

WHITCHURCH BULLETIN

SPRING
2023

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* OX11 0, OX11 9, RG18 9, RG18 0, OX14 4, OX49 5, RG9 4, RG9 5, OX10 6, OX10 0, OX10 7, OX10 8, OX10 9, RG8 9, RG8 7, RG8 8, RG8 0, RG20 6, RG20 7, OX49 5, RG7 5, RG7 6, RG4 9.

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George Brack



Naomi O'Loughlin



Arun Readings



Sue Warmingham

CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE – APRIL 2023

Village Celebration of Coronation of King Charles III May 8th! I hope you are able to attend the community event to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III that we are planning on the Village Green on Monday 8th May from 2-5pm. It will be a similar format to the successful event held for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee last year.

- The Roy Bailey Big Band will be playing and there will be a community table of tea, cakes, biscuits and other donations.
- There is no charge and everyone is welcome, including visitors from out of town or residents from other villages. We just ask that people consider bringing donations of cakes or biscuits if possible.
- The Church will be organising Arts & Crafts activities for children.
- The school plans to sell Pimm's and beer.
- Please contact our Clerk Jane Yamamoto if you have questions or would like to be involved.

Muddy Lane – You may have seen that improvements have been made to Muddy Lane over the Easter holiday. I hope that you will agree that makes Muddy Lane a lot less muddy and easier to use for everyone, especially parents and children using it for going to school from Hardwick Road. This was contracted by the Parish Council and funded by a grant from Oxfordshire County Council. Thanks to the Green Team for recommending these improvements and managing the work, especially Muddy Lane Guardian Neil Huntington. The local contractor, Dan Hazel, used road scrapings to improve drainage and eliminate areas where puddles can form. Separately, the Parish Council is applying to formally take over ownership of Muddy Lane as there is no clear owner of this strip of land in the Land Registry and the Parish Council wants to ensure it stays accessible for the community.

Emergency Plan Update – The Village Emergency Team met in February to review and update the Village Emergency Plan. The updated version is maintained on the Village website.

- Village hall **back-up power generator** – one of the key updates is that the Village Hall now has a generator for back-up power. John Bradon knows how to use it and plans to purchase LED emergency lights, a Kelly Kettle, and USB charging ports.

- I will arrange an **emergency scenario** with Jean Marc Grosfort and the team to simulate a. scenario where power is cut in the village for an extended period of time. More than six hours is considered an emergency.
- **Call for volunteers with first aid experience** – Two A&E experienced doctors in the village have moved away so we are looking to see if there are any other residents certified as First Responders, red cross volunteers, or other first aid training who would be willing to have their details listed as contacts in the Emergency Plan.

4th May Elections at the Village Hall – *Please note that photo ID is required to vote for the first time this year.*

- The Whitchurch-on-Thames Parish Council was not contested. As there are seven seats on the Parish Council and only six nominated, all six councillors have automatically been elected. There was a vacancy due to the recent resignation of Cllr Carrie Leadbeater-Hart. The resulting vacancy will be advertised once the new Council is officially formed at the May Annual Meeting.
- Residents will still be able to vote for South Oxfordshire District Council District Councillor for the Whitchurch and Kidmore End Ward on May 4th.

Eastfield House update – The Ross Healthcare sale of Eastfield House to Urban Village was successfully completed as of early December. I was contacted by David Choules of Urban Village, who is their Project Director for Eastfield House. He has confirmed that they are preparing to start redevelopment of the care home in accordance with the approved planning consent.

- They are just waiting for a Bat Licence from Natural England before they can start work. Some residents had raised concerns about whether the newt inspection Urban Village did was sufficient, however the SODC Planning Officer confirmed that they were satisfied that all required planning approvals were complete and no further surveys are required.
- They plan to improve the security of the site including fencing around the building and additional security cameras. I have asked them to prioritise this work due the recent increase in youth accessing the site and the related theft of two bicycles in the village.

- Urban Villages will start clearing out the site both inside and outside the building, so skips will be present in the next couple of months with a goal of the building being ready for operation by the end of 2024.
- The care home is being renamed as Cedar Lodge Care Home to align with the naming of other care homes owned by Urban Villages, that are also named after trees.

Pavilion Ownership – The Parish Council and the Whitchurch Cricket Club plan to start discussions on transfer of ownership of the Cricket Pavilion and other buildings from the WCC to the Parish Council. The goals of this transfer will be to ensure the buildings can be safely and effectively maintained, and to continue to be accessed by the WCC and the wider community for recreational and community events on the Village Green. The PC is aware of the need to improve the facilities and plans to progress this once the transfer is agreed.

Fibre Broadband to premises in the village:

- Airband has connected at least one resident for fibre to the premises on Hardwick Road. They are receiving 300 Mbps for £30 per month and it seems to be working well. The service should also be available to residents in the High Street and Hartslock Bridleway.
- I have spoken to Gigaclear who confirmed they are also planning to provide fibre throughout the village but do not have dates yet. They would like to use existing underground BT Open Reach conduits wherever possible and existing BT poles, much as Airband have done. They offer 200 Mbps guaranteed speed both up and downlink and they quoted a £19.99 per month rate.

