

## WHITCHURCH-ON-THAMES BULLETIN

SEPTEMBER 2002

Web site [www.whitchurchonthames.com](http://www.whitchurchonthames.com)

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Published by the Whitchurch Parish Council in alternate months

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### WHITCHURCH ON THAMES PARISH COUNCIL

#### **Parish Council Meeting**

There was a meeting of the Parish Council on 2 September at the Village Hall at which Councillors Vincent Aldridge, Nigel Grove, Peter Minton, Kate Thatcher and Geoff Weir were present together with Janet Holmes, Parish Clerk. District Councillor Deborah Whitfeld and County Councillor John Farrow also attended.

A small number of matters arose from earlier meetings, the most important of which was confirmation that Hardwick Road had finally been resurfaced and the upper part of Muddy Lane improved. The question of what would be done about that part of Hardwick Road close to the High Street is to be investigated by Councillor Farrow.

#### **Planning**

##### **Amended to applications, heard between meetings**

P02/SO398 Uplands, Hardwick Road – first floor extension above present garage to provide staff accommodation.

**Should be refused**

P01/SO1147 Bozedown Farm, Hardwick Road – new barn (for information only but the PC feel that if the Planning Committee are minded to agree to the application – as recommended by the planning officers - then consideration should be given to requiring the barn to be orientated north/south rather than parallel to the road)

## **New applications**

P02/SO648 Coombeside Cottage, High Street – extension to outbuilding.

**No strong views**

P02/SO701 Tall Beeches, Hardwick Road – rear extension

**No strong views**

## **Decision Notices**

P02/SO603 Heathfield, Hardwick Road – pitched roof to front

**Granted**

P02/SO416 Swanston House, High Street – garage etc

**Granted**

P02/SO037 Bozedown Farm, Hardwick Road – conversion of pump house

**Granted**

P02/SO316 Racquets, High Street – extension

**Granted**

P02/SO334 Thames Bank, High Street – changes to roof

**Granted**

P02/SO439 Elm Cottage, Hartslock Bridleway – extension

**Granted**

## **Finance**

Cheques were presented for payment for: MG Print, August Bulletin; Environment Agency, slipway charge; Janet Holmes, Clerk's salary and expenses; and Geoff Weir for noticeboard fixings etc.

## **Correspondence**

It was reported that Mrs Caroline Cook (daughter of the late John Holmes of Eastfield Lane) had offered a number of local photographs to the village; the chairman undertook to contact Mrs Cook and express the council's wish to add these to the archives and to thank her for the offer.

After considering other items of correspondence, the meeting closed.

**The next meeting of the Council will be held on 4 November at 8.00pm in the Village Hall. Everyone is welcome to attend.**

## **At last - Hardwick Road gets done.....**

Five years of complaining about the state of Hardwick Road finally ended last month when the road **was done!** The arrival of the machinery was greeted with some cheers and the actual start of the work brought residents out in party mood. So pleased are people with the final surface that they can be seen walking up and down and enjoying it - it is, after all, now much smoother than the pavement....

So we have done it, thanks to everyone who kept up the pressure and gave their support.

## **Calling all artists and photographers**

The front cover of the Bulletin has used the view of the Mill Pond for several years. This particular picture was chosen after a design competition.

Since the cover is due for a reprinting early next year, the Parish Council thought it might be appropriate to run a new competition, open to everyone in the village, for a redesigned cover. We are looking for something which will represent the village as it is today - or even tomorrow! - and so we are calling upon all our artists, photographers and graphic designers to come up with a cover design. We haven't yet decided on the prize but it will be worthwhile..

Designs should be A4 portrait size (remember that we will be using it reduced to A5) and suited to the vari coloured card we use for the cover and may be photographic, painted or line drawn. Entries, complete with your name and address on the back, should be sent to the Parish Clerk, or passed to any member of the council, no later than 31 October so that they can be displayed at the Annual Arts & Crafts Exhibition. Everyone will be asked to vote on their choice of the designs and this will be taken into account in the final judging. The winner will be announced during the Exhibition prize giving.

So, go to it you talented people and come up with our new Bulletin cover.

