

WHITCHURCH-ON-THAMES BULLETIN

MARCH

2002

Published by the Whitchurch Parish Council in alternate months

Annual Parish Meeting April 11 2002

In the Village Hall at 8.00pm (tea and coffee from 7.30)

The Annual Parish Assembly is ***your*** opportunity to hear what has been happening in our many local organisations, to find out what the Parish Council has been doing on your behalf (although, since you Bulletin readers are regularly informed, that may seem superfluous!) and question us on the past, present and future. We need your input so bring along ideas as well as questions.

Join us on Thursday April 11, have a tea or coffee beforehand, and enjoy a glass of wine or juice afterwards, and we will try to make the meeting itself as informative but painless as always.

Peter Minton

Chairman, Whitchurch on Thames PC

Parish Council Meeting

The March meeting of the Parish Council was held on Monday, March 4, 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 District Councillor Deborah Whitfeld. The Parish Clerk, Janet Holmes, was at a conference so the Chairman acted (not terribly successfully) as Clerk to the meeting.

The major matter arising from the previous minutes concerned the roads and the village road safety improvements. The council is waiting for an assessment visit and had written to take issue with the suggested twelve week delay before this was carried out. A response from a member of the new County Council executive had been received suggesting that a shorter delay might be possible.

It was also confirmed that Mrs Sarah Butterworth had agreed to take on the editing of the Bulletin. A vote of thanks was passed for the sterling work that Sylvia Rosekilly had done in her time as editor.

Planning

Decision notices

P01/S0862 Whiteways Hardwick Road – division of dwelling **Granted** (subject to the maintaining of the parking area for no other use)

P01/S0979 Church Cottages High Street – summerhouse
Granted

New Applications

P01/S1147 Bozedown Farm Hardwick Road – barn for animal housing and husbandry
Strongly object, the application should be refused

P02/S0037 Bozedown Farm Hardwick Road – conversion of pump house to dwelling
No strong views

P02/S0114 Dingle Dell High Street – part demolition to rear and new works
No strong views

Finance

Items for payment were agreed and the following cheques issued: G Weir for website hosting fee; Peter Minton, chairman's allowance; Legal & General pension contribution; and Janet Holmes for Clerk's salary and expenses.

New Ethical Code of Conduct

The council then considered the new Code of Conduct which is required of both local authorities of all types and of the members of those councils. After discussion, a resolution to adopt the Code of Conduct was passed without dissent. (The formal resolution is to be advertised in the press and can be found elsewhere in this issue of the Bulletin.)

The Code sets out stringent rules for the conduct of the council, its business and upon its elected and co-opted councillors. Although this council has previously worked to a model Code, the new one has the force of law as well as an overarching regulatory body. However, the rules we previously set ourselves and to which we have adhered, albeit without the force of statutory regulator, were stringent and not too different from the new Code.

Other matters

The Council agreed the contents of a letter to be sent in response to the recent Planning Green Paper. In it we object particularly to the proposed reduction in local consultation on major planning matters which would arise if this Green Paper was to be implemented in its present form.

A report on the possibility of having a village computer 'centre' in the Village Hall for everyone's use was discussed and it was agreed that the matter should be taken forward. We hope that a presentation can be made at the Annual Parish Assembly.

The chairman reported that he had written to village organisations about the proposed 'continuing celebration' format for our Jubilee celebration and the responses so far have been positive.

We look forward to welcoming everyone to the Annual Parish Assembly on April 11; the next Parish Council meeting will be its Annual Meeting on May 13 as usual in the Village Hall at 8.00pm. Anyone is welcome to attend the meetings of the council.

May 2003 seems a long way off but the next Parish Council elections will be held then. Being a councillor is interesting and rewarding (no, sorry, not financially so...) as well as an important service to the community. The Parish Council has a role in several areas, most notably planning in the village. For those who feel that a Parish Council does little or nothing (and some people do!), we would suggest that the fight to save the cricket field from development, or getting the new light at the top of Muddy Lane, are examples of what can be done on behalf of the village.

