

WHITCHURCH-ON-THAMES BULLETIN

www.whitchurchonthames.com

JULY 2006

Meeting of the Parish Council

A meeting of the Parish Council was held on Monday the 3rd of July at 8.00 pm in the Village Hall.

In attendance were the Chairman Matilda Oppenheimer and Councillors Nigel Grove, Harry Butterworth, Elizabeth Robinson and Nigel Cabeldu.

Also present were the Parish Clerk Andrea Gardner, District Councillor Pearl Slatter and three members of the Public.

Parish Clerk

Parish Clerk email address: clerk@whitchurchonthames.com

Playground

The Parish Council is very grateful to the King George V Trust Jubilee Trust as they have contributed £500 towards the further improvements of the Playground.

This Trust was reformed in 2002; it is based in Goring and run by the Goring Parish Council who is the Corporate Trustee. They have money to donate towards local projects in Goring and neighbouring villages.

King George V Trust

Old Jubilee Fire Station

Red Cross Road

Goring RG8 9HG

Secretary Maureen Edmonds 01491 874444

Transport

The Oxfordshire County Council are looking to discontinue the 142 bus Service from Woodcote via Whitchurch and Pangbourne to Reading in December 2006. The Parish Council have put notices up in the Village to inform you about this. We have written to the County Council Transport department and our County Councillor John Farrow and urge you to do so as well. It is very important that your views are expressed as it is an excellent service and if it were stopped would be much missed.

Pearl Slatter is willing to start a petition to demonstrate the strength of local opinion and would be grateful if anyone interested could contact her.

Cricket Ground

The Parish Council have received legal advice from the senior Solicitor at the National Association of Local Councils about the Cricket Club's proposal for a Trust involving the Cricket Club and the Parish Council. We are now considering this advice and how to proceed in the best interests of the Village.

The Parish Council are very keen that the Cricket ground should remain in use as a Cricket Ground and that other village organisations such as the School should also benefit from using this land. However we are bound by regulations and have to act within them and the advice received.

The recent highly successful Lashings Cricket Match run by Maureen Stovell and Grant Mottram, with many enthusiastic helpers from the School demonstrated what an excellent facility this could be for the whole village. They raised a considerable sum of money for a new class room area.

Traffic calming

The Parish Council are concerned about the safety of children getting in and out of cars in Hardwick road to walk along Muddy Lane on their way to and from the Primary School. Cars have been noticed to travel very quickly here. We have written to the OCC about this and received a reply from the Highways department stating that they cannot justify any expenditure on physical calming measures along the road at the present time. They will pass on our concerns to Thames Valley Police and ask them to take appropriate action. We are following this up further with the County Council and do request that everyone drives very cautiously here, especially during school drop off and collection times.

We are also continuing to discuss traffic calming in the High Street with the County Council. It has been suggested that a permanent speed warning sensor could help prevent speeding in the Village.

Village Hall

We have nothing further to report about the purchase of the Village Hall and other plots of land for the Village as there have been problems with the SODC lawyers (ill health etc) and we are waiting for them to draw up the necessary documentation.

Planning

New Applications

P06/E0467 – Mallards, High Street – Demolition of conservatory and erection of new garden room. **SHOULD BE REFUSED**

S.07/06 - Whitchurch Primary School, Eastfield Lane – Erection of single storey conservatory to rear of existing building. **SHOULD BE APPROVED**

P06/E0611/LB – Cobwebs, Hardwick Road – Conservatory extension (single storey) to the rear of the property. Retrospective. SHOULD BE REFUSED

P06/E0555 – Land to rear 31 Swanston Field – New dwelling to land to the rear of 31 Swanston Field. SHOULD BE REFUSED

P06/E0623 – Wychcotes, High Street – Installation of solar water heating collectors to provide a renewable non polluting energy source.
NO STRONG VIEWS

P06/E0460 – Mellow Walls – AMENDMENT FOR INFORMATION ONLY – Unable to find acceptable matching bricks for extension, and therefore rendering entire property in smooth render, and painting ivory white.

