

FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

I hope you are all enjoying the long hot summer days, we are experiencing at the moment, whatever you are doing, but I must admit sometimes it is a bit difficult to summon up the energy to do anything, involving actual physical work.

Despite this, life goes on and the Parish Council continues to endeavour to sort out the problems as they arise and work on projects which will benefit Whitchurch on Thames residents in the future.

I am pleased to report that the Going Forward buses are now up and running and providing a service that will take residents to Caversham, Reading and Pangbourne four times a day Monday through to Saturday. If this service is to continue then we must support it and I urge everyone to take the opportunity to use the bus whenever is practical and in this way ensure its survival.

It is also pleasing to report that the work on the War Memorial has begun. We have much to thank for the valuable and essential fund raising that Goring Heath Parish Council has been involved with and of course, we are indebted to them in this respect. When people congregate in November to remember the fallen in the conflicts that have taken place over the years, it will be in front of an imposing cross with new paved area reaffirming our promise that 'we will remember them'.

The new village sign will also shortly be manufactured containing elements of designs from the primary school children and an acknowledgment to our French friends who we are twinned with in La Bouille. Also there will be a sign showing we are part of the Chilterns an 'area of outstanding natural beauty'. They will greet visitors as they arrive over the toll bridge from Pangbourne and remind them what a special place Whitchurch on Thames is.

The new design for the pavilion has been submitted to SODC Planning with a view to obtaining permission to remove the existing buildings and replace them with a state of art pavilion with features designed to satisfy the needs of all those who will use the facility in

the future. It will be something which we will look upon with pride and it is in such a pleasant spot that It can only enhance the view.

The Neighbourhood Plan meetings (village hall and Art Cafe) in May were well attended and all the comments raised by those who attended will be taken into account when deciding how we are going to proceed. I would like to thank the Art Cafe for their support in our Neighbourhood Plan fact finding exercise and say what a great service they do in the community. Everyone should visit the cafe which is just a brilliant place to find out what's going on in Whitchurch.

Lately there have been some acts of theft in the village and in this respect I urge everyone to be vigilant and make it difficult for these acts to be carried out. If you have valuable items do lock them away in places that are not easily accessible. I meet regularly with our PCSO Mark Bell to discuss what has been happening locally and how the Parish Council can work with the police in keeping our village a safe place to live. There are 'Have Your Say' meetings where the public can make their feelings known and there is one at the end of the month – details in this publication.

Keith Brooks July 2017

VILLAGE SIGN

The new sign is the result of several months of consultation:

- A sign competition at the primary school that resulted in 6 complementary finalist drawings
- Feedback from residents that voted on the final layout in a Bulletin survey
- Feedback from Parish Council members

This final version was developed by Caroline Widdop, a graphic artist professional, and mother of a child at the primary school. She was also responsible for the final Whitchurch Primary school Coats of Arms design. Caroline is volunteering her time for this project and



Welcome to

WHITCHURCH-ON-THAMES

Twinned with La Bouille, France



AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY

is now in the final stages working with sign makers to develop the final sign. We hope it will be in place by the end of the Summer.

There will initially only be one new sign at the village entrance by the bridge to keep the costs down as it is expected to cost approximately £1000. Signs at the village entrances at Whitchurch Hill and Hardwick Road were not considered to be as much in need of refurbishment, and the entrance by the bridge is considered by most people to be the grand entrance to the village as well as the edge of the Chiltern Hills.

The current sign is damaged and slightly crooked and the old Chilterns AONB sign was removed a number of years ago as it was faded and vandalised. We think this new sign will be a much more suitable entrance to our lovely village and show visitors how proud we are to live here.

TONY VOYSEY

Just a brief but most heartfelt thank you from all of us to all of you. It was a warming experience to see so many of you attending Dad's funeral. We were already fully aware of the esteem in which he was held in the village and of course, it is a source of great pride to us but at the same time we are fully aware that these things rarely work only the one way.

It is to all of you that we owe so much gratitude for the wonderful life that Mum and Dad had together in your village for twenty two years and even more so for the strength that Dad found to come to terms with his grief over losing Mum and be able to lead a fulfilling and purposeful life in your community over the last eighteen years. Mum's passing hit Dad very hard but he eventually found a way to deal with her absence thanks to the friendship, support and love given to him by so many of you.

