

WHITCHURCH-ON-THAMES BULLETIN

www.whitchurchonthames.com

SEPTEMBER 2004

Meeting of The Parish Council

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

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

Also present were the Parish Clerk Janet Holmes, District Councillor Pearl Slatter, Peter Ronald from SODC and one member of the Public.

Traffic Calming

Peter Ronald, the new Oxfordshire County Council Area Traffic Engineer came to discuss traffic calming measures in Whitchurch. The need for greater protection for Pedestrians at the lower narrows by the Ferryboat was discussed. Peter Ronald recommended a virtual footway to delineate the road as a single tract road better. There are a number of surfaces that can be used and the Council will look into this further before taking a decision. A similar footway will be used at the upper narrows. Giving one direction priority at both narrows was discussed and this was not recommended as it speeds up the traffic in the priority direction.

A “SIDS” Machine to measure and display vehicular speed to discourage speeding, as is used in other Oxfordshire Villages on a temporary basis, will be requested again from the Road Safety Group.

Playground

The plans for the new Playground area, which Mr Sam is very kindly giving to the Village are continuing. We hope the new Play equipment will be installed during the autumn.

There have been some problems with dogs being brought into the Playground.

“No Dog” notices will be put up to discourage this.

Planning

New Applications

The following planning applications were discussed. The Parish Council's comments are in bold.

| | |
|--|---------------------|
| PO4/E1034 1 Eastfield Lane Erection of conservatory at rear of dwelling | NO OBJECTION |
| PO4/E1015/RET Prospect House, High Street Replacement of existing fencing | NO OBJECTION |
| Village Hall Entertainment Licence | NO OBJECTION |

Decisions

| | |
|--------------------------|---------|
| Rosemead, Eastfield Lane | Granted |
|--------------------------|---------|

Finances

The following cheques were agreed for payment.

The Clerk for salary and expenses, RM Weavers for grass cutting, Ridgeway Press for printing, JD Ritchie for Internal audit, Environment Agency, Viking Direct for stationary and Dabs Com for computer equipment.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Monday the 1st of November in the Whitchurch Village Hall at 8.00pm. An agenda and the dates of future meetings will be posted on the Parish Council Notice-board opposite the Greyhound before the next meeting.

Matilda Oppenheimer
Chairman

COMMUNITY WASTE COLLECTION SERVICE

In the future there will be a weekly service, as follows:-

THURSDAY MORNINGS 8.00 TILL 11.00 AM IN GORING

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOONS 12.00 TILL 3.00 IN WOODCOTE.

There will be 2 vehicles provided, one for household waste and one for garden refuse between April and October. There will only be one vehicle between November and March.

Remember if you haven't got your free green box yet or would like another one, please contact Public Amenities on 01491 823416 or email public.amenities@southoxon.gov.uk

From Your County Councillor

CROOKS ARE USING THE SAME OLD PLOYS IN THEIR LATEST SCAMS.

Watch out for the latest scams. The crooks running them are always coming up with new ideas and stealing thousands of pounds per week. But remember all these scams are based on a few old tricks.

Don't be a mug, **BE SUSPICIOUS**

The three latest scams are:

- Letters from Spain purporting to be collecting traffic fines
- Post cards saying a parcel is waiting for collection which requires you to ring a premium rate number
- E-mails supposedly from your bank asking you to verify your account details for security reasons

What are the common tricks used by these scams?

All good scams rely either on the victims being greedy or too trusting:

- If the conman can play on your greed and make you think you will get something for nothing he will rip you off
- If the conman can convince you he is an official, he will get your money

How will he get your money?

- Either con you into sending it to him
- Get your bank details and help himself
- Make you use an expensive phone number or service without you realising

Remember if anyone in business genuinely gave you something for nothing they would go bust in weeks! Someone is paying their wages and that someone is the victim who falls for the scam. Every deal offered as "free" has a price to pay.

What can you do?

Be suspicious and remember if it sounds too good to be true it usually is.

If someone writes or phones that you do not know, be suspicious. If you are not sure throw the letter in the bin or politely put the phone down.

