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OPEN



# WHITCHURCH BULLETIN

AUTUMN  
2023

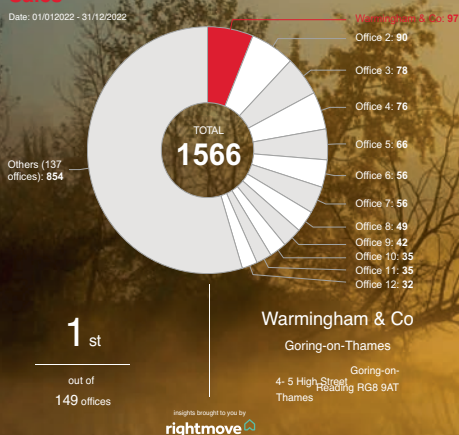
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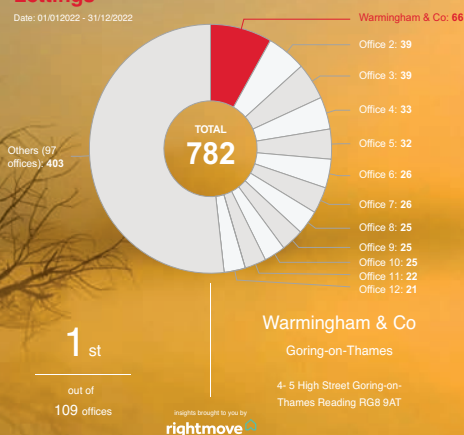
## Sales

Date: 01/01/2022 - 31/12/2022



## Lettings

Date: 01/01/2022 - 31/12/2022



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\* OX11 0, OX11 9, RG18 9, RG18 0, OX14 4, OX49 5, RG9 4, RG9 5, OX10 6, OX10 0, OX10 7, OX10 8, OX10 9, RG8 9, RG8 7, RG8 8, RG8 0, RG20 6, RG20 7, OX49 5, RG7 5, RG7 6, RG4 9.

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Louise Parker



George Brock



Naomi O'Loughlin



Arun Readings



Sue Warmingham

# PARISH COUNCIL CHAIR'S UPDATE – OCTOBER 2023

With Summer over it's back to school and work and things are getting busy around the village. We have the Arts and Crafts Fair to look forward to and I'm glad to see the Greyhound back to selling food whilst they sort out the licensing with SODC.

## **High Street Residents' Parking and Pedestrian Safety Plan Consultation –**

OCC Highways have confirmed that consultation on the planned Residents' Parking scheme and changes to parking restrictions on the High Street is due to start on the 20th of October.

- Consultation will last for four weeks.
- Documents will be published in January and the matter will probably go to the Cabinet Decisions Meeting at the end of January. Representatives of the PC can speak at the Meeting.

**Speed Watch Village Signs** – You may have seen some other villages using yellow Speedwatch signs alerting drivers that they may be subject to Speedwatch cameras. This seems like a good idea to make drivers more aware of the speed limit and help reduce speeding, so we will be doing the same shortly at the three entrances to our village. On average, 40% of people monitored in a Speedwatch session are speeding – not the majority but we are only managing one monitoring sessions, a week, so not a large sample. We need more volunteers. We may consider having a smiley/angry face once we have a year's worth of data.

**The Walled Garden House** – I wanted to comment on SODC's decision to approve this application as a number of residents objected to it and the size and height of the new house will be very visible and have a significant impact on the village Conservation Area. I attended the SODC Planning Committee meeting on 11th October to present our objections with support from Cllr Paul O'Grady and another resident in attendance to raise their own concerns. Despite us having what I felt was a strong planning basis for having the Walled Garden planning application, I am sorry to report that the SODC Planning Committee voted to approve the application, as recommended by the Planning Officer:



- The Planning Officer recommended approval stating the impact on the Conservation Area was neutral. He acknowledged that the new building would be much more visible from many angles, but felt it was offset by the improved architecture that was sympathetic to the area, compared to the existing building.
- 7 out of 11 SODC Councillors voted to approve the application, arguing that:
  - The plot was large and the house was not disproportionate to the size of the plot.
  - Whilst the third-floor roof was visible over the wall, overlooking would not be possible from the rooms there as they formed part of the dormer roof that only had Velux windows.
  - Some felt that it was not out of keeping with the Conservation area which was a built-up area with buildings of diverse architecture.
  - Others felt the applicants would be successful in an appeal. Even if rejected, other applications, perhaps for multiple houses would likely be accepted.
- The councillors understood our concerns regarding the pond and flooding and, that resolving these was a condition for development. I intend to push this with their Drainage and Flooding Engineer to ensure we get satisfaction on the pond being fully reinstated prior to any work on the house starting.

**Conservation Area Assessment** – Cllr Higley has been told that SODC is completing their review of a formal document defining the village Conservation Area and this should be available for public consultation by the end of the year.

