

FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

Summer 2018

I am sure that everyone is making the most of this great British summer that we have been blessed with this year and I hope the amazing weather continues.

Even though our Fete is postponed this year, I saw a number of Whitchurch residents at the Whitchurch Hill Fete in May, featuring their infamous egg toss, and the Pangbourne Fete in June. I don't know about you, but for me the dog competition is a highlight. Sarah (a fellow Parish Councillor) and Tim's dog Millie won the coveted top prize! Gill Williamson from the Art Café had a stall for her next project, which will feature Totems on the Pangbourne Meadow. This will happen at the equinox in September. If you haven't made your Terracotta band for the Totem there is still time!

At our June meeting, the Parish Council met with Rachel Grocott, Mel Taylor and Anneliese Kemp who are the organisers of the Whitchurch Pre-School Fete. We agreed with their proposal to move the Fete to the first Bank Holiday Saturday in May from 2019. The reasons for this change are to align the dates better with the school year so that the person organising the Fete will now effectively have a full year to plan, making it a better experience all around. This change also brings the opportunity to expand the Fete going forward. There are discussions of exciting new possibilities such as an evening musical event, and even potentially renaming it into a broader "Festival".

The pre-School parents are also planning a "first" for our village; an Open Air Cinema on the Village Green! This fabulous new event is now pencilled in for Friday the 14th September, so please mark your diary and I am sure we will all look forward to hearing more information.

I was pleased to chair the annual Parish Assembly in May where we had over 30 residents attending to share news about the community activities they are involved in. Our wonderful web-site lists 16 community groups ranging from bell ringers (both tower bell

ringers and hand bell ringing groups) to the Allotments Society to the Flower and Produce shows. This list doesn't include the School, Church, or Football and Cricket clubs that were also in attendance, not to mention the work Graham Dednum of the Ferryboat does at Christmas. We are so lucky to live in a village with such a vibrant community spirit, and I'd like to thank everyone for the great work they are doing, tirelessly organising these activities that help make this a great place to live.

At the Annual Assembly, we received an update from the Bridge Company on their work to address the on going safety issues with the narrow approach road on the Pangbourne side of the bridge. Councillor Hatcher and I subsequently met Geoff Weir to clarify his actions for making this improvement. He confirmed that they have been budgeting for this improvement since the bridge toll increase, but will need the support of the Parish Council and village residents to help with the West Berkshire planning application approval. If you are aware of any safety related incidents on the approach road, you should report them to the Bridge Company so they can use this as part of their application.

I am also pleased to announce that since my election to Parish Council Chairman, John Bradon will now be chairing the Village Plan Steering Committee. John provides an update on the survey results later in the Bulletin, so be sure to read this. There are a number of exciting initiatives coming out of the Village Plan work that we will share in due course, but please be assured that we are aware that the village traffic and parking issues are clearly the number one priority of the residents and the Traffic and Parking Action group (TAPAG) team is making great progress on their work towards recommending solutions.

I look forward to seeing you around and about our beautiful village.

*Yours,
Jim Donahue
July 2018*



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VILLAGE PLAN SURVEY – INITIAL SUMMARY OF RESULTS

The Village Plan committee want to thank the 144 people who have completed the recent survey. Although this is fewer than answered the last survey in 2008, the mix (by age, location, etc.) is the same so we hope it is representative. We will publish all the results on the village website and the four groups working on the village plan will base their proposals on the respondents' views. The following is a quick summary:

- Traffic – particularly parking and pedestrian safety – is of increasing concern. The Traffic and Pavements working group (TAPAG) are working on range of improvements and it is helpful to know that respondents would support both a 20mph speed limit (90% approve) and also parking restrictions to stop commuters parking all day on the high street. Rachel Hatcher is engaging a consultant to help develop a range of plans and the respondents comments identify further issues to consider, such as the safety of children walking to school on Eastfield Lane.
- People are very pleased with the Village Green and Maze and appreciate the opportunities both for Cricket and Football, for unstructured play and for enjoying being outdoors. 90% of people would like the Maze area to remain an area for picnics and for wildlife. 79% did not want to see further development of the Village Green. Of the 21% who did want some development, many suggested facilities for teenagers, however fewer than 3% of respondents wanted big facilities such as a BMX track or skatepark and this points us towards less-intrusive facilities such as a basketball hoop. By the way, the 2 people suggesting Tennis Courts, could perhaps try Pangbourne Tennis Club who currently really need more members. Sadly, only one person wanted an Amphitheatre.
- There is a desire for of better maintenance of the village environment. 60% are concerned about flash flooding and nearly all want a plan to maintain drainage better so as to reduce the

risk. Support for hanging baskets was limited (22% with some comments strongly against) but people want to see verges repaired and more wildflowers and trees planted. Amongst other things, several people suggested having a group that would regularly maintain open spaces and footpaths.

