

WHITCHURCH-ON-THAMES BULLETIN

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MAY

2002

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The Annual Parish Meeting

The 2002 Annual Parish Meeting was held on 11 April in the Village Hall.

It was attended by Councillors Vincent Aldridge, Peter Minton, John Spencer, Kate Thatcher and Geoff Weir together with the Parish Clerk, Janet Holmes, District Councillor Deborah Whitfeld and over 40 parishioners.

Following the acceptance of the minutes of the previous meeting, those present stood in silence for a minute in respect for the passing of the Queen Mother.

Mr Tim Coulson, from the Chiltern Edge Community Education Centre, opened the meeting with a short presentation on a scheme to provide computer taster sessions, training and a small computer centre in the village. This, and the practical demonstration he had prepared, produced a lot of interest and we look forward to taking part in this enterprise in due course.

In his annual report, the Chairman spoke of his hope that this Golden Jubilee year will renew the very solid kinship which binds the village together. He once more reiterated the need for those who have lived in the village for a while to welcome and involve our newer arrivals in the life of Whitchurch.

The Council, he continued, had not planned a specific Jubilee event, since the organisation of such an event requires the involvement of many people and most of the active people in the village are already tied up with the numerous events which are held here between May and July. It was, therefore, felt that making each of these part of our Golden Jubilee

celebration starting in May with the Toll Bridge Centenary exhibition, passing through the Gardens Walk in June and ending either with the School sports day and fete or, stretching into September with the Village Fete, would be a celebration which could be handled by a small village like Whitchurch.

In reviewing the past year, he commented that one very noticeable feature has been the number of planning applications for extensions to village homes – noticeable because of the scaffolding which has clad many houses during the year. The extensions have been accompanied by a welcome influx of young families. This has created some problems for the school where major alterations have been needed to accommodate the growth in demand (the costs of these alterations were in part met by the generosity of some parishioners). He continued by saying that it gave him great pleasure to see so many younger people around the village and a welcome side to this has been the fact that many of our new residents are taking both an interest and an active role in the life of the village (as a visit to the allotments field will show).

In the context of the school, he mentioned the improvements to the access and to the lower part of Muddy Lane and the advent of the school bus which had reduced the impact of parking in Eastfield Lane. All these are part of the 'Better Journeys to School' initiative, if all goes well this will also help to redo the top end of Muddy Lane and, possibly, provide some parking for the cars bringing children to school via the Hardwick Road end of the lane.

He also referred to the never ending saga of the repairs to Hardwick Road itself, like death and taxes the topic seemed to be always with us. Hope still survived, although rather battered, and things might, he felt, improve! (*A later news item on this subject can be found elsewhere in this Bulletin.*)

Moving on to planning, he reported that the council were generally happy with the decisions during the year but he warned of the barn application for Bozodown which would be a terrible eyesore if allowed. The council was watching the application very carefully and had called in expert support from the various local and national environment bodies.

After reporting on various other matters, he turned to the Bulletin and most warmly thanked Sylvia Rosekilly for her work as editor over the past years. He then welcomed Sarah Butterworth who had 'volunteered' to take the hot seat.

He concluded by reminding everyone that there would be Parish Council elections next May and asked those present to try to get people with an interest in being a councillor to make contact with present members to discuss what it entailed. He wound up his report by thanking his colleagues, the Clerk and the guests and villagers for their support.

The meeting then took reports from village organisations, all of which seemed to be in good heart. Since details of their activities form much of the content of each Bulletin, the reports were short and to the point.

Councillor Weir explained the current position on finance for the council and discussed the basis of the 2002/3 budget. In the absence of Councillor Grove, the Clerk read his report on matters of village maintenance. Following a meeting with the Highway Engineer, the report

informed the meeting that the long promised road works in the village were once more unlikely to happen.

District Councillor Whitfeld spoke on matters relating to the village arising from the actions of South Oxfordshire District Council but there was no County report since Mr Farrow was not at the meeting.

Questions from the floor were taken and there was much heated discussion about the state of the roads locally. Villagers were angry about the apparent neglect of the village by the County Council and by the fact that their elected representative was not at the meeting to explain the lack of action. After some discussion a motion of no confidence in the County Councillor was proposed from the floor and carried unanimously.

A few additional questions followed and after these the Chairman declared the meeting closed and invited those present to join him in a glass of wine.

The Annual General Meeting of the Parish Council

The Parish Council AGM was held on 13 May 2002 at the Village Hall. Councillors Vincent Aldridge, Nigel Grove, Peter Minton, Brian Mott, Kate Thatcher and Geoff Weir attended together with Janet Holmes, Parish Clerk, and District Councillor Deborah Whitfeld. An apology was received from County Councillor Farrow.

A letter of resignation had been received from John Spencer. He and his wife Jean are soon to move to the West Country and the Councillors wished them well in their new home. They also moved a vote of thanks to John for his long service on the council.