**Eastfield House** redevelopment is already approved and in progress, but I also wanted to share the latest update as this also has a significant impact on the village. I have had feedback that the contractors are very conscientious of neighbours and keep the surrounding area generally clean, although are unavoidably a bit noisy during working hours. For any questions please contact Construction Contracts Manager, Nick Hall from J Guest [nick.hall@jguest.co.uk](mailto:nick.hall@jguest.co.uk), mobile: 07739 983003. Please also note that Urban Villages has changed its name to Zephyr X due to an internal company restructuring.

Progress as of early October:

- The bat licence works were completed in September.
- You can see that they installed improved secure fencing around the site perimeter.
- They have stripped the property including all asbestos with just the last small rear section of the building to be removed.
- They have re-surveyed the trees in consultation with SODC and are just finalising the revised landscape design for SODC approval based on changes to growth of trees since the original survey. Some trees in the original tree survey showed trees that are now mature and worth keeping being removed and trees that are now dead as remaining.

Plans for next quarter include:

- Concluding demolition of rear building
- Progression of the utility trenches and drainage tanks
- Repair work to the existing building
- Commencement of the groundworks





**Tea Hut Demolition** – The Parish Council and the Cricket Club are in discussions regarding the demolition of the tea hut. Both agree that it is dangerous and beyond use in its current state. The PC has approved a motion to pay for the demolition subject to getting cost estimates. Removal of the existing tea hut would clear the way for the PC to develop a similar replacement building that could be used for Fetes and other community activities on the Village Green.

**First Aid Course** – A grant has been approved to fund a first aid course aimed at rescuing people on the river who may be based on a boat, and also training other general scenarios that could occur in the village. It is planned for the weekend of 13-14 January. Numbers will be limited, but I would like to encourage everyone in the community to consider signing up for the course. We would like those who have taken the course to consider acting as contacts in the Emergency Plan if urgent first aid was needed by other people in the village prior to the arrival of medical professionals. Please express interest to Lily Hardy at [communitycraftcollective@hotmail.com](mailto:communitycraftcollective@hotmail.com) if this is something that you may be interested in attending.

**FixMyStreet Super User** – I have signed up to be a FixMyStreet Super User and have received training. This means:

- I can identify potholes in the village pavements or streets, outline them with white paint and have them actioned by OCC Highways within 28 days. If it is considered a safety issue, I can request action within two hours.
- Qualifying potholes must be at least 4 cm deep and no more than two meters in length.
- Drains cleaning is no longer part of the Super User remit, but I have been put in touch with the area OCC Highways manager and will be able to discuss OCC work to address blocked drains.
- Please feel free to contact me if you become aware of any potholes in the village!

The Parish Council has been working to address a number of issues that residents have alerted us to:

- **Hillside dangerous step fixed** – This was escalated to OCC Highways as a safety related issue and was prioritised and repaired.
- **Whitchurch Hill bench** – A resident would like to donate a bench for the public to use part way up Whitchurch Hill, particularly for those who may want a rest attending Remembrance Sunday ceremonies. We have agreed a location with the OCC Countryside Officer and are hopeful for getting this in place ahead of this year's ceremonies.

**New Councillor** – We are pleased to welcome Debbie Leach to the Parish Council as our new Councillor. You will probably know Debbie as she is married to Rev. James Leach of St Mary's and is already involved in many aspects of village life. She has volunteered to be part of a new committee looking at improvements to the Manor Road Playground.

*Kind regards,  
Jim Donahue  
Chairman, Whitchurch-on-Thames Parish Council*



# QUARTERLY PLANNING UPDATE FOR WOT PC

## JULY - OCTOBER 2023

Planning Reference	Address and Application	Comments by WOT PC	SODC status
P23/S2413/HH	Pavilion Cottage, Eastfield Lane, WoT RG8 7EJ: First floor rear extensions and general alterations.	The Council voted to support this application but an extension to submit a comment was denied.	Application under consideration
P23//SI070/FUL	The Walled Garden House High Street, WoT RG8 7EP: Demolition of existing dwelling and rear outbuildings, replacement by a detached dwelling and detached double garage (Amended application following withdrawal of application P22/S3901/FUL and as amplified by additional information received 31 July 2023)	The Council voted to continue to object in the strongest terms on account of scale and massing, effect on the conservation area, impact on the village's flood defences. 11/10/23 Cllr Donahue attended Planning Committee meeting to object; however the application was approved.	Granted
P23/S3065/DIS	BP Technology Centre, Bozedom Drive, Whitchurch Hill, RG8 7QR: Discharge of conditions 13 (Contaminated Land – Linked Conditions (1)) under application reference number P22/S3223/	The Parish Council is not able to submit a comment for discharge notifications.	
P23/S2869/HH	37 Manor Road, WoT RG8 7EU: Proposed double storey side extension and single storey rear extension following demolition of existing side store and rear conservatory.	The Parish Council voted to support this application.	
P23/SI017/HH	Swanston House, High Street, WoT RG8 7ER: New gable extension to front elevation, bringing front door to centre with landing window above, replacing existing 1st floor dormer window. Small single storey side extensions. Small alteration/extension with balustrade above. Glazed roof over existing loggia renovated and enlarged to extend outdoor covered seating area.	The Parish Council voted to support this application.	



