

FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

The weather is certainly improving now as we hit temperatures in double figures and daffodils and blossom have started to appear. Consequently the village green has had a haircut as we are getting ready for the cricket, football and other events to be held on this very important resource. One of these will be held on the 19th May to celebrate the Royal Wedding. These are always great social events where the village gets together to enjoy the proceedings and renew friendships. This time we will have the Roy Bailey Big Band entertaining us so come along and listen to the music and enjoy the tea and share your cakes and biscuits, with any proceeds going to the pre-school. We need volunteers to help with this event so if you have the time and the inclination please contact Lissie Steward on 07751 789 107.

We are also arranging for new windows and doors to be installed in the village hall which will greatly enhance its appearance and help to retain the heat in the winter months. Following these improvements, it may be more inviting and thus used more – everyone should be aware that they can hire it out for events for a modest fee so have your parties and celebrations there. Recently we have had two new events starting with T'ai Chi on Mondays at 11.30-12.30, Keep Fit/Circuits 10-11 on Wednesdays, so if you want some exercise get involved in these worthwhile workouts. We also of course have Line dancing, Tap dancing, Bridge club, Camera club and History society to tempt you to our village hall – all the details are on the village web site so check it out if any of these interest you.

I am aware that there are problems in the High Street with parking, speeding, erosion of verges, potholes and blocked drains and I want to assure you that your Parish Council is doing everything it can to address these by working with OCC, SODC and Thames Valley Police. We have TAPAG (Traffic and Pavements Advisory Group) who are arranging for traffic monitoring and discussing verge erosion prevention measures and parking with OCC and our PCSO Mark Bell. The blocked drains and gulleys and pot holes have been

recorded on Fix My Street which is the official way to report street problems to OCC Highways and we are constantly monitoring the outcomes.

The Village Plan is progressing and we have two important events which everyone should take a great interest in – we are relying on your views to guide us as to how you want your village to be in the future and what is important to you in this regard. They are on Saturday May 12th Village Hall, 10:30 – 1:30pm and Saturday 19th May at the Art Cafe, 10 – 12:30pm.

The new MOWS (Make Our Whitchurch Special) feature in the High Street (the boat) is shortly being prepared to be filled with plants and flowers and If anyone has any long plastic planters or large tubs they could lend, please let Leslie Maynerd know as she will start planting up about the end of this month – tel number 0118 9845513 or email leslie@aromatherapycaversham.co.uk.

Last but not least Caroline Hart has stepped down from the council for personal reasons. I would like to thank her for all the work she has done for the village and wish her every success in her future endeavours.

Keith Brooks April 2018

VILLAGE PLAN OPEN DAYS

*Saturday May 12th Village Hall, 10:30 - 1:30pm
& Saturday 19th May at the Art Cafe, 10 – 12:30pm*

All residents of the village are encouraged to stop by one of the Village Plan Open Days to get an update on the progress from the Village Plan Team and to provide your inputs. There will be opportunities to ask questions on the draft plans and we will be asking everyone to complete a short survey.



*Please join us on Whitchurch Village Green
On Saturday 19th May 2018 from 3 pm to 5.30 pm approx
To Celebrate Harry and Meghan's Royal Wedding!*

-o-o-o-o-o-

Free entry – everyone welcome!

*Tea, coffee and juice will be provided free, but please bring some
cakes to share and your own wine etc.*

'Listen or dance to the Roy Bailey 'Big Band'

*Playing all your old favourites big band tunes plus with guest
singer Gail Hendrickx covering your favourite Ella Fitzgerald
and Billie Holiday Songs.*

-o-o-o-o-o-

*Please also bring something to sit on, though there will be a
limited number of tables and chairs provided.*

*We still need some volunteers to help erect the Marquee and some
Gazebo's in the morning and others to help with a short session
serving teas and cakes in the afternoon.*

Plus at the end to help tidy up.

Please contact Lissie on 07751 789107 if you can help!

The survey will be published on the Web site during May and June and we intend on making copies available to every household.