Councillor Minton was re-elected chairman, and Councillor Aldridge vice chairman, for the coming year and the Clerk was re-appointed Responsible Finance Officer. The appointment of an Internal Auditor was deferred to await the outcome of new requirements and discussions with other local councils. Councillors taking special responsibilities were appointed as follows: Councillor Mott, Allotments; Councillor Grove, Village Maintenance and Village Records; Councillor Weir, Hall Management; and Councillor Minton, Twinning. Councillor Minton was nominated to represent the council on the Primary School Governing body. The council also nominated Councillor Thatcher and Mesdames Jill Bradon and Sue Matthews to the United Charities Board of Trustees.

Planning New Applications

P02/SO330 Rosemead Eastfield Lane – conservatory to rear (retrospective) No strong views

P02/SO355 Dingle Dell High Street – extension to rear (new application) No strong views

P00/SO973 Tanglewood High Street- amendment to plan No comment

Finance

Payments made between meetings to: Village Hall Management Committee; Bulletin Editor; and Oxon Assoc of Local Councils were approved. Cheques were agreed and signed for the following payments: Janet Holmes, Clerk's expenses; R M Weaver, grass cutting; Cornhill, insurance premium; and CPRE subscription.

The council considered a report from the Clerk on the expenditure for the year and the end of year balances. She also reported that the District Auditor had passed the accounts for the previous year.

Other Matters

The council received the formal motion of censure on the County Councillor passed at the Annual Assembly. After discussion, it was agreed that the matter would be closely monitored and reported back to the village as necessary.

The council then considered a lengthy report on a meeting between the Clerk and Councillor Grove, for the council, and the Highways Engineer for the area who was accompanied by Councillor Farrow. The outcome of this is that we may see some remedial work on various of our roads (fuller details are elsewhere in this issue). The press comment and letters from residents may have finally shamed the County Council into carrying through some of those long outstanding promises!

The next meeting of the Parish Council is 1 July at 8.00pm in the Village Hall. We welcome visitors and all parishioners are invited to our meetings.

Low cost housing – are you interested?

Many young people with close family ties in the village have had to live elsewhere because of the shortage of suitably priced housing. Our village survey some years ago pointed to this as a problem which needed attention.

We would like to know how much demand there would be if some low cost housing was to become available close to Whitchurch. If you have ties with the village and would be interested in such housing, please either contact any member of the Parish Council. If you want more information on housing, you can contact Adrian Alderton, the SODC Housing Enabler Officer, on 01491 823346.

Peter Minton

Report from the County Councillor

The last twelve months have been hectic as the council re-structured to comply with Government requirements. A decision was taken to move to a cabinet style executive with

Conservative and Liberal Democrat members whose actions are overseen by a Labour scrutiny committee.

This change has meant that executive and scrutiny members work four days a week to ensure a smooth operation of the council. I am an executive member with the Community Safety portfolio, which takes in crime and disorder, drugs and alcohol awareness, the Fire Service, Emergency Planning, and Consumer Protection.

The first major agenda item considered by the executive was the budget for 2002/2003; this was looked at very carefully in order to contain expense wherever we could, but at the same time ensuring that the services carried out by the County did not suffer and that the residents of Oxfordshire got the services they expect. Unfortunately though, providing these services meant an increase in this year's council tax of 9.8%. Full details can be found in the folder that came with your council tax notice.

John Farrow, County Councillor

GOING TO La Bouille

Although I have been on the fringes of the Twinning Association from the start, this year was my first visit – and I now wish that I hadn't left it so long! But Christine and Ken persuaded me I should go with them this year so off I went.

We have had a few French visitors stay with us (and Christine and Ken had also been there) and I had made speeches of welcome so I knew many of the French '*jumelage*' people. None the less, given my extremely patchy French, I was apprehensive about the trip. In the event, a very early start (5.00am) meant that we slept quite a lot of the time. The ferry was as smooth as one could wish and the coach journey at the other end another chance to snooze.

In La Bouille, we were met by our hosts and what a welcome we got. I was put at my ease immediately by all the ladies expecting to be kissed – a pleasure which was repeated each time one met them again! – and the warmth of the greeting. The evening passed in a haze of *pastis*, wine and cider plus great food. Next day was wet but we enjoyed looking around a museum of cider making and rural life and, in a rather brighter afternoon, a beautiful old village. More wining and dining that evening was followed by a modicum of shopping next day and an equally smooth passage home.

I really could kick myself for leaving it so long.....but I will be on the next coach, you can be sure. Why not join me?

Peter Minton

What about a Swop Shop?

Are you like us, with a mass of things which we no longer really need, which are too good for a jumble but with not enough of them to warrant dragging off to a boot sale?

