

# WHITCHURCH-ON-THAMES BULLETIN

## JANUARY

### 2002

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Published by the Whitchurch Parish Council in alternate months

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**The Parish Councillors and Clerk wish everyone a happy and peaceful 2002.**

#### **Parish Council Meeting**

The Parish Council met on 4 January in the Village Hall. At the meeting were Councillors Vincent Aldridge, Nigel Grove, Peter Minton, Brian Mott, John Spencer, Kate Thatcher and Geoff Weir together with the Parish Clerk Janet Holmes. County Councillor John Farrow and Mr John Dolby, representing the Parochial Church Council, were also present. District Councillor Deborah Whitfeld sent her apologies.

Two items arose from the minutes of the previous meetings, the presentation by Mrs Slatter (a High Street resident) on the subject of traffic calming and road safety in the village and the possibility of Silver Jubilee celebrations.

Councillor Farrow undertook to follow up the subject of traffic calming (there are also a number of uncompleted works from the past year's programme that would assist in the reduction of traffic speed in the High Street at least). The chairman is to write to village organisations with regard to the Golden Jubilee celebrations and a provision has been made in the budget for assistance in this.

County Councillor Farrow then gave some details of the new executive structure at County Hall, the changes in the Highways depots and referred to the vexed question of the long awaited Hardwick Road resurfacing. He also mentioned that two vacancies will arise in the governing body of the Primary school and that, since these were County Council appointees, he was looking for recommendations for suitable candidates.

Mr Dolby described the present state of play in the provision of a new access to the Rectory so that a new rectory might finally be built. (Details can be found elsewhere in this issue.) The councillors congratulated him on the work he had put into resolving this seemingly intractable problem and gave their support to the ideas put forward.

#### **Finance**

The council formally accepted the budget for the year 2002/2003 in the sum of £13,031, a minor increase in the current year figure. The increase comes from the allocation of monies for the Jubilee and also for the improvement to the access to the war memorial, which is presently surrounded by a very muddy area.

Payments were agreed for: Janet Holmes, Clerk's expenses; Environment Agency for the slipway license; and to the Society of Local Council Clerks for conference fees.

The chairman reported on possible changes to the terms of reference of the United Charities which were in negotiation with the Charity Commissioners. Should these be agreed, details will be given in the appropriate issue of the Bulletin.

### **Planning**

At the meeting only a minor amendment to an earlier plan was considered but two applications were discussed at the December meeting.

### **Decision Notices**

P01/SO882 Path Hill Farm – change of use of farm building **Granted**

P01/SO873 Eastfield Cottage – new garage **Granted**

P01/SO892 3 Old Barn Cottages – extension **Granted**

### **Applications**

P01/SO1022 Rivendell, Hartslock Bridleway – replacement dwelling

**Should be approved**

(Councillor Thatcher left the room for this discussion)

P01/SO1018/1045 Long Acre Farm, Hartslock Bridleway – single storey extension and conservatory  
**Should be approved**

### **Other Matters**

The council is looking into the Computers for Oxfordshire Villages project. Should this be a suitable project to involve ourselves with it would provide a computer connected to the Internet for the use of anyone in the village. The new waste management contract has been started (with some stops and starts) but it is expected to settle down after the recent spate of public holidays! The recyclable collection now includes plastic bottles of all types and PLASTIC BAGS! The community waste service continues (a timetable is to be found elsewhere in this issue) and the village is due for at least one Saturday collection in the relatively near future.

The next meeting of the Parish Council is on 4 March in the Village Hall at 8.00pm and everyone is welcome to attend.

## **The Queen's Golden Jubilee**

The Parish Council has given thought to the celebration of the Golden Jubilee and it feels that the events which usually run in the village between May and July could be designated as Jubilee events. This could start with the Local History week in early May, continue with the Toll Bridge Centenary exhibition and so on to culminate in the School sports and fete in July.

