

A photograph of a forest floor in spring, covered with a dense carpet of bluebells. Tall, slender trees with bare branches stand in the background, and some trees show early green foliage. The scene is brightly lit, suggesting a sunny day.

SPRING 2022

WHITCHURCH BULLETIN

THE PARISH OF WHITCHURCH ON THAMES, OXFORDSHIRE

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

WHITCHURCH PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman	Jim Donahue Nick Brasil Katherine Higley Carrie Leadbeater-Hart Paul O'Grady Frances Parkes	17 Hillside Hardwick Road RG8 7HL cllrbrasil.whitchurchonthames@gmail.com cllrhigley.whitchurchonthames@gmail.com cllrhart.whitchurchonthames@gmail.com cllrpogrady.whitchurchonthames@gmail.com cllrparkes.whitchurchonthames@gmail.com	07557 668601
Vice Chair	Diana Smith	cllrsmith.whitchurchonthames@gmail.com	
Clerk	Jane Yamamoto	11 Hillside Hardwick Road RG8 7HL parishclerk.whitchurchonthames@gmail.com	07876 714906

WHITCHURCH VILLAGE WEB SITE

www.whitchurchonthames.com

News Editor	Richard Wingfield	rmwingfield@btinternet.com	984 3682
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OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

All departments :	County Hall, Oxford OX1 1ND	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk	01865 792422
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Councillor for Whitchurch :

Kevin Bulmer	35 Springhill Road, Goring on Thames RG8 0BY	07526 743 091
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SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

All departments:	135 Eastern Ave, Milton Park estate, Milton, Abingdon, OX14 4SB	www.southoxon.gov.uk	01235 422422
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Councillor for Whitchurch:

Peter Dragonetti	Covert Cottage Hill Bottom	0118 984 4711
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PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

St.Mary's Whitchurch : St John's Whitchurch Hill

Hon.Secretary	Rosemary Pearce	07761 056125
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WHITCHURCH PRIMARY SCHOOL

Eastfield Lane, Whitchurch-on-Thames, RG8 7EJ

Head Teacher:	Mrs Dawn Chesters	School Office	984 2347
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Head of Parent Association:	Tania Neeson
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Chair of School Governors:	Eleanor Sugrue
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WHITCHURCH PRE-SCHOOL GROUP

Eastfield Lane, Whitchurch-on-Thames RG8 7EJ

Supervisor:	Kathleen Barrow	984 4516
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LANGTREE SCHOOL

Woodcote, RG8 0RA

Headmaster	Simon Bamford	01491 680514
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Chairman School Governors:	Jan Seal	01491 680514
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LANGTREE & GORING COMMUNITY EDUCATION CENTRE

The Old School House, Reading Road, Woodcote, RG8 0QY

Centre Head	Jenny Horsup	01491 681359
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Photo courtesy of Richard Williams – Bluebells in Park Wood near Mapledurham

CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE, APRIL 2022

I am so pleased to see community events such as the Saturday morning Art Café and monthly Thursday afternoon teas at the Village Hall becoming popular again. I realise that some are still cautious about re-engaging in community activities following the pandemic, but I would like to invite everyone to a few traditional community events that we will be having this Spring in person for the first time in quite a while. Please consider joining these events if you can. Everyone is welcome!

Annual Parish Assembly – will be held on Thursday 26th May in the village hall with wine and nibbles being offered at 7:30 for a 7:45 pm start. This is the meeting where the Parish Council and a number of local community groups give short updates on what they are doing. It's a great way to find out what's happening in the village. Everything from bell ringing to cricket and football clubs, to the theatre and history groups. It's also where we present the annual Whitchurch Award to a deserving volunteer.

Beacon Lighting for the Queen's Jubilee – The Green Team is organising beacon lighting on the evening of Thursday 2nd June on a hill overlooking the village. This will be part of over 2,000 beacons being lit across the country in honour of the Queen that evening. All beacons are due to be lit at 9:45pm and ours should be visible from the south end of the Village Green. Those interested in seeing it should gather near the Pavilion from 9:30pm. If you are interested in helping prepare the site or build the bonfire, please contact Charles Cotgreave at charles_cotgreave@yahoo.co.uk.