I was reading an article on fund raising recently and it seems that some villages in the West Country are holding Swop Shops. A bit like a boot sale but usually held in a hall and instead of selling, things are actually swapped. A bit on the lines of:

'I like that lamp, will you swop it for something of mine?'

'Nothing here which I really want but I do like that tray over there, if you can do a deal on that I will swop my lamp with you.'

It would have to be within the village, larger items could be represented by photos and the swops could include services such as gardening, housework, baby sitting (a bit like a LETS scheme, in fact).

I am still working out how the organiser makes anything to cover costs and something for whichever worthy cause the swop shop is supporting but let us start with the basics. Is there enough interest for some of us to try and get this off the ground? Just give me a ring and discuss it or express an interest.

Peter Minton (9842516)

A Jubilee event?

When the council asked whether there was any interest in the village for a special Golden Jubilee event, the response was...actually, there was no response. So we decided that we should incorporate all the village events of the year into one long Jubilee celebration.

Suddenly, people are saying what a pity it is that there is not going to be some village get-together to include everyone from children to we older folk. The difficulty lies in not having a village open space, other than the allotments meadow –which has no loos attached, on which we could hold such an event.

It has been suggested that a grand village picnic would be a possibility, say towards the end of June after all the other neighbouring village fetes and so on. So we ask, are **you** interested in such an idea or do **you** have something that we could do as a village? Can you think of a suitable venue? What about an evening social/dance in the autumn? And if we get something going, will **you** help in setting it up and running it?

Do give us a ring on 984 2516

Chris and Peter Minton

FROM YOUR DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

At the Council meeting on 16th May, changes to the Waste Collection were made: many of the original proposals were dropped after strong public opposition, but it was decided that Wheelie bins would be introduced across the District in a phased scheme. There will continue to be weekly collections of both recyclable and non-recyclable waste. There are no plans to collect garden or organic waste as part of the regular collections and the Council has reduced its recycling targets. There will be no change for those currently entitled to assisted collections and, in addition, there will be a house to house consultation and assessment to ensure that Wheelie bins are given only to suitable households. Provision of £1.2m has already been made to cover the cost of buying these bins: these changes were not supported by my Group who felt that every effort should be made to improve the current system, and that it would be sensible to wait for a Government decision on exactly what extra waste can be recycled before making any costly changes.

The next Henley Area Forum will be held on 12th June at 7.00p.m. at Rotherfield Greys Village hall. Everyone is very welcome.

Deborah Whitfeld

Area Forums cover an area of several parishes, the Forums meet 5 times per year at various locations throughout the area. They provide an opportunity for representatives of the Parish and Town Councils District and County Councillors in the Forum's area to meet to discuss issues of common interest to them and to raise any concerns. The meetings are also open to members of the public and anyone is welcome to attend, and time is set aside for questions 'from the floor', at each meeting.

HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE

During the last two years, the Parish Council has repeatedly urged Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) to carry out necessary repairs to carriageways and footways around the village. Matters came to a head at the annual Village Assembly on 11th April when further excuses from OCC for lack of performance were tabled by the Parish Clerk. A motion of no confidence in our County Councillor, proposed and seconded from the floor, was carried unanimously.

There were two significant consequences of this vote of no confidence. First, the Director of OCC Environmental Services wrote to the Parish Clerk explaining the reasons for their poor performance and apologising for not informing the Parish earlier. Secondly, it was arranged that Councillor Farrow, together with the Area Highways Maintenance Engineer (Brian Short) and his deputy for our part of South Oxfordshire (Brian Purcel-Smith) would come to the village to examine the complaints at first hand. Accordingly, the Parish Clerk and myself met the Councillor and the Engineers outside the 'Greyhound' at 2pm on Monday 29th April.

We walked round the village via the 'Ferry Boat' narrows, Eastfield Lane, Swanston Field, Hardwick Road and the High Street. The following schedule of repairs was recorded and subsequently agreed with OCC.

1. The unauthorised erection of concrete bollards topped with green paint outside the church drive would be investigated.

2. The need for parking restriction opposite the 'Greyhound' to enable the school bus to turn into Eastfield Lane would be discussed with the Education Department.
3. The junction of Eastfield Lane with the High Street would be repaired.
4. On the footway between Eastfield Lane and Swanston Field, there is a water valve cover proud of the surface which could cause a trip hazard: this would be repaired.
5. Hardwick Road from the end of the Jubilee Footpath to the High Street would be completely resurfaced. Any loose granite setts in the kerb would be replaced as necessary.
6. The use of Muddy Lane for the collection of school children would be reviewed as part of the 'Better Ways to School' project.
7. The slip road to Hillside Nos 15-29 would be surface dressed and the junction with Hardwick Road repaired.
8. A large hole in the footway outside No 31 Swanston Field, caused by the removal of a dead tree stump, would be repaired as a matter of urgency.
9. The Area Engineer would review the relevant traffic orders for the High Street and advise on the possibility of additional signs or alternative measures for traffic calming.