- Never give out your bank details.
- Never send money.
- Be careful before you ring.
- If you dial any number starting 090 you will be paying a premium rate for the call
- Be very cautious before dialling numbers abroad it could be a premium rate number.

The people behind the scams are very cynical. Once you have responded to them you will be targeted time and again and your details sold on to other criminals on lists called “mugs lists”.

Remember

If you receive the offer of a free holiday, are told you are the prize draw winner, are offered a business opportunity or are asked for bank account information, be suspicious.

Ask: Why me? They rip you off.

If in doubt ring Trading Standards on: 0845 3303313.

John Farrow
County Councillor

From Your District Councillors

It can be amazingly frustrating to be a District Councillor, sometimes, seeing the impositions placed on SODC: Best Value Reviews, Comprehensive Performance Assessments, Internal Audits and External Audits, being some of them. Add to that, Scrutiny and Overview Committees, one wonders whom the council serves – the Government, or the local electorate. While it is important that there is full probity in public services, the amount of management and staff time required (about 50% of time worked), for all of this compliance, is only equalled by the massive volume of paperwork that is generated. An irony indeed, when the Council is pushing so hard to increase recycling targets.

Benefit Fraud Investigations Team

The Benefit Fraud Investigations Team has imposed fifteen sanctions (Administrative Penalties and Cautions) and has had one successful prosecution so far this year.

The team also has a further nine sanctions pending, and three more serious cases, where fraudsters have been summonsed to appear in Court. There are a further two cases that are pending prosecution.

Remember – beating benefit fraud is everyone’s business – we are all victims. Benefit cheats steal £2 billion of taxpayers’ money each year. The Council operates a dedicated fraud Hotline (Tel: 0800 169 5716 and e-mail: fraud@southoxon.gov.uk) for anyone wishing to report suspected fraud.

High Hedges

Dealing with complaints about high hedges under the Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003 will be by the Council's Planning Inspectorate. In determining complaints, the test to be applied will be whether the reasonable enjoyment of a person's property has been adversely affected by a hedge's height, particularly with regard to loss of amenity.

For that reason it has been agreed that complaints will be the responsibility of the Planning and Building Control Service, under delegated powers, as recommended in guidance papers. Where there are particularly sensitive and contentious issues, it has been recommended that the Planning Committee should be the body to which such complaints should be referred.

Pearl Slatter & Ann Ducker

Fireworks Spectacular

By kind permission of Sir Julian Rose

At
Hardwick House
Whitchurch on Thames

Saturday 18th September

Gates open at 5.30 pm

Hardwick Organic BBQ
Beer Tent
Live Music

Tickets:

- Adults £6 (£7 at the gate)
- Children £4 (£5 at the gate)
- Family £18 (£20 at the gate)

Tickets from Emma Barker 0118 9844038,
Lucy Norman 0118 9845058, The Greyhound & The Sun

All Proceeds are for St Mary's and St John's Churches
Whitchurch & Whitchurch Hill
Major sponsors Lane Fox, Castrol & Mercers



We are back into the swing of things at Whitchurch Pre-School after a wonderful break over the Summer. We are looking forward to welcoming our eleven new starters this term and are sure they'll have fun with all the great activities that are planned through until Christmas.

Our fundraising is already under way thanks to the good weather at the Whitchurch Fete on Saturday 4th. We had our usual ice-cream stall plus a lucky dip, with the proceedings going towards new toys and equipment for the children. Our annual Sponsored Trike Ride is also coming up soon, so get ready for those sponsor forms to be waved in your faces! It should be a fun morning.

Whitchurch Pre-School is now officially a Partnership Foundation Stage Unit with the Primary School. This means that we will be working even closer with the School, covering the same topics as the Reception Class. The children will also be enjoying some of the morning sessions playing with their older peers.

If you are interested in registering your child with the Pre-School, please telephone Helen on 0118 984 4516 for more information and to arrange a visit.

WHITCHURCH VILLAGE FETE

The weather was wonderful, the extra helpers this year were great and the support from Castrol and Contractors in Pangbourne was invaluable. The Fete was well supported and I would like to thank all those who helped towards what I hope was a day enjoyed by everyone.

