

The Bulletin of

Whitchurch on Thames

www.whitchurchonthames.com

Organising a fete takes a lot of hard work and the annual fete on our Village Green is certainly no exception. All the preparations over the previous months have to be in place and they have to work perfectly on the morning of the event. Then it is a case of many hands making light work. Not least is the effort afterwards to clear up, clean up and get all the tables, chairs and everything else back to where it came from. It is a big effort and I think we should offer a great big *thank you* to the pre-school team who organised what was a highly successful event.

It is particularly noticeable that the Village Green is left remarkably clean and tidy. Which makes it all the more astonishing that there are still visitors to the Green who seem to think that abandoning litter is socially acceptable. As it is some local residents spend their own free time tidying up after litter louts.

There are litter bins as near as we can get them to the entrances to the Green. We have looked into the provision of bins closer to the Green itself and the only thing which is certain is the significant collection cost. Covering that cost means increasing the Parish's part of the Council Tax. If no one leaves litter on the Green that expense is avoided. It seems so simple!

And now for something completely different. Like everyone else Thames Valley Police are under pressure to achieve more with less. So the police hierarchy are looking for ideas that offer something completely different. One of these ideas has led to the project which is now well under way to get SmartWater into use in 80% of the households in Whitchurch.

As reported last time our "guinea-pig" status has resulted in our being offered a very substantial subsidy. The normal price for a kit that can mark about fifty items is in the region of £70 and each household is being offered a kit for £10. This really is a once-only chance.

You may have seen Dom Littlewood's "Caught Red Handed" on BBC1 recently. One episode mentioned SmartWater twice to illustrate how SmartWater presents a would-be thief with a problem. Even if he guesses that only some items in a house or garden shed are marked he can't tell which, if any, are not marked. Better try somewhere else!

If we can reach the target of 80% of our homes using it the road side warning signs will be provided. There is evidence from other areas that the deterrent effect is very real. The Parish Council are fully behind the scheme and hope that as many people as possible will join it.

Part of the special deal is that our local policeman Mark Bell has to deliver each SmartWater kit personally. He has asked that people will be patient because it will take some time for deliveries to be complete. In the meantime he will be in the Village as often as he can.

One thing that some people may care to take note of in that respect. Strictly speaking, anyone parking within ten metres of a junction is committing an offence. Mark does understand the problems which many people have who do not have off-street places to keep their vehicles. But there are limits beyond which there is no way he can turn a blind eye. An obvious example would be a vehicle parked so that it obscures sight lines.

There is an ever increasing number of cars parked at the roadside. Getting high handed with parking restrictions usually does no more than move the problem from one place to another. Nevertheless the owner of a car damaged while parked really inappropriately may find a need to read the small print of his insurance policy carefully.

The question of having a defibrillator somewhere in the Village has come up again. The device in question literally talks anyone through whatever procedure is necessary and will tell a user not to use it that is if its sensors indicate that is the best thing for the patient.

The significance of having such a device available very quickly is indicated by Dr Parke's note. What we are finding difficult is to work out how we can ensure that such a device can be both fully functional and available on a "grab it and run" basis regardless of whenever the moment that it is needed arrives.

One suggestion is to install it in the telephone kiosk at the entrance to Manor Road. It's an ideal position but if it takes ten minutes to find out how to get the key, or the batteries are flat, the whole thing is pointless. Ideally we would have a couple of Community Responders within the Village. Anyone who would like to help in that respect can contact me or go direct to the local organiser Martin Maynard at martinmaynard@gmail.com

I think I have bored everyone several times about the way the District and County Councils are reducing costs simply by deciding that they won't do this or that any more. That always leaves us at Parish level with three choices. We can let things slide, we can fork out to get the jobs done or they can be done by local volunteers. We are all very keen to keep our Village looking its best, but every penny the Parish Council spends has to come from the Council Tax.

Some things such as the tree pruning on Manor Road have to be done professionally. The question of weeds growing in paths both against walls and between granite kerb sets and the pavement itself is not so clear cut. As a body the Parish Council can only ask someone to spray the weeds who has the required insurance cover. It turns out that it is very expensive. The PC's thinking is that cost can be minimised if everyone looks after the stretch of pavement along their own boundary.