Grants may be made available to help with the organisations of events and the Parish Council would be willing to co-ordinate the calendar. So, if you have anything planned or would like to do something, please let us know. I will be writing to all organisations in the next few days but that does not preclude anyone from getting involved – the more that want to take part, plan something or just help at some point, the better.

Drop me a line, email the village web-site, ring or just talk to any of the councillors when you see us....!!

*Peter Minton*

## **FROM YOUR COUNTY COUNCILLOR-**

Under Government direction the Council had to form a Cabinet style of working with an overall leadership. To comply with this requirement it was necessary to form a coalition between two parties as there was no overall political control. After serious discussions it was decided that the Conservative and Liberal parties would form the coalition with five members from the Conservative Party including the Council Leader, and four members from the Liberal Party; the Labour party would then form the opposition in the scrutiny role.

On 5 November the County Council changed to this new working policy, this change has necessitated meetings four days of the week to ensure as smooth as start as possible. Within the new working I am pleased to report that I am sitting as an Executive Member with the portfolio for Community Safety, with the responsibility for community safety, drugs and alcohol awareness, the fire service, emergency planning, and consumer protection. Amongst the other positions I have to look after are School Governors. Whitchurch Primary School are currently looking for an LEA appointed governor, and I would be pleased to hear from anyone in Whitchurch or Whitchurch Hill who would like to fill this vacancy, you do not have to have been a parent, a non parent would be equally welcome, if you feel you are able to fill this role please call me and discuss it on 01491 872 537

If you have concerns you wish to draw to my attention, please drop me a line at **County Hall, New Road, Oxford OX1 1ND**

*John Farrow*

## **FROM YOUR DISTRICT COUNCILLOR**

The provisional financial settlement for next year has been announced with a disappointing 0.4% increase in Government funding: this is well below the 2.3% which the Government had indicated was likely for the Shire Districts and will have serious implications for next year's Budget. The figures will not be finalised until February and, in the meantime, public consultation will be carried out on the Council's proposed Budget.

Grundons, the new waste collection contractors, are successfully carrying out the new contract. Plastics can now be put out for recycling collection: this includes drink bottles, household cleaning bottles and yogurt pots. Please wash and flatten them before putting them out for collection.

With best wishes for the New Year,

*Deborah Whitfeld*

## **VILLAGE HALL**

The Village Hall's Management Committee's **Annual General Meeting** will be held in the Hall at 8.15 pm on **Tuesday 19 February**. Everyone is most welcome to attend and there will be an opportunity to put forward any points or questions about the Hall.

Don't forget that the next **Village Fete**, which is organised by a sub-group of the Hall Committee, will be held on **Saturday 7 September**, at Walliscote Farm. Kate Thatcher has kindly agreed to organise this year's event, and a note from Kate appears elsewhere in this Bulletin.

Finally, just a reminder that the Hall is an excellent venue for group meetings and social activities, and our hire charges are the lowest in the area. We will always do our best to meet your requirements – if you would like to see the Hall and its facilities, or would like more information about hire charges, please contact our Hall Manager Joyce Pilcher.

Contact details are on the Bulletin cover, and also on the Hall pages at the Village website [www.whitchurchonthames.com](http://www.whitchurchonthames.com).

*Geoff Weir* ,Chairman, Hall Management Committee

## **NHS DIRECT**

NHS Direct has now produced a self-help guide which works alongside their phone service. The phone service is a 24-hour confidential helpline staffed by nurses and provides advice on:

- what to do if you or a family member feels ill
- particular health conditions
- local health services such as doctors, dentists or out-of-hours pharmacies
- self-help and support organisations.

