

WHITCHURCH-ON-THAMES BULLETIN

www.whitchurchonthames.com

JULY 2002

WHITCHURCH ON THAMES PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Council Meeting

There was a meeting of the Parish Council on July 1 at the Village Hall at which were present Councillors Peter Minton, Brian Mott, Mrs Kate Thatcher and Geoff Weir together with Janet Holmes, Parish Clerk. Apologies had been received from Councillors Aldridge, Grove and King as well as District Councillor Deborah Whitfeld and County Councillor John Farrow.

A small number of matters arose from earlier meetings, the most important of which was confirmation that Hardwick Road would finally be resurfaced during the school summer holidays. A finger post sign is to be erected at the High Street/Hardwick Road junction, this follows representations by a resident who referred to a previous such sign at this spot. It was reported that discussions with SODC regarding the ownership of the Village Hall car park seemed to be leading to a satisfactory conclusion.

In the absence of Councillor Whitfeld there was no report from the SODC but Councillor Farrow had asked the chairman to report on the various matters being progressed with regard to the school entrance and the improvement of Muddy Lane. Various changes are to be made to the roadway close to the school to enable the coach to turn more easily whilst Muddy Lane may have its top end resurfaced with the material removed during the work to Hardwick Road. An improvement in sight lines and signage should make it safer for the cars parking at the top of Muddy Lane and for the children who use this route to go to school.

Planning

Application heard between meetings

P02/SO398 Uplands, Hardwick Road – first floor extension above present garage to provide staff accommodation

SHOULD BE REFUSED

New application

P02/SO316 Racquets, High Street – amendment to previous plan

NO STRONG VIEWS

Finance

Cheques were presented for payment for: MG Print, March Bulletin; RM Weavers, grass cutting; Janet Holmes, Clerk's salary and expenses; and the chairman for Jubilee expenses.

The Clerk gave details of the new audit arrangements that have now come into force and these were noted.

After considering some items of correspondence, the meeting closed.

The next meeting of the Council will be held on September 2 at 8.00pm in the Village Hall. Everyone is welcome to attend.

The Young Riparians and the Golden Jubilee

The Young Riparians presented an evening of sketches and playlets to appreciative audiences on June 21 and 22. Those of us who had the pleasure of being there, were highly entertained by a group of young people who threw themselves into the mainly comedy items.

It would be invidious to choose any one item but the performances in the sad two hander 'You never said goodbye', which concluded the first half, were quite riveting. The final ensemble piece, 'Stalag 69', was one which would have taxed more mature players but it was carried off with a panache that justifiably brought the house down!

Well done to everyone for a most enjoyable evening but especially to Trudy and Pam whose hard work each week with the group produces such worthwhile results. I had great pleasure indeed in making a donation to the Young Riparians from the chairman's Jubilee Fund and I wish them well in their next production. I'll not be missing it, that's for certain – nor should you!

Peter Minton

PS: if you have a youngster who relishes the thought of performance, send them along to the YRs – you will not regret it. (Contact details on cover.)

Departures

Those of us involved with the Allotments or the Art & Craft Exhibition were been taken aback by the news that **Rob and Lesley Williams** are moving away from the village. Rob is a stalwart of both organisations and Lesley's paintings and decoupage a feature of the latter.

But, having been in the village for ten years, they have decided to seek pastures new. They will be much missed and all their friends wish them well in their new home in Pembrokeshire.

It was also moving time for **John and Jean Spencer** recently. John was on the Parish Council for several years and Jean, of course, ran the Arts & Craft Exhibition with great success. They have gone off to the West country and are now living on the North Cornish coast.

Both couples, the eagle eyed will have noted, are going to ideal holiday areas...

Planning Comments June 2002

P02/SO398

First floor extension to provide staff accommodation Uplands, Hardwick Road

The Parish Council have considered the above application and object for the following reasons:

1. Based on the fact that the property and the proposed extension lie within the Whitchurch Conservation Area and the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.
2. The positioning of the extension above the present triple garage raises it significantly above the mean of the sloping site by in excess of 1.5 metres, thus ensuring that it will be visible not only to the near neighbours but to many of the houses in the upper end of the High Street and the western end of Hardwick Road.
3. The original triple garage was hidden from the direct line of sight by a double garage to the south; this extension will no longer make this viable.
4. The application could be considered to be backland development despite its apparent tie to the main house as staff accommodation. It is conceivable that the garages could, at a later date, be converted to additional residential accommodation making this a two storey house.
5. Coming from the designated parking area to the rear of the house onto the narrows of Whitchurch Hill or onto the most dangerous part of the Hardwick Road narrows, the additional traffic generated is undesirable.

