

WHITCHURCH ON THAMES PARISH COUNCIL

Report of the Whitchurch on Thames Parish Council meeting on Monday 14th September 2009. The full minutes will become available when they are agreed at the meeting in November. You will be able to access these, and previous minutes, at your web site:

www.whitchurchonthames.com.

Present at the start of the meeting were Harry Butterworth (chair), Vincent Aldridge (vice chair), Lindsay Austin, Sue Robinson, Nigel Grove, Keith Brooks, Jo Wheeler (Clerk), Ann Ducker (District Councillor), Dave Sexon (County Councillor) and several members of the public.

Apologies for absence were received from Dr. Oppenheimer and Pearl Slatter.

Minutes of the July meeting

The minutes of the July meeting were presented and approved. There were no matters arising that were dealt with at this point.

Public forum

Geoff Weir presented the planning application for Wells House. He claimed that this new application differs from the original because the design has been revised based on recommended changes.

As Councillor Ducker needed to attend another meeting, with the approval of the Council the discussion relating to this application was moved forward to this point.

District Councillor Ann Ducker commented that she had checked with the planning officer who had said that he considers that there are no grounds for refusal due to back land or access reasons. It is the design and size of the proposed development that can be debated. Ann Ducker explained that the planning proposal had changed from the previous application and that the parish council couldn't object on the grounds of overdevelopment or because it's a backland development, but had to look at the house itself including design and size.

The Council first discussed whether any building of any sort on this site was acceptable and concluded that it was. After lengthy further discussion it was clear that although the Council still considered the building to be significantly too large for the plot, no one could demonstrate any other contravention of the Village Plan Environment Group's requirement of "suitability for its environment". The Council eventually (somewhat reluctantly) concluded that on this occasion the only possible outcome of the discussion was "No strong views".

It should be recorded that towards the end of the meeting a number of residents arrived to express concerns and objections to the Wells House planning application. These views were noted. The Parish Council looks at comments from objectors as part of the decision making process.

As part of the public forum one resident expressed concerns over the Eastfield House development. The Council agreed that they can't discuss the planning application until it has been submitted, but invited the resident back to the relevant Parish Council meeting to express views within the public forum once the anticipated application has been submitted.

District Councillor Report

Ann Ducker told the council that councillor Pearl Slatter is recovering from a knee operation.

The new waste collection is going well, with 70% of waste being collected for recycling.

Thames Valley Police Update

Councillor Brooks has set up a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme in Hardwick Road. Geoff Weir is trying to arrange a meeting with the other co-ordinators in the village. For more information go to www.whitchurchonthames.com and click on *Security*.

Toll Bridge update

The Minister is still deciding on the outcome. More information will appear in the Bulletin, when available. Residents may care to watch reports on their web site www.whitchurchonthames.com where the local news column is updated daily.

The council has heard that the Humber Bridge application was granted by the Inspector of the Humber Bridge Inquiry, but the Minister refused it.

Sub Committees

Reports from sub committees are summarised elsewhere in this Bulletin and in more detail at www.whitchurchonthames.com

County Councillor report

County Councillor, Dave Sexon told the council that Oxfordshire County Council no longer has a budget for clearing weeds and that evidence shows that weeds do not damage the structure of the highway.

He reported on the 20mph speed limit on Pangbourne and said that a “30” sign just before the Bridge might generate a cork-from-the-bottle effect.

Next meeting

The next parish council meeting is on Monday 2nd November 2009, 8pm, in the village hall. Please note that this is the first Monday in November.



WHITCHURCH - ON-THAMES NEWSLETTER

There are a couple of issues to report in Whitchurch which have occurred over the months. We have had reports from a few worried residents regarding youths jumping off Whitchurch Bridge into the river below. This is very, very dangerous so please – if you know anyone who has been doing this, please advise them against it. There will be a regular patrol of the area. There has also been an incident where the safety signs have been forced off on the Toll Bridge.

