

WHITCHURCH-ON-THAMES BULLETIN

www.whitchurchonthames.com

NOVEMBER 2004

Meeting of The Parish Council

A meeting of the Parish Council was held on Monday the 1st November at 8.00 pm in the Village Hall.

In attendance were the Chairman Matilda Oppenheimer and Councillors Geoff Weir, Nigel Groves, Harry Butterworth, Vincent Aldridge, Elizabeth Robinson and Kate Thatcher.

Also present were the Parish Clerk Janet Holmes, County Councillor John Farrow and three members of the Public.

Cricket Ground

A Public meeting of the Parish will be held on Thursday 18th November at 8.00pm in the Village Hall to discuss new Proposals for the purchase of the Cricket Ground land by the Cricket Club and to hear the views of the Parish about these proposals.

Traffic Calming

It was agreed that Virtual Footpaths should be installed by Oxford County Council at both narrows in the High Street. This is following the advice of Peter Ronald from OCC. It was felt by the Parish Council that this is the least visually obtrusive and most effective method of preventing accidents at these sites available to us.

A "SIDS" Machine to measure and indicate vehicular speed to discourage speeding will be installed from time to time on a temporary basis by Road Safety Group.

Flooding

The culvert in Eastfield Lane is nearly finished and work clearing the silt that has accumulated is ongoing. The works will be complete in time to prevent a recurrence of the flooding that occurred last year.

Train Times

There will be major changes to the local train services from Sunday the 12th December. All train times from Pangbourne will change, as will stopping patterns. There will also be big changes to mainline train times from Reading.

If you are planning to travel before Christmas, you should check your train times at:

www.nationalrail.co.uk

Or Telephone 08457 48 49 50

WHITCHURCH HISTORY SOCIETY

On Thursday 18th we are fortunate to have Dr Simon Townley to speak about the Victoria County History of which he is editor. The VCH was established in 1899 and was intended to have written a history of every parish in the country. Some Counties finished a long time ago, but Oxfordshire is now attempting to finish the west and southern parts of the county. A volume about the town of Henley is in preparation - it's getting close! The meeting is at Goring Heath Parish Hall at 8pm.

January 20th is our first meeting of 2005 and will take place in Whitchurch Village Hall. It is a members' evening - look out for the posters!



The children have been having a wonderful time with the Autumn term's theme, 'On the Move'. We've made hot air balloons, boats, birds, fish.... painted and drawn planes, lorries and cars.....set sail to far off lands in enormous ships (thanks to a little imagination and some big boxes).....and been pilots flying Jumbo Jets through stormy skies.

This term should prove just as much fun, with plenty of festive activities planned nearer Christmas, not forgetting the Christmas play. Talking of Christmas, there will of course be a children's party with a visit from 'you know who' and some entertainment. Not only this, we have planned a fantastic **Christmas Party** for the grown ups too ! Look out for the posters and flyers, round up friends and family to come along and get those baby sitters booked for 11th December.

If you're interested in visiting the Pre-School, please telephone Helen on 0118 9844516. You can also find out more about Pre-School from our new web address www.whitchurchpreschool.org

WoTHABS

Several of us attended Oxfordshire's Local Environment Groups Conference (the first of its kind) last month. It was very sociable as well as practical and gave us an excellent opportunity to learn from other groups.

WoTHABS was recently asked to contribute members' views on a regional 'Sustainable Development Strategy'. We did our best although 'Sustainability' has been tossed around so much recently that it seems to mean whatever anyone cares to make it mean – another example of gobbledegook which gets in the way of the real issues that must be tackled.

Hope you're enjoying our wonderful local environment on these spectacular autumn days. Let us know if you see anything especially interesting or unusual (fungi, birds, mammals, etc.)

For those of you lucky enough to have ponds, carry on with the good work: there were some very frightened findings of a recent global survey on amphibians showing many are declining even in apparently good habitats. Many thanks to all of you who have returned your survey forms to me and for all your observations.

Our next meeting is on Monday 29th November at 8 p.m. at Boze Down Vineyard.