Anyone who would like to help next year is very welcome to ring me. Pictures of the event can be found on the village website at www.whitchurchonthames.com

Kate Thatcher 0118 984 4656.

What's in a Name?

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

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

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

Any views would be welcome!

*Sally Woolhouse
9844365*

Sackcloth & Ashes

"In the current issue of the Whitchurch Parish Magazine there is an error in the Diary Dates for September.

The Baptism of Hugo Napier-Munn will be held on September 19th, in St. Mary's. NOT St. John's "

THE WHITCHURCH THYME MAZE

The Cutting Edge

Some years ago a vicar of a rural village not dissimilar to Whitchurch was visiting various parishioners. One of them was a retired widower who as a keen gardener, spent all his waking hours lovingly tending the many flowers and plants in his care. The result was a beautiful and well ordered garden.

“Your garden is really lovely Arthur,” the vicar said admiringly. “It just shows what man and the Almighty can do working together.”

“Yes vicar,” Arthur replied pithily. “But you should have seen the garden when the Almighty had it all to himself!”

I am often reminded of this story when I visit the Maze where the power of grass as a natural coloniser is graphically illustrated.

This has been an extraordinary Summer for growth and had The Thyme Maze been left to Nature without human intervention the brick paths would have been covered in no time. Fortunately this has not been the case and human intervention in the form of Peter Woolhouse and his mower has been on a regular basis. To date he has mowed the Maze once a fortnight since its completion at the end of June. In addition I and other anonymous Good Samaritans have also done some edging. But this was nothing compared to the work Peter has put in to keep the site in good condition.

We always knew that maintenance of The Thyme Maze would be a continuing challenge. However, it is certainly not fair that all this work should fall on one person’s shoulders no matter how willing that individual. With this in mind I would like to suggest that the first Saturday morning of every month is set aside for Maze maintenance for anyone who can find even an hour to help cut and edge the paths. That way the Maze could be kept continually in good condition in a convivial and communal manner.

There are other plans for continuing maintenance and development of The Maze which will occur over the next year. The purchase of a maze mower is planned and proper signs will be put in place in the near future.

I am ashamed to admit that I have been rather lax in progressing the plans for the historical and geographical plaques which are the final part of this project. I can only apologise for this particularly to the pupils of The Whitchurch Primary School who showed such enthusiasm and imagination. But rest assured I plan to rectify this lapse in the near future but would appreciate any help. So if anyone would like to assist in completing this last phase of The Thyme Maze I would love to hear from you.

My contact details are:

Nick Brazil, The Garden Flat, The Mount, Hardwick Road, Whitchurch-on-Thames, Reading RG8 7HW. Tel: 01189841602.

e-mail: nicholas.brazil1@bopenworld.com

WoTHABS

We enjoyed our afternoon at the fete and were delighted with the interest shown in the activities we had on offer. The children made woolly caterpillars and adults confronted the 'log challenge' quiz. Congratulations to our winner, Craig Southwell, who correctly named all the tree fruits and logs. (The answer to our tie-breaker – the combined weight of the logs – was 7½ kg.)

Various plants provided by our young plantswoman, Lorna Woolhouse, were taken to new homes and so were lots of water irises (Thanks to Dennis Roberts for those.)

The garden pond section of our stall also got a good response. Thank you to all of you who have added your ponds to our map and chart, passed on good advice and expertise, taken home survey forms and provided plant samples to help with identification of troublesome non-native species.

We were recently allocated a small grant by Thames Valley Environmental Records Centre in connection with our garden pond survey and are pleased to find such a good number of local residents supporting us and participating in the ways described. We look forward (in late autumn) to having back the survey forms which those of you involved in the survey have been using, and to answering any queries or suggestions you may have. This is something of a pilot study and we propose to use our grant to improve our efforts: basically by having a training session to gain knowledge both with regard to the best way of monitoring garden ponds and to understanding how their wildlife value might be enhanced.