The Arts and Crafts Exhibition will be with us again in November. The evenings are drawing in and that must offer the ideal opportunity to brush off all those "amazing" ideas and get on with preparing your exhibit. And of course there are the pictures and photographs to be checked through and got ready.

Those of us who value the spirit of community within the Village feel that the A and C Exhibition makes a valuable and important contribution to it. This is another event that requires a lot of organising and anyone who feels that they can help should contact Ian Bruce or Peter Smith.

Finally: a confession and an apology! We attributed the cover picture on the July issue to Richard Wingfield. Although it was Richard who sent the picture, it should have been attributed to Hilary Jensen.

David Madgwick

05/02/65 - 29/08/14.

Much loved son, brother and friend.

Memorial service Saturday 13th September at 10.45, Reading Crematorium, Henley Road (A. B. Walkers). Followed by a Humanist Service at Avoca Farm and a celebration of his life at The Ferry Boat, Whitchurch.

Please contact the family for further details on 07809 240186 or 07899 796458.

PLEASE HELP KEEP OUR VILLAGE BEAUTIFUL AND TIDY!

This is a plea to all residents to help us keep our lovely village looking lovely!

Due to the very wet mild winter it has been an unprecedented year for growth, but that means many weeds have thrived in these conditions and although some are pretty many are not and now at this time of year they just look unsightly growing in between the granite kerb stones, along wall edges and in cracks anywhere it seems.

Oxfordshire County Council no longer have the budget (due to cuts from Central Government) to come out and weed spray and remove. So in most villages this task has not been done and the result is many weeds along highway edges and kerb edges.

The Parish Council's budget is limited, however there is some money to carry out weed spraying and removal, but the costs are high and it would not cover all the areas that need treating. It would greatly help if residents of the village could all "weed" their little bit along the front kerbs of their properties and along fences/walls that abut pavements if weeds are present.

This would be greatly appreciated and also improve the general look and feel of the village to the benefit of all who live here.

Many thanks – Whitchurch on Thames Parish Council

DEFIBRILLATION

Once a patient who has suffered a cardiac arrest in the community reaches the Royal Berkshire Hospital senior teams are mobilised immediately. The Emergency Department staff continue CPR and perform essential interventions. The cardiology team attends since many of these patients will require their skills in the cardiac laboratory. The intensive care team attends since many of these patients will require ventilation for several days whilst their temperature is controlled. This helps minimise subsequent brain damage. Once in hospital the system works well, and the RBH cardiology team achieves amongst the best results in the country.

However a chain is only as good as the weakest link. There are three key steps that will maximise survival prior to reaching hospital

1. Recognise the patient has collapsed and call the ambulance service
2. Start chest compressions to buy time
3. Restart the heart with defibrillation

Defibrillation is particularly important. Even with good chest compressions the chances of restarting the heart fall by 10% every minute. Currently in the UK about 20% of patients survive to leave hospital after cardiac arrest. Early defibrillation even before the ambulance arrives can increase survival by that threefold. That is why the Department of Health state that defibrillators should be as available as fire extinguishers.

Modern machines require minimal training to be used. We can all learn how to do effective chest compressions. We can all learn how to use automated defibrillators. These are the things that can really make a difference between life and death.

Dr Tim Parke is a Consultant in Intensive Care at the RBH.