If you would like to find out what we do and how we do it, come to one of our meetings (they are not at all boring) or talk to any one of us about the role. We have a reputation of being a go ahead council - even if the village is small compared to many - but to keep it so, we need people to come forward and stand for election. That may sound daunting, but we will be happy to help any prospective candidate every step of the way.

The following resolution was laid before the Parish Council of Whitchurch on Thames on 4 March 2002 at which it was resolved that:

(a) In accordance with section 51(1) of the Local Government Act 2000, the Council adopts the Model Code of Conduct set out in the Schedule to the Parish Councils (Model Code of Conduct) Order 2001 without amendment as the Council's Local Code of Conduct with effect from 15 April 2002.

(b) Every member of the Council shall sign a Declaration of Acceptance of Office incorporating the statutory undertaking to observe the approved Local Code of Conduct and return it to the Clerk by 14 June 2002 at the latest.

(c) The Clerk shall inform the District Council's Monitoring Officer as follows:

(1) that the Council has adopted the Model Code of Conduct as the Council's Local Code with effect from 15 April 2002 within five working days of the meeting approving the resolution set out in paragraph (a) above:

and

(2) that each member of the Council has signed and returned to the Clerk the undertaking to

observe the Local Code of Conduct by

20 June 2002 at the latest.

Peter Minton

FROM YOUR DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

Violent Crimes (incl domestics)	5	2	0	0	5	2	40%
Burglary Dwelling	9	2	7	7	16	9	56%
Burglary Non-dwelling	1	0	8	0	9	0	0%
Theft of Motor Vehicles	5	1	2	0	7	1	14%
Theft from Motor Vehicles	7	0	7	0	14	0	0%
Criminal Damage	6	0	1	0	7	0	0%
Other Crimes	7	1	8	0	15	1	7%
Total	41	6	32	7	73	13	18%

Geoff Weir Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator

KERBSIDE RECYCLING

The Council's kerbside recycling scheme is now under way and the following materials can be recycled:

PAPER: magazines, catalogues & phone directories etc

CANS: drinks cans, food and pet food tins.

PLASTIC BOTTLES: milk, pop, juice, cleaning & toiletry bottles.

PLASTIC PACKAGING: yog pots, ice cream & margarine tubs etc.

The Council provides FREE recycling boxes for residents. To obtain a free box call 01419 823416, or visit www.southoxon.gov.uk. There are also a number of recycling banks, like the glass bottles one in Manor Road.

Every household produces around 1 tonne of waste a year, so if we can reduce this somewhat, we can save the land fill sites from overflowing. It all helps if we can reduce the waste we make, reuse materials where possible, and recycle as much as possible.

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
27 March	from 0800 to 1000	from 1030 to 1230
01 May	from 0800 to 0950	from 1020 to 1210
18 May	from 0800 to 0920	
29 May		from 0800 to 0950

Woodcote - located at the Village Hall car park

16 March	from 0800 to 1000
30 March	from 0800 to 0950
03 April	from 0800 to 0950
20 April	from 0800 to 0950
26 April	from 0800 to 0950

CONGRATULATIONS!

To Phoebe, Lady Rose

On the occasion of her 90th Birthday.

Celebrated at Hardwick House, with a large chocolate
90 candles!

cake adorned with

NEW HEAD TEACHER FOR LANGTREE

Andrew Harrett took up the post of Head
Langtree in January 2002.

SCHOOL

Teacher at

After teaching English for many years in Cardiff, he was appointed Deputy Head Teacher at Lord William's School, Thame in 1998. After 3 years he was seconded to work for the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority in London, where he stayed for a year, intending to return to work in schools.

Why was he attracted to Langtree?

"I've been impressed by it's excellent reputation as a caring and successful school; by the openness of the children, the high standard of teaching, and the wealth of opportunities for children to participate in 'out of school' activities."

