

**WHITCHURCH ON THAMES**  
**PARISH COUNCIL**  
*whitchurchonthames.com*

Minutes of the meeting of Whitchurch on Thames Parish Council  
on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2011 in the village hall

**Present:**

Cllr Harry Butterworth (chairman), Cllr Keith Brooks (vice-chairman),  
Cllr Elizabeth Robinson, Cllr Vincent Aldridge, Cllr Lindsay Austin

**In attendance:**

Jo Wheeler (parish clerk), Stephen Trinder (Village Hall and Parish Plan  
Committee), Richard Wingfield and John Southey (TaPAG)

**Apologies for absence**

Cllr Nigel Grove, Cllr Matilda Oppenheimer, County Cllr Sexon,  
District Cllr Pearl Slatter

**Village information board**

Planning permission for the village information board has been granted.  
Stephen Trinder (parish plan chairman) has received quotes for the new  
board of around £600. He confirmed there is £300 remaining in the  
parish plan fund. All agreed that the parish council will pay for the other  
half.

**Public forum**

No questions from members of the public

**Community Sports Field**

Cllr Austin reported that the grant application to Oxfordshire Stronger  
Communities Alliance has been submitted.

The Parish clerk informed the council that the parish council's insurers  
(AON Insurance) confirmed the parish council has public liability cover  
for all the land it owns and is responsible for. Assets and equipment will  
be insured as and when they are purchased.

## Planning

Application number	Location	Details	Decision
P10/E1756	Ashdown Duchess Close	A porch to the front of the house, and a single storey rear extension. Replacement windows and doors, a replacement slate roof with a steeper pitch, a new gate to the entrance of the drive, and an out-building in the front garden	No objections
P10/E1762 /LB	3 Whitchurch House	Replacement windows in kitchen extension	No objections

### Traffic & Pavements Group report

The council discussed the four proposals from the group, for improvements to the pavement on the Berkshire embankment, on the bridge, passing the toll booth, and passing the Ferry Boat. The council have been in support of these proposals and formally agreed them.

West Berkshire Council, South Oxfordshire District Council and the Bridge Company will soon be meeting, which provides an opportunity for discussing the pavement improvement proposals. The toll bridge planning application is due to be submitted in mid January.

*Richard Wingfield*

Cllr Butterworth commended Keith Stenning (Highways Engineer) at Oxfordshire County Council for his quick response to road conditions in the bad weather.

## **Environmental Group report**

Cllr Brooks asked whether the parish council would like to replace the street lamps in the High Street to match the two recently purchased. He suggested replacing the light outside the Greyhound public house and possibly moving it to the end of Eastfield Lane, where residents have complained about the lack of lighting. All agreed that because the new street lamps weren't included in the 20-11/12 budget, and as the council anticipates a large spend on the sports field in 2011, this would be re-visited at the end of the year. In the meantime Cllr Brooks will meet with the supplier to discuss the feasibility of moving the street lamp

## **Village hall matters**

New sanitary ware has now been installed in the bathrooms of the village hall.

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## **From Suzanne MacLeod 2011 Census Area Manager**

The 2011 Census which will take place in March will affect everyone in the country.

My job as one of the census area managers is to help bring about the highest possible response rate for the census in South Oxfordshire by raising awareness of the census and ensuring that everyone is aware of the various forms of aids to questionnaire completion that will be available through [www.census.gov.uk](http://www.census.gov.uk)

With thanks for your attention, and regards

Suzanne MacLeod

2011 Census Area Manager (South Oxfordshire, Aylesbury Vale, Milton Keynes)

Tel 07801 331477

Visit [www.census.gov.uk](http://www.census.gov.uk)

## Whitchurch on Thames Habitat Study Group (WoTHaBs)

Sandra Parkinson and Sally Woolhouse have spent some time recently bringing the WoTHabs webpages on oxnet right up to date.

**Forthcoming Events for 2011** are now on the website diary. There is also a detailed description of the work and the outcome of scrub clearance carried out by WoTHABS volunteers in the winter of 2008-2009 at the top of the basin at Chalkhills. We have seen a striking increase in the number of plant species now growing there. You can read about this success story on [http://www.oxnet.org.uk/wothabs/working\\_parties](http://www.oxnet.org.uk/wothabs/working_parties) .

