

The Bulletin Of

Whitchurch on Thames

www.whitchurchonthames.com

Firstly, I have to show my appreciation of Keith Brook's response to my call at about half past four on the afternoon of the Parish General Assembly. I had just been told that I had shingles, which was why I felt terrible and looked worse. I am informed that the evening went very well in his hands.

There was a great deal of information presented to that meeting. Although it may seem that the District and County Councils are far away and of low importance to us, they control everything from pot hole filling through schools and the police to maintenance of building standards. The minutes of that meeting are available on our web site.

To return for a moment to the thing that stopped me attending the meeting. Although that is now history, it does prompt me to echo some advice given to me. The sooner such things are treated the better, so if in doubt get professional advice. The actual comment was "You need to thank your wife for making you ask to see me urgently"

I was also reminded that when the bridge closes it will take paramedics much longer to get here in an emergency. This makes the Community First Responders so much more important. There are now two in the Village, but I think we need more. Please contact me if you can help.

So now to move on. The hedge round the Village Green car park is complete and appears to be thriving. The trees sponsored by local people are all in place. The four benches also sponsored do exist but await the concrete pads which should be in position some time in June. The benches will be fixed to the pads.

The project to add new bricks to the Maze has reached its break even target and will go ahead in due course.

The Spring Walk, led by Eric Hartley was a great success, though rather a long one for some ! It was a lovely day, and the daffodils were beautiful. The *Sun* did a good job feeding the weary walkers. But a good time was had by all.

The Muddy Lane tree pruning operation happened as expected. As usual there are pictures on the web site. WoTHabS and SSE seem to have found an excellent and effective way of working together. As with all such things the immediate appearance may seem to be disastrous. My belief is that in this case the results of combined skills of WoTHabS and the SSE team will in the longer term be seen to have provided for a very satisfactory outcome.

Turning to planning matters, the planning application for the massive increase in size of Eastfield house has gone to appeal for the second time. So far as I am aware the whole Village is unanimous in its reaction to the application. That is, it is equivalent to putting a substantial industrial unit in amongst a quiet residential lane in the heart of our Village and within both our Conservation Area and the Chilterns AONB.

I have heard suggestions that the applicant has been trying “strong arm “ bullying tactics such as trying to frighten SODC with the prospect of legal costs. I think this is disgraceful and that we should appreciate SODC’s stance on our behalf against it.

The other current item concerned with planning is the request for permission to build a house on the remaining plot in Old Gardens. This has met with local approval, although there were a few reservations expressed. The proposal has been accepted by SODC.

And so I have to mention the bridge again. Our web site will always have the latest details that are available, and a tentative schedule of the first events can already be found there.

From the Village’s point of view the picture is becoming clearer. Once the bridge is closed there will of course be little traffic. However, local people, particularly those living near to the bridge, will still need access to their properties for their vehicles and we have to ensure that whatever other vehicles wish to move can do so. There will inevitably be people attempting to park as close as possible to the footbridge, perhaps just to shop or maybe to catch a train. So there is plenty of scope for mayhem.

The current proposal is that there should be temporary double yellow lines, possibly from Eastfield Lane but maybe starting at Highwayman Cottage and going all the way to the bridge site. At the bridge site we expect that there will be just enough space for one vehicle to turn round.. The double yellow lines mean that people will be able to set down and pick up, *but not stop*. That is the only way we can ensure that people coming down the High Street can turn and get away again. The alternative is jam today and jam tomorrow.

Finally, we have a new County Councillor. Kevin Bullmer has a tough task on his hands.. Following in the wake of Dave Sexon will be hard enough, but the number of parishes in his “patch” has increased substantially. We look forward to working with him for the benefit of our Village.

Harry Butterworth

WHITCHURCH SOCIETY

GARDEN WALK SUNDAY 23 JUNE

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

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

A list of open gardens will be delivered to each household nearer the date. A Garden Open notice will be displayed at each address. We are still keen to find new households willing to put their gardens on show. Please contact the undersigned ASAP if you are interested.

