



WHITCHURCH BULLETIN

SUMMER
2022

THE PARISH OF WHITCHURCH ON THAMES, OXFORDSHIRE

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

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

SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL			
135 Eastern Ave, Milton Park estate, Milton, Abingdon, OX14 4SB, www.southoxon.gov.uk			
Councillor	Peter Dragonetti	Covert Cottage, Hill Bottom	0118 9844711

OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL			
County Hall, Oxford, OX1 1ND, www.oxfordshire.gov.uk			
Councillor	Kevin Bulmer	35 Springhill Road, Goring on Thames, RG8 0BY	07526 743091

WHITCHURCH ON THAMES VILLAGE WEBSITE			
www.whitchurchonthames.com			
News Editor	Richard Wingfield	rmwingfield@btinternet.com	0118 9843682

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

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

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

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

Front Cover photo courtesy of Richard Williams:
Thames Path between Whitchurch and Goring on a summer afternoon

WHITCHURCH TWINNING ASSOCIATION

Chair	Vicky Jordan	Little Langtree, Whitchurch Hill, RG8 7PU	0118 9843260
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WHITCHURCH SOCIETY

Chair	Laura Lucas	laura.c.lucas@hotmail.co.uk	
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WHITCHURCH BRIDGE CLUB

Enquiries	Phillipa Turner		01491 875648
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WHITCHURCH AND GORING HEATH HISTORY SOCIETY

Contact	Sue Matthews	3 Eastfield Ln, Whitchurch on Thames, RG8 7PG	0118 9844489
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WHITCHURCH THEATRE CLUB

Contact	Chris Martin	Sonia, Goring Heath Road, Whitchurch Hill, RG8 7PG	0118 9844252
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WHITCHURCH CRICKET CLUB

Sec	Cormac Neeson	cormac.neeson@gmail.com	0118 9843347
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PANGBOURNE AND DISTRICT BOWLS CLUB

Recreation Ground, Thames Avenue, Pangbourne

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

Recreation Ground, Thames Avenue, Pangbourne

Chair	Louise Shearer		0118 9842934
Sec	Amanda Holland		07814 369566

WHITCHURCH ON THAMES HABITAT STUDY GROUP (WotHabs)

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

VILLAGE HALL

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

OLD STABLES ROOM

High Street

Contact	Sue Matthews		0118 9844489
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WHITCHURCH HILL CAMERA CLUB

Meetings: Whitchurch on Thames Village Hall, every Weds at 8pm Sept - June

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

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

The Barn, Purley on Thames

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

Committee Room, Pangbourne Village Hall

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

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

Wallingford Police Station, Wallingford, OX10 9DW

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

PANGBOURNE LIBRARY

Reading Road, Pangbourne, RG8 7LY

			0118 9844117
Monday 14:00-17:00	Tuesday 10:30-19:00	Wednesday 14:00-17:00	
Thursday 9:30-12:30	Friday 10:30-17:00	Saturday 9:30-12:30	

ST MARY'S CHURCH

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

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

PANGBOURNE BOATHOUSE SURGERY

Whitchurch Road, Pangbourne, RG8 7DP

Routine health conditions	Mon to Sat, 08:00-18:30 (ex Weds 07:30-18:30)	984 2234
Urgent unplanned conditions		NHS 111
Life-threatening emergencies		999

WHITCHURCH ON THAMES BULLETIN

Editor	Richard Williams	rlwilliamsafcw@btinternet.com	07810 374280
	<i>Deadline for Articles</i>	<i>Planned distribution</i>	
Autumn 2022	15th October	29th October	
Winter 2023	15th January	29th January	
Spring 2023	15th April	29th January	

CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE – JULY 2022

This issue of the Bulletin has an improved layout and paper quality thanks to our new printer, Herald Graphics of Reading, who also handle the Pangbourne Magazine and other local newsletters. As with Pangbourne Magazine, they will be helping us to attract advertisers in the future to provide local information and defray costs. We are also welcoming a contribution from Hardwick Estate in this edition who plan to contribute articles going forward.

The Parish Council would also like to encourage all residents to consider making contributions of locally relevant articles to the Bulletin. You may remember that we have previously had articles on the history of the area and a Pet's Corner column. Any creative ideas are welcome! Please contact editor Richard Williams at if you are interested in providing an article in the future.