Residents' Parking and Pedestrian Safety Plan Consultation – OCC Highways have told the Parish Council that formal consultation on the planned parking restrictions on the High Street are likely to start within the next month. This will be advertised in the Henley Standard, but we will make sure the link is available on the village website.

*Kind regards,
Jim Donahue*

Chairman, Whitchurch-on-Thames Parish Council





*You are invited to the
Whitchurch on Thames*

Coronation **TEA PARTY!**

featuring
The Roy Bailey Big Band

Monday 8 May 2023
The Village Green
2-5pm



QUARTERLY PLANNING UPDATE FOR WOT PC

APRIL 2023

Planning Reference	Address	Comments by WOT PC	SODC status
P22/S3223/FUL	Technology Centre, Bozodown Drive, Whitchurch Hill RG8 7QR	The Council submitted no comments.	<i>APPROVED</i>
P23/S0025/HH	New Barn, Manor Road Whitchurch-on-Thames RG8 7EW	The Council voted to support this application.	<i>APPROVED</i>
P22/S4285/HH	19 Swanston Field, Whitchurch-on-Thames RG8 7HP	The Council voted to object on the basis that the revised plan was a small reduction from the original plan and still could be used as a separate dwelling. The neighbours also had objections.	<i>APPLICATION UNDER CONSIDERATION</i>
P23/S1017/HH	Swanston House, High Street, Whitchurch-on-Thames RG8 7ER	The Council voted to support this application.	<i>CONSULTATION PERIOD</i>
P23/S1088/DIS	Aroona, Eastfield Lane, Whitchurch-on-Thames RG8 7EJ	The Council submitted no comments as it never received the original application.	<i>CONSULTATION PERIOD</i>
P23/S1070/FUL	Walled Garden, High Street, Whitchurch-on-Thames RG8 7EP	The Council voted to object based on the scale, bulk and massing, the damage to the Conservation Area, the harm to the setting of nearby listed buildings and the harm to public visual amenity and heritage townscape and the risk to village flood defences and increased flood risk.	<i>CONSULTATION PERIOD</i>

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S COMMENTS

My current term of office as your District Councillor is drawing to a close, completing four years of service representing residents of Whitchurch, Goring Heath, Mapledurham and Kidmore End. Before I was a District Councillor, I was a Parish Councillor, so was familiar with many of the issues that the District Council handles, particularly planning. However, I was, as I still am, very involved in community life, sometimes as a mere participant, but also as an

innovator and initiator, and I think that it is important to be involved in the community when one is a local government councillor, as it enables communication to be more effective, and mitigates the risk of local government being a world of its own, separate from residents and voters. During the last four years, I have much enjoyed meeting residents across the ward, and sometimes being able to help.

I have been impressed by the work and dedication of many employees of the District Council, and it is a great shame that the impact of Covid and subsequent working from home by many of them has meant that it has not been possible to meet people in the office on a casual basis, to exchange views and give praise and thanks in an informal way. Having worked in larger offices, I know how valuable quick, informal interaction is in building relationships and exchanging information.

I should especially mention the team who tackle council tax issues when these are escalated from problems that Capita cannot resolve, and the team that deal with fly tipping. The latter combine fast action to pick up the fly tipping, and then vigorous and imaginative actions to track down the offenders which has led to a number of successful prosecutions.

I have also been impressed by some of my fellow councillors, who have taken key decisions that have secured the District Councils financial position, and have worked with senior officers to deliver pragmatic solutions to problems that have arisen during the last four years, including a shortage of waste truck drivers as a consequence of Brexit, and the effects of Covid which led to a rethink on plans to rebuild the offices to save high rent costs.

Reading about the well-publicised troubles of other Councils, such as Slough, Croydon, Thurrock or Northampton and, in Private Eye, issues in other councils seemingly arising from the arrogance and incompetence of elected councillors, it is good to find that South Oxfordshire has a good balance of competent, careful officers and responsible and dedicated councillors. Whatever the result of the forthcoming election, I am sure that this good culture will be maintained.

Peter Dragonetti
(peter.dragonetti@southoxon.gov.uk)
SODC Councillor for Whitchurch on Thames

WHITCHURCH PRE-SCHOOL



Our bustling pre-school enjoyed another busy Spring Term in 2023! Our caring staff invested time and energy into designing creative activities to excite the children. We made the most of our purpose-designed indoor classrooms and they have been buzzing with the sound of children exploring, making new friends and having fun. Some of the children's favourite moments this term have included a wildlife day, bubble making and easter egg painting.

We also enjoyed welcoming two more members of staff, both of whom are experienced in supporting children with tailored learning and development. There are many more fun activities planned for the forthcoming Summer term, including a special outing to Rushall Farm for all of our children, a leavers' party for those starting Reception in September and celebrations to mark the 30 year anniversary of Whitchurch Pre-School at our current site.