Ian Bruce

Secretary – tel 984 2653, mobile 07879 405559, email ian.bruce@btinternet.com

ART & CRAFT EXHIBITION

Date has been fixed for Saturday 16 November.

Everybody, please take your cameras on holiday.

Note that photos taken with Smartphones are perfectly acceptable.

Joyce Voysey theme will be **Wild & Free**. Of course, this prize is available for any art and craft entry.

WOTHABS

We are planning another **Wildlife Explorers Day** for children aged 5–11 at Chalkhills on Sunday 23rd June 11am – 3pm.

The children will look for and learn about the different creatures and plants which are found in the fields and woods at Chalkhills, at the same time as having fun and enjoying themselves! The cost is £5 a child. To book or for more information, please contact Sally Woolhouse tel. 9844365 or email sally.woolhouse@gmail.com

Another very popular event that we shall again be holding in partnership with PAWS is the **Hardwick Haymeadows Walk** at Hardwick Estate, Whitchurch on Sunday 7th July (PM).

It will be another wonderful opportunity to visit the stunning flower-rich riverside hay meadow at Hardwick Estate just before hay-making. There will be guided walks and fun challenges for children. Refreshments will be available. Parking and access to the meadow via Sheepwash Lane.

Further details will be publicised nearer the time on the PAWS and WoTHabs websites.

Will you help protect our countryside?

With more and more threats to rural life, including inappropriate development in our corner of the world, the Campaign to Protect Rural England's Oxfordshire branch (CPRE Oxfordshire) needs village representatives to keep a close eye on what's going on. All you need is enthusiasm and passion for protecting our rural heritage but if you have planning experience as well, even better! Interested?

Phone Judith Crockett on 01491 612801, or email judith.crockett@btinternet.com. Thank you.

WHITCHURCH & GORING HEATH TWINNING ASSOCIATION

Report of Twinning Visit 4-6 May 2013

As the French flag fluttered above the hall, the coach arrived at 9.30 on Saturday morning, with 21 of our friends from La Bouille on board, happy to spend a sunny weekend with us. The host families from Whitchurch, Whitchurch Hill, Crays Pond, Woodcote, Goring and Checkendon took their visitors home for breakfast and then entertained them for the day. National Trust properties did well – Basildon Park and Greys Court – while others opted for tea in Henley or local visits and country walks.

The champagne reception (cava in fact) took place at 6pm in the Goring Heath Parish Hall, which had been decked out very elegantly in red white and blue. We were joined by those who were not hosting this year, but wanted to enjoy the evening with French and English friends. Vicky Jordan, chairman, and Martine Cousin, Presidente, gave speeches in French and English, both emphasizing the close nature of the relationship between the people of the two villages, after 35 years of twinning. Martine presented a delightful watercolour of a corner of La Bouille, together with books donated by the Maire. Claire Alcock, vicar of Whitchurch then offered a blessing in both languages and proposed a toast to the future of the Association. A typically British meal was served to the sixty participants – prawn cocktail, casserole, desserts, cheese and biscuits, coffee and mints. If the French people noticed that there was no bread or salad – so much a feature of their cuisine – they were too polite to mention it. On the contrary, our two “never again” caterers received many compliments from our visitors.

Our trip to London took place on a warm and sunny Sunday, and the coach drive along Piccadilly, through Trafalgar Square, and by Fleet Street to the City showed London at its best. Our first stop was the Museum of London, near St Paul’s Cathedral, which was not too crowded probably on account of the fine weather.

In spite of the lack of French translation (somewhat alleviated by a short amateur guide) there was something to interest everyone and the modern use film and computer displays to convey information was much commented on. We ate our picnics in a specially provided room, purchased coffee at the café, and most managed to walk down to see St Paul's. The coach then took us to the South Bank and the London Eye Pier, where a forty minute river cruise with audio guides had been booked. We sat on the top deck in sunshine, and London looked magnificent. The crush of people along the South Bank, where a food festival was in progress, contributed to the "London experience", but we regained the coach by walking back a quieter way!