Emergency Planning Leaflet – The leaflet inserted with this edition of the Bulletin is to help residents plan for possible emergencies in the village. The Village Emergency Team agreed that this leaflet would aid in emergency preparation as part of the village's Community Emergency Plan. Thanks to John Bradon for preparing this leaflet along with Richard Wingfield and other members of the team. Thanks also to Kate Preston for designing the layout. The leaflet provides a link to a much longer booklet called "Are You Ready?" created by experts from the Fire Brigade, Gas, Electricity companies and other organisations with experience of responding to emergencies. It is, of course, completely your decision on what preparations you make but we hope the leaflet provides a simple checklist.

I think it is worth recounting some of the wonderful community events that we were able to enjoy recently face-to-face for the first time since 2019. These are things that we may have taken for granted in the past, but seemed all the more special after such a long gap:

- **Annual Parish Assembly** – held on 26th May in the village hall was well attended. I would encourage those interested in learning what activities are available in the community to have a read of the minutes posted on the web-site. There is quite a lot happening!
- **Whitchurch Award** – At the Annual Assembly, I was pleased to present Gill Williamson with the well-deserved annual award. Most people will be aware that Gill was the driving force behind the Saturday morning Art

Café. Gill's hard work and dedication to this community meeting provides a regular warm and welcome place for many of our residents to meet and has raised over £60,000 for local charities. Whilst she has now stepped down from her Art Café role, Gill still leads the Crafty Knit and Stitch Group, which recently developed Jubilee bunting for the bridge, and also leads the British Legion poppy fundraising appeal in the village.

- **Beacon Lighting for the Queen's Jubilee** – The Green Team, led by Charles Cotgreave, organised beacon lighting above Chalkhills Farm on the evening of Thursday 2nd June overlooking the Village Green on a lovely atmospheric evening just before 10pm. The sense of occasion was heightened by Alistair Dunstan's piping the royal jubilee fanfare!
- **Queen's Jubilee Tea** – The tea on the Village Green to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee on the Village Green on Sunday 5th, was a huge success and wonderful opportunity to catch up with friends and neighbours. The Roy Bailey Big Band featuring resident Leslie Maynerd provided a festive atmosphere. Thanks to our Clerk Jane Yamamoto for organising this overall and Nicola Armstrong for leading the involvement of the School, Cormac Neeson for arranging access to power from the Cricket Pavilion, and Rev James and Debbie Leach from the Church. Thanks to many more are due including everyone who brought cake and biscuits! One comment that we received many times was astonishment that all the cakes were all available for free – how times have changed!
- **Open Gardens Walk** – Well done to the Whitchurch Society for organising this on a lovely Sunday afternoon! So many lovely homes involved finishing with tea hosted by the Parkes at Little House.
- **School Sports Day** – We also received positive feedback for this event making use of the Village Green and Cricket Pavilion.

Other matters that the Parish Council has been addressing include:

20mph is the new village speed limit! – You will have seen the new 20mph speed limit signs that went into place as of 13th May after many years of seeking this change. The Parish Council gathered with County Councillor Kevin Bulmer and members of TAPWG, past and present, to celebrate the change. Once people have had a chance to adjust to the change, TAPWG plans to initiate speedwatch monitoring to gauge its effectiveness.

Further traffic calming measures are likely to be in certain areas but we hope the new speed limit will improve safety for pedestrians and cyclists in the village.



Toll Bridge Access Road Working Group – Pangbourne Parish Council has passed a motion at the request of the Whitchurch Parish Council to support a Cross-River Working Group with the aim of achieving long sought pedestrian safety improvements to the narrow pavement and access road on the Pangbourne side of the toll bridge. West Berkshire Council highways engineers have recently reviewed the 2016 options report, prepared by Peter Brett Associates, that was commissioned by the previous owners of the Toll Bridge and West Berks are seeking internal funding for a follow-on consultation to detail the costs and recommend an option to proceed with. Whilst tangible results from this effort are unlikely to be seen for some time, Cllr Frances Parkes has initiated work to gather data to quantify the risks to pedestrian safety. Along with other WG members from Pangbourne, they have determined that in a typical week, there are roughly 1,000 adult pedestrian crossings, 200 child crossings and 100 buggy crossings during peak periods. These are split fairly evenly between those going to Pangbourne and those

going to Whitchurch, highlighting the importance of this work. They are also trying to document pedestrian safety incidents. If you know of a safety related incident, please report it to Frances at CLlrparkes.whitchurchonthames@gmail.com.