**Peter Minton,  
Chairman of the Parish Council**

## **FROM YOUR DISTRICT COUNCILLOR:**

The Council's decision in May to introduce a Wheelie Bin Scheme has now been reversed: no changes will be made to the current system but there will be a renewed effort to increase re-cycling together with an increase in re-cycling Banks for glass and other materials not included in the current kerbside collection. I am glad that the controlling Groups agreed finally that it was not the right time for a change but I regret that so much time and money was wasted before they reached that decision.

Response to the recent Outlook survey strongly supported targets set for re-cycling, the reduction in crime and the provision of affordable housing in rural areas. The Council is working with Town Councils and hopes to introduce C.C.TV by next year. The Council has always worked with Parish Councils to find suitable exception sites for affordable housing but it is a slow and difficult process: I hope that the recent appointment of a Rural Housing Enabler in Oxfordshire will improve this situation and provide more homes in rural areas soon.

***Deborah Whitfeld***

## **THE WHITCHURCH SOCIETY**

Our appeal to residents to pay their subscriptions (£1 per head per year) by standing order has met with some success. So far we have received around 60 standing orders, 3 Life Memberships (£12 per head) and several cash payments. Our thanks to those who responded. The scheme is still in operation and anyone wishing to join can obtain the necessary form from me or a Committee Member.

The Society's Autumn Meeting in the Village hall on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October at 7.30pm will comprise a talk by Jenny Plumb on her extraordinary collection of Sardine Dishes followed by a presentation by Alan Copeland of some of his unique photographs taken in and around the Chilterns.

The annual Art and Craft Exhibition, to be organised by our new sub-Committee under the watchful eye of Sally Woolhouse, will be held in the Village Hall on Saturday and Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> November. *I hope you will make an effort to attend these functions.*

***Nigel Grove.***

## COMMUNITY WASTE COLLECTION SERVICE

A supervised refuse service vehicle arrives at the Village Hall car park for householders to dispose of additional waste. If you are not able to attend the Whitchurch collection then it is possible to use the service at another parish e.g. Goring, Goring Heath or Woodcote. Please note that this vehicle will only be on site for a short period of time, once a month. Any item left after the vehicle has moved to its next location will not be collected and legal action under the Environmental Protection Act 1990 will be taken against any persons found to be "dumping" rubbish.

**Whitchurch - located at the Village Hall Car Park**  
**Goring Heath - located at the recreation ground lay by**

	<b>Whitchurch</b>	<b>Goring Heath</b>
18 September	from 0800 to 0950	from 1020 to 1210
16 October	from 0800 to 0950	from 1020 to 1210
2 November	from 0800 to 0920	
13 November		from 0800 to 0950
11 December	from 0900 to 0950	from 1020 to 1210
22 <sup>nd</sup> January 03	from 0800 to 0950	from 1020 to 1210

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

	<b>Woodcote</b>	<b>Goring</b>
7th September	from 0800 to 0950	from 1020 to 1210 at SODC
21st September	from 1200 to 1310	from 0800 to 0950 at SODC
5 October	from 1020 to 1210	from 0800 to 0950 at SODC
11 October	from 0800 to 0950	from 1020 to 1210 at SODC
19 October	from 1150 to 1310	from 1330 to 1500 at Icknield
2 November	from 1150 to 1310	from 0940 to 1100 at Icknield
16 November	from 0940 to 1100	from 0800 to 0920 at SODC
30 November	from 0940 to 1100	from 0800 to 0920 at SODC
14 December	from 1200 to 1310	from 0800 to 0950 at Icknield

# WHITCHURCH ART & CRAFT EXHIBITION

The weekend of 16th/17th November 2002

## Whitchurch-on-Thames Village Hall

Not long to go now !

We hope your entries are progressing well and will be ready for the exhibition.

You should find an **entry form** accompanying this Newsletter - details of the categories & rules of entry are included with the form but do 'phone me or look on the Whitchurch website ([www.whitchurchonthames.com](http://www.whitchurchonthames.com)) if you have any queries.

**From 1st October**, we shall be taking bookings for the Children's Workshops - half-hour sessions will be run during the day on Saturday 16th for primary age children (5 - 11 yr olds). If you would like your child to attend one of these sessions, please ring for more details and to book. Places will be limited so do 'phone promptly please.

*Sally Woolhouse*  
(Tel 0118 984 4365).