Andrew is married to Paula and they have two children aged 7 and 5. His interests include hill walking, reading and trying to cook!

I am sure all of us in Whitchurch wish him a long and successful career at Langtree. Ed

WHITCHURCH PRE-SCHOOL GROUP - "learning through play"

This is a busy time at Whitchurch Pre-school, with spring in the air, and some of the mud in the playground drying up the children can finally get outside to play without having to wrap up in their hats and gloves before going out. There are plans afoot to redesign the pre-school gardens so watch this space for more news about how this is progressing.

The children are spending time looking at the alphabet this term, they are playing some very messy games looking for letters hidden in the sand tray and making some letters and envelopes. They have been making some great Mother's Day gifts which I am sure will be much appreciated along with doing some Easter activities.

We are welcoming a new member of staff to the pre-school team. Siu Wai joined the pre-school this term as the Deputy Supervisor and is a very welcome addition, she brings with her several years experience of working within a pre-school environment.

The pre-school continues to be a very busy place, although there are a few sessions available next term. If you are interested in finding out more then please contact Kim Hazell on 9842010.

Trudy Reynolds 984 2609

NEWS FROM WHITCHURCH PRIMARY SCHOOL

Thanks to the kind support of people in the village, the school was able to redesign two classrooms last year. The finishing touches are at last complete and we are very pleased with

the result. We would like to invite anyone in the village who is interested to come and have a look round. You are welcome any time between 2PM and 4PM on Tuesday 16th April.

John Bradon

WHITCHURCH AND GORING HEATH LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Our AGM was very well attended and after the business (see below) we were treated to a highly entertaining and informative talk on the History of St Mary's by John Dolby. Historically this area has been important as a river crossing and although Whitchurch may relate to a white church *wit* is also the Saxon word for government. The Norman Milo Crispin built the weir and mill and it is thought that the population at that time was around 60. The parish was obviously very wealthy as various kings passed it to various favourites as reward for service. There was a chantry where the choir vestry now stands where perpetual masses were said and the present church still has the original mediaeval beams. Having led us from the pre-Norman church through the ages, following the old adage 'Leave them wanting more' John stopped at the end of the nineteenth century so we shall be inviting him back again to finish the story off.

The business: Vicky Jordan, Tony Voysey and Sue Matthews were re-elected as Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary and Teresa Elsome, Alison Powell and Martin Wise stood again for the committee unopposed. We were sorry to learn the Maureen and Leon Summers were no longer able to be on the committee due to work commitments and as nobody from the audience volunteered we are two committee members short. This is not an onerous position but does involve making the coffee before the general meetings a couple of times a year and attending half a dozen committee meetings.

Our April Meeting will be 'Curiosities of the Chilterns': an illustrated talk by Alan Copeland. Whitchurch Village Hall 8pm, doors open 7.45 for coffee. In May we have a members evening when we would like you to bring Jubilee memorabilia (any Jubilee not just That One), reminiscences, etc.

Sue Matthews

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

We are now on the second and last phase of fencing the school's woodland corner. Several mornings have been spent gathering suitable vines, dogwood and privet. The weaving is a slow process, but is well on the way now. The pathway should be complete by the time you see this and an official opening of the woodland area is planned for early in the summer term.

It is good to see the wide variety of plants now sprouting in the woodland corner. Also, the miniature meadow around the pond already has a dense green thatch. This year brings the first full season for the meadow and it will be interesting to see what actually comes up.

Do make contact if you would like to help. Fence weaving is a real challenge (for that ring Sandra Conn on 9844031), but there are other jobs too and all offers are very welcome.

Gill Goodwin 9842934

VISIT TO LA BOUILLE MAY BANK HOLIDAY WEEKEND

It is proposed to organise a visit by coach to La Bouille during the bank holiday weekend in 4-6 May. The coach will leave Whitchurch early Saturday morning and return late Monday evening.

