

WHITCHURCH-ON-THAMES BULLETIN

www.whitchurchonthames.com

NOVEMBER 2006

Meeting of the Parish Council

A meeting of the Parish Council was held on Monday the 6th of November at 8.00 pm in the Village Hall.

In attendance were the Acting Chairman Vincent Aldridge and Councillors Nigel Grove, Kate Thatcher, Harry Butterworth, Elizabeth Robinson and Nigel Cabeldu.

Also present was the Parish Clerk Andrea Gardner.

There was 1 member of the public present.

Parish Clerk

Parish Clerk Email address: clerk@whitchurchonthames.com

Playground

The playground has now been reopened with the new slide in place.

Toll Bridge

A meeting was held between representatives of the Toll Bridge Company and the Parish Council. Crossings using the bridge card have now risen from 9 pence to 11.1 pence per crossing.

Transport

Several transport issues were discussed at the meeting.

The under threat 142 bus service has now been continued, although the 1815 service from Reading is still being monitored until February 2007. Many thanks to all those involved in campaigning to save this route.

The Parish Council agreed that there is a need to find some way of ensuring that large vehicles are always able to make the turn in to and out of Eastfield Lane. However it was agreed that the proposed siting of the double yellow lines is unnecessarily large. The Council have proposed the following modifications to the OCC plans.

- The long straight line should be extended in the direction of the Toll Bridge as far as the post box on that side. However, it should be shortened going up the High Street, to end in line with the public entrance to the Greyhound Pub on the opposite side.

- The curved line immediately outside the Greyhound Pub should be removed from the plans as it is unlikely that anybody will park here.
- The final curved line outside Prospect House need not continue 15 metres up Eastfield Lane, this lane is narrow and nobody is able to park there in any instance.

Complaints have been received about speeding down the High Street and in Eastfield Lane. Whitchurch on Thames has now been identified as an area in need of speed enforcement by Thames Valley Police, and the Parish Council are looking into the possibility of a speed survey on the High Street. **The Parish Council would urge all users of Eastfield Lane, particularly during school drop off and pick up times, to be aware of their driving and levels of speed.**

The railway bridge in Goring will be closed from November 13th until February 2007.

Village Hall

The purchase of the Village Hall by the Parish Council is still in progress. The Parish Council has also agreed to buy the Manor Road verge.

Annual Assembly of the Parish Meeting.

Due to the Parish Clerk's imminent maternity leave, the Parish Council have agreed to change the dates of several meetings in the New Year. These will be posted on the noticeboard in due course, however it should be noted that the Annual Assembly of the Parish will now be held on Tuesday 1st May.

Planning

New Applications

Received and actioned between meetings

P06/E0833 – Mallards, High Street – Demolition of conservatory and erection of garden room – amended. Recommend REFUSAL due to amenity considerations (not in keeping with character of area).

Current applications

P06/E1025 – Technology Centre, Whitchurch Hill – Provision of temporary car park and relaxation of condition no 5 (implementation of lighting scheme) relating to planning permission P05/E1152 to allow the phasing of the provision of the new lighting with the car parking works, commencing when the new car parking extension is brought into use - **NO STRONG VIEWS.**

P06/E1084/RET – New Place, High Street, Whitchurch on Thames – Erection of garden shed (retrospective) - **NO STRONG VIEWS.**

P06/E1002 – White House Cottage, Manor Road, Whitchurch on Thames – Roofspace extension and two storey extension to existing cottage. Recommend APPROVAL for the following reasons – Application improves house, and to enable young family, where both parents work locally, to remain within village.

P06/E0996/LB – St Mary’s Rectory, High Street, Whitchurch on Thames – Thirty metre section of Northwest boundary wall to be dismantled to allow for foundations and reinforced piers to be added, before wall is rebuilt using salvaged bricks –

NO STRONG VIEWS.

P06/E0176 – Pluto House, Eastfield Lane, Whitchurch on Thames – Erection of a two storey side extension and refurbishment of existing house –

NO STRONG VIEWS.

Decisions received

P06/E0840 – Fawney, Whitchurch on Thames – Erection of a two bay oak framed detached garage – APPLICATION WITHDRAWN

Finances

The following cheques were agreed for payment.

