

The Bulletin of Whitchurch on Thames

whitchurchonthames.com

Report of the meeting of Whitchurch on Thames Parish Council on
Monday 5th March 2012 Village Hall.

Present:

Cllr Harry Butterworth (Chairman), Cllr Vincent Aldridge, Cllr. Nigel Grove, Cllr. Lindsay Austin, Cllr. Keith Brooks, Vice Chairman, Cllr. Matilda Oppenheimer, Cllr. Jim Donahue. Jenny Welham Parish Clerk.

In attendance:

District Councillor Pearl Slatter, County Councillor Dave Sexon, Stephen Trinder VHMC, Richard Wingfield, (Traffic & Pavements Advisory Group), Geoff Weir Whitchurch Bridge Company. PCSO Mark Bell.

Public Forum

PCSO Mark Bell reported that cars had been broken into during the night, several in Woodcote. He stated that the cars had been left unlocked and not secure. Minor thefts of loose cash, and any other items left in the vehicles were stolen. Few Burglaries have been reported. Some concerns over youths travelling on trains without tickets and then causing a disturbance when they leave the train, slight concern that this may come into Whitchurch from trains to Pangbourne. He advised that the Police do work closely with the Transport Police on these matters.

He then left the meeting.

Whitchurch Bridge Company – Geoff. Weir presented maps of potential pedestrian access options following feedback from Pangbourne PC and TAPAG on behalf of Whitchurch PC. He stated that all of these options will require land to be acquired. Cllr. Oppenheimer suggested that The Bridge Company should involve Planning even at this early stage, this will be considered. The Section 106 has been signed by West Berkshire CC on Monday 5th March, signature is still awaited from Oxfordshire. TAPAG to review the drawings and draft the reply on behalf of Whitchurch PC. At a later stage a public meeting will be held to display the details and options for the pedestrian access.

County Councillor's Report.

Cllr Sexon reported following a meeting at the Lower Narrows with Highways some of his Locality Fund will be used to upgrade the road signage. The give way signs will be checked as well as other road signage. Also from this fund the low level fence at Hillside which has already been installed to stop lorries when turning going over the grass verges and granite sets.

Mr. Trinder asked when Eastfield Lane would be re surfaced. Cllr Sexon replied that assessment is scheduled for sometime during April.

District Councillor's Report

Cllr. Slatter confirmed that the grant from SODC was confirmed for the car park at the new Village Green.

Cllr. Slatter had talked to SODC Forestry regarding the trees on the new village green and also the trees in the surrounding area. Many have a TPO, she has requested that Forestry email the Clerk with the list of trees. Signs have been placed on the trees with a TPO, these had been removed, Cllr. Brooks has reinstated them placing them higher up so that they cannot remove them without a ladder!

Cllr. Slatter raised the question of dogs and fouling on the village green suggesting that the Parish Council need to consider this and how they will manage this.

Cllr. Austin reported that many residents had raised complaints regarding the lights outside the Greyhound Public House. Cllr. Slater had already spoken to the tenant who had paid to have the lights put in place to increase his business. Most of the Councillors have received complaints, Cllr. Slatter agreed to check with enforcement on the regulations regarding lighting.

Lastly Cllr. Slatter reported that on walking round the village there is a high percentage of Fly Signage, she will be keeping an eye on this to ensure it does not increase.

Traffic & Pavements Advisory Group

Following the completion of the Gas Works, on Hardwick Road the loose and granite sets are being restored. Also the hole in the tarmac left by the traffic lights will be repaired. Further reinstatement of the road tarmac that is wearing thin, a meeting with Highways has been arranged as this will involve closing the road.

Environmental Committee,

Cllr Brooks reported. Following the reinstatement of the wooden bollard in Muddy Lane, it was removed again for some inexplicable reason. After enquiries of the allotment holders failed to shed any light on the matter it has been replaced again and seems to have been left in place.

Installation of the Salt Bins was carried out just in time before it snowed. They have proved to be very useful.

Together with Stephen Trinder, Cllr Brooks has carried out repairs to the bench seats in the children's play area in Manor Road. Several local residents have thanked them for this which was very pleasing.

Following communication from TAPAG a survey of street lamps was carried out in the village. Several are unsightly with the paint having come off, (High St. Manor Rd, Swanston Field) OCC have confirmed that the paint is now obsolete. He proposed purchase of similar paint for a working party to repaint the lamps. This was agreed. The replacement of lights in the High Street has been deferred for the moment as there is some uncertainty regarding their necessity. There is a redundant sign in Muddy Lane, which Cllr. Brooks would like to remove. It was agreed that ownership of the sign should be established first. The Clerk to check with SODC. Cllr Brooks to check with the school.

Cllr. Brooks read an email from SODC regarding the dog waste bins which stated that the cost of emptying the bins would be borne by SODC. Currently the PC are invoiced for this service. Clerk to follow up and check this.