Travel will be by De-Luxe Horseman's coach via Portsmouth/Le Havre outbound. We are having to return Calais/Dover as the Le Havre/Portsmouth ferry is full. The cost will be £75 for adults – as last time in 2000 – and, through subsidy from Twinning funds, half for children up to 18, ie £37.50.

All residents of the two parishes are welcome to participate including children from primary school age - provided they are accompanied by parent or guardian where appropriate.

Those interested should contact:

Ian/Gwen Bruce	tel. 0118 9842653
Trudy Skidmore	tel. 0118 9842578
Vicky Jordan	tel. 0118 9843620

A detailed itinerary will be issued to participants later.

Ian Bruce, Chairman

THE YOUNG RIPARIANS

The Young Riparians are very busy at the moment rehearsing for their Golden Jubilee Performance on June 21st and 22nd. This is a compilation of short plays and sketches where all the children have a speaking part. As usual there will be a Bar with something special, rather than the usual wine and beer.

There will also be a Golden Jubilee Raffle, and a competition for all to enter, for the best tiara of the evening, whether male or female wearing it.

So put the dates in your diary and come and enjoy a wonderful celebration evening.

Another date for your diary is 1st June, the Whitchurch Hill Fete, where we will be running a stall called the 'Royal Flush'! Come and see what it is all about

Trudy.

GORING, WOODCOTE AND DISTRICT LIONS CLUB

The Lions Club are collecting unwanted spectacles which are then graded, cleaned and sent to Third World countries to help people with impaired sight. Their latest collection date is mid April. If you have any spectacles that you no longer use and are willing to donate, please phone us so that we can arrange to collect them to pass on to the Lions Club. All donations will be very gratefully received.

Bob & Alison Michael: 984 5214

ALLOTMENT & GARDENING

We have had a successful year with a thriving membership. However we have one or two plots available for the coming season should there be anyone interested in taking on an allotment. People walking down Muddy Lane may have noticed a large kestrel on the Eastern edge, helping to keep the mice levels down!

Through our membership of the National Society of Allotments and Leisure Gardeners we have access to very reasonably priced seeds and all our orders of seeds and potatoes have arrived safely and been distributed to the various members who ordered them.

The Executor of Sidney Holman's Will asked us to auction his gardening possessions. We raised £100 for the West Ward fund at the Royal Berkshire Hospital.

Rosamund Heath (984 2358)

LIFEBOAT WEEK

The Pangbourne & District branch of the RNLI are holding our Lifeboat Week during April 14 to 20.

If there is anyone who would like to help, either collecting door to door or doing an hour in Pangbourne on Saturday April 20, please contact Tony Voysey on 984 3946

THOMAS EDGAR GOODALL

11.03.1920 - 17.02.2002

Tom was born in Coombe Side Cottage, Whitchurch, the second son of Edgar and Elsie Goodall. He attended the village school in Hardwick Road, until he was thirteen when he left to go to work. Tom enlisted in the Grenadier Guards in 1940 and after spending time on duty in London served in North Africa, Italy, Austria and Palestine.

Tom married his wife Betty in 1947. They have two sons Roy and Richard and have lived in Whitchurch all their married life. Tom joined the Post Office Telephones in 1953 until his retirement in 1985. He was a member of the bowling club and captained the team for a while.

Tom's knowledge of Whitchurch was extensive and his family have been associated with the village for many years. His great grandfather on his father's side came to the village in the early 1800's and was the landlord of the Bridge House, now known as the Ferryboat Inn. His ancestors on his mother's side, the Lewendons, have lived in the area much longer. Tom is survived by his wife and two sons.

PLEASE - - NO MORE SMOKY BONFIRES

Smoke from garden bonfires is becoming a blight in our village. Almost every other day someone sets fire to damp vegetation producing unpleasant, health-damaging, laundry-dirtying smoke that drifts in the breeze to force neighbours indoors and scrambling to get the not-yet-dry washing off the line.