We cannot thank you enough. We wish you all the very best of futures in Whitchurch.

The Voysey Family.

WHITCHURCH & GORING HEATH HISTORY SOCIETY

Our outings in June and July to Basing House and the Museum of English Rural Life were enjoyed by members, and we now have an August with no meeting. However, we will be at the Whitchurch Fete where you are invited to view our publications, including the enlarged second edition of Peter Hawley's book Relics and Monuments.

We shall reconvene on September 21st at Goring Heath Parish Hall when the ever-popular Alan Copeland will perform Eccentric London, part two. There will be a short EGM at the beginning of the meeting to elect a treasurer.

We will still be up the hill for our October 19th meeting, not to be missed, a description of the siege of Basing House in the Civil War. Alan Turton will give an illustrated lecture which we know will bring the events to life.

Both meetings start at 8pm, with coffee served from 7.30pm. If not already a member why not come for an evening? It will cost £3, to include coffee and biscuits.

AFC WHITCHURCH FOOTBALL CLUB

We are a small, friendly club based in Whitchurch on Thames. We welcome players from Whitchurch and surrounding areas and have 5 strong teams plus our blossoming Academy section for our youngest players. We are a parent-run club and are all extremely passionate about football, encouraging our children into regular exercise and promoting healthy team spirit. If you are interested in joining us please get in touch – afcwhitchurch@yahoo.co.uk

U8 Report – Matt Lorrimore. The U8s had a good season, their football got better and better, they were promoted up a division and ended the season well. We have played a number of friendlies and a tournament over the summer and are now looking forward to moving to 7 a side football for the first time as U9s next season.

U9 Report – Alex Hilton. Having had a year of competitive football the Whitchurch U9s were ready for their new season in the West Berkshire league. Despite losing a number of the early season friendlies, when it came to the competitive matches they seemed to step it up and were duly promoted in the top league for their age group. Whilst this proved more challenging they were a credit and should be very proud of their achievements. Next season, with a new coach and several new players they will become U10s, playing 7 a-side and transfer to the Berkshire Youth Development League (BYDL).

U11 Report – Geoff Hardwick. The U11s moved up to 9 a side in the BYDL league and the off-side rule was introduced, which they quickly picked up. They are starting to work well as a team and are talking to each other a lot more. All their skills have really come on and you can see the difference of their confidence on the ball and their positioning of the ball. Next season we will continue to build core skills and ensure that they all get experience at playing in different positions on the pitch. We have a great squad of 14 players and will probably look to add a couple of players this year or next to ensure we have enough to cover the move to 11 a side in the 2018-19 season

U13 Report – Gary Stovell. The under 13 team have had a challenging season, with their first experience of 11-v-11, full size pitches and some new players. Following a very difficult start with some heavy defeats, the team learnt quickly and recovered brilliantly to finish 3rd in their division. A great effort by all the players and now looking forward to the coming season.

U18 Report – Alistair Aitchison. We attended the EBFA end-of-season presentation of awards where the boys received their trophies as runners up in the EBFA Div 2 and with it promotion to the 1st Division for our last season together before the boys head off to further education and work.

The U18s competed in the Burghfield 6-a-side tournament earlier this month, losing 0-1 in the final after a great campaign and some

great football. We are looking forward to next season and are also interested in increasing the squad.

Lindsay Austin, Club Secretary

WHITCHURCH PRE-SCHOOL

The summer term has been filled with sunny outdoor activities and the children have been able to make the most of the beautiful weather! They have been playing with water sprinklers and magnetic 'ice letters', practising football and shooting goals in the primary school playground and playing with paint, paper and sand.

One of this term's highlights has been the annual sports day. A beautiful morning gave rise to some competitive fun. The children all wore their team colours and enjoyed flat, hat, jumping and bat and ball races. The siblings race was keenly fought but the true competition showed itself in the mums v dads relay. Great fun for spectators and competitors alike. Stickers and certificates for all the children was followed by a delicious picnic lunch and ice cream.