Bollards on High Street – You may have noticed the new white bollards designed to protect the grass verge on the east side of the High Street. Since their installation, we discovered that the placement of some of them hindered access to Walliscote Farm for certain vehicles during hay harvesting season. We are now working to make a small number of the bollards more easily removable to address this issue.

Pedestrian Safety at the Lower Narrows – the pavement in front of the Ferryboat has been a priority area for pedestrian safety improvements for quite some time. You are probably aware that OCC had planned to install bollards to protect pedestrians there due to the lack of a raised kerb. Unfortunately, use of bollards is no longer considered practical due to their discovery of high voltage power cables directly beneath where the bollards were planned.

Whilst we have not completely given up on pedestrian safety improvements, OCC now believes that we have now exhausted the options available at that location. The physical limits of the lower narrows present certain inherent risks and the current solution may be the best option in an imperfect stretch of road. In addition to bollards, at last five other options were investigated but don't appear to be viable:

1. Raised pavement was too difficult due to lack of highway width, complications with drainage, the need to access land owned by the pub and tripping hazards outside the pub.
2. Rumble strips were considered noisy and not appropriate for residential neighbourhoods.
3. The trial of giving right of way for traffic going from south concluded that this would exacerbate tensions for drivers in a situation that is already often tense. This would result in a worse situation than the current dual Give Way set-up.
4. A two or three-way stop light is an option, but the costs are prohibitive and it is unlikely to be seen as appropriate in the village conservation area.

5. We recently escalated the situation to our County Councillor Kevin Bulmer – he raised a suggestion that we look at putting *heave planters* there to protect pedestrians. Whilst this option should be given further consideration, OCC's initial view is that there is not sufficient space for the type of planters that would be required.

Given where we are, there are at least two recent actions that will help to improve the pedestrian safety along that stretch of road:

- The new 20 mph speed limit will increase safety to some degree
- The recently resurfaced road and repainted white lines make the virtual pavement clearer for both drivers and pedestrians. We need to ensure it is repainted as required.

Re-establishment of Manor Road Yew Trees – The Parish Council approved plans to re-establish the historic row of Yew Trees on the south side of Manor Road that formed the entrance to Coombe Park. The change will likely happen in the September timeframe and involve removal of approximately 18 mostly Sycamore trees and Laurel undergrowth, being replaced with a row of young yew trees to match the opposite side of the road. Please contact Cllr Higley with any comments or questions.

Muddy Lane – The Parish Council, working with Charles Cotgreave and Neil Huntington of the Green Team, has approved plans to make surface improvements to make Muddy Lane a little less muddy. The Parish Council has received a grant from County Cllr Bulmer to cover nearly all of the improvements. Despite it being relatively dry at the moment, the muddy surface during winter months is something that particularly affects parents on the school run. Whilst we don't have a date for its implementation, we certainly expect it to be completed ahead of the wetter Autumn weather. The improvements will not significantly change the appearance of the lane and there will still be a need to clear it of leaves once a year to avoid future build-up of mud.

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

QUARTERLY PLANNING UPDATE FOR WOT PC – JULY 15, 2022

Planning Reference	Address	Comments by WOT PC	SODC status
P22/S1324/FUL	Coombe Park, Coombe Park Road, Whitchurch-on-Thames RG8 7QT	The Council voted to object to this application and request that the Conservation Officer thoroughly assess the current building to determine its historical and architectural value. The Council also equests that the District Council determine and consider the environmental impact of renovation versus demolition and re-build due to the scale of this project.	<i>CONSULTATION PERIOD</i>
P22/S1321/HH	House-on-the-Hill, Hardwick Road, Whitchurch-on-Thames RG8 7HW	The Council voted to support this application on the basis that the owner resolves the east neighbour's issue with any building plans overlooking their property.	<i>GRANTED</i>
P22/S1942/HH	4 Swanston Field, Whitchurch-on-Thames RG8 7HP	The Council voted to support this application.	<i>GRANTED</i>
P22/S1689/FUL	Eastfield House, Eastfield Lane, Whitchurch-on-Thames RG8 7EJ	The Council voted to object to this application as it believes the changes proposed are too great to be considered as change of conditions within existing approval. There are also additional dormer windows and relocation of a plant room impacting neighbouring properties. Finally, there remains a great concern about the size of the development in the Conservation Area and under the provision of parking spaces which is highly likely to cause parking and congestion on this narrow lane.	<i>APPLICATION UNDER CONSIDERATION</i>
P22/S2081/HH	39 Manor Road Whitchurch-on-Thames RG8 7HP	The Council voted to support this application.	<i>APPLICATION UNDER CONSIDERATION</i>