- Additional access to the river was supported, if this can be arranged. There are lots of canoeists and setting up a club was suggested.
- The Parish Council want, in principle, to replace the Cricket pavilion and also improve the Village Hall (partly as the village would not benefit from selling that piece of land). Currently, different groups are developing proposals and investigating potential grant funding. The survey responses will inform the final choices.
- People would like to see improvements to pavements and the highest priority was to make the area outside the Ferryboat safer for pedestrians. Again, the final choice must take the costs into account and we plan to get estimates.

If anyone missed filling in the survey but has suggestions/ input please do email the Parish Council Clerk on parishclerk.whitchurchonthames@gmail.com or speak to me.

John Bradon



Join us on the Village Green for a working party to tidy up the place on Sunday the 22nd July at 9.00 am. We have several different projects so bring some tools, join one of the groups and help make your Village Green a sight to behold.

For further information contact Keith 07952270601.

THE FRIENDS OF ST.MARY'S & ST.JOHN'S

RECENT EVENTS – on 17th June, the Friends organised a 'Discover St Johns' event. This was an open invitation to everyone in the community to explore the inside and the outside of St John's Church at Whitchurch Hill. The church building is not normally open to visit and so this was a chance to see its interesting and elegant interior, largely unchanged since it was built in 1883. The small mortuary building was also opened up for the visitors – it has a beautiful arched ceiling, displaying skilful Victorian craftsmanship.

The event coincided with the national Cherishing Churchyards Week and so The Friends organised an I-Spy nature trail and a Trees ID quiz, to encourage families to explore the large churchyard and enjoy the diversity of flora and fauna. To emphasise the wide variety of plants and animals that can be found there, the results of recent surveys were displayed. Headline figures included 87 plant species, 27 tree species, 17 butterfly species and 34 moth species. Stop and see what you can discover for yourself next time you are passing St Johns! Refreshments were served all afternoon in the Parish Hall and the day was rounded off by a Wine & Cheese Social.

On a practical note, the Friends organised a St.Mary's 'Churchyard work-session' on Saturday 21st April, which was supported by a good team of volunteers. A large amount of debris and prunings etc was produced which was evidence of the hard work that everyone contributed. A similar session is planned to take place at St Johns in September.

FUTURE EVENTS

The Friends continue to host the ArtCafe at the Old Stables on the first Saturday, every other month (July, September, November etc.)

The Friends are also planning a Music Evening at St.Mary's Church for October this year. The actual date is yet to be finalised but it will be notified through a newsletter, Whitchurch website and posters.

The Annual General Meeting will take place in early Autumn when a full update on past /future activities will be discussed. Furthermore, members will be invited to suggest projects and events.

There are vacancies for two additional Trustees of the Friends and if you maybe interested please contact the Friends Chairman (details below).

If you are not already a member of The Friends and are interesting in supporting this very worthwhile local charity, you will find our website under 'Whitchurchfriends' with a link to the membership application form.

To contact the Friends Chairman: Keith Williams Tel: 0118 984 1139,

Richard Williams

rwilliamsafcw@btinternet.com



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PET CORNER

In this issue of Pet Corner we meet Dillon Prater who dictated his message to you via his two legged Father, Leslie Prater. Should you wish your pet to be interviewed or should you like to share your pets thoughts with Whitchurch villagers do not hesitate to contact Clare Donahue at claredonahue17@gmail.com. No pet is too large or small or unusual for our part of the bulletin. Pets are as much a part of our wonderful community as humans and it is lovely for their voices to be heard.



My posh name is Sladbrook Dillon but I am just called Dillon and I am a male labrador, one of a litter of eight, born on the 27th July 2009. I moved to Whitchurch from Goring nearly 5 years ago and my brother Boris, who is smaller than me but much greedier, lives up the hill in Woodcote, so I am able to see him often.

