

# The Bulletin of Whitchurch on Thames

## Summary of parish council meeting on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> September

### **Present:**

Harry Butterworth (Chairman), Dr. Keith Brooks (Vice Chairman), Dr Matilda Oppenheimer, Mrs Lindsay Austin, Nigel Grove, Vincent Aldridge, Jim Donahue

### **In attendance:**

County Councillor Dave Sexon, District Councillor Pearl Slatter and Parish Clerk Jo Wheeler

### **Planning matters:**

#### **Response to bridge company application**

The parish council discussed modifications to the Bridge Company's application:

The Bridge Company claims that the safety of pedestrians on the bridge approaches is a separate matter to the plans for the rebuild. The Parish Council insists that the safety of pedestrians on the bridge has to be dealt with as an integral part of the planning application.

The Whitchurch Bridge Act 1792 states that the Bridge company shall provide a crossing which is "**safe and commodious for the passage of travellers, cattle, and vehicles**" When the present bridge was built Henry Ford had not begun to dream of the his Model T. The Bridge Company's plans for the new bridge make no allowances for the rise of motor traffic and have no consideration for pedestrians whatever .

Our Traffic and Pavements Advisory Group ( TaPAG ) has protested very strongly both to OCC Highways and to the SODC planners. Furthermore there are 110 objections on South Oxfordshire District Council's website relating to this. As pedestrian safety has not been dealt with as part of the submitted re-build plans the Parish Council insists that this should be made to be a requirement of any planning consent.

**New planning application:**

Littleholme Eastfield Lane (P11/E1249): erection of replacement dwelling . The parish council discussed this planning application and agreed it has no objections so the response was: **no strong views**

## **Other Matters**

### **Village Green**

The Village Green Committee is now fully established. The legal documents for transfer are almost ready for signing. The committee has been exploring ways to raise money to fund the much needed car park and amenities, to enable the village to make good use of the community green.

### **South Oxfordshire District Council**

District Councillor Pearl Slatter thanked the parish council for discussions on the Bridge Co's planning application and other planning matters. She pointed out that SODC wants to protect its countryside, despite the White Paper about building new homes on green belt areas.

### **Oxfordshire County Council**

County Councillor Dave Sexon reported that a traffic survey had been carried out as preparation for traffic management during the bridge closure. If the results weren't adequate another one would take place to ensure the traffic will be managed as effectively as possible.

He reminded everyone to go to [www.oxfordshire.gov.uk](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk) and search *library service consultation* for more information and to show support for keeping local libraries open, in particular the one in Woodcote: which will have to rely heavily on volunteers.

## **Environmental Group**

The Environmental Group has been busy in the village: putting up new Neighbourhood Watch signs and cleaning the existing signs, replacing glass in the telephone box and arranging for salt bins in preparation for winter weather. Parish Councillor Brooks is going to order more salt bins from Oxfordshire County Council.

### **TEMPORARY ROAD TRAFFIC ORDER**

Just before going to press the Parish Council received the following notice:

*A temporary road closure has been arranged to apply to part of High Street whilst water main connection works are carried out.*

*A temporary Order will be made to implement the temporary closure and will operate from 17 October 2011. The estimated duration of the works is 2 days. Notice of intention to make the Order will be published in the local press.*

*Access will be maintained for emergency service vehicles, the works and those residents within the closure area, subject to the progress of the works.*

*A copy drawing showing the extent of the temporary road closure is enclosed and also the alternative route.*

*If you require further information or have any queries please contact Hannah Shurey at Clancy Docwra on 01865 845320. .*

*Alternative Tel: 0846 310 11 11 Ref: ST1480/11*

The notice was accompanied by a map telling us where to find Whitchurch.

**The Parish Council has protested that there is an agreement to consult before issuing such orders.**

Local knowledge can make a big difference. Recently, for example, closure of the railway bridge in Pangbourne was reduced from two days to a few hours. In this case it is not at all clear why the road needs to be closed at all, let alone completely shut for two whole days. If SGN say they can get that gas pipe across the High Street in two steps, thus keeping the road open, surely hooking up a water pipe can't really need a cancellation of 12000 vehicle movements?