You can call NHS Direct on **0845 4647** (calls are charged at local rates) or visit their website at [www.nhsdirect.nhs.uk](http://www.nhsdirect.nhs.uk)

*Alison Michael,*

*Age Concern Parish representative*

## **COMMUNITY WASTE COLLECTION SERVICE**

As you are aware, South Oxfordshire District Council's waste management contract was let to S Grundon (Services) Ltd from 10 December. The following is now arranged:

**Whitchurch** - located at the Village Hall Car Park

**Goring Heath - located at the recreation ground lay by**

	<b>Whitchurch</b>	<b>Goring Heath</b>
<b>30 January</b>	<b>from 0800 to 1000</b>	<b>from 1030 to 1230</b>
<b>16 February</b>	<b>from 0800 to 0930</b>	<b>nil</b>
<b>27 February</b>	<b>nil</b>	<b>from 0800 to 1000</b>
<b>27 March</b>	<b>from 0800 to 1000</b>	<b>from 1030 to 1230</b>

**Woodcote - located at the Village Hall car park**

<b>19 January</b>	<b>from 0800 to 1000</b>
<b>25 January</b>	<b>from 0800 to 1000</b>
<b>2 February</b>	<b>from 1150 to 1320</b>
<b>16 February</b>	<b>from 0950 to 1120</b>
<b>2 March</b>	<b>from 0800 to 0930</b>
<b>16 March</b>	<b>from 0800 to 1000</b>
<b>30 March</b>	<b>from 0800 to 0950</b>

A supervised refuse service vehicle arrives at the Village Hall car park for householders to dispose of additional waste. If you are not able to attend the Whitchurch collection then it is possible to use the service at another parish e.g. Goring Heath or Woodcote. Please note that this vehicle will only be on site for a short period of time, once a month. Any item left after the vehicle has moved to its next location will not be collected and legal action under the Environmental Protection Act 1990 will be taken against any persons found to be “dumping” rubbish.

**GOLDEN JUBILEE FETE**

The village fete will be held at Walliscote Farm by kind permission of Mr and Mrs Aldridge on Saturday 7 September 2002.

We hope to have all the usual stalls, the kiddies’ races, a novelty dog show and the obligatory knobbly knees contest. There will also be a beer tent, tea tent and a bouncy castle and hopefully a “golden balloon race”.

If you would like to join the fete committee or can contribute anything, for example, sponsorship, prizes, muscles to set up in the morning or a crowd drawing demonstration.

We asked the Parachute Regiment to drop in, but they were busy that day!

please call me.....*Kate Thatcher 984 4656*

## **THE ALLOTMENT SOCIETY**

We were all very sorry to hear of Sidney Holman's sudden death in November. He became a member soon after we joined and had the plot next to me. He made it productive very quickly (the advantage of being reasonably fit and retired) as he spent a lot of time on his allotment. He was a busy and helpful member of the Society. I shall miss him on the other side of the fence.

The Allotment Society continues to thrive, our new members have been busy turning over the soil on their plots, taking advantage of the relatively dry autumn we have had and preparing them for the coming season.

I am always pleased to hear from anyone interested in joining the Allotment Society.

*Rosamund Heath 984 2358*

## **THE WHITCHURCH SOCIETY**

Annual Art & Craft Exhibition - 17 and 18 November 2001

Once again, the Village Hall was alight with local talents thanks to Jean Spencer's determination to maintain the highest standards of presentation and management - not an easy task when you are surrounded by a mixed bunch of 'village-idiot' volunteer helpers ! As in previous years, there was a wide variety of exhibits from people of all ages. It was good to see so many entries from 'up the hill' including a first-time entry from the Oratory Prep School which was notable for its striking use of colour and shape in the paintings.

The Whitchurch Cup for craftwork was awarded to Sarah Butterworth for her superb tapestry picture of a roundabout horse. The Orford Cup for painting was won by Audrie Pawsey for a finely drawn and painted picture of an Edwardian Lady. Although Mrs Pawsey has been painting for many years, this was the first time she has entered her work for the Exhibition - we look forward to future entries. The CPL Cup for photography went to Sasha Gibson for a picture with spatial qualities reminiscent of Vermeer.