Sadly, our guests had to leave at 6.30 the following morning to catch a ferry at Newhaven.

We were pleased that a new family from Whitchurch Hill had participated for the first time, and there were new people involved from La Bouille. Next year we visit France.

HARDWICK LECTURE

"Climate Change – A Look Behind the Official Doctrine"

Julian Rose explores the not so readily revealed box of tricks that lies behind our current climatic fluctuations.

What is up with our weather?

Is it being deliberately manipulated?

These and other such challenging questions will be explored in the forthcoming Hardwick Lecture.

Saturday 1st June 2013 – 6.45 for 7.00pm at Hardwick House, Whitchurch-on-Thames, Oxon RG8 7RB to book a place please call the Hardwick Estate Office on 0118 9842955 or e-mail hardwickestate@btinternet.com

The lecture will be followed by a hearty bowl of summertime soup. 6



Aug 31st

2-5pm

Whitchurch-on-Thames
Village Fete

Dog show ■ Bouncy castle ■ Tea & beer tents
■ Live music ■ BBQ ■ Classic cars ■ Fantastic
selection of stalls and many more
attractions!

Village Green, Eastfield Lane, RG8 7EJ

GRAND PRIZE DRAW courtesy of BP

Apple mini iPad ■ PS3 ■ Luxury mini break ■ £100 iTunes
voucher and many more!

whitchurch.on.thames@gmail.com



OAK PROCESSIONARY MOTH : RENEWED ALERT

Last summer leaflets were distributed to every house in Whitchurch under the heading *Help Us Eradicate This Pest*. Your help is again needed. Happily, research to date indicates that the OPM has not crossed from Berkshire into Oxfordshire, in spite of the proximity of Pangbourne where it was found in a small number of trees. In Pangbourne last year 97 trees were spray-treated to control any potential spread. Vigilance and decisive action is the key to stopping this dangerous pest.

Here is a reminder of the main points from the leaflet:
The moth caterpillars feed on oak leaves and produce silken nests on the trunks and branches of affected trees – most likely oaks, but other trees too. They seriously damage the trees. Also caterpillar hairs and their toxins are an irritant and health hazard.

DO NOT TOUCH the caterpillars or nests, or let children or pets near them. If exposure occurs contact your GP.

REPORT ANY SIGHTINGS (most likely mid-May through to July) to the Forestry Commission. 01420 22255,
christine.tilbury@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

SEEK GUIDANCE from their Plant Health team regarding safe disposal if you need to carry out tree surgery on any oaks. 0131 314 6414, plant.health@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

The OPM's lifecycle can be summarised as follows:-

- *Egg hatch just prior to leaf break of English Oak, in April. Caterpillars will eat into and feed on buds at this point. Very difficult for the amateur to spot at this stage, because they are tiny and high in the tree.*
- *From mid-May onwards, when caterpillars are in stages 3 and 4, the toxins are produced and temporary tent nests start to form, as larvae will feed over night and rest during the day. The nests will be visible and defoliation of the tree will also be a sign of the OPM's presence. The caterpillars feed in groups. From this time on, an amateur observer could spot these signs with the naked eye.*

- *From early June, the caterpillars (at Stage 5) may change their resting place and usually move further down the tree. They process head-to-tail, hence their name.*
- *Stage 6 caterpillars pupate in their final pupal nests (which are usually large and will be on main scaffold branches or trunk of a tree) in late June and early July and emerge as moths between one and four weeks later.*
- *The female moths lay their eggs on high branches in late July/early August and these overwinter and hatch in the next spring.*

For more information visit: www.forestry.gov.uk/oakprocessionarymoth or call 845 367 3787

Gill Goodwin

MAZE WORKING PARTIES

These will take place on the following SATURDAYs every month this summer at 10.00AM:

18th MAY, 15th JUNE, 20th JULY, 17th AUG, 21st SEPT, 19th OCT

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

Note: these dates may be subject to change during the restoration works but details will be posted on the village website and the noticeboard at the Maze.