Gill Goodwin
Tel. 0118 9842934

GIVE US A BREAK . . .

. . . is the name of a Charity run by the Youth Hostels Association. It supports disadvantaged young people by enabling them to spend weekends in a Youth Hostel in the countryside as part of an organised group, something they would not otherwise have the opportunity to do.

Why, you may ask, do you need to know this? Because I will be undertaking a 'Charity Challenge' for *Give Us A Break*, walking, for one week, along the Great Wall of China next April, in memory of Peter. Needless to say, just as Matilda Oppenheimer practised cycling for her Nile ride, I have been walking, running and climbing flights of steps to make sure my knees can cope with the challenge!

I will be paying most of my own costs for the actual trip, but am seeking sponsorship for the Charity itself. If you feel able to support me in any way, I would be very grateful. Thank you very much!

Chris Minton Tel: 984 2516



What is Neighbourhood Watch

Neighbourhood Watch is.....

- working with others to make your community safer
- knowing what to do when a crime or emergency occurs
- community awareness of local crime risks and the measures to take against those risks
- reducing the opportunities for crime and to make it more difficult for the criminal to act

How does it work ?

Neighbourhood Watch schemes can be large, covering for example most of the households in a village or they might involve just half a dozen houses It depends on the area and what people living there want.

A scheme is led by a volunteer co-ordinator with ideally a deputy who plays a supporting role. The role of the Co-ordinator is to act as a liaison point between their neighbours, the Regional NHW Administrator , the Police and other groups who have responsibility for Community Safety.

In a nutshell..

As a Co-ordinator of Neighbourhood Watch you will be asked to

- receive Ringmaster messages
- pass those messages onto members of your scheme
- distribute copies of newsletters
- keep a street plan of members of the scheme

As a member of Neighbourhood Watch you are asked to :

- take sensible precautions to protect your property
- pass relevant information about crime to the police
- * **YOU MAY ALSO BE ENTITLED TO DISCOUNT ON YOUR HOUSE INSURANCE.**

In return the police in South Oxfordshire will :

- inform you of any increase in crime which may affect you
- send you newsletters and crime reduction information to keep you up to date
- invite you to meetings with local officers to discuss any local issues or problems

We currently have 1 active scheme in Whitchurch and 2 in Whitchurch Hill, if you are not in a scheme and would like to be involved please call the watch office on 01235 556957 or e-mail [carol.rudd@thamesvalley .pnn.police.uk](mailto:carol.rudd@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk)



Thank you!

Thank you so much to all of you who came to the Fireworks Spectacular at Hardwick House on 18th September – we really appreciate your support for this fundraising for the churches of St Mary's, Whitchurch, and St John's, Whitchurch Hill.

The grey clouds parted just at the right time and the late afternoon sun shone on families and friends who came to picnic in a field in front of the magnificent Tudor Manor. The steel band encouraged a wonderfully relaxed and happy atmosphere in a magical setting. As the darkness fell children ran around playing with glow-in-the-dark accessories and still people kept arriving. A steady stream of cars brought around a thousand people through the gates. A combination of the good weather and delicious food contributed to the organic BBQ and soup stalls being overwhelmed by custom and yet people remained good natured. We thank everyone for their patience, waiting for the fireworks spectacular which was delayed due to technical difficulties, as, when it came it really was amazing – the look of delight on the faces of the watching children was a picture in itself. We are so grateful for all the support you gave and all those who worked so hard to make the event such a resounding success. We are thrilled to have raised just over £4000. This will make a significant impact on the ever demanding maintenance costs of both churches.

Thank you again and we look forward to seeing you all again next September!

Whitchurch Art and Craft Exhibition
FINAL REMINDER!

Whitchurch Art and Craft Exhibition
The weekend of 20th – 21st November 2004
Whitchurch-on-Thames Village Hall

This is to remind everyone that the Whitchurch Society's Annual Exhibition is imminent and we hope that all your entries are now ready for this year's event! All residents (both past and present) of Whitchurch and Goring Heath Parishes are eligible to enter.