P22/S2247/HH	23 Swanston Field Whitchurch-on-Thames RG8 7HP	The Council voted to support this application.	<i>APPLICATION UNDER CONSIDERATION</i>
P22/S2392/LDE	Foxglove Manor, Whitchurch Hill, RG8 7NT	The Council had no comment ¹	<i>CONSULTATION PERIOD</i>
P22/S1246/HH	The Little House, High Street, Whitchurch-on-Thames RG8 7EX	The Council voted to support this application.	<i>APPLICATION UNDER CONSIDERATION</i>
P22/S2453/LDP	Chalkhills, Hardwick Road, Whitchurch-on-Thames RG8 7QS	The Council had no comment ¹	<i>CONSULTATION PERIOD</i>

¹ This is an application for a "lawful development certificate" that the PC don't need to comment on.

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S COMMENTS

South Oxfordshire District Council interferes very little with most of our lives, as good councils and governments should, although we all benefit from the bins being collected every week, a regular unsung service that, bar things like last year's problems and the other occasional hiccup, operates pretty smoothly. Planning is the other big function of SODC that can affect us, and while Whitchurch is not likely to have substantial amounts of development thrust upon it, there is a steady trickle of planning applications that are considered by the Parish Council and decided upon by the District Council. Only if the applications are difficult do they come before the District Council Planning Committee and that will be because either the Parish Council, or myself, have made that request. The other aspect of planning is enforcement, which is a much more difficult area where unlawful development has taken place either through ignorance or deliberately.

Over the past few days, I have been aware of the "goings on" at the Walled Garden House; new owners have been doing things that have caused great concern. The Planning Enforcement team at SODC can only act where there is "development" and that can be quite difficult to assess as not all change is

development and may not require planning consent. However, in a conservation area like the centre of Whitchurch and where watercourses are involved, the planning issues are more complex. I am very grateful that the Parish Council and other local residents took on the case, and that the officers at SODC did recognise that there were serious issues there. Recently, SODC has rearranged the procedures for handling planning complaints and although some people are reported as being hard done by, the reality is that one's neighbours have rights to do things in their own property that one may not like, but which are legally permitted.

One of the issues that has determined how planning applications for new houses are considered is what is called the five-year land supply, which is a very complicated way of establishing whether the policies in the Local Plan are applicable in determining planning permission. Part of this calculation is the Housing Delivery Test, an annual measurement of housing delivery, ie the number of homes built. The Housing Delivery Test works by comparing the net homes delivered over the past three years to the homes required over the same period. Of course, the Council does not actually build the homes, it can only grant planning permission. It can happen that developers can get planning permission for homes and then not build them, which then triggers a failure of Housing Delivery Test. The recent announcement that the five-year Land supply test is to be scrapped is good news and will relieve some pressure on SODC, although, as always, the devil is in the detail which has yet to be revealed.

To escape the shackles of a five-year land supply test, we are already preparing a new Local Plan, this time jointly with the Vale of White Horse District Council, with whom we share offices and officers. While the most contested part of the current local plan was the so-called strategic sites, a lot of the rest of the 350 odd pages of the current plan contains policies and guidance on issues such as design, air quality, landscape conservation areas etc which can be equally applicable to either District, so it makes sense to have a common approach. By having a joint local plan, there are significant savings in the use of the time and costs of our in-house planning teams, the use of necessary external consultants and the cost of consultation and, in due course, examination.

Peter Dragonetti (peter.dragonetti@southoxon.gov.uk)
SODC Councillor for Whitchurch on Thames

WHITCHURCH PRE-SCHOOL

About us

Whitchurch Pre-School is a thriving pre-school located within the grounds of Whitchurch Primary School in Whitchurch-on-Thames. Our team of experienced staff is committed to providing a secure and caring environment where children can learn and develop at their own pace within a happy atmosphere. We recognise that all children have differing needs and abilities and we ensure that we respond and adapt to each child.



We enjoy beautiful natural surroundings, with the idyllic backdrop of the Chiltern Hills and alpaca farm. We have a large, safe and enclosed garden with fantastic play equipment and covered areas, a generous sandpit, mud kitchens and water trays. Our pre-school classroom was completely refurbished in 2021, complete with a beautiful wooden book den and home corner. We also benefit from our own additional outdoor and nature learning area close to pre-school.