WHITCHURCH HILL FETE

Saturday 25th May 2013

2PM

Stalls and Plants Galore

Ferret Racing Punch & Judy

Bottle Stall Raffle Children's Races & Games

Swing boats Beer and Tea Tents Barbecue

25 Piece Concert Band "Have a go" Lawn Bowls

Fun Dog Show

The Allotment Society

We are currently virtually fully subscribed. Growing is now in full flow and it would appear that most things are in "catch up" mode.

Anyone interested in taking on a plot (now or in the future) should check on the Whitchurch on Thames website for plot availability, and then contact either myself or one of the other committee members, Mike Marshall or Roy Tichelli.

Ros Heath
Chairman
984 2358

Goring Heath and Whitchurch Spring Show – 6th April 2013

As I wrote this report, the sun was shining from a clear blue sky. Where was it when we needed some more benign weather to bring on the Spring Flowers which are usually the highlight of this show?

Despite the sub-zero gloom, we did have some flowers on show and our competitors put their efforts into the “non-growing” classes to provide a lovely show of Art, Craft, Baking and much more.

Thank you to all who contributed to a successful show. Our regular supporters did us proud and a pleasing number of new entries were there to ensure a splendid display.

During the afternoon viewing, competitors and visitors enjoyed tea and home-made cake while looking at a truly spring-like collection of exhibits.

Why not come along to the Summer Show on 24th August and see how talented the people of our villages are?

This time we welcomed Jim Donahue to present the trophies. Jim is a Parish Councillor for Whitchurch and has been working to support the Allotment Society in making good use of that amenity. He also entered some of his beautiful photographs.

The **Whitchurch Hill Trophy** for most points overall went to Ann Lewis; illustrating that if you enter enough classes, the points add up!

Her entry of leeks, grown from Peter Hooper’s seedlings, was judged “Best in Show” so she also has the **Douglas Allardyce Cup** on her mantelpiece.

The **Betty Hayter Cup** for most points in the flower section went to Wendy Ferguson for her colourful entries.

Tricia Clapp won the **Arts and Crafts Trophy** showing a great range of creative skill. She also won the Photography Cup.

One of our new entrants, Isabella Pickess (aged seven), brought a tray of wonderfully decorated eggs to win the **Egg Cup** and her imaginative Flag Design won her the **Children’s Cup** too.

It was a close contest for the **Baking and Preserves Cup**, which was won by Maureen Britt, not least of all for her wonderful chocolate cake!

So now it’s time to hope for better weather and get planting for the produce which features in the Summer Show on 24th August. As ever the “other” classes will be in the Schedule. There is something for everyone, come and join in – you will find some details elsewhere & on the Village website soon

GORING HEATH and WHITCHURCH



SUMMER SHOW



Saturday, 24th August 2013

Open to all residents of Goring Heath and Whitchurch
The full schedule and entry form will be available from mid June on
the village website www.whitchurchonthames.com/diary.php
and from committee members but a list of classes that you'll need
time to prepare for follows:

Preserves

A jar of blackberry and
apple jam

A jar of tomato based
chutney

Art

A still life

Patterns in nature

Water

Handicraft

A cushion cover

A patchwork item

A 3D model in any medium

Photography

Faces

Up, up and away

Transport

Children up to 12 years old

use any materials or technique (eg baking, modelling,
painting, drawing, photography) to make an item on the theme
of 'celebration'.

If you have any questions, please give a committee member a call

Ann Lewis : 0118 984 2377

Liz Gibson: : 0118 984 2012

Rosamund Heath : 0118 984 2358

Sue Sexon : 0118 984 2036

Helen Willis: 0118 984 3620



**Multi-Terrain 10k & 5k Race
2013 - 5th Anniversary**

**Sunday 23rd June
Village Green, Whitchurch Hill**

Online Entry and full details at:

www.toadhall10k.com

Sponsored by:

**Warminghams & Richard Wilson Long
of Goring**

**Proceeds go to Whitchurch Primary and
Pre-schools**

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Before us? (250,000 BC to 2013 AD!)

