

Whitchurch On Thames

whitchurchonthames.com

It already looks as if the year which has already seen much activity in the Village will present us with more successes but also some testing times.

Much of the Village activity will be covered in detail elsewhere in this issue, but here are a few notes.

The Village Green is gradually coming to the point where it can be a focus for the Village community. The football pitch is now strong enough to accept white lines in preparation for battling feet. Teams of volunteers have planted hedge rows and trees. Some benches are awaiting an improvement in the weather.

The tree pruning necessary along Muddy Lane because of the overhead power line is to go ahead in April. WoTHabS are handling this on behalf of the Parish. They have asked me to point out that they are confident that although the Lane will look terrible immediately after the pruning session, it will have been done in a way that will encourage new young growth and in time the Lane will become even more attractive than it is now.

The bridge closure is beginning to appear on the horizon and at last the various authorities on both sides of the River are looking to see what can be done to minimise the problems people will face. The laying of that gas pipe showed that it is amazing what this Village can put up with. My personal opinion is that for most people in this Village there will be some problems at first, and then things will be tedious but, again for most of us, manageable.

An extract from an email to me from a Goring PC Councillor may be of interest: “.... in response to Dave Sexon’s pressurethese include parking restrictions in our High Streets and retiming the Streatley traffic lights to accommodate the diverted traffic. I understand that some temporary parking is being negotiated in Streatley.....”

If there are other schemes which might help the Parish Council will of course do what it can. For example, we are in touch with a group of retailers in Pangbourne who have their own reasons for being unhappy with the prospect. One of their ideas is a register of people who have space on their drive they could rent out.

My report on two of the meetings I have attended appears later in this Bulletin.

The Hardwick Road project is progressing very well. The verges were becoming impassible on foot in places and spoiled by cars encroaching onto them .Already a valiant group of volunteers has cleared a lot of brushwood and other rampant vegetation from the verges near the entrance to the Hardwick Estate. Somehow, and only our County Councillor Dave Sexon knows what magic he performed behind the scenes, a grant has appeared which will cover the construction of two passing spaces along the eastern part of the Road.

I must mention here that Dave Sexon has informed us that he will not be standing for re-election in May. In my opinion he has been the best County Councillor to represent this Village for many years . His tireless efforts on behalf of the village will be badly missed. I am sure that the whole Village would like to offer their appreciation, and to wish him well for the future.

The area that includes the allotments and the Maze area is rented from the National Society of Allotments and Leisure Gardeners Ltd. The Lease has expired and Jim Donahue has successfully negotiated its successor. He has also negotiated a new agreement with the Allotment Society. He is now working with the Whitchurch Society who are looking into replacement of old bricks and provision of new ones for the Maze itself.

Keep an eye on the grass bank on the opposite side of the High Street to the gallery. The bank has been cleared (it's those volunteers again) , the grass has been cut and bulbs have been planted. Come the Spring, the people waiting for the bus "hiding behind the telegraph pole" will have something pleasing to admire.

Our local policeman Nick Glass drops in to see me on a regular basis. The recent and rather unpleasant incident on Swanston Fields has been investigated and my latest information is that "someone is being interviewed"

Nick will be at the Village Hall from 1pm to 4pm on Saturday 23 March to mark bikes, garden tools and so forth with your post code. He also has invisible ink for marking such things as mobile phones and any other items which might go walkabout.

Finally I would like to welcome the new recruit to the Parish Council. Harvey Ainley joined us at the meeting on Monday evening (4th March). A new face always brings new vigour and new ideas to any group, and we believe the result of Harvey's joining us will be no exception.

Harry Butterworth

SSE tree work on Muddy Lane

The major tree work on Muddy Lane, which Southern & Scottish Energy (SSE) have been planning since February 2011, is finally going to take place in a few weeks' time.

They may do some preparatory work beforehand, but their planned power shutdown of the overhead line is for **Wednesday 3rd April** when the major clearing of branches too close to the power line will be done. Every household that will have their electricity turned off on that day will receive advance notice very shortly – we understand that it will not affect the whole village.