Allotment & Sustainability Report. Cllr. Donahue reported.

Allotments - the NSLAG Contract renewal is not due until end of September. Discussions have started:.

The Allotment Society has been invoiced for last year's rental. Their AGM is on Friday 9th March where Cllr. Donahue will propose a limit to the number of multiple allotment holders and giving preference to residents of Whitchurch Village

The Parish Council does not dictate the price charged for allotments, happy for the Society to keep them low, but notes that they are much lower than other neighbouring communities.

New agreement between the Council and Allotment Society will be negotiated. It will not be tied to contract with NSLAG legally, but the new terms will be impacted by NSLAG terms and it makes sense to upgrade them at the same time.

Hillside Verge:

The new low level fence is expected to eliminate damage to the verge by trucks avoiding parked cars. The next step is to plant flowers or shrubs. Some neighbours already expressed interest in helping.

A leaflet has been designed which will be placed under the windscreen wipers of vehicles that consistently park in this area. It is hoped that it will encourage people to park so that they present no obstruction to delivery vehicles.

As it will be issued on behalf of the Parish Council the leaflet was read to the Council and its content was agreed.

Maze Committee formation:

There have been a number of discussions recently about improving the Millennium Maze area, potentially in conjunction with the Diamond Jubilee. This would be a temporary committee reporting into the Parish Council for the Jubilee year.

Hardwick Road Verges Project.

WoTHabS initiated. To consider improvements to the footpath on south verge , biodiversity of Verge management and hedge management

Village Green

Cllr. Austin reported that a further meeting had been held, this meeting was just to discuss the Lashing Cricket Event scheduled for 21st June 2012. Preparations are going well but there is a lot of work to be done.

Quotes for the ongoing maintenance of the Village Green have been obtained, the Clerk reported no reply had been received from the email to the current person who cuts the cricket square and outfield. Cllr. Austin will follow this up.

All the quotes are now obtained for the car park work.

The Village Green Committee have decided to register as a Charity, this is ongoing and the registration will begin in the next month.

Planning Applications –

New applications: None.

It is believed there are two on their way but there are no details yet.

Application granted by SODC: P11/E1948 Erection of replacement Dwelling, Littleholme, Eastfield Lane, RG8 7EJ.

Review of Standing Orders, Financial Regulations, Asset Register, Risk Report

New Financial Regulations and Standing Orders had already been circulated by the Clerk, these were agreed to be adopted.

The Risk Report had been studied by Councillors it was approved and agreed. The Clerk is still working on collating the asset register, but the major items are in place, and further review is not required, final list to be circulated.

Other Matters for the Council to Consider.

Jubilee matters. –

Stephen Trinder outlined his plans for the Jubilee event on the 4th June. He requested that two members of the Parish Council join the committee, Cllrs. Brooks and Oppenheimer agreed. The event will be self financing as much as possible but a maximum amount of £200 sponsorship was agreed from the PC if necessary. Stephen has approximately 30 offers of help for the event, but more will be welcomed. All the necessary communication is in hand.

Annual Parish Assembly. – The date is Tuesday April 3rd.

Cllr. Oppenheimer suggested that a guest speaker be engaged.

Village Archive –

Cllr. Grove advised that he is currently the holder of some archive material. He asked if there is any official policy on holding village archives. The Clerk will find out. Cllr. Grove to pursue the possibility of a village archive with the Village History Society. The filing cabinet in the Village Hall would be a possible location for the material.

Final note:

The next meeting date Tuesday 3rd April

It is the Annual Parish Assembly.

A Village Green, at long last

Following years of discussion, a lengthy planning process and completion of a Section 106 Agreement, the Parish Council finally took ownership of the land in Eastfield Lane this week, securing Whitchurch-on-Thames its very own Village Green!

Ever since we compiled our Village Plan in 2009, following extensive consultation with village residents, the Parish Council has had as its primary action to “Make continued and persistent efforts to acquire the Cricket Ground for the extended use of the Village”. The land has now been acquired and therefore attentions can turn to the development of new ways for it to be used!

A Management Committee has been recently formed, with representatives from around the village who are tasked with amongst other things arranging for the creation of a 12 space car park and junior football pitch on the site. In addition, they, along with the parish clerk, will be responsible for the day to day running and maintenance of the site and the raising of funds via grant applications and events. The fundraising is to provide benches, picnic tables, other sport facilities and ultimately a clubhouse.

A grant from SODC towards the creation of the car park and football pitch has been awarded this week so we’re off to a flying start. To ensure everyone gets the maximum benefit from this excellent facility, fundraising and development will be an ongoing process.

They are coming again.....

**Lashings World XI
Versus
Whitchurch on Thames Cricket Team**

We are delighted to announce that the World Famous Lashings XI Team have agreed once again to visit our beautiful village and play cricket against our local cricket team.