YOUR VILLAGE WEBSITE

Whitchurchonthames.com

Keep up to date with village news and activities

Photos and videos of village life

Offers and comments on the message board

Village hall, village green and church activities

Parish Council news

Links to schools, clubs, village businesses and local websites

News alerts via Twitter: [@whitchurchnews](https://twitter.com/whitchurchnews)

The Whitchurch Society
are holding their annual
Art & Craft Exhibition 2014

at
Whitchurch Village Hall, Manor Road
Saturday 15th November, 10am-5pm

Afternoon teas served 2-5pm
Prize giving at 5pm

Sending-in of exhibits:
Thursday 13th Nov 7-8pm at May Cottage, Eastfield Lane &
Friday 14th Nov 10am - Noon at the Village Hall
(N.B. please note earlier sending-in times than on previous years)

Joyce Voysey Prize Theme is 'Mazes'
This theme has been chosen because 2014 is the
10th anniversary year of the opening of the Whitchurch Maze

We look forward to receiving entries for the exhibition from ALL age groups, and from previous contributors, but we also hope that there will be lots of new entrants too, especially children who may not have entered before. Young people might be particularly interested in submitting work in new media. We welcome all ranges of work - it is an enjoyable, friendly event, not an elitist showcase!

All residents (both past and present) of Whitchurch-on-Thames and Goring Heath parishes are eligible to enter their work. Please join in!

Full rules can be found on www.wotarts.co.uk

If you have any queries or would like to help with running of the exhibition, please don't hesitate to contact Sally Woolhouse on

0118 984 4365 or email sally@wotarts.co.uk

WHITCHURCH VILLAGE FETE

Thank you to all who came to the Whitchurch Village Fete on Saturday 30th August. It was lovely to see all ages from across the community coming together to enjoy this annual event.

The Village Green was the perfect location to host a great collection of stalls and local societies. We hope you had a chance to wander and enjoy them while being entertained by the fabulous Beenham Wind Orchestra, whose music created a party atmosphere on a late Summer's afternoon.

The kids' rides went down a storm and who can forget the dog show, which drew a huge crowd and plenty of memorable moments.

A big 'thank you' to our sponsors who consistently support this event. BP technology centre for the Grand Draw, Warmingham, Richard Wilson Long Solicitors and Valley Veterinary Group. We would also like to thank Whitchurch Parish Council and Whitchurch Cricket Club for their continuing support and the use of the Village Green and cricket club facilities. Thank you also to the Village Hall and Old Stables for the hire of tables and chairs.

Graham Dednum from The Ferryboat made a wonderful MC, thank you for donating your time and terrific sense of humour! Thanks also to John Gray and Ian Barter for their expertise on the PA/sound system.

The fete is organised by the volunteer parent committee of Whitchurch Pre-School, a charity for whom the fete is the main fundraising event of the year. So, thank you to all the parents and friends of Whitchurch Pre-School who helped with the running of the day thus creating a significant contribution to pre-school funds.

Fi Acworth, on behalf of Whitchurch Pre-School.

The Autumn walk for 2014 and a view from 1793!

I have now run out of local new paths to introduce you to so we will have to repeat some of our earlier walks but in the opposite direction.

Before the walk keep an eye open for the posters to see the view you will have compared to that depicted by the artist in 1793 (look at the lone walker on the hillside - where was his path?).

Meet at the Maze at 11:00hrs on Sunday 19 October. We will follow a section of the Tuddingway to the first set of black gates and then to and through the second set of black gates (the East Lodge) on the Hardwick Estate to enter Mapledurham.

We will then turn left up the hill of Westfordhill Copse to reach and enter Bottom Wood and immediately follow one of Sir Julian's permissive footpaths. This will take us above Straw Hill to meet the bridleway just above the Bear Pit.

This time we will turn right to emerge and pass by Path Hill Farm to our sharp corner, then left and across with care to the footpath leading to Town Lane. Left and immediately right will take us to The Fort and our return via Whitchurch Hill.

5 miles and about 2 hours as we return down the hill to meet at the Greyhound for a celebratory drink together.

Eric Hartley

Goring Chamber Choir

Title: W A M - A lot of Mozart
Programme: Mozart mass in d minor and some other
Mozart motets and arias.
Venue: St Thomas' Church, Goring
Date & Time: Saturday 18th October 2014, 7.30 pm
Tickets: £12, £10 and £5

WoTHABS

Guided Foray for Fungi at Chalkhills

This will be on National Fungus Day, Sunday 12th October. Meet at 2.15 pm at Chalkhills, Hardwick Road, RG8 7QS to search with Sandra in the woods and pastures. **Please Note:** For identification only – not collecting to eat! (even if any edible ones are found). Children most welcome with accompanying adult.