The Parish Council delegated the responsibility to WoTHabs to act on the community's behalf and to liaise with SSE in the lead-up to the work being done. The work has now become high priority because of the dangerous state of some branches actually growing up through the lines. They must now follow new, more rigorous regulations which dictate safe clearance between tree branches and overhead power lines. They are especially concerned by the situation in Muddy Lane because of the proximity of the school and the heavy daily use of the path by the community. In this situation (the power line carries 11000 Volts) they must allow clearance of 3 metres plus the estimated 2 years' growth for each particular tree. To meet this, there will need to be a radical height reduction of a large number of the trees on the east side (inside and outside the fence lines of the school and allotment.).

WoTHabs have consulted with the Primary School and the Allotments Society to reach a broad consensus on approach. We identified species and agreed and documented a species-by-species strategy and paying particular attention to the mature trees which will be affected. This document has then set the ground rules for our recent site meetings with SSE. For example, there are some trees that will only need one or two branches trimmed back but, at the other end of the scale, others will be removed completely or coppiced to near ground level. SSE have been very keen to listen to our views and are anxious that the work is carried out with our full agreement to avoid upsetting the village community, including doing work for the benefit of the long term that is beyond their direct remit.

We are very anxious to ensure a good long-term outcome. Please remember that this work cannot be avoided and it will no doubt have a significant visual impact, but this will be temporary whilst re-growth occurs. However, there is the opportunity to turn it to good effect by replacing any trees lost with more suitable smaller native trees/shrubs in the next planting season,

Sally Woolhouse, WoTHabs

Whitchurch Bridge – News Bulletin 4, January 2013

1. Progress on the Reconstruction of the Bridge

Invitations to tender for the reconstruction of Whitchurch Bridge have been sent out to selected contractors with expertise in constructing bridges over water. The Whitchurch Bridge Company (WBC) expects to appoint the successful contractor by the end of April 2013.

It is expected that the Bridge will close in September 2013, but the actual date depends upon the outcome of discussions with SSE and Openreach on the time they need to divert their services off the Bridge and on to the temporary footbridge.

WBC acknowledges that Bridge users need to know when the Bridge is closing so that they can make plans etc, and will announce the exact closure date as soon as possible.

2. The Temporary Footbridge

The temporary footbridge will be open for pedestrians and wheeled bicycles before the main Bridge closes. It will be 1500mm wide (about 5 feet), with gently sloping ramps at each end and no steps.

It will be open at all times and be lit at night.

3 Traffic Management

The 3 involved highways authorities – Oxfordshire, West Berkshire and Reading – are discussing a signage plan to direct traffic away from Whitchurch-on-Thames whilst the Bridge is closed. They will also have powers to impose parking restrictions as necessary to keep traffic flowing on the diversionary routes and to ensure that highways near the Bridge are not blocked.

There is a fundamental problem with the lack of parking space near the Bridge which would, for example, allow residents of Whitchurch Hill and beyond to drive down to Whitchurch-on-Thames and walk over to Pangbourne for shops etc. WBC and the highways authorities see no easy solution to this.

4. Value Added Tax

WBC has lost its High Court claim that HM Treasury is obliged by law to refund VAT paid by the Company on goods and services provided to it. The VAT to be paid on the cost of reconstruction could amount to £700,000: the Court judgement (which is linked to from our website) acknowledged that this sum will be passed on to Bridge users. WBC will decide soon whether or not to appeal.

5. Information

There is more information about the reconstruction of the Bridge on our website, including a timetable for the works and some Drawings. WBC will listen to Bridge users and local residents and do whatever it can to minimise the inconvenience the temporary Bridge closure will cause.

Geoff Weir

Company Secretary, the Whitchurch Bridge Company

www.whitchurchbridge.com

Bridge Closure

The closure of the bridge in September will have a very significant effect on Whitchurch life. The flow of traffic South will of course stop, as will vehicular journeys from Pangbourne. The very limited parking that will be available in Whitchurch is especially relevant to those outside the immediate village, who cannot reasonably use the pedestrian bridge without first driving to it.