I shall personally monitor progress on each of the items on this schedule. I should be happy to hear from any resident who has a suggestion or complaint about any aspect of highway maintenance.

Nigel Grove

Parish Councillor with specific responsibility for Village Maintenance

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.

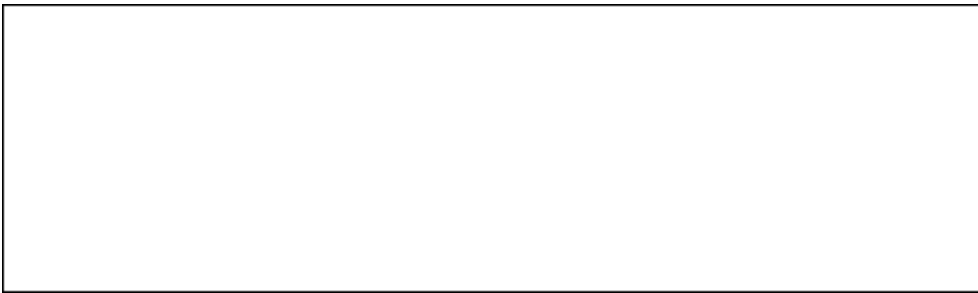
Whitchurch - located at the Village Hall Car Park

Goring Heath - located at the recreation ground lay by

Whitchurch

Goring Heath

| | | |
|-------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Wed 29 May | | from 0800-0950 |
| Wed 26 June | from 0800 to 0950 | from 1020 to 1210 |
| 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 18 May | from 0940 to 1100 | from 1150 to 1350 at Icknield |
| Sat 1 June | from 0800 to 0920 | from 0940 to 1100 at SODC |
| Wed 19 June | from 0800 to 0950 | from 0800 to 1045 at SODC |
| Sat 29 June | from 1150 to 1310 | from 0800 to 0950 at Icknield |
| 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

Oxfordshire Rural Learners Project 2002 - Learn about computers!

Those of you who were at the Annual Parish Meeting would have seen the presentation by Tim Coulson, OCC's Area Head of Adult and Community Learning, on the Oxfordshire Rural Learners Project 2002. This Project is aimed at people with no knowledge of computers who wish to learn the basics about what computers can do and how to use them.

This a great opportunity for those who would like to learn enough to write letters, send emails to friends, use the internet, and exchange family photographs around the world.

As far as Whitchurch-on-Thames is concerned, the first step will be some free "taster" courses to be run in the Village Hall. These will be informal, hand-on, events, and will assume that those present know absolutely nothing about computers. If you would like to register your interest in one of these taster courses, please complete and return the flier that came with this Bulletin.

Geoff Weir

Red Cross week – 5-11 May 2002

The recent house collection for the Red Cross in Whitchurch-on-Thames and Whitchurch Hill raised £524.67. Thank you for giving the British Red Cross your support and the collectors for giving so generously of their time.

Betty Hartley

WHITCHURCH PRE-SCHOOL GROUP - "learning through play"

With the beginning of summer term and the concurrent spell of good weather the children have enjoyed exploring their pre-school environment, in search of mini- beasts and bugs. This topic is always embraced with great enthusiasm. We also have an aquarium in the classroom where the children are watching with anticipation the transformation of tadpoles into frogs.

The children have also been learning about the different properties of seeds and their specific needs to grow. They have planted broad beans, tomato, sunflower and cress seeds, and will compare these seedlings as they sprout and grow. Their fascination and excitement for the world around them is inspiring.

The other topic also covered this term has been 'Once upon a Time'. The children have loved learning about the old time favourites of Goldilocks, Whatever Next, The Owl and the Pussy Cat, and Jack and the Beanstalk. They have produced an amazing colourful and textured collage of the Owl and the Pussy Cat, which we've hung on the pre-school wall.

They also love to dress up and act out these and other fairy tales, this creative time and experience is crucial to their social and educational development.

We are looking forward to the latter half of the summer term where we will be studying the topic "Around the World". This will include an exploration of cultures from several different countries. The children will get the opportunity to taste foreign foods, see various international costumes, and listen to foreign stories amongst many other things.

Summer also brings with it opportunities for enjoying the outdoors and we are looking forward to our annual picnic at Hardwick House, as well as the pre-school sports day, which will hopefully be enjoyed by all.

For further details on availability of spaces please contact Kasia Allan on 9842403.

Kathryn Aitchison 9844462

Report To Whitchurch Parish Annual Assembly

At the start of this term we opened with 100 pupils on the roll. The popularity of the school continues but it had meant we are an over subscribed school. We had 24 applications with only 15 places available. No 'out of catchment' children started at the school and some families in Whitchurch Hill were also unsuccessful. The reason is the increase in families with youngsters moving into the village. We will also be oversubscribed this year but it then looks as if it should return to normal. The LEA is closely monitoring the situation at present.

