

WHITCHURCH-ON-THAMES BULLETIN

www.whitchurchonthames.com

SEPTEMBER 2005

Meeting of the Parish Council

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

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

Also present was the acting Parish Clerk Janet Holmes.

The Village Fete

The fete this year was particularly successful, we were very lucky with the weather and it was especially nice to see so many young families enjoying themselves. It was most impressive how many tiny children shimmied up the climbing wall so ably.

Kate Thatcher deserves our grateful thanks for her hard work this year and for the last 5 years.

She is retiring from the role of Fete Organiser in Chief to give more time to all the countless other things she does for us all in the Village and most importantly her own family.

We need an enthusiastic volunteer to come forward to replace her.

Please consider this; it is a very good way of becoming involved in the Village. There is plenty of support every year from many people in the Village who give hours of their time to make sure the fete is a success. Kate has promised to continue as an advisor.

Bollards on Land in High Street

The Parish Council are still pursuing this matter with the County Council and are being assisted in this by John Farrow, our District Councillor who is aware of the problems they are causing in the Village.

Parish Clerk

The Parish Council are still in the process of appointing a new Parish Clerk following the retirement of Janet Holmes and the last minute withdrawal of Nichola Harris, who had been chosen to replace Janet.

The email address is still in the hands of Janet, who has very kindly agreed to act as clerk for this interim period. Any concerns about Village issues should be raised with the Chairman or one of the Parish Councillors.

Parish Clerk Email address: clerk@whitchurchonthames.com

Flooding Prevention and Alleviation

We are delighted to be able to report that the extensive works done by SODC clearing the Culvert that runs through the Village have been completed. This should reduce the risk of flooding that has been a problem in recent years.

Toll Bridge

Representatives from our Parish Council and also Woodcote, Goring Heath and Pangbourne Parish Councils have been invited to attend a meeting with the Bridge Company on the 15th of October. This will give the Parish Councils the opportunity to discuss further the Toll bridge increase charges and in particular the discontinuation of the residents concession in favour of a frequent user discount. The Company will also be sharing with us the latest position on the refurbishment of the Bridge.

Planning

New Applications: Parish Council Recommendations

P05/EO895/LB Toll Bridge

To install new alarm sounder on North Elevation, centrally above the front door and move existing alarm to west elevation

NO STRONG VIEWS

PO/EO88895/LB Flint House, Hardwick Rd

Erection of single storey extension and new roof to front porch

NO STRONG VIEWS

P05/EO921 Pluto House

Demolition of existing Garage, erection of two storey side extension and refurbishment of existing house.

SHOULD BE REFUSED

SODC Decisions

P05/EO590 31 Swanston Field

REFUSED

Finances

The following cheques were agreed for payment.

To the Environment agency, R Weavers for grass cutting in the Parish and J.D.Ritchie (the external Auditor of the Parish accounts)

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Monday the 7th 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

From Your District Councillors

The District Council's new trial service to collect garden waste for composting is working well. To make it easier for Whitchurch residents to obtain the Councils waste bags, Pearl Slatter has obtained a supply which she will sell from Ford Cottage in the High Street every Saturday morning between 10 and 12 am. These bags cost 65p each, and are very large and strong. The correct monies would be appreciated. Please make use of this service and help reduce landfill.

All garden waste collected from the paper bags **will be composted**, as composting is a fantastic way to help the environment and reduce the amount of rubbish going to landfill.

The garden bags will be picked up weekly using a booking system. To use the service all residents have to do is contact the Council 24 hours before their normal rubbish day to book in their bags for collection. Residents can do this by calling the free phone number or by sending an email.

FREE phone: **0800 7318752**
Email: public.amenities@southoxon.gov.uk

Pearl Slatter and Anne Ducker



Learning Through Play

Back to school after what seems to be a quick Summer Break !

During the holidays it was a very busy time at school, with diggers, dumper trucks, tarmac lorries and skips on the premises for almost four weeks creating a fantastic new garden area.

