

**WHITCHURCH-ON-THAMES BULLETIN**  
**www.whitchurchonthames.com**

**NOVEMBER 2002**

**WHITCHURCH ON THAMES PARISH COUNCIL**

**Parish Council Meeting**

There was a meeting of the Parish Council on 11 November at the Village Hall at which Councillors Vincent Aldridge, Nigel Grove, Mrs Matilda King, Peter Minton, Brian Mott, Mrs Kate Thatcher and Geoff Weir were present together with Janet Holmes, Parish Clerk. District Councillor Deborah Whitfeld also attended; apologies were received from County Councillor John Farrow.

**Planning**

**Amended to applications**

P02/SO037 Bozedown Farm, Hardwick Road – conversion of pump house  
**No strong views**

**New applications**

P02/SO237 1 Old Barn Cottages, High Street – dormer window to rear  
**No strong views**

P02/SO871 Bozedown Vineyard – replacement of transmitting antenna  
**No strong views**

**Decision Notices**

P01/SO1147 Bozedown Farm, Hardwick Road – new barn  
**Granted**

P02/SO701 Tall Beeches, Hardwick Road – extension  
**Granted**

**Finance**

Cheques were presented for payment for: R M Weavers, September grass cutting; NAALG for rental of the allotments; Impact, computer support; Goring Heath PC, share of war memorial insurance; Janet Holmes, Clerk's salary and expenses; The Poppy Appeal for wreath and donation.

After considering items of correspondence, the meeting closed.

**The next full meeting of the Council will be held on 6 January at 8.00pm in the Village Hall. Everyone is welcome to attend.**

**This meeting of the Council will be considering the budget for 2003/2004. Should any parishioner wish to suggest possible items for consideration in the budget please let the Parish Clerk have details before December 1 so that the council can give them proper consideration.**

### **Have you thought of joining the Parish Council?**

There are many changes coming in local government over the next few years especially with regard to the way planning will affect our village. If you would like to be involved in the way Whitchurch faces the next decade, why not stand for the Parish Council?

Local elections in May give everyone a chance to put their name forward for election to the council. Ask the Clerk or any of your councillors what it entails and they will be happy to discuss it with you. It is interesting and rewarding, so think about joining the team!

### **Thank you all...**

Christine and I want to thank you all for your kindness and support over the past weeks since my diagnosis and operation, and for all the offers of help during the next phase of my treatment.

We already knew from Ken's illness that we lived in a wonderfully caring community, these past weeks have proved how truly blessed we are to live here. Thank you all.

*Peter Minton*

## 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

|                 | <b>Whitchurch</b> | <b>Goring Heath</b> |
|-----------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| Wed 11 December | from 0900 to 0950 | from 1020 to 1210   |
| Wed 22 January  | from 0800 to 0950 | from 1020 to 1210   |
| Sat 8 February  | from 0800 to 0920 |                     |
| Wed 19 February |                   | from 0800 to 0950   |

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



|                 | <b>Woodcote</b>   | <b>Goring</b>                 |
|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------------------|
| Sat 30 November | from 0940 to 1100 | from 0800 to 0920 at SODC     |
| Sat 14 December | from 1200 to 1310 | from 0800 to 0950 at Icknield |
| Sat 11 January  | from 1020 to 1210 | from 0800 to 0950 at Icknield |
| Fri 17 January  | from 0800 to 0950 | from 1020 to 1210 at SODC     |
| Sat 25 January  | from 1200 to 1310 | from 1330 to 1500 at SODC     |

## A Reminder from the South Chiltern Choral Society

Our Christmas concerts will be given at Chiltern Edge School on Saturday 21 December at 1930hrs. and on Sunday 22 December at 1400hrs. The choir will be joined by a children's choir from Sonning Common Primary School and the programme will include works by Randall Thompson, a specially commissioned work by Alan Bullard based on some of Edward Lear's limericks, a Christmas Pudding of carols and, as always, carols for audience and choir – accompanied by a brass group.