## FROM YOUR DISTRICT COUNSELLOR

One of the proud boasts of South Oxfordshire is that it's in the very top ranks of the recycling league table, having the second highest rate of waste recycling in the country for the last two years. While brown bins of garden waste contribute a significant amount of the recycled waste, it's mainly down to the efforts of all the residents. Perhaps having just three basic bins, the green recycling bin, the black bin and the little food caddy makes it easy. However, there can still be a problem if someone puts the wrong stuff in the green recycling bin, such as a mass of food waste or used nappies, which can result in the whole truck load of what should be recycled stuff being condemned to be burnt at Ardley. It was shocking to read in the Henley Standard that a lazy bin man emptied a food waste bin into a resident's green recycling bin. This was then emptied into the paper etc recycling truck. Luckily, it was caught on camera by a resident's door-bell camera, and the bin man, who was an agency person working for Biffa, was duly dismissed.

We all have had stickers recently put on our bins about recycling, not least because the SODC recycling rate while good, has not improved significantly recently, and the council is keen to continue to be a leader on this issue. Last year, 11% of the items in the recycling bin were not actually recyclable, so please check before you chuck. I don't think the 3,340 tons that this 11% represents can all be the work of this one rogue bin man !

Some services, like the waste collection, are contacted out to contractors who can provide expertise and economies of scale, for example for buying equipment or using staffing agencies, which would be difficult to match with a relatively small and tightly run council like SODC, even though we can combine with the Vale of White Horse to have greater power. Many of the arrangements with contractors have built-in inflation escalation clauses to allow for revised payments without having to renegotiate everything. A recent Joint Scrutiny Committee with the Vale examined the contract we have with SABA to provide the car-parking service and noted that the contractor had been paid more each year, as below, in line with the contract. When challenged about some aspects of poor performance, SABA said they had difficulty recruiting, but Councillors looked at recent advertisements for staff that they had placed and found that they were paying less than comparable employers, and below the Real Living Wage.

	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
South pa	£224,088	£228,122	£232,228	£234,318	£245,799	£267,430
Vale pa	£238,320	£242,610	£246,977	£249,200	£261,410	£284,414
TOTAL FIXED pa	£462,408	£470,731	£479,204	£483,517	£507,210	£551,844

At a recent Council meeting, it was agreed that the Council would move towards ensuring that all its contractors pay the Real Living Wage.

I am pleased to say that it was two Green Party members on the Joint Scrutiny Committee, the chair Kat Foxhall from the Vale and Jo Robb, representing Woodcote, who dug into the detail of this contract and identified the issue.

*Peter Dragonetti*  
*([peter.dragonetti@southoxon.gov.uk](mailto:peter.dragonetti@southoxon.gov.uk))*  
*SODC Councillor for Whitchurch on Thames*

# WHITCHURCH PRE-SCHOOL

Our Autumn term is going down a storm, everyone is enjoying being back in the classroom learning and exploring. We have been making the most of our outdoor space, spending time in our dedicated allotment and getting green fingered.



## Hot meals and extended opening hours

New for this term we are now offering the option of a hot meal and a late pick-up time to 3.30pm for those who need it.

## Fundraising for our building improvements

This year we are doing a big push towards raising money for our preschool building. We need a new roof and better insulation. All these improvements will benefit the children and staff ensuring our building is fit for the future.

Our next event is at the Greyhound pub - a Bingo night on Wednesday 22nd November.

Tickets can be bought on our website, we hope you can join us.

There will be more events to come, check out our website [www.whitchurchpreschool.org](http://www.whitchurchpreschool.org) or follow us on our Facebook page.



## Spaces available

We currently have spaces available for new starters aged 2 - 2.5 years upwards.

- We're open from Monday to Friday during term time, from 8.45am - 3.15pm, with an early drop-off option at 8.30am and late collection to 3.30pm
- Free government-funded places are available for 2-year-olds for 15 hours and for 3-4 year olds for 15 or 30 hours per week during term time.
- We are Forest School, Healthy Smiles and Hygge accredited.
- Children from out of the Whitchurch catchment area are welcome to apply.

To register your interest, please use the form on our website or email:  
hello@whitchurchpreschool.org

## THREE FREE and EASY ways to support us:

1. Become a Co-Op Member and select Whitchurch-on-Thames Pre-School. For every £1 spent 2p will be donated to our cause.
2. Shop with Amazon, go to <https://smile.amazon.co.uk/> and enter Whitchurch on Thames Pre-School, 0.5% of your order value will be given to Pre-School.
3. Sign up to [easyfundraising.org.uk](https://easyfundraising.org.uk) to support "Whitchurch Pre-School - Whitchurch-on-Thames". This website allows you to shop with retailers like John Lewis, M&S, H&M which then sends us a donation of up to 5%. Register for free at:  
[https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/whitchurchonthamespresch/?utm\\_campaign=raise-more&utm\\_content=w4](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/whitchurchonthamespresch/?utm_campaign=raise-more&utm_content=w4)

To donate anytime, scan the QR code here or go to:

<https://donate.giveasyoulive.com/charity/whitchurchpreschool>

Thank you for all of your support!

