

FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

Well another year draws to a close, where does the time go? I am glad to say that things are moving forward with many of our projects which aim to keep Whitchurch on Thames the pleasant riverside village which we all enjoy living in.

As I said in my last report the planning application for the new pavilion would be sent to SODC as soon as we have received the views of the village on our new plans. I am pleased to say that this has been completed and we have taken on board what you have said and as a consequence modified them. This will be a huge project for the village and we will need all the help we can get in terms of fund raising. I hope everyone will get behind this fantastic opportunity to upgrade the village green so the various organisations that use it can benefit from its new facilities and maybe it will also encourage new ones.

We have been in the process of setting up an agreement with SODC to adopt the land adjacent to Manor Road where we hope to have a memorial garden. Completing this has delayed the installation of a new fence and repair of an existing one but I hope in the near future we will start to see significant changes taking place.

The Parish Council has also agreed to fund the cutting back of the trees near the school which were originally intended to be a hedge but now are overgrown and difficult to maintain. This will greatly improve the area in terms of daylight which in turn will aid growth of important trees on the village green. There is an article in this issue of the Bulletin and on the Village Web Site (<http://whitchurchonthames.com/news.php>) which explains the work in more detail.

I hope everyone has noticed the splendid new signs as they enter the village from the toll bridge which are a great improvement as they contain information on the twinning of Whitchurch on Thames with La Bouille in Normandy and of course the great design of the

bridge and church which came about as a result of the primary school competition. Many thanks to all those who entered. I think it complements the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty which is proudly displayed below it.

We are also hoping to begin refurbishing the village hall so I would urge anyone who uses it and has any ideas of what they would like to see improved to contact myself or the Parish Clerk. I would like to see it used more for functions and possibly these improvements might encourage this.

I would like to thank those people, too many to list, who freely give their time to sort out things around the village. I just don't know how we would cope without them and Whitchurch on Thames would not be the lovely place it is today.

Lastly I would like to draw attention to the fact that we do have a Village Plan Group headed up by Councillor Jim Donahue so if you fancy getting involved in making a blueprint for the future of the village get in touch with him.

Keith Brooks January 2018

WHITCHURCH & GORING HEATH TWINNING ASSOCIATION

This year we celebrate 40 years of Twinning with our French village of La Bouille, which lies on the Seine outside Rouen. We will be visiting for a weekend at the beginning of May and I'm sure there will be much to enjoy with our friends. We shall have a roomy coach and welcome anyone from Whitchurch and the villages around to join us.

Meanwhile, the Annual General Meeting will be held in the Old Rectory Stables In Whitchurch on Wednesday 31st January 2018 at 7.30pm. All welcome.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS JULY-DEC 2017

P17/S1934/FUL, The Haven, Eastfield Lane. Minor changes to elevation. 'No strong views'.

P17/S2382/AG, Butler's Farm, Goring Heath Road, Whitchurch Hill. Erection of barn for storage of animal fodder. 'No strong views'.

P17/S1408/HH, The Baulk, Path Hill. Installation of a pair of automatic gates. 'No strong views'.

P17/S2494/LB, The Dower House, Hardwick Estate. Renewal of insect mesh on basement windows. 'No strong views'.

P17/S2660/HH, Milverton House, High Street. Side & rear extensions. 'No strong views'.

P17/S2778/HH, 7 Manor Road. Single-storey side extension. 'No strong views'.

P17/S2574/HH, 4 Whitchurch House, High Street. Loft conversion. 'No strong views'.

P17/S3901/HH, Avoca Farm, Hartslock Bridleway. Erection of new single-storey building to house a rehearsal & editing suite. 'No strong views'.

P17/S4180/LB, 4 Whitchurch House, High Street. Rebuild slate roof. 'No strong views'.

P17/S3549/HH, 11 Hillside, Hardwick Road. Loft conversion & skylight installation. 'No strong views'.

P17/S3373/LB, 3 Hill Cottages, High Street. Skylight installation at rear. 'No strong views'.

P17/S3727/GG, 'Greenways', High Street. Erection of shed towards rear of property. 'No strong views'.

WHITCHURCH & GORING HEATH HISTORY SOCIETY

We have a Members' evening on Thursday January 18th 2018 at Whitchurch Village Hall at 8pm. It is a chance for members to talk about research they have done, and we look forward to hearing about local place names, the Victoria County History, and (as they say in the adverts) much more.