Individuals will naturally be considering their own options in this situation. It is possible that use might be made of Whitchurch's Village Hall for activities or services normally provided in Pangbourne.

Any ideas you may have which might be helpful in these new circumstances would be very welcome. The message board on the village website – www.whitchurchonthames.com – is an ideal place to exchange information and your suggestions. There will be an opportunity also to raise any points at the **Village Assembly on Tuesday 9 April**.

Report on two recent meetings relating to the closure of the bridge. Friday, February 22nd.

Present:

WoT: Keith Brooks, Peter Hawley, Harry Butterworth

OCC: Keith Stenning Area Steward for Roads

OCC: Councillor Rose

OCC: Principle Traffic Engineer Lee Turner

Thames Valley Police: Chris Hulme

Lee Turner produced maps showing the proposed siting of diversion signs in both South Oxfordshire and West Berkshire. There is a link to copies on our web site. They cover a wide area comprehensively. A suggestion that the area covered might be extended as far as Chieveley was considered to be un-necessary because the signs would be in place in time to give plenty of warning in advance of actual closure date.

After further general discussion Keith Stenning and Councillor Rose left and the remainder of the group visited Eastfield Lane. We were joined for some of the time by a local resident who had very clear thoughts about what the problems might really be. This turned out to be very constructive.

The picture as seen from the Whitchurch resident's point of view was presented as:
We need to be sure that our residents who have no on-site parking are able to leave their vehicles as they do now.

We need to be sure that all residents can manoeuvre in and out of their premises safely and that all our roadways have a clear way though at all times.

The school runs must continue to function as they do now.

We need to have clear space at the north end of the bridge for vehicles to turn. This will only be possible if parking is banned south of the Ferryboat Inn .

Possibilities.

Chris Hulme, Thames Valley Police, was quite clear that a "Thames Avenue" type of residents-only regulation for Eastfield lane was not acceptable. It appears that the rules for such things in Oxfordshire and in West.Berks are different.

Single yellow lines could be used along Eastfield Lane to help the school run, but that would need poles with signs on every hundred metres or so displaying the time at which parking is permitted.

Nobody likes yellow lines of any sort and the proliferation of signs makes it worse. In any case it is far from clear how any such system could be made to work.

We checked the exact position of double yellow lines with Chris Hulme. You can stop on a double yellow line so that someone can get into or out of the vehicle. But you can't get the kids out, walk the kids to the school gate and return to your vehicle.

Double yellow lines would be the real last resort, particularly in Eastfield Lane.

One thing that was noted was that of the vehicles belonging to people without on site parking, many leave Whitchurch during the daytime.

The conclusions were, therefore:

With sufficient warning before the event, there may be a bit of mayhem in the first few days, but a few parking restrictions should be sufficient to keep the situation manageable. We can have white lines across entrances. This is only advisory, but would help to emphasise that leaving a vehicle's nose protruding across an entrance is still an obstruction of that entrance.

What we can do is to go through the process of setting up double yellow lines for just about anywhere in the Village. At this time there is no intention whatever of deploying them. The thinking is that as the real picture unfolds we have available both the threat of painting double stripes on a particular bit of road and the ability to call such a thing up quickly. *No one expects to paint anything*, but the tool is there if it is needed.

One point which did come up in discussions and which will make things easier: parking on Streatley High Street won't be permitted.

Visit to BP Castrol Monday 25th February

Present

WoT: Stephen Trinder, Harry Butterworth

BP: Andy Poole Director, Facilities & Projects, Formulated Products Technology

Jhelanie Ahmed Sales Executive Enterprise Business

Mark Ashworth Manager, Projects and Facilities

This was very much a friendly "get to know you" session. BP now has a group tasked with evaluating the problems associated with the closure of the bridge. Andy Pool said that he had received my letter and it had been discussed. Our meeting's discussion was very much on the lines of what we could do to help each other.