Gill Goodwin 9842934 (gill_goodwin@yahoo.co.uk)

CROSS LANES FRUIT FARM

MAPLEDURHAM, READING. RG4 7UW

TEL: 0118 972 3167

ORCHARD OPEN DAY SUNDAY 10TH OCTOBER

From 10am to 6pm

FARM SHOP OPEN FOR SALE OF APPLES, PEARS, APPLE JUICE, AND
HONEY UNTIL JANUARY.

Wed to Sunday 10am to 6pm.

THE ALLOTMENT SOCIETY

With such a wet August, the ground will be perfect for digging! We are still on the lookout for redundant baths, so please call me to arrange removal. If they still have taps and waste intact all the better!

We do have a couple of allotments available for those wanting a challenge this winter. It is very satisfying growing your own and eating the produce.

One good example is raspberries: they require very little looking after (a bit of tying in early in the season and cutting down of the old canes in late August or September). Ten or so canes will produce a reasonable crop and with a high price tag in the greengrocers you quickly get your money back!

If you grow summer and autumn variety raspberries you will have raspberries cropping from late June through to the first frosts in October/November.

If anyone is interested I am happy to show them around the Allotments site.

Rosamund Heath
tel: 984 2358

Henley and District CAB

Volunteer as an adviser

with *FREE* training!

PHONE: 01491 578267

**or call in at 32 Market Place, Henley,
on week-days 10am – 2.30pm, except Weds, 1pm – 5.30pm
or write to CAB, 32 Market Place, Henley RG9 2AH**

We are committed to equal opportunities

Join the charity for your community

Whitchurch United Charities

(Registered charity no. 264826 of 22.7.1907)

Since 1st June 2003, the Trustees of the Whitchurch United Charities have been managing the distribution of the income from the Charity in the form of grants for educational purposes.

The purpose is to assist local students with the funding of essential equipment, such as musical instruments and books, or any other cost associated with an educational need.

Eligible students are young people between the ages of 5 and 25 years and whose permanent residence is within the parish of Whitchurch.

The scheme has been publicized through the Parish Magazine, this Bulletin and the distribution of the orange 'flyer' to every household in the parish. The initial response was slow, but with the increased publicity the Trustees are very pleased to announce that we have received and granted some applications recently. These have ensured the allocation of income from the 2002/2003 financial year.

However, we are disappointed that no further applications were received before the annual deadline of 31st July. There are therefore unallocated funds available from the year 2003/2004 and we would very much welcome 'late' applications at any time. Do consider if your children, or any known to you, might make appropriate use of funds from this local Charity.

We have produced a Grant Application Form with accompanying Notes for Guidance. The Notes set out the full rules of eligibility including residential requirements and they explain how and when applications are processed. All applications and decisions are treated in strict confidence by the Trustees. If you would like an Application form and Notes, please write to -

The Grant Application Secretary, Whitchurch United Charities,
Mrs Jill Bradon,
'Rylands', Hardwick Rd, Whitchurch-on-Thames, RG8 7HW

John Dolby
Chairman of the Trustees
Tel. 0118 984 2140

Whitchurch Art and Craft Exhibition

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

This is to remind everyone that the Whitchurch Society's Annual Exhibition is drawing near and we hope that you are busy with your entries! We welcome all ranges of work - it is an enjoyable, friendly event, not an elitist showcase! All residents (both past and present) of Whitchurch and Goring Heath Parishes are eligible to enter their work. Children who attend the Whitchurch Pre-School Group, 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.

To save paper and expense, we are not printing an 'advance' entry form and schedule - instead, the details of sending-in times and the classes are given below, and exhibitors will be asked to fill up an entry form when they submit their work.

Timetable

Sending-in - Thursday 18th Nov 7pm - 8pm at the Modern Artists Gallery, High St
Friday 19th Nov 11am - 2pm at the Village Hall

If it is not possible to bring your entry at *either* of these times, please contact Sally Woolhouse (0118 9844365) to arrange a convenient alternative.

Prize Giving - Sunday 21st Nov at 4pm
Collection of work - Sunday 21st Nov 4.30-5pm

Loss or damage to exhibits

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

Commission

A commission of 20% will be deducted from all sales at the exhibition.