Additionally, we have had a spate of car crime in Manor Road. Offenders have broken into a couple of vehicles and stolen the Sat Navs so please make sure you do not have valuables on show and clean off the sucker rings from the windscreen once you have removed the Sat Nav. There have also been a couple of house break-ins in the area, so be extra vigilant with home security. We are increasing patrols of targeted areas.

Some of you may have seen or heard about a non-stop road traffic collision between a small truck and a bike at the beginning of the month. Fortunately, no-one was seriously hurt and managed to walk away with scrapes and bruises.

If you have any information regarding the recent car crime or any of the other issues mentioned, please contact Thames Valley Police on 0845 8 505 505 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111

Over the coming month, we are going to be displaying posters of your local Neighbourhood Policing Team, so look out for these.

We look forward to seeing you at our next up and coming Police surgery outside the Ferry Boat Inn, Whitchurch during the first Wednesday of the month between 1500 and 1600 hours.

PCSO Lisa Wallman
lisa.wallman@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk or
mark.bell@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk

You can find out more about neighbourhood policing on our website:
www.thamesvalley.police.uk

WoTHABS

Garden Tools Workshop - Sunday 18th Oct 10-30am at Chalkhills, Hardwick Road

If you have some neglected or unidentifiable hand tools in the corner of your shed, which make you feel guilty whenever you see them, this is the opportunity you have been waiting for!!

WoThabs are hosting a workshop event on gardening hand tools at which we shall look at:-

- ~ how to keep them in best working order (sharpening methods, maintenance, use)
- ~ how to make improvements
- ~ selection of best type when replacing

Please bring along some of your own tools as working examples (but not compulsory!)

We hope this will be helpful for application on your own personal projects at home or for work parties with the Whitchurch Volunteers.

For more details, please contact John Southey on 984 1802

Whitchurch Fete

Our childrens' activity this year – making butterflies from birds' feathers – proved to be very labour intensive, but there were some lovely results. For adults, John and Martin offered guidance about bird boxes and how to make them and also found they could have sold the boxes they had on display many times over. Perhaps they will lend their skills to a bird-box-making workshop if requested?

Meanwhile, please support our Garden Tools Workshop.

Gill Goodwin

Village Plan

The Village Plan proposed a number of actions and, six months on from its publication, you may like to know of progress to date.

- 1 The Village Hall has been refurbished – redecorated, with new flooring and curtains – to make it a much more attractive space. As well as creating a pleasanter environment for the existing activities, it is hoped that it will encourage new ones such as mothers and toddlers, coffee mornings and other events.
- 2 Discussions with the owners of the cricket ground, SODC and the cricket club have been actively progressed. As a result a joint planning application on behalf of the owners and parish council will be submitted shortly. This will propose one house on Eastfield Lane in the SW corner of the site, in return for which the village would gain the remainder of the ground at no cost in perpetuity for cricket and other leisure activities, plus a car park for the school. This is a unique opportunity for the village to secure this vital open space (supported by 83% in the Plan survey). It will be critical that that the application is supported in writing by as many people as possible and a leaflet will be circulated with full details nearer the time.
- 3 If you have not done so, you should visit the new Whitchurch Website www.whitchurchonthames.com. It has been attractively redesigned with the needs of village residents in mind. See the article later in this issue.
- 4 Discussions with SODC Highways on traffic calming continue and have resulted in the re-painting of the virtual pavement through the upper narrows and the removal of the central white line in the High Street. Efforts to establish a 20 mph limit continue.

5 The number of Neighbourhood Watch groups in the village has increased from two to four. More are needed. Several residents who said in the Questionnaire that they would like to volunteer to be group coordinators have not yet come forward. If you are one of them please contact Dr Keith Brooks on 0118 984 1178.

6 You may have noticed that smart new road signs are appearing around the village and this is part of our drive to have a common style throughout. A similar effort is underway on the subject of litter bins.

Stephen Trinder

Get Dancing, Get Fit, and Get Strictly Tickets

Have a go at a variety of dance styles and you could be the winner of Strictly Live Tour tickets

‘Two Left Feet’ is a variety dance programme launching across the county this autumn.