We are now an Accredited Forest School Pre-School

We recently gained our accreditation as a forest school pre-school, in recognition of our dedicated outdoor and nature learning area. Forest school learning provides hands-on experience in the natural environment supporting building children's confidence through problem solving. Our staff love seeing our children thrive in this environment.

Our supportive parent and carer community gave our allotment a Spring tidy up and even built a new Summer House for the children to enjoy. The children have already made great use of this area in exploring the natural world. We will shortly be planting some orchard fruit trees and hedgerow plants to make it even more vibrant.

Come and join Whitchurch Pre-School

We currently have spaces available for new starters aged from 2.5 years upwards.

- We're open from Monday to Friday during term time, from 8.45am – 3.15pm, with an early drop-off option at 8.30am
- Free government-funded places are available for 3 and 4 year-olds for 15 or 30 hours per week during term time.
- Children from out of the Whitchurch catchment area are welcome to apply. To register your interest, please use the following contact details:
Email: hello@whitchurchpreschool.org and Tel: 0118 984 4516

Our **Spring Open Day** is being held on Saturday 22nd April 2023. It's an opportunity to meet our staff, explore our wonderful setting and enjoy free activities for the children. You can find more details about this and other forthcoming events here:

www.whitchurchpreschool.org and

<https://www.facebook.com/Whitchurchpreschool.org>

How to Support us

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 improvements to our pre-school building.

THREE FREE and EASY ways to support us:

- Become a Co-Op Member and select Whitchurch-on-Thames Pre-School. For every £1 spent 2p will be donated to our cause.
- Shop with Amazon, go to <https://smile.amazon.co.uk/> and enter Whitchurch On Thames Pre-School, 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”. The easyfundraising website or app allows you to shop with retailers like John Lewis, M&S, H&M which then sends us a donation of up to 5%. Register for free at:

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

To donate anytime scan the QR code here or go to:

<https://donate.giveasyoulive.com/charity/whitchurchpreschool>



Please also look out for posters for our fundraising events happening across the year. You can find more details on our Facebook page at Whitchurch Preschool.

Thank you for all of your support!

Pippa Ruxton
comms@whitchpreschool.org

Registered Charity: 1183193

WHITCHURCH PRIMARY SCHOOL PARENTS' ASSOCIATION



We've reached the end of another exciting term at Whitchurch Primary School – not only did the children have fun the parents did too! We held another successful Art Cafe in March but the much-loved Quiz Night in February was the highlight of our fundraising this term. This evening is great fun and gives the parent community an opportunity to socialise together as well as raising funds for the school.

At the end of January, a group of parent volunteers took time out of their busy weekend to help tidy and clear the area outside the reception classroom. The space was transformed, making the space a safe and fun environment for the younger children to learn and explore. This will be followed by the replacement of the canopy covering the area later this year.

After the success of the Easter Bonnet parade last year, it returned on the last day of term again. Unfortunately, the weather wasn't quite as nice so it was relocated indoors, but the children treated the parents to a beautiful display of colourful creations and were rewarded with a chocolate egg for their efforts.

The teaching staff at Whitchurch always go above and beyond to make our school exceptional and the children's educational experience as good as it can be. This term our Year 3 children embarked on their first residential trip with a 2 day/1night visit to Youlbury Scout Centre near Oxford. These trips allow the children to experience new activities, create memories and develop friendships and can only be done with the personal commitment of the teaching staff. This was followed by an amazing performance of Wind in the Willows by the Year 3 children which highlights the strength and diversity of the teaching in the school.

As we enter the summer term, we will be busy planning the annual sports day and the children busy practising during their PE lessons, but we will also be saying a sad goodbye to Miss Ross who is relocating to Northumberland. She has been passionate and instrumental in developing the literacy standards at Whitchurch and will be missed by everyone. We wish you well in your new role, Miss Ross.

I would like to extend a big THANK YOU on behalf of the Parents' Association to all the local businesses, local residents, school community and of course the teaching staff for all the help and support towards fundraising. Our aim is always to provide constant improvement and enhance the learning experience at Whitchurch. If you would like to get involved, please use email below:

Victoria Willcock (Chair) – Whitchurchpa20@gmail.com

LANGTREE SCHOOL, WOODCOTE

My name is Sara, I'm one of the co-chairs of the Langtree PTA this year. At our last meeting, we discussed various ways of reaching out to the local community and to Langtree's "feeder villages", to explain a bit more about what's going on in our amazing school.

You might be aware that Langtree's students outperformed themselves on the GCSEs for 2022 – the best result ever, despite just having been forced to contend with all the challenges of the pandemic, and government funding that sadly keeps falling quite far below inflation year on year.

We thought it'd be nice to reach out to the wider Woodcote community and highlight some of our upcoming fundraising events, which all serve to plug those funding gaps. These events are vital in allowing the school that extra space to cater for all its students, making sure that everyone is covered as much as possible. (We have currently been nominated as a local charity cause by the Co-op, where we're raising vital funds for our outmoded science labs!) Especially with the current cost of living crisis, this is more important than ever – and we wanted everyone in the community to be aware of what an important role Langtree serves, as the small microcosm, a tiny village within the village (and villages), that it is.