Decisions received

P06/E0478/CA – Milverton Cottage, High Street – To remove a chimney on an extension. The chimney has already been removed and the SODC planning officer has decided not to enforce replacement.
Application subsequently WITHDRAWN

P06/E0479/RET – Milverton Cottage, High Street – Retrospective application for the erection of a 1.8m high fence along the North East boundary REFUSED
Application subsequently WITHDRAWN
(Parish Council opinion: the minimum requirement should be similar to that for the fence at Prospect House)

P06/E0476/LB - Thames Bank South - Removal of load bearing wall etc.
GRANTED

P06/E0308 – Fawney, High Street – Erection of detached garage, with associated gravel driveway. Application WITHDRAWN

P06/E0044 - George Cottage, Eastfield Lane – Erection of a single storey and two storey rear extension. GRANTED

P06/E0147 – The Chevin – Demolish existing dwelling and outbuildings and erect a single replacement dwelling with attached garage and alteration to the existing access. GRANTED at appeal

Finances

The following cheques were agreed for payment.

To RM Weavers for grass cutting and Parish Clerk for salary.

We have also received a cheque from the King George V Trust Jubilee Trust for £500.

Information about the Village

For information about issues that may affect the Village please look at the notice board or the village website. We will endeavour to keep you informed about matters concerning the Village in the Bulletin, which is distributed in the week after the Parish Council meetings, but we are aware that important issues can crop between meetings.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Monday the 4th September 2006 in the Whitchurch Village Hall at 8.00pm. An agenda and the dates of future meetings will be posted on the Parish Council Notice-board opposite the Greyhound before the next meeting.

Matilda Oppenheimer
Chairman

THE ALLOTMENT SOCIETY

Growing is in full swing, we have almost 100% occupancy of the plots at the moment. If anyone is keen we are always happy to show people around the plots. A variety of plants are grown, although people mostly grow vegetables, there is a selection of soft fruit grown and some even grow flowers for the house!

Please contact me if you wish to look at the Allotments.

Rosamund Heath
984 2358

Whitchurch Primary News

www.whitchurch.oxon.sch.uk

The academic year has flown by so quickly and as always at this time we are writing reports and getting ready for the school concert and the sports day. We are very proud of the performance of all of our pupils again this year as they have improved on their success of last year at both KS1 and KS2. Well done to both the teachers and the pupils for taking on the new teaching and learning strategies.

Lashings Eleven

This was a huge success and cannot be described in any other way! £15,500 was raised and everyone had a fantastic day. The event began with a meeting at the pub with Lashings Director in December. An absolute mountain of work was done from that point and the actual day was only a small part of that work. I cannot thank the eight key ladies enough for their selfless sacrifice for the benefit of the school. To Maureen Stovell, Linda Close, Gill Hayes, Kellie Collier, Sue Rapley, Valerie Steen, Jane Yamamoto and Kate Thatcher and their families, thank you so much for all you have done for the school.

Thanks must also go to the 'dirty dozen' headed by white-van driver John Ridley for taking time off work and doing the muscle work over the Thursday, Friday and Saturday. Thank you to all the parents and relatives that gave of their time and money on the day.

Thank you to all of the villagers that supported the event, I hope you enjoyed yourselves as much as we did. To the Whitchurch Cricket Team; better luck next time, and thank you for your part in the success of the day.

I don't think we will forget this event for some time and if you didn't get enough then go to the Newbury News website for a video clip at: <http://www.newburytoday.co.uk/News/Article.aspx?articleID=2348>

Here are some of our important dates for the rest of the term:

15th July - Sports Day

21st July - Leavers Assembly

INTERNATIONAL CRICKET AT WHITCHURCH

For those of you who didn't make it to the Lashings V Whitchurch Charity Cricket Match you really missed a treat!