Areas that will be covered at the Open Days will include a summary of the progress we have made in implementing the Action Plan from the 2009 Village Plan, and draft plans to address other ongoing issues related to:

- Traffic and parking
- Community activities
- Future use of the Village green and other open spaces in the village
- Pavements and footpaths
- Future use of Village Hall and other facilities

Please contact Jim Donahue if there are any other questions related to the Village Plan at jimdonahue7@gmail.com. The intention is to issue an updated Village Plan by the end of this year, and this will be your best opportunity to have your say, so please stop by!

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

P17/S3578/HH, Prospect House, High Street. Replacement of existing garage with new double-height oak-framed garage. The application was rejected.

P17/S4302/HH, 'Cliff Cottage', Hardwick Road. Back extension to create a larger kitchen. 'No strong views'.

P17/S4397/FUL, Ash Court, High Street. Demolition of detached single garage to erect 3-bedroomed dwelling with integral garage. The application was rejected.

P18/S0263/FUL, 2 West Lodge, Hardwick Estate. Agricultural building to retail organic food. 'No strong views'.

P18/S0312/HH, 'Essendene', Hardwick Road. Single-storey side extension. 'No strong views'.

P17/S4397/FUL, 'Ash Court', High Street (amendment no. 1). The application was rejected.

P18/S0555/FUL, 'Hopton', Manor Road (variation of condition 2 on **P17/S0874/FUL**). 'No strong views'.

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

The Friends' Charity was founded in July 2016 and since then the trustees have organised some successful community events as well as providing the funding for much-needed projects in the parish.

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Projects

The Friends have provided finance for a new Sound System, including a loop, at St.John's Church. This has proved to be a valuable asset for all types of service. In addition, finance was given to replace the Churches' noticeboard on the Whitchurch High Street near the drive to St.Mary's. This has contributed to the tidying up of that area which is very much part of our community. As a follow-up to the Friends AGM last September, the Trustees are reviewing the various suggestions for further projects together with the Parochial Church Council.

Regular Events

One of the Friends' regular activities is the running of the ArtCafe at The Old Stables, once a month on Saturday mornings. Such events have proven to be popular in the community as well as raising significant funds for the Friends.

Future Events

Looking ahead, the Friends are organising a St.Mary's 'Churchyard work-session' on Saturday 21st April from 10am until about midday. Volunteers will be most welcome – just turn up and bring tools appropriate to trim shrubs/trees. Such 'workers' will be rewarded with tea/coffee and cake at the ArtCafe !

The next event will be on the afternoon of Saturday, 9th June at St.John's and the Goring Heath Village Hall. This will be a 'Cherishing St.John's Church building and Churchyard' day. There will be various activities aimed at families to explore and learn more about the plant and animal life diversity found in the churchyard. We also plan to cover the interesting history of St.John's church building with various displays and short talks within the building.

At the end of the afternoon, we plan to have a 'Cheese & Wine' get-together in the Village Hall. Full details of this day will be advertised shortly.

Other events, including another music evening, are being planned for the months ahead.

If you are not already a member of The Friends and are interested in supporting this very worthwhile local charity, you will find our website under 'Whitchurchfriends' with a link to the membership application form or you can contact our Chairman, Keith Williams on Tel: 0118 984 1139 or via email keithc.williams@btinternet.com

WHITCHURCH SOCIETY: GARDEN WALK SUNDAY 24 JUNE

Gardens will open from 1.30 to 4.30 pm. Once more, 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 0118 984 2653, mobile 07879 405559, email ian.bruce@btinternet.com

WHITCHURCH PRE-SCHOOL

The children are eagerly awaiting the arrival of the living eggs after Easter. Waiting for the living eggs to hatch and then being able to watch the ducklings grow is a unique opportunity for our children enabling them to experience life cycles, growth and development whilst encouraging social interaction and promoting nurturing skills.

We have been exploring the theme “People who help us” this term and introduced professionals working in the service industry to the children. A local hairdresser visited the pre-school and the children enjoyed an entertaining talk about being a hairdresser before having a chance to get their own hair styled. One of the mums joined the classroom recently to tell the children all about hearing tests, they were thoroughly engaged as they learnt about how auditory assessments are performed. The children have also been learning about winter time and relished ‘going on a bear hunt’ during Cosmic Kids.

Chinese New Year was an exciting theme for our pre-schoolers this term as they tasted foods from China and received a bright beautiful red envelope with a gold coin. This gift symbolises good luck and prosperity in Chinese culture and was a treasured treat.