We follow the early years curriculum and the children experience an exciting range of fun activities rotated across the week, no matter what sessions and days they attend. Our activities include dancing and games, music, arts and craft, baking and food, and early years science including making fizzy volcanoes, hands-on learning about bubbles, and planting our own seeds and growing plants. All of this makes our pre-school a really special place for our little people to grow and learn.

How to register and join us

We run Monday-Friday during term time, from 8.45-3.15 with an early drop-off option at 8.30am.

We offer free places for 3 and 4 year-olds (funded by the government) for 15 or up to 30 hours per week during term time.

Limited places are still available for the Autumn term, starting in September 2022, but sessions are filling up fast. We recommend getting in touch as soon as possible to register your interest.

CONTACT

hello@whitchurchpreschool.org 0118 984 4516 www.whitchurchpreschool.org

How to support us

As a small local setting, run as a registered charity, and with the ever-increasing gap between costs and funding for early years places, our fundraising is essential to providing the activities and facilities that are so important for pre-schoolers. This year we are raising money for a new outdoor climbing frame.

3 FREE and EASY ways to support us:

- Become a Co-Op Member and select Whitchurch-on-Thames Pre-School as your local community cause. For every £1 spent 2p will be donated to our cause.
- If you shop with Amazon, go to <https://smile.amazon.co.uk/> and enter Whitchurch On Thames Pre-School as your chosen charity, 0.5% of your order value will be given to Pre-School
- Sign up to easyfundraising.org.uk to support “Whitchurch Pre-School - Whitchurch-on-Thames”. When you use the easyfundraising website or app to shop with retailers like John Lewis, M&S, H&M, the retailer sends us a donation of up to 5%. You can register here (completely free):
https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/whitchurchonthamespresch/?utm_campaign=raise-more&utm_content=w4

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

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

Please also look out for posters for our fundraising events happening in the Autumn Term.

You can find more details on our Facebook page at Whitchurch Preschool.

Thank you for all of your support!

Registered Charity: 1183193

Pippa Ruxton (comms@whitchurchpreschool.org)



WHITCHURCH PRIMARY SCHOOL PARENTS' ASSOCIATION



Firstly, we would like to take a moment to send our heartfelt condolences to Graham Dednum's family and friends. Graham was a huge supporter of the Parents' Association fundraising activities and always brought his charismatic energy to our events. His love of music and community spirit particularly shone through when he would work with the school and the church to put on a magical concert at Christmas. Rest in Peace Graham.

The children at Whitchurch Primary have had a really exciting year so far. The school celebrated the Queen's Jubilee in royal style, with a crown competition and parade followed by a family picnic on the field. Everyone had a lovely time and the sun was shining! The children also drew a picture of the Queen that was turned into bunting to put along the Toll Bridge. It looked beautiful and I'm sure everyone enjoyed seeing it. The children thoroughly enjoyed a day of poetry when they had a workshop with award winning, professional poet Joshua Seigal. He visited each class and really inspired the children to get involved and to write and read more poetry.

The Parents Association has started to host a regular Art Cafe in the Old Stables on the first Saturday morning of every other month. These are always really well attended and it is lovely to engage with other members of the community as well as eat some yummy cake!

Colette Rinaldi

AFC WHITCHURCH FOOTBALL CLUB

This last season (21-22) has seen a welcome return to regular football for all our teams but also reaches a culmination as we say farewell to our two U18 teams who now head off into various adult teams. During the season we have fielded 6 competitive teams U8, U13, U14, U15 and two U18s plus a weekly training programme for our youngest members aged 5-7 that we call our Academy group. This latter group is growing massively so please get your sons and daughters involved. Our training and playing principles for all ages are inclusivity, competitiveness, and fun. We held a wonderful end of season awards event for many of these teams on Saturday 4th June.



The football club has been running for many years and many children have passed through the ranks. For the 22/23 season ahead (starting in September) sadly, as well as our U18 teams, we will be losing last year's U8 and U13 teams due to diminishing numbers and school commitments. However next season's U15s and U16s will continue, as well as our Academy players and we are always looking for new recruits.

Any prospective players or parents should contact us at afcwhitchurch@yahoo.co.uk

Aside of the kids' football, the annual Whitchurch Village versus Whitchurch Hill dad's match was played on Friday 15th July, with standards at an all time high. We are pleased to report that the Village team (see below) were victorious with a 5-1 win. The Park Life Trophy can be admired in the Greyhound pub! We raised £400 from all the players which, with the generosity of Microsoft, will be doubled up to £800 and will be donated to Whitchurch Primary School.

