

## **FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PARISH COUNCIL**

Well summer is well and truly on its way and Easter fast approaching; everyone will be out and about, some travelling to far flung places others at home getting the garden in order for enjoying in the months to come.

Meanwhile your Parish Council is beavering away to solve the important issues we are faced with and which involves contacting and liaising with other professional bodies to get the best deal for Whitchurch on Thames.

One of the challenges we have faced, is the possible loss of our bus and we have been in close contact with Thames Travel who run the present service and also a possible new service provider who is making a success running other services nearby. In conjunction with this, we are also working together with Goring Heath Parish Council since the bus service is inextricably linked with our own due to the close proximity. The council is well aware that some residents, of both parishes, rely on this service and we are striving to keep some form of service running which will enable people to get to the towns to shop and connect with other transport links.

Another issue which has been brought to my attention is the congestion on the High Street at certain times of the day. This causes much stress and has been occurring for some time now; it may be getting worse due to more traffic using the High Street. It is a complex issue and we have been talking to Thames Valley Police about possible solutions which we can discuss at future Parish Council meetings.

I would like to draw people's attention to another important issue which is the Neighbourhood Plan. In the present issue of the Bulletin, there is an article describing in detail the fantastic progress we are making and this is down to a small group of residents and councilors who are working hard to produce a document which could be a blue print for the future development of our village. I urge you to read it and also attend the sessions the group has planned as we need you, the residents, to give guidance as to what you want.

You may have noticed the new areas of planting by the lower narrows with a bench and raised beds thanks to all the efforts of MOWS. I congratulate them on this and hope that we can make a beautiful garden in Manor Road, where the Polish Church once stood, where residents can relax and have picnics.

Lastly, you may know that we would like to renew the pavilion on our lovely village green and we have discovered that SODC has a community grant which will match our funding. This is something we are actively working on and hope to get in a bid this year. So, we are having a fun day with music and other activities on the village green on the 24th June to raise money for this worthy cause. I hope all the village and their friends will be able to attend and make it a day to remember.

I am sure you join me in thanking my fellow councilors who use their free time to ensure that Whitchurch remains a lovely place to live in.

*Keith Brooks April 2017*

## WHITCHURCH ON THAMES NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN OPEN DAYS

The Village has initiated a Steering Committee under the auspices of the Parish Council to develop a Neighbourhood plan for the Village. It is still in the early stage of development and we are planning two open days where members of the Steering Committee will be available to share more information.

- Saturday 13th May at the Village Hall from 10am to 1pm
- Saturday 3rd June at the Art Café Old Stables, from 10am to 12:30pm

Some Background on the Neighbourhood Planning process:

- The South Oxfordshire District Council (SODC) draft Local Plan for development from 2018 to 2033 is expecting smaller villages to grow from 2011 levels by approximately 5 to 10%. For Whitchurch, this could mean at least 16 new houses in our village during that period. The public consultation on the overall SODC plan is open now until May 17th, so if you want to comment on this, contact SODC now.
- The neighbourhood planning process is a way for us to have a say in what that development looks like; where any new houses are located, how many are appropriate, and policies guiding



A beautiful 18th Century country style pub and restaurant nestled in the small riverside village of Whitchurch-on-Thames, just a few yards from over the Whitchurch toll bridge, a short walk from the car parks in Pangbourne.

- |                                   |                                                               |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| ● Serving quality homemade food   | ● Superb lunch menu                                           |
| ● Comprehensive bistro style menu | ● Fine selection of wines, cask ales, Spirits and soft drinks |
| ● Homemade stone baked pizzas     | ● Parties catered for                                         |
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The Ferryboat, High Street, Whitchurch-on-Thames, Oxfordshire, RG8 7DB  
Telephone 0118 984 2161 email [info@theferryboatwhitchurch.com](mailto:info@theferryboatwhitchurch.com)  
[www.theferryboatwhitchurch.com](http://www.theferryboatwhitchurch.com)

## EDITOR'S NOTES

Articles for the Summer edition of the Whitchurch on Thames bulletin should be sent to me at this new email address; [rlwilliamsafcw@btinternet.com](mailto:rlwilliamsafcw@btinternet.com), by Sunday 9th July. This edition will cover the period August to October (inc).

Any local businesses can advertise in the Bulletin at attractive rates of £40 (half page) or £70 (full page). Fees are annual and cover four editions of the Bulletin which has a circulation of about 350.