It was a lovely day, and what better than sitting in the sunshine supping the excellent beer, and watching a really fun cricket match. Sometimes cricket is like watching paint dry, but this match was really entertaining.

The Lashings team was made up of International Cricket stars including Vasbert Drakes (West Indies), Clare Connor (England Ladies Captain), Phil de Freitas (England), Courtney Walsh, Greg Bluett (S.Australia), Phil Simmons (West Indies), Nanty Haywood (South Africa) and Taibu from Zimbabwe!

Although they found our ground a little smaller than their accustomed pitches, they all opened their shoulders and knocked balls into all the surrounding fields, to the surprise of the horses next door.

The Whitchurch Team put up a brave fight in the face of overwhelming odds. Man of the Match was undoubtedly James Shanahan who scored a magnificent 50!!

The visitors batted first and top scorer Greg Bluett put up a century in an amazingly short time. Our bowlers did exceptionally well, fast bowler Harry Williams (youngest player) taking several wickets. They declared on something over 400 runs, and our brave boys went in to face stiff opposition. Fast Bowler Nanty Haywood accounted for several of our team, which included Chris Grogan, Chris Russell, Mike Butt (Capt), Tim Close, Cormac Neeson, and Harry Williams. They were eventually all out for 187.

The umpire was Lyn Williams father of Harry, the only father and son combination in the team.

WELL DONE WHITCHURCH.

A wonderful afternoon's entertainment. - Ed

Whitchurch Society Garden Walks

Warm sunshine provided perfect conditions for this year's successful garden walks event in June, which concluded with well organised tea and cakes at *The White House*, by kind permission of Mr and Mrs King. Families were also able to enjoy the use of the swimming pool and tennis court in the grounds.

As ever the gardens were rich in variety and diversity. The fine brick and flint terracing of *The Old Farmhouse* invites wandering along its colourful paths, and is an ideal setting for such flowers as the orange and yellow Icelandic poppies, tiny pink rock roses, and deep purple campanulas. *Bear Cottage*, on view for the first time, had a lovely display of pink gladioli and red hot poker, as well as an intriguing herb garden and topiary. At *Heron's Reach*, the only riverside garden, there were amusing little notices telling visitors about wildlife activity. White and pink peony blooms and pink climbing roses contrasted well with the bronze-leaved physocarpus plants.

The lily pond and enclosed area at *Wells House* were a lovely spot for yellow water iris and yellow day lilies. Palms and bamboo at the rear of the garden added to the restful ambience of the garden. Along the drive of *Walled Garden Retreat* was a profusion of aquilegia, roses, and unusual varieties of iris, and the garden also boasted a fine vegetable and soft fruit area. *Swanston House* displayed its usual serene beauty and many of us enjoyed being shown around by a knowledgeable younger member of the family. Particularly striking were the orange blossomed euphorbia fireglow, and a creamy flowering shrub *cornus contraversa variegata*.

Once again *Ash Court* excelled in creating an exotic atmosphere with cashmere textiles complementing the jewel-like flower beds. *Old Barn*, on view for the first time, had a range of soft-coloured annuals such as cornflowers, cosmos and gypsophila, and was developing a feature of North American wild flowers. Particularly noticeable at *The Little House* were the massive arum lilies round the fountain, the abundant carpet of soft blue nigella, and the wonderful collection of fuchsias.

At *Royal Oak Cottage*, the third garden on view for the first time, sweet williams and roses were dominant in a colourful garden enclosed by mature trees. Over at *Swanston Field* the theme of wild gardening was continued. With growing concern over our wild flower population being at risk, it is refreshing to see meadow gardening so well incorporated into a classic English garden.

The Whitchurch Society would like to thank all those who so graciously opened their gardens to the village for this enjoyable day.

Anne Tuckwell & Chris Minton

WoTHABS (Whitchurch-on-Thames Habitat Study Group)

RECYCLING BEYOND THE GREEN BOX

We hope readers will retain this piece in a prominent place and it will help you all dispose of unneeded items usefully.