Whitchurch hopes that some form of publicly accessible transport between the bridge and Whitchurch Hill would reduce the problem of "outsider" cars left in the Village.

BP need to get their staff to and from Whitchurch Hill as conveniently as possible.

Whitchurch can offer to keep a way clear for buses or minibuses through the Village and an adequate turning area as close to the footbridge as possible.

The BP people pointed out that although they do use buses and minibuses now, they are always run by specialist operators.

Some other general thoughts were discussed and the meeting closed with the BP people saying that they will report to their group. This will allow them to define what they need and what they can offer.

Then we should meet again sometime after that.

Harry Butterworth

Footnote:

I have been reminded that the planning permission for the re-build of the bridge requires the Bridge Company to make a substantial payment to OCC in respect of the re-routing of the 142 bus. Whether the re-routing can be incorporated into other arrangements is as yet unknown.

Village Annual Assembly 2013

8:00 p.m Tuesday April 9th

Whitchurch Village Hall

All Whitchurch Village residents are welcome at our Annual Assembly. As usual there will be the usual reports from your Parish, District and County Councillors and more specific reports from the leaders of our associations and societies. This year we expect much discussion about the effects of the closure of the bridge. We will be inviting representatives from authorities involved in preparations for the closure to attend so you can put your questions and concerns to them.

ENTENTE MUSICALE ET CORDIALE

Saturday 27 April at 7.30pm, The Concert Hall, Reading

On Saturday 27th April, the South Chiltern Choral Society will join forces with a well-known large French choir from Grenoble, the “Ensemble Vocal de Meylan”, creating an ensemble of well over 150 singers.

The two choirs are coming together to perform Haydn’s masterpiece,

THE CREATION

in the Concert Hall in Reading.

This is surely a concert not to be missed!!

Time: 7.30pm

Tickets: £15 £7 Under 18s

from Nicola Woodman Tel. 0118 9891606

or via the website: www.southchilternchoralsociety.org.uk

Whitchurch Traffic & Pavements Advisory Group (TAPAG)

Some current activities:

- **High Street pedestrian safety.** Following discussions with OCC, arranged by Dave Sexon, the proposed dropped kerb has been constructed in the pavement opposite the Greyhound. This is to help mothers with school children. A northwards extension of the no-parking white line, to improve the sightline, is expected to follow.
- **High Street passing refuge for cars.** OCC has also agreed TAPAG's proposal that there should be a short no-parking white line painted on each side of the farm entrance in the middle part of the High Street, in order to create a second space for north-bound cars to pull into when the parking is heavy.
- **Trimming of hedges.** After an unusually active growing season most of the obstructive hedge growth has been cut back, either by requests to householders or directly.
- **Surface defects.** TAPAG continues to monitor and report potholes and other defects. John Southey (Tel 984 1802) keeps an *ad hoc* list of reports and action taken. Unblocking of drains has been successfully pursued.

RMW, 7th Jan 2013

Hardwick Road Restoration Project

There may not be much sign yet of any improvements to Hardwick Road but that doesn't mean nothing has been happening!

Our Vision Statement obviously made an impression in the right places because we have recently been awarded two grants from OCC funds - £2K from the Community Fund and £6K from the Locality Fund. These very generous grants will be used to make improvements to drainage in the worst locations, particularly the narrows at the village entrance, and to install at least one 'proper' passing place. These jobs will of course need to be done by professional contractors, to the Highways authority standards. In parallel, we hope to enlist the help of our enthusiastic volunteers to restore the verges around the new passing places. It should begin to regain its former attractive country lane feel and be less like a rural race track!

Those observant walkers amongst you (and of course those who were part of the working party) will know that we spent a very productive Sunday morning (24th Feb) clearing a section of the hedge at the eastern end of Hardwick Road so that a 'sheltered' pathway through the hedge can be created. This work has now been put 'on hold' by SSE because they have indicated that for safety reasons they will complete this section for us - the branches of the hedge are actually in contact with the power lines in some places.