Queen's Jubilee Tea – We are looking forward to hosting a Queen's Platinum Jubilee event on the Village Green on Sunday 5th June 2-5pm. The Roy Bailey Big Band will be playing from 2-4pm. It is a free event and generally meant to allow villagers to socialise and catch up with neighbours so I hope to see you there! Tea will be available free of charge and Pimms and other drinks will be available for purchase. We are looking for contributions of cakes/scones/biscuits/little tea sandwiches from residents to share at a communal table

but it is not necessary to bring anything as there is normally more than enough to go around. The Primary School is also organising a bunting initiative to decorate the village. More details later in the Bulletin. Please contact our Clerk Jane Yamamoto (parishclerk.whitchurchonthames@gmail.com) or Nicola Armstrong (nicola.luetchford@btinternet.com) from the Pre-school with any questions.

Other matters that the Parish Council has been addressing include:

20mph is coming to the village 13th May! – Following the recent consultation, Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) has formally approved 20mph for the village. Contractors are due to start the practical works to change the speed limit from 30mph to 20mph on Wednesday 11th May and are allowing until Friday 13th for this to be completed. The necessary legal changes will then take effect from the 13th.

The signage change will use existing poles apart from two new locations in Eastfield Lane (opposite the sewage pumping station and on the opposite side of the road and between properties Ash Tree Paddock and Hannington) where small 20mph ‘repeater’ poles will be required. OCC have specified for these to be black painted poles (as opposed to the brighter zinc plated) to be more ‘in keeping’ with the historic nature of the village.

As this is something that the village has been seeking since at least the 2009 Village Plan, we would like to have a photo taken officially opening the 20mph speed limit on the 13th of May, probably by the Toll Bridge and village sign. We will post the exact timing on the web-site so any resident interested in joining can participate. It looks like Friday the 13th of May is will be an auspicious date for the village this year!

Lower Narrows Bollards – Despite the Manchester-style bollards being ordered and delivered to OCC, the plans to install them at the pavement by the Ferryboat Inn is now under review. Following a site meeting on the 15th March, some concerns have arisen over the

proximity of the various underground utilities. The main challenges are four underground electricity cables which are all running within the vicinity of the virtual pavement. OCC has been talking to the electricity supplier about this and will meet with them on 27th April. It seems likely that there will be changes to the originally proposed scheme.

Muddy Lane – We are working with Charles Cotgreave and Neil Huntington of the Green Team to plan surface improvements to make Muddy Lane a little less muddy. Despite it being relatively dry at the moment, the muddy surface during winter months is something that particularly affects parents on the school run. We have received quotes from local contractors to smooth the surface and add road scalplings. There would be a 1.5m strip of scalplings from the allotments to the school as a walkway and a wider area of surfacing from the allotments to Hardwick Road. The improvements would not significantly change the appearance of the lane and there will still be a need to clear it of leaves once a year to avoid future build-up of mud. The Parish Council has received a grant from County Cllr Bulmer to cover much of the improvements. A decision on this is planned for the May Parish Council meeting.

Re-establishment of Manor Road Yew Trees – The Parish Council is reviewing plans to re-establish the historic row of Yew Trees on the south side of Manor Road that formed the entrance to Combe Park. The area that would be affected is on the south side of Manor Road leading up to the playground. The change would involve removal of approximately 18 mostly Sycamore trees and Laurel undergrowth, and replacing them with a row of young yew trees to match the opposite side of the road. Cllr Higley has written a short article on this for the Village website. Please contact her with any comments or questions.

Thames Path – Hartley Steps Signs – The signs cautioning cyclists of the steep dip on the Thames Path at the end of Hartslock bridleway have now been installed. The signs also formally label the steps as being named after resident Eric Hartley who recently celebrated his 90th birthday. Eric, a long-time advocate of walking in the area,

worked with OCC to get the steps improved and re-instated in 2011 and 2012 after the previous deteriorated steps were removed.