This year has been an important year in the life of the school as a £30,000 building project to re-model Classes 3 and 4 was completed. This has been very successful and, after a deep breath, we are about to do some smaller projects to improve the staff accommodation at the school. Once again, we express our thanks to those who gave so generously to help us complete the re-modelling project.

Since the last annual assembly we have enjoyed another very successful musical year and pupils continue to use their excellent musical talents to the full. They are all learning the recorder and many having private lessons on woodwind instruments or guitar. We are trying to find out if there is any local charitable trust that might feel able to support pupils to take music lessons when their family circumstances make it difficult for them to afford the lessons and instrument purchase. The community could help with this by donating any redundant instruments in full working order to the school for our pupils to use. Alternatively perhaps you could help us to get in touch with a source of income for lessons for those that have the aptitude to take part but are currently unable to do so.

Our meadowland was delightful last summer and we were pleased to be asked to open the garden on the village garden weekend. Much work has continued with the woodland corner this year and we look forward to lots of visitors this year too. Our link with the Wothabs group has been invaluable.

Our work with the Better Journeys To Schools team is just showing fruit with our new pathways being made on either side of the school drive to ensure our safety and improve the area for others also. We are hoping for an improvement to the surface at the top end of

Muddy Lane. The school bus in the afternoons is now smaller most evenings, which will make life easier. We continue to explore further ideas with the teams and hope that these will also benefit our neighbours.

Our After School Club goes from strength to strength and passed their OfSTED inspection with flying colours with the inspector complimenting the staff on their running of one the best facilities that she had inspected. We are looking to strengthen our links to Pre School by achieving Early Years status so creating a nursery class at the school as well as pre-school facilities for children less than four years old. Work will start shortly to upgrade the garden area used by pre-school and Class 1 so that this can be declared an outside classroom. Another very exciting venture started this year for our youngest pupils is the Forest School classroom. The children go once a week to an area of woodland kindly found for us on the Hardwick Estate and enjoy learning about life there as well as in our own school grounds.

Penny Smith

THE ALLOTMENTS

Allotmenters have been hard at work recently, this is the busiest time of the year in the Garden/Allotment, trying to get plants off to a good start.

Work on our allotment has been limited to containment: getting rid of raspberry canes that have grown beyond where they were wanted, weeding the strawberry bed, weeding our fruit trees and lastly but not least picking loads of rhubarb for ourselves as well as for friends and family. The rhubarb grows fantastically well on the Allotments and we have rather a lot of rhubarb crowns! It also needs very little attention which has been an essential requirement over the last winter as I was pregnant.

We are opening the Allotments on the Garden Walk Day as part of the Golden Jubilee celebrations, when we hope to show you how industrious we are.

I am always pleased to talk to anyone interested in having an allotment (or just half of one). *Rosamund Heath*

984 2358

Churchill Hospital League of Friends

The League is in need of volunteers to help in the tea-bar/shop at the Churchill Hospital in Oxford, which is open Monday to Friday. This is a very rewarding and worthwhile cause and however few hours you can spare would be greatly appreciated. We would value any help from people of whatever age, to enable us to continue giving this service which is much appreciated by the patients, staff and visitors. Assistance is given with travel expenses.

Come and have a chat and look around with no obligation. Please contact Miss MA Hughes or Mrs Webb on 01865 225598.

The latest news from Whitchurch football club and Paul Meakin Soccer schools.

No summer action for 5's:

The 5-a-side team will not be taking part in any tournaments over the Summer after a hectic season which saw us finish runners up in the Bradfield league 1st division.

The lads had an excellent season and recovered well from a 6-0 defeat in their first game.

Soccer courses restart:

Soccer courses restarted on 11th May at Langtree school, with 35 local Children between 5 and 10 years of age taking part in the first session of the ten week course.

I hope to be running a number of events and courses over the Summer, details of which will be displayed on our new website. www.paulmeakinsoccer.moonfruit.com

The World Cup:

Here we go again another summer spent watching the world's greatest players, playing the world's greatest game.

My prediction for winners is ARGENTINA !! - For obvious reasons I hope I am wrong !

COME ON ENGLAND !!

See you next season,

Paul Meakin

PANGBOURNE AND DISTRICT TENNIS CLUB

We had a successful beginning of the season and welcomed some new members to the club. It to have a dry sunny day! The junior coaching scheme same week, and it is good to see enthusiastic young hard to improve their tennis, and having fun at the



tournament, always helps started the players trying same time.

The official club night is now on a Friday, 6pm onwards, and Sunday afternoons are also on offer for club play. We have weekend groups that meet up for off-peak tennis. There are also opportunities to hire a court at £4 per hour (please see notice board for details).

The courts have recently been cleaned and painted, and we are very proud of the way they look. The recreation ground in Pangbourne has something for all the family, so why not stroll over sometime and see what is on offer.