## AGE CONCERN

The provision of **day care for older people** in Goring and surrounding communities has always been valued by the residents of Goring. Over the years many volunteers have clocked up thousands of hours in such an important service. It is with this solid foundation of care that Age Concern Oxfordshire has agreed to work in partnership with Social Services, Goring Community Management Committee and the residents of Goring to promote the independence of older people. Recent research has shown that one way for older people to increase their independence is to participate in stimulating activities. The volunteers and staff at Goring Day centre are looking forward to this challenge. Age Concern will be assuming the management of Goring Day Care Centre on the 1<sup>st</sup> September 2002 and are seeking volunteers to assist at the centre and volunteers to transport clients. Interested parties may contact Lester Lee on 01235 849400 for further details.



## Welcomes new and lapsed members! *Seats in all Voices!*

The Pangbourne Choral Society boasts approx 100 members of all ages. Rehearsals are on Tuesday evenings (7:45 – 9:30pm) in term time in the stunning Falkland Islands Memorial Chapel up at Pangbourne College where our concerts are usually given. We prepare for 2 or 3 concerts during our season (September – May/June) under our Director of Music Darren Everhart.

This seasons programme will include Handel's **Messiah**, a programme of Coronation inspired music, including Elgar's **Coronation Ode**, and a **Christmas event** with the League of Friends of Reading Hospitals. It is even rumoured that we will also appear on TV this autumn!

Auditions are not required though enthusiasm and commitment is expected. If you are interested in joining us just turn up on **Tuesday September 10<sup>th</sup>** or any subsequent Tuesday around 7:30pm, or e-mail us at [pcs@musician.org](mailto:pcs@musician.org).

Further information is also available on our web site  
<http://www.pangbournechoralsociety.fsnet.co.uk>

## Improve Your Life this Autumn!

Here is an outline of local courses available next term. Details are in the green brochure found at the libraries, community centres and post offices or ask for a full course information sheet without obligation. 01491 681359 or [woodcote.cec@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:woodcote.cec@oxfordshire.gov.uk) Help can be given with fees if requested.

### Monday daytime

Gentle Stretch and Relax in Woodcote x 10 weeks – beginners and improvers  
Stretch and Tone in Woodcote x 10 weeks – beginners and improvers  
Judo for Children in Goring x 10 weeks – beginners and improvers

### Monday evening

Red Cross First Aid Certificate in Goring x 4 weeks - all  
Yoga in Goring x 10 weeks – mostly improvers  
Unisex Circuit Training in Goring x 10 weeks – beginners and improvers  
Aerobics in Goring x 10 weeks – beginners and improvers  
Wildlife of South Oxfordshire in Woodcote x 6 weeks - all  
Computing in Woodcote x 10 weeks – near beginners and improvers  
Maths for Mums in Woodcote x 10 weeks – beginners  
Keep Fit in Woodcote x 10 weeks – beginners and improvers  
Intermediate French in Woodcote x 11 weeks - improvers

### Tuesday daytime

Art and Craft for under 3's in Woodcote x 5 weeks  
Fitness Over 50 in Streatley x 10 weeks – beginners and improvers  
Gym for children in Goring x 10 weeks - beginners and improvers

### **Tuesday evening**

Aromatherapy in Goring x 5 weeks – beginners and improvers  
Watercolours in Goring x 10 weeks - mostly improvers  
Internet and Email in Goring x 10 weeks – not complete beginners  
Upholstery in Woodcote x 10 weeks – beginners and improvers  
Ballroom Dancing in Woodcote x 10 weeks – beginners and improvers  
Yoga in Woodcote x 10 weeks – beginners and improvers  
Badminton in Woodcote x 10 weeks - improvers  
Elementary Spanish in Woodcote x 11 weeks - beginners  
Garden Design in Woodcote x 6 weeks – all  
Happy Houseplants in Woodcote x 2 weeks - all  
Swimming at the Oratory School x 10 weeks - improvers

### **Wednesday daytime**

Yoga in Goring x 10 weeks - beginners  
Watercolours in Woodcote x 10 weeks - beginners  
Bridge in Woodcote x 10 weeks - improvers