- a) To ratify payments made in between meetings
 - Ridgeway Press for Bulletin
 - SLCC for Conference
 - RM Weavers for grass cutting
 - BDO for Audit costs

- b) To authorize payments of invoices received
 - Environment Agency for Commercial Accommodation charge for frontage
 - Andrea Gardner – clerks salary and conference expenses.
 - RM Weavers for grass cutting
 - SLCC for clerk’s manual.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Monday the 4th of December 2006 in the Whitchurch Village Hall at 8.00pm. An agenda and the dates of future meetings will be posted on the Parish Council Notice-board opposite the Greyhound before the next meeting.

Andrea Gardner
Clerk

FROM YOUR COUNTY COUNCILLOR

For some time I have been asked if any action could be taken against excessive speed along the B471 between Crays Pond and Whitchurch Toll Bridge. I am pleased to tell you that after lengthy discussion with Thames Valley Police I now have their approval that they have identified the need for speed enforcement along this stretch of road, which I hope will reduce concerns expressed to me.

There is also good news regarding the 142 Bus Service. Following the concerns you identified to me, I have been in discussion with the County Public Transport Officer and Thames Travel in order to agree a way forward. As a result Thames Travel have agreed a new contract to commence on Sunday 10th December, this contract being scheduled to end on 31st May 2008, during this time period a full examination of the Service will once again be undertaken.

There is concern though regarding the 1815 journey from Reading; the use of this journey will be under review until February 2007, when if there is insufficient support, it may be withdrawn.

John Farrow
County Councillor

Former England Cricket Star Coaching in Whitchurch

Whitchurch Cricket Club are negotiating a programme of weekly coaching sessions with Chris Lewis- former England allrounder. These sessions will hopefully start indoors in February on a weekday evening. There will be two children's age groups followed by an adult session- each being an hour long. In the Summer we look forward to moving the venue to our ground. It promises to be a great family event every week. All abilities will be welcome.

This programme is dependent on our grant application which has just been submitted. With fingers crossed, we will let you know if we have been successful.

If you would like any further information on our coaching programme or joining Whitchurch Cricket Club, please call Tim Close on 984 4591 or David Mattimoe on 984 3347.



Whitchurch Village Fete
Saturday 9th September 2006

Whitchurch Pre School Group would like to say a huge thank you to everyone in the village for coming along and supporting the fete. We had a glorious sunny day and raised over £1500! This will enable us to complete the Foundation Stage Garden, including a sensory area with a willow structure that can be enjoyed by the children of the village for many years to come.

Particular thanks must go to the Village Hall Committee for offering the event to us this year, Kate Thatcher and Nigel Grove for their help and advise, Geoff Weir our fabulous compere, Alan Matthews for opening the fete, Matilda Oppenheimer for organizing the raffle, the Aldridge's for providing the beautiful venue and Katie Smith and Pockets Remington who ensured everybody paid! Finally, thanks to all of those too numerous to mention who helped with flyers, cakes and on the day - and made it a community event.

Jo and Jane 'The Fundraisers'
and all the parents and children from Whitchurch Pre School

Whitchurch Primary News

www.whitchurch.oxon.sch.uk October 2006

The old term ended with a fantastic 'Pink Pirates Day' - a dress-up day for two charities, Breast Cancer Awareness and the Jubilee Sailing Trust. Nearly £200 was raised in total.

The conservatory is nearly complete and once the paving has been replaced we will move the library and organise an official opening. The extra space is essential now that the school is oversubscribed and it will enable small group teaching to take place without using the dining hall.

Our sports teams are warming up for some exciting challenges, first will be the Key Stage 2 Indoor Athletics meeting at Langtree on the 9th November and then a visit from the Reading Wildcats Lacrosse Pro for an introduction session on the 21st.

Our annual book week starts on Tuesday the 21st November and don't forget that the school is well rewarded from the proceeds! We managed to make nearly £1000 for the purchase of books last year. We would like everyone in the village to feel free to join us in the recycling of aluminium cans and foil. If you would like more information then please contact the office on 01189842347 or e-mail to office.2208@whitchurch.oxon.sch.uk. There are clearly marked bins in the old bike shed if you wish to drop your aluminium off.

We welcome visits to the school and ask only that you contact us in advance so we can ensure that someone is available to show you around.

