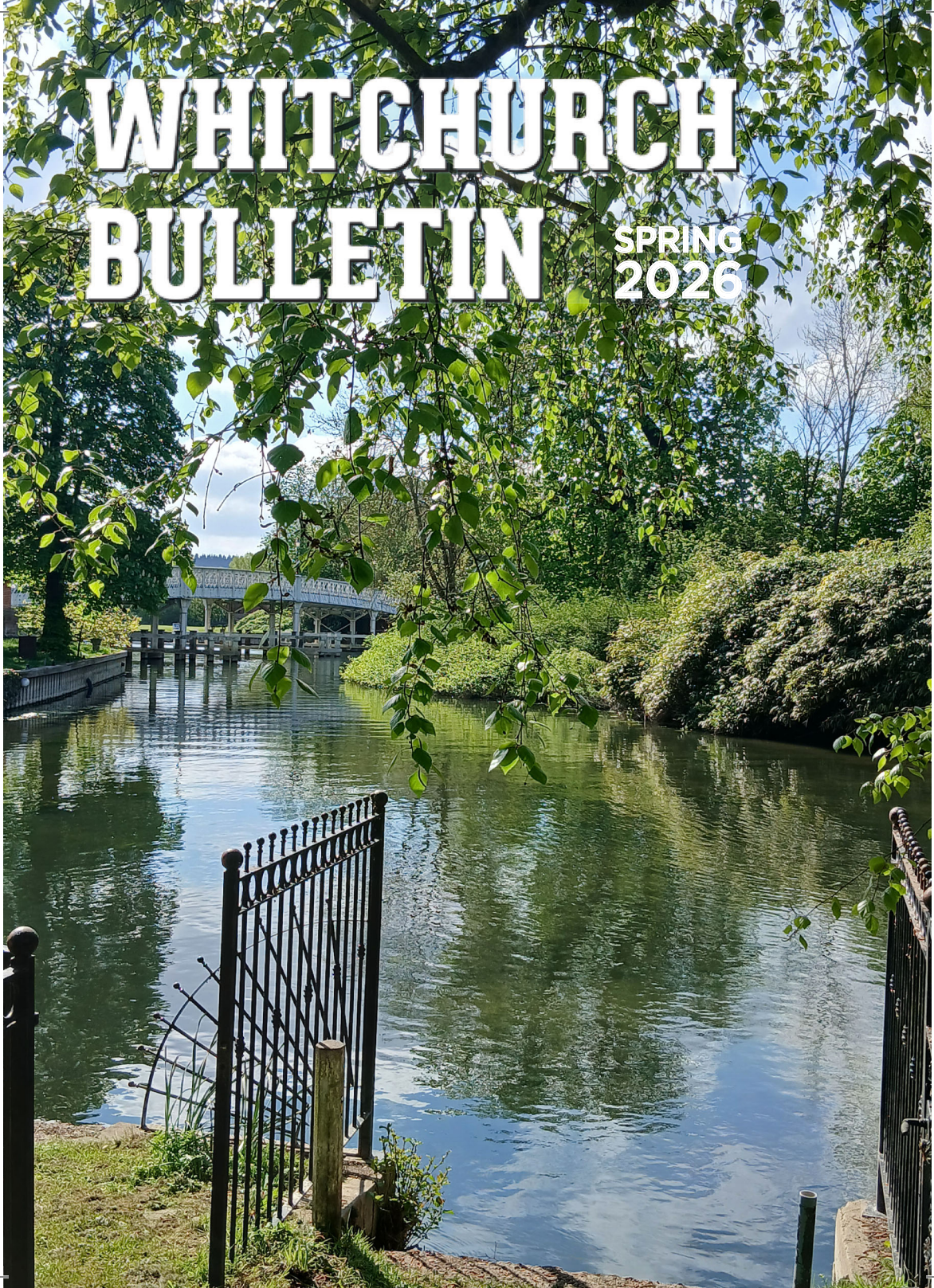


# WHITCHURCH BULLETIN

SPRING  
2026



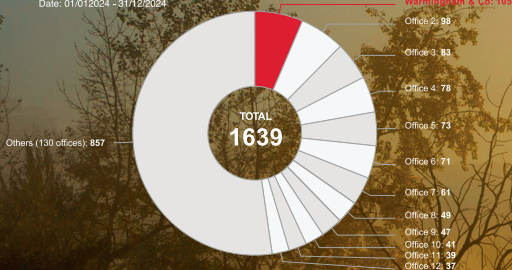
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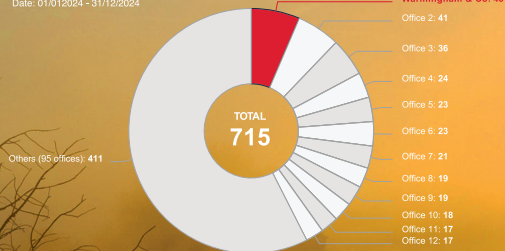
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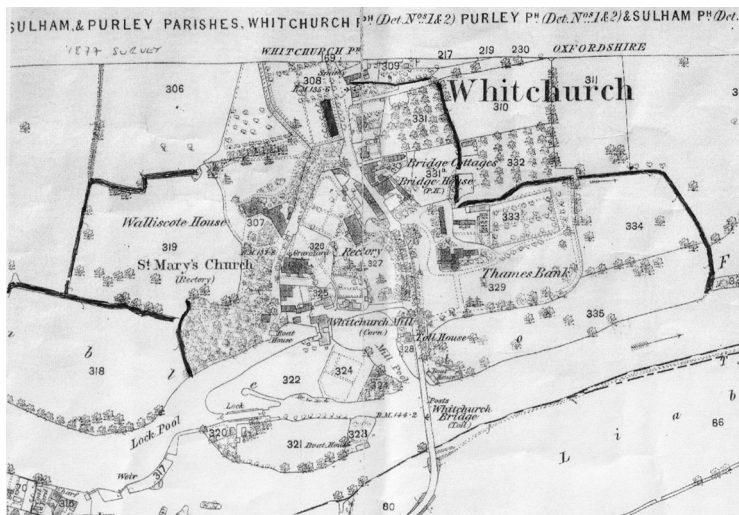
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# CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE – APRIL 2026

As we are a village on the banks of the River Thames, there are a number of ongoing activities that we are working on with OCC and SODC to ensure we are doing everything we can to keep drains, culverts and watercourses clear and flowing as well as they can be to minimise risks of flooding, whether that be from the river, surface flooding from heavy rain, ground water or sewage flooding. After consulting with the council and various affected landowners in the village, we have secured funding from OCC in a number of areas to address risks in many areas where improvements are needed.

## Flooding risks related to village Watercourse/Eastfield Lane Culvert

Many believe that the village watercourse that runs through the village has probably been in place dating back to Anglo-Saxon times. The watercourse runs through the village in a rather “moat-like” fashion, coming from the River Thames, a little upstream from above the lock, through Walliscote Farm, through Walled Garden, under the High Street and Greyhound Pub to Eastfield Lane and ultimately back to the river. The figure below from resident John Southey shows the watercourse highlighted on a map from 1877. The watercourse hasn't changed much over the centuries but don't take this figure too literally as it has changed in a few places since the time of this map.