*Richard Williams*

## MAZE WORKING PARTIES

These will take place on the first SATURDAY of every month for the 2017 season starting at 10.00AM:

1<sup>st</sup> APRIL, 6<sup>th</sup> MAY, 3<sup>rd</sup> JUNE, 1<sup>st</sup> JULY,  
5<sup>th</sup> AUG, 2<sup>nd</sup> SEPT, 7<sup>th</sup> OCT, 4<sup>th</sup> NOV (if needed)

PLEASE come along and help with edging, sweeping and general maintenance of the Maze and contribute to the important effort in keeping this special place looking good! All tools provided.

their development. If approved by the village, a Whitchurch on Thames Neighbourhood Plan would become a legal document as part of the SODC Local Plan, used to review any new development proposals. If we don't have a plan, SODC planners can decide for us.

- The process includes intensive consultation with the residents of the village and local stakeholders that culminate in a referendum by village residents that would likely take place by May 2019. These initial consultations are just the start of the village consultation process.

The goal of these initial consultations is to get input from the village residents on our overall vision of our village for the next 15-20 years and the objectives for the plan.

We will be asking people to provide responses to the following questions:

1. What is unique about Whitchurch?
2. What do you like best about Whitchurch?
3. What might Whitchurch look like by 2033?

The Steering Committee has also drafted an initial vision and set of objectives that are described below but these are really just to get people thinking as we want them to be based on the inputs of as many people as possible.

*A vision for our community could look like; "Our vision is to conserve Whitchurch as a beautiful riverside parish with an active and supportive community at its heart. To ensure future development maintains and enhances the village's unique character and location by the Thames and at the foot of the Chiltern Hills, preserving the AONB and character of the historic village and its rural and agricultural surroundings."*

Initial objectives that the Steering Committee has been discussing include:

- The objective of the Neighbourhood Plan is to give local people more say in future housing development in the village.
- Oxfordshire County Council has a target for a 5-10% increase in housing stock in smaller villages over the next 15 years (this would be at least 16 more houses).
  - Residents will appreciate that more people will wish to live in the village. They may also have views on the type of housing required (e.g. more affordable housing for younger families and children of residents).
- It is likely that residents will wish that development:
  - Does not detract from the character of the village (much of Whitchurch-on-Thames is a Conservation Area).
  - Does not detract from the beauty and of the surrounding area. (Whitchurch is in the Chiltern Hills AONB)
  - Takes into account geographical constraints including the river and flood plain.
  - Does not seriously increase traffic congestion in the High Street (which, along with other roads, has single-car-width bottlenecks).
  - Takes into account the impact on class sizes at the primary school.
  - Does not have a negative impact on local natural habitats (The parish includes a Site of Special Scientific Interest).

Both the vision and objectives are meant to be initial examples to encourage village residents to come up with comments and their own ideas as part of the consultation process.

So please have a think about this and come along with your questions and ideas about the future of our village!

Wall collapses. We must hope that this work which will take up to four years is finally started in 2017 and that it is not already too late to avert a major tragedy.

*Nick Brazil*

## SCHEDULE OF UPCOMING EVENTS

*Please visit Village web-site ([whitchurchonthames.com](http://whitchurchonthames.com)) for updates and more extensive listing*

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Details</b>
30th Oct	WoTHABS: Halloween walk	1:30pm, Chalkhills, Hardwick Rd
20th Apr	Votes for women in Oxfordshire (History Soc)	8pm Village Hall
29th Apr to 1st May	Twinning Assoc visit	
30th Apr	Spring Walk (Whitchurch Soc)	10:30am Art Gallery
13th May	Neighbourhood Plan Open Day	10am – 1pm Village Hall
18th May	Members' meeting (History Soc)	8pm Goring Hth Parish Hall
20th May	WH Camera Club: The Image Collective exhibition (in coffee & cakes)	10am – 12:30pm, Old Stables
20th May	Classical Guitar Recital (Mihael Majjetic)	7:30pm Old Stables
3rd June	Neighbourhood Plan Open Day	10am – 12:30pm Old Stables
18th June	Garden Walks (Whitchurch Soc)	1:30 to 4:30pm (list of open gardens to be delivered nearer date)
24th June	Fun Day (in aid of fundraising for new Village Pavilion).	2-10pm Village Green
2nd July	Hay Meadow walk	2pm, Hardwick Estate

For the past 58 years torrents of water have poured down the spillway gouging out a huge crater in the basalt rock on which the Dam Wall stands. This has undermined the structure's foundations creating a very real danger of collapse.