Timetable

Sending-in	Thurs 18 th Nov	7pm - 8pm at the Modern Artists Gallery, High St
	Friday 19 th Nov	11am - 2pm at the Village Hall
Exhibition Opening times	Saturday 20 th Nov	10.30am - 5pm
	Sunday 21 st Nov	10.30am - 4pm
Prize Giving	Sunday 21 st Nov	at 4pm
Collection of work	Sunday 21 st Nov	4.30-5pm

As well as the displays of the adult and children's entries, and the local schools' displays, there will be a children's activity running during the weekend. This will be a 'drop-in' event (no need to book) which the children can take part in whilst their parents enjoy the exhibition. There will also be two Special displays – the *Archive Corner* showing past prize-winning exhibits and the *Jack Orford* retrospective display.

Do come along and enjoy this year's show – it promises to be very interesting and entertaining. We look forward to seeing you there!

For any further details, please ring Sally Woolhouse on 0118 9844365 or look at the website on www.wotarts.co.uk

Crime Reduction Article

by Alison Smith Crime Reduction Advisor

Whitchurch has become the target over the last few months of an increase in burglaries. There were three burglaries in Whitchurch Hill since the 1st September and two in Whitchurch since the same date.

Christmas is a busy time of the year for everyone, including the criminal. However, a high percentage of crime is opportunist in nature and so this Christmas I am seeking your assistance in preventing this type of crime.

Please read and 'digest' this special menu and don't let the criminal this year enjoy Christmas at your expense. Think of the criminal this Christmas!

A CHRISTMAS MENU – Think of the Criminal this Christmas!

Starter

Your Car

Presents left in full view

(keep presents out of sight – if they can be seen they can be stolen)

Keys left in the ignition

(never leave keys in the ignition- even for a short periods)

Car left unlocked

(always close windows, set your alarm and lock all doors)

Cheque book and cheque card in glove compartment

(take all valuables with you)

Park in a dark secluded area

(park in a well lit area or in an attended car park)

Main Course

Your House

Doors and windows not secured

(ensure all doors and windows are locked)

Presents displayed under the Christmas Tree

(presents should be kept out of view)

Car Keys and handbags conveniently placed

(keep your car keys or handbags in a safe place out of view)

The unoccupied look

(going on holiday – consider using automatic lights, cancel milk and papers, ask a neighbour or friend to keep an eye on your property)

Opening your door to strangers

(If in doubt keep them out – use your door chain)

Large amounts of cash left at home

(do not keep large amounts of cash at the home – use a bank/building society)

Dessert

Your Property

Bicycles not secured

(lock all bicycles and have them marked with your postcode and house number)

Large amounts of cash carried in handbag /wallet

(avoid carrying large amounts of cash)

Cheque book and cheque card left unattended

(never keep your cheque book and card together, keep your pin number confidential)

If you would like any further advice please contact your local Crime Reduction Advisors Mark Bradfield or Alison Smith at Didcot Police Station on 01235 516842

WOODCOTE LIBRARY

Thank you for your patience while we got to grips with the new issue system. We are now replacing our learner plates with "just passed" green L plates. There are some important differences in the new way of working which everyone should know. Overdue reminders will no longer be sent by us but will be printed and dispatched centrally by second class post when books are four weeks overdue. Fines will have accrued from the first overdue date so that each book will cost £1.80 (90p for under 18s).

Videos and DVDs are issued for a week, and you will be charged for another loan period if they are not returned before the library closes on the due date. This means that if they are returned via the letterbox it must be done before the due date if you don't want to pay for another week. So much for the bad news. You can still ring up to renew books and one of the benefits of the system is that we can easily tell you what you have out at any time. This makes it easy to renew everything when you come in or phone - especially if you have your membership card so that you can quote the number. There are leaflets about all this at the library desk.

An appeal to solve a small mystery - a DVD The Lizzie McGuire Movie has been returned with a Simpsons disk inside, which belongs to the borrower. Could we do a swap?