The planned **Violet Day Guided Walk** at Chalkhills offers a good opportunity to see the area for yourselves, at the same time as seeing the violets in bloom. The walk will be in mid to late March – the date will be finalised nearer that time.

*Gill Goodwin*

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### Neighbourhood Watch

There was a spate of criminal acts in the village over the Christmas and New Year holiday, including thefts, burglaries and stolen cars. The village website carries advice about crime prevention on the Security page. You can sign up to get copies of email messages from the Police about local crime, and there is advice on how to form a local Neighbourhood Watch group. We can all help to reduce crime by keeping a look out for our neighbours and reporting anything suspicious.

*Geoff Weir*

Neighbourhood watch Co-ordinator

# **WHITCHURCH SOCIETY**

## **TREASURER REQUIRED**

On the retirement of our current Treasurer of many years, Rob Plumb, we are looking for a replacement. Duties are light and, apart from normal maintenance of Society accounts, include:

Attendance at Committee Meetings every two or three months  
Presentation of annual accounts at the AGM usually held in  
March/April

Please contact Ian Bruce ([ian.bruce@btinternet.com](mailto:ian.bruce@btinternet.com), 0118 984 2653), Whitchurch Society Secretary, for further information

## **Twinning**

The Twinning Association is looking forward to receiving visitors from La Bouille in May. More details will be supplied in due course, and everyone is invited to take part in events.

## **History Society**

### **Feb 17th**

AGM followed by illustrated talk by Peter Hawley:  
"Churchyard Ghosts of Victorian Melodrama"

### **Mar 17th**

Illustrated talk by Tony Hadland:  
"The Intriguing Life of Thomas Vachell"



## **The Nativity**

All the children at the Pre-School took part in the 'Nativity' a week before the end of term, the many costumes created a very seasonal scene of angels, shepherds, sheep, and wise men, led by Mary and Joseph. The parents were treated to a great performance in the 'Primary School' hall, organised by the Pre-School's dedicated team.

## **The Christmas party**

The children were all treated to an early visit by Father Christmas, full of seasonal excitement, the wonderful party led to a great countdown to the Christmas holiday celebrations.

If you would like to find out more about our lovely Pre-School, please contact the Supervisor, Annette Robinson on 0118 984 4516 or Lindsay Austin, the registration secretary on 0118 984 3246

**[www.whitchurchpreschool.org](http://www.whitchurchpreschool.org)**

# Roads

My grandson, who is studying history at Birmingham Uni, gave me a book for Christmas “German Invasion Plans for the British Isles, 1940.” It is published by the Bodleian Library and is compiled from 3 volumes of the documents detailing those plans.

From the introduction, the following extract is reproduced

“More seriously, the text includes a table of road surfaces by county, which is probably derived from highways engineers’ reports for such counties and such dates as could be found. The German army was accustomed to operations in areas where the minor roads were quite unsuited to heavy military traffic; indeed. minor roads in Germany itself still left a lot to be desired. In contrast, the UK probably had some of the best surfaced roads in the world by 1939.”

I wonder if the same can be said of UK roads in 2011. I think not, judging by road surfaces in Berkshire & Oxfordshire.

*Tony Voysey*

## **Whitchurch Theatre Club**

The Annual General Meeting of the Whitchurch Theatre Club is to be held on Friday, 11<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30pm at the Goring Heath Parish Hall, Whitchurch Hill. All members and non-members are welcome to attend. Please contact either:

Christine Martin at [c\\_nmartin@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:c_nmartin@tiscali.co.uk) or 0118 9844252 or Ian Bruce at [ian.bruce@btinternet.com](mailto:ian.bruce@btinternet.com) or 0118 9842653.

## **Please be on your guard!**

For many years burglary, petty larceny and other anti social activities have been so unusual in Whitchurch that people are not in the habit of guarding against them. Recent events, such as those on one recent evening when a car was abandoned while another was stolen in Eastfield Lane and a handbag was stolen from a hallway in Whitchurch Hill while the house was occupied, are reminders that we all need to be much more careful.