The programme offers something for everyone, all you need is a good sense of fun and two left feet!

Here is what’s in store for South Oxfordshire

10 weeks of Ballroom dancing in Henley Town Hall

Henley Salsa taster sessions in the Salisbury club

Plus many more. Classes cost only £2 for all first timers.

Two Left Feet is organised by GO Active a project to help adults lead more active lifestyles.

www.getoxfordshireactive.org Tel-Henrietta Thorn on 01491 823175

Report of the Environmental Group chaired by Councillor Keith Brooks

The first meeting of the Village Plan Environment Group occurred in July and was very productive. The meeting was attended by Susan Lee, John Southey, Eric Hartley and Jill Bradon.

Key areas were identified as possible areas where immediate changes could be implemented these were Street lighting, Street furniture, Road signs, Refuse bins and dog waste bins and the paths along Hardwick Road. Street lighting is managed by the OCC and we (Harry Butterworth chairman of the parish council and myself) met Alan Cockbill the OCC lighting officer and surveyed the lights in the village. From this we identified key areas where lighting needs to be upgraded particularly by the toll bridge and at the entrance to Manor Road so we will be moving towards addressing these areas initially.

The entrances to Manor Road and Hardwick Road were identified as key spots for renovation and were felt to be letting the village down. Both these areas seem to be identified as being scruffy so new bins, lighting (Manor Road), signage, gardening (Hardwick Road) and seating seemed to be required. In terms of signs we have made progress and Sally-Anne Worsley from SODC has promised that ours is top of the list and particularly the odd road signs at the Manor Road entrance have now been made uniform in line with the black and white in the rest of the village. New signs have been installed in Hardwick Road, Old Gardens and Swanston Field in keeping with our others.

As far as the provision of bins is concerned Fred Thompson-Brown waste team leader from SODC has been very helpful and offered to send one of his technical officers to the village for a site meeting where the replacement of the random selection with more up to date and aesthetically pleasing bins as well as the installation of dog waste bins. I am in the process of contacting SODC to arrange a meeting.

The Jubilee Walk along Hardwick Road has been identified as an area which needs urgent attention in the form of cutting back and trimming overgrown parts which inhibit both walkers in the ‘tunnel’ and vehicles in the road. All along Hardwick Road there has also been considerable erosion of the verges which are a habitat for flora and fauna and this has been caused by drivers using it as a passing place or for parking for activities such as boating and fishing.

This is an area of great concern and which should be addressed before things get too bad and Hardwick Road loses its charming character of a pleasant country road bounded by magnificent flowers and shrubs with the resulting populations of insects, birds and mammals which inhabit this ecological niche. Proper passing places with signs indicating this as well as signs warning motorists that they are about to enter a single track road may be useful. The prospective path along the Southern edge is something that was also discussed and I believe this is in hand.

I must thank the entire Environmental Group for their support and help in all these matters.

Dr Keith Brooks

Whitchurch Theatre Club

Organiser: Christine Martin Tel: 0118 9844252
Sonia, Goring Heath Road, Whitchurch Hill
e.mail: c_nmartin@tiscali.co.uk

The Whitchurch & District Theatre Club takes you to musicals, plays, classical concerts etc. once a month, mainly matinees but sometimes evening performances.

London and Provinces. Tickets purchased at group/concessionary rates.

Subscription £3 per annum.

Coaches leave from Pangbourne. If interested please contact Chris at the above address.

For latest Village news go to www.whitchurchonthames.com

WHITCHURCH PRE-SCHOOL

We've just starting a new term at Whitchurch Pre-School, after the long summer break. We have welcomed several new children and we also have a new staff member, in addition to the new teacher joining the Primary Stage Foundation Unit. Our topic for this term is All About Me.

We have just held the hugely enjoyable and very successful Whitchurch Fete on September 5th, with many new and exciting attractions this year. Meanwhile, here at Pre-School, the children love the newly designed garden and the new sandpit and we have just obtained our latest addition to the garden: a shed with blocks for the children to play with.