A Celebration of Christmas

The League of Friends of Reading Hospitals will be holding their ever popular Christmas Concert of readings and music again at 7pm on Sunday December 12th. Once again the event is being held in the stunning Falkland Islands Memorial Chapel at Pangbourne College. Readings will be given by friends of the Reading Hospitals and the music, for both choir and audience, will be led by the Pangbourne Choral Society under the direction of Darren Everhart. Baritone Julian Hubbard will join the choir in Vaughn Williams' Fantasia on Christmas Carols.

Tickets (£10) which include refreshments after the concert can be obtained from the League of Friends offices at the Royal Berks Hospital, Craven Road, Reading RG1 5AN - 0118 987 8592.

Footballers wanted!

Your local football club, AFC Whitchurch, runs 6 teams from Under 7s to Under 12s and even a veterans team for those old enough to know better. Run by local parents and coaches the club has a great community spirit, drawing children from Whitchurch Primary, Whitchurch Hill, Crays Pond, Purley, Woodcote and so on. The children's teams play mostly in the Hicks Development League on Saturday mornings and are doing very well. The club has a number of FA trained coaches and is aiming to gain FA Charter Club Status. We currently have vacancies for players particularly in the Under 11 age group. More veterans would also be welcome. Anyone interested should contact the Club Secretary, Ged O'Brien on [01491 871076](tel:01491871076) / [07866 531252](tel:07866531252). While we would be more than happy to welcome the next Wayne Rooney we will welcome anyone with enthusiasm and a good sense of fun.

Mike Holland, Club Chairman. 578641.

WEST BERKS SCRABBLE CLUB (Purley based)

The club has been in summer recess, with members enjoying their summer holidays.

September now brings normality, with the club opening for sessions every Tuesday evening and Thursday afternoon. We are delighted to announce that the Tuesday evening sessions are now held in The Barn, (Goosecroft Lane, Purley on Thames). The playing room is large and airy and there is ample car parking. Would you like to take up a new leisure pursuit? or perhaps you already play Scrabble and would like to join a club? Come along and see first hand what we are all about. We have members of all

ages and both sexes. Friendships have been forged and a pleasant and enjoyable time can be had by all.

For further details contact Ian or Elizabeth on 0118-9845045.

GORING HEATH PARISH CHARITY

The date You Can't Afford To Miss!

CHRISTMAS MINI MARKET
SATURDAY 27TH NOVEMBER 2004

10.30AM – 3.30PM

Goring Heath Parish Hall

Whitchurch Hill

All sorts of Exciting Gifts and Presents Galore

RAFFLES

Refreshments all day: home made soup, bread and rolls. Mince pies and cakes
Teas and coffee

For further Information contact: Pat on 9844200 or Theresa on 9842056

A LATIN AMERICAN CHRISTMAS

This year, the South Chiltern Choral Society will be turning to Latin America for their Christmas Concerts. The main work will be Navidad Nuestra by the Argentinian composer Ariel Ramirez. This tells the story of the nativity in a tender and simple manner using words by the poet Felix Luna with the music for each episode of the story having distinctive local rhythms. The choir will be accompanied by Striking Sounds percussion ensemble which boasts no less than 3 marimbas and assorted instruments probably never experienced before in Sonning Common!

The choir will also be singing carols from Argentina, Chile, Venezuela, Mexico and Puerto Rico (in Spanish) arranged by Gwyn Arch. With additional singing by Wallingford Children's Choir and the traditional audience carols, again accompanied by the percussion ensemble, these promise to be very exciting and lively performances.

The concerts will be held at Chiltern edge School, Reades Lane, Sonning Common on Saturday 18th December at 7.30 pm and on Sunday 19th December at 2.30 pm. Tickets priced at £8.00 (£5.00 under 18s) are available from Michele Whitehead on 01491 578641

CYCLE THE NILE

I would like to thank all of you who so kindly sponsored me for my Cycle ride in Egypt. With your help I have managed to raise over £14,000 for Robert Winston's Research Charity and I am very grateful indeed for your generosity.