I live on the edge of the village green and every morning, generally very early, I walk with my human dad and

I enjoy exploring the maze where I am sometimes lucky enough to chase a fox or a muntjac. on my way home I like to play with my doggie friends (and if we are later) meet the children on their way to school. most afternoons my human sister comes to take me for another walk and to play tennis (I don't always release the ball).

I like to watch the boys playing football and the men playing cricket and I have so far resisted the temptation to steal their ball. I understand that I am going to sponsor the boy's football shirts.

My sister takes photos of me dressed up in funny things to make a calendar for each month. I sometimes get bored with having to sit for so long whilst she takes the photos. My favourite food is chicken but I have to watch my weight sometimes if I eat too much.

At the village fete, with my dad, we won the prize for the owner who looked most like his (or her) dog. He dressed up in a labrador onesie making a fool of himself and causing me considerable embarrassment. we will both soon be too old to do such silly things.

Hey it's time for walk..... Helen!

Denise Huxtable recently resigned as a parish councillor. The chairman of the parish council today issued this statement:



I'd like to thank Denise Huxtable for her year and a half of work as a Parish Councillor. As a long time resident of the village, Denise added a very thoughtful and insightful voice to Parish Council discussions. She contributed to many areas including relations with the allotments, planning application reviews, and traffic and parking issues. Never one to be outspoken, she was still passionate in her views which were always constructive. We thank her for the contributions she has made to our village.

*Councillor Jim Donahue
Chairman, Whitchurch-on-Thames Parish Council
6 July 2018*

Whitchurch-on-Thames Parish Council



Parish Clerk vacancy

The Parish Council seeks to employ a home-based, part-time parish clerk, working a minimum of 6 hours per week. The successful applicant will have to organise monthly parish council meetings, support parish councillors, maintain accounts and manage the village hall. A full list of responsibilities is available on request.

The applicant must have excellent administration, IT and communication skills. Salary will be in the region of £9.81 - 10.95 per hour (SCP 18-22), although applications will be considered outside this range depending upon suitability for the role.

Please email your CV and a covering letter to the Chair, Cllr. Jim Donahue,
cilrdonahue.whitchurchonthames@gmail.com.

. The closing date for applications is **Friday 17th August 2018**. Interviews will be held in late August/early September.

AFC WHITCHURCH FOOTBALL CLUB

AFC Whitchurch are a small, friendly club based in Whitchurch on Thames, welcoming players from Whitchurch and surrounding areas. We run 4 teams plus our blossoming Academy section for our very youngest players. We are a parent-run club and are all extremely passionate about football, encouraging our children into regular exercise and promoting healthy team spirit.

Team and training details are below, if you are interested in joining us please get in touch – afcwhitchurch@yahoo.co.uk

Academy / U8 – train on Saturday mornings at Whitchurch Village Green, Eastfield Lane.

U10 – train on Thursday evenings at Whitchurch Village Green in the summer, Langtree School in the winter. Play in the Berkshire Youth Development League on Saturdays.

U11 – train on Friday evenings at Langtree School. Play in the Berkshire Youth Development League on Saturdays.

U13 – train on Friday evenings at Langtree School. Play in the Berkshire Youth Development League on Saturdays.

U15 – train on Thursday evenings at Langtree School. Play in the Berkshire Youth Development League on Saturdays.

Keep an eye on our Facebook page for news and photos – facebook.com/afcwh

Lindsay Austin, Club Secretary

Chairman's statement

We are an enthusiastic parent-run football club, currently managing 5 teams plus a training academy for our youngest members. Our training and playing principles for all ages are inclusivity, competitiveness and fun. In the 2017/18 season we have had 82

children representing AFC Whitchurch. This year sees the culmination for U18 team who started as 5-year olds and now conclude their junior football to join the world of senior/adult teams. Through the fantastic generosity of an anonymous local patron we will be able to buy all our players complete new kits for the 2018/19 season. In return for the patronage our parents will be supporting the village community by sponsoring some new bricks in the village maze. We are always looking for new players and would welcome both boys and girls (we have no girls only teams at the moment). We would also love to fill some of the age gaps so if any parents would be willing to start a new year group they would be most welcome. Any prospective players or parents should contact us at afcwhitchurch@yahoo.co.uk

Alex Hilton, Chairman

OPEN GARDENS DAY REPORT

“This year’s Garden Walk (or Open Gardens Day) was a record breaker. Firstly the spectacular weather conditions (perhaps a little too hot for some); then a record number of tickets sold for the tea and cake – 117. All the cake was eaten, in fact we had to disappoint a few visitors. Matilda’s swimming pool was full of kids enjoying themselves. I’m not sure if anyone played tennis – probably too hot.