Tickets, priced at £7 (OAP/child £5), are available from Michèle Whitehead on 01491- 578641.

## THE WHITCHURCH SOCIETY

The Society held its Autumn Meeting in the Village Hall on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October. The first part of the evening was a delightfully personal presentation by Jenny Plumb of her impressive collection of sardine dishes, some of which dated from the Victorian age when sardines were a delicacy like caviar is today. One of the more fascinating aspects of many of the dishes is that they were designed to hold the exact size of tin in which the fish were later canned. There was much interest from the audience in her display of around 50 dishes from her extensive collection.

The second part of the evening was devoted to Alan Copeland, Chairman of the Whitchurch Hill Camera Club, who gave one of his polished, amusing and absorbing slide shows of pictures taken around the Chilterns Area. How he manages to interlock his inimitable patter with relevant sound effects remains a mystery which will certainly be worth exploring in the future.

Our sincere thanks to Jenny and Alan for a very entertaining evening.

*Nigel Grove*  
Chairman

### WHITCHURCH-ON-THAMES HABITAT STUDY GROUP (WOTHABS)

We had fun on our stall at the Whitchurch Fete in September. It wasn't only the children who enjoyed making working models of butterflies! and lots of people came to admire the pressed wild flowers. Naming them proved to be more of a challenge, but Lady Rose, who won the flower quiz, sailed through magnificently.

Future projects include work to trim branches along Jubilee Walk, Hardwick Road, where overhanging trees are impeding the traffic so that it tends to swerve towards the verge on the other side. Growth on the bank also needs clearing. This will give light and space for more wild flowers. **Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> December at 10.30 a.m. is set for the first working party session. Please come along if you can help for an hour or so.** (Cutting, clearing, directing traffic etc.) It would be helpful to know in advance if you are coming – please ring - but if you find yourself free and eager at the time, do come anyway.

We have other projects planned and in progress and will keep you informed.

**Gill Goodwin**

0118-9842934

## **DOUGLAS BLACK and JOHN SMITH**

The village has recently lost two of its more eminent residents – Sir Douglas Black, who died in Birmingham on 13<sup>th</sup> September, and John Smith, who suffered a severe stroke at home on 13<sup>th</sup> May and is now in a Nursing Home near Nottingham.

Douglas and Mollie Black lived for many years in The Old Forge next to the Greyhound. They were good neighbours, generous hosts and fascinating conversationalists. Douglas was a keen member of the Bridge Club and was often to be seen at bridge drives around the area. When old age and sickness became to great a burden, they went to live with their daughter in Ironbridge where Mollie still resides.

John and Marjorie Smith moved into Old Gardens from Whitchurch Hill after many years in the locality. Like the Blacks, they were good friends and always ready for a discussion on topics of the day both local and political. John got to know everything that happened in the village through Rufus, the indomitable dachshund who accompanied him on his daily walks along Eastfield Lane and Hardwick Road. After John's stroke, they moved to Nottinghamshire to be close to their son and his family.

Douglas and John had complementary careers – Douglas in academic medicine and John in health administration. Their paths ran parallel in the mid 70s when Douglas was Chief Scientist at the DHSS and John was Under Secretary responsible for the structures of the NHS. As a result, they became firm friends and mutual confidants. By a happy coincidence, unknown to them at the time, they married their respective wives on the same day! Thus, on Easter Saturday and Sunday 1998, they jointly celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversaries at The Old Forge and in Old Gardens. Quite an achievement.

One of John's major contributions to local communal life was his untiring involvement with the renovation of St John's Rooms and the creation of the superb Parish hall which we all admire and enjoy today.

Both Douglas and John will be long remembered.


**Nigel Grove**

## **League of Friends Christmas Concert.**


The annual Christmas Concert in aid of the League of Friends of Reading Hospitals will take place on Sunday December 15<sup>th</sup> at 7pm in the Falklands Islands Memorial Chapel at Pangbourne College.