# Whitchurch Village Fete

## – An all Time Winning Fundraiser!

The Whitchurch fete was held this year on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2011 and all in all, a lovely afternoon. We were really blessed with the weather (which always helps).

We had some lovely attractions this year and craft stalls that filled the field. Quirks Animal Road show came which was really popular with children and the adults. As was Oojamaflip, the circus entertainer, who went down a treat with the kids

Oscars Pet supplies also came and ran a fabulous Fun Dog Show. So many pooches came along to compete. A highly amusing and fun activity that ran much of the afternoon.

The classic car show, very kindly organised by Nick Brazil was the most eye catching part of the fete – lots of fabulous cars on display. Thanks must go to all of the car owners for taking the time to bring down their cars and sharing them with us.

Our annual tug of war competition between the dads of Whitchurch VS Whitchurch Hill is always a crowd puller with everyone shouting to support their team. For the third year running, the Whitchurch Hill Dads pulled it off, but a very close call. The children of the village then took to the rope. Again, Whitchurch VS Whitchurch Hill which this time was won by Whitchurch.

The day itself, although a village event, was run by the parent committee of the pre-school with profits generated from the event going towards the pre-school. At the time of writing funds raised are £2950.00 but we still have money coming in so we hope to raise over £3000.

Thanks must go to Geoff Weir for compering the event! A fantastic job which we are very much appreciative of. To Nick Brazil for organising the classic car show, to Tracey Stewart at Oscars for organising and sponsoring the fun dog show, to Graham England and the Tilehurst Scouts Group for bringing along the climbing wall, to Warminghams and RW Wilson of Goring for their valuable

sponsorship of the event, for BP technology centre for sponsoring the Grand Draw. And last but not least, to all of the parent group and friends of Whitchurch pre-school group that gave up their time to either man stalls, make cakes, promote the event or donate grand draw prizes – the event would not have run so smoothly without all their support and help – so thank you guys!

Helen Bowsher

On behalf of Whitchurch Pre-school Group

## **BIRTHS MARRIAGES AND DEATHS**

### **Congratulations**

to Councillor Lindsay Austin on the birth of her second son Archie, a brother for George.

### **Sadly**

"Barry Grandage passed away peacefully in his sleep during the night of Tuesday 6th September after a long illness. Jackie and Barry have lived in their house on the spur above the Hardwick Road "hump" for over four decades, and brought up their family of three girls there. There will be an appreciation of Barry's life in the November Bulletin"

## Autumn walk

I have suggested to the Whitchurch Society that we delay our annual autumn walk until Sunday 23 October. I will be walking in Crete in early October and so won't be available until later in the month.

The route I propose to follow is simple and the reverse of one we have already walked. If we meet at the Maze at 11:00hrs (or the Black Gates at 11:15hrs) we can then head straight to Hardwick and through to Mapledurham. We turn left at the White House (the old village pub) and left again to Bottom Farm and straight on into Bottom Wood and literally along the valley floor to meet and then follow one of Sir Julian's permissive paths until we reach the footpath at the edge of the woodland which runs across at right angles. We will turn left and go uphill to join the bridleway coming from Hardwick House.

We can turn left to drop down to the house or right to Path Hill Farm and then left to the Bauk to drop down to the road below.

It is about 5 miles so allow a couple of hours.

Eric Hartley

P.S.

### A Guide to the Walks around Whitchurch-on-Thames

The Whitchurch Society has just agreed that we should reprint the Guide so the sixth edition should be available in October. The changes from the last edition are minor but newcomers to the village and their visitors may find it useful. More details in the next Bulletin.

Eric

## **Whitchurch & Goring Heath History Society**

After summer visits our Autumn season sees us return to Goring Heath Parish Hall for some excellent evenings, which start at 8pm.

On September 15<sup>th</sup> Alan Copeland returns with the last episode of ‘The Changing Face of Reading’ which is an illustrated account of the old town before it was radically altered in the 1960s.

The meeting on October 20<sup>th</sup> also has a Reading theme, but reaching back further in time. Rupert Willoughby will give an illustrated talk about Kings, Knights and Monks at Reading.