*Registered Charity: 1183193*



# WHITCHURCH PRIMARY SCHOOL PARENTS' ASSOCIATION



We have had a lovely start to the new year at school and soaked up the last of the sunshine on our first week back and handed out ice pops to the children (and staff) as they finished to help cool off! The children were excited to be back and it's lovely to see them all thriving, learning and settling back into the new academic year.

Our first Art Café was a huge success and, as always, we are very grateful to the wider community for coming along to support us. We look forward to seeing you all at further cafés throughout the year for more delicious cake and exciting raffle prizes.

We are very excited to announce that one of our wonderful parents is running the London Marathon next year to raise funds for the school. If you would like to sponsor her, please visit her Just Giving page:

<https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/beatahageman1>

We have some very exciting projects coming up in the lead up to Christmas. We have our first working party of the year, starting the process of breathing new life into the pond area of the school, planned in partnership with a local business 'Branchways Gardening', run by two of the parents from school. We have also teamed up with St Mary's Parish Church to organise a 'Light Festival' an exciting new community event that we hope will become an annual village tradition. Please see the attached poster for all of the exciting details! As we get closer to Christmas, we will also start selling tickets to our annual raffle, which always has some fantastic prizes on offer. We are so appreciative of local businesses who donate prizes and everyone who buys a ticket. We are specifically saving up for a new rug for classroom areas and exciting educational resources and opportunities for the children, so your support is invaluable. We are also supporting the school with purchasing resources that focus on diversity where they can celebrate difference and teach respect in an ever-changing world.

Finally, I have taken on the role of chair for the Parents' Association this year and am excited about introducing new fundraising initiatives, building community and most importantly supporting the school with delivering an exceptional educational experience for all the children.

If you would like to get involved, please get in touch.

*Nicola Armstrong*  
*Whitchurchpa20@gmail.com*





Community event organised by Whitchurch  
Primary Parents Association in partnership  
with St Mary's Parish Church.

Come and celebrate the turning of the season  
with us



# LIGHT festival

## Friday 3rd Nov

### 5pm-7pm

Lantern Parade and refreshments at  
The Old Stables

**Gather at the maze** at 5pm with a lantern. Walk  
down Muddy Lane and Eastfield Lane to The Old  
Stables together. Refreshments available to buy  
with proceeds going to the school and church. Bring  
cash for hot chocolate, prosecco, mulled cider,  
snacks and various amusements for children.

Make your own lantern at home or come along to a workshop at The Old  
Stables for a £5 contribution.

Parent and child workshop Weds 25th Oct 10-12 ran by Nicola Armstrong  
Alternatively Debbie Leach will be running workshops on Fri 27th Oct 7-  
9pm and Mon 30th Oct 7- 9pm



Enquiries email:  
nicola.luetchford@btinternet.com  
debbie on debs.leach@btinternet.com



## AUTUMN VILLAGE SHOW

The Goring Heath and Whitchurch Autumn Show took place on Saturday 9th September. The show was well supported this year with keen competition from exhibitors, particularly in the Baking and Preserves Section. The new committee had earlier made the decision not to include arts, crafts, and photography sections in this year's Autumn Show as it was felt it conflicted with the November Arts & Craft Exhibition. However, these sections will again be included in the Spring Show on 13th April 2024.

The Show was also an opportunity to remember and pay tribute to Theresa Elsome who had been so determined for the show to continue and had been taking a leading organising role until her sudden death in June. As a tribute to Theresa's long association with the show the Flower Arrangement Trophy was renamed the Theresa Elsome Memorial Trophy and presented for the first time by her son Nick Elsome and granddaughter Nellie.

The prize winners were as follows:

Allotment Cup for the most points in the vegetables and fruit section

– John Coupland.

Betty Haytor Memorial Cup for most points in the flower section

– David Sexon.

Theresa Elsome Memorial Trophy for most points in the flower arranging section – Maureen Britt.

Baking and Preserves Cup for most points in the baking and preserves section

– Maureen Britt.

Douglas Allardyce Memorial Rose Bowl for most outstanding exhibit

– Sally Woolhouse.

Childrens Cup winner

– Alexandria Johnson-Cox and Lucas Ferguson  
and Children's second place rosette

– Leo Ferguson.

Whitchurch Hill Trophy for most points overall

– David Sexon.



*The prize winners from the Autumn Show (from left to right) – John Coupland, Sally Woolhouse, Alexandria Johnson-Cox, Maureen Britt and David Sexon (photo courtesy of David Robinson)*

*John Coupland*

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## WHITCHURCH AND GORING HEATH HISTORY SOCIETY

*"Travels With Auntie"* is the title of our last meeting this year; an account of former Foreign Correspondent Alastair Lack's career in the BBC. After studying history at University College Oxford, he taught in India and worked in publishing in New York, before starting his career in the BBC in 1971. We are promised an entertaining and informative evening, dealing with events we all remember from the recent past.