Coombe Park – Cllrs Smith, Higley and I were invited to visit Coombe Park with their planning consultant to see the property ahead of the planning application being formally submitted to demolish and rebuild the main house. Plans for this change are now available on the SODC Planning portal. The Parish Council will be reviewing the plans at our May meeting. The Coombe Park owner may be willing to arrange another site visit for residents if there is interest based on the reaction to the plans.



Community Jubilee Bunting

To celebrate The Queen's Platinum Jubilee, you and your family are invited to participate in a community jubilee bunting project to display along the toll bridge in partnership with the children and families from Whitchurch Primary School. The intention of the project is to decorate a silhouette of the Queen in any way you like (collage, pastels, paint etc) which will then be collated to create a set of community bunting.

A template for the project (silhouette of the Queen) can either be downloaded from the Whitchurch web or can be collected at one of the events detailed below where they will also be an opportunity to decorate your piece together.

If you would like to participate, please come and see myself, Nicola, at the Art Cafe on the 7th May 10.30-12.30.

Or, Gill at a Knit and Stitch at the Old Stables on either the 12th May or 26th May, 2-4pm or 7-9pm.

Any completed artwork please leave in my porch - Mill Cottage, High Street (down the end of Mill Drive next to the toll bridge, blue door). There will be a tray in the porch.

Final plea- If you have any white sheeting that we could use as bunting please deliver to Gill at Rosemead, Eastfield Lane.

We look forward to seeing what you create and hope you get inspired to decorate your own house for jubilee- turning the village, red, white and blue!

Any queries email me on nicola.luetchford@btinternet.com

Many Thanks Nicola and Gill





*You are invited to the
Whitchurch on Thames*



Jubilee **TEA PARTY!**

featuring
The Roy Bailey Big Band

Sunday 5 June 2022
The Village Green
2 - 5pm



New Councillor – Please join me in welcoming Frances Parkes to the Parish Council who has been co-opted to fill our final vacancy. Frances, who has lived on the High Street since 2016, is a member of the recently re-formed Traffic and Parking Working Group. She has also volunteered to help with a joint working group we are forming with Pangbourne PC and other stakeholders to try to address the long-standing issue of the narrow toll bridge approach road and pavement to the bridge on the Pangbourne side.

Kind regards,

Jim Donahue, Chairman, Whitchurch-on-Thames Parish Council

JAN-MARCH QUARTERLY PLANNING UPDATE FOR WOT PC – APRIL 18, 2022

Planning Reference	Address	Comments by WOT PC	SODC status
P22/S0653/HH	Ebony Old Gardens, High Street, Whitchurch-on-Thames, RG8 7EH	The Council voted to support this application.	Approved
P21/S4312/FUL	Technology Centre, Bozedown Drive, Whitchurch Hill, RG8 7QR	<p>The Council voted to support this application subject to the Conservation Officer's report. 11/02/22</p> <p>The Council voted to support this application 15/4/22</p>	Application under consideration

P21/S4829/HH	Herringbones Cottage, High Street, Whitchurch-on-Thames, RG8 7ET	The Council voted to support this application subject to the Conservation Officer's approval of the use of corrugated metal to be used on the roof of the garage.	Approved
P22/S0242/FUL	3 Old Barn Cottages, High Street, Whitchurch-on-Thames, RG8 7EX	The Council voted to support this application	Application under consideration
P22/S1246/HH	The Little House, High Street, Whitchurch-on-Thames, RG8 7HF	The Council voted to support this application.	Consultation period
P22/S0966/HH	Oak Cottage West, Path Hill, Goring Heath, RG8 7RG	The Council voted to support this application.	Approved
P22/S1094/LB/HH	Hill House, Hardwick Road, Whitchurch-on-Thames, RG8 7HH	The Council voted to support this application.	Consultation period
P21/S5271/HH	Woodlea, Hardwick Road, Whitchurch-on-Thames, RG8 7HW	The Council voted to support this application 10/3/22	Approved
P22/S1154/HH	Little Court, Swanston Field, Whitchurch-on-Thames, RG8 7HP	The Council voted to support this application.	Consultation period