Continuing the theme, on November 18<sup>th</sup> the curator of the Huntley and Palmer collection at Reading Museum will introduce us to the unique objects on display, and the family archive held there.

Certainly we will have a greater understanding of our local town after this, and there is a local connection in that Charles Palmer lived at Bozedown House in the early part of the twentieth century.

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## **The Whitchurch Society**

### **Art and Craft Exhibition 2011**

**Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> November 2011**

(Entries submitted on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> November)

- Rules can be found at [www.whitchurchonthames.com](http://www.whitchurchonthames.com)
- The theme for the Joyce Voysey prize is “Made in Britain”.

## **How should we celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee?**

The Village Plan of 2009 contained 22 Action Points. The great majority of these have now been successfully completed, including the major achievement of the transfer of the cricket field to the Parish Council which is scheduled to take place next month.

Living in a village like ours gives us an enjoyable sense of belonging to a community but it is noticeable that it has become harder to find people who are able to commit time to sustaining the clubs and societies in Whitchurch that help to create that sense of community.

Of course we have some well established and active focuses of village life – church, pubs, cricket and football clubs etc – meeting particular needs and interests. These are in constant need of our support. You may however like to consider if others like a gardening club, computer class or film club could be added to the existing activities and if you would be willing to help set it up.

Outside of these there can be real value in something that pulls together a wide cross-section of the village. The Village Plan in 2009 worked in this way, involving some 70 Whitchurch residents.

I would like to suggest that the Diamond Jubilee in 2012 offers another occasion when we might bring the different talents in Whitchurch together to celebrate the Queen's remarkable 60 years on the throne.

May I invite you to think about a suitable project in which we could all be involved? It might take the form of a permanent feature - such as a 'monument' of some kind, or a stand of trees, rather like the Maze - or an event like an Arts Week, with say a music recital, art exhibition and poetry reading, concluding with a hog roast and village party. Alternatively there might be a series of Diamond Jubilee events run by village clubs and societies during the year.

Please let me know your own ideas – telephone 0118 984 2610 or e-mail on [stephentrinder1@virginmedia.com](mailto:stephentrinder1@virginmedia.com)

# THE ALLOTMENT SOCIETY

This year, the weather conditions have yet again tried and tested those of us who are really keen. Those who weren't so keen or were short of time, may have found their produce didn't grow so well!

First, it was really hot and dry, which meant a huge amount of watering of young seedlings and young plants – in April!

Then, it wasn't too bad. We got some rain, mixed in with some sunshine.

Then the last few weeks have been about dodging the rain ... Trying to pick raspberries in the sunny spells and lots of weeding because there has been so much moisture and warmth that the weeds have had a great time whilst the children have been on holiday ....

Anyway, for some things the growing season is coming to an end (courgettes for example), for other things such as garlic and autumn-sown onions, it is almost the beginning of a new season again, as my thoughts turn towards ordering the new garlic seed for planting in the autumn.

Some of our new members have struggled with the adverse weather conditions this year, but we are almost completely full and may possibly have one plot available soon.

So despite the less than ideal weather conditions, allotment gardening still seems to appeal – it is hard work but also great fun growing your own!

Ros Heath  
984 2358

# WHITCHURCH PRIMARY SCHOOL

Dear Parents

Although we have only just had our new intake of reception children we are already planning for the children who will be starting school in September 2012. To help us assess the demand for places could you please complete the form below **if** your child is born between 1 September 2007 to 31 August 2008 **and** you expect to apply for a place at Whitchurch Primary School.

Please note that this is not an application for a place at the school and that you still need to complete the Local Authority Admission Form.

Yours sincerely

Fiona Broadbent

.....  
School Business Manager

**Expression of interest in Reception Class Sept 2012** (*this is not an application for a place*)

Name of child .....

Date of birth .....

Address

Sir Julian Rose talks on –

## **“Financial Collapse and the Reversion to the Local”**

Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> September – 7.00pm

at

**Hardwick House, Whitchurch-on-Thames,  
Oxon RG8 7RB**

To book a place please call the Hardwick Estate Office on 0118  
9842955 or e-mail [hardwickestate@btinternet.com](mailto:hardwickestate@btinternet.com)

Tickets £8 to include light refreshments

Sir Julian Rose author of “Changing Course for Life – Local Solutions to Global Problems” was an early pioneer of ecological farming, integrated rural communities and decentralised community regeneration. He is a farmer, writer and holistic thinker.