I cycled 408 km along the West bank from Esna to Aswan, up to the Aswan Dam to Lake Nasser and then back along the East bank of the Nile to Kom Ombo and Luxor. We cycled in the flat, green fertile land next to the Nile and also across the desert over very rough surfaced undulating roads that nearly finished us all off!! One day Egypt was the hottest place in the world with temperatures reaching over 40 degrees centigrade. On the last two days we had to cycle into a headwind, which we did in teams with only the two in front battling into the wind.

Most terrifying were our trips through the Egyptian towns where we battled with donkey carts, lorries, pedestrians wandering in the road, cows, speeding taxis and children armed with sticks and stones, sometimes simultaneously. Many people collapsed with heat exhaustion and dehydration and everyone who was medical on the trip was called in to help.

I loved every minute of it in retrospect and almost all of it at the time, it was tougher than I had expected and an unforgettable experience.

I would particularly like to thank Will Barclay, Bill Hayes and Sarah Dixon. Will for teaching me to ride a bicycle and patiently encouraging me to realise that I could manage longer distances, and Bill and Sarah for their exceptionally generous sponsorship.

Matilda Oppenheimer

THE ALLOTMENT SOCIETY

We have welcomed a new member recently. However we still have a couple of plots available if anyone is interested.

Redundant baths are always welcome, especially if left intact with taps and waste.

Please call me if you would like a guided tour.

Rosamund Heath 984 2358

Goring Heath Parish Charity

On Tuesday 30th November, in Goring Heath Parish Hall & starting at 7pm, OTTC present Noah's Ark by Brendan Murray.

A good start to the Christmas festivities, it sounds great fun and is suitable for Children over the age of 6 years plus adults of all ages!

"When Dave has a dream & the wardrobe doors go missing, Linda starts to worry & her craving for chocolate gets serious! Dave has a secret; Linda's got ambition; son Noah's got a vivid imagination & Gran, well Gran's on a mission. To find out if their dreams come true, join the Arkwrights, their dog Malarky their two rabbits & their nosy neighbour on a voyage that's always a pleasure – if never a cruise – in this sideways comic take on the story of the Great Flood. This new family show is an amazing musical menagerie – don't miss the boat!"

Tickets are available form Theresa Elsome on 984 2056 Cost £3 for children, £5 for adults.

Higley Family

I have been tracing my Higley family tree for a little while now. I am seeking information on the family, especially my grandfather James Walter Higley. He was born on 26 September 1908 at Whitchurch Hill to parents Harry and Alice Higley. He married Muriel Elsie Hutt in the early 1930s. After they were married they lived at 1 Oak Tree Cottage, Gashes Lane, Whitchurch Hill until he served in World War 2. He died on 1 July 1967 at Berinsfield and is buried at Dorchester on Thames.

After the war, his family moved down the hill to Whitchurch on Thames. My grandmother and family moved to Manor Road in the 1950s and she lived there until her death in 1988.

My great grandfather, Harry Higley was born on 25 April 1871 to parents George William and Lucy Higley. He married Alice Lewendon, daughter of Sarah Lewendon, on 28 December 1907. Harry was one of 9 children.

His parents were George William Higley who was born on 20 October 1840 and Lucy Gutteridge, daughter of James Gutteridge and Elizabeth Weller. George and Lucy married on 18 January 1868. They had 9 children born between 1868 and 1884, namely - William Walter, George James, Bartholomew, John, Elizabeth Jane, Kate, Sarah Ann and Edward Higley.

Associated family names include - Lewendon, Heath, Dearlove, Goody, Lane, Trotman, Cox, Scott, White, Bailey, Halliday, Heath, Weller, Gutteridge, Rutland, Skillings, Andrews, Sayers, Hazell, Wallis and Joslyn.

The Higley family has been living in Whitchurch since 1868. Some descendants and ancestors have also lived in Richmond on Thames, Henley on Thames, Wallingford, Nettlebed, Stonor, Reading, Woodcote, Brightwell cum Sotwell, Aston Tirrold, Isle of Wight, Canada, Hambleden, Barnet, Aldershot, Chalsey, Windsor and Wivenhoe.

