

Whitchurch on Thames Parish Council

Parish Council Chairman's Address to the Annual Assembly

Dr Oppenheimer thanked everyone for attending the annual Parish assembly on 14th April. The village has had a busy year and various organisations provided updates on their activities and achievements.

Parish Plan

The chairman thanked all those who have been involved in producing an excellent plan including Stephen Trinder, Richard Wingfield, Anna Szczeponek, Audrey Kingham, Harry Butterworth, Kate Preston, Peter Smith and many others.

(Stephen's report appears later in this issue)

Traffic Calming

The white line in the middle of the High Street has been removed. In similar villages this has been a successful way of slowing the traffic. We hope that we will see a similar benefit in Whitchurch.

The Parish Council are not allowed to install devices to warn drivers that they are exceeding the speed limit. The reason for this is that the most recent Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) traffic shows that there isn't a speeding problem in Whitchurch. Peter Ronald, the OCC traffic engineer, says that speeding is only a perceived problem when they apply their criteria.

The Parish Council are pursuing the possibility of a 20 mph limit and await a further OCC speed survey to see if the removal of the white lines has had any effect.

Roads Pavements and Footpaths in Whitchurch

The Parish Council representatives walked round the village last year and documented the poor state of repair of many of the roads, pavements and footpaths in the village. The Parish Council will keep the list under regular review and ensure that all the necessary work is completed.

Crime in Whitchurch and the Neighbourhood watch scheme

Two recent burglaries in the village have highlighted the importance of this issue in Whitchurch. Our Community Police Support Officer Mark Bell has been attending our meetings and brought two officers who run Neighbourhood Watch schemes to meet us and discuss more village involvement in such schemes.

Until recently Geoff Weir was the sole representative. Please get involved: there is plenty of evidence that it really makes a difference. Councillor Keith Brooks joined as co-ordinator in Eastfield Lane and District Councillor Pearl Slatter in the High Street. If anyone is interested in setting up a scheme in their street please look on the village website for more information.

Village Hall

The purchase of the Village Hall, the two verges along Manor Road and the Playground by the PC from SODC is now complete for the sum of £4,500. Refurbishment of the hall is planned for August and the Parish Council hope this will encourage greater use and better income generation for future investment.

Cricket Ground

The Whitelocks and the Parish Council are intending to make a joint application for planning permission for change of use of the cricket ground. The land has been used as a Cricket Ground for many years and the Parish Council is keen to secure the future of cricket in the village. The Parish Council is also interested in using the ground for other purposes such as football and school activities at times that do not conflict with the summer cricket matches and practice.

It is the potential benefit to the whole community that could be decisive when South Oxfordshire District Council considers the planning application in due course. Written support will be vital to secure planning permission.

Bulletin

The Bulletin continues to be edited on behalf of the Parish Council by Sarah Butterworth and the Parish Council are all most grateful to her. Please keep sending articles of interest to Sarah so she can continue to do the excellent job that she does.

Website

David Robinson very kindly runs the website on behalf of the Parish Council and welcomes photos and news items to keep this up to date. An important recommendation of the Parish plan is that the website should be reviewed. The village is very fortunate to have the help of Richard Wingfield and Kate Thatcher who are already working with David to modernise the format of the website and update the content.

Parish Councillor vacancy

There is a vacancy on the Parish Council as Nigel Cabeldu is standing down. Nigel has many other commitments and we are very grateful for all his help while he has been on the Council. He has given invaluable advice on many subjects and we shall miss him.

If you are interested in joining the Parish Council please contact our Parish Clerk. There are lots of interesting projects underway and plenty of suggestions for the future from the Parish Plan so it really is a very interesting time to join.

Everyone is welcome to attend our bi-monthly meetings, on Mondays in the Village Hall meeting room at 8.00pm. There is a calendar on the website and notices are put on the Parish Notice boards in the High street and outside the Village Hall to tell you when they are.