Alex Hilton, Club Chairman, AFC Whitchurch



TAPWG: SPEEDWATCH

To be able to enforce the new 20mph speed limit in the Village, TAPWG would like to create a Speedwatch group for Whitchurch.

Further details on training etc will be given in due course but would anyone, who would like to volunteer in the first instance, register their interest with Linda Gray lindapgray100@gmail.com

HARDWICK HAPPENINGS

As Hardwick Estate makes up a fairly large proportion of the Whitchurch Parish area it has been suggested that we might have a regular space in the Parish newsletter to share the wealth of news and events happening on the Estate!

Perhaps it is worth sharing a bit of background for those who don't frequent our neck of the Parish woods. Hardwick Estate is approximately 900 acres in total, with more than half of this covered by semi-ancient natural woodland - which many of you may enjoy walking through on the Estate's multiple footpaths and permissive paths. There are also 27 tenanted houses, 23 of which are on affordable rents. The Estate's farmland was converted to organic in 1975, the third application in the UK, and it continues to be pioneering in organic agriculture. The main tenant farmers are James Norman - specialising in management of hay-meadows for species diversity and harvesting wildflower seed, as well as producing organic beef and a variety of arable crops - and Iain Tolhurst (Tolhurst Organic Partnership CIC) - a unique and nationally acclaimed stock free organic vegetable farm, which hosts the 24-hour honesty box farm shop Lin's Veg Shed.

A few years ago, the Rose family (Miriam, Lawrence and Julian), who own Hardwick, began a visioning and research process to transition the Estate out of their family's ownership. It is our wish to release future generations from the tie of inherited land (which has been a painful burden to several generations of our family as well as a privilege), to share rights and responsibilities for land with the wider community and to try to secure the Estate's ethos and integrity into the future. After much research we have settled on a Charitable Company as the vehicle to achieve this, heavily inspired by the Scottish community run Estates which now make up 3% of Scotland's land area.

The board of the Charity will be made up of a mix of Rose family, Hardwick community and outside directors with relevant expertise. We are now in the process of working alongside the community at Hardwick (residential and commercial tenants and homeowners) to shape the fine detail of governance and avenues to participation in this novel structure.

The purposes of the Charity will reflect the Estate's vision (combining Rose family and Hardwick Community visioning processes); to manage the land for biodiversity as well as organic produce for local markets, to support the maximum number of sustainable land based livelihoods and artisanal craftspeople, and to look after the Estate and wider community by providing affordable housing, community events, access to land, education and a model of a thriving land based community.

There are enormous opportunities in this transition for the Estate and the local area including access to funding and the remit to benefit the wider community. There are lots of projects we'd love to pursue including providing more truly affordable eco-housing, renewable energy, more variety of land based businesses and produce which we could sell through a farm shop and cafe, an access to land project working with marginalised groups from in and around Reading, cultural exchanges, talks and events, and meeting the challenges that arise in our, and every community, such as looking after our young and old, and how to live as harmoniously and productively as possible despite our differences.

We see Hardwick as a microcosm of wider society, an 'unintentional community' facing the myriad of environmental and social challenges of our day and meeting them as best we can. Its an exciting experiment and I hope many of you will join us along the way!

Upcoming Events at Hardwick

The monthly Hardwick Lecture Series held at the Tolhurst Organic Packing Shed continues.

28th July - GUARDIANS OF NATURE. Nick Hayes author of *Trespass*, Guy Shrubsole, author of *Who Owns England* and *Lawyers for Nature* will discuss the Right to Roam campaign, and how accessing nature could be our best way of protecting it. *Lawyers for Nature* will outline the growing movement to give nature its own legal rights, taking inspiration from the indigenous

populations across the globe who have done just that. This talk will explore how guardian groups of locals can be formed to protect their own natural resources, through citizen science, litter picking and water pollution sampling.

Please bring donation for *Tolhurst Organic* and to cover costs.

The lecture series will continue with a series of talks on the modern and ancient history of Hardwick Estate on September 29th, October 27th and November 24th.

Tolhurst Organic Farm walk 'Stockfree Organic – for life and for business' with Iain Tolhurst.

17th September 2022. 10 am – 1.30pm. Meet at the veg shed.

Book a place at: <https://www.tolhurstorganic.co.uk/events/>

Squash Festival – The annual squash and pumpkin festival at Tolhurst Organic will take place on 2nd October. Join us for food and produce stalls, bouncy castle, kids games, bar, live music and plenty of squashes!