### **Wednesday evening**

Painting in Woodcote x 10 weeks – beginners and improvers  
French in Woodcote x 11 weeks - beginners  
British Sign Language in Woodcote x 28 weeks – beginners and improvers  
Silk Painting in Woodcote x 5 weeks from 25<sup>th</sup> Sept– beginners and improvers  
Alexander Technique in Woodcote x 5 weeks - beginners  
Appliqué in Woodcote x 2 weeks – beginners and improvers  
Swimming at the Oratory School x 10 weeks - improvers

### **Thursday daytime**

Music for under 5's in Goring x 10 weeks  
Patchwork and Quilting in Goring x 10 weeks – beginners and improvers  
Level 1 Art in Woodcote x 10 weeks – beginners  
Level 2 Art in Woodcote x 10 weeks - improvers  
Tea Dancing in Woodcote x 5 weeks – beginners and improvers

### **Thursday evening**

Over 40's Fitness in Goring x 10 weeks – beginners and improvers  
Swimming at the Oratory School x 10 weeks - improvers

### **Friday daytime**

Art in the Afternoon in Goring x 10 weeks – beginners and improvers

### **Friday evening**

Swimfit at the Oratory School x 10 weeks - improvers

### **Saturdays**

Swimming at the Oratory School x 6 weeks from 2<sup>nd</sup> November - beginners  
Christmas Card Special - 2<sup>nd</sup> November only - all  
Willow work for Christmas – 2<sup>nd</sup> November only - all  
Christmas Wreaths and Garlands – 7<sup>th</sup> December only – all

The number of sessions shown are just for this term, most courses will continue next term. Find out about reduced rates if you book for 2 terms at once.

Please enrol now – don't leave it too late!

Langtree & Goring Community Education Centre 01491 681359

## **WHITCHURCH & GORING HEATH TWINNING ASSOCIATION**

The Twinning Association had another successful season. A synopsis of the main events is given below:

### **VISIT TO LA BOUILLE, 4-6 MAY 2002**

Although we started the booking process a month earlier than two years ago, we were again unable to reserve return coach space on the Portsmouth – Le Havre ferry. It seems overall ferry capacity has been significantly reduced over recent years.

However we did achieve a better compromise this time: travelling outward Portsmouth – Le Havre and returning Calais – Dover. The coach, a 50+ seater, was hired from Horseman.

The cost for adults was kept down to £75 and it was decided to make children up to 18 half price to encourage families to participate. However, out of a total of 29, we still only managed to attract two children. To catch the 0745 ferry from Portsmouth meant an early start with the coach finally leaving the Greyhound Pub at 5 am.

After a pleasant crossing and the short drive from Le Havre, we reached La Bouille about 5 pm. A reception was held that evening in the hall adjoining La Mairie (town hall) when speeches of welcome were given by a member of the Town Council and Martine Cousin, the president of the French Twinning Association.

I introduced my Co-Chairman, Dave Taylor, advising that he would become sole Chairman after next year's AGM in February. Dave gave a short address – in French. The Saturday evening was spent with the host families who organised dinner parties – as we have done when the French visit us.

The Sunday outing started with a visit by coach – with about 20 French – to the Musee Ferme de Bray at Sommery near Neufchatel. Until recently this was a working farm. Now the farmer is curator of a museum exhibiting a range of farming equipment used over the past 100 years or more. Exhibits include massive wooden machinery for cider-making and a water-powered mill with grain grinding and handling equipment.

Fortunately the Farm Museum provided an indoor dining hall for our picnic as it rained for much of the morning. However, the rain cleared for the afternoon's visit to the picturesque village of Gerberoy where access was on foot from the external car park. A pleasant couple of hours was spent walking the cobbled streets and, at one point practically taking over the local café and turning it into a tea-shop.

On the Sunday evening, as a surprise – and a generous one - our French hosts took groups to various local restaurants for dinner. On Monday morning those who wished were taken to local supermarkets for shopping by their hosts. The coach left the ferry car park shortly after 12 noon and headed for Calais and Whitchurch, arriving about 9 pm.

### *WHITCHURCH HILL FETE*

The fete, which took place in brilliant sunshine on the second May Bank Holiday, had a Jubilee theme. Fortunately, the colours of the French flag are the same as ours, so our red, white and blue bunting was appropriate. Attendance at the fete was high in the warm weather and all our produce was sold; a very successful event.