Whitchurch Toll Bridge

You will all be aware that a Public Inquiry is to be held in the Elephant Hotel on the 2nd and 3rd of June to consider the recent application of the Whitchurch Bridge Company (WBC) to increase the tolls to 40p. The Inquiry will be run by the Planning Inspectorate and will hear the views of the Whitchurch Bridge Company and those in the village who support or object to the proposed increase in the tolls. The Parish Council will be attending the Inquiry on behalf of the village to object to the proposed increase. More information should appear on the website.

Summary of Meeting on Tuesday 12th May 2009

Annual election of chairman and vice-chairman

The Parish Council would like to thank Dr Matilda Oppenheimer for all her hard work as chairman. She has been in this role for 5 years and is stepping down due to other commitments. Dr Oppenheimer has made a huge contribution to many Parish Council projects. The Council was delighted to hear that she will remain on the Parish Council and continue to lead on large projects such as working towards the cricket field purchase and the toll bridge public inquiry.

The Parish Council welcomed Harry Butterworth as the new chairman. Vincent Aldridge will continue as vice-chairman.

Parish Council Vacancy

The Council voted unanimously to co-opt Anna Szczeponck to the vacant position.

School consultation on speeding traffic

The Parish Council have been in discussions with Whitchurch School about consulting parents and children on traffic speed in the village. This will be centred on how safe the children feel when walking to school. More information will be published in future editions.

New Waste Collection Scheme

The scale of the new arrangements was emphasized by District Councillor Pearl Slatter. It is very important that all households read the information already circulated so that realise the implications for themselves. If in doubt got to www.southoxon.gov.uk or ring 01491 823000.

Toll Bridge Enquiry

Councillor Dr Oppenheimer reported that the Whitchurch Bridge Company had released their accounts to the Parish Council, which are being examined by a professional accountant.

Cricket Field

Councillor Dr Oppenheimer reported that discussions were continuing. There is a lot of work to be done, but the outlook for the Cricket Field becoming a Village amenity is good.

Street Lighting

Oxfordshire County Council are considering whether to turn off street lights between 12.30am and 5.30am to help to reduce carbon emissions. They are consulting with the Parish Council and the police. The Parish Council would like to hear the views of residents before responding. If you have any comments please send these to the Parish clerk at wotParishclerk@aol.com

Planning applications

Reference	Location	Description	Parish Council Decision
P09/E0305 Racquets	High Street	Garden room with a single pitch roof	No objections
P09/E0326 Lynches Lodge	High Street	Erection of two storey front extension with hipped and pitched roofs	No objections

From Oxfordshire Rural Community Council

Playday, Wednesday 5th August, is a national event to encourage children to get out and play. Events can be held in a garden, park, anywhere. Think of a playful idea and make it happen for our children. Outdoor events for children are especially encouraged. Grants of £50 to £500 are available but the closing date for application is May 31st.

More information: Jane Gallagher at Oxfordshire Play Association, 01864 779 474 email jane.gallagher@oxonplay.org.uk or Meryl Smith on 01865 883488

THE WHITCHURCH SOCIETY

GARDEN WALKS 2009

SUNDAY 7TH JUNE

If you would like to open your garden for the event this year please do contact us

Ian Bruce (Secretary) on 01189 842653 or e-mail at ian.bruce@btinternet.com

Helen Beadsworth on 01189 844394 or e-mail at Helen@bworth.co.uk

Gardens will open from 2 to 4 pm.

With the generous agreement of Matilda and Neil King, tea and cakes will be served in The White House garden from 3.30 pm.

Cost £3 adults, £1 children.

VILLAGE PLAN

The Plan has been completed and distributed. It is naturally gratifying that the document itself seems to be generally well regarded and I repeat my thanks for all the help we were given by so many people.

While the first half of the job may be said to have been done –the production of the Plan itself - it may be equally true to say that the more difficult part is just beginning – namely the successful implementation of its recommendations.