Regards

Grant Mottram

WOT HABS

Recycling

Thanks to all who have responded to the **Aluminium Recycling Initiative**. Please keep up the good work. For those who don't already know: you can help raise funds for Whitchurch Primary School and help the environment by taking waste aluminium to the school. Recycling one kilo of aluminium can save up to 8 kilos of bauxite, four kilos of chemical products and 13 kilowatt hours of electricity.

Separate cans and foil. There are two separate bins at the school placed in the old bicycle shed near the entrance, accessible during school hours.

Cans made solely from aluminium – look for the symbol alu - rinsed and squashed flat.

Foil which includes food containers (e.g take-aways, pie dishes, cooking foil, milk bottle tops, chocolate bar wrappers. If it doesn't stay squashed, it isn't aluminium.

Ponds

If you have been keeping a record, however brief and informal, of wildlife seen in and around your garden pond during 2006, WOTHABS would be pleased to have it from you within the next week or so. Either post it through my letterbox (1 Swanston Field) or email it to me. I will again be passing the information on to Ponds for People, Oxfordshire and the Ponds Trust. These joint organisations are holding a conference on 25th November and welcome all comers, space permitting. Please let me know if you would like details. Several of our members recently attended a day of talks and workshops run by Oxfordshire Nature Conservation Forum and these get togethers are an excellent way of learning more about how to value and care for the natural environment.

Gill Goodwin 0118 9642934 gill_goodwin@yahoo.co.uk

Learn to Ring a Carol by Christmas

Wallingford Handbell Ringers are offering everyone the chance to do a spot of festive ringing.

This is a short course of five Thursday evenings at 7:30 pm starting on Thursday 16th November at the Bullcroft Recreation Rooms in Wallingford High Street. All are welcome, young and old. No previous experience of music making is required to enjoy ringing carols on handbells.

The first session is free and the cost for the whole course is £20. For more details contact Alan Cooper, 01491 822406, ajc@hrwallingford.co.uk.

Whitchurch Bridge

The last few months have been highly significant for the Whitchurch Bridge Company in the context of its plans leading up to the planned reconstruction of the Bridge in 2013.

We have successfully introduced Bridge Cards, and although there were a few teething problems the system is now working well, with about 3,500 Bridge Cards in use, and about 50% of all crossings now being made using a Bridge Card.

We have stopped accepting pre-paid tickets. There were some delays at the Bridge – unavoidable but temporary - when we implemented this change on 2nd October, with Bridge users stopping to enquire about the changes and requesting refunds for their unused tickets. There was also a surge in the sales of Bridge Cards from 2nd October as more drivers than we anticipated had relied on pre-paid tickets right up to the last day.

Coupled with these changes was the closure of Goring Railway Bridge, which appears from our traffic counting equipment to have led to a 5% increase in traffic over Whitchurch Bridge. There have also been some days when congestion in Pangbourne has caused queues right back over the Bridge up as far as Hardwick Road – some drivers mistakenly attributed these delays to the Bridge Company.

In early October we met with representatives of the local Parish Councils for a useful discussion and exchange of views – it is perhaps appropriate that we leave it to your Parish Council to publish its own report of this meeting.

On 13th November we implemented a change to the discounted Toll rate for Bridge Card users. This change – from 9p to 11.1p – is in line with the increases we have previously publicised as necessary to enable us to build up sufficient funds to reconstruct the Bridge in 2013, at an estimated cost of £2.3 million at current prices. We will not make any further changes to the Toll rates until 2008.

Looking to the future, we are in the process of appointing a firm of architects to work with Oxfordshire County Council Bridge Department - our engineering consultants – to come up with design options for the reconstruction of the Bridge which maintain its character and appearance under Grade 2 listing conditions whilst meeting engineering requirements. We are planning to meet again with SODC's Conservation Officer within the next few months to discuss these options, and in due course we will publish more details of the designs we are developing.

Finally, the Company is very pleased to welcome Mrs Beverley Bagnell as its new Bridge Manager. Beverley will be living in the Toll House with her husband Mike and three daughters.