### *THE BOULES EVENING*

This event took place on the evening of July 19<sup>th</sup> in our back garden. The weather – as is usual it seems – was threatening. Fortunately however it stayed dry and we were able to organise 8 three-person teams to play the game. My co-chairman, Dave Taylor, was on the winning team – no fix. Attendance was 30-40.

### *WHITCHURCH FETE*

Fortunately the pergola erected over the Twinning Stall was only necessary to keep the sun off. Cakes and savouries, which included previous favourites such as Gwen's semosas, Elizabeth's carrot cakes and Jenny's chocolate cakes, sold rapidly. The guess-the-weight-of-the-cake was particularly popular; another successful day.

## **THE ALLOTMENT SOCIETY**

Crops have been growing well in this summer of rain and some sunshine! Alan and I and family came back from holiday to some fantastic redcurrants, which we picked on a baking hot summer's morning. Isobel decided she was so hot that she went in a (clean) dustbin of cold, fresh water, drawn from the pump that morning. Conrad quickly followed (with a gasp), he is not quite so cold blooded, but soon decided it was rather refreshing! We had to drag them out, they were having lots of fun, but it was time to go home! Well, I managed to make some redcurrant jelly, while Alexander was asleep! We have five precious jars .... The vegetables on the various plots have been equally successful, ranging from beautiful lettuces to broad beans to beetroot and plenty more!

We welcome a new plot holder, Alison Livesey and family, who take over Rob Williams' old plot. We do have a few plots available, please contact me if you are interested.

"We have now completed our bath circuit around the allotments, so everyone now has access to a bath full of water. So we no longer have a requirement for redundant baths! Some people have made interesting water features on their allotment."

***Rosamund Heath (984 2358)***

## Community Renewable Energy Grants

A new grant scheme to promote community based renewable energy projects within the Thames Valley will be launched in November. A wide range of community organisations can apply for the grants including Parish Councils, schools, farmers and small businesses.

Projects supported should involve the environmentally sensitive development of at least one of the following types of renewable energy:

**WIND ENERGY** – establishing small wind turbine clusters or single large turbines to generate clean energy from the wind.

**SOLAR ENERGY** – using energy from the sun to generate heat and/or electricity.

**BIOMASS** – using energy from the combustion of waste wood, short rotation coppice or animal wastes to generate heat and power or growing wood as a fuel source.

**HYDRO ENERGY** – using the energy from rivers to generate electricity, for example through harnessing weirs and old mill races.

A minimum of £100 and a maximum of £2000 will be available to help with feasibility studies, business plans, community consultation, publicity and events or site visits. Local communities should be involved in the development of projects and should benefit from the project in the long term for example in terms of improved access to woodland or farmland, community investment opportunities or local job creation.

The grant is funded by Thames Valley Energy Agency, the Countryside Agency and the Environment Agency. Application forms will be available in November. In the meantime contact Heather Saunders at South Oxfordshire District Council on 01491 823497, [heather.saunders@southoxon.gov.uk](mailto:heather.saunders@southoxon.gov.uk) or Annette Deveson at TV Energy on 01635 817420, or e-mail [annette.deveson@tvenergy.org](mailto:annette.deveson@tvenergy.org) for more information.

## **WHITCHURCH-ON-THAMES HABITAT STUDY GROUP (WoTHABS)**

Thanks to all of you who came for our Jubilee Walk in Seymour's river meadow (see reports in last two bulletins). Colin and Pauline Thrower have donated the £65 raised by this event to the Duchess of Kent Hospice in Reading.

By the time you read this we hope to have seen lots of you visit our stall at Whitchurch Fete, for the fun activities and challenges on offer. But if not, please get in touch if you want to know more about WoTHabs, and we will send you an up-to-date leaflet. Our details on the Whitchurch website need updating, and we will be dealing with that shortly.

***Gill Goodwin***  
**0118-9842934**

## **BROADBAND ACCESS FOR INTERNET USERS**

British Telecom has no plans at present to upgrade the Pangbourne exchange (ie 984 numbers) to provide broadband access through BT lines to internet users in the Whitchurch and Pangbourne area. BT say there is insufficient demand, and report that - as at 25th August - only 47 people in the area have registered an interest.