A few days ago I talked to the school children in Whitchurch Primary School about the previous occupants of our area and village. It was suggested that others in the village might also be interested so here is a summary of what I said.

250,000 BC (Early Stone Age); 2,500 – 800 BC (Bronze Age); 800 BC – 44 AD (Iron Age)

The earliest evidence we have of occupation is of handaxes found at our Iron Age Camp (at Bozedown) and in Swanston Field. Some of these have been classified and dated as Acheulean handaxes from the Lower Palaeolithic Age (the Early Stone Age) of 250,000 years ago. Only a few weeks ago another was found whilst the small trees were being planted around the village green car park! These axes are the earliest known worked tool by man and were used for butchery (stripping the flesh from the hides of their prey).

In distant times our area would have seen the presence of wandering nomads engaged in trying to stay alive, to find food and water and to keep warm and dry. Gradually the need for protection would have brought individuals closer together and they would have congregated where there was water and food and, if possible, a line of sight to any other predatory group. It would also have been easier as a group to hunt and catch larger animals.

A dig in the area adjacent to the Camp revealed Bronze Age occupation followed by the Iron Age. The use of that higher ground (excellent sight lines to the valley below) gave the occupants command of the river and access to the very necessary supply of water and a killing ground for hunting and trapping animals and fish. Although later 'fortified' this huge area (58 acres) may have just provided a refuge for all locals and their animals. This occupation probably continued for many years with gradual development and use of the areas below and around them.

As other tribes and peoples entered the area our hill fort folk may have relied on the river to provide a barrier to their presence and attempts to occupy the land to the north at this point. The hill forts and encampments became deserted over time; maybe increasing longevity and population growth forced them to separate and form individual communities?

Our chalk escarpment doesn't naturally retain water and the pressure of numbers (both humans and animals) would have forced them into the valley more frequently. Even to this day all the way round the escarpment the villages on the hill top are coupled to villages by the side of the river, the trade off was access to water in exchange for access to wood.

Attack was always a threat from neighbouring tribes and the invasions by incoming peoples would have been a great cause for concern.

AD 43 – 410 – the Romans arrive

There are reports and some evidence of Roman occupation on the Camp and in our present village environs (tiles and coins). The Romans built a villa in Pangbourne and there is ample evidence of their serious presence at Gatehampton. The Romans would have used fords wherever they could – coins were found at the location of our present weir.

550 AD – 1066 the Anglo-Saxons

The Iron Age Camp grew more isolated, the Angles and the Saxons arrived and

the local tribe (the Atrebates?) settled into occupation of our present riverside – it is thought that, as now, a section stayed on top to look after the animals and to farm the better agricultural land up there. The villagers at the bottom had access to the river for water, fishing and trade. They would have cultivated the land around the base of the hills and have built weirs to control the water and to catch the fish. Now we had two very different populations and occupations. The controlled water could be used to operate a mill; corn and wood could be exported by the river or our major paths.

We had the arrival of the Danes, they are believed to have raided hereabouts, possibly using Sheepwash Lane to gain access to the Camp and beyond (Hod's Lane at Whitchurch Hill – Odin's Lane?). We know that they fought locally (one battle was at nearby Englefield (the field of the English?) where they were defeated in **870 AD**). Because of the increased threat it is thought that our villagers cleared the ditch that runs underneath the High Street and the Greyhound and probably erected a stockade to protect the landside of the village

1066 – 1485 the Normans

The village and its Mill and Church were recorded in the Domesday Book - at the time it was a much more prosperous and more important village than Pangbourne. All was going well until the decision of a local jury in **1479** stopped the carriage trade using the route from Reading through Mapledurham and Hardwick. Even the Prince of Whytechurch was forbidden to lead or drive wheeled vehicles – he was 9 years old at the time and later became King Edward V in 1483 before finishing his short life as one of the Princes in the Tower. So overnight the carriers lost their trading route and Whitchurch its prosperity.