In 2014 the Institute for Risk Management of South Africa (IRMSA) and Aon South Africa were commissioned by the Zambezi River Authority to do a risk assessment on the dam. In its subsequent report it concluded that if immediate remedial work was not carried out, the dam wall would collapse in three years. This puts "Year Zero" at 2017.

If this happens, a vast wall of water would rush down the Zambezi Valley threatening the lives of the 3.5 million people living there and devastating the local wildlife environment. Whether this tsunami would overwhelm the Cahora Bassa Dam about 300 miles down-stream is a matter of conjecture but must be considered very likely.

There are recent precedents for this. In March 2010 rising water levels due to high rainfall in Lake Kariba necessitated the opening of the Dam's floodgates. This required the evacuation of 130,000 people living in the flood plain downstream.

Whilst it would be unfair to say that the relevant authorities have done nothing to avert this imminent threat, they have been somewhat leisurely in their approach. Emergency remedial work to the plunge pool that is threatening the dam's foundations was due to start in 2015. But tenders for this contract only closed in October 2016 and work is scheduled to start in February of this year.

The total cost of these remedial works is \$294 million and is spread between five partners The Zambezi River Authority, the Africa Development Bank, The EU, Swedish Government and The World Bank Group.

The World Bank disagrees with the conclusion of the IRMSA/Aon report that the dam is in imminent danger of collapse. But even if the report has the timescale wrong, it is clear that if this remedial work is not done it is only a matter of time before the Kariba Dam

## **WHITCHURCH-ON-THAMES HABITAT STUDY GROUP**

On Sunday 2nd July at 2pm, WoTHabs and PAWS are holding a **HAY MEADOW WALK** at Hardwick Estate.

This popular event has become a regular entry in our joint calendars and this year it will coincide with the National Meadows Day (which is coordinated by the Magnificent Meadows partnership).

It is a great opportunity to see a local traditionally-managed hay meadow full of wild flowers. These are getting rarer and this is a great example with well over 100 species of wild plants, many of which will be in flower. Refreshments will be available to enjoy before & after the walk.

Look out for posters and information on the village website nearer the time for final details.

*Sally Woolhouse*

## **ONE NEW COUNCIL FOR THE WHOLE OF OXFORDSHIRE?**

Oxfordshire county council wants to know what you think about its draft proposal to abolish all six councils in Oxfordshire and replace them with a one new council for the whole county, called a 'unitary' council.

### **Why change?**

Central government is changing the way councils are funded, and councils will soon have to pay for services mainly from council tax and business rates. Unless local government is reorganised, Oxfordshire councils will not be able to pay for vital public services for local communities and vulnerable people as the population increases and gets older.

### **The proposal**

Oxfordshire currently has a two-tier local government – a county council plus five district and city councils. Oxfordshire County Council thinks that all of Oxfordshire's six councils should be abolished and replaced with one new unitary council which would save £20m each

year; money that would pay for better services and keep council tax low. That money would be enough to fill over 300,000 potholes or provide 1 million hours of home care.

The new council would be simpler for residents and business, with one website and one point of contact.

One councillor would represent your community and be accountable for all services. As members of an 'area board' serving the existing district or city areas, each councillor would take decisions affecting their community and also the county as a whole.

Environmental services such as street cleaning, countryside services and grounds maintenance would be properly joined up and managed locally to respond to community needs.

Bringing together social services, housing, leisure and welfare benefits would mean joined up support for people who need extra help, improving health and wellbeing. And joining up planning, housing, jobs and transport would mean Oxfordshire's housing shortage can be addressed, along with investment in vital infrastructure such as roads.

Without changing local government in Oxfordshire, further service cuts may be needed. The government is reducing funding and a unitary council is more financially sustainable in the long term.

Oxfordshire County Council believes a new council for the whole county makes most sense. Simpler. Better services. More local. Lower cost. That's what 'One Oxfordshire' means.

### **Join the debate**

This is a draft proposal and Oxfordshire County Council wants to hear from residents, before finalising the proposal and sending it to the government for a decision.

To find out more and have your say, go to [www.oneoxfordshire.org](http://www.oneoxfordshire.org) or come to a drop-in event at a library near you. Dates of the events are available on the website.