To ensure that Whitchurch does not get the reputation of being “a soft touch” amongst the light fingered fraternity all easily portable items must now be guarded carefully. For example, don't leave them where they can be seen through a window. Especially overnight.

The engine manager of a modern car requires an electronic "conversation" with its own ignition key without which it will not allow the engine to start. So treat those keys in the same way as you look after your purse.

If anyone does see something which they regards as suspicious or out of the ordinary, please tell your nearest Neighbourhood watch organiser, or dial the "non emergency" police number on the cover of the Bulletin. The police are keen to collect as much information as possible, no matter how trivial, in the hope that pattern will emerge which will lead them to a solution.

*Harry Butterworth*

## **Village News**

You can keep up to date with the latest news of our Village by visiting our own web site, **[www.whitchurchonthames.com](http://www.whitchurchonthames.com)**. The “have your say” section is there for you to add your comments.

The web site also carries an extensive gallery of pictures of our Village Life such as the recent New Year's Day walk. And you can check the bin collection dates so that you don't miss one!

# WOODCOTE LIBRARY

Caroline Taylor, the County Librarian, has written a letter to Library users about the 'Proposals for the future of Oxfordshire's Libraries' and copies are available from the library.

Julie, Sue and I wish to reassure you that it will be 'business as usual' for the foreseeable future in Woodcote and we look forward to welcoming you.

Please come and see a new Art Exhibition by 2 local artists.

Gillian Amos Manager Woodcote  
Library Reading Road Woodcote Reading RG8 0QY

There is a possibility that the library could in future be run by volunteers. Please contact Vicky Jordan: [vickyjordan5@hotmail.com](mailto:vickyjordan5@hotmail.com)

## Whitchurch Seedsavers

In the last Bulletin, I floating the idea of forming a local seed savers group – I have already heard from several people who are interested but would love to hear from a few more before deciding how to get started. I would welcome your thoughts and suggestions for making this work. Don't worry if you have never saved seed before – there is lots of practical advice available and this can be shared amongst the group when needed.

On Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> Feb (1-4pm) at **RISC** (Reading International Solidarity Centre), 35 London Street, Reading, RG1 4PS, they are holding a **Seed Swap** (contact Sharon 0118 958 6692). I plan to go along to this gathering to pick up some ideas (and perhaps some seeds) because swapping seeds is the key to building up a 'living library' of locally-grown varieties. If you have some spare seeds or are interested in swapping with others, do support this event.

Do get in touch with your ideas or to register your interest - I hope to hear from you soon.

Sally Woolhouse 0118 9844365 or email [sally.woolhouse@homecall.co.uk](mailto:sally.woolhouse@homecall.co.uk)



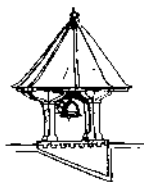
# Haunted

An evening of ghosts and apparitions  
From the stories of M R James  
Dramatised by Christopher Hawes  
An evening not to be missed!

**Saturday February 5<sup>th</sup> 2011**

**Goring Heath Parish Hall  
8pm**

Two friends meet in the gloom of a private club. They tell tales of perturbed spirits that cannot rest; tales that play on our unconscious anxieties; tales of frightening discovery - tales from the acknowledged master of this peculiarly English genre.



**Tickets £8.00**

**From Theresa Elsome  
01189842056**

Goring Heath  
Parish Charity  
Regd. No 1056772

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## ***Our Village Plan***

*We are pleased to be able to report that the great majority of the recommended actions in the 2009 Whitchurch Plan have now been completed.*

*Oxfordshire Rural Community Council are anxious to follow up the results of village plans in which they have been involved. They have produced a news sheet which features our own Village Plan. If it is available in time copies of this news sheet will be forwarded with this issue of the Bulletin.*

**Stephen Trinder,**

# Pangbourne and Whitchurch Community Responders

## Message in a bottle.

One of the problems of responding to an emergency call is having any history of the patients medical condition and if they are taking medication. Details of allergies, next of kin and any special instructions or wishes that you might want the emergency services to be aware of in the event that they are called to your address, need to be readily available.