Two points merit underlining:

- 1 We were at pains to confine ourselves to issues which we felt we had a good chance of addressing successfully. Most fall into the normal sphere (and importantly, the budgets) of Parish and District Council business and we shall be pressing those concerned to deliver on them.
- 2 A subsidiary goal has been that the Plan should be a catalyst for greater involvement in the affairs of the village. Much of what we want to do will depend on a high degree of voluntary effort. I hope therefore that people will come forward to run Neighbourhood Watches, community events and generally contribute to the activities of the Whitchurch Society, the Cricket Club, WotHabs, Twinning and other societies which make Whitchurch a vital community.

We are making a good start. The Parish Council is setting up to tackle various issues, plans are in hand to give the Hall a modest facelift, the website is being re-designed, enquiries about a footpath to Hardwick have been opened to name a few. So if there is anything on that list of actions in which you are interested, please let us know.

Stephen Trinder

La Bouille Visitors Enjoy Visit to Whitchurch and Goring Heath

Friday the 1st May saw a coach full of 36 people from La Bouille arrive at the Goring Heath Parish Hall. This was an unusually large group and we were very pleased to welcome a number of new visitors to Whitchurch and to include a number of new families to host them.

Our French guests spent Friday with their host families who arranged various activities ranging from relaxing over lunch and tours of the village to a quick trip to London. In the evening we officially welcomed our visitors at a reception and dinner. We were pleased that our District Councillor, Pearl Slatter, was able to come along and speak. We wrapped up the evening with a showing of Nick Brazil's video of the village.

On Saturday we headed off to Oxford, stopping on the way to Harcourt Arboretum. Here, we took a walk through the bluebell woods before finding a clearing to set out our picnics in the sunshine.

In Oxford, we split into loosely-formed groups to follow a walking tour of the historic city centre. This took in Christchurch Meadow, passing various colleges, and the Botanic Garden. We enjoyed a welcome cup of tea and cake at the crypt café of St. Mary's church before completing our tour and returning to Whitchurch.

On Saturday evening, host families got together in different groups for dinner. Sunday morning came round all too quickly and it was time to bid farewell to our visitors.

Young Riparians French Café Evening

Our next event will be a show on a French theme acted by the Young Riparians, with wine and cheese French café style. The dates are the 3rd and 4th July. Look out for further details nearer the time.

Visit www.whitchurchwinning.org.uk for photos of the visit and for details of forthcoming events.

THE WIND IN THE E-MAILS

I recently had the following interesting e-mail exchange with Professor Peter Hunt:

Dear Mr Brazil,

I wonder if you could help - or point me in the right direction? I'm working on a new edition of *The Wind in the Willows* for the Oxford University Press World's Classics series, and following various backwaters - and there's one that may interest you.

In the Grahame papers in the Bodleian, I found a letter that Grahame wrote on 22 December, 1922, in reply to girl named Joyce at Whitchurch P. School:

‘It is very pleasant to think that you and your friends at Whitchurch like the book, because there is just as much of Oxfordshire and [as?] Berkshire in it, isn't there? And some of the animals must have lived on one side of the river and some on the other, but I have always felt sure that Toad Hall was on the Oxfordshire side.’ (Bodleian MSS Eng. misc. d. 527).

To which I replied as follows:

Dear Professor Hunt,

I was both delighted and interested to receive your e-mail about Kenneth Grahame and *The Wind in The Willows* and I will put answers the points you make in red next to them for clarity.

If you would like to visit our lovely village I would be pleased to show you around.

Thank you for your generous comments about my website.

