

From the Chairman of the Parish Council

We can see from the front cover what a great success our village fete was. So many people enjoying themselves and we were blessed with the weather which really helps when you have an outdoor event. We are very grateful to those who took time to organise the fete and it really shows what a very sociable lot we are all wanting to get together and enjoy each other's company.

This month has been quite busy as I have taken part in a chairmanship course at Didcot Civic Hall along with 20 other chairmen from Parish Councils scattered over Oxfordshire. The course was very informative and involved a lot of interaction between the councillors and the instructor. I learnt a lot and felt very proud to be representing Whitchurch on Thames.

Also I recently attended a Neighbourhood Planning Conference with Councillor Dave Bowen. This was presented by SODC planning department and strove to explain how one can produce a neighbourhood plan which will outline the aspirations for the future for our village and put in place a blueprint for this. There is much work involved and the Parish Council will be looking into how this can be best achieved in Whitchurch on Thames.

On the cover of the last issue of the Bulletin was a picture of my friend Stephen Trinder. He would have been very interested in the neighbourhood plan as he was chair of the committee which produced the last village plan. I attended his memorial service along with many other people which just goes to show what respect he held in the community and we will miss his company very much.

Don't forget the Apple Juicing event on Sunday the 27th September from 2-5pm at The Maze guaranteed to be fun for all if the previous years are anything to go by.

Keith Brooks

WHITCHURCH & GORING HEATH HISTORY SOCIETY

Over the Summer we have visited two local museums, the Museum of Oxfordshire at Woodstock and the Vale and Downland Museum at Wantage. Both told their stories well, and both had good cafes!

On Thursday September 17th we are returning to Goring Heath Parish Hall, on the B471 opposite St John's Church, to start the Autumn lecture programme. The title of Martin Buckland's talk will be The Invisible Brick: revealed in language and literature, in the local area. I've started looking around me already!

On Thursday October 15th the same venue will see Peter Hawley presenting his findings on the Grey family of Whitchurch House and the Foundling Hospital.

November 19th is the date for further thoughts on Basildon House by Clive Williams.

All meetings start at 8pm, with coffee served from 7.30pm. Non-members are always welcome, and we charge £2, which includes coffee.



Whitchurch Pre School

Whitchurch pre-school says a sad farewell to those who have moved up to the primary school this year, but wishes them the best of luck with their new ventures. We're delighted, however, to welcome in our new children who we know will love the French classes, cooking lessons, PE sessions, music and developmental activities organised by the dedicated pre-school staff. There are still a few places available to children from the age of 2 and a half so please contact Kathleen if you wish to discuss your child attending.

Our main event over the summer was, of course, the annual Whitchurch Fete. Thank you to everybody who came and supported the pre-school by taking part, and particularly Emily Dalton for organising it all. We were really pleased with the volume of people that attended this year's fete, and with the happy, community feel that predominated. Among the many stalls, were several representing local clubs and societies, giving people a chance to find out more about what's going on locally. Other stalls were run by local business people, showing off the many talents that live among us. We had multiple entertainments on offer this year, including a circus workshop, children's entertainer, story tent and Wind Band. The dog show and tug of war were lots of fun too and attracted

big crowds. The whole event was brilliantly compered by Graham Dednum, of the Ferryboat, who kept the whole event, with its busy program, rolling along merrily. Thanks are owed to him, and to our sponsors, Warmingham and to Furry Friend's Vets Practice, of Tilehurst, and to the pre-school parent body, who ran the event on the day.

This term is action packed and the children will be learning about professionals with in the community that help us. Imagine the excitement of the children when a police car turned up during the first week back and 2 local policemen allowed them to sit in their car, turn on the lights and siren, and dress up like policemen in real uniform! We also have plenty of outdoor play and local walks planned in the diary to enjoy the autumn colours.

Please get in touch with Kathleen Barrow at the pre-school on 0118 984 4516 or email whitchurchpreschool@me.com if you have any queries or would like to get involved.