Geoff Weir
Company Secretary
www.whitchurchbridge.com



THAMES VALE SINGERS invite you to join us for an evening of



Christmas Music and Readings



at

**The Barn, Beech Road, Purley
Performances start at 8pm**

Fri. 8th & Sat. 9th December 2006

**Tickets £6 for Adults/£5 for Senior Citizens & Children
obtainable by telephoning (0118) 962 4651**

WOODCOTE LIBRARY

A cause for celebration, Woodcote library was officially opened on September 30th 1991, so this October we're fifteen years old. Like other libraries we have survived hard times and enjoyed the support of the surrounding communities. We expect to continue to serve you and hope you will let us know of any way that things can be made better - there are comments forms at the desk, or speak to a member of staff. In October we shall also be running a Public Library User survey, and I hope you will not mind giving your time to fill the form in if approached. This is also the month of National Children's Book Week, National Bookstart Day, National Poetry Day and Family Learning Week and there will be supporting information at the library for each of these.

NOVEMBER

Thomas Hood's poem sums up the prospect of the month

No sun - no moon!
No morn - no noon –
No dawn - no dusk – no proper time of day...
No warmth, no cheerfulness, no healthful ease,
No shade, no shine, no butterflies, no bees,
No fruits, no flowers, no leaves, no birds –
November!

However, this was written in the nineteenth century, and the present day has more to offer. After the clocks go back it is possible to enjoy inside pursuits and the library can offer new films, stories on tape and bestselling books. The library will be hosting the display on the War Memorial and the background to the families recorded there. This has taken months of research and is sure to provoke much local interest.

DECEMBER

As a joint use library Woodcote has never been the traditional silent space some of us remember of old. However, there are times when the library is quieter - such as afternoons after 4pm, Monday evening and Friday mornings after 11am for those who would prefer a more peaceful library experience.

The Oxfordshire reference online allows access via the library computers or via your computer at home to such works as Oxford Reference Online, Grove Art, Grove Music, Times Digital Archive, Oxford English Dictionary, Encyclopaedia Britannica, Who's Who, Who Was Who, Oxford Dictionary of National Biography and Ancestry Library Edition. In this way a small library can have access to expensive reference works not usually available outside Oxford. All you need to access the material is your library card number, typed in without spaces - and for those titles published by OUP (i.e. anything with "Oxford" in the titles plus the two Grove works) pre-fixed by "L".

The web site address is oxfordshire.gov.uk/referenceonline, or you can go through oxfordshire.gov.uk and click "leisure and culture" then "libraries" then "reference online". We hire out a lot of DVDs, videos and books on tape to our members. We also run a service to those who can't use books so that books on tape or CD can be borrowed for three weeks absolutely free.

Christmas closing is December 25th to January 1st. We re-open on Tuesday 2nd January. Download the new Windows Live Toolbar, including Desktop search <http://toolbar.live.com/?mkt=en-gb>

Whitchurch Bridge Club

The Whitchurch Bridge Club meets twice a month in the winter for friendly rubber bridge sessions. Meetings are held in the Village Hall between 2pm and 5pm on Wednesdays. Membership is £5 a term, which includes tea and biscuits at meetings, and a Christmas Party in December.

There are a few spaces at the moment, so if you would like to play a few rubbers in the afternoons do come along and see us. There is no need to bring a partner, as we have mixed tables. These are not high powered sessions, though a knowledge of the basics is advisable. The next meetings are on November 15th, and 29th. The new term starts on January 3rd. For further details ring Sue on 011491 682461.

Also for Bridge enthusiasts I have also been asked to include the following:-

“Bridge improver lessons are being held at Crowmarsh Village Hall on Monday afternoons. For further details, please contact Edward Horsup on 01491 681517”

Wendy Williams

Whitchurch Hill - Christmas Village Fayre

2 December 2006

If you are looking for a relaxing environment in which to do your Christmas Shopping, visit the Whitchurch Hill Christmas Fayre on Saturday 2 December 2006, between 10.30am – 3.30pm.

Goring Heath Parish Hall (opposite St John's Church) will host stall holders selling quality gifts, stocking fillers, cards and cakes.

Light refreshments will also be on sale.

All organisers' profits will be donated to
Whitchurch Pre-School.

142 Bus Saved – but can it be improved too?

Good news, Oxfordshire County Council have decided to retain the 142 bus service. The only part of the service still at risk is the very last bus run of the day. For some reason Thames Travel want far more subsidy for that one extra run. Oxfordshire County Council are investigating this and will see if the time or something can be modified to make it less costly. We will hear about that soon. But all the other runs of the 142 are now definitely safe.