The gardens were well attended. There were fewer than usual, which was probably just as well. We were glad to welcome Stan Remington as a late entry – having had the breach in his wall repaired so expertly.

The profits made will be used to fund the expenses of the next Whitchurch Society event – the Art & Craft Exhibition in November – and other costs.

We look forward to a good turnout next year; perhaps some new gardens not shown before. Perhaps some keen gardeners feel they have been overlooked.

For whatever reason, if you would like to show your garden next year please contact the undersigned.”

Ian Bruce

0118 984 2653

07879 405559

ian.bruce@btinternet.com

WHITCHURCH PRE-SCHOOL

We began our celebration of the arrival of warmer weather with our Spring Day, complete with bulb planting, face painting and a bouncy castle. The children had been busy making spring-themed crafts, on display and for sale, with all funds going to the preschool.

The living eggs were a huge hit again, and a clear reminder of how worthwhile all the fundraising efforts are. The children, staff and parents found it a magical experience, watching the eggs hatch, and the adorable ducklings grow ever cuter and fluffier. The eggs were a captivating part of our classroom for a few weeks and, of course, an amazing learning experience for everyone.

As the warmer weather has continued, the children have loved being outside in the garden, learning to care for the plants and enjoying lots of sunny outdoor activities and crafts. They did their daddies proud for Father's Day, making beautiful 'Best Daddy' cards and delicious decorated gingerbread men (a tiny proportion of which may have actually been eaten by the fathers).

Sports Day took place in blazing heat, but this didn't slow down the action. There were dramatic starts and thrillingly close finishes in the flat race, hat race, bat and beanbag, relay and hurdles, with the huge enthusiasm shown by all children easily matched by the competitiveness of the backwards-running daddies. The 'official' races were followed by a hobby horse gymkhana and the awarding of medals and certificates, before everyone tucked into a yummy outdoor picnic lunch.

Looking ahead, the hugely popular annual fete has been moved from September this year to 4th May 2019 – a date for your diaries! And we have limited spaces available for the new term starting in September – if you would like more information, please visit our website www.whitchurchpreschool.com or contact Kathleen on 01189844516 or whitchurchpreschool@me.com

THE POLISH CHURCH GARDEN – AN UPDATE

Since this quiet corner of Whitchurch was transferred to our Parish Council for its management in 2016, many positive improvements have been carried out. It is being transformed from a rather unloved and neglected area to somewhere that can be enjoyed by everyone.

A considerable amount of clearing of debris and over large trees (mostly sycamore) was carried out during 2016 by several working parties and individuals' efforts. Approximately 30 new saplings of native small trees of mixed varieties were planted in Spring 2017 to increase the diversity and to create a small spinney. These young trees are now flourishing, thanks to the dedicated watering by Eileen during their critical first months.

Jon Steward with has helped considerably with various jobs, particularly with mowing some pathways through the longer grass, creating contrasts between long and shorter grasses.

This spring, a big improvement was made when the Council arranged for fencing contractors to replace the old chain link fence on the western boundary with a post and rail fence. Also, the panelled fence on the drive boundary has been repaired and returned to upright by Pete Woolhouse.

An experimental small area of grass has been planted up with plug plants of a meadow mix (grown from seed until large enough to transplant) and additional decorative plants have been added to this area by Doreen. Both Doreen and Eileen have been watering all

these young plants to get them through the drought. It is hoped that this will become a small wild flower meadow, to add to the diversity of plants in the grassy areas.

The Council have ordered a picnic bench which will provide a welcome place to rest and socialise, and enjoy the pleasant surroundings.

Further work is still planned to be done, especially to commemorate the site of the now demolished Polish Church, which was of course an important place of worship for the Polish community after the 2nd World War right up until 1992.