6. The Council are concerned that contrary to Policy H13, this will create an intrusion onto the privacy of local residents, particularly to the rear garden of Myrtle Cottage. It may be argued that this is contrary to at least two articles of the Human rights Act 1999 [Articles 8 and Article 1, First Protocol]

P02/S0416

Swanston House,
Replacement triple garage & new entrance porch, wall and gates

NO STRONG VIEWS

P02/SO439

Elm Cottage, Hartslock Bridleway
Single storey extension to side

NO STRONG VIEWS

COMMUNITY WASTE COLLECTION SERVICE

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, 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.

Whitchurch - located at the Village Hall Car Park
Goring Heath - located at the recreation ground lay by

	Whitchurch	Goring Heath
Wed 24 July	from 0800 to 0950	from 1020 to 1210
Sat 10 Aug	from 0800 to 0920	
Wed 21 Aug		from 0800-0950
Wed 18 Sept	from 0800 to 0950	from 1020 to 1210



Woodcote - located at the Village Hall car park
Goring - located at SODC car park or Icknield Place

	Woodcote	Goring
Sat 13 July	from 0800 to 0950	from 1020 to 1210 at Icknield
Fri 19 July	from 0800 to 0950	from 1020 to 1210 at SODC
Sat 27 July	from 1200 to 1310	from 1330 to 1500 at SODC
Sat 10 August	from 0940 to 1100	from 1150 to 1310 at Icknield
Sat 24 August	from 0800 to 0920	from 0940 to 1100 at Icknield
Sat 07 September	from 0800 to 0950	from 1020 to 1210 at SODC

THE ALLOTMENT SOCIETY

Everything is growing well, especially the weeds due to the intermittent sunshine and the plentiful rain we have had in May and June. We are picking huge gooseberries off the numerous bushes I planted a couple of years ago. The conditions on the Allotments seem very favourable for gooseberries! We opened the Allotments for the Garden Walk day and attracted quite a few visitors. We do have a few plots available so please do call me if you are interested in taking on an allotment or even just a half share in one. Very sadly we are saying goodbye to our Secretary, Rob Williams, as he and his wife Lesley are off to West Wales soon. He has worked industriously on his Allotment and as Secretary he has been very efficient and helpful to me. We shall miss him at the Allotments and hope they will be very happy in their new home.

*Rosamund Heath
tel: 984 2358*

THE WHITCHURCH SOCIETY

The Society's Annual Garden Walks on Sunday 23rd June was blessed once again with good weather, so that we were able to make the most of the gardens on show and to enjoy the superb ambience of the White House terrace.

Our sincere thanks to the residents who very kindly opened their gardens, to Neil and Matilda King for all their generosity and to the members who helped with the afternoon teas.

Nigel Grove, Chairman



WHITCHURCH VILLAGE FETE

The village fete will be held on

Saturday 7th September 2002,

at Walliscote Farm,
by kind permission of Mr and Mrs Aldridge.

Attractions will include a novelty dog show (rosettes and prizes to be won), the Grand Draw, face painting, a bouncy castle, tea and beer tents and many other stalls and entertainments for all the family. So, please put the date in your diary now and start training the dog for the waggiest tail competition.

We always need extra helpers on the day and particularly in setting up the tables and tents beforehand so if you can help, please give me a ring on 984 4656.

Kate Thatcher

WHITCHURCH BRIDGE CENTENARY EXHIBITION - RERUN

The Whitchurch Bridge Company's Centenary Exhibition at Rosewood Hall in May was a great success, and many people have said that they would like another opportunity to study the exhibits.

So with the kind permission of the Whitchurch Bridge Company, and particularly the support of John and Julia Elkins who put it all together, the Exhibition will be restaged in Whitchurch-on-Thames Village Hall from Friday 16th - Monday 19th August.

We will need help in setting up the Exhibition, and also in providing a roster of continuous cover at the Hall whilst the Exhibition is open. If you can assist, please contact us.

And do not miss this unique opportunity to see some fascinating exhibits of local life 100 years ago.