Miriam Rose (Hardwick Estate Manager)



WHITCHURCH UNITED CHARITIES

The Secretary of Whitchurch United Charities would like to remind all families that the Charity has funds available to help meet the costs associated with educational needs such as books, equipment or educational trips.

Eligible students are young people between the ages of 5 and 25 years and whose permanent residence is within the parish of Whitchurch.

Applications are processed twice a year, with the closing dates being 31st March and 30th September. However, late applications are considered if the available funds for the previous six month period have not been fully allocated.

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

If you would like to know more, please do contact Sarah Dixon (our Grant Application Secretary). Contact details: telephone: 0118 984 4262, address: Flint House, Hardwick Road, Whitchurch on Thames, RG8 7HH or e-mail – whitchchurchunitedcharities@gmail.com

WHITCHURCH HILL WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Maybe you are new to Whitchurch on Thames. Maybe your circumstances have recently changed and you are looking for a new interest in life. Either way your local WI may be just the ticket.



We are a group of just under thirty members. Participants come from Whitchurch, Whitchurch on Hill, Purley, Goring, and locations in between. Contrary to popular belief we do not spend all our time involved in arts and crafts though some of our members do particularly enjoy those activities. For others the camaraderie comes first, for others the many and varied speakers who address us on a regular basis is a great positive. In addition to monthly get togethers we arrange social trips out. These regularly include visits to local places of interest, as well as walks and lunches.

Most people have heard of the WI and know it is a national organisation. Whilst we do join with other groups from time to time for specific events our

main focus is on those in our own group, trying to deliver a programme of activities that everyone can participate in.

We meet for a couple of hours on the third Tuesday of the month at Goring Heath Parish Hall, from 10am. You would be welcome to come along as a guest at any time to learn more.

In September (20th) we are holding a special welcome morning for anyone wanting to try us out. If you already know someone who attends you could come along with them. If you don't just give Frances a ring on 01189 842162 and be assured you will be well looked after. We look forward to meeting you.

Sally Bergmann, Secretary

AUTUMN VILLAGE SHOW

Whilst no-one wants to wish the summer away the Autumn edition of the Goring Heath and Whitchurch Show will be here before we know it. To be precise it is taking place on 10 September in Goring Heath Village Hall.

Spring flowers will be replaced by late summer vegetables, whilst hedgerow plants will enhance the floral arrangements.

For the photographers amongst you we will be welcoming entries in the following categories:

- Photo showing five of the same object
- Reflections
- Wildlife

Art categories this time around are:

- Still Life
- View from a Window
- Autumn Leaves

If handicraft is more your thing then you might like:

- An item of Cross Stitch
- Something made of wood, not exceeding 24",
- A birthday card

Flower Arrangements will be:

- Hedgerow arrangement not exceeding 16"
- Autumn colours in a tea pot
- Egg cup miniature arrangement not exceeding 4 inches

For those under twelve in our community, we are inviting the following entries:

- Vegetable monster
- Friendship bracelet
- Iced Fairy Cakes (4 in number).

For the young at heart who love baking or jam making there is something for you too:

- Victoria Sandwich (with red jam) sprinkled with sugar on top
- Carrot cake - recipe to be supplied
- Ginger biscuits
- 1lb jar of fruit jam
- Jar of fruit jelly
- Jar of Chutney (any flavour)

Schedules will be available nearer the time of course but if you want to enter and can't locate the full details, please don't hesitate to contact one of the committee.

Liz Gibson 01189 842012

Betty Butler 01491 681780 or 07955 182684

Sally Bergmann 07585 195669

LITTER BUG DETECTIVES TRAIL

From **Saturday 6 August** to **Sunday 4 September 2022** South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse district councils are running free Litter Bug Detectives Trails for children. The children who take part have a chance to win £20 vouchers for themselves and a rainbow-coloured bench - made from recycled plastic - for their school.

The activities are aimed at primary school children (under-12s) to promote recycling and reuse messages and explaining the damage litter does to our environment.

One of the trails will be in Whitchurch on Thames. The other sites are listed on the website along with full Terms and Conditions.

Each child, who sends in the correct answer, can request a personalised Litter Bug Detectives certificate.

How to take part:

1. Go to the webpage www.southoxon.gov.uk/litter-bug-detectives-trail and download the trail map for the area to visit. The map will show a trail for 14 sites.
2. At each site there will be a question on the themes of waste and recycling. The 14 answers will each provide a letter to make three words.
3. Email the three-word answer and your name and address to waste.team@southandvale.gov.uk before **midnight on 11 September** and the team will send you a Litter Bug Detective Certificate and enter you for the prize draw.