Kind regards,

Nick Brazil

The rest of Professor Hunt's original e-mail and my replies which are in italics for the purposes of this article are as follows:

Kenneth Grahame spent a great deal of his time in Pangbourne and Whitchurch in the early part of 20th Century and was a friend of Sir Charles Day Rose who owned the local stately home known as Hardwick House which is situated at the eastern end of the village. Grahame's description of Toad Hall in The Wind in The Willows closely matches that of Hardwick House. In addition to this Sir Charles was a very keen motorist and founder member of The Royal Automobile Club. He also owned a large Mercedes Benz drophead tourer which he used to drive at great speed through the village and terrify the locals. The Rose family who still own Hardwick House believe, as I do that "Toad" is in fact an affectionate pen portrait of Sir Charles who died of a heart attack following an aeroplane flight in 1913

So I looked up Whitchurch (I'm ashamed to say that I had not come across it before) and found your excellent web-site, and the reference to your DVD called 'Mr Toad's Village'. Now, as for some reason Whitchurch doesn't seem to be mentioned in anything written about Grahame (and I've got most of it!), I was wondering if you, or a local historian could help me (all footnotes acknowledged, of course!):

"A Profound Secret" by Josceline Dimbleby deals with Grahame's association with the Roses and Hardwick House in considerable detail. Unfortunately, she wrongly places the House in Berkshire presumably because of the wretched post code. In fact we are in Oxfordshire.

Would I be right in assuming that the P in 'Whitchurch P. School' stands for 'parochial'?

Primary I think.

How did Whitchurch come to have the name 'Mr Toad's Village' ?

This was actually the name I gave it for the purpose of my documentary and for the reasons stated above. If you would like a copy of the dvd it is £10:00 plus £2:50 post and packing.

Are there any other connections between Whitchurch and Kenneth Grahame that have been overlooked?

I do not think so. He and his wife actually moved to Church Cottage in Pangbourne just across the river. They never got over the suspected suicide of their son who jumped or fell in front of a train at Oxford. By coincidence, E.H. Shepherd who was Grahame's favourite illustrator of "The Wind In The Willows" was a personal friend of my grand mother. There are two other interesting literary connections with Whitchurch but that's another story!

With all good wishes,

Peter

Professor Peter Hunt MA PhD FISTC

Dear Nick -

Very many thanks for your phone call: you take the prize for the most co-operative (and fruitful) contact on this project! I'm following up all your leads, and I'll keep you in touch. I'll let you have the money for the DVD immediately it arrives, unless a credit card number would be easier for you.

I did find your website (as opposed to the village's) and it's very impressive. I hope things continue to thrive - and you can put me down for a Wallingford railway DVD now!

Peter

In conclusion...

On reflection, I think I was wrong to suggest that Whitchurch P School in Grahame's Bodleian letter referred to Primary. Primary seems to be a much more modern name so Parochial is the more likely title.

It would be fascinating to find out the identity of the little girl named Joyce to whom Grahame wrote this letter. Perhaps somebody in the village knows who she is.

Nick Brazil

WoTHabs

We had a lovely day for the cowslip walk and were very pleased to see more than 60 adults and lots of children. Sally and Lorna Woolhouse had again devised an intriguing quiz. The grey animal fur, which turned out to be the underfur of a rabbit, certainly foxed at least one who thought it was badger fur! The view from the top of the hill, near the trig point, was wonderfully clear and many people enjoyed identifying what they could see on the horizon with the help of binoculars. Printed signs which helped us notice all sorts of plants as well as the cowslips, added to the interest of the day. There were tractor rides and very clearly marked routes for those who liked to walk. We had a kettle on the go all the afternoon in readiness, sold more cups of tea than usual and all the homemade cakes, which were supplied by WoTHabs members, sold out. Many thanks go to all those who helped on the day and especially to Sandra Parkinson for the care of this beautiful part of Whitchurch and for allowing us to enjoy it too.

Gill Goodwin

Wildlife Explorers event

This is now planned for Sunday 21st June (11am – 3pm approx). It is aimed at primary age children, plus parents if they wish. We shall explore some of the interesting different habitats at Chalkhills, as well as some games and a walk. Numbers will be limited so do get in touch with me very soon if you are interested.