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORT

South Oxfordshire District Council collects council tax from us all, but it actually keeps only a small proportion of it, as it also acts on behalf of the Police, County Council and parish councils in collecting council tax. For a band D property, the standard bench mark, out of a total tax bill of £2,089, the South Oxfordshire District Council part will be £136. This compares with £241 for the Police and £1,651 for the County Council, and £60 for the Parish Council.

All these bodies have increased their element of the council tax, although the District Council's increase is the smallest at £5 for a band D Dwelling. SODC council tax remains the 8th lowest in the country for a similar rural district. Through more careful stewardship and planning, the savings made in the last year and projected forward have improved the financial position. As a result, £500,000 is available to improve our environment through hedge and tree planting, promoting green skills and businesses and cleaning up our built environment.

One of the obligations on SODC is to provide Bed and Breakfast accommodation; we discovered that the council had received capital funding some years ago, ring fenced for this issue, which had not been used, and this is now going to be used to acquire some property that can be used to address this obligation, potentially saving £65,000 a year.

We continue to see the benefits of the cancellation of the contract that outsourced many of the core activities of the Council. I am on the audit and scrutiny committee, and it was apparent that having Capita employees rather than our own staff "doing the books" resulted in additional costs. This was particularly evident when it came to preparing the annual accounts, as poor book-keeping held up the audit by Ernst & Young, which resulted in additional costs to the Council.

With the accounts now done in-house, the senior finance team are better able to analyse and plan, and so draw a clearer picture of the Council's finances.

One of the key documents that the Finance Department has to prepare is the Medium-term Financial Plan, looking ahead five years. This has often presented a rather alarming picture, showing a deteriorating financial position. The first such plan I saw, in May 2019, predicted that the General Fund Balance, ie the Council's reserves, would have fallen from £26 million to £5 million by 2022/23. As it has turned out, the latest plan shows that the expected £5 million actually came in much better at £25 million for 2022/23, and looking ahead the next five years, the balance is £18 million. By scrapping the outsourcing contract with Capita, not only does the Council now have a better control over the accounting and book-keeping processes, it has also made significant savings.

It undoubtedly helps that at least three of the members of the Cabinet of the Council are qualified accountants and are therefore able to provide a professional approach to the Council's finances. As far as I can ascertain, there were no qualified accountants in the SODC Cabinet in the previous administration.

Parking charges are increasing at the council owned and run carparks. The objective is that the carparks break-even, however over the last two years income dropped to just over £700,000 a year, while costs were just under £1 million. The intention is that the car parks should self-finance and not require subsidy from Council tax.

There is normally one free hour for all motorists, and car parking in South Oxfordshire is relatively cheap compared to Reading or Oxford.

The Council is also installing electric vehicle charging points at carparks in Henley and Wallingford and these will be available for overnight booking for residents.

Peter Dragonetti, South Oxfordshire District Councillor for Whitchurch on Thames

YOGA CLASSES AT THE VILLAGE HALL

We're lucky in having two high-quality Yoga classes running in Whitchurch Village Hall:

Jean Cosham's class (on Tuesdays 6.00pm – 8.00pm) is a friendly, mixed-ability yoga class for all ages. It teaches yoga asana, breathing techniques and meditation to aid in a happier, healthier lifestyle. For more information, please contact Jean Cosham, jcosham@live.com, phone 07484 113401.

In March, after running on Zoom during the pandemic, Helma Beelen restarted her classes at the village hall between 5:30pm and 6:30pm on Thursdays. This is a traditional Hatha yoga class to strengthen the body and improve flexibility but also breathwork, relaxation and meditation. For more information, please contact Helma at yogabyhelma@gmail.com, phone 07810 425593.

