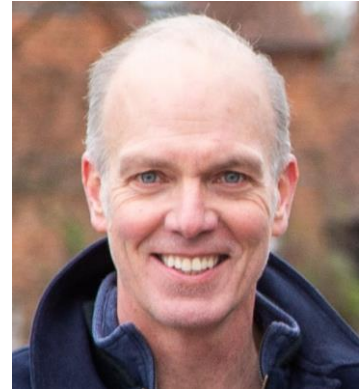


Whitchurch on Thames Parish Council – Profiles

Updated March 2025

Jim Donahue, Chairman

Jim joined the Parish Council in 2011 after moving to Whitchurch from Pangbourne in 2008. He was elected chairman in May 2018. He runs a small Programme Management consultancy focussed on the telecoms industry and also works as a part time photographer. Jim can often be seen mountain biking through the Chiltern Hills with local cycling groups or on walks down Hardwick Road and through Hardwick estate with his son William.



Diana Smith, Vice-chairman



Diana moved to the area in 1985 and to Whitchurch in 2003 when her husband Peter retired. She has worked in local government administration and education and most recently was a volunteer and then an employee with Citizens Advice in Newbury, Thatcham and lastly in Henley. She has two daughters and four grandchildren who live locally. Her interests include singing with the Pangbourne Choral Society and helping with a variety of village activities. She was elected vice-chairman in 2020.

Katherine Higley

Katherine has lived in Whitchurch for over 20 years and spent most of her childhood in the village. She joined the Parish Council in November 2018. Her ancestors were first recorded here in the 1600s, so the family have a long association with the village. Katherine studied Environmental Management, Planning and Law at university and is a qualified Coach. She is a Trustee of Whitchurch United Charities and is also part of the brass cleaning team at St. Mary's Church.



Debbie Leach



Debbie moved to the village in 2020 and has enjoyed being part of this friendly and active community. From Lent lunches to the Coronation Tea on the Green, from gardening with the Green Team to the Lantern Parade, Debbie is enthusiastic about community events and bringing people together. Since moving so close to the Thames, Debbie dips in the river weekly, every month of the year! She is passionate about clean water and environmental issues. She joined the Parish Council in September 2023.

Paul O'Grady

Paul joined the Parish Council in May 2021, having lived in the village since 2019 when he moved here from Goring with his young family. Prior to that, he and his wife were frequent weekend visitors to the area before deciding to call it home. Paul is a chartered surveyor with experience in managing large commercial property portfolios and improving urban environments. His local interests are in planning, pedestrian safety and conservation, in particular celebrating Whitchurch's past whilst finding sustainable ways to improve the village for the future.



Frances Parkes



Frances works in academic publishing. She and her family moved to the area in 2003 and to Whitchurch in 2016. She joined the Parish Council in 2022. She joined the re-formed Traffic and Parking Working Group (TAPWG) and greatly enjoyed being part of this, looking at ways in which the village can address the complex problems of traffic, parking and pedestrian safety. As well as being on the Parish Council she is a member of the Village Green Working Group and part of the Speedwatch Group. She enjoys working with people throughout the village on issues which are important to them.

Romilly Swann

Romilly has lived and worked on Hardwick Estate and the Whitchurch stretch of river for over 25 years. Throughout this time she has worked in Outdoor Education as well as on the land. She's an expert in natural dyeing and keeps a flock of sheep at Hardwick and Chalk Hills, which has given her an understanding of the botany, archaeology and ecology of the Chilterns' landscape. She has an enduring love of the area, its past, present and future. Romilly joined the Parish Council in March 2025.



Parish Clerk: Brian Inglis



Brian started work as our Parish Clerk in October 2024, taking over from Jane Yamamoto. He is a keen golfer, playing once a week as a member of Temple Golf Club, near Henley, and had his first book published earlier this year, a chronicle of 50 years of walking the fairways, called "How Did You Find The Greens". He lives in the Berkshire village of Shurlock Row with his wife Cindy and he loves to make trips home to Scotland to see daughter Charlotte and the grandchildren.