For more details email: chalkhills.parkinson2@googlemail.com or phone Sandra on 0118 984 4031

Oak Processionary Moth

It is too early to draw conclusions as to the success or otherwise of measures to control the Pangbourne OPM outbreak, but thanks to greater funding there are many more traps this year, over 70 in total, and the pheromone trap survey will be repeated in 2015.

Hardwick Road (passing place and path) project

The OCC are working to clear the paperwork. As yet we have no start date.

Gone Fishing

A wife returning from a fishing trip with her husband was telling her troubles to a neighbour. “I did everything all wrong again today,” she said. “I talked too loud, I used the wrong bait, I reeled in too soon, and - I caught more fish than he did”!!!!

YOUR VILLAGE HALL

September is here and this is the time when you might be thinking of taking some pilates exercise through the winter, or perhaps you fancy line or tap dancing to keep you moving. Well, if so, we take this opportunity to remind you of the variety of activities going on in the village hall.

Less energetic but equally stimulating if you are keen on photography is the excellent Whitchurch Hill Camera Club that runs helpful talks and exhibitions. The hall is also host to the very friendly Whitchurch Bridge Club which meets fortnightly on Wednesday afternoons. If you are of an historical bent, then the monthly meeting of the Whitchurch History Society will be of interest.

Outside these are the Rep College productions and a number of one-off events; please take a regular look at the WOT website for details. We'd like to see some new activities so if you have any special interest, like a Toddlers Group or Film Club, for example, that you might like to lead, please speak to Richard Scarce, the village hall manager, on 0118 984 2004 or e-mail whitchurchhallbookings@gmail.com. Full information about the cost of hire, terms and conditions, and pictures and sizes of the rooms are to be found on the WOT website.

The hall makes an excellent, inexpensive venue for private functions or children's parties, especially around Christmas. The committee room has been successfully used for small business meetings, for a very nominal charge.

On the opposite page are details of the different activities currently on offer in the village hall and you should get in touch with the contacts listed if you are interested.

It's your village hall, so please use it.

Stephen Trinder
Chairman, Management Committee

ACTIVITIES IN THE VILLAGE HALL

The hall is presently host to the following regular activities and you will be made very welcome if you would like to contact as shown below. If you would like to start new activities such as a Toddlers Group, Book Club or any special interest, we should be pleased to offer help.

Monday 10:00 Line Dancing - contact Audrey Barclay 0118 984 4819
12:00 noon Pilates - contact Tania Neeson 07899 681311 or link to [Willow Pilates](#)
20:00 Pilates, see above
20:00 Parish Council, first Monday of the month, bi-monthly in Committee Room.

Tuesday 20.00 Whitchurch Tap Dancers - contact Barbara George 01491 681 755

Wednesday 13:30 Bridge Club - alternate weeks, contact Sarah Butterworth 0118 984 2922
20:00 Whitchurch Hill Camera Club - contact Alan Copeland 01491.681 471 or e-mail alan@curiosities.co.uk or visit [WHCC website](#)

Thursday 10:00 Line Dancing - contact Audrey Barclay 0118 984 4819
19.00 Whitchurch History Society (monthly) - contact Vicky Jordan 0118 984 3260 or email vickyjordan5@hotmail.com or Tony Voysey 0118 984 3946

Friday A variety of one –off evening events including the Rep Company, theatrical productions four times a year and Whitchurch Society/other Society meetings.

Saturday

COMMUNITY

COFFEE MORNINGS

EVERY TUESDAY IN TERM TIME

10.30 am - 12 noon

IN THE OLD STABLES ROOM

FREE REFRESHMENTS AND FRIENDLY CHATTER

Toys for the children

Volunteers needed to help make coffee etc.

Contact Yvonne on 984 1424

**Reading & West Berkshire Branch of the
Motor Neurone Disease (MND) Association**

Lin and Paul Jenkins are raising awareness and funds (lucky dip, tombola etc) and have been at many other fairs this summer.