John Bradon,

WHITCHURCH SOCIETY UPDATE

The Garden Walks will be on 19th June and Matilda King has kindly agreed to host the teas at the White House again. We are very pleased to be able to go ahead after two years of having to cancel due to the Covid pandemic. As usual, we will deliver a leaflet door to door, nearer the time, listing the gardens that are open for you to visit.

Another date to note is the **Whitchurch Society Annual General Meeting** which is at 8pm on Thursday 5th May in the Village Hall. Three items on the agenda are:

- **Electing the committee.** The purpose of the society includes stimulating interest in the beauty, history and character of the village and helping to preserve its best features. If you feel you would like to contribute to this, the four current members of the committee would very much welcome your help.

- **Amending the Constitution** to say that the committee members should not take money from the society. A body to whom that we have applied for a grant has pointed out that these standard clauses are missing from the constitution so we would like to add them.
- **Announcing the results of the Christmas card competition.**

If you would like to attend the AGM it would be helpful to contact Laura Lucas at laura.c.lucas@hotmail.co.uk

The Whitchurch Society is pleased to announce that nominations are now open for this year's **Whitchurch-on-Thames Award**. The recipient will be announced by the Parish Council.



The Award (see photo) can be given to an individual, or possibly a group, in recognition of their contribution to the village. Please email the name of your nomination, and why you think they should receive the award, to The Whitchurch Society at TheWhitchurchAward@gmail.com. The deadline for nominations is Tuesday May 10th.

THE GREEN TEAM

Since the last Bulletin, fourteen working parties have been held and people throughout the village have, often unasked, helped with various tasks. The storms in February led to additional work. Some key points are indicated below.

- **List of Green Spaces.** We are lucky to have many green spaces in the village; our primary goal is to care for these. The list can be found on our website page: <https://whitchurchonthames.com/groups/greenteam.html>. Photos of the team at work appear in the Pictures section of the website.

- **Storm damage.** A number of trees were blown down or damaged in February. We cut up or cut back a number of trees, at the far end of Eastfield Lane, in the Maze and along Muddy Lane.
- **Village Green and the Maze.** We have regular working parties maintaining these areas. At the Maze we work together with WoTHABS to edge and maintain the central area. We resumed work on the Maze in April after the winter break. Work on the Village Green has been mostly at the southern-end, where we have cleared invasive plants and unwanted saplings and have explored constructive ways of disposing of the resulting waste material. We have planted geraniums alongside the ferns and cotoneaster shrubs at the entrance to the car park and foxgloves have recently been added.
- **Polish Church Garden Project.** Details and latest updates can be found here: <https://whitchurchonthames.com/groups/polishgarden.html>. Together with WOTHABS the Green Team levelled the ground at the southeast corner and dug holes in preparation for planting heritage fruit trees for the community orchard. Bird boxes have been mounted on trees in the copse. We also cut down some unwanted straggling trees along the southern edge, and cut back brambles.
- **Jubilee Beacon Site.** We are preparing a prominent site visible from the Village Green for a beacon bonfire to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee on 2nd June. Volunteers are welcome to join us towards the end of May and beginning of June, to construct the beacon and to light and manage it.

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

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

The Maze	7th May, 4th Jun, 2nd Jul (all 10am)
Village Green (all 10am)	30th Apr, 28th May, 25th Jun, 30th Jul
Beacon site preparation	TBA
Polish Garden tree planting	TBA

Charles Cotgreave

THE FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S & ST JOHN'S, WHITCHURCH (AN INDEPENDENT CHARITY)

The Friends of St Mary's & St John's, Whitchurch held their 5th AGM on Saturday 29th January in The Old Stables. Paul Witcher was unanimously re-elected as a trustee and he will continue in his role as Chairman of the trustees. The AGM was well-attended and there was some interesting discussion on future projects that are being considered by the PCC, for which The Friends may be asked to contribute towards the costs.

We have held two successful ArtCafe sessions so far this year (in February and April) – these are an excellent way of raising funds for future projects and also to publicise the aims of our charity.