Whitchurch Volunteers?

Are you the sort of person that hates committee meetings but likes to get stuck into the occasional practical task? WoTHabs is made up of a small number of 'not-as-young-as-we-were' members and we now struggle to cope with the many jobs that we would like to do within the parish. It has occurred to us that this might be a good time to form a new body, called perhaps the Whitchurch Volunteers, which would act in partnership with WoTHabs and the Whitchurch Society. This group would undertake a variety of regular and one-off practical tasks within the parish, which could be WoTHabs projects, but not exclusively – other jobs such as the Maze maintenance or tree-planting could be undertaken. Hopefully it would appeal to active residents who would like get some fresh air and exercise, and make a visible difference to their surroundings. PLEASE let me know if you are interested in this idea.

Sally Woolhouse 984 4365 or sally.woolhouse@homecall.co.uk.



We're looking forward to summer here at Whitchurch Pre-School. Do come and visit us at our stall at the Whitchurch Hill Fete on Saturday May 23rd. You might also be interested to come along and see the Toad Hall Fun Run on Sunday June 28th. This is organised by the Primary School; Pre-School will be manning a beer stall and barbeque. Of course, we'll also be running the Whitchurch Fete on Saturday September 5th and we've got some great attractions planned for this.

Pre-school will also be supporting the Big Toddle again this year, on June 16th. The children toddle around Beale Park seeing the animals and having fun whilst also raising funds for both Pre-school and Barnardo's.

Each week, our children enjoy activities focused around the weekly theme. This term's topics involve the theme of 'Around the World'; we'll be exploring the different continents in a fun way.

If anyone has any children they wish to register for Pre-School, please contact Kathy Aitchison on 984 4462 or Helen Lowney on 984 4516.

Whitchurch Bridge Club

Once again a very successful Charity Bridge Drive was held in the Village hall in March. A delicious supper was cooked and served by the young mothers of the Pre-School, followed by light hearted bridge.

Over the past 30 years the Bridge Club has annually donated to chosen charities. This year the Pre-school benefited by the sum of £350 which they plan to put towards the large amount they need to raise to replace the existing building that will soon be deemed uninhabitable.

This annual event is open to non-members, who are always very welcome.

It's official : Langtree is outstanding.

On Thursday 5th March Ofsted confirmed what many members of the school community had believed for some time, that Langtree is indeed an outstanding school. HMI concluded at the end of the inspection process that Langtree could be graded as outstanding in 25 out of the 27 statutory categories – an almost unprecedented record - confirming the overall judgement that Langtree is now one of only three outstanding schools in the whole of Oxfordshire. In her report, HMI Cathie Munt concluded that ‘Langtree has made the transition from being a good school in 2005 to one that is providing an outstanding quality of education.....students flourish in a supportively challenging climate that encourages them to give of their best academically and personally’.

The school's impressive attainment data in recent years set the tone for the inspection report. The school gained national recognition in recent years for KS3 results which placed the school in the top 10% of schools nationally, and KS4 results which secured a place in the top 25% of schools across the country. The HMI celebrated these consistently high standards by confirming that ‘The standards reached by students in external tests and examinations are consistently and considerably above those of schools nationally.....almost all students make excellent progress in their learning and their all-round achievements compare most favourably with schools nationally’.

In a glowing report on the school's outstanding progress since the 2005 inspection, Ofsted identified a wide range of strengths, including the high level of support for the school from parents and carers, the high level of teamwork within the school, the significant impact of the specialist performing arts status, the quality of the teaching which was deemed to be of ‘the highest calibre’ and the overall level of confidence which the students expressed in their staff.