The usual format will be followed of Readings with a Christmas 'flavour' interspersed by musical items from the Pangbourne Choral Society, who will also lead the audience in a number of well known carols. Refreshments will be offered after the concert.

Tickets (£10) from the League of Friends, Royal Berks Hospital, or on the door.



**St. Mary's Christmas Fair**  
**November 30<sup>th</sup> at 2:30 pm**  
**Whitchurch Village Hall**



**Christmas Gifts, Tombola, Cakes,**  
**Doughcraft, Jewellery, Raffle,**  
**and many other stalls**

**Teas, hot mince pies and cake**  
**In our Bistro Café**

**All proceeds towards St. Mary's & St. John's Churches**

**If you are able to help on the day or offer donations to the Raffle**  
**or any of the stalls - please ring**  
**Wendy Ferguson (984 1262) or Tony Voysey (984 3946)**

## **DO YOU UNDERSTAND MODERN ART?**

The University of Oxford is presenting a taster course on the themes and work of modern art. These slide lectures will help you understand abstract art and surrealism and will go on to consider provocative new work by young British artists including Tracey Emin and Damien Hirst. You will have the chance to ask questions and to see and analyse art with an expert.

There will be 10 lectures on Wednesday evenings in Langtree School. They will start on 15<sup>th</sup> January. The cost of the course is £52 but we can offer generous discounts or fee exemption if you find difficulty in paying.

Don't lose this chance of a high quality, interesting course on your door step. Book through the local Centre on 01491 681357 [woodcote.cec@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:woodcote.cec@oxfordshire.gov.uk) Ask us for more information or pick up a leaflet at the library or Community Centre

*Langtree & Goring Community Education Centre*

## **Make Your Own Christmas Wreaths and Garlands**

7<sup>th</sup> December 2002. 10am to 4pm

Your chance to spend a day at the Woodcote Community Centre making wreaths for the door and garlands for your rooms or staircase from fresh greenery, cones, nuts etc. There will be demonstrations then you design your own personalised decoration and make it under expert tuition to ensure you take away things you are proud of.

Come on your own and meet people or come with a friend or family member. Bring your own materials or buy at trade prices from the tutor, Sara Allen. Please book now so we have an accurate idea of how many are coming – please don't just turn up!

Look out for new activities in Woodcote and Goring starting in January. Our update leaflet will soon be available!

Call now on 01491 681359 *Jenny Horsup  
Community Education Centre*

## **GORING HEATH PARISH CHARITY'S GARDENING SHOW**

Held on Saturday August 31<sup>st</sup> in the G.H.P.Hall, we were pleased with the number of entries, as we had chosen a weekend when so many of our regular 'entrants' were away. Doug Grant, of Whitchurch, won the cup again with a display of vegetables of an incredible size and standard! We're sure there will be lots of people who will be determined to try and beat him next year.

*The Photographic section drew a very large number of entries of an extremely high standard. We were so pleased with the response. The titles for entries for the Spring Show 2003 are as follows:-*

*'Three of a Kind', 'Ageing Gracefully', 'The Earth Revives'*

*(Photos must have been taken in the year preceding the show).*

*Amy Holland won the Children's cup – again! Well done Amy. We had hoped to see the garden of the hall filled with Scarecrows for the competition but we were very impressed with those that were entered. The cakes and preserves were snapped up in the auction that followed the show, which proves how good they must be! The cake entries were certainly impressive in*

*their individuality! We introduced a new attraction this year with the sale of unusual plants and gardening books, which proved very popular.*

Thanks go, as always, to the judges, stewards and all the helpers who do such a great job.

PS Quiz Night is now Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> November – contact Mike Holland  
0118984 4867

*Teresa Elsome*

## **AGE CONCERN OXFORDSHIRE**

Some reminders from Age Concern:

**Unwanted phone calls** Are you fed up with receiving uninvited phone calls selling you a 'free' holiday or double glazing? It is possible to arrange to have a block put on these tele-sales calls through BT's Telephone Preference Service – call BT on 0845 070 0707. If you experience phone calls with no-one there, this may be caused by tele-sales people who dial several numbers at once and talk to the first person to answer.