Classes and Rules of entry

Joyce Voysey Prize

- a) This is an open class for all ages and the theme this year is 'Birds'
- b) The work may be any item of art, craft or photography.
- c) Please clearly mark your work 'Birds' on the back with your name in block capitals, and with the price if offered for sale. No more than one entry per person please.

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 :-

- (a) under 7 years (b) 7 - 10 years (c) 11 - 14 years (d) 15 - 18 years

The exhibitor's name and age must be clearly written on the back of the work.

Photography class

- a) This is a single class open to all young people aged 18 or under.
- b) Exhibitors may submit a maximum of 4 photographs which may include one series of photographs.
- c) All individual photographs should be mounted on heavy quality card.
- d) A series of photographs should be mounted on card no larger than A3 .
- e) The exhibitor's name and age must be clearly written on the back of the work.

Adult classes (over 18)

Art Work

- a) Exhibitors may submit up to a maximum of 4 pictures.
- b) All pictures must be framed and fitted with eye screws, or mounted on heavy quality card with a margin around the picture.
- c) 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 (420mm x 295mm).
- d) All entries must be labelled on the back with artist's name in block capitals, and with the price if offered for sale.

Craft Work

- a) There is no limit to the number of exhibits submitted, although the organizers' 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.

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.

Special displays

Thank You to everyone who has already contacted me with offers of items for both of our displays – the *Archive Corner* and the *Jack Orford* commemorative display. We do now have enough promises of examples of Jack Orford's work to more than fill the space available, but more winning exhibits from the past years' shows would be welcome. If you have won any of the Cups (Whitchurch, Chairmans, Orford, Butterworth, CPL), we would be delighted to include it.

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

Whitchurch & Goring Heath Twinning Association

The final planned event of the year was the Cakes and Savouries Stall at the Whitchurch Fete on Saturday 4 September. The weather was warm and dry and cakes had to be moved around to protect them from the sun. Produce, contributed by committee members and others, sold well as usual. The popular Guess the Weight of the Cake was won by a single correct guess.

Thanks are due to all who contributed to and supported the stall.

Ian Bruce

LANGTREE NEWS

Langtree School celebrates another year of successful GCSE results.

Students at Langtree School have achieved a very pleasing set of GCSE results. 62% of the Year 11 students achieved Grade C or above in at least 5 GCSEs with many students gaining far more than that. Over 20% of all GCSEs were graded at A or A*.

There were some excellent individual results. Most notably by Anna Smith with 7A*s and 4As, Tim Higgs and Nicola Barefield with 5A*s and 3As.

The high ability of students at Langtree was also reflected in GCSE success for a number of Year 10 students. 53 Year 10 students were successful in achieving Statistics GCSE at grade C and above with 3 A*s and 12 As. 2 students took the GCSE History exam a year early, achieving 1A and 1B grade. Year 9 student Alex Durand achieved an A* in French.

We are delighted with the results achieved by our students. They are a tribute to the hard work of all students and teachers at the school and the support given to the school by parents.

Sam Peates
Acting Headteacher

Pangbourne Choral Society start an exciting new season

Following its very successful 30th Anniversary Season Pangbourne Choral Society started its 2004-2005 season on Tuesday September 14th. The highlight of this season will be a 2 night performance of Britten's *WAR REQUIEM* in March to commemorate the sixtieth anniversary of the ending of World War II, to be staged in their usual venue – the stunning Falkland Islands Memorial Chapel at Pangbourne College. The *War Requiem* was commissioned to celebrate the consecration of St Michael's Cathedral in Coventry (UK) in May 1962. Britten was a lifelong pacifist and the *War Requiem* is about the brutality and futility of war, along with the senseless suffering and monstrous death and destruction that it brings. As well as the normal Requiem text the War Requiem includes many of the World War I poems. For this semi-staged performance the Choral Society will be joined by Pangbourne College Choir and international soloists under the baton of Darren Everhart and the Artistic Direction of Kim Begley.