Pre-School and Reception class children will be able to have great fun using and exploring the grassy mound, undercover sandpit, playhouse, pirate boat, all-weather area, agility equipment, outdoor blackboards, digging zone and cycle track, complete with zebra crossings. We also now have an enormous new shed, some extra hard-standing, a soft play area and a vegetable and fruit garden (need to do some planting!). Over the next term we're hoping to create a sensory area too, so if you have any good ideas on suitable plants, objects or activities etc, please let us know.

We would very much like to thank all of you who helped with the massive amount of fundraising which went towards the creation our new 'Outdoor Classroom'.

Apart from the garden, which we're all very excited about, Helen and her team have some wonderful activities planned for the children leading up to Christmas and, as ever, we have the sponsored trike ride coming up very soon. Watch out for those sponsor forms !

On a serious note, Pre-School needs a new Chairperson to take over in the New Year, as I will be leaving at Christmas. If you're interested or know of somebody who would like to take on this role, then please contact the Pre-School.

As always, if you are thinking of sending your child to Pre-School and would like to visit, please telephone Helen on 0118 9844516. You can also find out more from our web site www.whitchurchpreschool.org

Please also register your child ASAP to avoid disappointment as unfortunately we were unable to accommodate every child this year.

Maria

NATURAL SCULPTURE EVENT - THE LATEST

There has been an extremely encouraging response to the Natural Sculpture Event. Like the Maze, once people grasped the concept their enthusiasm knew no bounds. In fact a Brazilian artist called Leia has also expressed a strong interest in taking part.

Here are the basic details:

As the name suggests, The Natural Sculpture Event is a happening and not a competition.

We want as many people to attend as possible at The Whitchurch Thyme Maze on Sunday 25th September. The stated times of 09:30am to 4:30 are elastic guides not hard and fast rules. Remember this is not a contest! So if you are going away on that particular day just create your sculpture somewhere in the Maze Meadow on the Saturday.

The only rules are: Use Natural Materials only! No plastics or metals just branches, stones and any other materials you find lying around that take your fancy.

Please do not break off living branches from trees or bushes at the Maze or anywhere else for that matter. There is enough fallen stuff lying around for everyone.

Please do not create your works on the maze but in the surrounding meadow area.

There will be material provided at The Maze but if you wish to bring your own materials in that's fine!

By their very nature all works will be temporary but will be photographed for a display at The Arts and Crafts Exhibition in November.

Natural sculpture is hungry work so there will be a communal barbecue to cook any food.

Above all come along and let your imagination run wild and enjoy yourselves!

See you on 25th September

Nick Brazil
Mazemeister

WoTHabs (Whitchurch-on-Thames Habitat Study Group)

The excellent weather brought a good turnout on the day of Whitchurch fete. Lots of children were keen to make dragonflies and kept Sally, Alex and Lorna very busy. Alison encouraged an impressively large number of people to buy our wild flower cards.

John and Martin were on hand to describe the dangers of invasive plants and their control measures. Parrots Feather (*Myriophyllum Aquaticum*) and New Zealand Pygmy Weed, also known as Australian Swamp Stonecrop (*Crassula Helmsii*) and Floating Pennywort (*Hydrocotyle Ranunculoides*) are among the worst of the invaders. Their presentation of one of these aliens as a caged beast provoked particular interest. Small fragments, are enough to cause serious spread and completely choke and deaden ponds. The sale of any of these plants and their use in gardens and escapes into the wild is a continuing problem. Specimens on display, included Himalayan Balsam, Giant Hogweed and Japanese Knotweed. An indication of the scale of the problem is the estimate of £2 billion for the national cost of eradicating Japanese knotweed alone. This shows the importance of smaller, local measures to prevent the spread of these damaging plants in the first place.

If you'd like a copy of The **Environment Agency booklet on identification and suggested control measures** let me know. General advice is to tackle early and frequently, don't let the plant flower, avoid fragmentation, continue for several years and be vigilant.

A display on our Garden Pond Survey found continuing interest and a few more ponds have been added to the map. Thanks to Dennis and Diana Hansen for the water lilies and other plants which raised some generous donations to boost our funds.

We were a little disappointed that our quiz seemed to daunt many of you – at any rate there were not very many entries. It was won by Sally Woolhouse – who, it must be stressed, had nothing whatever to do with setting the questions. It just goes to show how much you can learn by joining WoTHabs. Her prize is a visit for two to the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust in West London. We will get her to write a report for the bulletin.