Kitty Higley, Parish Councillor

THE GREEN TEAM

Since the last Bulletin, twenty-two working parties have been held and people throughout the village have, often unasked, helped with various tasks. Some key points are indicated below:

- **List of Green Spaces.** We are lucky to have many green spaces in the village; our primary goal is to care for these. The list can be found on our website page: <https://whitchurchonthames.com/groups/greenteam.html>. Photos of the team at work appear in the Pictures section of the website.
- **Bell entrance to Walliscote House Drive.** In mid-May, a small working party weeded the flower beds and the surrounding area and oiled the memorial bench.
- **The Cut.** Railings at either end were repainted.

- **Jubilee Beacon.** The beacon was lit on the evening of 2nd June. Residents gathering on the village green were able to enjoy the spectacle. A report, with pictures, appeared in the Henley Standard. Many thanks to Sandra Parkinson for letting us use a prominent position on her land and to all who helped build and manage the beacon.
- **Litter-Bug Detective Trail.** Members of the team devised the route and are helping to promote it.
- **Village Green and the Maze.** We have regular working parties maintaining these areas. At the maze we work together with WoTHABS to edge and maintain the central area. At the green we have continued to clear invasive plants and unwanted saplings, removing ivy and superfluous growth from several tree trunks. It was pleasing to see an orchid appear amidst the long grass. We planted a second flower bed at the car park, and cleared debris from the east end of the beech hedge, including fallen elm and dead ivy.
- **Polish Church Garden Project.** Details and latest updates can be found here: <https://whitchurchonthames.com/groups/polishgarden.html>. Together with WoTHABS we cut down suckering elms, and planted saplings for the heritage orchard. We mowed the paths and the picnic bench surrounds, and established a mowing schedule with the village contractors. We installed new plants, and dug and planted new beds alongside the steps up to the chapel platform. Regular watering has become essential with the onset of hot dry weather. An official opening is planned for mid August (see below).

We welcome all who would like to help with Green Team work. Our working parties last from an hour up to two or three, but you don't have to stay for the duration. In (say) half an hour or an hour you can still make a worthwhile contribution. If you would like to know more or have a suggestion for work we might undertake, please contact me (details on the website).

A provisional working-party schedule for the next three months follows - you can always find the up-to-date version in the village website What's On section

26 July (Tue)	10am Polish Garden maintenance
5th Aug (Fri), 3rd Sep, 1 Oct	10am Maze
30th July, 27 Aug, 24 Sep	10am Village Green

Charles Cotgreave
Charles_cotgreave@yahoo.co.uk

THE POLISH MEMORIAL GARDEN (OFFICIAL OPENING)

The Polish Memorial Garden has been established on the former site of the Polish Chapel. The chapel served the mostly Polish Catholic community, who lived in what was then called Coombe Park Camp (now Manor Road).

The garden will be officially opened on **Sunday 14th August at 2pm.**

Everyone in the village is very welcome to attend the opening. If you are a former resident of one of the huts, or know of anyone who was, please tell them about the event.

Light refreshments will be provided and will be available in the village hall after the event.

For further details, please follow the Whitchurch on Thames website or contact the Guardian of the site, on 01189 841234 or email annaponek@btinternet.com.

Sally Woolhouse

WHITCHURCH ART & CRAFT EXHIBITION 2022

The *Whitchurch Society* are very pleased to be holding this popular annual event in the Whitchurch Village Hall, on the weekend of **12 – 13th November**. It will take place in the traditional 'live' format in the Hall, but the exhibition will continue to be available to visit online for the following two weeks.

This year's theme for the Joyce Voysey prize is '**Speed**'. You are encouraged to start thinking about how you might produce a piece of art, craft or a photo interpreting this interesting subject! Of course, please remember that your entries for all the main classes (Art, Craft & Photography) can be on any subject whatsoever.

Put the date in your diaries and begin your entries soon – the exhibition is only about 14 weeks away!

All the details about how to enter will be available by the end of September. Keep an eye on the website and for posters around the village.

Sally Woolhouse sally@wotarts.co.uk



Our team just got bigger and has a new specialism

Mark joins us as our 10th technician and
has 8 years experience with BMW Mini...



...so, if your car looks like this,
why take it anywhere else?



Email: enquiries@prmotors.biz Web: prmotors.biz

Tel: **0118 984 4889**



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