If anyone has any children they wish to register for Pre-School, please contact Vicky Barker on 984 2483 or Helen Lowney on 984 4516.

WOODCOTE LIBRARY

October is Family Learning Month in Oxfordshire when all sorts of opportunities are offered for taking part in activities and enjoyable learning, suitable for all ages. In Woodcote we will have a prize quiz, the questions aimed at young and old and also an event in the library connected with The Big Draw. Our last art event involving the community was a great success, so look out for the posters in the library and around the village and come and join in!

We've had several enquiries about reading groups in and round Woodcote. If anyone is looking for members, or would like to start one, please let us know, as we have collections of books to borrow especially for such groups.

Finally, a reminder that the library is a busy one and on a school site so parking can be difficult at times. In particular 3pm to 4pm is best avoided.

The Whitchurch Society Art and Craft Exhibition

Saturday, Sunday, 14th, 15th November, 2009

Whitchurch-on-Thames Village Hall

The annual exhibition of Art and Craft will take place as usual in November. We welcome all ranges of work – it is an enjoyable, friendly event, not an elitist showcase! We look forward to receiving entries from previous contributors, but we hope that there will be lots of new entrants too. Young people might be particularly interested in submitting work in new media (see below). Please join in!

All residents (both past and present) of Whitchurch-on-Thames and Goring Heath parishes are eligible to enter their work. Children who attend the Whitchurch Pre-School, the Whitchurch Primary School or the Oratory Preparatory School are also eligible to enter, regardless of their place of residence. Exhibits that are offered for sale are welcome but they will not be eligible for the awards.

Timetable

Sending-in - Thursday 12th November 7pm-8pm at May Cottage,
Eastfield Lane

Friday 13th November 11am-2pm at the Village Hall

If it is not possible to bring your entry at either of these times, please contact Peter Smith (0118 984 3340) to arrange a convenient alternative.

Prize Giving - Sunday 15th November at 4pm

Collection of Work – Sunday 15th November at 4.30pm-5pm

Loss or damage to exhibits

We take great care of exhibits but the organisers cannot be responsible for loss or damage. If required, insurance cover should be arranged by exhibitors.

Commission

A commission of 20% will be deducted as a contribution to the Whitchurch Society from all sales at the exhibition.

Classes and Rules of Entry

Joyce Voysey Prize

- This is an open class for all ages, and the theme this year is “Autumn”.
- The work may be any item of art, craft or photography.
- Please mark clearly your work “Autumn” on the back, together with your name in block capitals (and with the price if offered for sale).
No more than one entry per person is permitted in this section.

Classes for 18 year olds and under

Art and Craft

These are divided into 4 age groups. Prizes will be awarded for both Art and Craft in each of these age groups:

- under 7 years
- 7-10 years
- 11-14 years
- 15-18 years

The exhibitor’s name and age must be clearly written on the back of the work. There is no restriction on the number of exhibits per entrant.

Photography class

- This is a single class open to all young people aged 18 and under.
- Exhibitors may exhibit a maximum of 4 photographs which may include one series of photographs.
- All individual photographs should be mounted on heavy quality card.
- If entrants wish to submit a series of photographs on a common theme, the photographs should be mounted on card no larger than A3.
- The exhibitor’s name and age must be clearly written on the back of the work.

Adult classes (over 18)

Art Work

- Exhibitors may submit up to a maximum of 4 pictures.
- All pictures must be framed and fitted with eye screws, or mounted on heavy quality card with a margin around the picture.
- Pictures must be labelled on the back with artist’s name in block capitals, and with the price if offered for sale.

Photography

- a) Exhibitors may submit a maximum of 4 photographs which may include one series of photographs.
- b) All individual photographs should be framed, or mounted on heavy quality card with a margin around the photograph.
- c) A series of photographs should be mounted on card no larger than A3.
- d) All entries must be labelled on the back with the artist's name in block capitals and with the price if offered for sale.