For more information about tennis, please contact Lisa on 0118 939 3360, or for off-peak membership, Jenny on 0118 984 3588.

Lesley Crimp

A CALL TO ARTISTS, CRAFTS-PERSONS AND PHOTOGRAPHERS

The Whitchurch Society Art and Craft Exhibition 2002, will take place on Saturday 16th & Sunday 17th November at the Village Hall. This is a great opportunity to show your creations, win prizes, take part in workshops, view demonstrations and buy beautiful items.

The Exhibition is open to all residents (present and past) of Whitchurch and Goring Heath parishes, and to pupils at the schools in these two parishes. As usual there will be a range of categories of art, craft and photography for youngsters and adults. In addition, beginning this year, there is a special new category, The Joyce Voysey Prize, which is an open class, the theme of which this year is "*The Spirit of the Golden Jubilee*".

Whether you're a seasoned exhibitor or a first-time entrant, the Society will be delighted to welcome you to the Exhibition. So, get out your paints, cameras, needles or whatever tools you use for your particular craft, and start preparing your creations.

In addition to the exhibition of entries, there will also be art and craft related workshops and demonstrations throughout the two day.

More details of the categories, rules of entry, workshops etc. are available on the Whitchurch on Thames website www.whitchurchonthames.com. If you have any immediate questions call the Chair of the Organising Committee on 984 43 65.

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

By way of a Jubilee celebration WoT-Habs invites you to join in a **River Meadow Walk**. This is for the afternoon of **Sunday June 9th** (2-6 p.m.) in 'Throwers' Meadow, by kind permission of the owners, Pauline and Colin Thrower. The area is a designated **County Wildlife Site** and is reached by going westward to the end of Manor Road and through the gate. On the day you will be directed from there to the meadow. Regrettably, no dogs are allowed on the walk. Children must be accompanied and waterproof footwear or old shoes are advisable if you want to investigate all the interesting plants in the wet areas. Posters will be displayed around the village nearer the date but make a note in your diary now so as not to miss this special opportunity to see one of our village's usually hidden places. We hope the day will be fine, but the wildlife should be interesting even if it does rain, so come along anyway.

WoT-HABS are very happy that the School's Jubilee events include an official opening of the woodland area on June 10th and this seems a good place to say thank you to all the people who have helped make the wildlife happen in this corner of the school grounds. To avoid any confusion, I repeat, this is of course a **school** event.

Gill Goodwin (0118 9842934)

Home thoughts from the Gutter on Litter Blitz Day

To quote Bill Shakespeare freely "We few, we willing few we band of brothers and sisters". I wonder how we shall be re-mem-ber-red, probably as the "band of suckers".

When I was at work we acknowledged the 80/20 rule, but on Litter Blitz day in Whitchurch the rule is nearer 100/2 – 100% of the work done by 2% of the people.

I realise there are some who reckon the street cleaning is the job of the "Council" but those who attended the Village Meeting will realise that when cultural centres and cinemas are built in Didcot and money "Ring Fenced" for road maintenance is siphoned off onto other things, there is little left to keep the streets clean and in good repair.

Litter Blitz is what it says, picking up litter (which shouldn't be there in the first place, but that is another story), so, when the Whitchurch Society asks the residents of Whitchurch to give up a couple of hours on 2 days per year, let us all support them.

I know there are many no longer physically capable, but it should be possible to have 100 able-bodied people assemble to pick up litter and generally tidy up the Village. That will still only be 12.5% but better than at present. If you cannot be present on the Sunday morning. Give a couple of hours at another time.

Tony Voysey

ROTARY CLUB OF PANGBOURNE DRAGONBOAT RACE

June 15 and 16, 2002

Following last year's very successful event, the Rotary Club of Pangbourne are once again organising a Charity Dragonboat Race on Saturday and Sunday, June 15 and 16, 2002, in conjunction with Henley Dragons Dragonboat Club. It will be rowed on the Thames at Pangbourne as part of the Jubilee Summer Fete.

Breast Cancer Awareness, Royal Berks. Hospitals Cardiac Unit and Local Charities will be the beneficiaries. Teams can raise money for their own nominated charities through sponsorship.

There will be separate races on each day, with prizes and certificates. The knockout competition guarantees each team three races. Teams will be between 17-20 people and individuals who wish to enter should contact one of the numbers below. All equipment is supplied and the event will be supervised by trained and experienced personnel.

For only £15 per head you can come along and enjoy a totally new experience, have a great deal of fun and excitement, while at the same time helping some very worthwhile causes.

For details and entry form contact Brian Jenkins, c/o Jubilee Day Nursery, Rectory Road, Padworth RG7 4JD Tel: 0118 - 970 1701 (Business) 0118 - 970 1396 (home), or Ken King, 22 Nursery Gardens, Purley-on-Thames RG8 8AS Tel: 0118 377 3522 (Business) 0118 377 3522 (Home).