The branch supports people living with MND - there is no effective treatment and no cure; it attack nerves that control movement so can leave people locked in a failing body.

Paul's brother is living with MND and they with help from other family members and friends have been raising funds for a Cough Assist Machine for the Respiratory Dept of the Royal Berks Hospital. They have raised the magnificent total of over £3,000! Enough to buy a machine which will be looked after and distributed by consultants at the hospital and used in the community.

Thank you for your support!

PAWS Meetings

September **Iain Tollhurst Organic Farming Talk**

Pangbourne Village hall

Thursday, 25 Sept, 8- 9:30pm

Barn Dance - Hardwick Vegetable Packing Shed -

Saturday 27th September

October **Apple Juicing Day**

Sunday, 19th October Whitchurch Maze **2.30 to 6.00pm**

BBQ and live gramophone Jazz music from Peter Woolhouse to celebrate a new picnic table and 10 years of the Maze. Everyone bring your windfall apples to make juice with!

Quiz Night – Saturday 18th October,

Pangbourne Village Hall

November **Film: Trashed - ‘No Place For Waste’**

Starring Jeremy Irons Thursday 27 Nov

Pangbourne Village Hall – 8pm

December Christmas Drinks Thursday 18th Elephant

Goring Heath and Whitchurch AUTUMN SHOW

Goring Heath Parish Hall Saturday

20th September 2014 2.30 - 4.00 pm

Competition classes include Vegetables and Fruit, Flowers, Baking and Preserves, Flower Arranging, Handicrafts, Art, Photography and a class for Children up to 12 years

* Raffle * Refreshments * Plant Sale *

For the complete schedule and an entry form contact

Liz Gibson 01189 842012

Denyse Williams 01189 841139

Sue Sexon 01189 844236

Helen Willis 01189 843620

Or download from www.whitchurchonthames.com/diary.php

Calling all **STUDENTS!!**

Will the government cuts in funding and support make it even harder for you to afford to study? The trustees of Whitchurch United Charities want to remind all students and families that the Charity has funds available to help with the cost of books and equipment or other educational expenses.

The closing dates have now been changed slightly to fit in with the start of the academic year – the two deadlines are now 28th February and 31st August. Do remember that late applications are considered if the available funds for the previous 6 month period have not been fully allocated so if you are reading this in late September and would like to apply for a grant, don't delay!

Eligible students are young people between the ages of 5 and 25 years and whose permanent residence is within the parish of Whitchurch. (Note - if the St Mary's and St John's Parish Magazine is delivered to your house, then you are in the parish and therefore eligible).

All applications and decisions are treated in strict confidence by the Trustees.

If you would like to know more, please do contact Peter Hawley (our Grant Application Secretary) on (0118) 984 1647 or write to him at:-

3 Whitchurch House, High Street
Whitchurch-on-Thames, Reading RG8 7EP

Protect Rural Oxfordshire (PRO)

Did you know that current plans for the county include 80,000 new jobs, 90,000 more residents and 100,000 more houses – all within the next 17 years? This proposed growth in housing is the equivalent of every town and village increasing in size by 40%.

The Oxfordshire Branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England is concerned about how the speed and scale of this development could cause irretrievable damage to our landscape and local communities, and the impact it will have on already over-stretched services and infrastructure particularly in rural areas.

It has launched a campaign – Protect Rural Oxfordshire (PRO) - to fight for a more sustainable vision for the future of the county.

To find out more see our website (www.cpreoxon.org.uk) or follow us on Facebook (www.facebook.com/CPREOxfordshire) or Twitter (@CPREOxfordshire) and sign up to our monthly e-news bulletin (E: administrator@cpreoxon.org.uk / T: 01865 874780).

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NEWS FROM WOODCOTE LIBRARY

What a busy Summer we have been having here in the Library – it's been all go go go.

The Mythical Maze Summer Reading Challenge was taken up by nearly one hundred children. Our two free craft sessions were well attended and were great fun. I just hope that Woodcote will be safe from all the mythical dragons now flying around!