Broadband provides "always on" access with gives much faster transfer speeds, and the cost is coming down all the time.

If you are an internet user and would like the option of broadband access, please register your interest now. More information on broadband and how to register may be found at [www.bt.com/broadband](http://www.bt.com/broadband) .

***Geoff Weir***

## THE SOUTH CHILTERN CHORAL SOCIETY

### CHRISTMAS CONCERTS

This year features a specially commissioned work from the pen of Alan Bullard, a composer whose reputation is growing rapidly. His carol settings in particular are beginning to rival those of John Rutter and are being performed widely. For the South Chiltern choir he has devised an 'entertainment' called Mr. Lear. There are six sections with linking narration about Edward Lear's life. The six movements are settings of some of Lear's best known limericks, including Calico Pie, Broom Shovel Poker, The Yonghy-Bonghy-Bo and, of course, The Owl and the Pussy-Cat.

The choir will be accompanied by a brass group, which will also be used to encourage audience participation in the singing of traditional carols elsewhere in the programme.

The concerts are at Chiltern Edge School, Sonning Common on Saturday December 21st at 7.30 and the following day, Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup>, at 2.30.

Tickets, priced at £7.00 (OAP/child £5.00) are available from Michèle Whitehead on 01491-578641.



### WADS AUTUMN PRODUCTION

#### "A Fly in the Ointment"

a farce by

**Derek Benfield**

produced by Terry Sopp

October 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> at 7.45p.m.

Woodcote Village Hall

Take an MP searching the house of his ex-mistress, the arrival of his virtuous wife at the same place and add a romantic Doctor. Throw in a frustrated Policewoman and a devious Pizza delivery boy and you have the recipe for a riotous farce.

Tickets £5 - concessions £4.50 OAPs & children  
(not Saturday night)

**Box Office 01491 680556 - after 2.00p.m.**

## **FAREWELL THEN TO WHITCHURCH ON THAMES**

When we first arrived in India, in 1975, we were advised that “*you didn’t drive on the left of the road, you drove on what was left of the road*”. Little did we know that many years later the same advice would be valuable for negotiating our way to our new home in South Oxfordshire.

Despite the terrible roads, it’s been great living in this village. We are grateful for having had the opportunity to live here and to be able to join in some of the community activities. The allotments are a great facility, and long may they continue. The Whitchurch Society and its Art & Craft Exhibition provide a valuable arena and outlet to promote the culture of the village.

There’ll be some nervous dog walkers and pyromaniacs who will breathe easier once we’ve gone. For those of you who like to breathe easier all the time, keep objecting to the smokey bonfires.

All best wishes to our many friends,

***Lesley & Rob Williams***

### **Molly Harrison**

It is very sad that we sometimes only find out about people after they are dead.

Obviously we cannot be close to everyone, but it was with sadness that I read the obituaries on Molly. Her connection with the Geffrye Museum in Shoreditch at the same time that I was growing up in East Ham, just a short distance away is one that I would liked to have heard first hand. East Ham was justly proud of its education system in the 1940s and 50s and we visited many of the London Museums and Art Galleries, but I don’t remember that we were taken to the Geffrye, which is a pity, because it sounds like it was a fun place for children of all ages.

I really only met Molly on a few occasions, although Joyce knew her better, but I regret the passing of an interesting lady who had had a very interesting life, without being able to share some of the memories.

***Tony Voysey***

## **CRIMESTOPPERS FOCUS ON BOGUS CALLERS**

One crime which causes huge distress and is becoming more common is 'distraction burglary'. A person posing as an official calls at the door. They gain entry to the house 'to read the meter' or do 'a safety check'. They can then help themselves to anything available. Sometimes there is an accomplice who sneaks in while the first criminal is talking to the owner.

These conmen usually choose to call at the houses of the elderly, often single people. Many victims of this type of crime never report it to the Police. They believe that they were responsible, since they let the stranger into their house.

This is where Crimestoppers comes in. Anyone with information about any crime can call Crimestoppers ANONYMOUSLY on the Freephone number 0800 555 111. They will not be asked their name, and the call will not be traced. In the Thames Valley last year, over 1,000 people called Crimstoppers to give information about a vast range of crimes. 140 suspects were arrested and charged as a direct result of these calls, making the Thames Valley a safer place for us all.