The date is **Thursday November 16th** at 7:30pm at Goring Heath Parish Hall. All are welcome, non-members pay £3, which includes tea/coffee and biscuits (served from 7pm)

*Vicky Jordan*

# THE WHITCHURCH 2023 ART & CRAFT EXHIBITION



The weekend of

## 18TH & 19TH NOVEMBER

in the Whitchurch Village Hall on Manor Road

**Viewings 10am to 5pm on Saturday  
and 10am to 4pm on Sunday**

**Prize-giving at 4.30pm on Sunday**

**Entry £1 per Adult (non-exhibitors only)**

**Refreshments will be available.**

**We look forward to seeing you there!**

All the details about how to enter are available on the village website. Also look out for our Facebook event page or for more information contact Sally Woolhouse at [sally@wotarts.co.uk](mailto:sally@wotarts.co.uk)

**[www.wotarts.co.uk](http://www.wotarts.co.uk)**



## STOP, LOOK AND SEE: PART TWO

If you followed Quiz one, in the last edition of the Bulletin, you will have reached the High Street. Before you continue, turn around and look at the Bell-mouthed entrance which indicates an entrance to an important house and complex. In this case, to the old Manor House (now Walliscote House) and the Church together with the Mill – our village of the past.

### **Q1: Why do we have two village churches?**

Now proceed up the High Street and try to visualise the elm trees which once lined the road, some of which were used to secure the chains of miscreants who could be pilloried as the congregation attended Church for Sunday morning worship. I think the village stocks were also hereabouts.

Once again, there is a significant brick wall lining the pavement. Brick and flint (and tiles) define our village walls and structures. It is easy to see the availability of flint but brick and tiles?

### **Q2: Where is the local source?**

We reach yet another bell-mouthed entrance – Manor Road, indicating that it too led to an important house (now Coombe Park) and Lower Lodge still sits on guard. I intend to take you to the site of the Polish Church, but not on this occasion.

Walk past the entrance to Barn Cottages – I remember it as the location of the Village Tithe Barn which burnt down thus allowing the present row of houses to be built.

### **Q3: What was or is a “tithe”?**

So continue up towards the Art Gallery (this was the Village Shop which supplied all our grocery needs together with the occasional bottle of wine). Note the gratings in the pavement of adjacent walls of the cottages and the Gallery.

### **Q4: What was their purpose?**

Once again visualise another two alehouses; White Hart Cottage alongside you and the impressive Wellesley House immediately opposite.



**Q5: Why so many?**

Turn right into Hardwick Road.

**Q6: What are its other names?**

Walk along the road just past Whiteways; you can turn onto the parallel dirt track on your left which will lead you to the Schoolhouse and the Old School.

**Q7: Why was that school closed?**

I wonder whether this track was the original village road since a slight right of way runs parallel to the tarmac road below.

The houses on Hillside were built on the site of Victorian houses and there is still one remaining. You can continue along their frontage until I want you to drop down to the Allotment footpath (Muddy Lane).

This lane will take you past or into The Maze.

**Q8: Whose idea allowed it to be built and who built it?**

Then the Allotments (once again, sensibly and necessarily in use). The other village pride is the acquisition of the Cricket Ground and the provision of our Village Green.

And so back to Eastfield Lane, the Village School and Pre-School – why did they have to be provided?

The arrival of young families in Manor Road and Swanston Field brought about the need for, and then construction of, our splendid Village School and Pre-School.

***Answers at the end of this Bulletin.***

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**Next Quiz** – perhaps Hardwick Road to the new green western gates and Sheepwash Lane or onto the eastern gates and our boundary with Mapledurham, or Manor Road to the Polish Church or half way up the hill to the War Memorial and the back down to the bridle road (The Thames Path) via the Hartley Steps to reach and note our western boundary with Goring.

*Eric Hartley*

# HARDWICK HAPPENINGS

Hardwick has been a hive of activity this beautiful late summer. We hope you are interested in our news and will be able to join us for some of our winter events. We would particularly like to invite you all to a public consultation on Hardwick's future which we will be holding in Whitchurch Village Hall, with wine and cheese afterwards, on 24th January 2024 from 7 – 9pm. This will be an opportunity to find out about the succession changes and upcoming plans and, as our local stakeholders, have your say about the future.

## **Hardwick Estate – Estate/Charity Manager**

The search is on for a new Estate Manager to replace Miriam Rose in preparation for the Estate becoming a community-led charity.

We are looking for an enthusiastic and people-centred leader with experience of managing charities, and a passion for the environment, land and community, to take the helm of England's first community-led Estate. Hardwick Estate is a magical place on an ambitious journey and we are looking for the right person to help us become the successful, pioneering, values-driven organisation we know we can become.

Contact: [miriam@hardwickestate.co.uk](mailto:miriam@hardwickestate.co.uk) for a job description.

## **Drinkable Rivers Visit**

On 28th September, members of Hardwick's boating community and Path Hill outdoor education centre met a group who were walking the length of the Thames to collect data on the health of our river. As their name suggests, Drinkable Rivers are an organisation looking to improve the water quality of European rivers, to the point where we could, one day, drink healthily from the Thames. They are part of an emergent movement that sees citizens who love the natural world claiming responsibility for its health, instead of relying on the word of corporations who profit from the status quo of our declining riparian environment. Members of Hardwick were there to participate in the water testing, with the hope to set up a similar routine, testing the Thames for both human and agricultural waste pollution.