Cover: Mill Pond & Bridge in Spring sunshine, photo courtesy of Richard Williams

Cllr Romilly Swann and I have been working with SODC Flood Risk and Drainage Engineer Leigh Travers and local homeowners who are riparian landowners of the watercourse behind Eastfield Lane leading to the River Thames. Following the topological survey of the watercourse performed last year, the steps described below were agreed in principle by all parties to address flooding risks to maintain the watercourse going forward:

**1. Throttling of water flow from Walliscote Farm towards the High Street and Eastfield Lane** – The outflow of water from Walliscote Farm into the culvert has already been restricted as part of a trial to reduce bottlenecks in the culvert downstream near Eastfield Lane. The feeling is that it is already helping to reduce waterflow downstream and would be especially important in a river flooding scenario. The Walliscote Farm landowner wishes to continue this as a 2-year trial through November 2027 to see if it mitigates issues downstream and it does not increase flooding on their land.

**2. Catchpit clearance at Eastfield Lane and Greyhound** – Catchpits are underground drainage chambers designed to trap silt, sediment and debris from surface water runoff and need to be periodically cleared. There are two privately owned catchpits linking to the watercourse that could impact its flow; one on a property on Eastfield Lane and one at the Greyhound in front of the old Fire Station. The owners are already working to arrange this clearing which can be done in parallel with other steps.

**3. Desilting open watercourse behind Eastfield Lane (from Pavilion Cottage to river)** – SODC recommends this as normal maintenance of the watercourse. The recent topographical survey confirms that silting levels are significantly higher than they should be for waterflow drainage. Mr Travers considers this a prerequisite to step 4, clearing the relatively narrow 450mm closed pipe under Pluto House and Chiltern Edge. Clearing the silt will allow standard jet clearing of the pipes, whereas the cost of doing this without desilting would be prohibitively expensive. Mr Travers has access to grant funding for this and will request contractors visit the site to give a more precise quote and assess a “minimum” level of clearance and develop a “method statement” that reduces any impacts to neighbouring properties, including trees. Desilting work would likely happen in the dryer summer months, subject to contract being agreed.

**4. Inspecting and clearing the closed 450mm pipe under Eastfield Lane homes** – is required to determine whether there is any blockage in the pipe. Previous attempts to inspect this have been unsuccessful, hence the urgency to desilt the culvert downstream first. Mr Travers committed SODC to doing this at SODC's cost with standard jetting equipment once water drains from the pipes after desilting of the watercourse in Step 3. Once desilting is completed, SODC will take ongoing responsibility for inspecting and maintaining the length of 450mm pipe that they installed.

**5. Ongoing maintenance of the watercourse to prevent silt build up** – SODC recommends that this should be done on an annual basis and would normally require minimal effort to "keep an eye on it". This could include manual inspection for things such as clearing fallen trees.

Even with all these maintenance activities there will still be scenarios where the river rises to sufficiently high levels that the watercourse, drains and other flood defences in the village may not be able to cope with. However, there are other flooding scenarios that cannot be predicted and some scenarios, such as summer flash flooding, would require the watercourse to be maintained to drain water from other parts of the village, such as the "Greyhound bowl".

**Water drainage improvements on the High Street** – You may be aware that a blockage was found in the High Street drainage in the upper narrows last year causing a manhole cover to be lifted on the pavement near the Art Gallery during heavy rains, resulting in street drainage water running down the High Street and affecting the basement of at least one property. OCC efforts to resolve this previously were halted due to high voltage power lines under the road that are preventing access to the collapsed water pipes that are causing the blockage.

An OCC Highways drainage project has now been approved with an estimated cost of £61,000 to address this issue by installing a new drainpipe under the road surface that will bypass the section of the collapsed drain along the edge of the High Street. This is likely to be implemented sometime this summer.

**Lower Narrows drainage** – OCC has also requested a full inspection with cameras and clearing of the drains along the High Street between the lower narrows and the toll bridge. This will clarify if there are any blockages to

emptying street water drainage into the river which was not clear in the past. This clear flow is especially important during summer flash flooding for the Greyhound and other parts of the High Street.

**Ongoing village drain clearance** – Another important part of flood prevention is to ensure street drains are cleared. You may be aware that there have been several activities to clear drains in the village in the past year or two, so they are generally in good shape in the village. As a *FixMyStreet* Super User I have actioned a number of drains to be cleared recently, especially on Eastfield Lane that were cleared in January. OCC Highways also performed an annual check on the village's drains in late January where some further drains were cleared.

**Eastfield Lane improvements** – OCC has finally approved resurfacing for Eastfield Lane from the High Street, past May Cottage towards the school where the road was resurfaced about 10 years ago. This is approved for the new fiscal year with a street closure now planned for 28 July for a few days to do the work. The term they are using for the work is a "Surface Inlay" which is somewhat vague, but OCC tells me that this means the damaged road surface will be planed off and replaced with new material. This method was chosen to restore the road's structural integrity, rise quality and profile. I've asked them to consider that the camber is appropriate for the street drainage in certain locations that are currently a problem.

**Tea Hut draft design** – has been prepared by an architect and shared with Councillors. Cllr Hyde and I are preparing the request for a cost estimate from three initial suppliers as the next step of the feasibility investigation. If there are any residents with experience building similar types of structures that would like to get involved in the project, we would appreciate your support.

**Death of a cyclist on Jubilee trail** – A cyclist passing through the village was tragically killed on Jubilee Path in January, apparently hitting a low branch. We do not know the individuals involved or understand all the details, but we are told that it was a group of cyclists in their fifties riding in poor light, some on e-bikes. The defibrillator was used at the Cricket Club as part of this incident. Tim Hardwick has replaced the pads and the defibrillator is fully operational again. A Green Team working party cut back the branches on that part of the trail on 9<sup>th</sup> February, led by Pete and Sally Woolhouse and Neil Huntington. The Parish Council continues to encourage cyclists not to use the trail, which is marked as an Oxfordshire Footpath at one end and a 'no cycling' sign has now been placed at the other end, presumably by friends of the cyclist in the accident.

**Bathing Water Status on Pangbourne Meadows** – The Parish Council voted to support the public consultation to give the Pangbourne Meadows Bathing Water Status. The main rationale was that a number of residents from the village use the river for swimming either at the toll bridge, Sheepwash Lane or Hardwick Estate and the change of status could help to improve water quality. In practice, the status only requires that the Environment Agency measures the water quality during the summer swimming season and posts the results publicly. It may also indirectly put pressure on Thames Water to prioritise clean water in Bathing Water Status areas. Wallingford has had bathing water status for two years now and the water quality levels increased from 'poor' to 'sufficient'.

**Posting Notices in the Conservation Area** – With the new Conservation Area Assessment complete, the Parish Council has become aware of regulations that limit the kind of advertising within a Conservation Area. The regulations limit the types of notices that can be posted in a Conservation Area to advertising local events that are held for charitable purposes, which may be religious, educational, cultural, political, social or recreational but not for commercial purposes. Exceptions to this would need to be approved by SODC planning. This primarily applies to the two notice boards on the High Street – the one by the Greyhound, the other at the intersection to Manor Road. The Parish Council will be publishing an updated advertising policy with more guidance on this.

#### **Resident issues:**

- **Sewage leak at playground manhole:** A resident on Manor Road raised an issue that the sewer manhole cover on the playground was overflowing. This was near the leaking sewage pipe under the road where a sink hole was raised from last year. Once this issue was raised to Thames Water, they responded fairly quickly and shut down the sewer line from the Eastfield Lane pumping station through use of large tankers. They identified the issues as an old leaking pressure release valve under the manhole cover. Thanks to Cllrs Higley and the Playground WG team for staying on top of the situation and notifying the website that the playground should be temporarily shut down. The leaking valve has now been replaced, the area decontaminated, and the playground reopened.
- **Village Green water leaks:** We are working with the Cricket Club to identify the cause of the leak and repair the pipes. The Clerk had requested multiple

bids to repair the leak. I have held a site visit with one supplier and have another supplier site visit next week.