Art Trophy: Liz Gibson

Handicraft trophy: Judith Johns/Liz Gibson

Arts and Crafts Trophy: Liz Gibson

Egg Cup: Sarah Dragonetti

Baking and Preserves Cup: Sue Sexon

Photography Cup: David Pearson

Douglas Allardyce Memorial Rose Bowl for most outstanding exhibit in Flowers and Vegetable Section: Sarah Dragonetti for her vase of narcissi

Children's Cup: Woody Taylor

Whitchurch Hill Trophy for most points overall: Liz Gibson

## **KARIBA'S TIME BOMB**

Imagine a huge tsunami travelling down the Thames from Lechlade sweeping all in its path, bridges, villages even towns such as Reading. By the time this huge wall of water finally dissipates into the Thames Estuary, the impact has been massive with thousands, possibly millions of people drowned, the environment irreparably damaged and the national economy disrupted. Fortunately for us, this scenario is as unlikely as it is unthinkable. But there is a place in Africa where such a catastrophe is both a real and immediate threat.

Completed in 1959, the Kariba Dam is the centre of Southern and Central Africa's largest hydroelectric scheme. It supplies about 40% of the electrical power for Zimbabwe, Zambia, Mozambique and South Africa. Spanning 1900 feet across a gorge on the Zambezi River and standing 420 feet high, the curving dam wall is an impressive and, to many eyes, beautiful piece of civil engineering. Its construction created Lake Kariba, the largest man made lake on earth measuring 140 miles by 20 miles and with a capacity of 200 billion tonnes of water.

**U18 Report – Alistair Aitchison.** The U-18s have only 2 games left – both against Farnborough, after losing 0-3 against top of the table Maidenhead on April 1st (it was no joke!). As a result we will finish 2nd in the East Berkshire Football Alliance League Division 2 and therefore be promoted and spend our last year together as a team in the 1st Division. This will be a real challenge but a fitting way to end 13 years of playing together as a team.

Training is now finished for the Easter Holidays, starting again on April 27th before our final game on April 29th. We then have a couple of summer tournaments; but will otherwise have a break until September when it all kicks off again.

We will lose 3 U-18 players out of the squad of 17 next season therefore we will be looking to pick up a couple of experienced players to add to the squad.

*Lindsay Austin (Club Secretary)*

## **GORING HEATH AND WHITCHURCH SPRING SHOW – 2017**

The spring show was held on Saturday, 2nd April in the Whitchurch Hill village hall.

As usual there was a pretty selection of spring flowers as well as other displays of local handiwork. Tea and cakes were ably served by Chris Bergman. Peter Dragonetti gave a closing speech and paid tribute to Tony Voysey, a longstanding show supporter who died recently.

The afternoon closed with the raffle being drawn. Entrants and visitors left happily with their prizes.

The Winners of the Trophies are as follows:

Betty Hayter Memorial Cup for most points in Flowers Section: Ann Lewis

Floral Arrangement Trophy: Liz Gibson

## **SAFE AND WELL VISITS FROM OXFORDSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE**

Did you know that Oxfordshire County Council's Fire and Rescue Service offer free Safe and Well Visits? Our firefighters will visit you at home to see what they can do to help you reduce the risk of fire.

What does a visit cover? It combines a Home Safety Check to help reduce the risk of fire in your home, such as checking and fitting smoke alarms and helping you make a fire escape plan. We can also offer you advice and support to help your health and wellbeing.

During the visit firefighters are able to provide advice and support to reduce any immediate risk from falls, fire, flood or power cuts, along with advice to help protect you from scams and doorstep crime.

You can request a visit online at [www.365alive.co.uk/safewell](http://www.365alive.co.uk/safewell) or call our Community Safety Helpline on 08000 325 999. If a loved one or friend would benefit from a visit please let them know about our Safe and Well visits.

Do you have a fire safety concern or question? There's lots of great tips and advice to help keep you and your family safer at home on [www.365alive.co.uk](http://www.365alive.co.uk). Or you can call our Community Safety Helpline on 08000 325 999.

*Lucy Bates (Marketing and Campaigns Officer, Oxfordshire County Council)*

## **WHITCHURCH & GORING HEATH HISTORY SOCIETY**

Come and join us for an illustrated talk on Votes for Women in Oxfordshire on Thursday April 20th in Whitchurch Village Hall at 8pm. Non-members pay £3 to include coffee and biscuits. Our speaker, Katherine Bradley, has lectured extensively on the subject, and there is a local connection to the dairy farm in Checkendon where suffragettes were sheltered.