The Whitchurch & District Theatre Club

Organiser: Christine Martin

"Sonia", Goring Heath Road, Whitchurch Hill, RG8 7PG

Tel: 0118 9844252 e.mail whitchurchtheatreclub@gmail.com

The Whitchurch & District Theatre Club takes you to musicals, plays, ballets, operas, classical concerts etc. once a month or more. Salisbury, Windsor, Guildford, Stratford and Chichester, amongst others, are often visited. Major London venues and productions.

Mainly matinees in the week, but sometimes evening performances and weekends. Holiday trips away.

Tickets purchased at group/concessionary rates.

Coaches depart from Pangbourne.

For our forthcoming programme please check the Whitchurch-on-Thames Website. Subscriptions £10 per annum but £8 if paid online.

REMINDER FOR YOUR DIARY!!!

The Whitchurch Society
are holding their annual

Art & Craft Exhibition 2015

at

Whitchurch Village Hall, Manor Road
Saturday 14th November, 10am-5pm

Refreshments served all day
Prize giving at 5pm

Sending-in of exhibits:

Thursday 12th Nov 7-8pm at May Cottage, Eastfield Lane &
Friday 13th Nov 10am - Noon at the Village Hall

Joyce Voysey Prize Theme is 'Bridges'

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!

The details of all the categories and entry rules are set out on the website at <http://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 and Goring Heath Twinning Association

Thank you to all those who supported our Coffee Shop morning in July, and we look forward to our next date in November when we will be raffling a basket of delicious French produce. We are also looking forward to our visit to our twin town of La Bouille, near Rouen in Normandy, which will take place next May. If anyone would like to join us please get in touch with Vicky Jordan – vickyjordan5@hotmail.com.

AFC WHITCHURCH FOOTBALL CLUB

Established in 2000, our local football club is going from strength to strength and draws players from both Whitchurch villages and the surrounding area. We are all excited about the start of the new season and currently have 5 competitive teams and a blossoming U7s development Academy. Please find details below of our current training sessions. All team contact details can be found on our new club website at afcwhitchurch.btck.co.uk plus we have our own twitter account – [afc_whitchurch](https://twitter.com/afc_whitchurch). We have a link to the site from the village website.

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- U16s** – training takes place on Thursday evenings 6.30-7.30pm at the new Langtree astroturf
 - U12s** – training takes place on Thursday evenings 6.30-7.30pm at the new Langtree astroturf
 - U10s** – training takes place on Friday evenings 6.30-7.30pm on the Whitchurch Village Green
 - U8s** – training takes place on Saturday mornings 10.30-11.30am at Whitchurch Primary school
 - U7s & Academy** – training takes place on Saturday mornings 9.15-10am on the Whitchurch Village Green

AFC Whitchurch is a parent-led club that aims to build the health and confidence of boys and girls through their participation in sport and we welcome new players who are interested in training and/or playing competitive football. For further information please contact us on afcwhitchurch@yahoo.co.uk.

Jane Ireland

Club Secretary

Village Green Charter Consultation

A Village Green means different things to different people and can support the community in a variety of ways. The Parish Council and the recently established Village Green Working Group are developing a charter for the Village Green to provide a vision for its use today and into the future. We would like to solicit feedback from the community to help this process.

Please send your thoughts and feedback to the Village Green WG chairman, Jim Donahue, using this form. Please send to him at 17 Hillside, Hardwick Rd, RG8 7HL for him to consolidate this feedback. There will also be an email survey version of this form and you can request it via the web-site or get it from Jim at jimdonahue7@gmail.com.

Contact details (if you wish to remain anonymous, please at least provide the street you live on)

Name:

Address:

Please indicate with a tick which of the following the Village green should support, adding comments where appropriate. If something is not ticked we will assume that you don't support it:

Sports facilities for local groups and individuals:

- Recreation facilities for the school, as agreed in a coordinated usage schedule.
- Whitchurch Cricket Club – adults and youth teams (girls and boys)
- Whitchurch Football Club (girls and boys)
- Is there a desire for a fitness trail?

Leisure Activities other than sport:

- A place of beauty for quiet walks
- A place to exercise dogs, respecting clean-up of their mess, of course
- a place for unorganised free play for children

Facilities for children

How do children currently use the green and is there a need for play areas or would that duplicate the Manor Road facility?