- **New Bench on the Village Green** – A family has donated a bench in memory of a former resident. They would like it to be placed in front of the Cricket Pavilion on the porch and it is expected to be delivered sometime in April.
- **Streetlight in lower narrows** – Cllr Leach raised the issue of a streetlight at the lower narrows by the Old Stables. This has now been resolved.
- **Thames Path condition** – The steep slope adjacent to the Hartley Steps is badly deteriorated and considered hazardous for cyclists going down the steep hill. I raised a report to OCC Countryside team and they said they are following up on it.
- **Metal detecting on the Village Green** – A resident requested permission for metal detecting on the Village Green and Maze area. The Parish Council decided not to grant permission in this case due to concerns with causing tripping hazards on the sports field and other impacts to the limited Open Space in the village. This policy is consistent with that of other local communities that restrict these types of investigations on public land to investigations led by professional archaeologists.
- **Maintenance of defibrillators in the village** – Special thanks to Tim Hardwick who volunteers to maintain the defibrillators in the village and has recently identified pads and batteries reaching their "expiry" dates soon and has requested Parish Council fund their replacement.
- **Maintenance of Yew Tree at substation on Hardwick Road** – Cllr Higley is seeking quotes for appropriate tree work for the yew tree that is clearly in need of attention.

**New Councillor** – We are pleased to welcome long-time village resident **Bernarde Hyde** as a new member of the Parish Council. Bernarde has recently retired from Southern Universities Management Services which provides management consulting services and procurement support for universities. She brings with her a wealth of skills and energy so I am sure that you will be seeing her around the village!

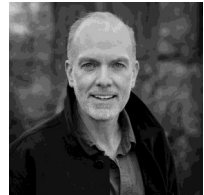
**Remembrance** – It is worth taking a moment to acknowledge that we have lost a few longstanding members of our community in the recent months. They each contributed so much to our community in their own way, forming many friendships in the village over the years.

- Richard Wingfield – who led the development of the village website and worked to keep us all so well informed about happenings in the village
- Nick Brazil – who could often be seen sharing his films, photos and books about the area as well as looking after the village maze that he initiated over ten years ago
- Bill Lewis – was a friendly face in the village who led the Allotments Society for many years alongside his wife Ann

*Kind regards,*

*Jim Donahue*

*Chairman, Whitchurch-on-Thames Parish Council*



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## WHITCHURCH ON THAMES PARISH COUNCIL

### Quarterly Planning Update - January to March 2026

Planning Ref	Address and Details of Application	Comments by Parish Council	SODC status
P25/ S3121/O 10/10/20 25	<b>Land south of Hardwick Road, Whitchurch-on-Thames RG8 7HL</b> Erection of four dwellings with all matters reserved except access.	The Parish Council submitted a detailed OBJECTION to this application. Comments submitted can be viewed on the SODC Planning Portal.	Under Consideration
P25/ S3228/ FUL 06/11/20 25	<b>Land adjacent to Church Cottages, High Street, Whitchurch-on-Thames RG8 7DL.</b> Replacement of a fence. Existing fence is in poor state of repair in places. Proposal to increase height of garden boundary fence to 1.8m from 1.35m.	The Parish Council voted to OBJECT to this application. Comments submitted can be viewed on the SODC Planning Portal.	GRANTED on amended plans on 4/2/26
P25/ S3756/ HH 03/12/20 25	<b>Royal Oak Cottage, High Street, Whitchurch-on-Thames RG8 7HF.</b> Proposed ground floor front/side extension.	The Parish Council voted to SUPPORT this application.	GRANTED ON 23/1/26
P25/ S4090/ HH 09/01/20 26	<b>6 Swanston Field, Whitchurch-on-Thames RG8 7HP</b> Enlargement of existing dormer, conversion of existing garage to provide ancillary accommodation comprising of gym and games room and changes to external materials (cladding) and fenestration including relocation of existing front door and associate porch canopy.	The Parish Council voted to SUPPORT this application.	GRANTED ON 25/2/26

<p>P26/ S0178/ FUL 02/02/2 026</p>	<p><b>The Boathouse, 2 The Moorings, Sheepwash Lane, Whitchurch-on-Thames RG8 7RA</b> Demolition of existing and construction of a self-build replacement boathouse incorporating a wet dock, dry boat store and workshop at ground level, with two -bedroom residential accommodation above.</p>	<p>The Parish Council voted to SUPPORT this application and sent additional comments. Comments submitted can be viewed on the SODC Planning Portal</p>	<p>GRANTED on 9/4/26</p>
<p>P26/ S0630/ HH 11/03/20 26</p>	<p><b>6 Swanston Field, Whitchurch-on-Thames RG8 7HP</b> Single storey porch extension and conversion of existing garage to provide ancillary accommodation.</p>	<p>The Parish Council voted to make NO OBJECTION to this application.</p>	<p>Under Consideration</p>

**WOT Annual Village Assembly**

Thursday 7th May, Village hall  
7:15pm for 7:30pm start

Twinned with La Bouille, France

- **Find out what is happening in the village**
- **Presentation of the annual Whitchurch Award**
- **Wine and nibbles will be served**
- **Everyone is welcome!**

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## DISTRICT COUNCILLOR COMMENTS

It was good to hear that the Government is strengthening the law regarding fly tipping. Although there is some commercial fly tipping on lanes off the A4074, Whitchurch has avoided the huge dumping that happened at Kidlington, and also happens in places nearer London. We are very lucky that the Council officer who is responsible for addressing fly tipping issues is very proactive, attending to locations as quickly as possible and then rummaging through the waste to get evidence to identify the culprit. There is a steady volume of prosecutions that SODC undertakes for fly tipping, and my only regret is that the penalties imposed by Magistrates never seem enough. Whether the fines are ever paid is another question. If you do spot fly-tipping, please do report it as quickly as possible either by phone 01235 422123 or via the form on the SODC website.

There has been a suggestion that the new system for booking for trips to the Oakley Wood Recycling Centre (aka the tip) will lead to more fly tipping, but although the booking process may seem onerous in reality, once you do it, it is quite easy. No excuse for fly-tipping!

The District Council set its budget a few weeks ago, and once again, through effective management and the benefit of higher interest income from its cash balances, it was in the enviable position of being a financially secure local authority. It has to be admitted the District Council does not face the bottomless spending pits that include Adult and Children's Social Services, Special Educational Needs and Disabilities or even the ever present potholes. When, in due course, the District Council is swallowed up into a Unitary Authority of some shape or size, all the careful financial husbandry will be subsumed.

Just how the Local Government Review is going to finish up is still unclear, and the alternatives of the single Oxfordshire and the Ridgeway (West Berks, South and Vale) seem to fluctuate in popularity. Whether that is just the efforts of the Public Relations and Marketing teams or a realistic change in the dynamics is difficult to work out. Recently, the role of Swindon as part of a combined Thames Valley Authority has come forward. The Vale of White Horse District Council, with whom of course South Oxfordshire District Council are intertwined in a symbiotic administrative relationship, extends almost to the outskirts of Swindon, so there is some logic there. But not when we look at our local

parishes. One of the ground rules of this Local Government review was that existing boundaries would not be changed. Perhaps that would have worked in some areas of the country, but not so easy here.