***When someone knocks at your door, make sure you know who they are before letting them in. A genuine caller will never mind if you ask them to wait outside while you telephone their office to check.***

## **IF IN DOUBT – KEEP THEM OUT**

Even if they sound genuine and in need of help, as in the latest scam, a woman asks if she may use your phone to call her husband as her car has broken down. This is a ploy to use your phone and run up immense bills, part of which goes to the hoaxer. Tell them where the nearest phone box is!!

## WHITCHURCH HILL CAMERA CLUB

Our new season commences this month with our usual Opening Night which will take place on Wednesday, 11th September. In addition to the usual introduction to the Club, we will be including the final part of the study of Pangbourne - Past and Present featuring one of our own Club members, John Clark.

The second meeting will take place one week later when Keith Long ARPS makes the journey from Daventry to show a selection of his slides in a talk entitled In Search of Pictures.

Our last meeting in September (on the 25th) will be a Selection Evening when all Club members are invited to bring along their best work for selection for future battles and competitions against other Camera Clubs.

During October, we have six meetings including a presentation by Marilyn Payne from Henley recounting her Trek in Tanzania, an evening demonstrating digital imaging using Adobe Photoshop and three Competition nights.

Our meetings are held every Wednesday evening at The Village Hall, Whitchurch-on-Thames commencing at 8pm. Pick up a copy of our full 24 page Programme free of charge from the Pangbourne Library and come along to our next meeting.

At the end of last season, we had a membership of over 70 keen photographers and we are confident that this season will, once again, prove to be a success for the Club.

Full details including a complete Programme may be found on our website at: [www.whitchurchhillcc.co.uk](http://www.whitchurchhillcc.co.uk)

*Alan Copeland*



Some sessions still available.

Please telephone Helen on 0118 984 4516 during school hours

## **LANGTREE NEWS**

### **SUMMER TERM 2002**

At the end of another busy and successful term it was time to say a few farewells. Our Y11 left, most of them to go on to further education at Henley or other institutions. We also said goodbye to three long-serving members of staff, Valerie Nowell, Head of Modern Languages since 1990; Antonia Fleishman, Head of English and Drama since 1993 and Pat Gribble, technician in the Science Department since 1981.

The term was characterised by a huge number of events and trips. Perhaps the most exciting was our Concerts Week held in early July. The four concerts which took place were a celebration of the range and diversity of Music performed at Langtree. All were very well attended and greatly appreciated by the audiences.

Among the interesting visits for students were: a day trip for Y9 to the First World War trenches near Ypres; the Army Youth Day on Salisbury Plain attended by 8000 schoolchildren, during which there was a spectacular display of the army's firepower; Science Museum; Naval Dockyards at Portsmouth and Thorpe Park.

The Y7 students were less fortunate. Their camp in the New Forest had to be abandoned with the site under water. They did, however, have some compensation in the form of a trip to the Coral Reef pool in Bracknell.

Curriculum Enrichment Week was a good opportunity for students to enjoy education with a difference. The four subjects, Arts and Crafts, Citizenship, Experiment and Performance gave them the opportunity to make and fly hot air balloons; perform scenes from musicals; work with professional actors in drama; hold mock elections and find out how the electoral system works; experiment with multi media art projects and much more.

It was also a good term for sport. We won all our cricket matches, had the winning pairs in the Area Tennis Tournament both boys and girls and finished third in the Area Athletics championships. Sports Day, held in the last week of term was a really enjoyable event with some very good individual performances and some wonderfully close finishes.

## LANGTREE STUDENTS EXCEL IN GCSE EXAMINATIONS

Students at Langtree School achieved excellent results in this year's GCSE examinations. 64% of the students achieved at least 5 GCSE passes at Grade C or above and there were many with high grades. Over 21% of the entries were awarded a Grade A and nearly 50% of the results were at Grade B or above.

Among the many success stories, Linda Chilton and Jamie Russell deserve a special mention for achieving 9 GCSEs at Grade A or A\*.

Headteacher Andy Harrett said "I am delighted with the results, which were better than last year's. I should like to pay tribute to the hard work of staff and students that has enabled the candidates to perform so well."