Our Members' meeting on Thursday 18th May will be held at Goring Heath Parish Hall (in Whitchurch Hill) and will start at 8pm. Several local topics will be presented, and then the venues for the summer outings in June and July will be discussed. Come and make your views known.

*Vicky Jordan*

### **WHITCHURCH & GORING HEATH TWINNING ASSOCIATION**

We are awaiting news of who will be coming for the visit on April 29th to May 1st, and have started to make plans for their entertainment. If you'd like to take part please get in touch with Vicky Jordan ([vickyjordan5@hotmail.com](mailto:vickyjordan5@hotmail.com)) or 01189 843260.

*Vicky Jordan*

### **OUR HISTORIC CORNER**

Walk along Hardwick Road away from the village using the high level Jubilee Path. This well trodden path through the bower of wild plums commemorates the Jubilee of our Queen Elizabeth in 1977. Drop to the southern side of the road, along the broad verge, until forced to return to the narrower side. Note that you are walking along a section of the Tuddingway (an ancient pack horse trail from Reading to Crowmarsh Gifford). Tudda was a Saxon chieftain and the Ing was the area under his control. Goring and Reading might similarly have been controlled by their respective chieftains; our local Lord was Wigod who was the Saxon Lord of Wallingford. Hardwick House was built on the site of his Manor.

At the Path Hill junction turn right down Sheepwash Lane. As one of our modern only three access points to the river I imagine that the lane led to shallow water or even a ford at this point and was used as a wash place for the sheep and cattle brought down from the pastures above. There is some suggestion that it might have been used by Danish raiding parties in order to access the hill fort above.

### **WHITCHURCH SOCIETY GARDEN WALKS**

Gardens will open from 1.30 to 4.30 pm on Sunday, 18th June. As in the past, with the generous agreement of Matilda and Neil King, tea and cakes will be served in The White House garden from 4 pm. Cost £3 adults, £1 children.

Matilda is happy for children to use the swimming pool provided they are supervised. The tennis court is also available if you bring your own racquets.

A list of open gardens will be published on the village notice boards and delivered to each household nearer the date. A Garden Open notice will be displayed at each address.

We are still keen to find new households willing to put their gardens on show. Please contact the undersigned ASAP if you are interested.

*Ian Bruce (Organiser – tel 984 2653, mob 07879 405559, email [ian.bruce@btinternet.com](mailto:ian.bruce@btinternet.com))*

### **AFC WHITCHURCH FOOTBALL CLUB**

We are a small, friendly club based in Whitchurch on Thames. We welcome players from Whitchurch and surrounding areas and have 5 strong teams plus our blossoming Academy section for our youngest players. We are a parent-run club and are all extremely passionate about football, encouraging our children into regular exercise and promoting healthy team spirit. If you are interested in joining us please get in touch – [afcwhitchurch@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:afcwhitchurch@yahoo.co.uk)

**U13 Report – Gary Stovell.** In our first season of 11-a-side and with some new faces, it has been a challenging season for the under 13 team. It has taken some time for the team to get used to each other and to new tactics, but with wins in 4 of the last 6 matches we are now seeing the team rise up to mid-table. A top half finish would be a good achievement from here and the team look eager to make it happen.



## WHITCHURCH SOCIETY SPRING WALK

The walk starts outside the Art Gallery at 10:30am on Sunday, 30th April. It is five miles in total and should finish around 1pm when walkers can choose whether to visit the Greyhound to refresh.



We head along the Thames Path via the Hartley Steps and then turns right uphill to the Hartslock Nature Reserve where we will be rewarded with stunning views (see photo below taken on the pilot walk on Palm Sunday) towards the Goring Gap and the Brunel railway bridge. There are some paths now within the Nature Reserve that can take you to an even higher point amidst Yew woodland and a wide variety of fauna and flora including orchids.

The route then heads along a small lane towards Gatehampton Farm before entering the boundary of the Great Chalk Wood where we will see a carpet of bluebells and hear a great deal of birdsong. We then reach the picturesque hamlet of Coldharbour before heading back south across downs and past Coombe End and Beech farms and (eventually) the War Memorial and the village.