I would dearly love to make contact with any living relatives, however distantly related. It is my hope to be able to find out some more information on the family, especially my grandfather James Walter Higley. I would also love to locate copies of old family photographs.

I am more than happy to send copies of my research to date to anyone who may be interested.

My contact details are: Keith Downham, 1 Brigalow Drive ,Blackwater Qld 4717 ,Australia
Phone +61 7 49825984 email: keithdownham@bigpond.com

WHY WE SHOULD ALL SUPPORT LANGTREE SCHOOL'S BID FOR SPECIALIST SCHOOL STATUS IN THE PERFORMING ARTS

BACKGROUND

The Specialist Schools initiative was first launched by the government in 1994. Today there are almost 2000 specialist schools, 62% of all secondary schools nationwide. The government view specialist schools as vital to their plans to raise standards in secondary education. In February 2003, the DfES document "A New Specialist System: Transforming Secondary Education", set out the government's aim that **all secondary schools will become specialist schools.**

The specialist schools programme has a number of important aims including:

- Raising standards of achievement in the specialist subjects and across the whole curriculum
- Improving the quality of teaching and learning to help raise standards throughout the school
- Extending enrichment opportunities both in the school and the community
- Encouraging increased interest in the specialist subjects
- Collaboration with partner schools to provide high quality learning opportunities in the specialist subjects and sharing of facilities
- Provision of high quality learning opportunities through specialist subjects for groups within, the school's wider local community, including local business.

There is strong evidence that specialist status successfully provides a powerful impetus for whole school improvement.

FUNDING

- For a specialist bid to be considered each school has to raise £50,000 towards a capital project (a new building or new facilities).
- If the bid is successful the government will provide a further £100,000 towards the capital project.
- Once the status is granted it lasts for four years during which the government provides an annual grant of £129 per pupil per year.
- This amounts to £68,000 per year calculated on our current roll of 526.
- Over four years and including the capital fund the school will benefit from a total investment of close to £450,000 (given that the number on roll is due to rise to 560 pupils)

WHY PERFORMING ARTS

There are now 10 specialisms to choose from so why performing arts at Langtree? There are several compelling reasons:

- In some ways it was an obvious choice. Over a number of years we have developed a strong reputation for excellence in the Arts and particularly in performance. This developed from the shared vision of Jerry Owens and the former Director of Music, Moira Green.
- Since their departure the Arts have continued to thrive and the three subjects, Music, Art and Drama have increasingly sought opportunities to work collaboratively. Examples are our very successful fashion show and productions such as “Little Shop of Horrors” and “Stags and Hens”
- Good practice in the teaching of these subjects is recognised throughout and beyond the school. For instance in the 2004 GCSE results, 95% of students gained A*-C grades in Drama, 93% in Music, and 85% in Art. In addition, about 50% of our pupils are learning to play instruments with our peripatetic staff.
- **We are convinced that the performing arts status will provide the greatest benefit to the wider community both through the expertise we are able to offer and through the exciting facilities which the school will be able to offer as a result of the capital project.**

THE CAPITAL PROJECT

The main thrust of our capital project is the aim to provide up to the minute top-class performance, exhibition and IT facilities for the Arts.

1. We are really excited about the plan for the transformation of the school hall into an ultra-modern flexible performance area with the following new features
 - A sound-proofed retractable wall across the stage so that the stage area can double up as a dance/drama studio with specialist flooring, wall mirrors and dance bar.
 - New stage curtains for use during major productions when the wall is retracted

- State of the art stage lights over the stage area and in the centre of the hall so that the hall can be used for theatre in the round or as a catwalk as well as traditional productions on stage
 - A modern audio system of professional standard
 - A new glass-fronted control box on the gantry from which to control both light and sound
 - A large-screen video on the stage which will enable the showing of films to large audiences
 - The facility to curtain the whole auditorium during a performance (creating what is known in the trade as a “black box”).
2. Our second main aim is to improve the provision of ICT and other technologies, particularly for the Arts and to enhance the study of music technology
 3. Our third aim is to make improved provision for the exhibition of art and for a permanent “artist in residence” providing opportunities for our students as well as the local community to develop their artistic techniques and talents,

COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITIES

Our pledge is to make these fantastic facilities available to the whole community as and when they are ready for use. We hope to use a portion of our annual grant to increase staffing so that the school can be open for community use in the evenings at weekends and in the school holidays. We intend to make our wonderful new amenities available to individuals and to groups. We want drama groups, dance schools and musical groups to rehearse and perform at Langtree on a regular basis. We want to provide artistic opportunities for all ages and all tastes. We want to provide opportunities for professionals to teach and enthusiasts to learn. In time, this offer will extend beyond the arts as we look for opportunities to improve our sports and general IT facilities. We aim to place Langtree at the very heart of the community it serves in very real and tangible ways; to make it an educational and social resource to benefit all and appreciated by all. This opportunity will arrive not a moment too soon as community education provision at Langtree is on the point of collapse due to cuts by the local authority.

CHALLENGES

We have already risen to many of the challenges involved in bidding for specialist status, particularly the fund-raising. During the past 12 months we have raised £35,000 towards the £50,000 we need and we expect to raise another £6500 from our sponsored walk which took place on 24th September. There is no doubt we can raise the money. However, **we are not allowed to raise the whole £50,000 entirely from our own fund-raising activities. At least £15,000 must be raised from business sponsorship or from other external sources.** Fortunately some headway has been made in this direction and £5000 of the money raised comes from this source, mainly from charitable organisations.

In addition, we are required to build on-going links with sponsors and this is an area we are currently addressing. We are approaching this from a “what can we do for you” perspective. We believe there is real scope for forming meaningful relationships with the private sector. In these days when stress in the workplace is all too common we are confident our performing arts experience, expertise and facilities can help. Would your workforce benefit from an opportunity to participate in an art or drama or music workshop? How about a group drum session? We will always be happy to discuss ways in which we can support you. So please make contact and speak to us.

PARTNERSHIPS

We are fortunate in the well-established and long-standing partnerships with our primary, secondary and tertiary colleagues. This will enable us to include them in our community plan and enable us to offer them a share in the expertise and provision which specialist status will bring. We are looking forward to the opportunity to enrich the educational and cultural provision throughout South Oxfordshire.

Sam Peates October 2004

HOME-START READING

Home Start is looking for new volunteers. Why? We are a friendly group of people who spend a few hours each week helping a family adjust to the hectic demands of children under five. With friendship, an extra pair of hands and a listening ear, problems can be shared, solutions found and fun and laughter are never far away.

“My volunteer days are never dull. I get to play trains, swirl trolleys around at the supermarket keeping a 3 year old amused, cuddle the baby, hang washing out or visit the park. Each week is different, but there is always time for a chat over a cuppa.

Becoming a volunteer has brought another dimension to my life; friendship and fun flow both ways and my week would be sadly empty without it.

So why not volunteer today? All you need is a listening ear and a love of people. All your expenses would be paid”.

Our next preparation course for volunteers starts in February 1005. For more information please phone 0118 942 9518.

Geoffrey ‘Fingers’ Fitch

Geof, who died last week, was the long-time Musical Director of ‘The Riparians’. He was not only the pianist and musical guru of the Society, he also co-wrote, with Alan Matthews, many of the Pantomimes that delighted audiences in the Village Hall from the late 70s to the early 90s. There are many young adults and teenagers around who squealed with delight or terror when the Demon came onto the stage accompanied by the strident chord or phrase from Geof at the piano. He also played a large part in the Music Hall Productions, coaching better performances from us than we thought ourselves capable of.

He was a fine musician and he was very kind and supportive to those of us, including me, who ‘had a bellyful of music, but a bad road out’. He spent time in rehearsal with us to get it right and was always quick to adapt when our production performance was not as good as the rehearsal.