**Postal Scams** Avoid the promise of a fortune if you send off a few pounds – needless to say the fortune never arrives! Issues of this kind can be brought to the attention of Trading Standards. The helpline phone number for Oxfordshire Trading Standards is 01865 815000.

**Rogue Traders** are a continuing worry. Always use reputable companies and workmen.

**Bogus callers.** Age Concern fully agrees with the information provided in the Crimestoppers' article in the previous edition of the Bulletin. If you are unhappy about the identity of an unexpected visitor, check with their parent company. No genuine gas/electricity/water meter reader will mind if you close the door to phone and check if they should be working in your area. Do not use the phone number on their identity card, which might only put you in touch with an accomplice. Age Concern stresses the value of using a door chain, which will help to prevent uninvited callers gaining access to your home. Sadly the problem of bogus callers is becoming more frequent, and a caller keeping you talking at the front door could allow an accomplice to get into your home at the back.

*Alison Michael,  
Age Concern Parish Representative.*

## **WHITCHURCH HILL CAMERA CLUB**

Our first meeting in December takes place on Wednesday the 4th when we will have the second Slide Competition with a set subject of "Made of Wood." Our images will be judged by Andrew Wilson ARPS from the Bracknell Camera Club.

One week later, we welcome Andy Sands from Watford who will show us slides taken in the local area with a talk entitled "Natural History in the Chilterns."

The last meeting before Christmas will be held on Wednesday, 18th December and features our annual Tape and Slide Competition and Christmas Buffet.

We start the New Year with a recorded lecture on the 8th January and other meetings in January include a Print Competition, a Digital Presentation, a close-up look at the flowers which grow in Kew Gardens and a study of Steam Locomotives found in India.

We meet every Wednesday evening at the Village Hall, Whitchurch-on-Thames starting at 8pm. If you enjoy taking photographs or just like looking at pictures, come along and see us.

Further information and a copy of our full Programme are available on our new website: [www.whitchurchhillcc.co.uk](http://www.whitchurchhillcc.co.uk) or from Alan Copeland on (01491) 681471 or by e-mail to: [alan@classicfm.net](mailto:alan@classicfm.net). Copies are also available at Pangbourne Library.

## WADS Pantomime 2003

### “Beauty & the Beast”

by

**Eric Fowler**

produced by Peter Saunders

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> Jan 7.30pm. Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> Jan 2.15pm & 7.30pm

Friday 31<sup>st</sup> Jan 7.30pm. Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> Feb 2.15pm & 7.30pm

Woodcote Village Hall

Beauty and the Beast is one of the world's oldest and most popular fairy tales.

A Father who has lost his way finds shelter in the castle of a Beast. Before leaving he plucks a rose from the castle garden which he promised to his younger daughter – Beauty. The Beast threatens him with death..... unless the Father sends his daughter to the Beast.

WADS presents this traditional story ....adapted to delightful pantomime including comedy routines, Bodgit the Builder, Bertie Boots, Dame Bagwash etc.

“Oh no you won't !”      “Oh yes we will !!!”

**Box Office opens 4<sup>th</sup> January – 01491 680494**

**Tickets £5.00 & concessions £4.00 (not Saturday evening)**

## THE ALLOTMENT SOCIETY

*Winter is approaching and the Allotments require less work at this time of year. But there is still work to be done, seed orders have been sent in, in readiness for next year. I am hoping to grow a few peas and beans; I was very envious of those who had grown theirs this year when I was otherwise occupied. I have just ordered some new strawberry plants for next year. Home grown strawberries are definitely worth growing! Not that Alexander is*

*any less demanding now that he is here! As soon as the buggy has stopped he wakes up, demanding attention! So it will require real dedication next year...*

We are always interested to hear from potential allotment holders, please phone me if you are interested in taking on an allotment.