Thanks to all of you who supported our efforts.

Gill Goodwin 0118 9842934

P.S.

If you find fungi you want identified, leave it at Sandra Conn's place, Boze Down Vineyard, along with your name and phone number and she will get back to you.

Whitchurch Art and Craft Exhibition
The weekend of 19th - 20th November 2005
Whitchurch-on-Thames Village Hall, Manor Road

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. Please note that all these details are available on our website www.wotarts.co.uk .

As usual, there will be an activity on the theme of 'Water' for children to get involved in whilst their parents look around the exhibits, and on the Saturday, we hope to have a demonstration of the interesting craft of felt-making.

Timetable

Sending-in - Thurs 17th Nov 7pm - 8pm at the
Modern Artists Gallery, High St
Friday 18th 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 20th Nov at 4pm

Collection of work - Sunday 20th 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 'Water'
- b) The work may be any item of art, craft or photography
- c) Please clearly mark your work 'Water' 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 This is a single class open to all young people aged 18 or under.

- a) Exhibitors may submit a maximum of 4 photographs which may include one series of photographs.
- b) All individual photographs should be mounted on heavy quality card.
- c) A series of photographs should be mounted on card no larger than A3 (420mm x 295mm).
- 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.

For further details, please ring Sally Woolhouse on 0118 9844365.

We look forward to receiving all your entries in November!

Whitchurch Village Fete

The fete was held on Saturday 3rd September, on a beautiful sunny day and thanks to Mr and Mrs Aldridge for the loan of the fete site. Thanks also to the sponsors of the fete - particularly Contractors in Pangbourne and Castrol in Whitchurch Hill.

I have chaired the fete for several years and feel that now is the time I should hand over the job to someone else, to put new ideas and energy into the fete. There is a huge back up team for the fete who make the whole thing very rewarding, everyone happily helping out and doing their bit to the fete's success. What is needed now is one person to be the contact point and to delegate the jobs. The fete is a great way for the village to come together and I feel strongly that it should continue - so if you want to talk to me about what is involved in taking over as chair and making it happen next year, please ring me.

Thanks again to all those who gave their time and effort this year.

Kate Thatcher 984 4656

Adult Learning News

'A world of opportunities here in Oxfordshire'

Arts and Crafts Computing * Cookery and Gardening* GCSEs* Healthy Living* Languages* Skills for Life* World of Work... and more*

Our 2005/2006 brochure is now available in local libraries.

Alternatively you can telephone

0845 351 0646 or visit www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/adultlearning

Email: adult.learning@oxfordshire.gov.uk

New season with the Pangbourne Choral Society

The Pangbourne Choral Society, under their Director of Music Darren Everhart, will be starting their 2005-2006 season on Tuesday September 13th preparing for another rewarding season. This year's main event in February will see a performance of Carl Orff's exciting **Carmina Burana**. Also included in this season will be the Concert of Christmas Readings & Music in aid of the League of Friends of Reading Hospitals and a summer concert with a Nautical vein with music by Delius, Stanford, Grainger and Vaughan Williams.

This follows their memorable 2004-2005 season which saw the staged performance of Benjamin Britten's powerful **War Requiem** and concluded by joining with the Reading Symphony Orchestra in a performance of **Mahler's Second Symphony** at the Reading Concert Hall. [it was '*a musical experience not to be missed..*' - *Reading Chronicle*].

So if you think you would be interested in joining this major local Choral Society for a very varied year's singing, go along to the inspirational Falkland Islands Memorial Chapel at Pangbourne College, their venue for concerts and rehearsals, on any Tuesday evening from September 13th and give them a 'no-commitment' look over! Auditions are not required (unless you have soloist aspirations) but commitment and dedication are expected.

If you would like more information e-mail pcs@musician.org or visit their website <http://www.pangbournechoralsociety.fsnet.co.uk> .

WHITCHURCH & GORING HEATH HISTORY SOCIETY

The first meeting of our Autumn season is on Thursday 15th September when Graham Keevill will talk about medical archaeology. In October we have a members evening on the 20th - topic to be announced. Both meetings are at 8pm and take place at the Goring Heath Parish Hall. Non-members are welcome.