Another highlight was the living eggs, the children (and parents, and siblings, and grandparents.....) have all really enjoyed watching the ducklings hatch, cuddle, and take their first few steps into the big wide world. This was paid for out of ongoing fundraising efforts, we are grateful to all the parents for their support. The living eggs were an excellent learning process for the children.

With the summer holidays fast approaching, our pre-schoolers and parents are hard at work planning the Summer Fete which will take place on the 2nd September from 2pm on the Eastfield Lane Cricket ground. You will have noticed parents and children selling raffle tickets in your area, we have some wonderful prizes on offer this year including an Amazon Echo, Nirvana Spa Voucher, Personal Training Session, Living Rainforest Family Pass, 2 hour Paddle Board Session, Nordic Walking Taster Session...and the list goes on! The pre-school looks forward to a spectacular fete this year, we

have planned stalls and activities for adults and children including a hobby horse gymkhana, disco tent and photo booth, Pimms and Prosecco with strawberries and cream, tea tent, BBQ, tug of war and water balloon tossing to name but a few. We look forward to warmly welcoming the community to the Summer Fete!

There are still spaces available for the new term starting in September 2017. 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

PLANNING APPLICATIONS APR – JUNE

P17/S0862/HH, 5 Hillside, Hardwick Road. Ground floor rear extension & dormers. One of the neighbours contacted Cllr. Brooks to express concern about access during the work. Cllr. Brooks contacted SODC with these concerns & the resident has also written to SODC Planning. The Council unanimously voted to submit 'No strong views'.

P17/S0874/FUL, 'Hopton', Manor Road. Demolition of existing house & construction of replacement house. 'No strong views'.

P17/S0902/HH, 4 Whitchurch House, High Street. Replacement of existing shed with slightly larger shed. 'No strong views'.

P17/S1088/LB, 'The Dower House', Hardwick Road. Further internal alterations. 'No strong views'.

P17/S1169/HH, 4 Old Gardens, Manor Road. New detached garage. 'No strong views'.

P17/S1453/HH, Paddock Lodge, High Street. Demolition of existing front porch and canopy, erection of new front porch and canopy. The work will be carried out mainly at the back of the property. 'No strong views'.

P17/S1169/HH, 4 Old Gardens, Manor Road. Increased size of detached double garage. 'No strong views'.

WHITCHURCH HILL CAMERA CLUB

We're coming to the end of our varied year. Over the summer months the club members will take the opportunity to meet. Field trips are organised, venues suggested, members go walkabouts with cameras (always with our cameras). As the sun goes down, the evening ends with a pint at a good pub, an ideal way to round off an evening.

My favourite evening? Recently we hosted Tom Way, an extraordinary young wildlife photographer. With an easy manner, he spoke of his experiences, he shared technical know how, the problems and the solutions. We have seen him before and hopefully will see him again, soon, definitely a WHCC favourite

Judged to be the winner this image was taken in the Etosha National park in Namibia in a early morning light it showed black backed jackals fighting over food and territory. Lasting only four minutes, the intruder soon seeing the error of his ways, but captured on his Canon 1DX by WHCC MEMBER Nigel Glover Wright and judge to be OUR PICTURE OF THE YEAR To view this and other members 'take' find us on www.whitchurchhillcameraclub.co.uk

We meet again in September, the 13th, a Wednesday at 8,00pm at our usual venue, The Village Hall, Manor Road, Whitchurch On Thames. For further details our website as above.

Have a good Summerenjoy

Lyn Higgs

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN STEERING GROUP UPDATE – OPEN DAYS FEEDBACK

Thanks to everyone who participated in the two open days about the village Neighbourhood Plan (NP) that included discussions on its function, what the objectives should be, and the pros and cons of having one. These were quite well attended and generally had

a good buzz about them. Attendees commented favourably on the presentations, and provided useful feedback on specific local issues. To summarise the written feedback:

- Almost all respondents were in favour of an NP
- Some of the things people liked most about our village were the rural nature of the village and its surroundings, and the people/ community, as well having good transport links
- Many respondents said that smaller, affordable homes were needed for young people and for older residents looking to down-size
- Almost all referred to traffic and access issues, and some to issues with sewerage
- Several mentioned the desirability of keeping within the existing developed 'envelope'

It was acknowledged that drawing up a plan and gaining official approval would require a substantial effort.