1485 – the Tudors and the Stuarts

Life in the village would have continued but without the previous trade until the present 'pound lock' was built in **1787** and then the first Toll Bridge was built in **1792**, both would have helped to bring trade and some increase in prosperity.

1837 – the Victorians to modern times

The railway was cut through to Pangbourne in **1839** and encouraged the rich Victorians to visit our area; they too brought some prosperity back to the village when they built their posh houses. The houses were mainly for weekend use but provided much needed employment.

Manor Road estate was built in the 1940s and that of Swanston Field in the 1950s and the population of the village changed in its type of work and workplaces. The improved transport links, the lock and better control of the river, the railway and the better roads and, for us, the nearby M4 have brought companies to Bozedown, to Pangbourne and to Reading and us to the village.

Eric Hartley

With acknowledgements to: The Reverend John Slatter – 'History of Whitchurch' 1895 and Mr. J. H. Baker – 'The Ipsden Country' 1958 and to Hugh Thomson for 'Timeline'.

OUR WOODCOTE LIBRARY OWL

At the Annual General Meeting held on Monday 18th March 2013 in the Library the outcome of a meeting with officers of Oxfordshire Libraries was reported as follows:

The situation where community libraries would lose 50% of funding for staff had not changed.

Various alternative ways of dealing with the problem were put forward, some of which were being adopted by other community library groups. First the figures:

50% of the budget would buy 17.06 hours of library manager's time.

(There are 40.49 hours of staff time per week, made up of manager, assistant and Saturday assistant, at varying rates of pay). The Library Service would want a manager to be at the library during public opening hours, which are 17 and a half per week.

Alternative strategies

- 1 23hours per week of volunteer time to make up the difference - that is, say, 8 volunteers each week.
- 2 Replace hours by fund-raising. It costs 647pounds per year to buy one hour per week of library assistant time.
- 3 A combination of 1 and 2

Our discussions then centred on sources of funds, the role of volunteers, but crucially on the continuing role of the school and its use of the library. . The Headteacher was supportive of the community use, concerned about safeguarding pupils and interested to invest and improve facilities.

Further discussions with officers will be arranged, and also with Langtree School, and possibly later on a public meeting. This is the start of a very long process!

PANGBOURNE CHRISTMAS EVENING

Pangbourne Village is organising a Christmas Shopping Evening on Friday 6 December, and we hope to welcome friends and families from Whitchurch to join us in lighting the Christmas tree, posting letters to Father Christmas at the Post Office and meeting retailers and business people who are staying open late that evening. There will be ample opportunity to buy or order Christmas items both at the shops and in the Village Hall.

If you would like to book a table in the Village Hall in Pangbourne as a local organisation or charity please let us know and we would be pleased to accommodate you. The aim is to bring the two villages together and provide an entertaining evening for both. The format will be somewhat different from that of previous years but we hope will prove just as popular.

If you would like further details, please contact me on icrimp@btinternet.com

Lesley Crimp

Christmas Evening Coordinator

PANGBOURNE & DISTRICT VOLUNTEER CENTRE

WE ARE LOOKING FOR MORE DRIVERS/OFFICE VOLUNTEERS

Pangbourne & District Volunteer Centre is a long established (over 35 years) local charity that provides transport for the sick, disabled and infirm living in Pangbourne and the adjacent areas of Purley, Sulham, Tidmarsh, Lower/Upper Basildon, Whitchurch and parts of Tilehurst. With the Whitchurch Bridge closing in September, several more volunteers will be needed to cope with what will become long journeys from Pangbourne to Whitchurch. 'Pangbourne Volunteers' provides a valuable and essential service for many people who are elderly or disabled and unable to drive who might otherwise have considerable difficulty in keeping medical appointments such as doctor's surgeries, hospitals and day centres.

PLEASE DO JOIN US

BECOMING A VOLUNTEER DOES NOT MEAN TAKING ON ANY UNWELCOME OR HEAVY COMMITMENT. IT SIMPLY MEANS THAT YOU ARE WILLING TO BE ASKED.