There are several alternatives to get rid of unwanted garden debris, including: composting for re-use as garden mulch; packing the material into green sacks for sending through the municipal waste collection system; taking to the monthly collection at the Parish Hall; or taking directly to the municipal recycling centre at Oakley Wood.

Please, let's be good neighbours and make use of the available alternatives to dispose of our garden debris, avoiding smoky bonfires and the harm and aggravation that they cause.

Rob Williams Fieldings, Hardwick Road

GORING HEATH PARISH CHARITY

A last reminder!

Don't forget the Spring Horticultural Show, Goring Heath Parish Hall
Monday April 1st 2002, 2.00-4.00pm

Schedules & details from Theresa Elsome 0118 984 2056
or Kate Giles 0118 984 1590

NOTES FROM THE OXFORDSHIRE RURAL COMMUNITY COUNCIL

The County and District Councils are trying to encourage recycling of kitchen and garden waste by composting. If you do not have room for a compost heap of your own, they suggest starting a community compost heap. To find out more ring Fay Dashper on 01865 815499. For practical ways to get involved in your local environment, log onto www.oncf.org.uk where you will find the Truly Useful Nature Conservation Directory, or telephone 01865 407034 for a copy.

Katherine May, the new Rural Community Transport Worker at Oxfordshire Rural Community Council can offer help and advice with any transport difficulties, tel 01865 883488.

OXFORDSHIRE COUNTRY FAYRE

Sunday 26th May at Barracks Farm, South Stoke.

Attractions include:-

Falconry, Gun dog Display, Fly Fishing Demonstrations
Vintage Tractors, Heavy Horses

Food Hall, Craft Marquee, YFC Exhibition Tent

Countryside Area, Ferret Racing, Farriery, Go Karts, Fun Fair,

AND Anthony Worral-Thompson, sitting for a caricature competition.

More info from Carolyn Ventress 01491 641851

E mail ad.ventress@euphony.net

OXFORD BROOKES UNIVERSITY

School of Computing and Mathematical Sciences.

IT courses are offered ranging from basic computer skills through several courses on Word and Access, to introductions to C++, Visual Basic and Java.

Contact Maureen Jones on 01865 484870: e-mail mljones@brookes.ac.uk

THE FRIENDS OF ST JOHN'S SECOND ANNUAL DINNER

It was good to have the support of 68 members and friends at our Second Dinner, from both Whitchurch Hill and Whitchurch-on-Thames. We are indebted to Jo and Harvey Adams who planned and cooked so excellently, and to their friends who tirelessly acted as waiting staff during a long evening. Thank you all – it was a great evening. The aim of course is to enjoy ourselves, but also to raise some funds for our latest project, which is to buy a ride-on mower for the churchyard, where last season's hard clearance work has produced much more grass to be maintained in the coming year.

We were delighted and grateful to receive a cheque from the Goring Heath Parish Charity for £822 at the Dinner – the proceeds of the Christmas Mini Market run by Theresa Elsome and Pat Turner in December. There have been a number of other generous donations as well – from the Plant Ladies, the W.I. and the Goring Volunteer Fire Service Charity, as well as from a number of kind individuals, in particular our Patron, Lady Rose. Many thanks to all of you - and the generosity of the Dinner guests in their support of the raffle which raised a thumping £185 means that we shall be able to buy the mower in time for the spring. This year we also plan to install compost bins for the grass and other biodegradable material, both as environmentally friendly and as more aesthetically pleasing than untidy heaps in the overall appearance of our churchyard.

Kate Giles: Hon Secretary

PLAY AT THE PRISON

If you enjoy the company of young children, there is an opportunity to join a group of volunteers who work at Huntercombe. Since 1998 these volunteers, both men and women, have manned a small Play Area in the Visits Room at Huntercombe. The Play Area offers a positive experience to children visiting their siblings or other relatives in prison. A happily occupied child may also enhance the quality of the visit for their parents and the young inmate. The volunteers find a quiet satisfaction in creating a friendly and busy environment for children who might otherwise find the visit a distressing experience.