Like Donald Trump's war on Iran, some things are not as easy as first thought.

*Peter Dragonetti  
District Councillor for Whitchurch on Thames*

## **COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT (Extracts)**

**Potholes** have been nothing short of horrendous this winter. My inbox has been flooded with escalation requests and complaints, and with good reason. At last, the weather seems to be turning a corner and I have seen OCC contractors starting to make a dent in the backlog.

Potholes in Oxfordshire have been especially visible this winter due to an unusually prolonged period of wet weather and repeated freezing and thawing. In January alone, the county saw over 115 mm of rain, followed by freezing nights, conditions that rapidly weaken road surfaces as water seeps in, freezes and expands, then thaws again. 3000 miles of local road mean potholes can form faster than crews can fill them. Furthermore, the current technology does not allow for submerged potholes to be properly fixed, so it is best to view some of the ones urgently repaired during the wet weather as temporary fixes.

The current condition of Oxfordshire's roads did not develop in a single winter. It reflects more than a decade of constrained maintenance funding combined with ageing infrastructure and increasing pressures on the network.

Following the 2010 Comprehensive Spending Review, Oxfordshire was advised that its central government revenue funding would reduce by 26% in real terms over four years. The impact was immediate. Specific grants to the council fell

from £59.3 million to £44.5 million within a single year (2011/12). Highways maintenance revenue budgets – which fund inspections, drainage, patching teams and preventative sealing, fell from £31.1 million in 2010/11 to £26.9 million in 2011/12 and then to £23.1 million in 2012/13, a reduction of around 26% in two years.

By 2015, council reports recorded that the Revenue Support Grant had fallen by 40% between 2010 and 2018, and overall government grant had reduced by 50% in real terms since 2010. During this period, Oxfordshire's Highways Asset Management Plan acknowledged that, at prevailing funding levels, the network was being managed in decline, with modelling indicating roads could be fully rebuilt on average every 255 years, compared with an optimal renewal cycle of around 40 years.

At the same time, engineering pressures have increased. More intense rainfall, freeze–thaw cycles, heavier vehicles, rising freight traffic and network expansion from new development all place additional stress on road surfaces. Preventative surface treatments typically cost between £3.50 and £8 per square metre, whereas a reactive pothole repair can cost £80 or more per repair. National evidence suggests planned preventative maintenance can be up to twenty times less expensive than reactive work. When preventative budgets are constrained, deterioration accelerates and costs rise later.

Nationally, the Asphalt Industry Alliance's latest ALARM survey estimates **the backlog of carriageway maintenance in England and Wales at £16.8bn**, reflecting the cumulative scale of underinvestment.

Oxfordshire County Council has increased both investment and operational capacity to tackle road deterioration and stabilise the network over time. For 2025/26, total highways expenditure is around £69m, including more than £15m of additional locally allocated capital funding on top of national transport allocations. This reflects a deliberate prioritisation of highways within the overall capital programme.

On the ground, capacity has been significantly expanded. As of early 2026, there are 21 active repair crews operating across the county. This includes specialist thermal patching units and bobcat teams designed to deliver more durable and efficient repairs, alongside weekend working and additional subcontractors to help reduce backlogs and respond more quickly to emerging defects.

Repair standards have been strengthened, with a move toward larger and more resilient patches where appropriate rather than short-term fixes. Post-repair inspections have been tightened, and contractor performance is monitored more closely. At the same time, drainage programmes have been prioritised, recognising that effective water management is critical in preventing further surface failure, particularly given wetter winters and increased rainfall intensity.

Importantly, the council is placing greater emphasis on preventative maintenance, including surface dressing, micro-asphalt treatments, and structural strengthening. Preventative surface treatments typically cost a fraction of reactive pothole repairs and are intended to extend the life of road surfaces before failure occurs. While this shift toward asset stabilisation will take time to show visible improvements, particularly given the scale of accumulated wear over many years, the focus is on slowing deterioration and gradually improving overall network condition through sustained investment.

**Warm Homes Grant.** OCC has been awarded government funding to help residents on a low income make their homes more energy efficient. The Warm Homes Local Grant is a government-backed scheme designed to provide fully funded energy efficiency upgrades – such as insulation, solar panels, and heat pumps – for eligible homeowners and private tenants. These improvements can make homes warmer, reduce energy bills, and help protect households from fuel poverty. Funding is limited and allocated on a first-come, first-served basis, so please help us spread the word.

**Website:** [www.welcomethewarmth.org.uk/](http://www.welcomethewarmth.org.uk/)

**Register your interest:** <https://www.welcomethewarmth.org.uk/apply-now>

*Maggie Filipova-Rivers  
County Councillor for Whitchurch on Thames*

## WHITCHURCH PRIMARY SCHOOL PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

As we race into spring, our children have been making the most of another action-packed term bursting with fun, energy, and a few impressive achievements along the way!

The Parents' Association committee kicked things off in delicious style with a fantastic cake sale at the Art Café. Thanks to lots of tasty treats and generous supporters, a whopping **£325** was raised! This brilliant total will go towards refreshing our school's sports kits, and we can't wait to see our children proudly debuting them at upcoming events.

Sport has been high on the Whitchurch agenda - with plenty of action both by hand and by foot! Our teams took on local schools in football and netball tournaments, showing great teamwork and determination. Meanwhile, our speedy runners have been dashing around Goring and Bradfield College at cross-country events, bringing home first, second and third places overall. What an achievement - well done, Whitchurchers!

The dancing shoes also came out for another highlight of the term: the much-anticipated Parents' Association school disco. Glow sticks at the ready, the hall was buzzing with energy as pupils danced the night away to brilliant tunes from our very own resident DJ, Mr Chesters. Safe to say, it was the place to be.

Back in the classroom, there has certainly been no rest for the wicked. Celebrating World Book Day in wonderfully creative fashion by crafting favourite book characters out of potatoes - and we had some absolute corkers! An epic book-swap followed, where pupils exchanged their pre-loved books for new stories to enjoy. A fantastic way to reuse, recycle, and keep our reading - and our school - green.

Finally packed into this term has also been some fantastic learning adventures. Our children have been busy exploring patterns, experimenting with volume and capacity, and discovering how shadows are formed. They've been hurtling through space, learning about planet Mars and robots, and investigating what affects the size of craters on the Moon. And as if that wasn't exciting enough, they've explored the fascinating topic of evolution and inheritance - and even had a go at extracting DNA from fruit. All this and more in just one term's work at Whitchurch.

*Hayley Wilkins*  
*Treasurer - Whitchurch Primary School Parents' Assoc*

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## WHITCHURCH SOCIETY

**Gardens Walk.** This will be on **Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> June** and Neil and Matilda King have kindly agreed to host the teas at the White House again. As usual, we will deliver a leaflet nearer the time listing the gardens that are open for you to visit. If you'd be willing to open your garden, we'd be very grateful. Please get in touch with John Bradon or Will Barclay, email [willbarclay348@hotmail.com](mailto:willbarclay348@hotmail.com).

**Whitchurch Award.** Once again, the Whitchurch Society is running this annual award for people who have made a positive contribution to the village. If you'd like to nominate someone, **please let us know before Monday 4th May** by emailing [thewhitchurchaward@gmail.com](mailto:thewhitchurchaward@gmail.com) or contacting Laura Lucas email [laura.c.lucas@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:laura.c.lucas@hotmail.co.uk). The award will be made at the annual assembly on Thursday 7th May (see Chairman's Report earlier).