Rosamund Heath  
984 2358

## HEALTH CHECK

The NHS Plan in 2000 stated that:

*“Patients are the most important people in the Health Service. It doesn’t always appear that way. Too many patients feel talked at, rather than listened to. This is to change. NHS care has to be shaped around the convenience and concerns of patients”*

*‘HEALTH CHECK’, set up by the Community Health Council is a way of obtaining your views both good and bad about the healthcare you receive. We want you to tell us about your experiences in the NHS by filling in a ‘Health Check’ form. Your comments will be passed on to NHS staff across your area and the Community Health Council will provide a response to you individually on the resulting action that arises from your comments. You can report on any aspect of the NHS that you have used within the last six months. You can report on someone else’s behalf as long as you have their permission. All that you tell us is confidential.*

*For more information contact the Community Health Council: 01865 723569 and ask for a ‘Health Check’ form and freepost envelope.*

South East Oxfordshire   
Primary Care Trust

### **Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS)**

*Here to help when you need advice, have concerns or don’t know where to turn.*

As a patient relative or carer sometimes you may need to turn to someone for on-the-spot help, advice and support. This is where the Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) comes in.

We provide confidential, on-the-spot help advice and support, helping you to sort out any concerns you may have about the care we provide, guiding you through the different services available from the NHS.

**The Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) focuses on improving the service to NHS patients. The service aims to:**

- Advise and support patients, their families and carers
- Provide information on NHS services
- Listen to your concerns, suggestions or queries
- Help sort out problems quickly on your behalf.

The service is confidential. If you would like to contact PALS with a query or for advice or information please phone: Hayley Reynolds – PALS Co-ordinator on freephone 0800 052 3225, Email – [pals@seoxon-pct.nhs.uk](mailto:pals@seoxon-pct.nhs.uk) or write to South East Oxon Primary Care Trust, Patient Advice and Liaison Service, Wallingford Hospital, Reading Road, Wallingford, Oxon, OX10 9DU.

### READING AND DISTRICT CANCER CARE

Reading & District Cancer Care is celebrating its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. The Charity was formed and started by the late Angela Sharman and Pauline Hollick in December 1992. With the aid of fellow committee members, they opened the first RDCC shop in Oxford Road, Reading. It then moved to Hemdean Road in Caversham, before finally settling at 35 Prospect Street, Caversham.

The Charity is managed by a volunteer committee of 4 and run by 35 wonderful Ladies, all of whom dedicate their time and effort without payment, sorting and selling good quality clothing, bric-a-brac, books etc. that have been generously donated by the general public.

*The purpose of the Charity is to provide funds to help Cancer sufferers and their families to overcome problems by paying for essentials, such as childcare whilst a parent is receiving chemotherapy, travel to and from the hospital, a much needed holiday, helping defray the cost of telephone, gas and electricity bills and other services. In this way we attempt to alleviate some stress for patients and carers.*

*All patients are referred to us by the Royal Berks Hospital, the Duchess of Kent Hospice or, in some circumstances by local GPs.*

**Besides the funds raised from our shop, we are reliant on, and are extremely grateful to receive, considerable donations from local organisations, businesses and individuals, enabling us to meet ever-increasing requests for assistance. Needless to say, as our influence grows we need continuing extra support and we would ask you to consider the RDCC if you are thinking of fund-raising for a worthy local cause or feel you could possibly help in any other way.**

As a way of celebrating our anniversary we are hosting a lunch for our volunteers and invited guests at the Holiday Inn, Caversham. We wish to thank the hotel and a sponsor for their help and generous support in making this event possible.

If you would like to discuss this Charity or have any queries please contact me.

*Sally Trinder 842610*



The children started the autumn term learning about Space, making planets and aliens and then moved on to Time, Halloween and Firework Night. Since the start of this half term, they have completed a project on Dalwali, the Festival of Light, and are now working on Preparation for Winter.