The rest of the season will include *The Friends of Reading Hospitals* annual Christmas concert of seasonal readings & music; a slighter summer concert of *American Music* in May and a performance of *Mahler's 2nd Symphony* with the Reading Symphony Orchestra in June at the Reading Concert Hall. A very varied and full season!

The society welcomes new members of any voice. Auditions are not required but enthusiasm and commitment are expected. Just come along to any of our Tuesday evening rehearsals (7:45-9:30pm); or contact us via e-mail pcs@musician.org. Further information can be found at www.pangbournechoralsociety.fsnet.co.uk.

Members of other choral societies or choirs who would like the opportunity to sing The War Requiem, an infrequently performed work, will be especially welcome.

WOODCOTE LIBRARY

By the time you receive this the library should be running electronically - our start date is September 2nd. However the staff will remain mere flesh and blood and we therefore ask that you are patient for the first few days as the system becomes routine and in particular, if possible, avoid busy times. When you ring up to renew it would be helpful if you had your membership card handy so that you can read out the number. Hopefully all the cards will have been received and kept safe, but if need be we can sign you up on the spot. Remember too that from September onwards the overdue reminders will be sent centrally in the post and therefore we will not reach you until items are over a month overdue, so please keep an eye on the date and ring us to renew.

PANGBOURNE AND DISTRICT TENNIS CLUB

The three teams in the Summer league have all done well; both men and mixed came second in their division, and are due to be promoted next summer. The ladies came third, so will be staying put. This means that all three teams will be in the second division. Congratulations to all players and thanks to the captains.

Junior tennis coaching has continued through September and October, by popular demand, and we are grateful to Liz Fidler who has been organising the groups this year.

Outdoor club tennis carries on throughout the year on Sunday afternoons. 2-4pm, and indoors at Bradfield from 12 October on Tuesday evenings 6.30-8pm. Winter matches also start in October. If you are interested in membership at any level, please contact Brian on 9845650.

The courts may be hired when not in use by members. Please place your £4 hire fee in an envelope and leave at 36 Thames Avenue after you have finished playing.

For further information, look on our website at www.pangbournetennis.org

Lesley Crimp and Sandra Wilkinson

EXCERPTS FROM THE ARCHIVES

VOL 1 No 2

December 1965

Parish Council Meeting

The question of responsibility for clearing the Brook was again discussed. It was reported that representatives of Oxfordshire County Council and Henley R.D.C. had previously met members of the Parish council on the site in an effort to resolve the problem. Although until recently it had been used as a highway drain, the CC stated that they were not legally required to clear the culvert and brook. They did, however, agree to make representations to the Henley R.D.C. It was decided to write to the Henley R.D.C. inquiring if they would agree to accept responsibility.

As a result of Parish Council intervention, following a report from their Planning Sub-Committee, all work had been stopped at the Hillside Development site, until elevation

plans of three blocks of three houses, accurate cross section plans of the site and retaining wall, together with a survey plan of the trees had been submitted for approval.

It was learned that the alternative plans for five dwellings at the Old Barn Site had been refused. It was suggested that a plan similar to the original proposed conversion of the barn be adhered to, of four terrace houses with garages at the rear.

A progress report from the Education Authority disclosed that work on the new Primary School was progressing satisfactorily, and if present progress is maintained, completion could be effected well in time for the Autumn Term 1966. The number of school managers to be appointed by the Parish Council was thought to be either one, or two. Pending official notification, the Council appointed Dr M.A. Screech and Mr R. Noble respectively, as their first and additional choice.

Pangbourne Bowling Club

It has not been a very successful season for Pangbourne Bowls Club; I regret to say, apart from two noticeable successes. Pangbourne Ladies Triple won the Oddfellows Ladies Championship. This triple consisted of Eileen, Mary Joyce and Linda Tucker. Very well done ladies. What makes it even more poignant is that after this year the Oddfellows Bowling Club in Reading is closing down. This was the very last year of the competition, not only won by Pangbourne, but each time I look at the television set the trophy stands in pride of palace on the top – rather interesting it looked when the Union flag was raised so often at the recent Olympic Games! And I of course raised my glass on each occasion.