If you have any thoughts and suggestions, or would like to offer some practical help, please get in touch with any of the Parish Councillors.

WHITCHURCH BRIDGE – PANGBOURNE APPROACH ROAD

We have so far spent over £30,000 on site investigations and detailed design work on options to widen the Pangbourne approach road, but at the pre-application consultation stage West Berkshire Council (WBC) made it clear that they would need to see evidence of a safety problem that would justify the felling of trees which any widening work would require. They said:

“In the case of this application, where highway safety concerns may be finely balanced against conservation of the setting of a heritage asset it will be important to support a planning application with a soundly reasoned justification in terms of the highway safety rationale for the improvements, including details of the accident record for the site [and] the highway safety concerns that the works seek to address.”

Our safety signage by the footways urges people to take care (avoiding accidents is of course the priority) and also asks that any

Come one, come all!

Equinox Together Pangbourne Meadow

15-30 September 2018

Art Cafe Together is delighted to announce our community art project for 2018.

Equinox Together is based on the seasons – a Golden Spiral of colourfully decorated pottery cylinders threaded on to posts to create a striking display on the banks of the River Thames adjacent to Adventure Dolphin.

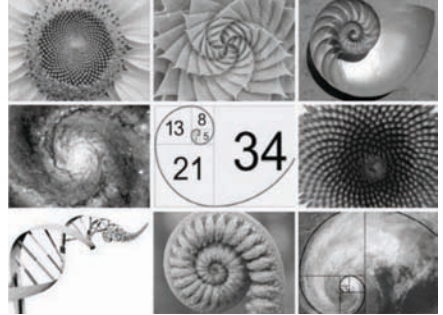
Come along to see what we've been up to this year. **Local schools, community groups, charities and individuals** have been busy making cylinders arranged to represent the changing seasons month by month.

Whether you're into Arts and Crafts, Nature, Science or Mathematics there's something for everyone to enjoy.

<http://www.artcafe.co.uk>

Or Contact:

Gill Williamson, Artist
gill@artcafe.co.uk



accidents or incidents that do occur be reported to us. However, our records of safety-related incidents on our property include no recent accidents on the Pangbourne approach road, so at this time there is no point in submitting a Planning Application as we cannot meet this particular WBC condition.

Although we cannot submit a Planning application at this time – and even if we could, the cost of the works remains a concern – we are proceeding with 2 other schemes to address safety concerns. First, we are in the process of getting a Traffic Regulation Order in place to impose a 20 mph speed limit over the Bridge. Second, after the railings have been repainted we will arrange to keep the vegetation cut back behind them so all the footpath width is usable.

We hope that both schemes will help pedestrians feel safer when walking to and from Pangbourne. Like many other stretches of footway in Pangbourne and Whitchurch our footways are narrow by to-day's standards and care is necessary when using them.

Geoff Weir

Company Secretary, the Whitchurch Bridge Company

www.whitchurchbridge.com

WoTHABS

White-Letter Hairstreak Butterfly – an update

We are very pleased to report that Peter Cuss, of Butterfly Conservation, has visited the Maze recently and has spotted one adult butterfly. This means that his prediction that there is a colony on this site was correct. This was based on his discovery of one solitary egg on the bud of the Wych Elm during the winter – amazing! It was extremely difficult to see.

The adult butterflies are rather small and not brightly coloured, and tend to fly high up in the branches of the elm trees. You are much more likely to see them if you use binoculars. Do let us know if you are

lucky enough to see one or more. It would be great to be able to report a sighting with a photograph for the village website.

Peter is now liaising with members of the PAWS group in Pangbourne because they have also been seen flying near elms along The Moors. He hopes to plant one or more resistant elms there too (as was done at the Maze in February).

Haymeadow Walk

This annual event, jointly organised by PAWS and WOTHABS, was held on Sunday 3rd June in the large meadow to the east of Sheepwash Lane, on Hardwick Estate. This was a month earlier than in previous years, and meant that different plants were in flower. It was a great success this year and the weather was warm and sunny. Botanists Sandra Parkinson, Tanya, together with James Norman and Romilly Swann took groups of people on different routes through the meadow after an introductory talk. About 40 people of all ages came along and were able to see an interesting display of various species of grasses and also enjoy refreshments.