This decision follows strong representations from Goring Heath and Whitchurch on Thames parish councils and our SODC councillors. This was strongly backed by the residents of Goring Heath and Whitchurch on Thames in a petition to save the bus. A total of 514 signatures were gathered from residents of both parishes entitled to vote. This petition was presented to Cllr. David Robertson (Oxfordshire Cabinet Member for Transport) on the morning of the decision. At the same time Colin Cooper (Goring Heath Parish Council) presented the case of both parishes.

Despite this victory it is important to stress that people can best show their support for having a bus by using it. The bus routes in this area will be next reviewed again in 2010. Although Oxfordshire County Council will give subsidies to buses, like ours, in rural areas – if few use the bus it is not so easy to argue for this to continue.

The case that was made is that the 142 is a special case needing particular consideration. This is because it runs across local authority boundaries. In fact the 142 crosses three: Oxfordshire, West Berkshire and Reading. This has implications for both the level of subsidy and the timing of the bus.

The 142 is a two hourly service. It interleaves with the 132 (also two hourly on the opposite hour) between Pangbourne and Reading. The 142 then makes a circuit into Oxfordshire through Whitchurch on Thames, Whitchurch Hill, Crays Pond, Goring Heath, Checkendon, Woodcote and back down through Whitchurch Hill and Whitchurch on Thames; finally back to Reading.

The entire current subsidy for the 142 comes from Oxfordshire County Council. They have been paying Thames Travel £60,254 per year up to now. The average number of passengers per day (in Oxfordshire only) is 70. This works out at just under £3 subsidy per passenger journey. This is then compared to the subsidy for all the other busses in Oxfordshire. However – this ignores the most profitable bit of the bus route – the run from

Pangbourne into Reading – that runs through an urban area with a far higher usage than for the rural bit of the route through Oxfordshire. A bus that runs, say, from a rural area into Oxford is considered for the whole route, rural and urban. The 142 is only considered for the rural part. This strongly disadvantages those of us living near to Reading.

There is also a problem with the timing of the bus, which is dictated by the interleaving time of the 132 for the run from Pangbourne to Reading. Little account has been made of the needs of the Oxfordshire bit of the run, which, after all, is paying for it. One big anomaly this causes is that the first 142 of the day gets into Pangbourne 3 minutes AFTER the last viable commuter train to London. Moving the 142 to, say, 10 minutes earlier would mean that we could use it to get to London before 9am instead of 9:40am as it stands. That would potentially boost the number of people using the bus. The same applies in the opposite direction when the first bus to go past the Castrol Research Centre (easily the biggest employer on the route) goes past at 9.25am. And Castrol have just expanded their car park against local opposition.

So the 142 suffers severely from the simple fact that it runs across borders. It has to meet far higher criteria than other services for subsidy decisions and its timing is based on the convenience of those not paying for it in their taxes.

The 142 is crucial for us living here:

- Health - our hospital is in Reading and Health Centre in Pangbourne.
- Schools – those going to Reading and West Berkshire schools have no school bus. They have to use public transport.
- Work – a very high proportion of residents work out-of-area in Reading and London.
- Shops – most shopping is in Pangbourne or Reading.

Many people commented on the extreme irony of people over 65 receiving new free bus passes at exactly the same time as the bus was under threat.

So we have saved the bus for now. Hopefully we will not lose the last run of the day. This is not known at the time of writing. However, now is the time to start using the bus and to say how the timing could be improved. We would be very interested to hear from people that would use the bus if the timing were improved. Please contact Colin Cooper on colincooper@goringheath.com or at Oakdene, Gashes Lane, Whitchurch Hill, RG8 7PY. All responses received will be collated and fed back to Oxfordshire County Council. Now is the time to use it or lose it.

And last, but not least, a big thanks to all those that trudged the streets gathering signatures for the petition. It made a difference.

WADS Pantomime 2007

Jack and the Beanstalk

A tale of love, adventure and some beans! A gruesome giant, a wicked witch, a fabulous fairy, a brave hero, a daft dame and a cuddly cow!

Performances are on 26th, 27th January and 2nd, 3rd February,
at Woodcote Village Hall
and the box office will open on 2nd January 2007
on 01491 680556.