The big day is on Thursday 21st June 2012 and we hope you can all make it. The proceeds from this fantastic event will go towards the development and upkeep of the village green – now that we as a village own it!

I hope if you are a cricket lover that you will take this opportunity to 'get up close and personal' to these famous World Class Cricketers and join them for the VIP Lunch, this lunch will be the main fundraiser of the day so if you can indulge yourself or know of any cricket fans who would please help us out. Or just come along and enjoy the match and the day. We will have lots of beverage and food stands and hopefully some great cricket. All we need is the weather!

We look forward to seeing you there in what we know will be a fantastic day for all to enjoy. For information on this event please check out the village website.

If you would like to help out at this event, please contact Maureen Stovell on 07768 108392 or Lindsay Austin on 07557 224033.

Whitchurch Bridge

Whitchurch Bridge will close for reconstruction in October 2013. The closure will be preceded by the erection of a temporary footbridge just upstream of the main Bridge, with gently sloping ramps connecting it to the approach roads on each side of the Bridge. The temporary footbridge will also carry Openreach and electricity services.

The granting of Planning Permission from both South Oxfordshire District Council and West Berkshire Council was subject to the completion of “Section 106” Planning Agreements. These formalise the commitment of the Whitchurch Bridge Company to pay for an additional bus to supplement the 142 service which will be diverted away from Whitchurch Bridge, and also for the reprogramming of the traffic lights at Streatley crossroads to deal with the increased traffic flows.

The reconstruction work is subject to various Planning conditions including:

- Traffic management plans for both diverted traffic and construction traffic
- Protection measures for trees and the river meadow
- Noise mitigation measures
- Pollution prevention measures

The Company is negotiating with Pangbourne Parish Council on the use of the river meadow for the contractor’s compound: this in turn will mean a minor diversion of the Thames Path and the provision of a temporary landing stage for Adventure Dolphin.

The Company is also evaluating possible upgrades to the footway between the Toll Booth and the Adventure Dolphin car park entrance, and in consultation with Whitchurch-on-Thames and Pangbourne Parish Councils two schemes have been selected for further work. The practical and highway engineering issues are being looked at initially: Costings will follow, as will discussions with neighbouring landowners as any upgrade work will require the acquisition of land not owned by the Company.

Any footway work will include minor highway realignment, correction of road levels, new kerb lines and the provision of new drains. The Company is aware that the existing drains outside the Boathouse Surgery do not perform well, and until they are replaced they will be regularly jet washed to help keep them clear.

There is more detailed information on the Company website at www.whitchurchbridge.com.

Geoff Weir
Company Secretary

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Whitchurch and Goring Heath History Society

We continue our successful lecture season with an illustrated talk entitled "Alice in Waterland". Mark Davies will mark the 150th anniversary of the trip on the Thames to Godstow when Lewis Carroll first told the wonderland stories to amuse the little girls. Mark Davies has written extensively on Oxford and its waterways and will be leading "Alice" walks in the summer. The meeting is at 8pm on Thursday 19th April at Goring Heath Parish Hall.

Our May meeting covers several topics. We will celebrate the Diamond Jubilee of Goring Heath Parish, which was formed from the upland parts of Whitchurch and Goring parishes in 1952. There will also be an investigation of letters found in a copy of Sir Rickman Godlee's book, A Village By the Thames, and two other talks, if time permits. The meeting is on Thursday 17th May at Goring Heath Parish Hall.

Non members are welcome to attend our meetings, at a fee of two pounds. In June and July we shall be visiting Mapledurham and Pendon Model Railway, and these visits are for members only.

WoTHABS Reporting

Mapping the Wildlife Habitats of Whitchurch

A major project this year is to survey the wildlife habitats in the entire parish of Whitchurch, building upon the outline habitat survey completed by WoThabs over a decade ago. This survey will be more detailed than the previous one and will be the foundation on which to build an assessment of which are the most species-rich habitats, which hold notable species, and which would benefit from having a site-specific management plan. The basic mapping phase should be completed by teams of 2-3 volunteers by the end of this year.

This is an ideal opportunity for beginners to learn some basic botany from an experienced team leader!

Come and join us, phone Martin on 0118 9844491

Scottish and Southern Energy and the Allotment Path Trees

SSE have still not managed to schedule the essential tree-felling which they have been planning to carry out to avoid damage to overhead powerlines. It has to be carried out during a school holiday, because some of the trees are within the school boundary, but Easter will be too late as birds will be nesting and tree sap rising. It is not known when they will carry out the work. However, anticipating loss and the need for restoration, the school is planning a new hedge along the fence line to the north of the main entrance. Preparatory felling and clearing of small trees has been carried out in two combined parents and WoThabs work parties.