In the light of all these plaudits for current achievements, it is also extremely gratifying to note the confidence of Ofsted in the school's capacity to improve still further and to make progress into the future. The lead inspector concluded that ‘There is no resting on laurels here – each success is celebrated and then staff move on swiftly, planning always how to reach the next level....The school looks to the future with almost uncontained excitement’. Headteacher Rick Holroyd said ‘While it is extremely gratifying to become only the third Oxfordshire deemed to be outstanding, I am very clear in my mind that outstanding does not mean perfect. There are many ways in which we all recognise we can improve and there is still a great deal to do. We will continue in our determination to evaluate all that we do, find solutions to the challenges which still face us, and implement the changes which will support our further success’.

It is with this sense of determination that Langtree is already planning strategic developments to take the school forward over the next five years. It is the hope of the Headteacher, senior staff and governors that parents will continue to support the staff throughout the next phase of development and continue to enjoy a long and fruitful association with an ‘outstanding’ school.

WOODCOTE LIBRARY

May promises to be a busy month, with two events, an art exhibition, and two bank holidays!

Our first event is a Silver Surfers' Session, to be held on the morning of May 15th, from 10am to midday. The aim is to introduce people to what can be done on our free Peoples' Network computers, whether it be e-mailing, surfing the web or using the scanner and other programmes. We can spend about half an hour with each person, so please ask at the desk to book in.

On Tuesday 26th May from 2pm to 5pm we have an event for National Family Week organised by Mel Gannon, Langtree's artist in residence. This is during the May school holiday, so we hope that adults and children of all ages will come and join in.

Bank holiday closures will be on Monday 4th and Monday 25th.

CRANFORD HOUSE SCHOOL, MOULSFORD

FAMILY FUN DAY AND OPEN AIR CONCERT
SATURDAY 13 JUNE 2009

A great day out for the family with under 5s going for free. There will be lots of fun and exciting activities including: pedal karts, a bouncy castle, static tractor, helicopter, fire engine displays, football challenge, crazy golf, test your strength competition, face painting and a Punch and Judy Show. There will also be ice creams, strawberries and cream, cakes and a pig roast.

The open air concert will consist of contemporary and traditional proms favourites performed by Cranford House and other local school choirs.

TIME :- Fun Day - 2pm - 5pm, Picnics – 5pm - 6pm, Concert - 6pm - 8.30pm
FUN DAY PRICE Adults £3, children 5-16 years £2, under 5's free

CONCERT PRICE (INCLUDES ENTRY TO FUN DAY)
Adults £15, children 5-16 years £7.50, under 5's free

TICKETS & INFO 01491 651218,
office@cranfordhouse.oxon.sch.uk for more details

THE ALLOTMENT SOCIETY

The new season is well underway and the veggies are growing away – in my case half on the allotment and half in the greenhouse and some in the cold frame. Let's hope we don't get a late frost – but it has been known. One year we had one in early June

We now have a very active society where non-activity is noticed! Enquiries, as always, are welcomed; your name will be added to our growing waiting list.

Rosamund Heath. 0118 984 2358

PS: If anyone has a black dalek-type compost bin they no longer use because they have a Brown Bin for their composting, there are a few Allotment Society members who would like to "re-cycle" them! Please phone me if you wish to get rid of one and I will collect it.

Brides and Blooms

27th & 28th June

An open gardens weekend in the beautiful Pang Valley village of Stanford Dingley. Many gardens will be open to the public.

We are calling the weekend Brides and Blooms as there will be a display of wedding dresses in the ancient church of St Denys.

These dresses will date from early 1800 to last year. Each dress will form a tableau consisting of dress, veil, invitation, order of service and photos of the bride and groom. The original music will be played through out the day.

In addition there will be open artist studios, tea, cakes, ice cream, candy floss, plant stalls and a jazz band on the village green.

On the Saturday evening there will be a concert in one of the old barns featuring 'The Four Voices'. The concert will run from 7.30 - 9.30 and tickets cost £10 inc. a glass of wine in the interval.