At the meeting we felt and hoped that there'd be scope for more members of our friendly local village communities to get to know us at Langtree, and to join in supporting our many fun events.

We're very much looking forward to hearing back from you.

*Sara Ritzen Awunor & Judi Green,
Co-chairs of Langtree School Parents' Association*



Tots on The Hill

Come along and join in the fun!

Every Thursday during term time, 10:00 - 11:30 am.

Let them: play, create, sing, snack and make friends.

While you enjoy a hot cuppa and a biscuit!

£3 per family.

Starting 11th May!

@ Goring Heath Parish Hall

Whitchurch Hill (opposite St John's church)

For more information check out our Facebook page
or email Debbie on totsonthehill@myyahoo.com



The Butterfly Effect

Art in the Community: Whitchurch Bridge

29 April – 14 May 2023

Art in the Community had great fun working with 1st Pangbourne Guides and Whitchurch Primary School making upcycled butterflies from the crisp packets to display on Whitchurch Bridge early May. Knit & Stitch has also made thousands of butterflies from donated wool and fabric for this year's community art project which has a special theme.

The idea is to encourage us to take a small step towards protecting our environment and counteracting climate change.

We are invited to choose a small change to make in our lives. For each promise made, a green ribbon will be added to a colourful display of butterflies on the bridge.

Hopefully see you there!

Or make a promise now . . .
click the QR code or email: gill@artcafe.co.uk



Early May, Art in the Community will be covering Whitchurch Bridge in butterflies made from upcycled materials – and we would like your help to turn them all 'green'.

The Butterfly Effect – where one small occurrence can have a massive impact on our deeply interconnected planet - reminds us that doing something small, that we can manage in our daily lives, will have an enormous consequence if others do the same. For example, Thames Water advises that if a household of four reduced their shower time by just one minute, they could save: £45 on metered water bills, up to £52 on energy bills and as much as 11,648 litres of water a year – multiply these by the millions of households in the country and – well – you see the effect.

Small changes can make a BIG difference – all we ask is that you promise to make at least one small change that could have a BIG impact on our environment if we all work together.

See the change – every promise will be rewarded by adding a green ribbon to the butterflies on the bridge until they are all happily fluttering in a beautiful visual display; demonstrating how the local community is keen to take steps to make a positive difference to our environment.



Make a promise – see the change

Making promises is FREE: simply tick as many promises as you like or write your own and return the form to Garlands; or use the url or QR code above.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Reduce the time spent in the shower | <input type="checkbox"/> Recycle soft plastics at supermarkets |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Make a butterfly and insect patch | <input type="checkbox"/> Or write your own promise here |

Please return completed form to: Garlands in 6 Reading Rd, Pangbourne RG8 7LY – thank you.

WHITCHURCH ON THAMES SPEEDWATCH

On a cold day in mid-April, Whitchurch's new Speedwatch team held the first of its monitoring sessions, logging traffic speeds at three locations in the village. Over two hours we found that 67 vehicles – about 30% of the 238 counted – had exceeded the 20mph speed limit. The highest speed recorded was a van driving at 46mph but we also clocked two bicycles zooming downhill at 25 and 26mph.

Our findings are passed to Thames Valley Police who can take action if speeds are excessive, especially if drivers are repeat offenders. Although they won't be prosecuted, their card will be marked.

Community Speedwatch is all about road safety so it was good to see that simply spotting a bunch of volunteers in hi-vis at the roadside was enough to make drivers slow down. It also feels good to be doing something about Whitchurch's chronic speeding problem rather than just moaning about it.

But we do need help to make Whitchurch an even better place to live so do join us. Training is online, all equipment is provided, we only go out in good weather and commitment can be as little as a couple of hours a month. Please get in touch by posting a message on the WoT noticeboard or village Facebook pages.

Linda Gray

WoT Community Speedwatch Co-ordinator



PANGBOURNE & DISTRICT VOLUNTEERS CENTRE



Are you having difficulty getting to hospital, doctors' surgeries or other medical appointments because your family or friends are unavailable and public transport doesn't quite get you to where you need to be? If so, we're here to help.

Why not give us a ring at Pangbourne & District Volunteer Centre on 0118 984 4586. We are based at The Village Hall, Station Road, Pangbourne and are open from 9.30am to 11.30am on Monday to Friday.

We have a great team of volunteers ready to take your calls in order to arrange transport to get you to your appointment. Our dedicated team of volunteer drivers will collect you from your home and wait while you are seen by the doctor or other medical practitioner and then bring you safely back home again. We also take people to clubs or for visits to residential homes.

You will not be charged for the transport although we would be grateful for a small donation which assists in keeping our service going. We cover a large area (Pangbourne, Whitchurch, Whitchurch Hill, Upper and Lower Basildon, Ashampstead, Purley, and part of Tilehurst which has the postcode RG31 6**).

Please contact us on the number shown above if we can be of service to you.

