktalk.net by 9th September 2010

Views of individual contributors
are the views of those contributors,
and are not necessarily the views of the Parish Council, or the

whitchurchonthames.com

Our Village's own web site

Lots of pictures of local events