Our rising fives have a couple of terms left before they graduate to Primary School! The staff have planned specific activities on Monday afternoons in order to prepare them for their big step. They have been practising their pencil grip, writing their names and tracing over letters. Number and listening games as well as sounding out letters to form short words have kept them on their toes. The rising fives have been introduced to simple maths concepts in small groups and have been working on discussing feelings and listening to rules in order to prepare them for Reception class.

Whitchurch Pre-school will be hosting the morning at the Whitchurch Art Cafe on Saturday 28th April. We look forward to welcoming our local community to enjoy home made cakes in the relaxing atmosphere of the coffee shop. This fundraising event will ensure that we can continue to purchase up to date resources for our pre-school.

OPEN MORNING 11TH MAY

We are inviting local families to our Open Morning on the 11th of May.

There are spaces available for the next term. If you would like more information please visit our website www.whitchurchpreschool.com or contact Kathleen on 0118 984 4516 or email: whitchurchpreschool@me.com”

Elaine Mullens

WHITCHURCH BRIDGE: PANGBOURNE APPROACH ROAD

Our engineering consultants Peter Brett Associates (PBA) have completed their pre-application discussions with West Berkshire Council (WBC) on our proposals for widening the Pangbourne approach road, and we have now received WBC's formal Pre-application Advice. WBC conclude that:

“The works are proposed in order to bring about benefits in terms of highway safety and these will need to be supported by sound justification. It is clear that there may be a conflict between preserving the setting of the listed building and the visual impact of the works in terms of the loss of trees and the interests of improving highway safety. Therefore I am unable to indicate the likelihood of success for an application for these works, but would encourage you to consider any possibilities for limiting the works to trees, instating additional landscaping and any other measures for minimising the visual impacts of the works.”

Because of the cost and Planning risks and costs associated with option C2 it may be some time before we are ready to proceed. However, we are making good progress with the detailed design of our proposed traffic calming scheme (as reported in the January Bulletin) to give a clear and continuous 20mph speed limit from the Toll Booth, over the Bridge and along Whitchurch Road into

Pangbourne. The scheme will include reactive “Slow Down” signs and we hope to complete the works by this autumn.

Geoff Weir

Company Secretary, the Whitchurch Bridge Company

www.whitchurchbridge.com

WHITCHURCH ON THAMES CRICKET CLUB

Did you know that cricket was first recorded as being played in the village in 1879. That’s nearly 140 years ago. It’s been an integral part of Whitchurch village life since the early 1920’s when the field (as it was then) at the bottom of Eastfield Lane, was purchased by Mr A.R. Whitelock, a local resident (Indeed his son, Miles, was Club President for many years until his recent, sad death). He made it available to the Cricket Club, which at that time had no ground or kit , a pitch was prepared by hand, and a series of fixtures arranged against local teams; Pangbourne, Goring, Streatley and Woodcote. Gradually the fixture list expanded to include Wallingford, Thatcham and Caversham – much larger and more prosperous clubs than Whitchurch. But Whitchurch held its own and all the larger clubs wanted a fixture with us on our lovely ground.

Cricket ceased to be played there during the Second World War and the ground and hedges were used for practice by Canadian tanks (amongst others). It restarted shortly after the end of the war and has continued to be played there until the present day. The club has a full fixture list from late April to early October and an active playing base of around 30 people drawn from in and around the village mostly. We play “friendly” fixtures and welcome players of all ages, genders and abilities. We particularly try to encourage young local players to participate and try and ensure that they participate as fully as possible during the matches.

If you (or your offspring) are interested in joining us then feel free to contact either myself (Cormac Neeson, Tall Beeches, Hardwick Rd.) or at joinus@whitchurchcricket.co.uk



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David.bowen@honeylegal.co.uk

AFC WHITCHURCH

We are a friendly local club, currently running 5 teams plus a training section for our youngest members. If you would be interested in joining please contact us at afcwhitchurch@yahoo.co.uk.

U18. The U18s have only 4 games left after 13 years playing together – end of an era. Our final game is a home game vs the top side Burnham Lynx. We had a good win over Basingstoke at the weekend and have away games vs Henley and Twyford after the Easter break.