The Steering Group will now proceed to formulate and draft specific policies that could be embodied in a plan, which in due course would need to be approved by the village. Contributions are welcome from anyone living in Whitchurch who would like to participate in the process. Enquiries can be made to any member of the Steering Group including the Chairman Jim Donahue at jimdonahue7@gmail.com, and there will be more consultation events over the next year or so please stay involved!

WHITCHURCH UNITED CHARITIES

Grant applications

The trustees 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 ecclesiastical 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 6 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: Tel. 0118 984 4262 or Flint House, Hardwick Rd, Whitchurch-on-Thames RG8 7HH, Email – whitchurchunitedcharities@gmail.com

The trustees

At our meeting in October 2016, Jackie Kingsley offered her resignation as a trustee after 13 years' service. For many years she was our Chairman and we will miss her experience and judgment. We thank her very much.

In the past year, there have been other changes to the trustee body. We are pleased to announce the appointment of three new representative trustees – Sarah Dixon, Katherine Higley and Nick Leadbeater-Hart. Also, Ken Baker has joined as an ex-officio trustee, in his capacity as Churchwarden.

There have also been two further retirements – David Giles has recently offered his resignation having served the charity over a long period of time since 2004 and also Helen Bowsher has stepped down after 4 years as a trustee, latterly as our Publicity Officer. We thank them both for their valuable contributions.

The current ex-officio trustees are Rev Claire Alcock, Sue Matthews, Ken Baker

The current representative trustees are Peter Hawley, Sally Woolhouse, Sarah Dixon, Nick Leadbeater-Hart, Katherine Higley

Sally Woolhouse, Secretary

WOTHABS

Haymeadow Walk

This annual event, jointly organised by PAWS and WOTHABS, was held on Sunday 2nd July in the large meadow to the east of Sheepwash Lane, on Hardwick Estate. It was a great success this year and the weather was warm and sunny. Botanists Sandra Parkinson, Sue Sandford, the farmer, James Norman and Romilly Swann took groups of people on different routes through the meadow after an introductory talk. About 30 people of all ages came along and were able to see an interesting display of various species of grasses, do a butterfly quiz and also enjoy refreshments.

James explained that the meadow is rare because it has not been ploughed for about 100 years, or been treated with fertilizers or herbicides. This means that the underlying soil is healthy well structured, and incredibly species rich. 200 species of plant have been recorded, and these include some that are now very rare in Britain.

River Bank Survey

On the afternoon of Sunday 13th August we are carrying out the second half of our survey of the flora and fauna along the riverbank. The first half we did in August 2016. You need no expert knowledge to join us and it's an enjoyable learning experience for all of us. If interested, and whether or not you have a rowing boat or canoe of your own, please contact Sally Woolhouse (see below).

Oak Processionary Moth

Efforts to ensure that the OPM is eradicated from the Pangbourne area appear to have been successful. Please however report any suspected sightings, wherever you see them. You can check identification on www.forestry.gov.uk/oakprocessionary moth and use 'Tree Alert' to send your message, or email your report to opm@forestry.gsi.gov.uk, or telephone 0300 067 4442.

In July the caterpillars congregate in the nest to pupate into adult moths, which can take up to four weeks. Spent nests found after adult moth emergence will invariably contain pupae cases and cast-off hairs, and should not be handled without personal protective clothing.

Autumn Walk

This year, instead of an Explorers Day, we are planning an Autumn Walk for children and adults on Sunday 15th October. This will be at Chalkhills, where Sandra Parkinson each year has welcomed us onto some of the beautiful areas of Whitchurch with which most of us are less familiar. Put the date in your diaries and look out full details on our posters, on the village website and in the Bulletin nearer the time.

Whitchurch Fete

Come and talk to us at our stall at the fete to tell us about any interesting sightings of wildlife, or other matters of local nature interest to you. We don't have Chris Packham on the team, but we hopefully can answer a question or two!