The next working party will be advertised in the 'Whats On' page on the village website, so do come along and help us with our ambitious but very worthwhile project.

Sally Woolhouse, WoTHabs

Informal Seniors Lunch

A suggestion has been made that there might be some interest in an occasional informal lunch for Whitchurch's senior residents in the Village Hall.

The menu would be quite simple – fresh crusty bread, cheese, ham and pickles plus a glass of wine or beer, followed by coffee for £5 per head.

If you think this is a good Idea, that you might be willing to support, please contact Anna Szczeponek, without obligation, on 0118 984 1234 or annaponek@btinternet.com.

ELSIE HOLMES 8/7/1920 – 3/2/2013

Elsie passed away peacefully at her home in Weymouth, aged 92. Elsie and John Holmes lived at 'The Haven', Eastfield Lane from their marriage in 1946 until they retired to Weymouth in 1983. Elsie had been evacuated from London in 1940 and worked as secretary to the MD of Pulsometer Pumps in Reading, whilst also acting as secretary to the Holmes family business, who had converted workshops at the Haven, to engineer munitions for the war. The Holmes family had lived in Whitchurch for generations and John was very active over the years in church and parish life. Elsie and John had five children: Richard, Henry, Mary, Charles and Caroline. Henry's death in a car crash in 1973 was a shock to all who knew the family. The move to Weymouth gave Elsie and John a new lease of life and they enjoyed their retirement years with frequent family visits and grandchildren to enjoy seaside holidays. John's death in 1997 and now that of Elsie (along with other Whitchurch inhabitants including Barbara Aldridge and Bill Hutt) feels like the end of an era but memories of Whitchurch and a happy rural childhood in the fifties and sixties are cherished by their children.

DID YOU KNOW????????????????

The Mobile Library

comes to Whitchurch and parks in Manor Road

On

Alternate Tuesday mornings

9.30 am to 10 am

Why not come along and get yourself a good
read?

The next Tuesday the Library will be in
Whitchurch is 12th March.

Then: 26th March, 9th & 23rd April, 7th & 21st
May etc.

USE IT OR LOSE IT!!!!

Village Hall

Since its refurbishment, our village hall now offers a versatile venue for a range of activities. These are presently as varied as tap dancing, camera club, pilates and toddlers' groups, and parish, business and local society meetings. The small committee room can be hired separately from the main hall and may be suitable for someone self-employed who wants to hold a business meeting away from their home at minimal cost.

It is an ideal place for children's parties and other private functions, at just £10 per hour. Though the kitchen is not suitable to prepare or cook food, we have a full range of tableware and equipment, with which to serve your own food and beverages. The hall holds a music and dance licence for a limited number of events per year.

Charges for local organisations start at as little as £5 per hour. It may not be known that chairs and tables can be hired separately. If there is an on-going demand for other particular facilities, such as telephone/wifi, then we should look to try and meet that.

The closure of the bridge in September may represent an opportunity to take advantage of the hall if it can be used to accommodate activities that would otherwise take place in Pangbourne or the other side of the river.

The Village Hall is there for all the residents of Whitchurch. **Please consider how it might be useful to you.** Contact should be made to the Hall Manager, **Mr Eddie Pilcher**, on **0118 984 4271** after 8.15 pm on weekdays.

Stephen Trinder
Chairman, Management Committee

Whitchurch Pre-School

As the weather warms up the children are enjoying the glorious outside space we are lucky to have at pre-school. We are continuing with our French lessons (ooh la la!) and are looking forward to the annual trip to Rushall Farm later this month which ties in with this term's topic 'The Farm'.

Later in the term the children will learn about Easter.

A trip to Pangbourne Fire Station was greatly enjoyed by children and parents alike and planning for the fabulous Whitchurch Fete (Saturday, August 31, put it in your diaries everyone) is well under way.

Any volunteers/villagers who would like to join the pre-school committee and help run our lovely pre-school, please contact chair@whitchurchpreschool.org.