WOODCOTE LIBRARY

Not only books, videos, tapes, DVDs for your enjoyment are available at the library but also information of all kinds. We keep government and local authority leaflets as well as parish council minutes, Which? magazine, local newsletters and the Henley Standard. There are posters for events around the County, including programmes of local societies. We will always try to find the information you are looking for - or refer you to a woman who can! If you would like to see behind the scenes at the Museums Resources Centre at Standlake (near Witney) you can book a guided tour by phoning 01865 300972. Tours are available at 11am and 2pm on 5th October and 2nd November and are free. All sorts of things are kept there from carts to pictures to insects and you are assured of a very interesting visit. Finally a reminder about the letterbox in the door facing the school drive where well-wrapped books and tapes can be posted - or notes about renewal- when we are closed.

PANGBOURNE & DISTRICT VOLUNTEER CENTRE

please join us for a

COFFEE MORNING

Bring & buy, raffle, cakes etc.

THURSDAY 28TH OCTOBER
10.30 AM TO 12.00 NOON

@

THE DORMAN ROOM
St. Bernadette's Church, Horseshoe Road,
Pangbourne

Entrance 50p to include coffee and biscuits
Proceeds to Volunteer Centre Funds

Woodcote Amateur Dramatic Society

in revival of classic Alan Ayckbourn Comedy

A night of comedy brilliance to look forward to, what better way to dispel any early Autumn blues! Many readers may remember Alan Ayckbourn's highly acclaimed Norman Conquests trilogy, both on stage and then the small screen. WADS are very pleased to be presenting **Table Manners**, the first and best of the 3 plays which originally starred Penelope Keith, Felicity Kendal and Michael Gambon.

Ayckbourn puts together a suitably complicated and amusing plot which, of course, reveals many twists and turns along the way. Frustrated Annie looks after her bedridden mum and looks destined to team up with the wet vet Tom, except she has planned a dirty weekend away with the livewire Norman, who is married to her feisty sister Ruth. All is going well until control freak sister-in-law Sarah finds out, much to the amusement of her eccentric husband Reg. A good night out is guaranteed. As another experiment WADS are putting on 4 performances in Woodcote Village Hall over 2 weekends (Friday 7th, Saturday 8th, Friday 14th and Saturday 15th of October all at 7.45pm), so do please come along and support local top quality drama. For advanced bookings please call 01491 680847.

Matthew

Do you need childcare in your community?

Are you interested in starting up a childcare project?

New out of school childcare projects have been opened in Oxfordshire by voluntary groups, school governors and individuals who have seen the need for quality childcare in their community and have decided to do something about it – and they haven't done it alone! There are childcare development officers working across the county providing advice and support and there is funding available too. Grant applications are welcomed to support the start up of new childcare projects, or the further development of existing childcare groups.

What is 'Out of School' childcare?

For school aged children (primary and secondary) it is any childcare that happens outside of school hours. This could be a breakfast club, after school club or holiday play scheme. For 3 and 4 years olds it is childcare that wraps around an educational pre-school session, either before or after the session or a holiday play scheme.

If you would like to talk about setting up and out of school childcare project in your community, contact the Childcare Development Team.

Tel: 01235 549331

Email: childcaredevelopmentteam@oxfordshire.gov.uk

WHITCHURCH HILL CAMERA CLUB

Our new season commences this month with our usual Opening Night which will take place on Wednesday, 14th September. Designed as an introduction to the Club, we will be showing what we have to offer to both new and existing members including details of our new Digital Group which has proved very popular.

The second meeting will take place one week later when Barry Senior ARPS APAGB from Southampton shows many photographs which show his transition from black and white film work to modern digital photography.

Our last meeting in September (on the 28th) features Elizabeth and Jim Marsden FRPS APAGB who travel from Melksham to take us Around the World in Eighty Minutes.

The programme continues with the annual Selection Evening on October 5th. One week later, we welcome back Peter Upton FRPS MPAGB who will be taking us to the dreaming spires and landscape of Oxford in a show called "Town and Gown".