A solution to this problem is to put these details and copy of current prescription into a plastic bottle and place it in the fridge! A small sticker is then placed on the inside of the front door which makes however is attending aware of your situation, putting the bottle in the fridge makes it quick and easy to find. It is a potential lifesaver and provides peace of mind to users and their friends and family, knowing that prompt medical treatment is provided and that the next of kin / emergency contacts are notified.

The responder group has obtained a supply of these bottles which are free of charge and it is hoped that they will shortly become available through the Boathouse surgery and the Parish Office. 'Message in a Bottle' is a Lions initiative.

We are now operating day and night cover but still need more members to give full coverage in the area so if you are interested in finding out more about what we do and how we operate please come along to our open and informal meetings in the Elephant at 7pm on the first Monday of the month.

Martin Maynard

For further details

<http://www.scas-responders.info/Pangbourneandwhitchurch>  
or Sean Wheeler on 0796 4149831

Goring Heath Parish Charity

# SPRING GARDENING SHOW

Goring Heath Parish Hall  
Saturday, April 9th

This friendly, neighbourhood show is open to all residents of the Parishes of Goring Heath and Whitchurch-on-Thames, Whitchurch Allotment Holders and children attending our schools.

We call it a Gardening Show, but there are sections for Art, Handicraft, Baking and Preserves and Photography. A special section for the under 12's has craft and baking opportunities and - new for 2011 - their own flower classes. It is hoped to include a section for Home Produced Eggs – watch this space!

Full schedules will be available from Committee members in early March.

Schedules from:-

Liz Gibson	0118 984 2012	Ann Lewis	0118 984 2377
Sue Sexon	0118 984 4236	Robert Willows	0118 984 2036

However, when you need something to occupy those cold winter evenings here are just some of the things you may like to be ready to enter:

**Art:**

- A Book Cover (with title)
- “Faces” – any medium
- Black and White Pattern  
(No item bigger than A3)

**Handicraft:**

- An Easter Card
- Cuddly toy in fabric or wool
- “Wonderful Wood”

**Photography:**

- A Winter's Tale
- Garden Wildlife
- Work, Rest and Play

(a group of three, not to exceed 6” x 4” each)

The sections for Children and Baking & Preserves will have an Easter theme.

**Be assured of a warm welcome and put the date in your Diary now.**

# South Oxfordshire Archaeological Group

SOAG is one of the most active, independent archaeology groups in Oxfordshire engaged in excavation and landscape archaeology. We aim to promote an interest in all aspects of archaeology within South Oxfordshire and welcome people of all ages and experience to take part in fieldwork, excavation, post excavation analysis, landscape investigation and geophysics. We also organise a full winter programme of lectures by professional speakers or experienced members as well as visits to places of interest.

If you would like to get involved in investigating South Oxfordshire's rich archaeological past or would like any further information please contact us via our website [www.soagarch.org.uk](http://www.soagarch.org.uk)

During the “non-dig” season from September to April a series of lectures are held at the Goring Heath Parish Hall, Whitchurch Hill (see below for location). All are welcome to attend with a **£3.00** fee for non-members. All Lectures start at 7.30 pm for 7.45 pm.

**Thursday Jan 27 2011:** Lecture by Gwilym Williams (John Moore Heritage Services)

Title: 'Medieval excavations at Newington: drawing together the results of work by SOAG and JMHS'

**Thursday Feb 24 2011:** Lecture by Prof Malcom Airs (Kellogg College, Oxford)

Title: 'The Survival of the Country House in the Twentieth Century'.

**Thursday Mar 24 2011:** Lecture by Dr Nicholas Saunders (University of Bristol)

Title: '20th-century conflict: Archaeological and Anthropological Perspectives'