WE ARE ALWAYS LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS TO JOIN OUR TEAM SO IF ANYONE HAS ANY SPARE TIME AND WOULD LIKE TO BECOME A VOLUNTEER DRIVER OR WORK IN THE OFFICE ANSWERING THE PHONE, PLEASE CONTACT US ON THE ABOVE NUMBER. YOU CAN GIVE AS MUCH OR AS LITTLE OF YOUR TIME AS YOU WISH.

WHITCHURCH SOCIETY: GARDEN WALK & AGM

Please make a note in your diary that this year's Gardens Walks will be on Sunday 11th of June. It is an event for all ages and a chance to see some of the varied and wonderful gardens in and around the village. Nearer the event, we will, as usual, deliver a leaflet providing the details and a map.

We always welcome new gardens so if you might be interested in opening your garden, please contact John Bradon (087789 944676 and john@jbradon.co.uk) or Laura Lucas (laura.c.lucas@hotmail.co.uk). We'd welcome too, some extra helpers to set up and run the teas, so again please get in touch if you'd like to help.

Another date to note is Tuesday 25th April, when the Whitchurch Society Annual General Meeting will be held. It starts at 8pm in the Whitchurch Village Hall. You can find out more about what the society is doing and perhaps you might like to help. Everyone is welcome.

John Bradon

WHITCHURCH-ON-THAMES AWARD 2023



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 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 thewhitchchurchaward@gmail.com. The deadline for nominations is Sunday May 14th.

PANGBOURNE TRAIN SERVICE FROM MAY 2023

Great Western Railway's summer timetable comes into effect on 21st May 2023, bringing significant changes for off-peak trains to and from Pangbourne. Trains will continue to run half-hourly and call at all stations between Didcot Parkway and Reading, but towards Paddington will only call at Twyford, Maidenhead and Slough. They will run non-stop on the Main (fast) Lines between Slough and Paddington so journey times will be significantly shorter. Other stations between Reading and Paddington will only be served by Elizabeth Line trains. If you want a same-platform change to or from the Elizabeth Line your best choice is probably Maidenhead.

Looking west, the redevelopment of Oxford station is now under way, including electrification of the line from Didcot Parkway. Work is planned for completion by December 2024, from which time our local electric trains will be able to continue on from Didcot Parkway to Oxford.

Geoff Weir

HARDWICK HAPPENINGS

What a winter we have had at Hardwick Estate! In January we were ice-skating on the solidly frozen floods of the river meadows, in early March we were sledging on Upper Bec (known locally as Kangaroo Hill), and now we are sloshing through mud and floodwater again! A very friendly local otter has been punctuating our community whatsapp group with wonderful images of it frolicking and rolling in the frozen grass.

In mid-March we held our second quarterly Hardwick market at Lin's Veg Shed for the Spring equinox, the next one will be around the summer solstice. The markets are an opportunity to buy a range of Hardwick produce and crafts plus street food, tea and cake and live music. We are hoping that they will continue to grow as the Estate hosts more and more producers over the coming years in line with our vision.

The first year of the Hardwick lecture series was a great success with monthly events throughout 2022 each featuring a Hardwick resident sharing their knowledge and passions in an area in which they have expertise. We had talks about natural dyeing, boat building, access to land, critical thinking, and holding mining corporations to account among others. The series continues and there are many more great minds to hear from both on the Estate and in the local community in 2023! Please get in touch if you would be keen to give a talk.

In the woods we have finally felled the last major block of ash affected by dieback, in Hangings Grove (beside the road on Path Hill) and below Hollycopse. While it may look a bit scorched earth at the moment it will soon green up with coppiced hawthorn, hazel and sycamore, and, as per the Estate's woodland management policy, it has been replanted with a diverse range of native species suitable to soil types. Elsewhere we are continuing to thin mature beech stands to increase structural and species diversity. This year we have produced some quality timber which is going to the Midlands for sofa carcasses, a truly sustainable use of our wood resource.

As ever we are very grateful for your patience with footpath closures. Forestry operations will soon be paused for the summer and we'll be back next winter to continue our slow conversion of the Estate's largely monocultural stands to much more diverse 'near natural' woodland management.

Many of you may not know that Hardwick was the fourth certified organic farm in the UK when Sir Julian Rose converted Path Hill Farm in 1975. Building on this reputation as a pioneer of organic farming we have recently made a decision to convert all the remaining land which is not officially Soil Association certified.

This means that all the horse grazing (with the exception of the Stud Farm) and smallholdings on former horse grazing land will now come under an organic license held and paid for by the Estate. This change is part of land use planning work being carried out as part of the strategic planning for the Estate as we head towards becoming a charity, and will mean no GMO products can be fed to horses, and only organic feed fed to other livestock. Organic certification gives the public and the Estate assurance that the highest animal welfare and environmental conditions are being adhered to, and helps our smallholders get support with farming queries, as well as getting a better price for products.