Geoff Weir and Nigel Grove (joint organisers)

PANGBOURNE AND DISTRICT TENNIS CLUB

Club matches are going well this season, and many of our junior/student members now play for the adult teams. We have not played junior matches this year, but have a family tournament coming up on 14th July.

Stephen Murphy has been coaching four groups of junior players on Tuesday afternoons, and is extending the sessions through until August. If anyone would like individual or small group coaching for adults or children please contact stephenfmurphy@btinternet.com.



We have a special summer offer of £10 family membership on weekdays during the summer holidays, to encourage local people to use the courts, and help subscribe to their future maintenance. Many village clubs need support from their community to ensure their existence, and we have always welcomed our friends from Whitchurch and Whitchurch Hill. For further details about summer membership, please ring the numbers listed on the back cover.

It is not too late to join, if you have become inspired by Wimbledon, and we have different grades of membership to suit individual needs. We also hire out courts at £4 per hour for casual users, and hope this will prove a popular activity this summer.

Finally, we have had great fun with our Lobster ball machine, and would like to encourage members to practise their skills with it. Come down on a Friday evening or Sunday afternoon, and one of the committee members will help you set it up; very good for junior practice, and very good exercise all round!

Lesley Crimp

THE WHITCHURCH ARTS & CRAFTS EXHIBITION

The weekend of 16th/17th November 2002

The Annual Exhibition is approaching faster than you think! As an added incentive to everyone, for the first time we shall be giving prizes to winners in all categories - this is thanks to the generosity of local businesses.

Don't forget the new class for the Joyce Voysey prize on the theme of "The Spirit of the Golden Jubilee" - this is open for adults and children to enter art, craft or photography. The prize will be awarded to the entry which best captures the Jubilee spirit. So don't waste those rainy summer days - get started on your favourite art, craft or hobby - and have fun !

Details of the categories, rules of entry, workshops etc. are now available on the Whitchurch website (www.whitchurchonthames.com) or by 'phoning Sally Woolhouse (Tel 0118 984 4365).

SPRUCE TREE APHID

Many spruce trees in the area are looking a bit bare at the moment. The District Council's Tree Officer has said that this is because this year is particularly bad for spruce tree aphid. The aphid affects old growth, but not this year's new growth, and should not do serious long term harm to the trees affected.

Hopefully next year will be better (or worse if you're an aphid!) and the trees affected should recover. The long term health and vigour of the trees will only be affected if we get several consecutive years of aphid attacks.

Geoff Weir

WHITCHURCH-ON-THAMES HABITAT STUDY GROUP (WoT-HABS)

The rain poured down on the afternoon of our Jubilee walk in Seymour's river meadow. Nonetheless a fair number of intrepid walkers turned up to appreciate the astonishing variety of plants there. We are very grateful to the owners, Pauline and Colin Thrower. Pauline has named the meadow after her father, for whom it was a very special place. It **is** very special. I was particularly taken with the many kinds of grasses, rushes and sedges there. At 5 p.m. the sun finally came out and a few of us were still there to enjoy it.

In National School Grounds Week, just after half term, the school officially opened its wild flower meadow, pond area and woodland corner. Visitors that afternoon included Julia Leppard and Paula Havlin of SODC, which has helped fund the wildlife project.

On Open Gardens Day, a few weeks later, the school's meadow and wildlife areas were visited by over 50 villagers. Many thanks for all your support.

Year 6 children have, in their own time, painted more wildlife plaques to adorn the wild area and now it's the turn of the children in Class 2, who are particularly involved with 'minibeasts' this term.

Gill Goodwin (9842934)

WHITCHURCH HILL CAMERA CLUB

Our new season will start on 11 September with our traditional Opening Night which, this year, will feature John Clark with further pictures of Pangbourne and the local area taken over 100 years ago comparing them to the present scene.

Our full programme is currently available on our website at www.whitchurchhillcc.co.uk and copies of the printed version will be available towards the end of August.

We will be staging an exhibition of prints at the Pangbourne Library during September and this will give you the opportunity to see a selection of our work as well as finding out a little more about our Camera Club.

Further information is available from Alan Copeland on 01491 - 681471.

GORING GAP BOAT CLUB

The Goring Gap Boat Club aims to provide access to the river for all who want to row, whatever standard they are, including complete beginners. Our emphasis is on fun, rather than the very serious approach to rowing and training etc that you can find at other established rowing clubs along the river.