*John Bradon*

## **WHITCHURCH SOCIETY: ART & CRAFT EXHIBITION 2026**

This was a very successful exhibition, which was held over the weekend of 28<sup>th</sup> February/1<sup>st</sup> March in Whitchurch Village Hall. The standard and variety of the entries was most impressive. It was enjoyed by many visitors over the weekend, as were the refreshments which were served on both days.

The timing of the event was moved from the traditional pre-Christmas weekend in mid-November, to this early spring weekend at the end of February. This new schedule was very popular with everyone and will now become the new timing for future years.

The exhibits were judged on the Friday evening by three external experts, and the winners were chosen in all the art, craft, photography and film categories, entered by adults and young people. The theme for the Joyce Voysey Prize was 'My Happy Place' and, not surprisingly, this encouraged a wide range of imaginative creations, especially from the younger exhibitors.

There were 9 adult exhibitors who had never taken part before. In total, there were 236 entries across the full spectrum of classes, in art, craft, photography and film, from 120 exhibitors, both adult and young people. Of particular note was the record number of film/animation entries – 6 in total – which competed for The Brazil Award. This award was presented for the first time in 2018 by Nick Brazil, who was a keen local filmmaker and photographer and who sadly passed away in January this year.

Also, on the stage, the three local schools, namely Whitchurch Pre-School, the Whitchurch Primary School and the Oratory Preparatory School, had set up impressive and colourful displays of school work by their students. These are always enjoyed by all the visitors.

The full list of the prize winners can be found via the link on the Exhibition webpage on the Whitchurch website ([whitchurchonthames.com/groups/artscrafts.html](http://whitchurchonthames.com/groups/artscrafts.html)). Also, the website's Photo Gallery holds a great selection of photos of the exhibition.

I would like to thank all of the great team that helped in many ways to set the exhibition up, and without whom it would be impossible to achieve, in the tight schedule. My special thanks must go to the planning and organising team (Sarah & Adrian Dixon, Wendy Ferguson, Jean-Marc Grosfort, Kate Lowe and Elliis Baty) and to all the volunteer helpers, for their hard work and support which made it another successful show.

And remember, it is never too soon to start work on your entries for the 2027 exhibition!

*Sally Woolhouse,  
Chair, Organising Committee*

## **THE FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S & ST JOHN'S**

Registered Charity no. 1168335

*The Friends are an independent charity and welcome members from all faiths and none. We aim to bring together the local community in support of the preservation and improvement of our 2 churches and their churchyards.*

The Friends are continuing to work on the churchyard at St John's. A Management Plan has been created and agreed by the PCC using advice from Caring for Gods Acre. The idea is to enable it to be sensitively managed as a place for Christian burial, to be welcoming for the visitors to the church and churchyard, and to encourage biodiversity of the local flora and fauna. It is envisaged that some sections will be roped off to allow paths to be mowed shorter and others left longer in order to create varying habitats for different species of wildlife.

We are planning to have a Nature Trail in the churchyard for children to follow at Whitchurch Hill Fete on May 23rd, and will be working towards this date to show the intentions of our Plan.

**Working Parties.** Our regular churchyard working parties at St John's take place on the last Wednesday of the month, starting at 10am. The next one will be on 29<sup>th</sup> April. Working parties at St Mary's are on a more ad hoc basis. Thank you to

all those that make a regular appearance as many hands really do make light work. If you fancy joining one of these sessions, please get in touch with Sally Woolhouse [whitchurchfriends@gmail.com](mailto:whitchurchfriends@gmail.com). A welcome cup of coffee is always provided at half time.

**Save our Spire!** The PCC have been successful in their request for National Lottery Funding which is marvelous news. The Friends had previously agreed to assist funding the project and have arranged for £20,000 (and the additional interest from the dedicated account) to be transferred to the PCC immediately. Work is due to start in April which will be very exciting (see also separate section below).

**Fund Raising.** A successful Art Café was held in The Old Stables on April 4<sup>th</sup> when about £184 was raised. Thank you to all of you that supported the event.

**Future Events.** Granny's Attic is once again planned for the **Whitchurch Hill Fete on May 23<sup>rd</sup>**. If you are having a bit of a clear out, please remember The Friends for any articles that are small enough to carry away on the day: such as unwanted gifts, tools, knick-knacks, kitchen implements, plant pots, small items of china, accessories, vases etc. We do not take clothing or books. Please contact me via the website address below if you would like me to come and collect and store any donated items.

**Membership.** We are always keen to welcome new Friends. For more information on how to join please go to the Whitchurch on Thames village website at <https://whitchurchonthames.com> and follow the link for the Church, or ask me, or Sally Woolhouse.

*Sarah Dragonetti, Chair of The Friends  
[whitchurchfriends@gmail.com](mailto:whitchurchfriends@gmail.com)*

## SAVE OUR SPIRE

The Save Our Spire Fundraising team are delighted to announce that the project will receive a grant of circa £150,000 from the National Lottery Heritage Fund. This together with other grants received and local fundraising to date means that there are now sufficient funds for the project to commence, which is great news. Works are expected to start on site at St Mary's by end of April. A big thank you to all whose generosity and support have made this happen. In the meanwhile, fundraising continues with events planned over the coming months, including the sale of two paintings of St Mary's Spire created and donated to the appeal by local artist Alastair Dunstan, and following the success of the Jazz in the Garden event last year, we are pleased to be planning this year's event for Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> July and hope you can join us there. Further details on these and other fundraising updates, and progress on the project will be posted on the Whitchurch village website ([www.whichurchonthames.com](http://www.whichurchonthames.com)) and in the next edition of this bulletin. If you would like to donate, please scan the QR code shown here or contact Ken Baker at [baker\\_kenneth2@sky.com](mailto:baker_kenneth2@sky.com). Thank you for your continued support.



*The Save Our Spire Fundraising Team*

## WHITCHURCH VILLAGE HALL

**Tai Chi Class.** This began in January and is going strong with a regular group of members enjoying the many benefits it brings. It is held every Tuesday from 10am to 11am and led by **Peter Clapham** of the *Mindful Flow Community*. Sessions focus on improving balance, strength, flexibility, and overall wellbeing. The gentle, flowing movements make it accessible for all ages and abilities, and the relaxed, friendly atmosphere has been a highlight for those attending. There is still plenty of room for new members, and beginners are especially welcome. For more details see the village hall page on the village website.

**Physio-led Exercise class.** Another weekly class to mention is the physio-based exercise class run every Thursday at 10am by qualified physiotherapist **Petya Samova**. Petya tailors her class to meet attendees' particular needs and goals.

She has arranged an all-day session to help anyone who is interested to discover how it works. This one-off session will run from 9:30am to 5:30pm on **Saturday 26th April**. There is no need to make an appointment but if you'd like to find out more, please ring Petya on 07552 129230 or email [getitrightphysion@gmail.com](mailto:getitrightphysion@gmail.com).

**Teas & Patisseries.** The Teas and Patisseries are held at on the second Thursday of the month from 2:30 to 4:30pm and the next one is on **Thursday 8th May**. It's a very pleasant event with cakes and Patisseries baked at the village hall.

*John Bradon, Village Hall Treasurer*

## HARDWICK HAPPENINGS

Spring is very much in the air at Hardwick with a beautiful crop of lambs and calves frolicking in the fields and blossom and new leaves emerging. Read on to find out more about what we have been up to this winter, and we hope to see you at one of the many upcoming events here this spring, or at the weekly Saturday pop up cafe at Lin's Veg Shed (9am-1pm).