The Estate continues to work towards its upcoming transition into a community-led charity structure, moving away from private family ownership following the wishes of the Rose family. In February we held our third 'Thinking Together' day designed to help us build the skills we need to make this major change. At this event the newly formed Energy working group reported back on their work looking at options for community energy generation and energy efficiency. An energy efficiency survey has been designed and is now being completed, and the Estate's 30+ homes and businesses will be surveyed with a thermal imaging camera next winter to identify areas for improvement. Investigations into community generation of renewable energy, either via lots of individual on-home installations linked together, or perhaps a community solar farm/wind turbine.



Hardwick Thinking Day

The Thinking Together meeting was also extremely lucky to have a presentation and discussion with Ailsa Raeburn, Chair of Community Land Scotland and the Isle of Eigg Heritage Trust – a real expert on Scotland's community owned Estates (now 3% of Scotland!) and with so much relevant knowledge to share. On her invitation a group of Hardwickians are now making the long journey to Skye for the Community Land Scotland conference where we can learn so much from the Scottish experience and forge supportive links for our own journey.

Upcoming Events at Hardwick:

Saturday 29th April, from 10am – 2pm (meet at Lin's Veg Shed). **Farm walk for the general public**, guided by Iain Tolhurst. After the publishing of George Monbiot's latest book *Regenesiis*, where a whole chapter 'Fruitful' is dedicated to our farm, as a happy solution to the problems described, we have received multiple requests for visits. Tolhurst Organic is a working farm, and visits are possible by appointment only, or as part of organised events. Hence this farm walk, dedicated to Stockfree Organic, soil, woodchip and everything else we set up to produce healthy vegan and organic "veganic" food.

Bring suitable clothes and shoes for a 3.5 hours farm walk. Bring a picnic lunch to enjoy after the walk, at the farm. Tea and coffee will be provided. Dogs are allowed on a lead and under supervision. Places can be booked directly with Tolhurst Organic or at Eventbrite

Hardwick Lecture Series @ The Tolhurst Organic Packing Shed. (£3 donation). 11th May – 7.30pm. Hardwick's Recent History: Going organic, the campaign to save raw milk, and where next? Sir Julian Rose and others.

Hemp Fair – Sunday 14th May 11am – 8pm. Hempen, RG8 7RE. A fun and educational day out for families and adults with games, workshops, talks, hemp cafe, hemp burger van, stalls, educational stands and live music.
[https:// www.hempen.co.uk/shop/ hempen-events/the-hemp-fair/](https://www.hempen.co.uk/shop/hempen-events/the-hemp-fair/)

The Flower Artisan @ Longmeadow by Sarah Fasoli. Spring is just around the corner and I am busy preparing the field for the coming season, mulching, planting out autumn sown plants and seed sowing. The tulips and narcissus are all showing and the fresh flower season will start gently at the end of March. This year, I will be running a stall at the field on a Saturday morning from April to September where you can come and buy fresh flowers by the stem or pick up a bouquet. From the second weekend of May through to the end of July I am offering PYO Sweet Peas on Saturday mornings at 11am for small numbers, you can pre-book with Sarah at sarah@theflowerartisan.co.uk.

Miriam Rose (Hardwick Estate Manager)

WHITCHURCH & GORING HEATH HISTORY SOCIETY

Our last lecture this spring is a different take on the history of the two world wars of the twentieth century. Sue Smith will be telling us about the humanitarian relief work across Europe of the Friends' Ambulance Unit, a little-known service of non-combatants. All are welcome to Join us at Goring Heath Parish Hall on Thursday May 20th at 7.00pm for coffee, and talk at 7.30pm. Non-members fee is £3, to include coffee and biscuits.

We shall have a stall at the fete at Whitchurch Hill at the end of May, and in June and July there are members' only outings, usually involving a pub lunch. After a break in August our meetings return on 21st September with a lecture by Mike Cooper.

It costs only £12 to be a member, why not come along and join us? Contact Vicky Jordan vickyjordan5@hotmail.com

Vicky Jordan

WHITCHURCH UNITED CHARITIES

The Secretary of Whitchurch United Charities would like to remind all families that the Charity has funds available to help meet the costs associated with educational needs such as books, equipment or educational trips. Eligible students are young people between the ages of 5 and 25 years and whose permanent residence is within the parish of Whitchurch.

Applications are processed twice a year, with the closing dates being 31st March and 30th September. However, late applications are considered if the available funds for the previous six-month period have not been fully allocated. All applications and decisions are treated in strict confidence by the Trustees.

If you would like to know more, please do contact Sarah Dixon (our Grant Application Secretary). Contact details: telephone: 0118 984 4262, address: Flint House, Hardwick Road, Whitchurch on Thames, RG8 7HH or e-mail – whitchchurchunitedcharities@gmail.com

Kitty Higley

THE FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S AND ST JOHN'S, WHITCHURCH

The Friends is an independent charity to which we welcome members from all faiths and none. The Friends aim to help preserve the heritage of our two historic buildings in this Parish, support the use of the churches by the wider community and help bring together people from Whitchurch on Thames and Whitchurch Hill.