The following week (October 19th) features the first round of our ongoing Slide Competition when we have invited Andrew Wilson ARPS from the Bracknell Camera Club to comment on our work and score each image out of 20 points. Our Digital Group meets on Friday, 21st for further training and practical work on digital imaging.

Our last meeting on the 26th features the return of one of the country's leading wildlife photographers, Mike Wilkes FRPS with a superb collection of images showing "The Wildlife of the Cloudforest and Galapagos Islands".

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.

Further information is available from Alan Copeland on (01491) 681471 or by visiting our website at: www.whitchurchhillcameraclub.co.uk.

An Autumn Walk - to Nuney Green

I first wrote this walk in January 1982 – how time flies! This time I will shorten it from its original 7 miles to about 3, so allow an hour or so for your walk. Our beech woods are excellent for walking in all seasons; another example of our good fortune in being able to live in this area. In autumn you should see the woods in their golden splendour.

Drive or walk up to the King Charles Head, there is plenty of parking space opposite the pub if you are not intending to eat or drink there after the walk. Walk back down the road towards Goring Heath corner and soon on your right you will see a bridleway entering the woodland.

Turn right and head at a diagonal along the bridleway as it winds its way through Gutteridge's Wood. The routes through these woods are obvious but they are also numerous, the main paths are waymarked but sometimes the arrows are faint.

Follow the bridleway as it curves through the woods until it emerges onto a metalled road (if in doubt keep to the main right hand path – but the route is waymarked). Turn left onto the road (don't try to walk down the drive to The Firs) and enter the hamlet of Nuney Green. Follow the road to a 'T' junction, turn left and just before the last cottage you will see a footpath by the hedgerow of the cottage (it is waymarked as GH43). Follow this path, it skirts an algae covered pond to your left; take the path at the right hand end of this pond and follow it as it runs parallel to the more open patch of ground on your right. Carry on until you reach the start of the next open field on your right. You will see a waymarking forked arrow and you should take the left path; shortly afterwards there is another marked fork – again take the left path. If you look carefully at the trees you will see white arrows waymarking your route. Don't worry if you make a mistake, all the paths to the right will bring you out on Deadman's Lane.

The path narrows; as you approach the edge of the woodland you will see the fields beyond. Keep straight on (crossing a few other paths) and drop down to the field boundary below to meet a stile, cross over and follow the left-hand boundary of this field until you reach the distant fence. Cross over another two stiles and follow the path ahead by the side of the right hand hedge until you emerge onto the road that leads from Goring Heath to Deadman's Lane.

Cross over to the old Post Office and turn left onto the track that runs alongside the smallholding. The track meets a road coming in from your left, carry on down this road in front of the cottages until you emerge into the more open area of fields at Collins End. This is probably the area where King Charles was allowed to play bowls on his outings from Reading Gaol. The old King Charles Head is further along at the entrance to Holly Copse and Bottom Wood.

On your left there is a stile, you can cross over here and head straight across two paddocks to another stile, which leads onto the road immediately opposite the start of the walk. Or carry on a little further and turn left down a short lane by the side of the beautiful setting of Rose Cottage, over a stile and head towards another stile and across a small field to meet a stile and to emerge opposite the King Charles Head.

Eric Hartley, September 2005!

Apple Open Day

**CROSS LANES FRUIT FARM, MAPLEDURHAM, READING, RG4 7UW Tel
0118 9723167**

Our Farm Shop is open from Wednesday to Sunday 10.00am-6.00pm until
January

Selling 60 varieties of apples, plums and pears and freshly pressed apple juice
and honey.

This year the Apple Day Open Day will be on Sunday 9th October.

THE NEXT ISSUE OF THE BULLETIN will be published in NOVEMBER 2005.

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

sarah@pongo.freeseve.co.uk or on disc.

Formats can be Word (.doc) or text (.txt or .rtf) or PagePlus (.ppp), or Acrobat(pdf).

Other formats by arrangement

Alternatively you can send hard copy to the Editor:

Sarah Butterworth, The Little House, High Street, Whitchurch on Thames, Reading,
Berkshire RG8 7EX (0118 984 2922)

no later than Wednesday 9TH NOVEMBER 2005.

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