Recycling - beyond the Green Box. (items not wanted in the Green Box, or that can help local charities directly)

Cash for rubbish.

Numerous charities promote recycling because of the high scrap value. Milk bottle tops used to be turned into guide dogs. High value items today are printer cartridges or toners and mobile phones. Recycling these not only avoids landfill but significantly helps the charity. Inkjet cartridges alone were worth over £12,000 to the British Hedgehog Preservation Society last year.

Similar high value items, but more bulky, are aluminium cans and aluminium foil for which the school will start a collection point this autumn.

Below is a list of local contacts gathered to date, more suggestions are welcomed. Emphasis is on the local nature.

Aluminium cans and aluminium foil (separate collections)

From the new term in September, the school will act as a collection point for both aluminium cans and aluminium foil. Collected separately and squashed.

Inkjet and toner cartridges

John Kingham, Primrose Cottage 984 2828 on behalf of Chiltern Air Ambulance

Inkjet cartridges only

WH Smith Pangbourne (take a pre-paid envelope for the TOMY charity)

British Hedgehog Preservation Society (envelopes will be available at the fete)

Spectacles

Alison Michael on behalf of the Lions Club 984 5214

Also at the Pangbourne Boat House surgery.

Postage stamps

Help the Aged, Pangbourne

Mobile phones

John Kingham, Primrose Cottage 984 2828
on behalf of Chiltern Air Ambulance

Furniture

The Community Furniture project, Newbury, Queens Road tel 01635 43933.
Will collect any goods, except mattresses or furniture without a fire label,
though would prefer delivery.

Domestic white goods (fridges / washing machines etc)

The Community Furniture project, Newbury, The Slater Centre RG19 6HN
tel 01635 500 878. Any working electrical appliance, will collect.

General items

Swap shops (you deliver unwanted goods on day of sale, unsold items go to
charity.) see www.sustainablewallingford.org for local venue and date.

SavaCentre

Items collected at the recycling centre include:

Glass bottles, plastic bottles, tin cans, clothes (including containers which
take large black bin liners full of clothes), shoes, books, newspapers,
magazines and cardboard. Temporary Yellow Pages containers also arrive
at the appropriate time.

The idea is to publicise our local collection points.

If you have any further suggestions we'd be pleased to hear about them.

Alison Michael 984 5214 or John Southey 984 1802

Here's one already, at time of going to press: The PCC has received a note from the
SODC as follows: **New Recycling Banks in Supermarkets**

New British Heart Foundation banks for the recycling of books, CD's videos, DVDs,
cassettes and records have been located in the following supermarket car parks:

ASDA - Wheatley, Somerfield - Sonning Common,
Tesco - Henley, Waitrose - Wallingford, Waitrose - Thame

Further details from Fred Thompson-Brown on 01491 823457

email Fred.Thompson-Brown@southoxon.gov.uk

We will be having a stall at the village fete in September- more then about recycling as well as an activity for the children.

Anyone able to help maintain (mowing and edging) the maze, which is an asset to the whole village, please contact Pete or Sally Woolhouse (9844365)

Dates for working on the Maze Area from 10.00am

Saturday 5th August

Saturday 2nd September

Saturday 7th October

Our next meeting is on **August 9th at Boze Down Vineyard.**

Gill Goodwin (0118 9842934) gill_goodwin@yahoo.co.uk

AGE CONCERN OXFORDSHIRE

FREE WILLS SCHEME

An up-to-date Will makes sure that you control what happens to your belongings and money. If you don't have a valid Will you risk your estate being distributed according to intestacy laws – sometimes with unforeseen and even distressing results. Without a Will you cannot assume that your spouse or partner will automatically inherit.

For a limited period, Age Concern has kindly agreed to fund the cost of making a Will for those aged over 55 (please note that Age Concern's Free Wills scheme only applies to relatively simple Wills and does not cover complicated Wills).