James explained that the meadow is rare because it has not been ploughed for about 100 years, or been treated with fertilizers or herbicides. This means that the underlying soil is healthy, well structured, and incredibly species rich. 200 species of plant have been recorded, and these include some that are now very rare in Britain.

River Bank Survey

We are hoping to do the 3rd section of this flora and fauna survey sometime during August. We have surveyed two sections downstream from the bridge, firstly in August 2016 and the second in August 2017. This year, we shall start at the end of Sheepwash Lane and continue downstream until we reach Mapledurham, or run out of time

If you are interested in joining us in our boats, do get in touch with me (whether or not you have a rowing boat or canoe of your own). You need no expert knowledge and it's an enjoyable learning experience for all of us.

Sally Woolhouse (0118 9844365)

WHITCHURCH ART & CRAFT EXHIBITION

THE WEEKEND OF 24TH – 25TH NOVEMBER 2018 WHITCHURCH-ON-THAMES VILLAGE HALL, MANOR ROAD

This is a reminder that the Whitchurch Society's Annual Exhibition is now only a few months away, so it's time to get busy with your entries. We welcome all types of art, craft and photography – it is an enjoyable, friendly event, not an elitist showcase! Everyone in Whitchurch and Goring Heath parishes are eligible to enter. Also, children who attend the Whitchurch Pre-School Group, Whitchurch Primary School or The Oratory Preparatory School are all eligible to enter, regardless of where they live.

The theme this year for the Joyce Voysey class is 'Dogs'. This class is open to all age groups and the entries can be in any media – art, photos, sculpture, crochet, video – whatever inspires you!

The details of how and when to enter will be posted on the village website shortly. Meanwhile, start working on your entries and help make this year's event the best ever!

If you would like to get involved with the planning and setting up of the exhibition, please do get in touch – all offers of help are gratefully received.

Sally Woolhouse

Chair of the organising committee

0118 9844365

sally.woolhouse@gmail.com

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WHITCHURCH HILL CAMERA CLUB

We are in demob mode, ahead lies summer days, holidays, our club barbeque. We go walkabouts? small group photography, an opportunity to enjoy each other's company whilst taking a stroll – with our cameras – followed by a visit to the local hostelry. On offer so far, llamas, motorbikes and graffiti.

8th SEPTEMBER Find us at the Art Cafe , call in to view our work, discuss your images, pick up our current programme to plan your visits. (Saturday 10.am to 12.30pm)

12th SEPTEMBER the start of our season, first up 'Piers of the Realm', all 62 British piers captured by our presenter of the evening, judge, photographer extraordinaire Micki Aston. Micki + subject x interpretation = a good evening.

As an established photography club we often get asked to cover local events outside our club, but this time a different request. I was handed a presentation cup, a trophy, found in a storage lockup in Wokingham's Molly Millar Lane. Description: Height 5" approx. material, plate (tarnished). The inscription reads: Pangbourne and Whitchurch Regatta, Trentham Challenge Trophy, 1966.



Do you know anything about the cup's history, I've drawn a blank so far, so if you can help solve the mystery let us/me know, please.

Club membership? A generally annual fee or bespoke, cherry pick your chosen evening.

Where? At the Village Hall, Manor Road, Whitchurch on Thames, on a Wednesday, 8.00pm onwards.

There is an occasional informal techy Thursday (just for the heck of it!)

www.whitchurchhillcameraclub

Lyn Higgs.



Goring Heath Parish Charity
Regd No 1056772

Goring Heath and Whitchurch

Autumn Show

Saturday 8 September 2018

2.30 pm to 4.00 pm

Goring Heath Parish Hall

Enter your finest flowers, fruit, veg, floral arrangements, handicrafts, artwork, baking and photos.

Or come along to view the entries & enjoy homemade cake, tea & coffee, raffle and plant stall.