During the winter months, we organised six working parties in the churchyards, both at St Mary's and St John's. We have had good turnouts of members and volunteers which has resulted in some very visible changes. At St Mary's, the focus has been on the area to the south of the church, where the impressive memorials to the Victorian 'great and good' of the village are buried. At St John's, we are endeavouring to control the trees and shrubs that have self-seeded in the graves and covered the historic mortuary building.

The most immediate project that is now in hand by the PCC is the replacement path at St John's, which will run between the lychgate and the porch. In its current state, it is very difficult to negotiate with wheelchairs and walking frames. The Friends will be contributing 75% of the total cost of this much-needed improvement. When completed, we plan to hold an informal 'Open Day' at St John's. The communities of both Whitchurch and Whitchurch Hill will be invited to come and see how some of The Friends' funds have been spent, to the benefit of visitors to the church and its churchyard. The church itself will also be open to give visitors a chance to see inside this charming unspoiled Victorian gem. Look out for the publicity which will be on the website and on posters, when the date has been fixed.

Thank you to all those who have supported our ArtCafes and the working parties – our small local charity would not be able to achieve its aims without your help.

Sally Woolhouse, Secretary

Email: whitchurchfriends@gmail.com

MOLLY

I wrote obituaries in the Bulletin for our two previous Labradors; Lass and Holly, and now, regrettably, would like to do so again, this time for Molly.

She was found abandoned and feral in Ireland at the age of five. Her first rescue home was with a lady in Hampshire for two years, before she came to us as a timid frightened seven year-old. Over the next eight years, she grew into a contented and fit dog as we walked over 8,000 local miles together.



Without Molly, our lives will never be the same again, she was a wonderful companion who has left her mark on our lives and perhaps on those of others, particularly in the village.

So, farewell to Molly and thank you from all of us.

Eric Hartley

WHITCHURCH PRE-SCHOOL

About us

Our team of experienced staff is committed to providing a secure and caring environment where children can learn and develop at their own pace within a happy atmosphere. We realise that all children are individuals with differing needs and abilities and we endeavour to respond and adapt to each child.

We are located next to, and with close links to, Whitchurch Primary School, on Eastfield Lane. We have a large, safe and enclosed garden with fantastic play equipment and covered areas, a large sandpit, mud kitchens and water trays. Our Pre-School classroom was refurbished in 2021, complete with a beautiful book den and home corner. We also benefit from our own outdoor learning area next to the pre-school site.

We follow the early years curriculum and the children do a whole range of fun activities rotated across the week, including dancing and games, music, art and craft, baking and food and early years science - making fizzy volcanoes, hands-on learning about bubbles, clouds, planting our own seeds and growing plants, paint colour mixing and lots more. All of this makes our Pre-School a really special place for our little people to grow and learn.

What we offer and registering

Children can join us from 2.5 yrs and we accept Government childcare funding for 3 and 4 year-olds, for 15 or up to 30 hours per week, term time. We run Monday-Friday during term time, from 8.45-3.15 with an early drop-off option at 8.30am.

Places are still available for the Summer term and from September this year but sessions are filling up fast. We recommend getting in touch as soon as possible to register. CONTACT hello@whitchurchpreschool.org | 0118 984 4516 www.whitchurchpreschool.org

Support us – please help us reach our £10,000 fundraising target

As a small local setting, run as a registered charity, and with the ever-increasing gap between costs and funding for early years places, our fundraising is essential to providing the activities and facilities that are so important for Pre-Schoolers. This year we are raising money for roof maintenance and to replace the sandpit and Astroturf areas.

THREE FREE and EASY ways to support us:

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

https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/whitchurchonthamespresch/?utm_campaign=raise-more&utm_content=w4

Please also look out for our fundraising events and to donate any time you can scan the QR code here or go to: <https://donate.giveasyoulive.com/charity/whitchurchpreschool>



Join us in the Summer term for our **Silent Auction on Thursday 26th May**, our ice cream stall at the **Whitchurch Hill village fete on Saturday 28th May**, and for tea and cake at the **Whitchurch village Art Cafe on Saturday 25th June**.