£5 entry includes all gardens and church (under 16's free)

All profits to Stanford Dingley Projects
& Bradfield Primary School

WADS
Forthcoming Production of

***“Key For Two” – By John Chapman and Dave
Freemen***

The Woodcote Amateur Dramatic Society (WADS) proudly presents a comedy production from the writers John Chapman and Dave Freeman. In “Key for Two”, a wickedly amusing play, Harriet, a divorcee living in an elegant flat in Brighton, solves her financial problems by entertaining two married gentlemen callers on different days of the week. The scheme faces collapse when her friend Anne, who’s marriage is tottering, arrives at the flat hotly pursued by her husband.

One of Harriet’s lovers is confined to Harriet’s bed with a sprained ankle, and the second lover turns up unexpectedly, closely followed by two irate wives in search of itinerant husbands!! The indescribable confusion that ensues builds to a rich complexity of mistaken identity, splendidly farcical situations and a climax of comic wizardry.

We warmly invite you to be cheered by this highly amusing play and forget the ‘credit crunch’ world for a few hours.

Show dates and times at the Woodcote Village hall are :

Thursday 11th June – 8pm

Friday 12th June – 8pm

Saturday 13th June – 8pm

Tickets are £6 for adults and £5 for children

Box office – Please contact Joan Poyser 01491 680573

(email: stockpumps.gb@btopenworld.com)

South Chiltern Choral Society

Sounds American

**Saturday, June 27th University Great Hall
5pm & 8pm**

For our summer concert (originally scheduled for 4th July) the South Chiltern Choral Society, conducted by Gwyn Arch will be celebrating American Independence Day. **The concert will encompass a broad sweep of traditional**

American music, reflecting much of America's history, from the War of Independence and the Civil War to the present time. The songs – spirituals, folk songs, blues, ballads, cowboy songs etc – will include the ever popular 'Shenandoah', 'Somewhere' (West Side Story) and the stirring 'Battle Hymn of the Republic'.

We are extremely fortunate to have obtained the services of the celebrated international singing star, MADELINE BELL, for two solo spots and of David

Arch, Musical Director of "Strictly Come Dancing", who will provide the accompaniment for the concert .

There will be two performances at 5pm and 8pm and the University grounds will be open between the performances, so why not celebrate with a picnic?

**Tickets: £12 from SCCS Box Office: 01491 575727
£6 (under 18s)**

**Put a 'Spring in your Step'.
A Great incentive to get fit for Summer .
"The Toad Hall 10K Run"**

Whitchurch Primary School PTA
are organising a 10K running race in aid of the school.
On Sunday 28th June 2009. Race starts at 10.30am

The start and finish is at Whitchurch Hill Village Green where there will be a BBQ and refreshments, entertainment for spectators, children's activities and trade stands. The run follows a fantastic course, on lanes and paths through Mapledurham woods. The race is being organised under UK Athletics rules. With approximately half the route off-road, we can't get the distance certified but it has been measured as an accurate 10k.

It would be great to see villagers, friends and families well represented in the race and enjoying the post race entertainment on the green, in the glorious weather we've ordered for the day!

Details, including entry form, course map etc can be found on the race website: www.toadhall10k.com

WHITCHURCH HILL FETE

Saturday 23rd June at 2 p.m.

Stalls & plants galore
25 piece concert band
Juggler, children's races, Punch & Judy
Ferret Racing
BBQ
Beer and tea tents

DIARY DATES

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

MAY

Saturday 23rd Whitchurch Hill Fete

JUNE

6th Maze Tidying

7th Garden Walks

11,12,13th WADS production 'Key for Two'

13th Cranford House Fun Day

28th Toad Hall Fun Run

27th & 28th Brides and Blooms at Stanford Dingley

27th SCCS performance 'Sounds American'

JULY

4th Maze Tidying

7th Tuesday Parish Council Meeting

THE NEXT ISSUE OF THE BULLETIN

will be published in July 2009.

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

Sarah.pongo@talktalk.net by 10th July 2009

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