**Hardwick Trust.** This April marks one year since our first seven Interim Trustees were elected from the Hardwick community. In October a further three Trustees were coopted to join them, bringing important skills in financial management, business and fundraising which the board felt were needed. The 10 strong Interim Board continues to meet monthly to oversee the setting up of the charity that will soon own Hardwick Estate, as well as getting to grips with decision making, and the wide variety of policies and procedures needed for the organisation to function effectively, transparently and in line with its vision and objectives. Most recently we have received training in managing conflicts of interest, which inevitably will occur in a community-led organisation such as ours, and must be effectively declared and managed to ensure the board's decisions are truly objective, for the good of the whole, and can be trusted by others. We expect to submit the Charities Commission application in the coming weeks and for the land to be passed into the charity (Hardwick Trust) by the Rose family by the end of 2026. The charitable objectives of Hardwick Trust are:

- To protect the environment via organic agriculture and sustainable woodland management.
- To educate the public in organic agriculture, sustainable woodland management and artisan crafts and rural skills.
- To encourage access to our footpaths and other recreational areas.
- To provide affordable housing for those in need.

**Stud farm developments.** The development of the former Stud Farm will be a central project of the Trust, a place to showcase and deliver the vision, as well as bringing in necessary income to support other charitable activities at Hardwick. Unfortunately, the timber stables and the incredible 18th Century Tithe barn are in quite a poor state of repair, and structural surveys are currently being undertaken to assess the work needed to conserve and restore these historic buildings, as well as what funding options may be available. Luckily however the central brick building is in a sound state with a relatively new roof. While the project can feel a bit daunting at times, it's good to have these important local buildings back in our care so we can ensure they will last at least another century, and be accessible to local people.

Deciding on the mix of uses for the restored buildings so they can best serve the vision and needs of the charity will take some time and lots of consultation so watch this space! In the meantime we hope to keep hosting pop up events such as the very popular Winter Market this December (pictured).



**Forestry.** Work in the woods continues to gradually convert the mostly single species and single age stands in our 500 acres of woodland to a more diverse mix of species and ages that mimics natural forests and is better for biodiversity as well as the production of quality timber. Central to this programme is the control of deer and grey squirrels which are out of balance with nature due to their introduction from abroad since 1900 and the lack of predators, and will prevent the growth of young trees and even kill mature trees if unchecked. In the last two years the Estate has used Countryside Stewardship funding to seriously increase efforts in this area and the results have been incredible! Many of you may have noticed the increased regeneration of saplings and the amazing return of birdlife which was being severely impacted by grey squirrels eating bird eggs and even chicks. It's been wonderful to hear the birdsong returning especially at dawn and dusk.

As part of the effort to control deer and squirrels we have closed one or two permissive paths around the woodland in order to create safe areas for deer stalking, which takes place at night and in the early hours of the morning. We are sorry that for some of you this may have changed your usual route, but we hope you will appreciate the benefit to nature and the woodlands. If you do walk in the early morning please ensure you keep dogs on a lead so as not to disturb deer stalking.

If you are interested to know more about the innovative management of Hardwick's woodland, look out for details of the annual woodland walk with our forester Ben Manning, taking place in September.

**Cottages to let.** Unusually Hardwick currently has two cottages to let; 2 The Ridgeway, a first floor two-bedroom flat (£1000pcm), and Leigh Cottage, a 2.5 bedroom cottage with substantial gardens (£1600pcm). The Estate allocates housing based on an application process assessing candidates against their local connections and what they can contribute to the Hardwick vision amongst other things. Please send any expressions of interest to our property manager on [property@hardwickestate.co.uk](mailto:property@hardwickestate.co.uk)

### Upcoming events:

30th April, 7.30pm. **Hardwick Lecture: Building for a Living Planet.** By Oscar Cooper and Will Stanwix. Looking at how natural building materials such as hempcrete, clay, timber and plant fibres can be used in efficient modern buildings to create a built environment that is a gift rather than a burden to future generations. The Packing Shed. RG8 7RB. £5 entry.

2nd May, 9am – 1pm. **Plant Sale!** At Lins Veg Shed (RG8 7RA). Calling all kitchen gardeners, allotment holders and windowsill growers! We will be selling our surplus veg plants including tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers, courgettes, lettuces, celery, parsley, basil, and more vegetables, salads and herbs! Plus hot drinks and pastries from the Organic Coffee Cart.

10th May, 10am – 3pm. **Car Boot Sale** at the Pumphouse. Including bar, BBQ and entertainment. £10/pitch. Email [pumphouse@hardwickestate.co.uk](mailto:pumphouse@hardwickestate.co.uk) or first come first served on the day. The Pumphouse is at Collins End, RG8 7RJ.

31st May, 11am – 4pm. **Strawberry Fayre at the Walled garden.** A Tolhurst Organic open day including all things strawberry including pick your own, workshops, craft stalls, bar, food and kids entertainment. £8 advance or £10 on the gate. Book online at [www.tolhurstorganic.co.uk/events/](http://www.tolhurstorganic.co.uk/events/)

25th June. 7.30pm. **Hardwick Lecture: Pinsk to Pinner.** By George Nowacki. George tells of his four year journey with his mother during WW2, their life in a labour camp in Archangel and stay in a refugee camp near Tehran. The Packing Shed. RG8 7RB. £5 entry.

27th June, 10am – 2pm. **Stockfree Organic for Life and Business.** Farm Tour at Tolhurst Organic. Learn how biodiversity can work within a food producing system, at any scale. Book online at [www.tolhurstorganic.co.uk/events/](http://www.tolhurstorganic.co.uk/events/)

25th July, afternoon. **Hardwick Summer Fete at the Pumphouse.** BBQ, bar, dog show, sports day games, ceilidh and more!

*Miriam Rose  
Transition Lead, Hardwick Estate*

## MEND THE GAP UPDATE:

### Helping Nature Recover around Whitchurch

Mend the Gap is enhancing areas of the Thames corridor that have been negatively impacted by the electrification of the Great Western Railway between Reading and Didcot, in the Chilterns and North Wessex Downs National Landscapes. We've supported several projects in the Whitchurch-on-Thames area in recent months:

**Hardwick Road.** As has been previously updated by the Parish Council, the grass verge restoration works are almost complete. The verge is being reseeded with local native wildflowers

**Thames 21 water quality testing.** In 2024, Mend the Gap supported Thames21 to set up a water quality testing programme, collecting bacterial data in support of the Bathing Water status application, and we are supporting them to implement a new water testing project on the Thames from Wallingford to Caversham for the next two years. The project began in January thanks to an enthusiastic group of volunteers who are testing monthly in specific locations, checking for excess nitrates and phosphates. This will set a baseline and flag any potential problems. Thames21 is the lead organisation along this section of the river and they are also holding events in April and beyond, including supporting the Big River Watch, 24<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> April, across the UK & Ireland [The Big River Watch | The Rivers Trust](#)

**Whitchurch Primary School.** The school had a grant to enhance their outside space for nature and learning and completed their project last autumn. Children attending the school will be enjoying their outside educational facilities again now that spring has arrived, including learning about wildlife in their restored pond.