If you would like to know more about the scheme, I have a list of selected solicitors in Abingdon, Banbury and Oxford – please phone me on 984 5214 for further details.

Alison Michael, Age Concern Local Link



WHITCHURCH VILLAGE FETE

2pm Saturday 9th September

Walliscote Farm, High Street

Tea Tent

Grand Draw

Beer Tent

Bouncy Castle

Climbing Wall

Face Painting

Ice Creams Jewellery Stall

Stalls from local clubs and societies



If you would like to run a stall, please contact
Jo on 0118 9842194 or Jane 0118 9842709.

THE WHITCHURCH SOCIETY: THE ART & CRAFT EXHIBITION

The weekend of 18th/19th November 2006

This is a gentle reminder to everyone to get cracking on your entries for this year's show! If you have never entered before, remember that there is a special prize for 1st time entries. This year's theme for the Joyce Voysey prize is "Myths and Legends". All entries in this class will be displayed with a short précis of their story which should add to the interest and understanding of the viewer. How about bringing back some ideas with you when on holiday this summer?

I would also like to remind everyone that we welcome exhibits for sale. These are not entered for judging in the classes but it is a good way of turning your surplus masterpieces into useful cash. The commission charged by the Society is 20%.

Our website (www.wotarts.co.uk or via the Village website) will be updated soon with details of the classes, rules of entry etc. for 2006 and all this information, together with sending-in times, will be printed in full in the next edition of the Bulletin (September)

Sally Woolhouse (Tel 0118 984 4365).

PROPOSED CLIMATE CHANGE CLUB

We have two certainties about global warming: that it is happening right now, and that governments will never do enough to stop it.

Without that leadership from government most people, myself included, feel helpless; that their actions are too small to count in the face of vast global problems. The result is that people and society are failing to make even the easy changes which could achieve useful reductions in climate change gases. My belief is that by acting as a community we can achieve much more than each of us alone.

The suggestion goes like this: we form a club, attracting as many households as possible. We then create, with professional help, a simple but realistic audit which households can use to measure their total climate change effect (I think of it as slightly like weightwatchers, though, really, I have no experience...). We then get our helpful external auditor to tot these up and we set a community target reduction for the first year, with plenty of practical advice about how to achieve this - and see how we get on.

The few people I have talked to are supportive but we need many people to make it fly - so that other villages might think of copying us. Would therefore everyone with an interest from either Goring Heath or Whitchurch contact myself or Martin Wise with a view to holding a first meeting.

James Norman 0118 984 5058

Martin Wise 0118 984 3071

PANGBOURNE HERITAGE GROUP

On Wednesday 13 September, Dr Martin Parsons from Reading University will be giving a talk to the group about his research into the effects of wartime evacuation of children. This large scale movement affected not just the children concerned, but their parents, the host families, local councils and voluntary organisations responsible for their care.

Dr Parsons is an excellent speaker, and this promises to be a fascinating and thought provoking evening, with the added bonus that much of his fact-finding has been based in this area, and uses first hand accounts of events which took place. Dr Parsons has lectured widely, and also written several books on the subject, for both children and adults. He continues to find more information, and would be delighted to hear from people who have their own story to tell.

We hope that all interested members of the public will be able to join us for the evening, which starts at 7.30pm in St. James the Less church. The presentation could be of interest to teachers and students of history who cover the period 1939-1945 in their curriculum. We also hope to welcome our friends from neighbouring villages, many of whom have shared similar experiences.

If you would like more information, please contact Rosie Nurick on 0118 9842565 or rnurick@hotmail.com

Lesley Crimp

Clarifications on garden waste service

We have been overwhelmed with the take-up of garden waste with over 4,000 in the first few weeks. Here are some clarifications on the type of questions we are getting from residents.

If residents have eco-sacks they can put them next to their wheeled bins which will be taken for composting.

For those who don't have a wheeled bin, then they can put ecoscks or green bags out with the normal refuse but this does not go for composting.