The Play Area is manned on Saturday and Sunday afternoons by two people and has a variety of toys and play materials to occupy the children. Volunteers, on average, work six afternoons during the year.

For further information please contact Christine Tucker on 01491 875094 or Jenny Boyd 01491 872109.

SAFARI SUPPER

In aid of St Mary's & St John's Churches.

Sunday 12th May 2002 at 6.30pm

£7.50 per head. All welcome.

Hosts for starters and main courses needed.

For more information Ring Jenny Plumb 984 4838

THAMES VALE SINGERS

Do you enjoy the music of *Oklahoma* or *Les Miserables*, *West Side Story* or *Oliver*? If you do, the next Thames Vale Singers Concert **Songs from the Shows** is for you. We are performing on Friday 26 April at Purley Memorial Hall, and Saturday 27 April at Denefield School, and you can be sure of a good evening's entertainment.

Tickets, usually about a fiver, which includes an interval drink, will be available shortly. If you are interested, please give Chris Minton a ring on 9842516.

ELIJAH

South Chiltern Choral Society and Orchestra are presenting Elijah by Felix Mendelssohn on 23rd MARCH in the Concert Hall at the Town Hall, Reading 7.30pm

Tickets £10.00 from the Hexagon Box Office Tel 0118 960 60 60

THE SAMARITANS

The primary aim of the Samaritans is 'to be available at any hour of the day or night to befriend those passing through personal crisis and in imminent danger of taking their own lives'.

To help us to be AVAILABLE – your local branch, based in Reading, is in need of more volunteers. If you feel apprehensive, a bit unsure, or that you are only 'ordinary' (what ever that might mean) then why not call to find out more (our volunteers also feel apprehensive, a bit unsure and only 'ordinary').

You will be invited to an *information* evening, this is followed by a *selection* day and in-depth *preparation*. Following preparation you will have a *mentor*, and will be supported throughout your duties by experienced volunteers.

PLEASE call 0118 926 6333 – WE NEED PEOPLE LIKE YOU.

WHITCHURCH HILL CAMERA CLUB

Our first meeting on April 3rd looks at the State of Utah when Stan Maxwell from Watford presents a slide talk entitled "Arches, Goblins, Bridges and Hoodoos." Our next meeting, one week later, will feature our annual Natural History Competition when our prints and slides will be commented and marked by Colin Harrison FRPS from the Oxford Camera Club.

Wednesday, 17th April features one of our own Club members, Richard Bowsher ARPS who shows us that you do not have to travel far to take superb photographs in a fascinating talk entitled "On Safari In Reading"

Our last meeting in April (on the 24th) will be our final Slide Competition which will be judged by Peter Upton FRPS who is also a member of the Oxford Camera Club.

During May, we will be holding two competitions, a Studio Evening and two presentations, one looking at the different ways in which pictures are produced and the other given by our Competition Secretary, Nigel Glover-Wright, who recalls some photographic "Mediterranean Memories."

We are the largest Camera Club in the area with 63 members which means that we are able to provide a very wide Programme including top presenters such as Heather Angel and Charlie Waite whilst keeping membership fees at levels which have remained unchanged for nearly ten years.

We meet every Wednesday evening at the Village Hall, Whitchurch-on-Thames starting at 8pm.

If you own a camera and enjoy taking photographs, come along and see us.

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

MEDICAL MATTERS

MMR – Comments on the Controversy

There are three main groups of Parental opinion:

1. Those who are happy for their children to be immunized with the MMR vaccine (firstly at 15 months and then the booster at around 4 years).
2. Those who are profoundly unhappy about the safety of the vaccination and will not bring their children for vaccination.
3. Those who are unhappy about the triple vaccine but would have their children vaccinated if the vaccines were available individually. The child would then have 3 injections at 15 months, all 3 repeated at 4 years.