Craft Work

- a) There is no limit on the number of exhibits submitted, although the organisers' discretion may be exercised.
- b) All work should be labelled on the back with name in block capitals, and with the price if offered for sale.

Installation Art/audio visual work/ Utube clips!

The organisers welcome entries of work using relatively new media. If you are considering entering such an item in any of the above categories, you are advised to get in touch in advance in order to discuss arrangements for showing your work appropriately.

First time entrants

There is an award for the best art work, photography or craft work produced by a first time entrant. If you have never entered before, and you are over 18, you are eligible for this award. Please make sure that your exhibit is marked "First time entrant" on the back.

For further details, please contact Peter Smith on 0118 984 3340 or at peterbsmith@fsmail.net, or look at our website on www.wotarts.co.uk. In particular, please get in touch if you would like to be involved in the organisation of the event – volunteers urgently needed!

Autumn colours 2009

I hope to take you on this walk about the middle of October (probably the 18th) when the beech leaves have turned colour sufficiently – for the past two autumns they were still beautiful in November. As before, the Whitchurch Society will display posters to alert you to the chosen Sunday.

The walk will start at the Maze at around 10:00hrs for a walk of 6+ miles; it will take just over two hours. One variation will be to meet at the Black Gates (the entrance to Hardwick Estate) at, say, 10:15hrs and this will reduce the distance to just over 4 miles.

So at high level along the Jubilee footpath until we reach Bozedown Farm and then over to the wider southern verge to reach the west black gates of Hardwick. Along through the Hardwick Estate to Mapledurham (the White House here was the local pub until it was closed because the customers were found to be playing bowls on Good Friday).

Turn left up the road away from Mapledurham village and then left again towards Bottom Farm (a lovely dell that was once crowded with sheep). We walk past the farmhouse on our left and out into the pastures beyond the cottages and then immediately turn right up the hill (may be too steep for some?) to a stile at the top. Cross over, bear left slightly and follow the farm road to and past Whittles Farm to meet the road from Goring Heath below. Cross over with great care to the kissing gate slightly over to our right and then follow this path alongside the left hand fence to reach another gate to enter into the woodland (Nuney Wood) beyond; then down a narrow fenced path to reach Nuney Green.

There are numerous paths here but we will turn left and then left again onto the Hamlet's only approach road until we pass the cottages on our left and then turn right into the woodland and, hopefully, see the beech trees in their autumn glory.

This path is well signed by blazemarks on the trees but do take care. I have on one occasion reached Nuney Green, wandered through the woods and finished up back at Nuney Green! If we follow the correct route we should finish up emerging from Gutteridge's Wood to reach the Goring Heath road again. Cross straight over with care to and over a stile and through the two fields opposite. There will be horses in both so please ensure your dogs are on leads at this point. The cherries used to be abundant here but the horses strip the lower branches bare.

We are now at Collins End (King Charles territory). We turn left onto the metalled road running through the estate and then have a number of choices for our return route.

This time we will turn right at the crossroads and then left before Holmes's Farm and then quickly right again below the farm to reach a narrow path between the farm buildings. We now have a series of new green gates – we go through the first one and then walk diagonally across the nearby field to a second one to enter the copse beyond. We follow a narrow path through the copse and drop down to a third new gate and then walk diagonally right across the field to the final new one. Go through and then turn immediately left and uphill to the old! gate above; go through and cross the field to reach the gate leading to Path Hill Farm. Again there may well be cattle in these fields so dogs and children need to be under control.

We can return home via the Baulk (immediately opposite) or turn left and drop down past the Bear Pit to Hardwick House.

Hopefully we will have seen the beech trees in their magnificent colours and can look forward to our walk on New Year's Day 2010!

Eric Hartley

Langtree Sinfonia Autumn Concert 2009

The Autumn concert of the Langtree Sinfonia will be held in Christchurch, Reading Road, Henley-on Thames on Saturday November 21st at 7.00pm.