Our Annual General Meeting takes place at the same venue on Thursday February 15th when, after the usual business, John Leighfield will give an illustrated lecture about historic maps of our area. He has also promised to bring a selection from his extensive collection of maps to look at. As he does not charge a fee, we shall hold an Art Café on Saturday February 10th in aid of Helen & Douglas House, his chosen charity.

Meetings are open to all. Non-members pay £3 which includes coffee and biscuits, available from 7.30pm.

THE 2017 WHITCHURCH ART & CRAFT EXHIBITION

This popular long-running annual event was staged by The Whitchurch Society in Whitchurch Village Hall over the weekend of 18th & 19th November. There were exactly 200 entries which is the 2nd highest number ever, only beaten by the 218 entries in 2013. It was a very successful and sociable occasion which provided the opportunity for everyone to see and share the results of creative talent in our community. There was a wonderful variety of artwork, craftwork and photographs from young and old, showing a very high standard. This year's theme for the Joyce Voysey Prize was 'Circles' which produced some very varied interpretations. Colourful displays of work by children at the Pre-School, the Primary School and the Oratory Prep School were very eye-catching and showed great promise. Visitors enjoyed refreshments all weekend and meeting up with friends and neighbours before the prize-giving ceremony at 4-30pm on Sunday.

We are very grateful to the three judges who came along to the Hall on the Friday evening, after all the exhibits had been displayed, to choose the winning entries in all the categories. The Art judge was Martin Hayward-Harris, the Craft judge was Sonja Allen and the Photography judge was Charlotte Snowden. Congratulations to all the prize winners; a full list of these can be found on the Exhibition page on the Whitchurch village website.

Very many thanks to all the exhibitors and also to everyone who helped with the setting up, dismantling and running of the show, including serving the refreshments and making delicious cakes.

Finally, my special thanks to the planning committee – Sarah Dixon, Wendy Ferguson and Jean-Marc Grosfort – who made it all happen, and to the Whitchurch Society committee who supported us.

Sally Woolhouse (sally@wotarts.co.uk)

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Calling all art & crafters!

Following on from the success of last year's yarn bombing show; ART CAFE is very excited to announce a **new community art project**, Equinox Together, that will be installed this September on Pangbourne Meadow.

The theme of **Equinox Together** is the seasons; the idea is to create a spiral of totem poles consisting of hollow pottery cylinders threaded onto posts like the ones below.

It would be great to have you join us by making and decorating a pottery cylinder.

We've put together a series of not-for-profit workshops where you can come along and make a cylinder. For £20/person we will provide the tuition, materials and equipment – then we take the cylinder away to get it fired - all you need to bring is an apron!

To find out more contact gill@artcafe.co.uk - we promise you'll have fun!



art
cafe

Woodcote Amateur Dramatic Society – It's Panto Time!

*Produced by Marcia Spiers & Sandy Worsfold
All performances Woodcote Village Hall*

This year we are performing "The Emperor's New Clothes" written by the famous Danish author Hans Christian Andersen.

The Emperor is so exceedingly fond of new clothes that he spends all his money on being well dressed. However, the Emperor is running out of cash and demands his son marry into money to keep him in the lifestyle to which he has become accustomed. Alas the options are not all they seem.....

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Saturday 27th January 2.15 pm & 7.30 pm

Sunday 28th January 2.15 pm

Friday 2nd February 7.30 pm

Saturday 3rd February 2.15 pm & 7.30 pm

Free taster event for over 60's



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Wednesday

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simone.passeri@southandvale.gov.uk



Learning Learning Learning

PETS' CORNER: MINI MAYNERD

'Pets Corner' is a new addition to the Whitchurch-on-Thames Magazine. Each quarter we will meet a different pet who resides in our wonderful village. Should you wish to have your pet (of any kind) interviewed, do not hesitate to contact Clare Donahue at claredonahue17@gmail.com. Please also direct any feedback regarding this article to this address. All pets will be interviewed on a first request basis.

It seems rather appropriate that our first interviewee for Pets Corner celebrates her 8th Birthday on 25th January. Allow me to introduce you to a gorgeous Blenheim, Cavalier King Charles Spaniel called Mini, short for Mini the Minx. Originally named Honey, it soon became evident that the name wasn't the perfect fit, even though she is undoubtedly as sweet as they come! As a puppy Mini was adept at stealing; trophies included her Mistress's Saxophone crook (although I am assured she loves music) and a box of Fortnum's truffles – she is a Cavalier King Charles after all and knows a good chocolate when she smells it! A keen escapologist, Mini was once brought home by police escort after traversing a busy main road and wandering off in search of new friends; indeed a more friendly and sweet natured dog it would be hard to find.