Goring Heath Parish Charity

It might be a little late but still well worthwhile saying “congratulations” to all those who managed to produce so many entries of such a high standard for the Gardening Show held on the 26th of August. As we all know, it had been the most difficult of seasons to try and grow anything, while having to compete with both drought and a hosepipe ban. But those difficulties were overcome and the judge of the vegetable, fruit and flower section remarked that exhibitors in our show had, on the whole, produced more vegetables etc of better quality than other local shows! So once again, well done to everyone who entered. The winners were-:

Allotments Society Cup- 1st Tricia Bland. 2nd Jim Cairns 3rd Dennis Howes
The Betty Hayter Memorial Cup (Flower cup)- 1st Robin Hearn. 2nd Jim Cairns
3rd Liz Gibson.

Baking and Preserves- 1st Theresa Elsome. 2nd Carol Lane. 3rd Liz Gibson.

Photography Cup- 1st Kate Giles 2nd Liz Gibson. 3rd Theresa Elsome.

Childrens Cup- 1st Amy Holland. 2nd Crystal Whittchall. 3rd Evie Holland.

Overall Cup most points- 1st Liz Gibson. Joint 2nd Tricia Bland & Jim Cairns.

3rd Theresa Elsome

Douglas Allardyce Memorial Cup-Best in Show - Jim Cairns for his tomatoes.

The Happy Prince

Tickets, £7 and £4 are now on sale for this Christmas show, suitable for the family with children over 5, to be staged in Goring Heath Parish Hall on Saturday 16th December at 7pm.

Cornelius and Jones present this classic story by Oscar Wilde. The company has a reputation for original work of a high artistic and technical standard. They create their own productions and commission scripts as well as spellbinding music composed by Andrew Hodge. "Neil Canham is an outstanding storyteller who has the audience, of all ages, eating out of this hand...**The designer and director, Sue Leech, deserves great credit for this clever production... The show is ideal for a youngsters first visit to the theatre and great fun for all of us who are a little bit older.**" (Oxford Times)

Tickets available from Theresa Elsome 0118 9842056.

On Saturday 20th January 07, we adults have a chance for a night out **with** the appropriately named "**Stuff the Turkey**" and "**Tales of Lust and Chocolate**"! An after Christmas "must"!

Tickets for this show are also available now, from the same contact as before, so now you can get all your Christmas and New Year entertainment organised without any hassle.

0118 9842056

TE



Your New Year's resolution for 2007?

So you've stopped making New Year's resolutions because you never stick to them? Now here's one you can keep: volunteer to work at your local Citizens Advice Bureau!

It's such an easy resolution to fulfil – just ring Sarah Westcott, Manager of Henley CAB, on 01491 578267, in early January and tell her you are interested. She'll do the rest – invite you for a chat and a look round the CAB, tell you what's expected of you, give you a chance to observe the bureau in action (just so you can be sure the work is for you), set up an interview (yes, we interview candidates for such important work), and, if you are accepted, provide free professional training.

Your training to become a volunteer adviser, delivering our free and confidential advice and information service, results in you being awarded the CAB Certificate in Generalist Advice Work. This is a nationally recognised qualification and can lead to other job opportunities.

The work in the CAB is challenging and rewarding. We need you to be keen to develop new skills, want to help others and enjoy working as part of a team. If you are looking for a way back to work in the social sector, this training is for you.

If you are simply wanting to make a New Year's resolution that you can keep, this volunteering opportunity is for you! We can't run our service without volunteers.

So call Sarah on 01491 578267, or visit us or write to us at 32 Market Place, Henley, RG9 2AH. You can also e-mail us on henleycab@cabnet.org.uk

The closing date for applications is 31st January 2007.



South Chiltern Choral Society
Presents

Christmas Cornucopia

Saturday 16th December 7.30 pm

Sunday 17th December 2.30 pm

Respighi – *Laud to the Nativity*
Carols and Songs

Conducted by Gwyn Arch, the South Chiltern Choral Society's Christmas offering this year is a rich cornucopia of Christmas delights.

In Respighi's *'Laud to the Nativity'* there's an unusual slant on the Christmas story. In this beautiful piece we learn about the birth of Jesus mostly from the point of view of the shepherds, so the men of the choir have a lot to do! The accompaniment is provided by flutes, oboes and bassoons, creating a medieval effect until the *two* pianos join in with a 20th century sound.

The remainder of the programme features a young professional tenor, Kevin Kyle, the choir of Nettlebed Primary School and five unusual carols spanning over 500 years. What is *not* unusual is the traditional rendering of familiar carols by the audience.