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### **Save Our Woodcote Library (OWL ) September 2011**

A meeting between the Committee of OWL and councillors and officers of Oxfordshire County Council on August 15<sup>th</sup> is a first attempt to understand the precise implications for Woodcote Library of the new policy put out to consultation. At present it is clear that rural areas are being disproportionately hit, with two thirds of staffing under threat, and it is by no means certain that the library could remain open under this burden. Many details remain to be discussed, but as a result of this meeting the committee will form an opinion of what our response should be. A public meeting will be held before the end of the consultation period, which is the end of September.

**Please look at the website for further news and information  
[www.ourwoodcotelibrary.org.uk](http://www.ourwoodcotelibrary.org.uk)**



## **Whitchurch Pre-School**

A very warm 'welcome' to all our new starters this term and all the best to our pupils who have moved up to start in class 1 at Whitchurch Primary School.

We would like to thank everyone who attended the Fete on Saturday the 3<sup>rd</sup> of September for all your help, support and contributions to help our great little Pre-School.

Congratulations to all those lucky raffle winners!

If you would like to find out more about our lovely Pre-School, please contact Annette on 0118 984 4516

**[www.whitchurchpreschool.org](http://www.whitchurchpreschool.org)**

# Pangbourne and Whitchurch Sustainability

[www.pawsg.com](http://www.pawsg.com)



*Are you interested in....*

*Renewable energy • Wildlife survey •  
Energy saving products insulation • Auditing  
your energy use • How green is your energy  
supplier? Buy Local • Organic gardening •  
Seed swap • Composting- Recycling •  
Sustainable transport • cycling*

## **Forthcoming events**

**Thursday 22nd September 8pm.** Karen Davies, Head of Pang, Kennet and Lambourne Valley Project at Pangbourne Village Hall

**Tuesday 18th October 8pm.** Recycling Explored: Come and meet reps from Veolia and Biffa at Whitchurch Village Hall, Manor Rd.

**Thursday 24th November 8pm.** The Future of Energy  
Pangbourne Village Hall

## **Free Stuff Give and get something for nothing**

PAWS are holding another Pangbourne & Whitchurch re-use day,  
It's like 'freecycle' without the web  
Saturday 12th November 9am - 5pm

### **How it works:**

- Put out unwanted but reusable items in front of your house\* and label them for collection.
- Walk or cycle around the villages to see if other people have put out something you can use.
- Take in your left-over items at the end of the day.

# APPLE DAY CELEBRATIONS

## ORCHARD OPEN DAY

CROSS LANES FRUIT FARM, MAPLEDURHAM, RG4 7UW

SUNDAY 9 OCTOBER 10.00am-5.00pm

At Cross Lanes we grow over fifty varieties of apples, all different – sweet, sharp, juicy, crisp, nutty, rich, aromatic, complex and delicious. Come along to our Open Day and you will be able to try many of them. You can never get tired of apples with such a selection. Sweet juicy pears will be out for tasting too.

There are a host of other attractions too. Children will enjoy the apple games and seeing the array of apple peelers - who can get the longest piece of peel. See how the fresh apple juice is made and sample the different varieties. Bees are essential for apple growing and the beekeepers will be keen to share the secrets of the bees with you. Stalls will be selling delicious apple pies, cakes, jams and jellies with local eggs and plants too.

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.

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.

The Farm Shop, selling Cross Lanes apples and pears, juices and honey, will be open as usual. Tea and refreshments will be available all day.

Entrance and car parking are FREE.

For further information contact Gill Franklin on 0118 972 3167 or see [www.crosslanesfruitfarm.co.uk](http://www.crosslanesfruitfarm.co.uk) .

## **SPRING GARDENING SHOW**

Our expert judges continue to give us their support and are already booked for the Spring Show 2012. This will take place on **Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> March** – same time, same place. The schedules for that are close to completion and a number of you had a preview at the show. The final version will soon be available on the Whitchurch website so that you can plan your entries well in advance – and YES, we will be including Eggs again.