### How can you help young families in your area?



Home-Start  
is the UK's leading  
family support  
charity

Would you become one of our trained parent volunteers who offer support to other parents who are finding it difficult to cope? Sometimes this is all that is needed to prevent a family crisis or breakdown.

**There is an excellent preparation course and volunteers are then carefully matched with a family, who they usually visit once a week for 2 to 3 hours. Home-Start families have at least one child under 5 years old. They often say that the friendship and support offered by their volunteer has made all the difference to their lives during difficult times.**

**For more information please tel: Ruth or Jackie on 0118 942 9518**

## **New Arrivals**

*Welcome to:*

**Geoff and Julia Hird** and their two children, Oscar, who has just moved on to at Abingdon from the Primary school, and Isabel who is still there! Geoff and Julia are now in Fieldings, Hardwick Road after living 'up the hill' for a year or so waiting for 'the' house to come on the market. Prior to that, they lived in Pangbourne. Since the children have been at the Primary School, and Geoff was treasurer of the School Association, they are not strangers to Whitchurch!

**Cliff and Sheila Meredith** at Tall Beeches, Hardwick Road, have moved into the village from Tidmarsh. Although retired, they are both active in local charities. Sheila can be found behind the counter in the Oxfam shop whilst Cliff is founder president of the local Rotary group and chairman of the Purley Park Trust.

### **...and departures**

Many of you will know that John Smith suffered a severe stroke earlier in the year. He and Marjorie have now moved northwards to Nottinghamshire to be near their family. John is in a nursing home where he is very slowly recovering and, we hear, about to take delivery of an electric wheelchair. We can only hope for a continued improvement in his health.

Roger Game and his wife have moved from southwards from Tall Beeches to be closer to their family. Roger had back problems and, although this was somewhat relieved by a recent operation, they felt the time was right for them to move.

### **Buying Local..**

The Chilterns Conservation Board has issued "The Chilterns Local Products Guide" in conjunction with the Chiltern Society. This free booklet lists a range of suppliers of food and drink as well as local craft and trades people.

*Recommended for anyone who seeks to support local producers, the guide is well laid out and easy on the eye. A must for your kitchen notice board!*

Copies can be got from the CCB office at 8 Summerleys Road, Princes Risborough, HP27 9DT. (If you would like to be included in the guide write to the same address.)

## VILLAGE FETE

The Fete took place on Saturday 7th September at Walliscote Farm, a wonderful venue in the heart of the village. Many thanks go to Mr and Mrs Aldridge for their hospitality.

The vast majority of the village societies had stalls at the Fete, with everything from bottle games and card games to creating butterfly toys and just buying sweets or cakes. The first prize in the Grand Draw was won by Mrs Jean Yaldren, and the raffle of the large fuchsia was won by Claire Arrowsmith. We will have to wait to find out who will win the first prize of a Hot Air Balloon Ride in the balloon race, kindly sponsored by Castrol.

The fun dog show held in the main arena was well attended and thanks must go to our esteemed judge Sheila Napper who awarded our Whitchurch Village Fete "dog paw" rosettes. The star of the show was Bonzo the puppy who took, amongst other prizes, first place in "Handsomest dog" and "Dog the Judge would most like to take home".

Finally, I would personally like to thank all those on the committee and the numerous others behind the scenes who have happily given up their time and effort to make the Fete possible. As Phoebe, the Dowager Lady Rose said when she kindly opened the Fete, the village is a place full of community spirit and it is that which gives us the happy atmosphere we have at these events.

*Kate Thatcher*

### **THE NEXT ISSUE OF THE BULLETIN**

will be published in November 2002.

Please send your contributions for the November edition,  
**preferably by E mail, to Sarah@pongo.freemove.co.uk**

or alternatively hard copy to the Editor:-

Sarah Butterworth, The Little House, Whitchurch-on-Thames, RG8 7EX

Telephone (0118) 984 2922

**no later than 5 November 2002.**

The views that may be expressed by individual contributors to **The Bulletin** are not necessarily those of the Whitchurch Parish Council or the Editor. We welcome all news items or letters we do require that they be signed; we will not publish items or letters from sources which cannot be identified.