The children have until Saturday 13th September to complete the Challenge. All the children that successfully finished reading six books and completed the challenge are invited to come along to the Library on Monday 15th September at 6pm, where they will be presented with their Certificates.

We have a large collection of WW1 books and DVDs available in the library to commemorate the anniversary.

When you next pop in after the 16th September, please be sure to look at our Art Exhibition. The Art on display is from the Woodcote and Watlington Art Group which is run by Pam Hobbs. Pam kindly organised the Free Drawing Workshop in the library on Saturday 13th September.

Welcome to both all the new Year 7 pupils at Langtree School and the Reception class at Woodcote Primary who have just started their new adventures.

Our popular Rhymetime sessions for the under fives have now recommenced and are at the usual time of 10am on Thursdays.

The next meeting of our Adult Book Club is on Monday 22nd September at 6pm.

New members are always welcome.

OWL - Our Woodcote Library

There have been continuing negotiations over the summer in order to settle on a time-table using the extra hours which have been agreed. We expect to hold a meeting in the library in October or early November to explain the role of volunteers, and to recruit interested people. Training in the library would then begin in January 2015. Watch this space!

Pangbourne District Carers Support Group

If you look after someone who can't manage without your help, join this friendly group to enjoy a break and meet other people in a similar situation. The group, run by Berkshire Carers Service, is free and for unpaid carers who live in Berkshire

The group meets on the 1st Wednesday of each month between 12:30 – 2:00pm at the Pangbourne Small Village Hall, Station Road, Pangbourne, RG8 7DY

The next meetings are 3 September, 1 October, 5 November, 3 December

Call Berkshire Carers Service free on 0800 988 5462 or email helpline@berkshirecarers.org for further information

Advice, information and support on all aspects of caring can be obtained via the above contact details or through our website www.berkshirecarers.org

COME FOR COFFEE AND CAKE

Where Whitchurch Village Hall

When Friday 26th September 10am

Why So people facing cancer can have the support they need to feel more in control of their life, from the moment they're diagnosed, through treatment and afterwards

Come and join us - everyone is welcome

*For more information please contact Mel Taylor
0118 9841354*

mellyctaylor@hotmail.co.uk

News from Basildon Park

We've had a busy summer with lots of young visitors taking part in our '50 things to do before you're 11¾' activities. On Mondays we've had gangs of explorers setting off, map and compass in hand, trying to navigate their way around the parkland. On other days, there have been flurries of activity in the woods as homes for wild animals have been made, secret dens have been built and works of art have been created using twigs, leaves and mud gathered from the woodland floor.

It's that time of year when coats and boots are starting to come out of their summer hibernation tucked away in wardrobes and cupboards under the stairs. As early autumn beckons, we're inviting everyone to pull on their walking boots or wellies and come outside as part of the National Trust's annual walking festival, The Great British Walk. To celebrate, we'll be running the Basildon British Challenge, a self-led trail around the gardens. Come and test your knowledge as you walk over crunchy leaves and look out for shiny brown conkers.

During the October half-term, come and visit our ghoulish gardens and haunted house. Have a go at our Halloween trail and create your own Basildon beast: from werewolves and witches to ghosts and ghouls, see what you can magic up. Watch out for creaking floorboards and whispering walls in the house...

We look forward to seeing you soon!

For more information visit www.nationaltrust.org.uk/basildon-park or call 01491 672382.

Come and join us!

We're a friendly bunch here at Basildon Park and we love it when new people join our team. Whatever you like doing and whatever your skills, we have a volunteer role for you.

Our next Volunteer Open Day is on Friday 10th October. Come along and chat to our team about how you can get involved at Basildon Park.

If you can't make it, we'd still love to hear from you. Drop us an email to volunteer.basildonpark@nationaltrust.org.uk or call us on 01491 672382

APPLE DAY CELEBRATIONS

ORCHARD OPEN DAY

CROSS LANES FRUIT FARM, MAPLEDURHAM, RG4 7UW

SUNDAY 12 OCTOBER 10.00am-5.00pm

Surprise yourselves! Come to our Open Day and find that apples can interest you for hours. From foodies to fruit haters, young and excited or remembering the flavours and special varieties of your childhood there is something for everyone.