Geof suffered a stroke in about 1993 and the last years of his life were spent in a wheelchair knowing what he wanted to say, but being unable to say it. Those people, like Anna Scanlon who helped him come to the village, will know more about these last years, but whenever I saw him he always had that wonderful grin on his face as he gave me a thumbs up, which I took to mean ‘alright Tony?’.

God Bless you, Geof.

Tony Voysey

Pangbourne Tennis Club

Pangbourne tennis club is probably as busy in the winter as in the summer, with club days and matches continuing throughout. The junior coaching season has now finished, but we hope that the younger members will find time to use the courts, especially during the holidays.

If you wish to hire a court, the cost is still £4 per hour, money to be left in an envelope at 36 Thames Avenue please. At present, the Autumn colours are absolutely beautiful in the recreation ground, and, apart from the occasional hazard of treading on a conker, this is perhaps the best time of the year to be on the courts.

The AGM is to be held on 23 November, too late for this issue, so a brief report will appear in the next one.

If you are interested in tennis at Pangbourne, please contact Brian on 9845650 for further information.

Lesley Crimp

WHITCHURCH HILL CAMERA CLUB

Our meetings in November include an evening of Sports Photography with Gordon Roberts on the 17th November and a fascinating voyage along the Shropshire Union Canal on the 24th in the company of boatman, Steve Miles.

Our first meeting in December takes place on Wednesday, 1st December when we will have the second Slide Competition with a set subject of "Three of a Kind." Our images will be judged by Peter Jackman APAGB from High Wycombe.

One week later, we welcome leading wildlife photographer, Peter Preece, with a presentation entitled "A Beginners Guide to Wildlife Photography."

The last meeting before Christmas will be held on Wednesday, 15th December and features our annual Tape and Slide Competition and Christmas Buffet.

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.

We also have an active Digital Group so if you have a digital camera or use Adobe Photoshop, we can provide practical help in our monthly meetings, the dates being Friday, 26th November and Friday, 10th December.

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

Oxford Cruse Bereavement Care

OCBC offers help and support to the bereaved. We offer a bereaved person, of any age, a place where they can talk in confidence.

We are always looking for volunteers to join our team to work on our telephone Helpline – Monday-Friday, 10am – 12 pm. If you can spare two mornings a month we would love to hear from you. Training is provided for this valuable work.

For more information on any of the above please call 01865 202242.

FINALLY

THE GRAND NAMING OF A LANE DEBATE!!

What's in a Name

Does anyone know where the epithet 'Muddy Lane' originated from? It seems to have become common parlance in recent years to describe the footpath cum bridlepath between Hardwick Road and the Primary School, but I'm sure it has no historical roots. When we came to Whitchurch in 1978, I think it was referred to as the 'Allotment Path' (accurate and helpful!).

I know that for a while it was very muddy in wintertime before the excellent surface was put down – now it certainly isn't muddy and I think it is a rather derogatory term which should be dropped.

I suggest that we start calling it 'Maze Lane', but perhaps I am rather biased! The Maze seems to have been taken into the hearts of the village community which has been very rewarding for Nick and Pete especially.

Any views would be welcome!

Sally Woolhouse 9844365

“I have never liked the description of the footpath between the cricket field and the allotments as 'Muddy Lane' and have always referred to it as the allotment footpath in my walks. Eastfield Lane was adopted by the Council in 1926; at that time the cricket field extended to the edge of what is now the allotment field (the lime tree in the School drive was in the cricket field). The Allotments Society bought the land extending from Eastfield Lane to Hardwick Road in 1933, it was gated at both ends and there was also a small gate that gave access to the footpath and the allotments. Once established the path would also have been used as a through route by the villagers although it has only been registered as a public footpath in recent years. Its new surface now makes it less likely to be muddy during wet periods.”

Eric Hartley

ANYMORE??

THE NEXT ISSUE OF THE BULLETIN will be published in January 2005.

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

sarah@pongo.freeseve.co.uk or on disc.

Formats can be Word (.doc) or text (.txt or .rtf) or PagePlus (.ppp), or Acrobat(pdf).

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 12th January 2005 .

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