Once we receive payment for wheeled bins residents receive a letter within 2-3 weeks. They will get their bins within 28 days of payment.

Any queries call Public Amenities on tel:- 01491 823416

Summer Gardening Show

Goring Heath Parish Hall

SATURDAY AUGUST 26TH

Exhibitors 8.30 ~10.15AM

Public 2 ~4pm

Raffle, Sale of Seeds, Vases, Plants & Books

Refreshments

Schedules from;- Theresa Elsome 0118 984 2056

Jazz
in a Summer Meadow
at
Harcourt Arboretum, Nuneham Courtenay
Saturday 29th July 2006

Bring a picnic, your friends and family and enjoy
Natalie Williams singing swinging jazz and funky soul
in the lovely meadow

Gates open 6pm, performance 7pm

Tickets: £10 adult, £5 child £25 family ticket (2 adults+ 2 children)
(limited ticket availability so book early!)

Info 01865 286690/postmaster@obg.ox.ac.uk

In aid of Parkers Leys Appeal

WOODCOTE LIBRARY

Summer's here and soon the school holidays will begin. We will be running a Summer reading scheme again this year called the Reading Mission with the aim of encouraging children to continue their use and enjoyment of books over the long holiday, it starts on July 8th and continues to September 16th. So search out your high tech camera, your binoculars and your code book as Woodcote library junior readers set out on their Reading Mission! Your object is to read six books during the holidays and on your way solve the puzzles and collect the stickers until you reach your goal and receive your medal of honour. All you need to do is to come into the library, sign up and take away your first batch of books. Let the adventure begin!

Two storytimes will be held during August on suitable themes of adventure, spies and daring missions-. Wednesday 9th August from 2.30 to 3.30pm and on Wednesday 23rd August from 10.30 to 11.30 in the morning. Both are free and designed for three to eight year olds but we do need an adult to be present. Tickets are available at the library desk.

The "Big Picture" competition votes have been counted and the most went to Gone with the Wind, with Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire, Some Like It Hot, and Charlie and the Chocolate Factory close behind. We are expecting a new paperback "Feast on Fiction" collection in August - perfect for lazy summer days. Don't forget also that if you are going away on holiday we can give you extra time for borrowing - just tell the staff when you take the books out.

Help us improve our website and receive £20

South Oxfordshire District Council's website, www.southoxon.gov.uk, provides a wide range of information and services. We are continually looking for ways to improve our site and make it easier for people to use.

Could you spare an hour of your time to help us test our website?

We are looking for volunteers to help us work out which parts of our website need improving. The sessions will take place at the council offices in Crowmarsh Gifford, and will involve a few tasks to see how easy or hard it is to use our site. You don't need any prior experience or knowledge about websites to take part. The session will involve looking at the website for around an hour. At the end of the session, volunteers will receive £20.

If you are interested and able to come to our offices during weekdays (7am - 7pm), please send your name, contact details (address, phone number, email) and when you are available between 24 July and 24 August, to:

Sam Shepherd, Consultation Officer
South Oxfordshire District Council
Benson Lane, Crowmarsh Gifford
WALLINGFORD, Oxon OX10 8ED
Tel: 01491 823093 Email: Sam.Shepherd@southoxon.gov.uk

We will contact you to ask you a few details about yourself and to make an appointment. We may also contact you regarding any future user testing opportunities.

DIARY DATES

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

JULY

3rd Parish Council Meeting
29th Jazz in a Summer Meadow

AUGUST

5TH Tidying the Maze area, from 10am
9th WoTHabs Meeting

SEPTEMBER

2nd Tidying the Maze area, from 10am
4th Parish Council Meeting
9TH Village Fete

OCTOBER

7TH Tidying the Maze area, from 10am

NOVEMBER

18/19th Arts and Crafts Exhibition

THE NEXT ISSUE OF THE BULLETIN will be published in JULY 2006.
Please send your contributions **preferably by e-mail to**
sarah@pongo.freeserve.co.uk **by** 5th July 2006

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