## GORING DECORATIVE AND FINE ARTS SOCIETY

GADFAS starts its 2011 programme on 26 January with a lecture on *David Hockney by Douglas Skeggs*. Yorkshire born David Hockney found early fame in London in the 1960's before moving to California. As well as the famous swimming pools he has also captured landscapes and people and has explored a variety of media and styles. On 23 February the lecture is on *Opera: The Melting Pot of Culture by Sarah Lenton*. This lecture charts the cross-currents between opera and its cultural Milieu, it will be illustrated with clips of music and fine art. On 23 March the subject is *Manet: The Master of the Modern Idiom by Hilary Guise*. This lecture explores the work of one of the greatest painters of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and never again will you confuse him with Monet the impressionist painter of waterlilies. On 27 April the Lecture is on heraldry entitled *Helms Hatchments and Hedgehogs by Chloe Cockerill*. Heraldry is all around us, from cathedral to country pub. The Royal Arms appear on newspapers, passports, and the outfits of our sporting heroes. School uniforms, college gateways and almshouses depict the arms of their benefactors. This promises to be a straightforward introduction to an intriguing subject. On 25 May the subject is *The Art of War in the Long Nineteenth Century by Ian Beckett*. This talk concentrates on English and French works of art to explore the paradoxes in British attitudes towards military art between 1750 and 1914. It touches briefly on the military leader as a hero figure and how, in the latter part of the 18th century, the ordinary soldier emerges as the hero until Victorian battle art declines in the first years of the twentieth century. Finally, prior to the summer break, on 22 June the lecture is *Fashion and Friendship: The Embroideries and Decorative Schemes of Mary, Queen of Scots, and Bess of Hardwick by David Bostwick*. Whilst Mary was held in the custody of Bess's husband the Earl of Shrewsbury the two women devised some of the most important Elizabethan embroideries which survive to-day. The lecture reveals the hidden messages in their designs and also in the decorative schemes of Elizabethan Chatsworth House and Hardwick Hall.

In February there is a visit to *The Garrick Club*, In April a visit to *Christchurch Picture Gallery*, in June *A Walk in London led by Andrew Davis* and also a visit to *Uppark*. In March there will be a study day on *Silver and Social Custom by Ian Pickford* and at the end of April there is an eight day tour based in Puglia.

If you are not a member but would like to attend a meeting or find out more about The Society please visit our website at [www.gadfas.org.uk](http://www.gadfas.org.uk) or telephone either the morning secretary on 01189 596699 or the afternoon secretary on 01235 850181.

*Elizabeth Glover*

## ***Whitchurch Hill Women's Institute***

For our October Meeting Mr Alan Copeland treated members to a tour of East Sussex curiosities with the aid of a slide show and entertaining commentary. In all there were 32 curiosities as diverse as a Fridge Mountain in Lewes to unusual house names in Rye. It's amazing how many curiosities that are just under our noses if you really look about you.

The following week several members enjoyed lunch at the Crooked Billet Stoke Row.

Mr G Stephenson came to our November meeting to talk about Isambard Kingdom Brunel. Small in stature but a giant of a man in the field of engineering. A workaholic who's first great achievement, at the young age of 27years, was the Clifton Suspension Bridge which was swiftly followed by the Great Western Railway connecting Bristol to London through out which he encountered almost insurmountable problems. Not content with dealing with just one project, he also, at this time, designed the first iron-hulled steam powdered passenger liner the 'Great Britain'. But perhaps his least known but most imaginative invention was the "flat pack" hospital, which was used during the Crimean War and in many proceeding conflicts.

### Forthcoming Events

December 14<sup>th</sup>

Christmas Lunch 12 noon at the Highwayman Exlade Street

January 18<sup>th</sup>

Speaker – Mrs D Hayes – Washington D.C.

Competition – An American Memento

We meet on the third Tuesday of the month at 10.15 a.m. in Goring Heath Parish Hall. If you are interested in finding out more about Whitchurch Hill W.I. then do please contact us (Theresa Elsome), telephone number 0118 9842056, or just come along to a meeting. Visitors are always very welcome.

## DIARY DATES

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

### January

29th & 30th

**WADS Pantomime**

### February

4th & 5th

**WADS Pantomime**

Saturday 5th

**Cotton Grass**

**production 'Haunted'**

Thursday 17th

**History Society AGM**

### March

Monday 7th

**Parish Council Meeting**

Friday 11th

**Theatre Club AGM**

Thursday 17th

**History Society Meeting**

### April

Saturday 9th

**Spring Gardening Show**

### THE NEXT ISSUE OF THE BULLETIN

will be published in March 2011.

Please send your contributions **preferably by e-mail to**

[Sarah.pongo@talktalk.net](mailto:Sarah.pongo@talktalk.net) by 10th |March 2011

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