The Department of Health has weighed up all the available evidence and said that the MMR vaccine is safe and should be administered to all children. The Government strongly endorses the vaccination of children with the MMR vaccine and to encourage us Tony Blair has told us that his own son has been immunized. Concern about the vaccine comes from research from the Royal Free hospital by Dr Wakefield on a relatively small number of children. In this research he suggests that the development of autism and bowel disorders in these children could be due to the MMR vaccine given at 15 months of age. This research has been severely criticized by the scientific community as a whole.

We are very fortunate at Pangbourne Surgery as we have a very good level of vaccination in our practice, achieving over 90% vaccination rates for the MMR vaccination. The vast majority of our parents think that the vaccine is safe and are happy for it to be given to their children.

The problem GPs face nationally is – why are so many people not taking the Medical profession and the Government's advice and how can we encourage more parents to have their children immunized? In the light of the Government's advice about Medical issues previously it may be that people are not entirely convinced when they are told something is entirely safe. It is most probably wiser to suggest that there is a balance of risks, which all parents must weigh up for their own children. Parents need to be reassured that we are also

concerned about their child's welfare and are willing to listen to their worries. We are not just repeating the Government views and most importantly we can give parents the information that they need to make an informed decision. We are willing to discuss the issues with parents and can also provide written information for them to take away and think about.

Dr M. Oppenheimer

SOCIAL WORKER AT THE BOATHOUSE SURGERY

Pangbourne now has a Social Worker based at the Boathouse Surgery called Rose Simons. She is there every Wednesday afternoon when she is available to meet patients, relatives and medical staff to discuss and sort out problems.

These problems include:

Homecare needs

Assessments for nursing homes

Claims for financial benefits

Practical guidance to careers

Information on other agencies.

Pangbourne is very lucky to have Rose and it will help to integrate health and Social Services. Rose can be contacted on 0118 930 2777

PANGBOURNE & DISTRICT COMMUNITY LUNCH

19TH MARCH FROM 12.30 TO 2.00PM At The Dorman Rooms, Horseshoe Road.

Come and hear from Gary Poulson about Newbury Volunteer Bureau's CORPORATE COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT PROGRAMME CCI is a way of engaging Businesses with Community Groups in a mutually beneficial way.

Plus a chance to see (CLIVE) the Community Learning and Information Vehicle.

BISHOPSWOOD SCHOOL: THE NEW BUILDING OPENS.

It may not be immediately obvious why the people of Whitchurch might be interested in a school with no campus of its own, whose infant section is at Valley Road, Henley, its junior section is at Sonning Common Primary, and its senior section is at Chiltern Edge Comprehensive.

The range of children Bishopswood School caters for starts with those who can't cope with the main stream and continues to the most severely handicapped. Generally speaking about one in three hundred children need the special dedication and skills of its staff. So far as I know, no one has found any connection with the spectrum of parental backgrounds.

A fundamental of the School's philosophy is that as far as possible its pupils should merge into main stream, which is why it moved from its original isolated site. Of course this raises other problems, but the goodwill of the main stream schools has been a main pillar of success.

This month the new building in the grounds of Sonning Common Primary School will be declared open. The purpose built unit emerged from a great many hours of work by staff, governors, County education staff, not to mention the architect. It asked a lot of the governors of the main stream school. But everyone is delighted with it. In the past classrooms were converted from conventional classrooms. The new ones are designed from the outset to have the facilities needed for the care of severely handicapped youngsters. Storage space for push chairs and the heavier equipment is at last available to each room. The hygiene facilities are actually up to being a support, rather than a challenge, to the teachers. Quiet rooms are available where a teacher or teaching assistant and a child can work one to one without being disturbed.

The architect has included many attractive features. For example, by leaving the ceiling of the main corridor open to the pitched roof he has managed to generate a remarkable feeling of space. It all helps towards the School's ultimate objective: to let these youngsters grow up feeling that each can achieve his or her own place in the community as a whole.

Harry Butterworth

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

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 Friday, 17th May 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