**Working with local landowners.** In the autumn of 2025 Mend the Gap funded a Farm Facilitator to develop a South Chilterns Farmer Cluster over a 2-year period. This involves the Hardwick Estate and other landowners in the area, working with the facilitator from Future Nature, the consultancy run by the *Berks, Bucks & Oxon Wildlife Trust*. The farmer cluster is facilitating soil carbon testing to explore sustainable solutions to soil management, and has hosted a workshop

from the Owl Conservation Project to understand the needs of owl species in the landscape. The scheme is expanding to include farms across the river into Streatley.

Mend the Gap is also funding the planting of native Black Poplar trees on the Hardwick Estate, and the installation of Owl boxes along the Thames corridor.

**Mitigation works.** Tree and hedge planting has continued throughout the winter in other parts of the Mend the Gap area with approximately 5km of hedging now in place and over 600 individual trees.

You can find out more about all our projects: <https://mendthegap.uk/>

## WHITCHURCH & GORING HEATH HISTORY SOCIETY

We're moving up to Whitchurch Hill for our meeting on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> May. We'll be talking about the Alnut almshouses on Goring Heath and the school there which several members attended. John Baker was Head for many years, and he published several books about the local area.

We meet at 2.30pm and non- members are welcome to join us. In June and July there are outings for members.

*Vicky Jordan*

### OFFICE SPACE AVAILABLE TO LET

Spacious office - over 50 square metres - available from August.  
Unit 4, Enterprise House, 41 Reading Road, Pangbourne RG8 7HY

Located on the first floor in a peaceful yet central part of Pangbourne with two dedicated parking spaces, private entrance, central heating and kitchenette.  
Recently refurbished. Rent and Terms Negotiable.

For more details or to arrange a viewing contact 07775 638611 or 07990 520389

## GORING CHAMBER CHOIR CELEBRATES 75TH ANNIVERSARY WITH AMBITIOUS BAROQUE PROGRAMME

Goring Chamber Choir will mark its 75th anniversary with an exceptional concert at Douai Abbey on Saturday 16th May at 7:30pm, centred on the Magnificat – Mary's own song of joy and thanksgiving.



 **Goring Chamber Choir**

# 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Concert

- ◆ Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> May
- ◆ 7:30pm
- ◆ Douai Abbey

**Magnificat in D major** J.S. Bach      **Magnificat in B $\flat$  major** Durante (attr. Pergolesi)

**Marian motets**  
Classical & contemporary

[tickets@goringchamberchoir.org.uk](mailto:tickets@goringchamberchoir.org.uk)

"Just as the Magnificat is Mary's song of celebration, this concert is our magnificat – our song of gratitude for 75 years of singing together," says musical director Frances Brewitt-Taylor.

The choir tackles Bach's magnificent and powerful *Magnificat* – a major undertaking last performed by the ensemble in 1995. With its highly demanding chorus parts and exquisite orchestral scoring, Bach's masterwork captures everything from explosive joy to tender beauty in Mary's famous canticle.

The celebration continues with the Durante *Magnificat* (formerly attributed to Pergolesi), sharing Bach's joyful atmosphere, and Mozart's charming offertory motet *Alma Dei creatoris*. Taking advantage of Douai Abbey's magnificent acoustic, the choir will also perform six contrasting unaccompanied motets by

Bruckner, Britten, Timothy Bliko, Frank Ferko, John Tavener, and Pierre Villette — each exploring different aspects of Mary's life in an ecstatic range of sound worlds.

"This will be an evening of great vitality, joyfulness and variety," says Brewitt-Taylor. The choir will be accompanied by Oxford's professional baroque orchestra Charivari Agréable, directed by Kah-Ming Ng, and joined by four highly accomplished young soloists.

**Musical Director:** Frances Brewitt-Taylor

**Orchestra:** Charivari Agréable

**Soloists:** Anaïs Manz, Richard Decker, William Searle, Jan-Magnar Gard

**Where:** Douai Abbey, Woolhampton RG7 5TQ

**When:** Saturday 16th May 2026 at 7:30pm

**Tickets:** £20. Under-18s free. Available from [tickets@goringchamberchoir.org.uk](mailto:tickets@goringchamberchoir.org.uk), Inspiration (Goring), Garlands Organic (Pangbourne), from any choir member, or on the door.

<http://www.goringchamberchoir.org.uk/>

## WHITCHURCH HILL FETE

The Whitchurch Hill Fete will be held, as usual, on the Saturday afternoon of the second May Bank Holiday, which means that this year it will be on Saturday 23 May. The Fete is a well organised and popular event, with many stalls and side-shows.

Among the popular stalls is the Bottle Stall, where, while the chances of winning a bottle are good, the chances of having a good pint of ale at the bar are excellent, as once again the bar is run by the White Lion Community Group. Other refreshment may be taken at the Women's Institute Tea Tent, which serves delicious home-made cakes, and of course, tea and soft drinks. The Barbecue, run by Goring Heath Parish Council also serves top quality burgers and hot dogs all afternoon.

Among the other stalls are Granny's Attic, which sells a variety of antiques and

bric and brac at attractive prices, and, for the craftsmen, there is a stall selling refurbished tools of all types.

Jolly music throughout the afternoon is being provided by Maidenhead Silver Band, and for fun and entertainment the Larger-than-Life Circus Group will be running a circus workshop and juggling and stilt walking. The Coconut Shy will be back, as well as other sideshows to test skills of all ages. Swing Boats and a roundabout will again provide amusement for children.

With children's races for all ages, and the afternoon finishing with the traditional egg throwing, the Fete is a great afternoon to be entertained and to greet old friends and to make new friends. Admission is free.

## GAP FESTIVAL 2026: Programme Highlights

Following January's announcement of the 2026 GAP Festival, the full programme has now been unveiled – and it's the most ambitious yet. From 12th–21st June, Goring and Streatley will host more than 65 events inviting audiences to continue their *Journey of Discovery* through music, theatre, science, heritage and hands-on creativity.

Opera lovers can enjoy three performances of Puccini's *La Bohème* (12th–14th June), sung by artists from leading opera houses in the atmospheric setting of Streatley Farmhouse. Families are in for a treat on Saturday 13th June with *Wonders of the Natural World*, a full day of free and ticketed activities featuring The Royal Institution, Beale Park, The Living Rainforest, OrbAstro and the University of Reading.



The literary and spoken-word programme includes an evening with Stephen Briggs, renowned for adapting Terry Pratchett's Discworld novels for the stage (15th June), and a new one-woman play from On A Role exploring the extraordinary life of Enid Blyton (19th June), while architectural historian Jonathan Foyle brings the story of Canterbury Cathedral vividly to life (17th June). Music fans can look forward to a wide variety of performances throughout the festival including singer-songwriter George Montague, who will be joined by local favourites The Moonseeds (19th June) and the rich harmonies and playful instrumentation of The Three Idle Women (16th June).

Across the ten days, the festival also offers art workshops, early-morning well-being sessions, special interest talks, children's activities and a lively series of concerts showcasing local talent.

Tickets are now on sale and many events are already filling up. To browse the full programme and book, visit [www.thegapfestival.org/events](http://www.thegapfestival.org/events).