Here at Cross Lanes we grow over fifty varieties of traditional English apples, all different – sweet, sharp, juicy, crisp, nutty, rich, aromatic, complex and delicious, large and small. Most will be out for tasting and sweet juicy pears too. Try a slice, and another, and another and....

What else? Apple games for the children and an array of apple peelers - who can get the longest piece of peel. See how the fresh apple juice is made and compare the different varieties. Bees are essential for apple growing and the beekeepers will be keen to share the secrets of the bees with you. Stalls will be selling delicious apple pies, cakes, muffins and jellies with local cider too.

Join one of the guided walks at 11.00am or 12.30pm and 2.00pm or 3.30pm. This is a chance to see what is involved in producing such a range of fruit. In the barns are exhibits on apple varieties, funny facts, apple snippets and pest and disease. Experts will be on hand to answer your questions.

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

Entrance and car parking are FREE.

For further information contact Gill Franklin on 0118 972 3167 or see www.crosslanesfruitfarm.co.uk .

NOTE. If you miss the day, the Farm Shop is open every Wednesday to Sunday from 10.00am to 6.00pm until the apples run out in January. Or see us at Farmers' Markets in Reading, Purley, Wallingford, Henley, Abingdon, Oxford, Ascot and others.



From John Howell MP

At the time of writing, we were commemorating the outbreak of the First World War. I spent a few moments at the War Memorial in my own village, joined with three communities at different times on 3rd August and attended Christchurch Cathedral for a special service on 4th August. Although the anniversary is now passed the observance remains important. The outbreak of the war was an event which shook the world. Reading through the list of those inscribed on war memorials I was struck by the large number of men from the same family who were slaughtered in this conflict. The human tragedy of this transcends all our thoughts about the economic and political costs of the war. These were tragic events and it is right to pay tribute to the courage of those who were killed.

During the debate on the Commemoration in the House of Commons, the Minister for Defence said that one of the key lessons is the frightening speed with which peace, civilisation and a functioning rules-based system can descend into chaos. In today's world the biggest enemy is terrorism which seeks to undermine all civilised values. But outside of extremism, tolerance and mutual understanding are important. When we respect one another difference it is easier to appreciate and live with our differences.

Communications are important. Constructive debate and robust comment is good and agreement not always necessary. However I deplore it when exchanges descend into personal mudslinging. I am also often astounded at how offensive people can be when using faceless electronic communications which can be so quickly shared. The anonymity of the screen can sometimes take away something of the interpersonal sensitivity which face to face and even telephone communications allow.

With the size of the Constituency and the large number of individual settlements it is often difficult for me to have that face to face communication. This is why I look forward to the September parliamentary recess when I take a 'Village Tour'. It is a time when I particularly try to get to those places in the constituency where it can be more difficult to meet with people. I hope that this year I will again meet many new people and have a chance to listen to your issues and concerns.

Whether we meet or not in September the electronic means are available all year round and I am happy to exchange views on a range of issues – though it is inevitable that we will not always agree! I also publish a number of regular electronic briefings. If you would like to be added to my circulation list just drop me and email at john.howell@oxfordshireconservatives.com

DIARY DATES

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

SEPTEMBER

Saturday 6 th	Maze Working party
Thursday 18 th	History Society - Goring VH
Saturday 20 th	GH & W Autumn gardening Show
Thursday 25 th	PAWS talk
Saturday 27 th	PAWS Barn Dance

OCTOBER

Sunday 12 th	Cross lanes Apple Day
Saturday 18 th	GCC Concert
Sunday 19 th	Autumn Walk 11am
Sunday 19 th	Apple Juicing day 2.30pm

NOVEMBER

Saturday 15 th	ART & CRAFT Exhibition
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THE NEXT ISSUE OF THE BULLETIN

will be published in November 2014

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

Sarah.pongo@btconnect.com by 6th November 2014

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