A relative new comer to the village, having moved from Caversham a couple of years ago, Mini soon settled into Whitchurch life enjoying beautiful walks around our beloved part of the world. Tell me of a dog, or indeed a human, who can resist a summer walk down Eastfield Lane to the Cricket ground or over to Goring. In truth Mini is an exceptional traveller; she loves trains, cars and even a boat trip down the Thames, although it has to be said that she isn't keen on getting on and off a boat!

Mini is a people dog, she loves all ages and is also good with other dogs (cats is an entirely different matter!). She only barks at other dogs when she is at her holiday home in Brecon; one can only assume she doesn't understand Welsh or perhaps finds the accent unintelligible!

So how will Mini spend her 8th Birthday? Well with a good walk around the neighborhood, weather permitting; even with her doggie coat on, Mini isn't keen on rain and after a trip to the poodle parlour who would want to mess up a perfect coiffeur? On the Birthday menu Mini will partake of her favorite meal; chicken, perhaps a bonio or two as a special treat; one isn't 8 every day you know... then a "Good-night" dental chew prior to retiring to the end of her Masters' bed (Leslie and Dave Maynerd) for a peaceful sleep...and whilst Mini is the perfect Lady, between you and me I am reliably informed she does actually snore!!!

WHITCHURCH PRE-SCHOOL

There is nothing quite as exciting as Christmas! Our Whitchurch pre-schoolers eagerly awaited the Christmas Party at the end of last term and they were not disappointed. They came dressed in adorable Christmas outfits and their fun began with singing and pass the parcel before being treated to a fantastically funny Bertie Slippers show which had them squealing with laughter followed by the highlight of the day – gifts from Father Christmas himself!! After all that excitement, they positively feasted on their lunch. We are so grateful to our excellent staff and pre-school committee for their organisation and help which made this such an enjoyable event.

The highly anticipated annual Nativity also took place last term. Very well done to all our budding actors as they took to the stage bringing us 'A Christmas Story.' We followed the little donkey through her journey as she searched for her mum with the help of shepherds, stars and travellers along the way only to be reunited in the stable where Mary and Joseph were looking after their little baby Jesus. Accompanied by enthusiastic singing and some some delightful improvisational acting, the Nativity was a joy to behold.

This days have been filled with outdoor play as the children have made full use of their generous play area where the vegetable garden yielded delicious produce at the end of summer. Our pre-schoolers have been busying themselves with building, exploring, football and nature walks. They have played indoors with a particular emphasis on cooking as our little chefs made pizzas, jam tarts, apple cake and sandwiches. All these delicious treats have given them lots of energy for PE session where they enjoyed games such as sticky kids, cosmic kids yoga and the ever popular duck-duck-goose.

Our rising fives have been practising writing their names and name sounds whilst working in small groups, they have worked well to develop a strong pencil hold using the 'froggy grip'. Sorting and forming patterns have also been part of their activities.

We are incredibly grateful to all those who helped organise the annual Fete, the day turned out to be beautifully sunny, bringing crowds of people along to enjoy all the stalls and entertainment on offer. We would like to thank the Whitchurch and Pangbourne communities for their incredible support! New funds have enabled Whitchurch Pre-school to purchase fabulous supplies as well as contribute towards upgrading our outdoor play area!

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 Mullins



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WHITCHURCH BRIDGE: PANGBOURNE APPROACH ROAD

Our engineering consultants Peter Brett Associates (PBA) are still engaged in pre-application planning discussions with West Berkshire Council on our preferred option C2 for widening the Pangbourne approach road, as described in the October Bulletin. Estimated costs are higher than expected and we will be looking at ways to reduce these, as on present estimates we could not afford to do the works before 2020.

We have therefore decided to proceed immediately with a traffic calming scheme which will join up with the Pangbourne 20 mph zone to give a clear and continuous 20mph speed limit from the Toll Booth, over the Bridge and along Whitchurch Road into Pangbourne. We expect the scheme to include new 20 mph signs at the Toll Booth, a tidying up of the signage at the boundary of the Pangbourne 20 mph zone outside the Boathouse Surgery, proactive “Slow Down” signs, and the reinstatement of the roadway rumble strip alongside the Pangbourne approach road footway kerb.

These works do not require planning permission, but do need approval from West Berkshire Council Highways Department. They have already confirmed their support in principle, and PBA are working with them to finalise the details. We hope to complete these works by the autumn.