Cliff Meredith

WHITCHURCH HILL JUBILEE FETE

SATURDAY 1st JUNE at 2pm

On the Village Green

Beer and Tea Tents - Ferret Racing - Children's Races

Barbeque - Band - "doggy look-a-like"

Street Theatre - lots of stalls & raffle

Games – Bottle Stall

PAINTINGS EXHIBITION AND SALE BY LOCAL ARTISTS

Come along to the 5th Annual Rotary Club of Pangbourne Paintings Exhibition, which will be held at Pangbourne Village Hall, on Saturday and Sunday, June 8th and 9th, 2002. It is your opportunity to see a big display of the work of local artists and maybe to purchase a picture.

Prices start from about £15.

The exhibition is open to the public on Saturday from 10 am until 6 pm and Sunday from 10 am until 4pm. Admission is only £1.

Over 450 paintings by more than 100 local artists will be exhibited. Artists are mainly from Reading, Newbury, Mortimer, Henley, Pangbourne, Basildon, Tilehurst, Whitchurch, Goring and other areas generally within a radius of 15 miles of Pangbourne. So please do come along and support local artists.

Last year nearly 100 of the paintings exhibited were sold to the value of about £8,000 and over 500 people attended the event.

For further information contact Cliff Meredith on 0118 984 3721

The Whitchurch and Goring Heath History Society

In April we were greatly entertained by an illustrated talk given by Alan Copeland on *Curiosities of the Chilterns* showing many things that are passed by too quickly to see or just hidden. These included old road signs, a memorial stone to a deceased monkey and another to a deceased or disgraced son (depending on whether you believe in ghosts or Victorian social snobbery), kilns and wells, and the local iron stag.

In May we had a 'Bring a Jubilee Thing'. Always a popular evening, these 'Bring a Thing' evenings allow members to dust off and bring out their treasures and tell us about them so we had plates, mugs, cups and saucers, magazines, poetry, programmes and books all commemorating many Royal coronations and jubilees over the last 130 years. We also learned what Reading was like in 1953, still rationed but recovering from the war, who got their coronation medals or prayer books and who had street parties in the rain.

In June we are having a guided tour of Henley by a Blue Badge guide and in July a visit to Wallingford Castle and Museum. Also in June we are having a tour of Bozedown House. These visits are for members only but you can become a member by giving your subscription of £5 to Tony Voysey (984 3946), Vicky Jordan (984 3260) or myself (984 4489).

Sue Matthews

LIFEBOAT WEEK 2002

The Pangbourne & District branch of the RNLI held its Lifeboat fundraising week on April 14th to 20th this year. The District covers Pangbourne, Goring, Streatley, Bucklebury, Chapel Row, Ashampstead, Frilsham, Yattendon, Aldworth, Woodcote, Whitchurch, Whitchurch Hill, Beenham and Theale.

We are very grateful to all the collectors in those villages whose efforts contributed to an excellent result again, raising £5247 towards the cost of maintaining a life saving service around our coastline.

Tony Voysey – Hon. Sec.

'Our Place' Exhibition at the Oxfordshire Record Office

From 7 May to 12 June, the Oxfordshire Record Office in St Luke's Church in Cowley will be hosting an exhibition of various maps, banners, tapestries, books, videos, church kneelers and CD-roms made by people living in rural communities in Oxfordshire. The life and landscape of our unique county is celebrated in this special exhibition and entry is free of charge to all. On Saturday June 1st all visitors will have the chance to tour the Record Office and take part in workshops run by local artists. Again, entry is free of charge.

Further details on either 01865 883488 or the Record Office on 01865 398200.

Free Bite Size Computer Courses

This summer there will be 2 free courses in Goring Primary School offered by Langtree & Goring Community Education Centre. Both are taught by Stella Kendall and run from 7.30pm to 9.30pm.

On Tuesday 11th June there will be "Introduction to the Internet" and on Tuesday 14th June "Introduction to Computing"

These courses are being funded by learndirect and you will probably see other publicity about their bite size courses throughout the country. You can call learndirect on 0800 100 900 for information and advice any weekday between 9am and 9pm.

These sessions are absolutely free and are open to anyone who has not participated in learning either since they left school, or over the last 3 years. If you would like to spend one of these evenings being taught on computers please ring the answerphone in the local office 01491 681359 and we will arrange everything for you.

Jenny Horsup

Langtree & Goring Community Education

WADS SUMMER PRODUCTION

WOODCOTE VILLAGE HALL



JUNE 27, 28 and 29 2002

@ 19.45

JUBILEE JAMBOREE

A Celebration of Life

a selection of songs , sketches , poems and readings

intended to make you

laugh ...

... cry ...

... or just plain reminisce !