Thank you for all of your support!

Nicola Luetchford

Registered Charity:1183193

WHITCHURCH & GORING HEATH HISTORY SOCIETY

Our last meeting before the Summer will be held at Whitchurch Village Hall on Thursday 19th May, starting at 7.30, with coffee served from 7pm. Nick Brazil will explore the many writers and artists who have lived along the Thames locally (Mapledurham to Oxford) and places which influenced their art. Non-members are welcome, £3 to include coffee and biscuits.

In June and July we will be visiting some downland churches of interest (including Farnborough, where there is a John Piper window and Caversham Court Gardens).

Further information from Vicky Jordan vickyjordan5@hotmail.com

Vicky Jordan

NEXT BULLETIN

The Summer 2022 Bulletin will be distributed to properties in the Village w/com 25th July. The deadline for articles will be Sunday 17th July.

Richard Williams, Editor

rlwilliamsafcw@btinternet.com



#Faceup

An exhibition of stunning Artworks

from Crafty Knit & Stitch

By Jayne Davidson



In 2019 I became involved in a project initiated by local artist Gill Williamson to raise awareness of homelessness after a talk given at Crafty Knit & Stitch by Launchpad, a Reading based charity who work with individuals and families who have no reliable housing or a shelter of any form.

Crafty Knit & Stitch met regularly to create *#Faceup to Homelessness*, a collection of quilts with appliqued faces using recycled fabric. The concept was based on quilts being the most basic form of shelter; a covering under which to sleep. Gill also involved other local groups who made collage faces from left-over wrapping paper.

Over 20 quilts were made and were to be hung in an outdoor public space to show that people without homes are not hidden but are individuals whose faces we see every day in the people around us as we go about our

By Spring 2020, everything was set to go with an installation in the centre of Reading. Then we all know what happened next and the project was mothballed.

Fast forward 2 years to April 2022 and *#Faceup* was reborn as many people asked to see the finished results.

The quilts will be on display on Saturday 28 May at the Art Cafe in WOT from 10.30am to 12.30pm. Then at Pangbourne Village Hall on Sunday 29 May between 10am and 4pm.

On the Sunday there will be the opportunity to make a face and get it printed onto a t-shirt, so please bring one along.

All proceeds will go to Launchpad the charity that inspired the artwork.

Crafty Knit & Stitch meets alternate Thursdays from 2-4pm and 7-9pm; please see the village website *What's On* for dates.

Contact gill@artcafe.co.uk

Notes



A beautiful 18th Century country style pub and restaurant
nestled in the small riverside village of Whitchurch-on-Thames,
just a few yards from over the Whitchurch toll bridge,
a short walk from the car parks in Pangbourne.

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- Serving quality homemade food
 - Comprehensive bistro style menu
 - Homemade stone baked pizzas
 - Traditional Sunday roasts
 - Take-away food available
 - Private function room
 - Superb lunch menu
 - Fine selection of wines, cask ales,
Spirits and soft drinks
 - Parties catered for
 - Great friendly atmosphere
 - On-line booking

The Ferryboat, High Street, Whitchurch-on-Thames, Oxfordshire, RG8 7DB
Telephone 0118 984 2161 email info@theferryboatwhitchurch.com
www.theferryboatwhitchurch.com

WHITCHURCH & DISTRICT ALLOTMENTS SOCIETY

Chairman John Coupland email jvcoupland@yahoo.co.uk 984 2692

WHITCHURCH TWINNING ASSOCIATION

linked with La Bouille, France

Chairman Vicky Jordan, Little Langtree, Whitchurch Hill RG8 7PU 984 3260

WHITCHURCH SOCIETY

Chairman Laura Lucas laura.c.lucas@hotmail.co.uk

WHITCHURCH BRIDGE CLUB

Enquiries: Philippa Turner 01491 875648
Meetings: On Alternate Wednesdays of month, 1.30pm - 4.30pm September – May, in the Village Hall