The boys are playing very entertaining football and the games have been close. The 1st division experience has been a great way to end a great team experience.

Coach : Alistair Aitchison

U14. The Under-14 season has been really challenging due to playing in a league of mixed age groups, but the rest of the season is more promising with a single-year cup competition to look forward to.

We've seen many improvements across the team, both individually and collectively. Recent matches have seen a sharp improvement in form so we're looking forward to a strong finish through April.

Coach : Gary Stovell

U12. Playing in the BYDL Division 2 (of 4). The young squad had a tough start to the year as they coped with larger pitches and bigger opposition. Over time they found their own style of playing, moving the ball away from bigger (but slower) opposition and playing around and behind teams, pulling back a number of very good victories in the second half of the season with fast counterattacking, and some spectacular headed goals from corner kicks.

The squad will be moving up to 11-a-side next season and is actively seeking a number of new players to further add to the talents of boys in the team already.

Coaches: Renato Bottini, Jon Ridley and Geoff Hardwick

U10s. Having moved to BYDL this season it has been a game of two halves! Up to December we were in the second league (of five) and won all our matches convincingly. We were then promoted to the top league and have struggled against well drilled opposition. Over the latter part of the winter/spring we have been badly hampered by the weather and sodden pitch conditions (mainly at Sol Joel). With a fantastic squad of 11 boys playing 7 a-side we move up to 9 a-side next season. We have entered a BYDL summer league which we hope will allow us to get some game time and develop some 9 a-side experience in preparation. The boys character has been tested with some tough matches, but they have stepped up and (usually) have smiles on their faces, come what may!

Coaches: Alex Hilton and Martin Park

U9s. It has been a see-saw season for the U9's. We started the season well winning a lot of games and gaining our first promotion, moving up to the second division. However, following promotion the kids suffered from their success and struggled for results. The learning curve has been good and it's been great to see the progression as the kids learnt to play slightly differently on bigger pitches playing 7-a-side. We've had a number of new members of the squad who've come in and added to the football as well as being welcomed by the kids. Now we are looking forward to our last couple of games this season as well as a good summer of training and one or two tournaments. We have a mixed squad of U8's and U9's and are always looking to boost the squad further.

Coaches: Matt Lorrimore, Cormac Neeson & Greg Watkins

Academy. Our U-6/U-5 sessions are going well; a pool of around 10 players have stayed with it for the full year; and we get 6-8 on any given week. It's been great to see the skills and confidence with the ball build up over the year.

Coaches: Chris Mulrooney, Will Moffett and Jon Shuttleworth

Lindsay Austin
Club Secretary

WoTHABS: CONSERVATION AND REGENERATION

White-Letter Hairstreak Butterfly and Elm Trees

Two specimens of a variety of elm, *Ulmus minor* 'Ademuz', highly resistant to Dutch Elm disease, have been planted at Whitchurch Maze. When they become established, these new elms will provide the food plant which is essential for the White Letter Hairstreak caterpillars.

This is part of a project led by Peter Cuss from Butterfly Conservation, to regenerate habitat for the butterfly, following his finding in January of some of its eggs on one of the Wych Elms at the Maze. The butterfly's numbers took a nosedive when so many elms were lost through disease in the 1970s.

The life cycle of this butterfly is interesting. The eggs are laid singly on the terminal buds of the tree in late summer and then they overwinter for nearly eight months before hatching in early spring. The caterpillars eat the flower buds, then the leaf buds and finally the leaves, before pupating and then hatching in June.

We hope that on sunny days in June to August we will be lucky enough to see some adult butterflies on the wing, high in the tree canopy, confirming that Whitchurch is indeed a haven for this rare delicate beauty.

A Corridor for Wildlife

Here is an update on the recent reduction to hedge height of the line of beech trees near the school.

A small working party has now strengthened the line of the hedge by using some of the cut brushwood across the gaps. It is hoped this will both allow the healthy growth of new shoots to fill those gaps and in due course encourage wildlife. We have left several openings for going in and out, and are optimistic that the children will understand the value of helping us regenerate areas of habitat for wildlife. At home time the schoolchildren who stopped by to help us showed great interest in what we were doing and why.