A big thank you to all those who took part in a great Show and a warm welcome to those of you who are thinking of joining in.

Ann Lewis

### **The South Chiltern Choral Society**

At the start of each autumn term we use the second rehearsal (this year on Monday the 19<sup>th</sup> September) as an invitation evening for anyone interested in possibly joining the choir to come along, listen and sing with us. The rehearsals start at 7:30 pm in the Audio-visual theatre at Chiltern Edge School in Sonning Common.

We have a current singing strength of about 120. At our Christmas concert we will perform Rutter's Gloria along with carols from British composers and conventional carols for choir and audience. In the spring we will sing the Fauré and Duruflé Requiems in Douai Abbey.

Eric Hartley ([ehartley@onetel.com](mailto:ehartley@onetel.com) or 9842612)

## GORING HEATH AND WHITCHURCH GARDENING SHOW

Late August 2011 – time again for the Summer Show, but already there were signs of an approaching Autumn.

Grey skies and showers did nothing to deter the entry of almost 200 exhibits. Goring Heath Parish Hall was a blaze of floral colour, with an array of produce competing for the Whitchurch and District Allotment Society Cup which is only contested at this time of year.

Classes for Flowers and Flower Arranging, Photography, Baking and Preserves and Art and Craft also attracted numerous, excellent entries which kept our judges busy for some time.

Lots of families up and down the Hill had Lemon Drizzle cake for tea that day.

The **Whitchurch Hill Trophy** for most points overall was won by **Dave Sexon**, who also took the **Betty Hayter Cup** for most points in the Flower Section. It was no surprise that one of Dave's vases of beautiful, scented roses was judged to be "**Best in Show**", they were wonderful.

The **Allotment Society Trophy** went to **Alison Gray**, who also shares the **Arts and Crafts Trophy** with **Sue Sexon**.

**Ann Lewis** won the **Baking and Preserves Cup**.

**Robert Willows** won the **Photography Cup**.

**Iona Willows** won the **Childrens' Cup** with her varied and imaginative entries.

Prizes were given by **Dr Angela Rowe** who had also entered three classes – winning all of them – could this be a record?

**Woodcote Amateur Dramatics -  
Autumn Production  
6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> October 2011 – 7.45 pm  
Woodcote Village Hall**

Our production for this autumn is "Let It Be Me" by Carey Jane Hardy

To be produced by Terry Sopp and assisted by Gill Murray

"This is a play of tremendous insight, warmth and humanity, leavened by humorous moments" so said *The Birmingham Evening mail*.

Amy cares for her Aunt Sylvia who has Alzheimer's. Sylvia does not recognize the adult Amy but instead waits every day for Amy she remembers as a child to come home from school. Amy is loyally devoted to her Aunt so finds herself seriously tested when she meets and falls in love with Gregory. Amy's friends offer advice on the impossible situation in which she finds herself in and with their support Amy begins to realise a different and happier life is possible for her.

WADS look forward to welcoming you to our latest production. As you read this the cast will be glued to their scripts learning the lines (hopefully) and the producer will start to have the first of his many sleepless nights! The cast are all relishing the challenge of putting on this lovely, moving play. We hope we can do it justice. Please do come along and support us.

Tickets will be available mid September from Joan Poyser on 01491 680573 or email [boxoffice@woodcotedrama.co.uk](mailto:boxoffice@woodcotedrama.co.uk) for your tickets. Tickets are priced at £7.00 each (£6.00 concessions).

## Goring Chamber Choir

Goring Chamber Choir has this year been celebrating its 60th anniversary in quite some style.

In the Spring, the choir went off to the sun in the south of France at the invitation of the Chorale Internationale de Capestang. Both choirs joined to share two concerts: in Marseillan, a fishing port on the coast, and in the 11th century church of Quarante, set amid the vineyards. Members of the French choir hosted the Goring singers in their own homes and took us to the local sights: the medieval town of Pézenas, a boat trip on the Canal du Midi, a wine-tasting expedition, a walk in the hills, the Cathar fortress at Minerve and much more. Just prior to the trip, we had performed our programme to an appreciative audience in an afternoon concert at St Thomas' church in Goring, and both concerts in France were equally well attended, with standing ovations on both nights. An emotional highlight was the combined voices of both choirs singing music by Rutter, Lauridsen and I am a small part of the world by Albrecht and Althouse. On the last evening members of both choirs and their families enjoyed a convivial dinner together, with some not so serious singing and wonderful French food.