Planned Events

Watch out for posters and on our oxnet page www.oxnet.org.uk/wothabs for details of

Guided Walk at Chalkhills

planned by WoThabs jointly with the Woodcote Conservation Group and a WoThabs and PAWS

Hay Meadow Walk,

Sunday 1st July

Butterflies and Moths

Many of us enjoy watching out for and identifying the butterflies that visit our gardens and homes. Building up records of sightings is essential for conservation work. Brimstones, Peacocks, Small Tortoiseshell, Black Hairstreak and Red Admiral are among the butterfly species recorded so far this year in the Upper Thames region. If you would like to help you can download recording forms from <http://upperthames-butterflies.org.uk/recording.html> or contact Gill for a form on 0118 9842934. A record can constitute any number of butterflies from one sighting upwards. A single Orange-tip or Hummingbird Hawk-moth seen in your garden is just as important as larger numbers of sightings.

Martin Parham, Sally Woolhouse and Gill Goodwin

WOODCOTE LIBRARY

We wish all our readers a Happy Easter. The library will close at 12.30 on Thursday 5 April and re-open at 14.00 on Tuesday 10 April. Please borrow extra books for the holiday weekend.

We have another new Art Exhibition in the library this month. Paintings by local artists, Jayne Ford and Ann Spencer, will be on display in the class room area from Thursday 19 April. Please do come in and have a look.

The next meeting of the Woodcote Reading Group will be on Monday 23 April at 18.00. This date is also World Book Night and we shall have some free books for you to read and then pass on to someone else.

A new free service at Oxfordshire Libraries are eBooks and eAudio. Members can borrow 3 titles (eBooks or eAudio) at a time and can choose whether they want a 7 day, 14 day or 21 day loan period. Items will disappear at the end of the loan period but can be borrowed again if no one else has reserved them. The service is compatible with PCs, Macs, iPad, iPhone, iPod Touch, Android, Blackberry, Sony eReader, Kobo and other eBook readers, but currently not Kindles. This is because Kindles are proprietary devices for eBooks purchased from Amazon. For licensing and technical reasons, it is not possible to download from the People's Network computers in libraries.

Gillian Amos Manager Woodcote Library

Don't miss the Whitchurch

JUBILEE TEA PARTY

We will be celebrating the Queen's Diamond Jubilee on **Monday 4th June**. That's the third day of the four day Jubilee weekend.



This will be a big occasion with, we hope, almost everyone in the village coming along to a great get-together afternoon. At the centre will be a Jubilee Tea Party held on the Village Green or cricket field between 3.30 pm and 6.00 pm.



There will be no entrance charge. But everyone will be asked to bring something – sandwiches, cakes, drinks or whatever – which will be laid out on tables as a giant spread for all to share. To make sure there is a balance of food and drink you will be asked to fill out and return a reply form. Details will be in the May issue of The Bulletin.

Volunteers will be needed for various organising tasks. If you would like to help, please telephone Stephen Trinder on 0118 984 2610 or e-mail stephentrinder1@virgin.net.

The Whitchurch Society's Garden Open Day will be held on the same day and will finish at the Jubilee Tea Party.

There will be a Treasure Trail during the afternoon to encourage families to explore some of the intriguing features of Whitchurch, again leading to the Jubilee Tea Party. We plan to have a Band playing and a Rounders tournament to add to the festive atmosphere. .

Make a note of the date – **4th June** – and be sure to come!

Stephen Trinder

WHITCHURCH SOCIETY GARDEN WALK

MONDAY 4TH JUNE 2012

We have agreed with Stephen Trinder, who has taken the lead in organising The Jubilee Tea Party, that the Garden Walk will take place on Monday 4th June which has been designated a Bank Holiday.

Gardens will open from 1.30 to 4.00 pm – the earlier closing to allow exhibitors more time to take part in the Jubilee Tea Party on the Whitchurch Village Green (formerly Cricket Field). Please refer to Stephen Trinder's notice in this issue for details of arrangements at the Village Green.

We are interested in hearing from households keen to put their gardens on show – particularly those who have not exhibited before or not for some time.

A list of open gardens will be delivered to each household nearer the date. A Garden Open notice will be displayed at each address.

Please contact the undersigned ASAP if you are interested.

Ian Bruce

Secretary – tel 984 2653, mobile 07879 405559,
email ian.bruce@btinternet.com

Whitchurch Traffic & Pavements Advisory Group

(TAPAG)

Some current activities:

- **Bridge reconstruction – pedestrian safety.** All the concerns we raised during the planning process, on both approaches to the bridge, have been included by the Bridge Company in the scope of a Footway Feasibility Study. The consultation phase of the study is now in progress. Pangbourne Parish Council is also involved.
- **Lower narrows.** We met on site with OCC personnel in February to discuss further measures to improve the safety of pedestrians. It now seems likely that funds will be allocated for improving the traffic signage.
- **Gas pipeline.** The new pipeline is now in operation. We are pursuing the need for remedial work with SGN at the Hardwick Road junction and in Swanston Field. SGN accept that repairs are needed to granite kerbs and some asphalt areas. They have said they will probably need to apply for a road closure to repair worn trench surfaces in the Hardwick Road narrows.
- **School warning sign in Hardwick Road.** This has now been moved by OCC further west and across the road to the location we suggested.