The evening starts with Mozart's ballet music 'Les Petite Riens' and then Jens Franke will perform Ferdinando Carulli's Guitar Concerto in E minor. The evening will be rounded off with Beethoven's stirring 7th Symphony. Paul Cox conducts.

Tickets Available at the door or 0118 9415498
Also at 'Inspiration' The Arcade, Goring
Adults £7.50 Patrons £6.50 Students £3.50

Have you seen the new Whitchurch website?

If you haven't visited the **Whitchurch Web** there is a surprise waiting for you. You'll find a new look and a lot of new pages – and it's designed by village residents for use by village residents. Have a look at the news items, coming events, history page, video clips, photos of the fete and much more.

Recent news items include burglaries, planning applications, a Hardwick allotments offer and a new book about Whitchurch history. There is a page for our growing Neighbourhood Watch groups. The result of the Toll Bridge Inquiry will appear on the news page. If it's Thursday and you can't remember which bins to put out, just check on the Whitchurch Web.

The Whitchurch Web team consists of webmaster David Robinson, IT specialist Philip Weir, graphics designer Kate Preston, photo editor Nick Brazil, events editor Pam Scott and news editor Richard Wingfield.

Contact Pam (984 2331, pammike@btinternet.com) or Richard (984 3682, richard.wingfield1@virgin.net) with events or news.

Congratulations to Anthony Booth of Longacre Farm who was drawn the winner of the **Prize Quiz** enclosed with the previous Bulletin, out of five contestants who had all the correct answers. He and his wife have enjoyed the prize of a meal for two donated by The Ferryboat.

Go to www.whitchurchonthames.com

Building Works at Pangbourne Medical Practice From the 3rd to the 12th of November

Pangbourne Medical Practice has been awarded a generous grant to improve our Surgery premises. This will be used to convert some of our upstairs meeting rooms into consulting rooms. To enable these rooms to be used by all our patients we are installing a lift in the corner of the waiting room. During the next few years this will allow us to increase the number of junior doctors and nurses training in the Practice. Fortunately the builders have advised that we do not need to shut the surgery for this work to be undertaken safely.

However it will inevitably cause some disruption as the waiting room will be unusable for 10 days in early November. We will continue to provide pre-bookable and access surgeries morning and afternoon every day. These will be at variable times during the day to avoid too many patients waiting at once.

The Nurses will work in their usual rooms and the Doctors will all be based at the other end of the surgery. There will be waiting rooms for each corridor and access will be via the fire doors at the ends of the corridors.

Our reception staff will be available to help you.

Physiotherapy and phlebotomy appointments will continue as normal but flu and child immunisation clinics will be delayed until after this period.

The dispensary will continue to provide all prescriptions as usual.

We apologise for any inconvenience that this causes; we will endeavour to offer as many appointments as usual.

RG8 Badminton Club

Did you know that badminton –

- Claims to be the second most popular global sport – only beaten by soccer of course.
- Is the fastest racket sport with smashes measured at 200mph – as fast as Euro-Star!
- Has its best shuttlecocks made from the left wing of the goose – what's wrong with the right one!?

These and other totally fascinating badminton facts emerged as part of our Badminton Mastermind Quiz held as part of our end of season dinner at the White Lion in Crays Pond.

The summer break brought to an end another successful season for the club. We welcomed some new members, played some enjoyable badminton and indulged ourselves in a number of social activities. For example our summer evening bike ride covered 11 miles, four pubs and two inches of rain! Once again a number of members were active in various Woodcote Rally roles.

We play from 7.30pm on Thursday evenings in the Langtree Community Sports Hall in Woodcote which has four excellent courts. We have members from across the local area including Woodcote, Whitchurch and Goring & Streatley with a range of ages and skill levels.

If you'd like to join us for the autumn term ring me – Chris Uden – on 01491681263 if you want to find out more.

PS: Don't worry too much about the 200mph smashes – that's only by world champs!!