The awards for best entries by young people were won by Evie-Mae Holland (under 7 years old) Amy Rose Holland (7-10), Edward Bradon (11-14) and Philip Weir (15-18). The Butterworth Cup for 'first time' entrant went to Jacqueline Bartrum for a beautifully embroidered cushion and a special prize for the best 7" x 5" photograph was awarded to David Baty. The Chairman's Cup was given to Rob Williams for his very impressive furniture restoration work.

The cups and prizes were presented by John Spencer or, more accurately, by John and Jean Spencer doing their inimitable double act. This was in recognition of their tremendous efforts over many years to keep the Exhibition going. Unfortunately for us, Jean has decided to retire as organiser and pass the torch of fame to other talented contenders waiting, we hope, in the wings. The Society thanks Jean for all she has done and wishes her and John a very happy retirement.

The Society is grateful to the judges (who all came from beyond the villages) to the exhibitors, to the demonstrators (Christine Martin, patchwork; Pat Ackland, mobiles; and Rob Williams, wood finishes) and to the many residents who helped to set up and dismantle the exhibition.

*Nigel Grove, Chairman*

## **WHITCHURCH NSPCC**

The Autumn house-to-house collection raised £510.82. Very many thanks to all who collected and contributed.

*Jane MacCaw*

LIFEBOATS – Pangbourne & District Branch

## **Race Night & Supper**

Friday 15 February at Pangbourne Village Hall

Tickets £5 includes a Fish & Chip Supper

Admission by ticket only - Contact Tony Voysey 984 3946

Make up a party - come and have some fun

**WHITCHURCH AND DISTRICT THEATRE CLUB** will be run in future by

Mrs Diana Marriott

23 Hillside, Hardwick Road, Whitchurch on Thames RG8 7HL

call her on 0118 984 4582 to hear more about future plans.

### **NEWS FROM WHITCHURCH PRIMARY SCHOOL**

The staff and children have all returned to school now after a well-earned rest and a happy holiday following all our end of term fun and games. It was lovely to see so much support at both Christmas celebrations and see community members again. The disco was as popular as ever and our surprise visit from Father Christmas was an added bonus.

So its New Year's resolutions and making a fresh start now. We are thrilled with our new classrooms for Classes Three and Four. It took forever but was all worth it. We are even planning for the builders to come back again and improve the school entrance and toilets as phase two of the project but will have a quiet time this term to recover.

Classes 1 and 2 are studying a topic on ourselves and healthy living. Class 3 have traveled back in time to Tudor England and Class 4 are moving on to the recent past and looking at life from 1960 to the present day. It's a very short term but we'll see what we can pack in before an early Easter. The most important reminder to you all at present is that if you are the parents of a child born between 01.09.97 and 31.08.98 there is paper work to complete during the term if you are considering us as your first choice school. The preference cards should be sent out around the end of January. If you have already met me and given me your details a card will get to you as soon as we have them. If you are still out there but have not made contact with us please do it this week. We need to hear from you or it might be too late to welcome you if all the places have gone. We did have to disappoint people last year so this does need to be dealt with so we can do all we can to include your child.

Happy New Year from us all.

*Penelope Smith.*

### **WHITCHURCH PRE-SCHOOL GROUP - "learning through play"**

The end of term was hard work with the preparations for the Nativity play, but all the work was worth it as the performance in front of a packed primary school hall was wonderful and a real tear jerker. The spontaneous seven renditions of 'Jingle Bells' brought a smile to all of our faces!

The Christmas Party began with a sad and emotional goodbye from all to Liz Mackinnon, one of our supervisors who after 5 dedicated years of playing, has moved on to pastures new. She will be missed by all of the children and parents but we wish her well in the future. We also said farewell to Bob and

Karen Scott who have chaired the Management Committee for the past 18 months. We thank them for all their hard work and wish them well in the future also. The party then continued with games and food and of course a visit from Father Christmas, all the children and adults had great fun and it was a very enjoyable end to the term.