Sally Woolhouse and Gill Goodwin



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SPRING BLUEBELL WALK (WHITCHURCH SOCIETY).

This year's Spring walk will be on Sunday 13th May and starts at 10:30 by The Art Gallery. The trail takes us on a climb up to Whitchurch Hill via Beech Farm and heads further north to Greenmore Hill just outside Woodcote. We return to Whitchurch Hill via Bircher Copse and then head east to Path Hill hamlet before heading back to the village. Total distance is approx 6.5 miles and we expect to finish around 1:30pm. It is expected that we will see some good displays of bluebells amongst the beech woods we encounter.

Richard Williams

THE WHITCHURCH MAZE

There are a large number of bricks in the Maze which need replacing (mostly unengraved) because of frost damage. In 2013, there were 160 bricks replaced (and new names added) but a further restoration is now required.

If you would be interested in having one (or two!) bricks engraved with your name(s), please contact Leslie Prater on 984 5230 or leslie.prater@btinternet.com.

Please support this unique feature of the village!

MAZE WORKING PARTIES

These will take place on the following SATURDAYs
each month for the 2018 season starting at 10.00AM:

**14th APRIL, 19th MAY, 9th JUNE, 7th JULY,
11th AUG, 1st SEPT, 6th OCT, 3rd NOV (if needed)**

*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.*

WHITCHURCH & GORING HEATH HISTORY SOCIETY

Our meeting on May 17th is entitled “The man who created Whitchurch Village” and is a talk by Peter Hawley about the architect Frank Loughborough Pearson. It will be a members only meeting (membership is £12) as timing and venue will be revealed nearer the date.

Our outing on June 21st will be to Chalgrove, to see the mediaeval wall paintings, with an explanatory talk. We hope also to visit Chalgrove Manor, the restored fourteenth century former hall house.

There will be a further outing in July.

When we reconvene after the summer we will be at Goring Heath Parish Hall on September 20th to hear Simon Wenham chart the Rise and Fall of Leisure boating on the Thames.

To join the Society contact Alan Nicholls at alan_nicholls@hotmail.com, or vicky jordan 0118 984 3260, vickyjordan5@hotmail.com.

WHITCHURCH & GORING HEATH TWINNING ASSOCIATION

Our visit to La Bouille near Rouen takes place from Friday 4th to Monday 7th May, and we very much look forward to meeting our friends again to celebrate forty years of twinning. In particular, the Sunday visit to Monet’s garden has encouraged some new people to join us, and we look forward to excellent photographs, and perhaps some paintings, as a result.

We’ll be at both fetes, so please come and see us if you want to know more.

Vicky Jordan

SCHEDULE OF UPCOMING EVENTS

Date	Event	Details
4th-7th May	Twining Assoc Visit to La Bouille	Somewhere in France
11th May	Pre-School Open Meeting	10am Whitchurch Primary School
11th May	WotJam Jazz Night	7:30-10pm Old Stables, £5 at door inc drink & nibbles (contact Leslie on 0778 810732)
12th May	Village Plan Open Day	10:30-1:30pm, Village Hall
13th May	Whitchurch Society Spring Walk	10:30 Art Gallery (start)
19th May	Village Plan Open Day	10-12:30pm, Art Cafe
19th May	Royal Wedding Event	Village Green
24th May	Annual Parish Assembly	8-10pm Village Hall
26th May	Whitchurch Hill Village Fete	2-5pm Village Green, Whitchurch Hill
14th – 17th June	Goring Gap festival	Goring on Thames
24th June	Whitchurch Society Garden Walks	1:30-4:40pm. Details to be confirmed.

Please visit Village web-site (whitchurchonthames.com) for any updates

EDITOR'S NOTES

The next Edition of the Village Bulletin (Summer) will be distributed week commencing 23rd July and deadlines for content will be Sunday 8th July. This Bulletin will cover events August to October inc.

Please contact Clare Donahue directly if you are interested in seeing your pet appearing in "Pet's Corner". Her email is claredonahue17@gmail.com.

To advertise in the Bulletin (350 copies, 750 reach) please contact me. Rates for ½ page are £40pa and full page £70pa and represent good value.

Richard Williams

rlwilliamsafcw@btinternet.com



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