RMW, 6th March 2012

SOMETHING TO LOOK FORWARD TO

**Enjoy a weekend in France at our pretty twin town of
La Bouille, on the bank of the Seine near Rouen**

MAY 5th to MAY 7th

**You have only to pay travel costs of
£135 per adult (children under 12 free)
ALL ELSE – accommodation, food, excursions
Are paid for by our friends in La Bouille**

**Join us for good company, good food & wine, and lovely
Normandy countryside**

**To secure your place on the coach, ring 01189 843260
Or e-mail: vickyjordan5@hotmail.com**

See www.whitchurchtwinning.org.uk for previous visits

Whitchurch & Goring Heath Twinning Association

THE ALLOTMENT SOCIETY

The season is beginning! Our AGM will be held on 9th March.

Soon it will be time to start planting potatoes and onions.

Ros Heath 0118 984 2358

The Oak Processionary Moth – FAQs

What is the OPM?

The Oak Processionary (*Thaumetopoea processionea*) is a moth whose caterpillars are pests in oak trees and pose a health hazard because of their poisonous hairs (setae), which may cause skin irritation and asthma. It gets its common name from the caterpillars' striking habit of forming long lines, or 'processions', in trees.

Where do they live?

The moths are widely distributed in central and southern Europe, and are occasionally found as far north as Sweden. In the southern countries of Europe the populations are controlled by natural predators, but these predators do not exist in northern Europe. Their range is now expanding northward.

OPM was first identified in the UK in 2006 on trees at a housing estate in Richmond. It was confirmed following a high incidence of skin rash symptoms among local residents. This triggered the involvement of the London Borough of Richmond-upon-Thames Environmental Health Section, whose officers brought in an entomologist, confirming the presence of an OPM colony. OPM had arrived at the site on young, newly planted, imported trees, which led to a survey of other imported Cypress Oaks and revealed a further group of infested trees on the A40 at Hanger Lane and an adjacent industrial estate.

In 2010 the geographical area of the infested zone was approximately 150 km. sq. The area has increased each year since 2006 and will continue to grow unless greater action and priority is given to the treatment and eradication of the pest.

Of greatest concern for residents of Whitchurch, a new outbreak was discovered in Pangbourne in 2010. It was again introduced on imported contaminated plants.

Who is dealing with this serious problem?

Having proven that the pest was imported, the Forestry Commission were able to invoke powers under the Plant Health (Forestry) Order 2005, Articles 31 and 32 of which provide enforcement powers. These allow restriction of imports except from nurseries certified free of the pest. They also make it possible to enforce treatment and prevent the movement of potentially infested material. Thus, legally it is the Forestry Commission which enforces all action on OPM at the present time. The outbreak in Pangbourne has been confined to privately owned garden trees. The FC has therefore issued Plant Health Orders to the relevant land owners in an attempt to eradicate the pest. The West Berkshire Council's Tree Officer is working alongside FC colleagues in monitoring this. Surveys were carried out in 2010 and 2011 to continue to assess the possible spread of this outbreak and its future treatment. This year, they will also include part of Whitchurch in the survey area. The Council's current policy will remain to contain, control and hopefully eradicate this pest from Pangbourne.

What should I look out for?

It is important to understand its life cycle because this will inform us when and what to look out for. The eggs hatch just prior to leaf break of English Oak and the larvae will eat into and feed on buds at this point. Larval stages 3 and 4 (from May onwards) are key as this is when the toxins are produced and temporary tent nests start to form, as larvae will feed over night and rest during the day. At stage 5 they may change their resting place and usually move further down the tree from early June. At stage 6 the caterpillars create the final pupal nests. These are usually large and will be on main scaffold branches or trunk of a tree. From late July onwards adults emerge and fly.

If you do notice any silken nests or defoliation, do not go near the tree but report it immediately to Forest Research on 01420 22255 or e-mail christine.tilbury@forestry.gsi.gov.uk. Alternatively contact the SODC Tree Officer.

Can ordinary householders treat the nests in their gardens?

The FC strongly advise against this because of the health dangers posed by the toxic caterpillar hairs in the nests, and because, to be as effective as possible, the job must be done at just the right stage in the moth's lifecycle by someone trained to do it correctly.

What are the health risks?