Regular work parties, with a number of volunteers in both our churchyards, have been carried out over recent months; general maintenance to both churchyards is essential to help to keep the grounds in a presentable condition. Many thanks to the volunteers who took part in these events. More work parties are planned going forwards.

The Art Cafe's coffee meetings are held on behalf of The Friends bi-monthly on Saturday mornings. These are advertised on notice boards at the toll bridge and in the What's On section of the village website. A successful social/fundraising quiz evening took place on April 15th in Whitchurch Village Hall and thanks to those who gave their time in the organisation of this. See below for information regarding a special and exciting 'raffle' draw.

All money raised from social events, membership subscriptions and donations will be contributed towards the maintenance, preservation and improvement of the two church buildings in our Parish and their churchyards.

When considering new projects to finance, The Friends work closely with the Parochial Church Council (PCC) as the two church buildings are, of course, their responsibility. Projects which have been completed over recent months which The Friends have contributed nearly £17,000 to include:-

- Removal of self-seeded trees at St. Mary's churchyard – Work completed June 2022.
- New entrance path including low level lighting at St. John's – Work completed September 2022.
- Trimming and wiring of the yew trees at St. John's churchyard – Work completed September 2022.
- Upgrading of the electric power supply and replacement of outdated heating units at St. John's church – Work completed September 2022.
- Repainting the walls and ceiling of the nave at St. Mary's – Work completed March 2023.

The Friends of St Mary's and St John's are delighted to announce a special 'raffle' draw to win an overnight stay for two with breakfast at the top 5-star NoMad Hotel in London, in the heart of Covent Garden. The draw will be held at the Art Cafe in The Old Stables on Saturday 5th August. Tickets will be on sale from early May and the hotel voucher is valid until 3rd April 2024. The draw will be limited to 100 tickets at £5 each. You can register your interest or buy tickets when available from Sally Woolhouse, the Secretary to The Friends, by email to whitchchurchfriends@gmail.com.

Paul Witcher – Chairman

SPRING EVENTS IN AND AROUND THE VILLAGE

- From 29th April to 14th May, the **Butterfly Effect** will see our bridge will be covered by butterflies (details elsewhere)
- The **Woodcote Spring Fair** is on Sunday 30th April 11am–3pm and is held on their village green.
- As featured elsewhere in this Bulletin, there will be a **Coronation Tea Party** on the Village Green on Monday 8th May 2–5pm.
- Also featured, the first **Hemp Fair** will be on Sunday 14th May 11am–8pm (entrance fee applies) at Path Hill.
- Our neighbours at **Whitchurch Hill** will be holding their **Village Fete**, featuring ferret racing, on Saturday 27th May.
- The popular and well known **Yattendon & Frilsham Village Fete** takes place on Spring Bank Holiday Monday 29th May from 1pm.
- The busy **Pangbourne Village Fete** will take place Saturday 10th June on the Meadow
- And on the following day, Sunday 11th June, the Whitchurch Society will be organising the **Gardens Walk** event (details on locations to be published nearer the date) – john@bradon.co.uk.

Richard Williams (Editor)
rlwilliamsafcw@btinternet.com

THE PARISH OF WHITCHURCH ON THAMES, OXFORDSHIRE

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

WHITCHURCH ON THAMES PARISH COUNCIL			
Chair	Jim Donahue	cllrdonahue.whitchurchonthames@gmail.com	
V/Chair	Diana Smith	cllrsmith.whitchurchonthames@gmail.com	
	Nick Brazil	cllrbrasil.whitchurchonthames@gmail.com	
	Katherine Higley	cllrhigley.whitchurchonthames@gmail.com	
	Paul O'Grady	cllrgrady.whitchurchonthames@gmail.com	
	Frances Parkes	cllrparkes.whitchurchonthames@gmail.com	
Clerk	Jane Yamamoto	11 Hillside, Hardwick Road, RG8 7HL parishclerk.whitchurchonthames@gmail.com	07876 714906

SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL			
135 Eastern Ave, Milton Park Estate, Milton, Abingdon, OX14 4SB, www.southoxon.gov.uk			
Councillor	Peter Dragonetti	Covert Cottage, Hill Bottom	0118 9844711

OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL			
County Hall, Oxford, OX1 1ND, www.oxfordshire.gov.uk			01865 792422
Councillor	Kevin Bulmer	35 Springhill Road, Goring on Thames, RG8 0BY	07526 743091

WHITCHURCH ON THAMES VILLAGE WEBSITE			
www.whitchurchonthames.com			
News Editor	Richard Wingfield	rmwingfield@btinternet.com	0118 9843682

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL			
St Mary's Whitchurch and St John's Whitchurch Hill			
Hon Secretary	Rosemary Pearce		07761 056125

WHITCHURCH PRE-SCHOOL GROUP			
Eastfield Lane, Whitchurch on Thames, RG8 7EJ			
Supervisor	Kathleen Barrow		0118 9842347

WHITCHURCH PRIMARY SCHOOL			
Eastfield Lane, Whitchurch on Thames, RG8 7EJ			
Head Teacher	Dawn Chesters		0118 9842347
Head of Parent Association	Victoria Wilcock		
Chair of School Governors	Eleanor Sugrue		

LANGTREE SCHOOL			
Woodcote, RG8 0RA			
Head Teacher	Simon Banford		01491 680514
Chair of School Governors	Alan Dunstan		01491 680514

Front Cover photo courtesy of Richard Williams – the Mill Pond with St Mary's and the Mill in background.