Facilities for teenagers

- A basketball net is proposed which is also suitable for all ages.
- A skateboard or bicycle ramp has also been proposed as an option.

Further feedback:

A facility for community activities:

- Annual Village Fete in support of the Pre-School and other village events such as Jubilee Celebrations
- Picnics and other social events sponsored by one or more local organisation
- Social activities should be encouraged through building a BBQ and picnic tables

Private functions:

- The Village Green should be open to letting for private functions, where suitable charging is agreed, such as for parties or weddings using the Pavilion (only after the new Pavilion is built).

We are planning to replace the current Cricket Pavilion – apart from supporting local sport clubs, what should the primary uses for this be? Current facilities include:

- Changing facilities for home and away teams
- Kitchen facilities
- Toilet and shower facilities
- Dining/ open area
- Other:

Charging for the Use of the Village Green:

The Parish Council and Village Green WG have discussed the issue of whether local groups should be charged for its use and are seeking feedback from the community below. A review of the Village Green spending shows that recurring costs in the past two years has been approximately £2700/year.

- Approx £1400 for grass cutting
- Approx £1300 for misc repairs, maintenance, and improvements such as weeding and tree removal, Football pitch maintenance, signs, fencing, repair of benches, padlocks, etc.

Please indicate which point that you agree with 1 or 2?

- 1. The Parish Council proposal is that as long as the annual Village Green costs are no more than approximately 10% of the PC budget (currently £2500 – £3,000), then no village groups should be charged for its use as this can already be accommodated within the existing budget.
 - The Village Green WG would still work to develop guidelines for its use by the Football Club, Cricket Club, and School who may be charged for activities outside the scope of these agreements, or if they are profiting from the activities they are using it for.
- 2. Village groups such as the Football and Cricket Clubs should be charged for use of the Village Green to contribute to its maintenance. It has already been agreed that the school will not be charged for normal use of the Village Green.

Other Feedback for the Village Green:



Pangbourne and Whitchurch Sustainability

PAWS Apple Juicing Day
Sunday 27th September 2015
2:00 to 5pm
Whitchurch Maze

Plus BBQ and Jazz Gramophone
– All Welcome!

**Bring your windfall Apples and help us turn them in
to Apple Juice to drink and take away.**

Please call Jim at 07557668601 if you'd like us to pick
them for you ahead of time.

Join in for juicing, snacks, tea and coffee, BBQ and fun.



WHITCHURCH ON THAMES CRICKET CLUB

As the 2015 cricket season enters its final lap, here at WCCC we're looking back on another good season of friendly cricket played against our local rivals. We started in terrific form, and by the end of May had notched 6 wins from 8 matches. Since then, results have been more mixed, but I can now confidently state that team morale can remain high even when you're losing!

This year's tour was to Bristol and north Devon and was open to the whole family, including the WAMs (Wives and Mothers) and, of course, the kids. We didn't get as much cricket in as we would have liked, but the social side was as jolly as ever. Plans for next year are focussing on the Bristol area.

We've recruited some new, younger players this year, and they've played an important role in improving the general athleticism of the side. It's also been good to see some of the colts making big contributions with both bat and ball. You may have also seen them in the Dunk Tank at this year's fete.

We're always looking for new recruits, either as regular or occasional players. Keep up to date at our website – <http://whitchurchcricket.co.uk/> – and on our Facebook page. To find out more, please contact David Mattimoe at secretary@whitchurchcricket.co.uk; or tweet to @whitchurch_cc.



The Old Stables – Whitchurch on Thames – Handicraft Meeting

We have been meeting in the Old Stables in Whitchurch on Thames since 2012 for a Handicraft Afternoon which has proved to be very successful.

Do come along with your sewing, knitting, embroidery or any other handicraft you may be doing to compare notes and have a cup of tea and a chat.

We meet on the first Thursday of the month between 2pm and 4pm. Everybody is welcome.

For more details please contact; Pam Wilkinson on 0118 984 3668

Calling all STUDENTS !!

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 such as school trips.

The two closing dates per year for applications are now 31st March and 30th September. These have been changed slightly following a review of the timetable which was undertaken by the trustees at a meeting earlier this year. Late applications are considered if the available funds for the previous 6 month period have not been fully allocated. Please note that there are some unallocated funds at the present time (Sept '15).