The adult moths are harmless. The larvae however are covered in hairs. From the 3rd instar (stage 3 – late May to July) they also develop tens of thousands of microscopic hairs, among the larger hairs. These hairs are only 0.1 to 0.2mm in length, and contain the toxic protein thaumetopoein that causes the release of histamines, which can result in an allergic reaction in humans. Exposure to these the tiny sharp toxic hairs will often cause irritation and allergic skin reactions in both people and animals. Contact most commonly causes intensely itchy or painful skin rashes and can also result in sore throats and irritated eyes. People vary in their response - not everyone reacts to the caterpillar hairs. The most common problem is an itchy rash which is unpleasant but not dangerous. However, the reactions in humans and animals can be severe and include dermatitis. Any one that has come into contact with the hairs directly or indirectly and develops symptoms is advised to contact their GP.

Direct contact with the caterpillars is not necessary, because the hairs are so small and are disturbed during moult between stages/instars or during movement and nest access. They are thus often airborne. Due to the size of these hairs they can be carried for considerable distances from affected trees. Swiss forest scientists believe that hairs can be carried for up to 200m, which is considerably further than the distances quoted by the Health Protection Agency. With this in mind it is possible that affected people will not have encountered the caterpillars or their nests directly or be aware of the cause of their problems.

Sally Woolhouse WoTHabs

Spring Walk 2012- Sunday 29th April

This spring we will walk on paths that many of you will recognise from previous walks but in the opposite direction and at a different time of year. We will also use a couple of paths that we haven't walked together before.

*There will be at least three ways of shortening the walk, two of which will remove any uphill sections – so **everyone** should be able to join in.*

The main walk will be about 7 miles starting at the Maze (at 11:00 hrs.) on to Path Hill Farm via the Baulk, down and up the sides of the dell to Holmes's Farm and then across towards Rose Cottage. We will enter and cross Gutteridge's Wood to arrive at Nuney Green.

Parking at or near the foot of the Baulk will reduce the distance by 2 miles. We will be there at about 11:15 hrs.

The distance can be further shortened and all uphill sections removed by parking near the Old Post House at Goring Heath and walking back down its right hand bridleway to meet the main group near Rose Cottage at about 11:40 hrs. Or you can park opposite the old King Charles Head pub and meet at the entrance to Gutteridge's Wood at about the same time.

Our return will be along the north side of Gutteridge's Wood to Deadman's Lane and across to the Almshouses. *Those on the shortest route can then return to the parked cars.*

The longer return home will be via Lovegrove Farm and across to Bunces Lane as far as Keeper's Cottage; then back across the dell again to Path Hill Farm and, on this occasion, down to Hardwick House past the Bear Pit and then the Stud.

Seedsavers Group

A very successful Seed Swap was held in The Old Stables meeting room in Whitchurch on Saturday 11th February. It was organised by the new Seedsavers group who are affiliated to PAWS (the Pangbourne and Whitchurch Sustainability Group). Thirty local gardeners attended, many bringing along vegetable and flower seed that they had saved last year, and which was shared around for growing this year in local allotments and gardens. Refreshments were provided and over cups of tea, everyone shared their own gardening successes (and failures) with each other.

Sally Woolhouse gave a short introductory talk to explain the primary aim of the group which is to build up over time a truly living seed-bank of vegetables. It will be genetically adapted to our local environment, and will be independent of the big seed companies. By saving seed and then sharing surplus seed with other local gardeners each season, the Seedsavers hope to turn the tide in a modest way against the standardised hybrid varieties, where every seed is identical, in every packet, year after year - no adaptability for different soils, or for changes in climate over time.

Two members of 'Green Broom', Richard and Marion Price, also came along and demonstrated the techniques of saving seed from mustard plants. Richard explained the aims of Green Broom, the new South Oxfordshire Sustainability Project at Crays Pond on Hardwick Estate land – it will bring new ideas and possibilities to share practical skills in sustainable living in the local community. It is hoped that the Seedsavers and PAWS can share knowledge and resources with Green Broom, in the future, as their project takes shape.

The next meeting of the Seedsavers group will be a workshop on Saturday 19th May when various isolation methods will be demonstrated (in The Old Stables 2 – 4.30pm)

For further details about Seedsavers, please check the PAWS website or contact Sally Woolhouse on 0118 9844365 or sally.woolhouse@gmail.com. If you are interested to know more about the Green Broom project, please contact Joe at joe8d@hotmail.com or Marion on 07507 465634.

Sally Woolhouse

THE WHITCHURCH SOCIETY

Friday 27 April

at the Whitchurch Village Hall from 7.30 pm
followed at 8 pm by an illustrated Talk entitled

“The Real Toad Hall - The Story of Hardwick House”

**This is a second opportunity to view Nick Brazil’s
masterpiece video – introduced by the author**

Everyone is welcome to attend both the meeting and the Talk
which charts the history of the Hardwick Estate and the
families which owned it

The Hardwick Lecture Series

“Not since the Middle Ages has the Western forest been used
intelligently”

Rik Pakenham is a forester with over thirty years experience of managing woodlands in the Chilterns. In his talk he will argue that the quoted title may have once been true, but going into the 21st century forest management is far more sustainable. He will attempt to illustrate how this is achieved in the daily management of Hardwick and other local estates.