The other item of which we at Pangbourne can be justifiably proud is that Alan Blacklock's (Blackers to his drinking chums!) team were runners up in the Kennett League. Considering that Pangbourne was relegated last year it was great to see the club fight back. It is interesting that some of our ex-"stars" are now looking on and wondering whether they were right in leaving Pangbourne after all.....

This is the time of the year when I'm juggling around trying to fix in the games on Finals Day. It won't be an easy task this year for once again Blackers is in two or three finals, one of them is the Mixed Pairs, which consists of 21 ends. This match usually lasts for up to three hours. Alan could then have to fight again in the Men's Singles immediately after lunch, and that is the first to 21 shots, which could take at least 25 ends, and then he'll be playing against Linda Tucker after tea for the Walter Greenford Trophy. Alan is a quite remarkable bowler and is a great credit to the club – even though he was on the losing team to the incredible Chatwins! (Sorry, Blackers, I had to get that one in!).

Pangbourne continues to be a very happy mixed club, I've had fourteen happy years as Secretary, but I wouldn't be sorry if somebody came along and said "Bill, old man, let me take the pressure off your shoulders and just enjoy your bowls!"

But, the leaves are still green, the grass is still fresh and even though I'm not bowling anything like my best – due to my knee: I've had to adopt a new stance and I'm just using the strength of my shoulders; this wasn't helped at a recent village fun day in Purley when my nephew and I entered the "throw the industrial welly" competition. He won and I crocked my shoulder and upper arm. At least I have my excuse all ready if beaten in the Open Pairs in the forthcoming Finals.

I have enjoyed writing these little pieces for the Whitchurch Parish Magazine, I hope they've given some little enjoyment to the readers and done perhaps a little "something" to get more people interested in what happens in 'Bowling the Wood'!

Bill Ayling

A walk around Ewelme – just over 4 miles; allow an hour and a half for the walk but do investigate this beautiful village

Ewelme – a village with a wealth of history. Do visit it and enjoy the Church, the School, the Almshouses, the watercress beds, the village generally and then follow my walk and enjoy the surrounding countryside.

Try to approach from the south, take the third exit on the Crowmarsh/Wallingford roundabout and wind your way towards Ewelme – it is well signposted. The view as you drive over the hill to look down on the village is breathtaking and beautiful.

Drive into the village and turn right below the Church and School and up to the car park at Cow Common. I will describe the walk in a clockwise direction but you may choose to leave your visit to the village until after your walk.

When you have parked return down the village street under the wall of the Primary School (they serve teas here on the second Sunday of April, May, June, July and September). You can visit the school then, the almshouses above and the magnificent church are generally accessible and nearly six centuries later they are all still in use (built from 1437 onwards).

Walk down from the church to the main street again and follow along past the Village Hall, visit the new Visitors Centre and look at the watercress beds which are now being re-furbished. Carry on down the street until you reach a 'T' junction at the 'Shepherd's Hut' which may be worth noting for your return.

Turn right and follow the road uphill, you will soon see a footpath on your right but carry on and turn right onto the next one which is a few hundred yards further up the lane. Take this second footpath and follow it straight ahead, after a few hundred yards you will meet another path coming in from your left, you bear right onto it and then almost immediately left (this new path returns to the village). A short length of field path will bring you to another road. Turn left and then shortly afterwards right onto a bridleway. This is a long stretch of over a mile (you will soon see a footpath on your right which again leads back to the village). But you are made of sterner stuff and continue along for the mile with forward views of Swyncombe Down and the Ridgeway.

You reach a crossroads of bridleways and for this walk turn right onto a broad path which will lead you to a road. Turn right onto the road and continue along (with care) to where the road bends to your left, on your right at this point is a footpath leading up the hill in front of you. Follow this path – it is splendid with lovely views. Carry on up the hill, over the crest and keep straight ahead until it becomes a narrower path and meets a village road. Turn left onto the road and when it meets another road you will see the car park and can return to your parked car.

We are so lucky to live in this area of outstanding natural beauty—enjoy it.

Eric Hartley

THE NEXT ISSUE OF THE BULLETIN will be published in November 2004.

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

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