This term the children will be looking at various forms of transportation. At the end of the half-term they will celebrate Chinese New Year. We welcome Kate Thatcher as the new chair of the Management Committee. We are looking forward to a busy and successful 2002, and would like to wish everyone a very Happy New Year.

*Marie Steele 984 4199*

## **WADS 2002 PANTOMIME**

**WADS brings the Wild West to Woodcote Village Hall with  
their next production**

### **“Panto at the OK Corral”**

**by Jim Sperinck**

**featuring many famous Western characters amid the usual hilarious  
pantomime traditions**

Friday evening 25 January and 1 February

Saturday Matinee and evening 26 January and 2 February

**Prices:** Friday evening and Saturday matinee

Adults £5, Senior Citizens and Children £4

Saturday evening - all tickets £5 (no concessions)

**telephone 01491 680494 or call at 24 Croft Way, Woodcote**

**Goring Heath Parish Charity**

**ANOTHER YEAR - ANOTHER SHOW!**

**THE SPRING HORTICULTURAL SHOW**

**to be held on**

**MONDAY 1 APRIL 2002**

**OPEN TO ALL RESIDENTS OF GORING HEATH PARISH**

**AND WHITCHURCH**

This is to give all prospective contestants plenty of time to prepare their many entries

and to make this show even more successful than the last!

**For further information:**

**contact Theresa Elsome on 984 2056 or Pat Turner on 984 4200**

**WHITCHURCH HILL CAMERA CLUB**

Our meetings continue this month with a fascinating look at The Magic of the Cotswolds on Wednesday 23 January with Vernon Brooke ABIPP AMPA ARPS from Oxford, followed one week later, by a study of Istanbul and the Topkapi Palace, a fascinating temple created by the Ottomans, in the company of Mark and Judy Buckley-Sharp CPAGB from Harrow.

February meetings commence on the 6<sup>th</sup> when we will have a Print and Slide Battle with the Goring Camera Club which will be judged by Paul Keene FRPS MPAGB from Amersham.

The highlight of the month takes place on Wednesday 20 February when Gordon Langsbury FRPS makes a welcome return with a superb slide show looking at The Magic of Florida.

Come along and see why we have become the most successful Camera Club in the area with a membership of 60. We meet every Wednesday evening at the Village Hall, Whitchurch-on-Thames starting at 8pm and we shall be pleased to see you at any of our meetings.

Further information and a copy of our full Programme are available on our new website: [www.whitchurchhillcc.co.uk](http://www.whitchurchhillcc.co.uk) or from Alan Copeland on (01491) 681471. Copies are also available at Pangbourne or Woodcote Library.

*Alan Copeland*

## **WHITCHURCH AND GORING HEATH HISTORY SOCIETY**

At the start of 2002 we move to Whitchurch Village Hall for our meetings, which are held on the third Thursday of each month at 8pm. On 17 January we have a members' evening, when three or four of us give a short talk on a topic which has interested us recently. This time we expect to hear about family history, the census, an 1810 print of Coombe Lodge, a scale three-dimensional map of our area and the Poor Law Union of Bradfield. On 21 February we hold our AGM and hear John Dolby speak about the history of Whitchurch.

Good news on the reservoir pumping house. Our bid for restoration and investigation has been accepted by the Local Heritage Initiative and we can now go ahead with the work. This involves anything from work with a paint brush, a screwdriver or spade to rummaging around in archives. We would also love to hear from anyone who remembers the reservoir in action. Please contact me on 984 3260.

*Sue Matthews*

## **CHRISTMAS MINI MARKET**

Well, despite sounding a bit triumphal, it was a big success! All previous records were exceeded, both for attendance and funds raised. Over 200 people crowded thro' the doors of Goring Heath Parish Hall on 8 December raising £822, to be donated to the Friends of St John Mower Fund. (The intention is to buy a heavy duty 'sit-on' mower.)