Saturday 24th March 2012 – 6.45 for 7.00pm
Hardwick House, Whitchurch-on-Thames, Oxon RG8 7RB

To book a place please call the Hardwick Estate Office on
0118 9842955 or e-mail hardwickestate@btinternet.com

Tickets £10 - to include “a hearty bowl of woodland soup”

Whitchurch Litter Pick-up

Saturday March 17th, 10am to 1pm – Meet at the Greyhound

Spend a couple of hours keeping Whitchurch beautiful! Come along on Saturday the 17th and volunteer to pick-up a street or two. Bags, litter pickers, and Hi Vis Jackets will be provided. Please bring your own gloves. There are about 8 litter pick-up streets identified and we need about 2 or 3 people for each, so the more people we get the quicker it will go. It couldn't be easier to volunteer for your community! Please contact Jim Donahue and jimdonahue7@gmail.com or 07557668601 if you can make it and let him know if you have a preferred pick-up area. Or just show up in front of the Greyhound on the day!

PAWS Annual Family Bike Ride

Sunday, 25th March, 2012
All welcome!

Departs 12 noon from the Boathouse Surgery
– Ride started by MP John Howell!

Join the Pangbourne and Whitchurch Sustainability group (PAWS) for a bike ride to Caversham! Discover a family friendly route along quiet roads and bridleways all the way to Caversham Court Gardens where a light lunch will be available. The event begins at the Boathouse Surgery car park in Pangbourne, 11:30 for 12 noon, and will take approximately 2 – 3 hours. The scenery is beautiful; hopefully the weather will be as warm and sunny as last year. Maps of the route will be available and marshals will provide assistance en route. This ride is suitable for cyclists over the age of 6. Certificates will be awarded to all children who complete the ride. If interested please register on the PAWs site www.pawsg.com, or turn up on the day. Cost £1.00 for an individual, £2.00 for a family. For further information please email AmanaWinchester@aol.co.uk.



Whitchurch Pre-School

It has been a busy term for us at Whitchurch Pre-School with lots of learning as well as play taking place.

French Lessons

French lessons are going well and the children are enjoying singing songs and saying their names in another language.

The Weather

This term we have also been learning about the weather and have made some wonderful rainbow mobiles.

We are looking forward to our annual visit to Rushall Farm at the end of the month to see the gorgeous newborn lambs.

If you would like to know more about our lovely pre-school please call Annette on 0118 984 4516.

www.whitchurchpreschool.org



*The Whitchurch and
District Theatre Club*



Organiser: Christine Martin
**“Sonia”, Goring Heath Road, Whitchurch
Hill, RG8 7PG**

Tel: 0118 9844252 e.mail
whitchurchtheatreclub@gmail.com

**The Whitchurch & District Theatre Club
takes you to musicals, plays, classical
concerts etc. once a month.**

**Chichester, Bath, Oxford, Stratford,
Aylesbury and Richmond, amongst others,
are often visited. Also major London
productions. Mainly matinees but
sometimes evening performances.**

**Tickets purchased at
group/concessionary rates.**

**Subscriptions £5 per annum.
Coaches depart from Pangbourne.**

Support our library!

In order to secure the future of our local library in Pangbourne we need to ensure that we make good use of **all** its resources. Fiction, non-fiction, audio & children's books, as well as eBooks & magazines, are stocked & books from other libraries can be requested. Maps, local newspapers, directories & eResources are available, as well as access to free public computers, an eLibrary for downloading eBooks & audiobooks, & photocopying/faxing facilities. A wide range of DVDs, music CDs, vocal scores, orchestral sets, play sets & Wii games can be borrowed. Babies & children are very welcome, with Rhymetime on alternate Thursdays, Bookstart Bear Club throughout the year & the annual Summer Reading Challenge. Anyone can join & membership is free.

Please contact the library on 0118 984 4117 or pangbournelibrary@westberks.gov.uk for further information

Albert Higley

Hello,

I noticed with interest on the statement of the history of the cricket club that my great grandfather, Albert Higley (the gardener) was mentioned. I am currently making a study of my family tree and I would love to know if any photos of him or my grandfather George Higley, who also played at the club, exist.

Many thanks for your time,

Kathy Waghorn (nee Higley)kathymwaghorn@tiscali.co.uk

South Chiltern Choral Society

From Fauré to Duruflé

In this, their 60th Anniversary Year, the beautiful and imposing monastery church of **Douai Abbey** will be the setting for the **South Chiltern Choral Society's** Spring Concert, when the choir, conducted by **Gwyn Arch**, will sing two major works, the **Requiem** by **Maurice Duruflé** and the rather better-known **Requiem** by **Gabriel Fauré**. Both works will feature the fine organ of the Abbey, played by the well-known organist Robert Jones, Director of Music at the Wren church of St. Bride's, Fleet Street. Robert will also play two organ solos by other French composers so the concert will be entirely devoted to music from the other side of the channel.