Gill Goodwin: gill_goodwin@yahoo.co.uk

Sally Woolhouse: sally.woolhouse@gmail.com

WHITCHURCH ART & CRAFT EXHIBITION

The weekend of 18th – 19th November 2017

Whitchurch-on-Thames Village Hall, Manor Road

This is to remind everyone that the Whitchurch Society's Annual Exhibition is only a few months away, so it's time to get busy with your entries. We welcome all ranges of art, craft and photography – it is an enjoyable, friendly event, not an elitist showcase! All residents (both past and present) of Whitchurch and Goring Heath

parishes are eligible to enter their work. Children who attend the Whitchurch Pre-School Group, Whitchurch Primary School or The Oratory Preparatory School are also eligible to enter, regardless of their place of residence.

The theme this year for the Joyce Voysey class is 'Circles'. This class is open to all age groups and the entries can be in any media – art, photos, sculpture, crochet – whatever inspires you!

The details of how and when to enter will be posted on the village website shortly. Meanwhile, start working on your entries and help make this year's event the best ever!

If you would like to get involved with the planning and setting up of the exhibition, please do get in touch – all offers of help are gratefully received.

Sally Woolhouse (Chair of the organising committee)

0118 9844365 sally.woolhouse@gmail.com

SCHEDULE OF UPCOMING EVENTS

*Please visit Village web-site (whitchurchonthames.com)
for updates and more extensive listing*

Date	Event	Details
27th July	Have Your Say (Neighbourhood Police)	10:30-11am Primary School
13th Aug	Survey of Riverbank Flora & Fauna (WoTHABS)	Please contact Sally Woolhouse sally.woolhouse@gmail.com
2nd Sept	Summer Fete (Pre School)	Village Green 2pm
13th Sept	Whitchurch Hill Camera Club	Village Hall 8pm
21st Sept	History Society "Eccentric London" Alan Copeland	Goring Hth VH 7:30pm
24th Sept	Apple Pressing Day (PAWS)	The Maze 1-4pm
15th Oct	Autumn Walk (WoTHABS)	See Posters
19th Oct	History Society "Siege of Basing House" Alan Turton	Village Hall 7:30pm
29th Oct	Autumn Walk (Whitchurch Society)	The Maze 10:30am

Articles for the Autumn edition of the Whitchurch on Thames bulletin should be sent to me at; rlwilliamsafcw@btinternet.com, by Sunday 8th October. This edition will cover the period November to January (inc).

Anyone can submit photos for the front cover so long as these feature the Village or surrounding countryside. Please send to me at above email address.

Any local businesses can advertise in the Bulletin at attractive rates of £40 (half page) or £70 (full page). Fees are annual and cover four editions of the Bulletin which has a circulation of about 350 and readership of about 750.



- ◎ **Come and meet your neighbourhood policing team**
- ◎ **Tell us about the issues that matter most to you**

Type: Have Your Say Meeting

Date: Thursday 27th July 2017

Time: 10:30hrs - 11:00hrs

Venue: Whitchurch Primary School.

Contact: PCSO Mark Bell c9860 Tel: 101

Neighbourhood Policing Working in partnership to make our community safer



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Goring Heath Parish Charity
Regd No 1056772

Goring Heath and Whitchurch

Autumn Show

Saturday 2 September 2017

2.30 pm to 4.00 pm

Goring Heath Parish Hall

**Enter your finest flowers, fruit, veg, floral
arrangements, handicrafts, artwork, baking and
photos.**

**Or come along to view the entries & enjoy homemade
cake, tea & coffee, raffle and plant stall.**

This year's Arts and Crafts classes:

Handicraft

An item from something recycled

A knitted article

An item of needlework

Art

A Portrait

A Scenic View

A Vase of Flowers

Full schedule of classes and entry forms will be available

on:

www.whitchurchonthames.com

www.goringheath.com

phone for a printed copy:

Liz Gibson on 0118 9842012

Sue Sexon on 0118 9844236



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Whitchurch-on-Thames

VILLAGE FETE SATURDAY 2ND SEPTEMBER

2-5PM | **The Village Green
Eastfield Lane**

Pony Rides * Cream Teas * BBQ * Strawberries & Cream * Climbing Wall
Hobby Horse Gymkhana * Pimms * Prize Draw * Music * and more!

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All proceeds are in aid of:

whitchurchpreschool.org