Geoff Weir

Company Secretary, the Whitchurch Bridge Company
www.whitchurchbridge.com

THOUGHT PROVOKING ACTIVITIES IN THE GORING GAP

The Goring Gap University of the Third Age (U3A) holds a talk in the Goring on Thames Village Hall on the last Thursday of every month (except for July and December). Doors open at 10.30 am for coffee and the talk starts at 11 am for about an hour. Talks are on various

subjects of general interest, some serious, some less so and are listed on our website.

The U3A is a self-help organisation for people who have retired, or are partially retired or finished raising a family. There is no minimum age to joining us. Members have time to enrich their lives with new skills and experiences, pursue their interests, form new friendships and enjoy a sense of belonging to a vibrant community.

The U3A is different from most other adult learning organisations. Rather than paying people to teach, we encourage members to share their knowledge and talents with other members. As a result, members contribute to a wide range of engaging and stimulating groups in an atmosphere of mutual support and companionship and we have more than 30 active interest groups at Goring U3A.

Goring U3A is a member of the Thames Valley U3A Network, an association of over 35 local U3As. The network can put on events, such as subject study days, that would not be possible for individual U3As.

There is a small annual fee to join but you can come along to one of our talks as a guest for free or Google Goring Gap U3A for further details.

Charles Cotgreave

WHITCHURCH HILL CAMERA CLUB

By the time this reaches you we, the WHCC, will be four sessions into our Spring programme. We meet on a Wednesday at 8.00 (unless stated otherwise). Choose annual membership or cherry pick on an as/when basis, the cost? a mere £3 for the evening (coffee/tea plus friendship included).

JAN Wed 24 *My experience in Publishing Photobooks.* Your own Jim Donahue shares.

31st *My Projects – The Arcades of Paris and the Arches of London.* Ted Kinsey visits.

FEB 7th We combine our traditional 6x4 (formally enprint). A fun competition followed by a discussion evening on club matters. We decide, then go to the pub (optional).

8th Thursday *PRACTICAL PHOTOGRAPHY EVENING MEETING* – just as it says on the tin!

14th *Ivor's Winter Mixture* – (Porter DPAGB) coughs up.

21st *PROJECT 100 1of4 Chairman's challenge* 'Produce 2 images each week over the coming year '. Lots of discipline and oodles of creativity required.

28th *In club competition "Ancient and Modern"* Round 3 – Prints, it's all in the interpretation.

MARCH 7th *Flowers of the Altai Mountains*, Barbara Lyddiatt trekked the mountains of Southern Siberia so we don't have to. We view the results in the comfort of the Village Hall.

14th *In club competition* – The second round of "Ancient and Modern" this time digital.

21st *PROJECT 100 2of4* see above.

23rd Friday *PANGBOURNE VILLAGE HALL. JPCR 6-CLUB COMPETITION.* Our turn to host this annual local competition – Six local clubs go head to head. We'll need this larger venue.

28 *Natural History Competition* Everybody's favourite, Julia Cleaver ARPS is our judge for the evening.

APRIL 4th *Hunting the Northern Lights* always intriguing, joyful.

Find us at your Village Hall, Manor Road, WOT RG8 7EU, on a Wednesday (or techy a Thursday) .

Or view on-line at www.whitchurchonthamescameraclub.co.uk .

Lyn Higgs

WOTHABS: SOUTHERN BOUNDARY OF VILLAGE GREEN

During February this year the beech trees lining the southern edge of the Village Green will be cut to hedge height, with the exception of one large mature beech in that line. This decision by the Parish Council was made after consultation with local environmental group WoTHABS, who in turn had consulted Oxfordshire's Forestry Officer. In addition, the large maple tree just inside the boundary will be felled.

These works will allow the two adjacent mature lime trees and a smaller Indian horse chestnut the space they need in order to avoid the current serious overcrowding. Originally the line of over 60 beeches was planted as a hedge and this work will get it back to a height which can be easily maintained. It is also hoped it will become a denser corridor for local wildlife as the twiggy bits produce new sideways and upward growth.

The work will be undertaken during the school's half-term holiday to minimise any inconvenience.

Gill Goodwin

The next Bulletin will be the Spring (April) edition and the deadline for articles will be Sunday 8th April.

Please feel free to subject a photo for the front cover. This will need to be in portrait format and depict the season and the village or its environs.

Richard Williams
(rwilliamsafcw@btinternet.com)



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