The two works, (Fauré 1893; Duruflé 1947), separated by more than 50 years, share the same structure, the same words, the same use of soloists (both works have a solo *Pie Jesu*) and the same emphasis on rest and peace rather than a dreadful Day of Judgement. However, they are very different in performance and make for a fascinating contrast.

The **Fauré Requiem** will be performed with a brand-new instrumentation by David Hill (conductor of the London Bach Choir, the BBC singers, etc.) Its accompaniment will therefore be Organ, Harp (Jenny Broome), Violin (Lynette Padfield) and Cello (Lorna Taylor), a combination ideal for the acoustics of the Abbey.

Continuing our policy of offering opportunities to young singers, our soloists will be Helen Winter (Mezzo-soprano), a one-time finalist in the BBC choir girl of the Year who now has a wide-ranging career in recital work and oratorio, and James Gilbert (Baritone) who is at present singing with the Nationale Reisopera (the Dutch National Touring Opera). The concert will take place on **March 24th at 7.45pm**. This is a wonderful opportunity to hear these two great works in a perfect environment for them, so why not reserve your ticket now?!

***There will be a coach to Douai Abbey from Sonning Common / Caversham for which early booking is advised.*

Douai Abbey, Woolhampton RG7 5TQ
March 24th 2012-01-24 at 7.45 pm
Tickets: £14 , £7 Under 18s
from Mary Esslemont 0118 987 4346
or Newbury Corn Exchange 01635 522733
£20 concert + coach

SPRING GARDENING SHOW

Goring Heath Parish Hall

Saturday, March 31st

Raffle

Refreshments

Plant Sale

Photographic Section

Children's Section

Dedicated flower section

Autumn colour

Butterfly greeting card

Weather

Paper flower in vase

Bricks and Mortar

Four flapjacks

Schedules from:-

Liz Gibson 0118 984 2012

Ann Lewis 0118 984 2377

Sue Sexon 0118 984 4236

Robert Willows 0118 984 2036

Rosamund Heath 0118 984 2358

WHITCHURCH HILL FETE
SATURDAY 2nd JUNE

2 PM

Stalls and Plants Galore

Juggler Punch & Judy Bottle Stall Raffle

Children's Races & Games Ferret Racing Swing boats

Beer and Tea Tents Barbecue

25 Piece Concert Band "Have a go" Lawn Bowls

Fun Dog Show

Whitchurch Hill Recreation Ground

CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU

I took out a payday loan. Now I've found my lender is taking money out of my account that I need to pay my rent. What can I do to stop this?

There's a common myth that once you've agreed to regular payments being made from your account, you have no power to stop them. This is not true.

When you give your credit or debit card details to a company and authorise them to take regular payments from your account, it is known as a 'recurring transaction' or 'continuous payment authority'. This is not the same as a direct debit.

To cancel a regular payment just phone your bank and tell them you are withdrawing your consent for further payments to be taken. You don't need to tell the company taking the payments or confirm your instructions in writing for your bank to stop payments. Your bank should stop making payments as soon as you tell them you have withdrawn your consent - regardless of whether you have also told your payday lender - and you can do this verbally.

If you have contacted your bank in time, and a payment is made after you have told it that you wish to stop the payment being taken from your account, it will be regarded as an unauthorised transaction and your bank must give you an immediate refund, and put the account back in the position it would have been if the payment had not been made – in other words refund any interest and charges applied as a result of payment being made.

If you're still having problems get free, independent advice from your local citizens advice bureau. You can contact us by phone, email via our website or drop in. Full details on our website www.caox.org.uk/henley
Phone: 08444 111 444 10am-4pm Monday to Friday

Drop in: Henley CAB 10am -1pm (weekdays except Wednesdays)

Watlington Community Office Thursdays 10am -11am

Woodcote Community Centre Fridays 10am -11am

Email: Complete the "Advice Request" form on our website at www.caox.org.uk/henley

DIARY DATES

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

March

- 17th Litter Pick
- 24th SCCS Concert
- 24th Hardwick Lecture
- 25th PAWS Byke Ride
- 31st Spring Gardening Show

April

- 3rd ANNUAL ASSEMBLY
- 29th Spring Walk

May

- 5-7th Twinning visit to La Bouille
- 12th Langtree Sinfonia Concert

June

- 2nd Whitchurch Hill Fete
- 4th VILLAGE TEA PARTY
- 21st LASHINGS CRICKET MATCH

July

- 1st Wot Habs Walks at Chalkhills

THE NEXT ISSUE OF THE BULLETIN

will be published in May 2012

Please send your contributions **preferably by e-mail to**
Sarah.pongo@talktalk.net by 12th May 2012

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