What would we ask you to do? Our main need is for drivers because most requests are for transport on short journeys to local surgeries, hairdressers, dentists, hospitals, etc. We offer a mileage payment to defray your petrol costs. How much you do is entirely up to you – you can always say 'No' if it's not convenient.

As well as the volunteer drivers, the Centre is also looking for volunteers to help in the office which is situated in the Pangbourne Village Hall. This important job involves manning the office to receive telephone requests for transport – when a request is made we telephone around our Volunteer drivers until we find someone willing to take it on. We are perfectly happy for anyone to say "sorry, cannot do" if the job is inconvenient, or not to your taste, and we expect you to say so.

This really is something worth doing and the appreciation shown by those we help is reward in itself. It is also a great way to make friends, and we are a friendly group, so please join us.

For further particulars on becoming a volunteer or if you require transport to attend your appointments all you need to do is telephone the Centre on 0118 984 4586 between 9.30am and 11.30am (Monday to Friday) or just call in during those hours.

PANGBOURNE CHORAL SOCIETY'S SUMMER CONCERT FEATURING HAYDN'S NELSON MASS

On Saturday 22nd June starting at 7.30pm in the Falkland Islands Memorial Chapel, Pangbourne College, Pangbourne Choral Society will bring their 2013 season to a close with a summer concert featuring Haydn's 'Nelson' Mass and a selection of opera choruses and arias from Mozart, Purcell and Haydn to raise the spirits on (hopefully!) a warm summer's evening with interval drinks on the lawns of the College.

This mass, written in 1798, is one of the six late masses by Haydn for the Esterházy family in Austria. With Napoleon threatening to invade Vienna, the summer of 1798 was a terrifying time for Austria, and when Haydn finished this Mass, his own title, in the catalogue of his works, was "Missa in Angustiis" or "Mass for Troubled Times". What Haydn did not know when he wrote the Mass, but what he and his audience heard at the time of the first performance was that Napoleon had been dealt a stunning defeat in the Battle of the Nile by British forces led by Admiral Horatio Nelson. Because of this coincidence, the Mass gradually acquired the nickname "Lord Nelson Mass". The title became indelible when in 1800 Lord Nelson himself visited the Palais Esterházy and may have heard the Mass performed.

PCS always likes to have a light-hearted second half for its summer concerts, so this time a second-half programme comprised of operatic overture, soloists' own choice arias plus a finale of opera choruses has been chosen. And because baroque instruments are being used, the pieces selected will be by composers of the period such as Mozart, Purcell and Haydn.

The excellent soloists for this performance are PCS regulars Carys Lane (Soprano), Claire Williams (Mezzo-Soprano), Lynton Atkinson (Tenor), and Giles Underwood (Bass)

Jonathan Brown will conduct the Southern Sinfonia Orchestra and the programme will be performed with authentic baroque instruments.

Tickets (£15 including programme; £8 for under-16s) will be available from Premier Pets Stores, High Street Pangbourne, online (www.pangbournechoral.org.uk) and via PCS members or on the door. *Early booking is advised as Pangbourne Choral Society concerts are in high demand and usually sell out fast.*

DIARY DATES

Contributions welcome for this column if anyone knows of a date that would be of interest to the village.

May

Sarurday 18th	Maze working party
Saturday 25th	Whitchurch Hill Fete
Thursday 30th	PAWS AGM & Talk

June

Saturday 15th	Maze working party
Saturday 22nd	Pangbourne Choral Society
Sunday 23rd	Toad Hall 10K run
Sunday 23rd	Garden Walks
Sunday 23rd	Wildlife Explorers Day

July

Sunday 7th	Haymeadows Walk
Sarurday 20th	Maze working party

August

Saturday 24th	Summer Gardening Show
Saturday 31st	Whitchurch Village Fete

THE NEXT ISSUE OF THE BULLETIN

will be published in July 2013

Please send your contributions **preferably by e-mail to**

Sarah.pongo@btconnect.com by 4th July 2013

Views of individual contributors
are the views of those contributors,
and are not necessarily the views of the Parish Council, or the
editor