In June, we added to this repertoire to produce a programme of Madrigals for a concert in Trinity College Chapel, Oxford. We were joined in this stunning location by the resident choir and a truly magical evening was had by all.

A Cathedral trip is a regular item on our agenda and this summer, we will head for Durham Cathedral to sing at various services across a full weekend. Anthems by Mozart, Sumsion, Tallis & Sanders and much more besides are the order of the day. In the autumn, we are very much looking forward to our feature concert, "Beautiful Baroque", at 7.45 pm on Saturday 15 October where we will perform Monteverdi's Gloria, Purcell's My Heart is Inditing, Handel's My Heart is Inditing and Vivaldi's Gloria in the magnificent setting of Douai Abbey, Woolhampton. We will also be joined by Charivari Agréable Simfonie to fully round off the evening. Tickets for this can be obtained from the Corn Exchange, Newbury or from the undersigned and cost £15 with concessions at £12 and under 12s for free. We hope to see many of you there.

Finally, to round off this momentous year, we will be performing a Christmas concert on 10 December.

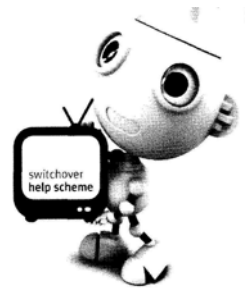
As you have probably worked out by now, Goring Chamber Choir was founded in 1951 and for the past 20 years has continued to thrive under the leadership of Frances Brewitt-Taylor. During this time, the choir has established an enviable local reputation for both the variety and quality of its music-making abilities.

To find out more about us, please visit [www.goringchamberchoir.org.uk](http://www.goringchamberchoir.org.uk) and gentlemen, please note that we currently have vacancies in the Tenor section.

Audrey Rogers

[audreyjrogers@hotmail.com](mailto:audreyjrogers@hotmail.com)

# The digital switchover - are you prepared?



The digital switchover is coming to most of Oxfordshire this summer, and if you don't convert your TV to digital by the time of the switchover, you won't be able to watch any TV programmes.

The BBC-run Switchover Help Scheme can convert one TV to digital for you. You are eligible for the Help Scheme if you are aged 75 or over; or have lived in a care home for the last 6 months; or are eligible for Disability Living Allowance (DLA), Attendance or Constant Attendance Allowance, Mobility Supplement, or are registered blind or partially sighted.

If you are eligible then the Help Scheme will write to you directly. All you need to do is respond to the letter by sending back a completed reply form or telephone for free on 0800 40 85 900. If you receive a letter, please respond even if you don't need any help.

The scheme can provide and install easy to use equipment to switch one TV. It includes an approved installer, aerial upgrade if needed and a 12 month aftercare service, with free helpline. Most people will be asked to pay £40 towards the service but it can be free for those who receive certain income-related benefits.

Digital Outreach is working with Age UK Oxfordshire over the next two months to raise awareness within the community about the help scheme. They can be contacted on the Age UK Oxfordshire Helpline 0844 887 0005.

# DIARY DATES

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

## October

**Fri - Sunday 7,8,9, WADS Autumn Production**  
**Sunday 9th Cross Lanes Apple Farm - Open Day**  
**Sunday 15th Goring Chamber Choir Concert**  
**Thursday 20th History Society Meeting**  
**Sunday 23rd Whitchurch Society Autumn Walk**

## November

**Friday 18th History Society meeting**  
**Saturday 19th Art & Craft Exhibition**

## THE NEXT ISSUE OF THE BULLETIN

will be published in November 2011.

Please send your contributions **preferably by e-mail to**  
[Sarah.pongo@talktalk.net](mailto:Sarah.pongo@talktalk.net) by 10th November 2011

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