## THE PARISH OF WHITCHURCH ON THAMES, OXFORDSHIRE

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

<b>WHITCHURCH ON THAMES PARISH COUNCIL</b>			
Chair	Jim Donahue	cllrdonahue.whitchurchonthames@gmail.com	07557 668601
V/Chair	Diana Smith	cllrsmith.whitchurchonthames@gmail.com	
	Katherine Higley	cllrhigley.whitchurchonthames@gmail.com	
	Paul O'Grady	cllrogrady.whitchurchonthames@gmail.com	
	Debbie Leach	cllrleach.whitchurchonthames@gmail.com	
	Romilly Swann	cllrswann.whitchurchonthames@gmail.com	
	Bernarde Hyde	cllrhyde.whitchurchonthames@gmail.com	
Clerk	Brian Inglis	parishclerk.whitchurchonthames@gmail.com	07737 982907

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

<b>OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL</b>			
<b>County Hall, Oxford, OX1 1ND, <a href="http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk">www.oxfordshire.gov.uk</a></b>			
Councillor	Maggie Filipova-Rivers	maggie.filipova-rivers@oxfordshire.gov.uk	01865 792422

<b>WHITCHURCH ON THAMES VILLAGE WEBSITE</b>			
<b><a href="http://www.whitchurchonthames.com">www.whitchurchonthames.com</a></b>			
News Editor	Julie Huntington	hunters.87@outlook.com	0118 9843682

<b>PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL</b>			
<b>St Mary's Whitchurch and St John's Whitchurch Hill</b>			
Contact			0118 9765905

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

<b>WHITCHURCH PRIMARY SCHOOL</b>			
<b>Eastfield Lane, Whitchurch on Thames, RG8 7EJ</b>			
Head Teacher		Dawn Chesters	0118 9842347
Head of Parent Association		Rachael Kelly	
Chair of School Governors		Eleanor Sugrue	

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

<b>WHITCHURCH AND DISTRICT ALLOTMENT SOCIETY</b>			
Chair	John Coupland	jvcoupland@yahoo.co.uk	07397 778872

<b>WHITCHURCH TWINNING ASSOCIATION</b>			
Chair	Wendy Ferguson	wendyefergie@gmail.com	0118 9841262

<b>WHITCHURCH SOCIETY</b>			
Chair	John Bradon	john@bradon.co.uk	0118 9841574

<b>WHITCHURCH BRIDGE CLUB</b>			
Enquiries	Phillipa Turner		01491 875648

<b>WHITCHURCH AND GORING HEATH HISTORY SOCIETY</b>			
Contact	Vicky Jordan	Little Langtree, Whitchurch Hill, RG8 7PU	0118 9843260

<b>WHITCHURCH CRICKET CLUB</b>			
Sec	Cormac Neeson	cormac.neeson@gmail.com	0118 9843347

<b>PANGBOURNE AND DISTRICT BOWLS CLUB</b>			
Recreation Ground, Thames Avenue, Pangbourne			
Contact	Alan Copeland	14 Wayside Green, Woodcote RG8 0QJ	01491 681471

<b>PANGBOURNE AND DISTRICT TENNIS CLUB</b>			
Recreation Ground, Thames Avenue, Pangbourne			
Chair	Louise Shearer		0118 9842934
Sec	Amanda Holland		07814 369566

<b>WHITCHURCH ON THAMES HABITAT STUDY GROUP (WoTHabs)</b>			
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

<b>VILLAGE HALL</b>			
Hall Manager	Richard Scearce	38 Manor Road, Whitchurch on Thames, RG8 7EU	0118 9842004
Events Mgr	Jean-Marc Grosfort		07881 312233

<b>OLD STABLES ROOM</b>			
High Street			
Contact	Geoff Weir	oldstablesbookings@btinternet.com	

<b>GORING HEATH GUIDE AND SCOUT GROUP</b>			
Contact	Doreen Pechey	doreen@pechey.org ( <i>Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Brownies, Guides</i> )	01491 681236

<b>PANG VALLEY SCOUT GROUP</b>			
The Barn, Purley on Thames			
Contact	Ian Shenton	ishenton@ntlworld.com ( <i>Beavers, Cubs, Scouts</i> )	0118 9678769

<b>PANGBOURNE AND DISTRICT VOLUNTEER CENTRE</b>			
Committee Room, Pangbourne Village Hall			
		Open 09:30 – 11:30am Mon-Friday	0118 9844586

<b>AFC WHITCHURCH FC (ages 5-16)</b>			
Chair	Alex Hilton	hiltsi23@hotmail.com or afcwhitchurch@yahoo.co.uk	

<b>THAMES VALLEY POLICE</b>			
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

<b>PANGBOURNE LIBRARY</b>			
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 10:00-14:00	

<b>ST MARY'S CHURCH</b>			
Contact		For Baptisms, Weddings or Funerals	0118 9765905

<b>THE FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S AND ST JOHN'S</b>			
Chair	Sarah Dragonetti		
Secretary	Sally Woolhouse	whitchurchfriends@gmail.com	

<b>PANGBOURNE BOATHOUSE SURGERY</b>			
Whitchurch Road, Pangbourne, RG8 7DP			
Routine health conditions		Mon to Fri, 08:00–18:30 excl Weds 07:30-18:30	0118 9842234
Urgent unplanned conditions			NHS 111
Life-threatening emergencies			999

<b>WHITCHURCH ON THAMES BULLETIN</b>			
Editorial Team	Richard Williams	rwilliamsafcw@btinternet.com	07810 374280
Editorial Team	Tim Hardwick		
	<i>Deadline for Articles</i>	<i>Planned distribution</i>	
Summer 2026	10th July	24th July	
Autumn 2026	11th Sept	25th Sept	

# Cedar Lodge

## Your Way, Every Day

*At Cedar Lodge Care Home a part of EQ Care Group located in Whitchurch-on-Thames you'll discover a true haven where everyone feels comfortable, secure, and valued. The home is rich in character, blending the charm of the original building complete with beautiful stained-glass features with stylish modern touches.*

Cedar Lodge offers spacious en-suite bedrooms, along with elegant lounges and dining areas that combine luxury with a cosy, welcoming atmosphere perfect for spending time with friends or enjoying a quiet moment.

Beyond these spaces, the people living here can enjoy a fully equipped hair salon, a serene therapy room, and a sensory garden filled with mature trees and peaceful nature walks all thoughtfully designed to promote relaxation and wellbeing.

## Personalised care, tailored to you

We're registered with the Care Quality Commission (CQC) to provide "Personal Care with Nursing" – a specialised service designed for individuals who are unable to meet their personal care needs due to age, illness, or disability. This care is delivered in the comfort of their own living space, creating a homely, familiar environment.

## About EQ Care Group

EQ Care Group is committed to providing high-quality, heart-centred support to older individuals. With a focus on innovation, emotional intelligence, and community engagement, we create homes where people who live here can thrive.

Our core values of 'Your Way, Every Day', is borne out in the homes which we operate, enabling people to live life to the full, whether that is a desire to go to a trampoline park, have swimming lessons, or have your ears pierced at the age of 84 – we support you to make these and other dreams happen!

Welcome to  
Cedar Lodge!

Come & visit us!



## Join Us

For more information about Cedar Lodge or on the care support we offer, please contact us.

Tel: (+44) 0118 324 1411 | [www.eqcare.org/cedar-lodge](http://www.eqcare.org/cedar-lodge) | [julia.berry@eqcare.org](mailto:julia.berry@eqcare.org)



*Did you know...*

# We have SIX MOT Testers



We have six MOT testers on-site to serve our customers.

Call us today to book your MOT test.



Will, Graham, Simon, Reece, Rob and Simon (left-right) are all part of our valued team

**Email:** [enquiries@prmotors.biz](mailto:enquiries@prmotors.biz) **Web:** [prmotors.biz](http://prmotors.biz)  
**Tel:** **0118 984 4889**  

Opening times: **Mon-Fri: 7:30am - 5:30pm**