WHITCHURCH AND GORING HEATH HISTORY SOCIETY

Contact: Sue Matthews, 3 Eastfield Lane, Whitchurch-on-Thames, RG8 7EJ 984 4489

WHITCHURCH THEATRE CLUB

Contact: Chris Martin, Sonia, Goring Heath Road, Whitchurch Hill, RG8 7PG 984 4252

WHITCHURCH CRICKET CLUB

Village Green - Eastfield Lane

Secretary: Cormac Neeson, Cormac.neeson@gmail.com 984 3347

PANGBOURNE & DISTRICT BOWLS CLUB

Recreation Ground, Thames Avenue, Pangbourne.

Contact: Roy Rosekilly, 22 Swanston Field, Whitchurch-on-Thames RG8 7HP 984 3080

PANGBOURNE & DISTRICT TENNIS CLUB

Recreation Ground, Thames Avenue, Pangbourne

Chair Louise Shearer 984 5265

Secretary Amanda Holland 07814 369566

WHITCHURCH-ON-THAMES HABITAT STUDY GROUP (WoT Habs)

Contacts: Gill Goodwin, 1 Swanston Field, Whitchurch on Thames, RG8 7HP 984 2934
Sec: John Bradon, Rylands, Hardwick Road, Whitchurch RG8 7HW 984 1574

THE VILLAGE HALL

Hall Manager: Mr R. Searce, 38 Manor Road, Whitchurch-on-Thames RG8 7EU 984 2004

Events Manager: Jean-Marc Grosfort 07881 312233

THE OLD STABLES ROOM

High Street

Contact: Sue Matthews 984 4489

WHITCHURCH HILL CAMERA CLUB
Website www.whitchurchhillcameraclub.co.uk

Chairman Alan Copeland, 14 Wayside Green, Woodcote, RG8 0QJ chairman@whitchurchhillcameraclub.co.uk
Meetings: Whitchurch Village Hall, every Wednesday at 8.00pm September - June. 01491 681 471

GORING HEATH SCOUT & GUIDE GROUP

Scout Group (Beavers, Cubs & Scouts) Contact: Doreen Pechey e mail: doreen@pechey.org
Guide Group (Brownies & Guides) Contact: Doreen Pechey 01491 681 236

PANG VALLEY SCOUT GROUP

Held in the Barn, Purley
Contact: (Beavers, Cubs, Scouts & Venture Scouts) Ian Shenton 967 8769
email: ishenton@ntlworld.com

PANGBOURNE & DISTRICT VOLUNTEER CENTRE

Committee Room, Pangbourne Village Hall
Office open: 9.30 – 11.30 am Monday to Friday 984 4586

AFC WHITCHURCH FOOTBALL CLUB (ages 5-16)

Chairman Alex Hilton email: hilts123@hotmail.com
Secretary email: afcwhitchurch@yahoo.co.uk

THAMES VALLEY POLICE

Wallingford Police Station, Wallingford, OX10 9DW
Non Emergency Police number. Manned 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. **101**

PUBLIC LIBRARIES

Pangbourne Library, Reading Road, Pangbourne, RG8 7LY 984 4117
Monday 2.30 - 5.00 Tuesday 10.30 - 6.00 Thursday 9.30 - 12.00
Friday 10.30 - 5.00 Saturday 10.00 - 12.30

Woodcote Community Library, Reading Road, Woodcote, RG8 0QY 01491 682 323
Monday 2.00 - 7.30 Tuesday 2.00 - 5.00 Thursday 9.30 - 12.30
Friday 9.30 - 12.30 Saturday 9.30 - 12.30

ST MARY'S CHURCH

Contact: For Service, Weddings, Baptisms, or Funerals. 976 5905

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

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

PANGBOURNE MEDICAL PRACTICE

The Boathouse Surgery, Whitchurch Road, Pangbourne, RG8 7DP Phone 984 2234
FAX 01189767192
Emergencies 8.00 am to 6.30 pm - 0118 9842234, Out of Hours - 0118 9787811 or 0118 9842234