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 contact Peter Hawley (our Grant Application Secretary) on (0118) 984 3069 or write to him at:-

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



“The Biggest Coffee Morning in the World”

**MACMILLAN.
CANCER SUPPORT**

***The Old Stables, High Street (bottom of)
Whitchurch on Thames***

Thursday 29th September

10.30 am – Noon

Coffee, cakes, raffle etc.

Please support us and bring a friend.

TALES FROM THE FAR SIDE

Moose McGregor's Unlikely Legacy

The little Namibian settlement of Solitaire (current population 92) sits on a t-junction in the middle of the Namib Desert. As well as a few houses, it consists of some fuel pumps, a small guest/lodge and, one of Namibia's most bizarre surprises, an excellent bakery. Founded by a Scotsman called Moose McGregor, this establishment makes the best apple pie I have ever tasted in my life. How this is done in a country and climate so hostile to growing the apples needed for this culinary delicacy remains a mystery. But all hail to the late Mr McGregor for bequeathing this most unlikely but delicious legacy to his adopted African home.

There is one further surreal touch to Solitaire which fascinates and delights visitors. Its entrance is guarded by the shells and skeletons of ancient vehicles from a pre-war saloon to a Fordson tractor impaled on a large cactus. So my advice is that if you are travelling between Sossusvlei's dunes and Walvis Bay do not just turn left at Solitaire but stop and sample its unique culinary and visual delights.

My e-book on Namibia "The Land God Made in Anger" will be published in all the main reader formats including Kindle, Nook and i-pad this winter.

Nick Brazil



Whitchurch-on-Thames Habitat Study Group.

The Fete: The winners of our buzzer game for children managed to identify all 10 butterflies correctly in 45 seconds – a mere 11 seconds longer than Sally, who set the game up so had a special advantage. Very well done!

Our group were delighted with the helpful input from people who came to look at our large map of Whitchurch and told us about their favourite walks in this area and what wildlife they have recently seen nearby as well as offering support and suggestions for our future activities.

The Village Green and Maze: We now have a WoTHABS representative on the Village Green Working Group and are in the process of developing a long-term maintenance programme for these areas of the village. Our broad intention is to protect and enhance the wildlife as far as possible while accommodating the variety of leisure interests of Whitchurch residents and other regular local users of these lovely areas.

Gill Goodwin

THE WHITCHURCH SOCIETY – *Autumn Walk* ***Sunday 18 October, 2015***

As I expect most people will know by now, after organising 27 village walks since January 2008, Eric has decided to pass on the responsibility to someone else. Roger Crawford, Richard Williams and I have agreed to organise the walks in future, and the first of these will be an Autumn walk of about 6½ miles (or about 5 miles for the shorter alternative) on Sunday 18 October leaving The Greyhound at 10.30 am. We have based the walk on one designed by Eric in 2011. Note the slightly earlier starting time than usual. We should allow a bit more than 2 hours for the longer route.

We have tried to find a route which will take us through woodland, where, hopefully we shall be able to admire the Autumn colours. We thought it would be appropriate to incorporate the Hartley Steps into the route and we plan to go from there along the Thames Path and through the Hartslock Woods to the Nature Reserve. We shall pause here to admire the view of the Goring Gap and the Brunel Bridge, after which, if we are following the shorter route we shall turn right to Combe End Farm, pass through Beech Wood (where we meet those following the longer route), then walk alongside Stoneycroft Plantation to the War Memorial.

If we are following the longer route, after the Nature Reserve we turn left to Upper Gatehampton Farm. From there we walk through Great Chalk Wood to Blackbird's Bottom, and then down through the Beech Wood, where we meet those on the shorter route.

We should get back to The Greyhound by about 1.00pm where Nick, the new landlord, will welcome us for some well-earned refreshment.

Mike Scott

An invitation to all villagers – especially children:

Fungus Foray at Chalkhills, Hardwick Road, Saturday November 14th at 11 am.
Free car parking. This is a Thames Valley Fungus Group event. You will be most welcome to join in.

Sandra Parkinson