You can find out more, as well as test results, at [www.data.drinkablerivers.org](http://www.data.drinkablerivers.org)

## Organic Growers' Gathering

The Organic Growers Gathering (OGG) took place at Hardwick on the 6th to 8th October, bringing together local land-based projects and organic growers of all kinds and inviting many from the organic movement to cross-pollinate. With the glorious weather, the event was a sell out with well over 300 participants, volunteers, workshop leaders and speakers from across the UK and Europe descending upon Hardwick for an inspirational weekend of networking, learning and skill sharing.

Last year the Hardwick Farm Hack was such a success, we were excited to host a bigger, more-packed version of it this year, for more fruitful learning and exchanging, and strengthening of the mycelial-like network we have been building. The OGG continues to be an opportunity to network with your fellow land folk, grow in solidarity and have a great knees-up too! An event for growers, by growers, partnered with The Organic Growers Alliance. Seems there will be another next year, let's see how this grows!

## Hedgelaying Courses

Would you like to learn the ancient country art of hedgelaying? Well now is your chance! We will be laying the hedges around the Hardwick Community Orchard at Collins End with the aim of creating a thick stock-proof hedge whilst improving their wildlife value at the same time.

Dates: January 20th - 21st and February 17th - 18th 2024

Cost: £150 for two days

Suitable for complete beginners, conservation enthusiasts, land owners and managers. All tools provided . . . . **THE PERFECT CHRISTMAS PRESENT!**

For more details and to book a place contact the tutor, Dave Jackson:

Phone/Whatsapp: 07814 487578, Email: [dave@thesticksmith.co.uk](mailto:dave@thesticksmith.co.uk)

Your tutor . . . Dave Jackson (aka The Stick Smith) is based on the Hardwick Estate and has 24 years' experience in hedgerow restoration, runs a small coppice and willow crafts business from Collins End and is currently Chair of the National Coppice Federation.

## Magdalen College Barge Restoration

The Swan at Streatley recently auctioned off its Magdalen Barge – one of the last remaining ferro-concrete hulled vessels in the country – due to increasing high costs and inflation.

The Barge is one of only five remaining barges from the original 23 – this one survives because of its ferro-cement hull, groundbreaking in its time, and this hull is still completely sound, surviving the test of time! The sides need work but much of the original superstructure is solid and repairable according to buyer Paul Austin-Clark, who will be restoring the barge at Hardwick.

Paul is asking people to donate anything they can to 'float the boat', however, those who are able to pay a donation of £200 or more will be allocated a full day of hosted Magdalen College Barge activities.

## Pop-Up Coffee Shop

Pop Up at Lin's VegShed every Saturday from 9am – 3pm. We are serving organic, locally roasted, fresh ground coffees from our coffee cart and locally baked sourdough, cakes and pastries while you shop for your veg. Expect seasonal specials and festive fun. Come and say hi! Find us at the gates of Hardwick Estate RG87RA, follow us @popup\_at\_linsvegshed.



*Magdalen College  
Barge Restoration*



## Hardwick Winter Market

Hardwick Winter Market is an abundant showcase of the beautiful produce Hardwick tenants create on the estate, along with other local producers in the area. Find locally made, sustainable gifts and treats for your loved ones (including yourself!), which support small, independent producers and the local economy. With live music, drinks and snacks to enjoy while you are there, it's a great stop on your country walk and a market not to miss!

16th December, 9am–3pm, Lin's Veg Shed.

**HARDWICK  
MARKET**

**2023**

**FARMERS' MARKET**

**STREET FOOD  
BY TOLHURST ORGANIC**

**ARTS & CRAFTS**

**LIVE MUSIC**

**WINTER  
SAT 16 DEC**

**LIN'S VEGSHED, TOLHURST ORGANIC,  
WHITCHURCH-ON-THAMES,  
OXFORDSHIRE, RG8 7RA**

**EMAIL: HARDWICKMARKET@GMAIL.COM**

**#HARDWICKMARKET**

**11AM**

**£3 ENTRY**

**TILL 3PM**

**DONATION**

**HARDWICKESTATE.CO.UK**



## UPCOMING EVENTS

**30th November, 7.30pm – Tom & Justine, Hempen – Hemp, the Challenges and Opportunities**

Hardwick Lecture Series at Tolhurst Organic Packing Shed, RG8 7RB

**16th December, 11am–3pm – Hardwick Winter Market**

Farmers market, street food, arts and crafts and live music, at Lins Veg Shed, RG8 7RA (see above poster).

**25th January 2024, 7.30pm – John Twyford – Local Food Systems and the Model Farm**

Hardwick Lecture Series at Tolhurst Organic Packing Shed, RG8 7RB

*Miriam Rose, Estate Manager*

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## WHITCHURCH VILLAGE HALL

**Amico Dance Academy.** The new Saturday dance classes for primary-age children started in September and are going well. There are three classes running at the moment:



- Acrobatic Dance                      (ages 7+)                      10:00 – 10:45am
- Minis                                      (ages 4 – 5 years)                      11:00 – 11:45am
- Pre-Juniors (PJs)                      (from 6 – 7 years)                      12:00 – 12:45pm

The Minis and Pre-Juniors include a mix of ballet, modern and tap, which keeps it interesting for the children and lets them try a variety of styles.