The Pre School is looking forward to welcoming all of the new children who are joining after Christmas, numbers are continuing to rise. If you would like more information on sessions that may be available, please telephone Helen on 0118 984 4516 during school hours.

## Walks

*Our Editor has asked me to produce a few walks for you to read and consider walking. But she has asked me to keep them short (and I am sure she means that I should reduce the number of words as well as the distances involved). So whenever she has the space she will introduce you to some new walks and some variations on local walks.*

### **Walk 1: The Almshouses – (3 miles – just over an hour)**

*Park at the old Post Office at Goring Heath. Cross over the road to the entrance gate to Alnut's Hospital. This broad green track leads you past the lovely old complex of, first The Master's Lodge (now 'The Chaplaincy') and its 'ha-ha', then the Almshouses with the chapel in their midst (all founded by the Lord Mayor of London in 1724) and then the not so old School and School House (c.1880). Keep all these on your right until you reach a junction of tracks opposite Woodland's Cottage, turn right and you will shortly pass by Charity Farm (now Charity Cottage) and emerge onto the Cray's Pond road below Penny Royal. Cross over and take the path straight ahead on the other side.*

This will lead you by the right hand side of a field into the woodland and shortly afterwards it forks; (all the paths are recently and well way-marked) take the right fork. This new footpath will meet another broader track; turn right onto it but shortly afterwards the waymark directs you off to the left on a narrower path. Follow this 'blazed' trail and it will lead you to up left and then right to eventually meet Deadman's Lane, again cross over and take the bridleway slightly to your left on the other side. This too leads you through woodland but the waymarking is not as new or as obvious. Keep on for almost half-a-mile until you meet and see a 'cross' of tracks, turn hard right at this point, shortly afterwards the path forks; on this occasion follow the right hand path. Again shortly afterwards the waymark directs you left down a narrower track, follow this to cross another path and go straight ahead by the left hand side of the woodland to lead you back to a lane and by the side of a cottage you will recognise from your car journeys.

Cross over and the footpath on the other side will lead you over a stile, to and through a gate where you turn right to another stile; your path then leads you left and back to the side of the old School. Make sure that you return on the correct side of the 'ha-ha' (back down the broad green track).

*Eric Hartley*

# LANGTREE SCHOOL

## PRESENTATION EVENING

Thursday November 7th

Langtree's Presentation Evening held in the School Hall was the best attended for a number of years with over 200 people present. This is the annual event at which students return with their parents to be presented with their GCSE certificates and at which the awards are made for achievement and progress in each subject and in other areas of school life. Almost all the Y11 students from last year were in attendance.

Headteacher, Andy Harrett, welcomed the guests and congratulated the students, thanking them for the welcome he received and for the help and support they had given him when he first arrived in January. He had particular words of welcome for Mrs Lily Bartle who had travelled from Chepstow to present the annual Bartle Award for Design and Technology.

Chair of governors, Anthony Booth, reminded students of the importance of the support given to them by their parents and also paid tribute to the work of the teaching staff. Guest speaker, Peter Allen, director of Studies at the Henley College, commented on the unique quality of the educational experience at Langtree and had a particular word of congratulations for the award winners.

After the speeches students were presented individually with their GCSE certificates by Anthony Booth and the award winners received their prizes from Peter Allen. As well as the awards for each subject, special awards were made to Carla Ainscough for "outstanding contribution to the school"; Rosie Parker, Naomi Todd and Peter Hunt for "outstanding progress in all aspects of school life"; The Wayne Pink Shield for sportsmanship to Linda Chilton and Kate Lowney and the Bartle Award to Linda Chilton, Ben Allardyce and Bernard Oattes. At the end of the awards ceremony, Andy Harrett presented Mrs Bartle with a bouquet.

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**THE NEXT ISSUE OF THE BULLETIN** will be published in January 2003.

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

**[sarah@pongo.freemove.co.uk](mailto: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)

**no later than Wednesday 8th January 2003.**