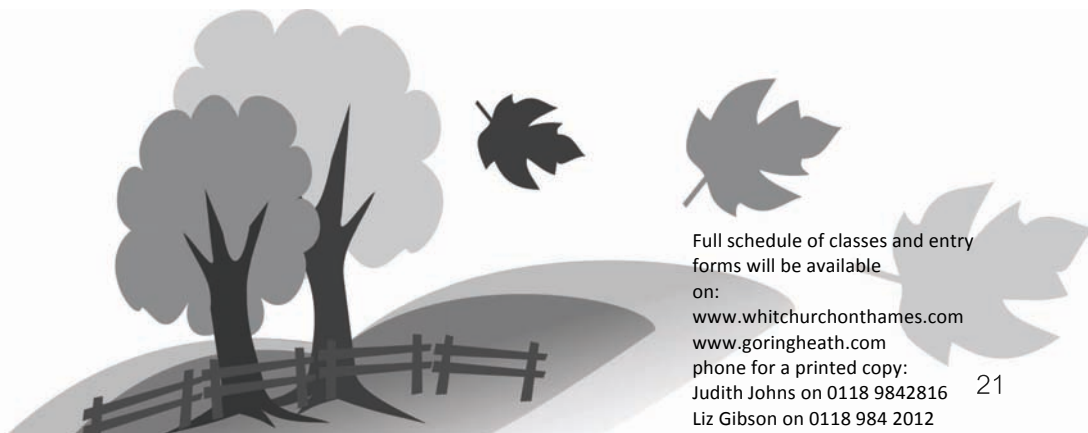
This year's Arts and Crafts classes:

Handicraft

**A knitted/crocheted toy
A birthday card
Paint a flower pot**

Art

**Still Life
Trees
A Landscape**



Full schedule of classes and entry forms will be available on:
www.whitchurchonthames.com
www.goringheath.com
phone for a printed copy:
Judith Johns on 0118 9842816
Liz Gibson on 0118 984 2012

Whitchurch-on-Thames Parish Council

Vacancy for a Parish Councillor

This is a voluntary position and requires a minimum of one evening a month to attend parish meetings. Other meetings may occur as required. It is interesting and varied and requires becoming involved in all things relating to the village, such as planning, environment, maintenance etc.

For a full job description refer to the next page.

To apply, or to obtain more information, please contact the Parish Clerk:

Felipa House, 23 Swanston Field,

Whitchurch-on-Thames, RG8 7HP

Tel: 07419 118449

Email: parishclerk.whitchurchonthames@gmail.com

Alternatively, contact the Parish Council Chairman:

Jim Donahue, 17 Hillside, Hardwick Road,

Whitchurch-on-Thames, RG8 7HL.

Tel: 0118 984 1182

Email: cllrdonahue.whitchurchonthames@gmail.com

Applications must be received by 15th August 2018

Issued: 11th July 2018

PARISH COUNCILLOR – JOB DESCRIPTION

Title: Councillor

Responsible to: The Council and its electors.

Responsible for: Effective leadership to foster the interests of the electors and Parish

Role/ Purpose to: Bring local issues to the attention of the council, help it make decisions on behalf of the local community and represent the views of parishioners within and outside the Parish.

Requirements

- Aged 18, on electoral role, citizen of UK, Commonwealth, EU or Ireland
- Resident or within 3 miles of the parish for at least 1 year, own land or work in the parish
- Be able to attend regular evening meetings
- Be interested in local issues, preferably not just a single issue
- An understanding and willingness to represent the views of the whole community
- An interest in being a professional and effective councillor.

Main duties and responsibilities

1. To represent effectively the interests of the whole parish by listening to views from the community
2. To improve the quality of life for those that live, work or visit the area
3. To participate fully in the formation and scrutiny of the Council's policies, strategic plans, budgets and service delivery
4. To ensure that the Council is properly managed
5. To prepare for, attend and participate in Council meetings, decision making and abide by corporate decisions
6. To undertake appropriate training and development to help fulfil the requirements of the councillor role
7. To keep up to date with significant developments affecting the Council at local, regional and national levels
8. To represent the Council on outside bodies to which the Councillor is appointed and report back activities
9. To maintain proper standards of behaviour and comply with the Council's code of conduct
10. To deal with resident's enquiries and representations fairly and without prejudice.

Skills needed by a Councillor

- Interpreting information
- Having ideas, visualising what might happen, using imagination
- Understanding budgets and financial paperwork
- Encouraging yourself and others
- Listening, questioning, evaluating objectively, reviewing, drawing conclusions then making decisions
- Dealing with conflict
- Seeing the bigger picture
- Public speaking
- Persuading and motivating
- Prioritising
- Negotiating
- IT skills.



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