For more information, please ring either Rachel Griffin on 07771 753088 or Sarah Toms on 07929 760204 or visit [www.AmicoDance.co.uk](http://www.AmicoDance.co.uk).

**Afternoon Tea.** These are on the second Thursday of each month and the next two dates are November 9th and December 14th. It runs from 2:30 to 4:30pm, so there's time to get there after school. Also, it makes a nice break if you're working from home. The cakes and patisseries are really world-class and usually have a seasonal theme.

*John Bradon*

# *Thames Vale Singers* *Christmas Concerts* *From* **Darkness** *To* **Light**

**Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December**

St Mary's Church, Purley on Thames

**Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December**

Pangbourne Village Hall

Doors open 7.00pm, concerts start 7.30pm

Tickets: £12.00, under 16s: £6.00

On sale: Tuesday 3 October 2023

From: 0118 942 4372 or

email: [tickets@thamesvalesingers.org.uk](mailto:tickets@thamesvalesingers.org.uk)

*online*

[www.ticketsource.co.uk/thames-vale-singers](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/thames-vale-singers)  
(booking fee £0.50)

[www.thamesvalesingers.org.uk](http://www.thamesvalesingers.org.uk)



## STOP LOOK & SEE: ANSWERS

- Q1:** The parishioners from up the Hill found difficulty in getting to Church, which was overcrowded by weekend newcomers, and they were berated by the village Priest, so land was provided for an additional Church and graveyard up the Hill.
- Q2:** The appropriately named Tilehurst with its bed of clay and similarly at Woodcote (Potkiln Lane).
- Q3:** A tithe is a tenth and it was a required annual payment of goods or produce to the Lord of the Manor in lieu of rent.
- Q4:** These grills were for the delivery of fuel (coal?).
- Q5:** Until 1479, Whitchurch was the hub of local transport. The numerous carters and carriers toiled hard (literally up and down hill) and needed to slake their thirsts. The water was unsafe to drink, so they drank “small beer” which is beer diluted with water, using the alcohol to reduce the risk posed by the water.
- Q6:** Hardwick Road is also part of the “Tuddingway” (the Saxon supply route from Reading to Goring and on to Tudda’s “ing” – the area under his control at Crowmarsh Gifford. Its other more recent name is that it is part of the King Alfred 350km cycle route from Winchester back to Winchester (we are about half way).
- Q7:** There were insufficient young children in the village – they went up to Langtree School for both their primary and secondary education.
- Q8:** Nick Brazil was the instigator and Peter Woolhouse the bricklayer.

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# THE PARISH OF WHITCHURCH ON THAMES, OXFORDSHIRE

*Acreage – 1,320, Population – 824 (2011 census), Electors – 622*

WHITCHURCH ON THAMES PARISH COUNCIL			
Chair	Jim Donahue	cllrdonahue.whitchurchonthames@gmail.com	
V/Chair	Diana Smith	cllrsmith.whitchurchonthames@gmail.com	
	Nick Brazil	cllrbrasil.whitchurchonthames@gmail.com	
	Katherine Higley	cllrhigley.whitchurchonthames@gmail.com	
	Paul O'Grady	cllrgrady.whitchurchonthames@gmail.com	
	Frances Parkes	cllrparkes.whitchurchonthames@gmail.com	
	Debbie Leach	cllrleach.whitchurchonthames@gmail.com	
Clerk	Jane Yamamoto	11 Hillside, Hardwick Road, RG8 7HL parishclerk.whitchurchonthames@gmail.com	07876 714906

SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL			
135 Eastern Ave, Milton Park Estate, Milton, Abingdon, OX14 4SB, <a href="http://www.southoxon.gov.uk">www.southoxon.gov.uk</a>			
Councillor	Peter Dragonetti	Covert Cottage, Hill Bottom	0118 9844711

OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL			
County Hall, Oxford, OX1 1ND, <a href="http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk">www.oxfordshire.gov.uk</a>			01865 792422
Councillor	Kevin Bulmer	35 Springhill Road, Goring on Thames, RG8 0BY	07526 743091

WHITCHURCH ON THAMES VILLAGE WEBSITE			
<a href="http://www.whitchurchonthames.com">www.whitchurchonthames.com</a>			
News Editor	Richard Wingfield	rmwingfield@btinternet.com	0118 9843682

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL			
St Mary's Whitchurch and St John's Whitchurch Hill			
Hon Secretary		Rosemary Pearce	07761 056125

WHITCHURCH PRE-SCHOOL GROUP			
Eastfield Lane, Whitchurch on Thames, RG8 7EJ			
Supervisor		Kathleen Barrow	0118 9842347

WHITCHURCH PRIMARY SCHOOL			
Eastfield Lane, Whitchurch on Thames, RG8 7EJ			
Head Teacher		Dawn Chesters	0118 9842347
Head of Parent Association		Victoria Wilcock	
Chair of School Governors		Eleanor Sugrue	