WHITCHURCH AND DISTRICT ALLOTMENT SOCIETY

Chair	John Coupland	jvcoupland@yahoo.co.uk	07397 778872
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WHITCHURCH TWINNING ASSOCIATION

Chair	Wendy Ferguson	wendyefergie@gmail.com	0118 9841262
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WHITCHURCH SOCIETY

Chair	John Bradon		0118 9841574
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WHITCHURCH BRIDGE CLUB

Enquiries	Phillipa Turner		01491 875648
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WHITCHURCH AND GORING HEATH HISTORY SOCIETY

Contact	Vicky Jordan	Little Langtree, Whitchurch Hill, RG8 7PU	0118 9843260
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WHITCHURCH CRICKET CLUB

Sec	Cormac Neeson	cormac.neeson@gmail.com	0118 9843347
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PANGBOURNE AND DISTRICT BOWLS CLUB
Recreation Ground, Thames Avenue, Pangbourne

Contact	Roy Rosekilly	22 Swanston Field, Whitchurch on Thames, RG8 7HP	0118 9843080
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PANGBOURNE AND DISTRICT TENNIS CLUB
Recreation Ground, Thames Avenue, Pangbourne

Chair	Louise Shearer		0118 9842934
Sec	Amanda Holland		07814 369566

WHITCHURCH ON THAMES HABITAT STUDY GROUP (WotHabs)

Contact	Gill Goodwin	1 Swanston Field, Whitchurch on Thames, RG8 7HP	0118 9842934
Sec	John Bradon	Rylands, Hardwick Rd, Whitchurch on Thames, RG8 7HW	0118 9841574

VILLAGE HALL

Hall Manager	Richard Searce	38 Manor Road, Whitchurch on Thames, RG8 7EU	0118 9842004
Events Mgr	Jean-Marc Grosfort		07881 312233

OLD STABLES ROOM
High Street

Contact	Geoff Weir	oldstablesbookings@btinternet.com	
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WHITCHURCH ON THAMES PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY
Meetings: Whitchurch Village Hall, alternate Wednesdays at 8pm

Chair	Alan Copeland	14 Wayside Green, Woodcote, RG8 0QJ	01491 681471
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GORING HEATH GUIDE AND SCOUT GROUP

Contact	Doreen Pechey	doreen@pechey.org (<i>Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Brownies, Guides</i>)	01491 681236
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PANG VALLEY SCOUT GROUP

The Barn, Purley on Thames

Contact	Ian Shenton	ishenton@ntlworld.com (<i>Beavers, Cubs, Scouts</i>)	0118 9678769
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PANGBOURNE AND DISTRICT VOLUNTEER CENTRE

Committee Room, Pangbourne Village Hall

	Open 09:30 – 11:30am Mon-Friday	0118 9844586
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AFC WHITCHURCH FC (ages 5–16)

Chair	Alex Hilton	hiltsl23@hotmail.com or afcwhitchurch@yahoo.co.uk	
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THAMES VALLEY POLICE

Wallingford Police Station, Wallingford, OX10 9DW

	Non Emergency Police Number (manned 24/7)		101
Neighbourhd Supervisor	Barbara Taylor	barbara.taylor@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk	07814 485286

PANGBOURNE LIBRARY

Reading Road, Pangbourne, RG8 7LY

			0118 9844117
Monday 14:00–17:00	Tuesday 10:30–18:00	Wednesday CLOSED	
Thursday 9:30–12:00	Friday 10:30–17:00	Saturday 10:00–12:30	

ST MARY'S CHURCH

Contact	For Baptisms, Weddings or Funerals	0118 9765905
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THE FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S AND ST JOHN'S

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

PANGBOURNE BOATHOUSE SURGERY

Whitchurch Road, Pangbourne, RG8 7DP

Routine health conditions	Mon to Fri, 08:00–18:30	0118 9842234
Urgent unplanned conditions		NHS 111
Life-threatening emergencies		999

WHITCHURCH ON THAMES BULLETIN

Editor	Richard Williams	rlwilliamsafcw@btinternet.com	07810 374280
	<i>Deadline for Articles</i>	<i>Planned distribution</i>	
Summer 2023	15th July	29th July	
Autumn 2023	15th October	29th October	
Winter 2024	15th January	29th January	



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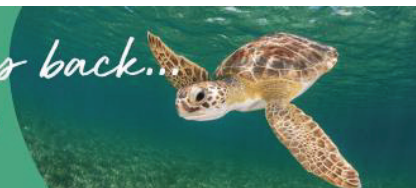
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