As you may know, the Goring Gap Boat Club lost the use of a boat house in Goring, and for over two years has been using the Oratory School boat house and facilities on the edge of the Hardwick Estate. Despite our base now being nearer to Pangbourne and Whitchurch than Goring and Streatley, we have not attracted as many members from those villages as we might have expected. Perhaps this is because we have not advertised our presence and this article sets out to remedy this.

The Club has coxed fours, single and double sculls and training boats, as well as punts and a dinghy for the less strenuous outing in summer. Members have the free use of all of these craft, together with access to some of the Oratory School's boats. We meet twice a week, on Thursday evenings and Sunday mornings, but members can use the boats at any other times as well.

If you have ever thought "wouldn't it be nice to get on the river?" – now's your chance. If you would like further details, please contact Andrew McKenzie, captain of rowing, on 01491 872345, who will be pleased to provide you with further details of what we do, or how to find the boathouse if you would like to meet us and give it a go!

Michael Messham

Goring Heath Parish Charity
ANOTHER HORTICULTURAL SHOW

Renamed
"THE GARDENING SHOW"
To be held on
SATURDAY AUGUST 31ST 2002
In
Goring Heath Parish Hall

OPEN TO ALL RESIDENTS OF GORING HEATH PARISH
AND WHITCHURCH

We hope this reminder will give all prospective contestants plenty of time to prepare their many entries and to make this show another successful one!

For further information:- contact Theresa Elsome on 0118 984 2056
Or Pat Turner on 0118 984 4200

LOCAL COURSES AND ACTIVITIES

The new green brochure for community education courses starting in the autumn is out now. It is available in the health centre and in post offices around and about and it should get delivered with your free papers in mid July.

If you haven't got a copy, need an extra one or just want to enrol before the rush ring 01491 681359 and leave your name and address and we'll send a free copy.

Lots of new courses this year suitable for all ages and plenty of short courses on Saturdays and weekdays.

Jenny Horsup
Centre Head
Langtree & Goring Community Education Centre

Goring Out of School Club

Provide a fun, safe, and stimulating environment for children who require after school care.

PART TIME VACANCY SUPERVISOR

From September 2002
Mon-Fri 2.45-6.15pm Term Time

The Supervisor has responsibility for the day to day operation of the club
Relevant Childcare Qualifications and Experience essential
Please contact: 07762 946421

SUCCESSFUL EXHIBITION

Once again the annual Paintings Exhibition, organised by the Rotary Club of Pangbourne, on the weekend of June 8 and 9, at Pangbourne Village Hall, was a great success. Nearly £2,500 was raised for charities. The main beneficiaries being, Motivation, a charity which specialises in designing special wheelchairs for disabled people mainly in third world countries, and local charities.

This year 100 local artists took the opportunity to exhibit nearly 450 paintings. Artists came from Newbury, Kingsclere, Thatcham, Reading, Pangbourne, Basildon, Mortimer, Goring, Tidmarsh, Tilehurst, and many other villages within a radius of about 15 miles of Pangbourne.

Again there was considerable interest in the exhibits, well over 500 visitors coming along to view the work of the artists. As a result nearly 80 paintings were purchased. Total sales of paintings amounted to nearly £7,000.

LANGTREE NEWS

Recently, we have received some really exciting news from the department for education and Skills. Langtree's success has been recognised with a "School Achievement Award". The government issues these awards to schools which have performed exceptionally well.

The new headteacher, Andy Harrett is delighted that the school's recent record is so good. He said, " I am delighted that the professionalism and commitment of all our staff and the achievements of the students have been acknowledged in this way. I am also confident that we will continue to provide an excellent education for all our pupils in the future".

OTHER NEWS IN BRIEF

- The Year 11 Drama performance, held in May, entitled "An Evening of Entertainment" proved a great success. Drama students performed their exam pieces to a large and appreciative audience
- On May 28th the Music Department was honoured with a visit from Maddie Prior, the internationally renowned folk singer formerly with "Steeleye Span". Singing teacher Abby Lath recently performed with Maddie at the Nettlebed Folk Club and the visit resulted from this. Maddie performed for music students and the Langtree Choir returned the compliment.
- Juggling is now on the extra-curricular activities list at Langtree. Maths teacher, Mark Vitty, is a keen juggler and runs a club twice a week at lunchtimes. There are about 20 regular jugglers, but sometimes as many as 50 people take part
- The Year 11 Prom, held on May 17th was another successful event. Students arrived in a variety of vehicles, including stretch limousines and horse-drawn carriages. As usual, the ball gowns were stunning and the tuxedos stylish

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

- We will be holding a Music Week at the end of June and the beginning of July, with 5 concerts in all.