*Richard Williams*

Go down and enjoy the views of our river, particularly to the east towards Mapledurham – a fine stretch of the river and well worth imagining its possible use by Ratty and Mole. Return up the lane but alternate your distant view; first to your right and the magnificent setting of the Victorian Stud buildings and the display of the pastures and horses. Note the ancient hay meadow and on its junction with the horse paddocks a dark and damp area – a Saxon jug well where clean water emanates from the chalk escarpment behind.

The background of beech trees is worthy of pausing to look at and appreciate at all times of the year but they are at their best in Spring or in their glorious Autumn colours. On your right you can look along a water course where the river probably once flowed and in the distance see the shape and glass of the Real Tennis Court building at Hardwick House.

On your return up the lane start to look left up at the beautiful shape of our hills (once named as Kangaroo Hill – probably a figure carved by one of our many wartime military visitors). You are looking back in history to the Iron Age, the cleft at the back of the right hand side hill is the access to the Iron Age encampment above. It probably also served as an escape route when danger threatened either from flooding or a hostile raiding party from another tribe or from abroad. Further to your left, but out of sight, Bronze Age artefacts were discovered on the Castrol site at Bozedown House.

So in the space of a few yards we have covered centuries and a great deal of history – a magical corner of our village. Stop, look and feel the history.

*Eric Hartley*

## CALLING ALL CRICKETERS

Now's the time to brush down your pads, oil your bat, and join us for another season of cricketing folly with the village team down at Eastfield Lane.

We play friendly games most weekends, and we're hoping to tour the Bristol area in the best part of summer. There's plenty of room for new faces, and although we don't have a women's team specifically, if you can hold a bat the right way up, do get in touch.

If you've got your own kit, fine; if not, we'll find you some. Please get in touch with us via <http://www.whitchurchcricket.co.uk/>, on Facebook or by email to [nick.turner@whitchurchcricket.co.uk](mailto:nick.turner@whitchurchcricket.co.uk) (adults) or [colts@whitchurchcricket.co.uk](mailto:colts@whitchurchcricket.co.uk) (children).

*Andy Heard*

### **CLASSICAL GUITAR RECITAL**

*At The Old Stables, May 20th 7.30pm*

Mihael Majetic is a classical guitarist from Croatia currently studying at the Royal Academy of Music in London, studying with Michael Lewin and other renowned classical guitarists. Mihael is active in chamber music as well, playing in guitar ensembles, with singers and other instrumentalists.

Mihael was born in 1994 in Valpovo, a small town in eastern Croatia and started his guitar from the age of 8 taught by his father and a year later started a more formal guitar education. In 2008 he moved to Zagreb to study under one of the leading guitar teachers in Croatia.

Mihael has won a number of first prizes in national and international competitions. He has also given numerous solo and chamber music performances in Zagreb and on national television. Mihael also regularly performs at the Royal Academy of Music, across the UK and in Croatia.

Mihael has been teaching a number of students from 2014 as a way of helping to fund his continuing studies at the Academy. The recital he will give in The Old Stables is also with the intention of helping towards his fees. Entry is free but donations would be appreciated.

## **WHITCHURCH PRE-SCHOOL**

Spring at the pre-school is always a busy time, as we make the most of the opportunity for the children to learn about nature. Our annual trip to Rushall Farm gives the children a chance to hold and stroke baby lambs who are just a few days old, and take a tractor ride through the farm whilst learning about various animals and crops. Laura Lucas kindly donated some frog spawn which the children have enjoyed studying under magnifying glasses to experience the transition from spawn to tadpole to frog. Our spring day saw some planting of bulbs in the garden for the children to enjoy – we chose the Warmingham colours of red and white because they kindly sponsored this and donated some money towards learning equipment for the pre-school. We'd like to express deep gratitude for their kind generosity. Living eggs are due to arrive at the pre-school after Easter – this year the children will watch baby ducklings hatch from the eggs over a 2 week period.

Just before Easter the children also took part in a fun Easter egg hunt arranged by the pre-school. Parents enjoyed lunch and a spot of planting, whilst the children chased the Easter bunny around the garden, they finally got to enjoy their Easter eggs at the end of it!

With primary school places now being allocated, after Easter all children at pre-school who are moving up to primary school in September will get to spend time at Whitchurch primary school to start their transition period. The rising 5's session on a Monday afternoon will go across for stories with Mrs Ash, the reception year teacher. If your child is going to Whitchurch primary school and you would like them to attend this session please speak to Kathleen on [whitchurchpreschool@me.com](mailto:whitchurchpreschool@me.com) or 0118 9844516.

*Beth Baxter, Secretary*