Bella Saunders produces this production. She has

produced previous popular and acclaimed WADS

Productions such as our "Millenium revue"

Tickets £5 concessions £4 (except Saturday performance)

Box Office opens 7th June 01491 680205

Don't forget the Young Riparians Golden Jubilee Performance

June 21st and 22nd in the Village Hall.

Tickets from Trudy Skidmore

Oxfordshire Advisory Committee on Appointment of Justices of the Peace

Are you a good listener?

Can you see both sides of an argument?

Do you like a good discussion?

Do you like to see fair play?

Then you could dispense justice in your community!

Why not be a magistrate?

Magistrates try to reflect the community they live in. That means we need a mix of people from all walks of life and ethnic groups, with different backgrounds and skills. The role is a fascinating one. It opens up many new avenues of interest and gives an insight into how we live and behave in the 21st century – ‘justice to the people by the people’. Few of us have any legal background, and training is provided and continuous. All you need is good character, common sense and the personal skills listed above.

A typical day in court might include motoring offences, theft, supply of drugs, affray, assault, drink-driving and burglary. Sentences for these offences vary from conditional discharge or a fine to 6 months in prison. Try arranging them in order of seriousness!

Interested? Contact your local Magistrates Court or Advisory Committee for an information pack and details on how to apply:

Kate Skeates – 01865 448011 – kate.skeates@tv.mcs.gov.uk

Or: The Advisory Committee for the Justices of the Peace in Oxfordshire Malcolm Leeding, Committee Sec – 01865 815327 – gail.morris@oxfordshire.gov.uk

DO IT TODAY!

TEENAGERS

As GPs, Nurses and Parents dealing with Teenagers we are all aware that they can at times be difficult to understand and help.

However Teenagers also have high rates of Injury due to accidents, illegal drug use and pregnancy and may well be in need of medical help.

As a group they can be embarrassed to seek help, reluctant to discuss their problems with Doctors, Nurses or their Parents and have very different health concerns from adults. There are also many myths about health among Teenagers and they often discuss their problems with each other rather than health professionals, Parents or Teachers. With this in mind two Internet Websites have been set up to provide information about common teenage health worries.

www.teenagehealthfreak.org

www.doctorann.org

These are both free to the user, available all the time, are totally confidential and have interactive sites for Email questions and answers.

Commonly asked questions are about sex, diet and weight, minor illnesses (such as headaches) and smoking. Body image, drugs, skin problems, moods, periods, alcohol, serious illness, bullying and family problems are also asked about.

The Boat House Surgery

SLEEP DISORDERS

Sleep Apnoea is a condition characterised by excessive sleepiness during the day, which can cause problems at work and especially when driving. This is caused by interrupted sleep during the night as the sufferer's breathing stops, causing them to wake, sometimes as often as 10-15 times an hour during the night. Sufferers tend to snore loudly, it is more common in men and may affect up to 8% of the population.

It is important to diagnose this condition as it is treatable and can be associated with Stroke, Hypertension, Heart disease and Driving Accidents. If suspected, Referral to a Chest Specialist should be made for Special Sleep Studies and Assessment.

Weight loss, Smoking Cessation, reduced Alcohol Consumption and Posture adjustments in bed all help.

The Boat House Surgery

WHITCHURCH NSPCC BRIDGE TOURNAMENT

The recent annual bridge tournament made £480 for the NSPCC. Very many thanks to all who played and contributed.

Jane MacCaw

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT:

Alan and Ros Heath are pleased to announce the birth of their third child at home: Alexander James Heath on 29th April 2002. Weight: 6lb 15½ oz.

Ed: We look forward to printing more announcements in the future. Let me know your triumphs and disasters, additions and unions, and I will be pleased to publish them.

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

Please send your contributions **preferably by e-mail to sarah@pongo.freerve.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 July 2002.

(Flier)

Oxfordshire Rural Learners Project 2002 – Registration of Interest

(Please see the article in the Bulletin explaining the Oxfordshire Rural Learners Project 2002)

So that we can begin to focus on your village needs can you outline below which time and day slot would best suit your attendance at a taster course of 3 hours.

The rest of the village hall use will also have to be considered but we need your feedback to inform everybody of the chosen day, date and times of the sessions.

I would envisage if all goes well that you can expect to be up and running by June at the latest!

Thank you for your support in this exciting new venture for Oxfordshire.

Tim Coulson

| | | |
|------------------|-------------------|------|
| I would prefer : | Morning session | 10-1 |
| | Afternoon session | 2-5 |
| | Evening session | 6-9 |

Please tick one of the above as your first choice

Preferred day of the week

Beginner has only one meaning for the project, those who know next to nothing about using a computer but have an enthusiasm for learning.

Please return this form to:

Tim Coulson
Chiltern Edge CEC
Reades Lane
Sonning Common
RG4 9LN

The views that may be expressed by individual contributors to **The Bulletin** are not necessarily those of the Whitchurch Parish Council or the Editor