LANGTREE SCHOOL			
Woodcote, RG8 0RA			
Head Teacher		Simon Banford	01491 680514
Chair of School Governors		Alan Dunstan	01491 680514



**WHITCHURCH AND DISTRICT ALLOTMENT SOCIETY**

Chair	John Coupland	jvcoupland@yahoo.co.uk	07397 778872
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**WHITCHURCH TWINNING ASSOCIATION**

Chair	Wendy Ferguson	wendyefergie@gmail.com	0118 9841262
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**WHITCHURCH SOCIETY**

Chair	John Bradon		0118 9841574
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**WHITCHURCH BRIDGE CLUB**

Enquiries	Phillipa Turner		01491 875648
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**WHITCHURCH AND GORING HEATH HISTORY SOCIETY**

Contact	Vicky Jordan	Little Langtree, Whitchurch Hill, RG8 7PU	0118 9843260
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**WHITCHURCH CRICKET CLUB**

Sec	Cormac Neeson	cormac.neeson@gmail.com	0118 9843347
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**PANGBOURNE AND DISTRICT BOWLS CLUB**
**Recreation Ground, Thames Avenue, Pangbourne**

Contact	Roy Rosekilly	22 Swanston Field, Whitchurch on Thames, RG8 7HP	0118 9843080
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**PANGBOURNE AND DISTRICT TENNIS CLUB**
**Recreation Ground, Thames Avenue, Pangbourne**

Chair	Louise Shearer		0118 9842934
Sec	Amanda Holland		07814 369566

**WHITCHURCH ON THAMES HABITAT STUDY GROUP (WotHabs)**

Contact	Gill Goodwin	1 Swanston Field, Whitchurch on Thames, RG8 7HP	0118 9842934
Sec	John Bradon	Rylands, Hardwick Rd, Whitchurch on Thames, RG8 7HW	0118 9841574

**VILLAGE HALL**

Hall Manager	Richard Searce	38 Manor Road, Whitchurch on Thames, RG8 7EU	0118 9842004
Events Mgr	Jean-Marc Grosfort		07881 312233

**OLD STABLES ROOM**
**High Street**

Contact	Geoff Weir	oldstablesbookings@btinternet.com	
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**WHITCHURCH ON THAMES PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY**
**Meetings: Whitchurch Village Hall, alternate Wednesdays at 8pm**

Chair	Alan Copeland	14 Wayside Green, Woodcote, RG8 0QJ	01491 681471
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**GORING HEATH GUIDE AND SCOUT GROUP**

Contact	Doreen Pechey	doreen@pechey.org ( <i>Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Brownies, Guides</i> )	01491 681236
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**PANG VALLEY SCOUT GROUP**

The Barn, Purley on Thames

Contact	Ian Shenton	ishenton@ntlworld.com ( <i>Beavers, Cubs, Scouts</i> )	0118 9678769
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**PANGBOURNE AND DISTRICT VOLUNTEER CENTRE**

Committee Room, Pangbourne Village Hall

	Open 09:30 – 11:30am Mon-Friday	0118 9844586
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**AFC WHITCHURCH FC (ages 5-16)**

Chair	Alex Hilton	hilts123@hotmail.com or afcwhitchurch@yahoo.co.uk	
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**THAMES VALLEY POLICE**

Wallingford Police Station, Wallingford, OX10 9DW

	Non Emergency Police Number (manned 24/7)		101
Neighbourhd Supervisor	Barbara Taylor	barbara.taylor@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk	07814 485286

**PANGBOURNE LIBRARY**

Reading Road, Pangbourne, RG8 7LY

Monday 14:00-17:00	Tuesday 10:30-18:00	Wednesday CLOSED	0118 9844117
Thursday 9:30-12:00	Friday 10:30-17:00	Saturday 10:00-12:30	

**ST MARY'S CHURCH**

Contact	For Baptisms, Weddings or Funerals	0118 9765905
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**THE FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S AND ST JOHN'S**

Chair	Paul Witcher	pwitcher@aol.co.uk	
Secretary	Sally Woolhouse	whitchurchfriends@gmail.com	

**PANGBOURNE BOATHOUSE SURGERY**

Whitchurch Road, Pangbourne, RG8 7DP

Routine health conditions	Mon to Fri, 08:00-18:30	0118 9842234
Urgent unplanned conditions		NHS 111
Life-threatening emergencies		999

**WHITCHURCH ON THAMES BULLETIN**

Editor	Richard Williams	rlwilliamsafcw@btinternet.com	07810 374280
Associate Editor	Tim Hardwick		
	<i>Deadline for Articles</i>	<i>Planned distribution</i>	
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Spring 2024	15th April	29th April	
Summer 2024	14th July	28th July	



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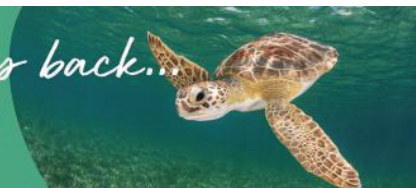
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