Langtree School - GCSE Results 2009

Students and staff are celebrating another set of excellent results at Langtree School in Woodcote. Following three years of consistently high standards, which have resulted in national awards for high achievement at GCSE as well as an 'outstanding' rating in a recent inspection, the Year 11 students in 2009 achieved a passrate of 69% for five or more GCSEs at grades A*-C. Furthermore, 61% of students achieved their 5 GCSE passes including English and Maths, which exceeds the threshold for high performance set by the government each year.

Staff at Langtree were also delighted to note that 24% - almost one quarter of all full course GCSE grades awarded - were at A* or A, maintaining an excellent tradition of high achievement at the top level. Special congratulations go to nine students: Kathryn Jones, Sarah Parkes-Bowen, Sean Sewell, Ben Strickland-Taylor, Jenny McWhirter, Tom Hunt, Nick Durand, Tom Wright and Ella Shepard for achieving ten grades or more at A* and A.

As a successful Performing Arts College, it was not at all surprising that Langtree students excelled in the arts. 50% of students taking Drama and Art & Design secured a pass at A* or A, with the overall pass rates in Art, Drama and Music well over 80%.

Headteacher Rick Holroyd was keen to recognise the excellent efforts of students and staff in securing such pleasing results. 'Langtree has a national reputation for high academic achievement which was recognised in our outstanding inspection report last year. The students and staff at the school have worked exceedingly hard to produce these results and every student ought to be very proud of what they have achieved. We are fortunate to have such an expert group of dedicated, specialist staff and hugely supportive parents who have worked extremely hard to prepare these students for their GCSE examinations. We all wish these students every success in the next phase of their education or training'.

Zoë Wigginton-Cooke
Performing Arts College Co-ordinator
Langtree School, Woodcote, Reading, Berkshire RG8 0RA

Calling all STUDENTS!!

The trustees of Whitchurch United Charities want to remind all students and families that the Charity has funds available to help with the cost of books and equipment or other educational expenses. Eligible students are young people between the ages of 5 and 25 years and whose permanent residence is within the parish of Whitchurch. (Note - if you receive the Parish Magazine for St Mary's and St John's churches, you are in the parish and therefore eligible).

Applications are processed twice a year, with the closing dates being 31st Jan and 31st July. However, late applications are considered if the available funds for the previous 6 month period have not been fully allocated. All applications and decisions are treated in strict confidence by the Trustees.

If you would like to know more, please do contact Peter Hawley (our Grant Application Secretary) on (0118) 984 1647 or write to him at:-

3 Whitchurch House
High Street
Whitchurch-on-Thames
Reading RG8 7EP

OUR TELEPHONE BOOKS

BT have recently distributed the Newbury area telephone book to the village despite our proximity to Reading, because that is their current distribution policy. If you ring BT on 0800 833 400 they will send you the Reading one.

regards, John Southey
+ 44 (0) 118 984 1802
+ 44 (0) 7831 236 751
jsouthey@btinternet.com

WOODCOTE LIBRARY

We hope everyone enjoyed the summer events, but now it's back to business for children and adults. School begins - and we have homework answers - and adult courses begin - and we have background material to help with this. Don't forget that the school busses will be here from about 3pm to 3.45pm, so this is a time to avoid if you're coming by car. After four is usually a good quiet time to visit.

The Rainbow storytimes will continue on Tuesdays from 2.15pm for the under fives - these are becoming increasingly popular since they started in mid July.

A new feature of Reference On-line, the Oxfordshire enquiry site on the free People's Network computers, is access to nineteenth century newspapers from throughout the country. This feature will be found through the Times Digital Archive site - ask at the desk for more details. Do come in to see the display of artwork by adult learners at Woodcote, Wallingford and Sonning Common which will be available for viewing from August 24th. It's always inspiring to see what can be achieved under the guidance of Pam Hobbes by local amateurs - and could be the inspiration needed to prompt others to have a go!