Friday 28 th June	“Bands Night”
Monday 1 st July	“Classical Concert”
Tuesday 2 nd July	“Primary/Secondary Concert”
Wednesday 3 rd July	“An evening with vocalists”
Thursday 4 th July”	“Gala Concert”

Tickets can be obtained from the school office, but you are advised to book early as seating is limited to 250 and our concerts are often “sell-outs”

ROTARY CLUB OF PANGBOURNE PAINTINGS EXHIBITION

Fund Raising

Members of the Rotary Club of Pangbourne, Basildon Fundraising Committee and Naomi House Fundraisers were out in force at Savacentre on Sat, June 22, collecting for the Naomi House Children's Hospice, Sutton Scotney. A grand total of £853 was raised for this very worthy cause.

Cliff Meredith 0118 9843721

THE YOUNG RIPARIANS GOLDEN JUBILEE PERFORMANCE

An evening of plays and sketches by the Young Riparians was a thoroughly enjoyable evening. Aply conducted by Trudy - with Pam back stage, the cast excelled themselves in producing a series of pieces by such well known names as Victoria Wood and Pam Ayres. I was impressed by the talent displayed by all the children, but to me the outstanding performance of the evening was the Robert Mauro play “My Friend Never Said Goodbye” - a very difficult piece, brilliantly performed by Hannah King and Eleanor Telepneff.

Next time the Young Riparians have a production I recommend you give them a try, you will not be disappointed.

Sarah Butterworth

DRAGONBOAT RACING

The Rotary Club of Pangbourne, in conjunction with Henley Dragons Dragonboat Club, held a successful Jubilee Charity Dragonboat Racing on the Thames at Pangbourne on 15 June. Eight teams took part in a series of knockout races. The eventual winners again this year were a team from the Pangbourne Adventure Dolphin Centre, 2nd Upper Thames Motor Yacht Club, 3rd a team representing the Reading solicitors Field Seymour and Parkes. About £1,000 was raised. The charities Breast Cancer Awareness Campaign, Royal Berks Hospitals Cardiac Unit and other Local Good Causes will be the beneficiaries

Cliff Meredith
0118 9843721

RIVER THAMES SOCIETY

Aims and Objectives of the Society

To preserve and enhance the glories of the River Thames.

To set targets for the preservation and improvement of the River Thames as a great national asset.

To encourage and promote Arts, Sciences, Sports, Recreation and cultural activities associated with the River Thames, its history and its future.

To provide a form for the co-operation of all organisations with interest in these aspects of the River Thames.

The Society holds monthly luncheons, and organises talks and meetings on or about the Thames.

There will be an information tent at the Thames Traditional Boat Rally at Beale park on 20/21 July.

Chairman	Colin Reynolds	01865 779241
Secretary	Louisa Astrop	01865 778399
Planning	Vic Gardner	01491 839496

In Memoriam: Leslie Martin

Leslie Martin, who lived in Manor Road for the last sixteen years, died in the John Radcliff hospital on the 29th of June after a long illness.

Leslie was a countryman at heart, with a deep knowledge of agriculture and all things rural. He originally came to Whitchurch in 1971 as gardener at Mill Cottage. After about ten years he retired and subsequently spent six years at Ipsden before returning to Whitchurch.

Since his stroke in 1998 he was unable to take his daily walk around the village with his Jack Russell terrier. Nevertheless he continued to take a keen interest in the village and everything that was going on.

Mary Martin

THE NEXT ISSUE OF THE BULLETIN will be published in September 2002.

**This edition will include new covers which will last for one year.
Will everyone PLEASE check the details and let me know any alterations
by 30th July at the very latest.**

Please send your contributions **preferably by e-mail to**
sarah@pongo.freemove.co.uk **or on disc.**

Formats can be Word (.doc) or text (.txt or .rtf) or PagePlus (.ppp).
Other formats by arrangement

Alternatively you can send hard copy to the Editor:
Sarah Butterworth, The Little House, High Street, Whitchurch on Thames, Reading,
Berkshire RG8 7EX (0118 984 2922)

All copy must arrive

no later than Wednesday 3rd September 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