Almost everybody seemed to enjoy the selection of items on offer. Its very encouraging to realise just how many 'crafts' and goods of high quality are still produced locally and very convenient to have them under one roof to make ones choices and purchases.

The raffles drew a great deal of attention, £300 worth, with lots of hopes pinned on winning that huge hamper! The very large selection of individual items raffled also gave winners some hard choices; I being among many who hoped to win that lovely Christmas Tree, (thanks again to 'Rodgers' of Penny Royal) I wasn't in luck! A big 'thank you', to those in the kitchen who served up endless tea, coffee, slices of cake and helpings of home-made soup to the hungry shoppers - and washed up afterwards! (not forgetting the soup makers).

*Just a foot note..... please can the person who asked me for the recipe for windfall apple marmalade, contact me, because I can't remember who you are.....*

*Theresa Elsome 984 2056*

## **HOME-START SOUTHERN OXFORDSHIRE**

### *Calling all Parents and Grandparents*

Do you remember what it was like when your children were little? Sleepless nights, teething, the tantrums of the 'terrible twos' amusing children who are into everything, being at the end of your tether with no-one around to listen - who understands just what it's like?

Home-Start Southern Oxfordshire is a voluntary organisation offering support, friendship and practical help to families with pre-school children. Based in Didcot for eleven years, we have now expanded the scheme to cover **HENLEY, THAMES AND SURROUNDING VILLAGES**.

Home-Start volunteers are all either parents themselves or have parenting experience, they will have attended as course of preparation which will have included topics such as child development, relationships, confidentiality and community resources. They will be able to offer 2-3 hours a week on a regular basis to visit one or two families in their own homes.

*For more information about the scheme or becoming a volunteer,*

*please contact:- **Pat or Hilary on (01235) 511 152***

## **"MEALS ON WHEELS"**

**The WRVS, based in Abingdon, have just launched a new service called**

**Home Choice Meals - frozen meals delivered to your door.**

The range of food provided is extensive and also caters for special requirements such as diabetic and gluten free meals, soft foods and vegetarian options. These meals are suitable for cooking in both microwave and traditional ovens.

The selection of balanced meals come in individual portions and use healthy ingredients that are carefully selected and prepared by trained chefs.

Price are reasonable - for example a portion of soup costs 70p, breaded fish and chips (including peas) costs £3.40 as does chicken breast and stuffing (including a selection of vegetables and potatoes), desserts cost on average 85p.

You can order by phone or by e-mail and meals will be delivered within 14 days. To request a complete menu brochure phone **0845 602 1123** or visit their website on [www.homechoicemeals.co.uk](http://www.homechoicemeals.co.uk)

*Alison Michael, Age Concern Parish representative*

## **WE'RE LOOKING FOR A NEW EDITOR**

### **STARTING WITH MARCH 2002 ISSUE**

#### **How about having a crack at editing the Bulletin?**

- it's the opportunity to share with us the news of the societies, clubs and events in the village run by enthusiasts for us to join and enjoy, particularly those special events we would like to support, which might otherwise pass us by
- a chance to top up your knowledge of our village - people and environment - and tell us of the heartache and fight the parish councillors have with the authorities to maintain our lovely village environment against the "march of progress and technology"

give Peter Minton, our Parish Council Chairman or me a call

to talk it through with us. You will enjoy the challenge.

*Peter Minton on 984 2516 or Sylvia Rosekilly on 984 3080*

## **THE NEXT ISSUE OF THE BULLETIN**

will be published in March 2002.

Please send your contributions for the this edition,

**preferably on disc in Word 95 or plain text** or alternatively hard copy to

Sylvia Rosekilly, 22 Swanston Field, Whitchurch-on-Thames, RG8 7HP

Telephone (0118) 984 3080

**no later than Monday, 4 March 2002.**

The views that may be expressed by individual contributors to **The Bulletin** are not necessarily those of the Whitchurch Parish Council or the Editor. We welcome all news items or letters we do require that they be signed; we will not publish items or letters from sources which cannot be identified.