This year the choir has a special treat at the end of the concert when they will be singing a romantic piece, 'Utopia', specially composed by Alan Bullard and presented to Gwyn Arch last December to celebrate his 40th year with the choir. The words of the song were written by Gwyn's mother, Laura L. Davies; a poem dedicated to Gwyn's father. There shouldn't be a dry eye in the house!!

At Chiltern Edge School, Reades Lane, Sonning Common

Tickets: Adults £10 Under18's £6
From: Judy Griffiths 0118 9345746

WHITCHURCH HILL CAMERA CLUB

Our November programme continues to offer an excellent balance of meetings with many different aspects of photography covered.

On the 15th November, we have invited the Henley Photographic Society to a battle involving the very best prints and slides. The judge for the evening will be Bryan Powell ARPS APAGB from the Newdig club in Basingstoke.

Mike Wilkes FRPS, one of the Country's leading wildlife photographers, makes a very welcome return on the 22nd with a presentation on the big cats and other animals in North and South Tanzania. This is followed, one day later, by the monthly meeting of our Digital Group designed to give practical help to all users of digital camera and manipulation software programmes.

A very busy month end on the 29th November with our second Slide Competition which will be judged by the ubiquitous Peter Jackman APAGB from the Princes Risborough Camera Club.

Our first meeting in December takes place on Wednesday, 6th when we welcome Dickie Duckett ARPS from the Henley Camera Club who will be showing some fantastic Natural History shots showing "The Falkland Islands and their Wildlife."

One week later, we have our first Studio Evening when the opportunity is given for everyone to photograph attractive young models under studio lights. The monthly meeting of the Digital Group takes place one day later on the 14th Dec.

The last meeting before Christmas will be held on Wednesday, 20th December and features our annual Slide and Sound Competition and Christmas Buffet.

Once again, we are on course to become the biggest, brightest and best Camera Club in the area with over 90 members and we intend to offer all of our members the opportunity to improve their photography using the very latest equipment.

If you want a good evening out mixing with a friendly crowd for the price of a cup of coffee, come along and see us at any of the above meetings. Visitors are asked to pay just £1.50 for the evening whilst Club members pay just £1.00 per meeting.

Our joining fees are the lowest in the area and there are big reductions for Joint Membership, Silver Citizens aged 60 or over and Under 21's. Come down to the Village Hall in Whitchurch-on-Thames next Wednesday evening at 8pm and see for yourself what we are doing.

Full details of our Club, including a complete Programme, are available on our website, www.whitchurchhillcameraclub.co.uk or you can pick up a printed version from Woodcote or Pangbourne Library.

**CHRISTMAS COFFEE MORNING
AT
COOMBE LODGE
THURSDAY 7TH DECEMBER
10.30 – 12.00**

Come and meet old friends and make new ones.
Cakes and Gourmet stalls, as well as raffle.

PROCEEDS IN AID OF CHURCH FUNDS

Lesley Landon Tel: 984 2414

Clarifications on garden waste service

We have been overwhelmed with the take-up of garden waste wheelie bins with over 4,000 in the first few weeks. Here are some clarifications on the type of questions we are getting from residents.

If residents have eco-sacks they can put them next to their wheeled bins which will be taken for composting.

For those who don't have a wheeled bin, then they can put eco-sacks or green bags out with the normal refuse but this does not go for composting.

Once we receive payment for wheeled bins residents receive a letter within 2-3 weeks. They will get their bins within 28 days of payment.

Any queries call Public Amenities on tel:- 01491 823416

DIARY DATES

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

NOVEMBER

18/19th Whitchurch Arts and Crafts Exhibition

DECEMBER

2nd Whitchurch Hill Christmas Fayre.
4th Parish Council meeting.
7TH Christmas Coffee Morning at Coombe Lodge.
8th & 9th Thames valley Singers Concert.
16th & 17th SCCS Concert.
16th 'The Happy Prince' Goring Heath Parish Hall.

JANUARY

20th "Stuff the Turkey" Goring Heath Parish Hall.
26 & 27th WADS Pantomime 'Jack & the Beanstalk'.

FEBRUARY

2 & 3rd WADS Pantomime 'Jack & the Beanstalk'.

THE NEXT ISSUE OF THE BULLETIN will be published in JANUARY 2007.

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

Sarah.pongo@talktalk.net 11th JANUARY 2007

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