ORCHARD OPEN DAY

CROSS LANES FRUIT FARM, MAPLEDURHAM, RG4 7UW

SUNDAY 11 OCTOBER 10.00am-5.00pm

A day out with a difference. You have all heard about apples, now come and try lots of different apples all bursting with flavour, crisp and juicy. Just apples you say, but there is lots more going on.

There are apple games for the children, apple peelers to try - who can get the longest piece of peel - and delicious apple pies, cakes, jams and jellies to buy. Try your hand at the conkers. The Goring, Woodcote and District Lions will be there running the annual Conker Challenge to raise funds to support Lions charitable activities in the local community.

Cross Lanes Fruit Farm grow sixty different varieties of apples, plums and pears. Most of these will be on display with twenty or more varieties for sampling. Taste the difference - all apples grown for full flavour - contrast the pippins, russets, grieves, blenheims and more. See how the delicious freshly pressed apple juice is made and compare the juices of different apples.

Take the opportunity to find out about the work that goes into producing the apples by joining one of the guided walks at 11.00am or 12.30pm and 2.00pm or 3.30pm. Problems with pest and disease or with your pruning? Displays in the barn will answer your questions. Many surprising stories about apples will be there too. Bees are essential for apple growing and the beekeepers will be keen to share the secrets of the bees with you.

The Farm Shop, selling Cross Lanes apples and pears, juices and honey, will be open all day. Lunchtime barbeque, then teas and apple cake.

Entrance and car parking are FREE.

Whitchurch Village Fete 2009

...I think the kids may have enjoyed that one!!!

Why does the weather in this country have to be so rubbish?...What a cold one. Needless to say, despite the coldness of the day, all villagers and attendees seem to have had a fun filled afternoon. We don't need Sunshine to bring a smile to our Faces!!!!

Lots of lovely activities, (especially for the youngsters) filled the field this year, from modern day Pulsar laser quests and Mega slides to the more traditional wooden swing boats and bracelet making. Some interesting stuff too....with the observational beehive brought along by Cliff Marriott from Rushall Farm to the Whitchurch History Society and Wothabs.

This year we had Oojamaflip, the circus entertainer, which by all accounts kept the children thoroughly entertained....even a few Mums and Dads tried their hand at juggling....., and lets not forget The Animal Woman.....Many a time as I passed her patch, did I see angelic looking children wearing what appeared to be Giant Lizard brooches or Boa Constrictor necklaces!!!!!! Less said.

Tug of War was won by Whitchurch Hill Dads (The Whitchurch Hill Dads against the Whitchurch-On-Thames Dads) ...so too was the Cricket Match following the fete....never mind lads, there's always next year. Congratulations to the winning team!

.It would be impossible to thank everyone that helped and supported on the day as so many Mums, Dads and villagers helped to make the day happen. ...so thanks go to everyone that helped on the day - to everyone that made a cake, put up a marquee, manned a stall, you know who you are!

To all of you that attended and spent your hard earned pennies - your support is very much appreciated - I hope you enjoyed that day!

Very special thanks however, must go Kellie Collier for organising and planning the event with me, to Geoff Weir, our wonderful pre-school trustee for compering the day, and what a fantastic job of it he did! To Matilda Oppenheimer for her kind support with the grand draw. To the Whitchurch Cricket Club & The Whitelock Family, for allowing us to use their grounds. To Nigel Grove, forever a support to our pre-school.

I would also like to Thank our sponsors -Warminghams Estate Agents, Richard Wilson Solicitors of Goring, BP Technology Centre and Michael McVeigh of Mcveigh Parker of Bradfield. We would not have been able to fund some of the attractions or provide Grand Draw prize money if not for the generous support of these companies - so thank you!

The final funds raised on the day that will go to Whitchurch Pre-school group were £1914.57! This is an excellent start to the pre-school year
See you all next year...!

Helen Bowsher
Fundraiser - Whitchurch Pre-school Group

THE NEXT ISSUE OF THE BULLETIN

will be published in NOVEMBER 2009.

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

Sarah.pongo@talktalk.net by 5TH November 2009

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