More details about the pre-school are available at www.whitchurchpreschool.org.

The Hardwick Lecture Series

"Heart, Mind, and Medicine"

This Hardwick Lecture promises to be an engrossing and stimulating one.

It will be given by Professor Man Fong Mei who is a world renowned Chinese medicine practitioner, scholar and founder of 'Acumedic', a leading Chinese acupuncture and healing centre in London.

His lecture will explore the contemporary significance and dynamic of the ancient Chinese knowledge of Yin and Yang and how it underpins the process of holistic healing.

Saturday 6th April 2013 - 6.45 for 7.00pm

Hardwick House, Whitchurch-on-Thames, Oxon RG8 7RB

To book a place please call the Hardwick Estate Office on 0118 9842955 or e-mail hardwickestate@btinternet.com

The lecture will be followed by a healthy bowl of Yin Yang soup

-Tickets £10

Book early to avoid disappointment!

SPRING FAIR

In aid of church funds

SATURDAY 18TH MAY

IN THE OLD STABLES ROOMS

10 am TILL 12 noon

Plants, Home Made cakes, Raffle etc.

Refreshments

Come and celebrate Spring with a drink, a cake
and a chat!

There is a

COFFEE MORNING

EVERY TUESDAY IN TERM TIME

10.30 am - 12 noon

IN THE OLD STABLES ROOM

FREE REFRESHMENTS AND FRIENDLY
CHATTER

Toys for the children

Spring Walk Sunday 21 April 2013

This walk follows the route of a previous Spring walk (the Daffodil walk in 2009) but in the reverse direction with one or two slight route modifications. We will start opposite the Art Gallery at 11:00hrs.

The walk will be about 8 miles in length but can be shortened by meeting up at one of two points en-route:

1. Park on the car park opposite St John's Church and meet at the entrance to Beech Wood (above Beech Farm) at 11:15hrs.
2. Park on the side of the road leading to The Sun at Hill Bottom or in the car park of The Sun. Walk back across the main road and down towards the cross roads above Coombe End Farm and meet at 11:30hrs.

If these locations are unfamiliar to you I can provide a map in advance of the walk. (ehartley@onetel.com or 01189842612).

The route will be: Beech Wood, Coombe End Farm, Cold Harbour, Stapnall's Farm, the edge of Great Chalk Wood, Park Farm, Elvendon Priory, Little Heath, Blackbird's Bottom, Great Oaks Wood, Hill Bottom, **'The Sun'**, Butler's Farm and home!

Eric

WHITCHURCH HILL FETE

Saturday 25th May 2013

2PM

Stalls and Plants Galore
Ferret Racing Punch & Judy

Bottle Stall Raffle Children's Races & Games

Swing boats Beer and Tea Tents Barbecue

25 Piece Concert Band "Have a go" Lawn Bowls

Fun Dog Show

The Whitchurch & District Theatre Club

Organiser: Christine Martin

"Sonia", Goring Heath Road, Whitchurch Hill, RG8 7PG

Tel: 0118 9844252 e.mail

whitchurchtheatreclub@gmail.com

The Whitchurch & District Theatre Club takes you to musicals, plays, classical concerts etc. once a month. Salisbury, Bath, Oxford, Stratford, and Chichester, amongst others, are often visited. Also major London productions. Mainly matinees but sometimes evening performances. Tickets purchased at group/concessionary rates.

Subscriptions £5 per annum.

Coaches depart from Pangbourne.

PANGBOURNE BOWLS CLUB

Just a few weeks left now until we start the new season with our Open Day on Saturday, 13th April.

We really would like to see lots of new members this year, both ladies and gentlemen, and we have a Special Offer for anyone joining our club this season. New members will pay just half of the normal subscription fee for the first season resulting in a saving of over £40.00

Club Secretary, Alan Copeland, says “This really is a superb offer and I hope it will bring in lots of new faces, both newcomers and experienced bowlers who now want to take up the game once again. I have been bowling for ten years now and I really enjoy the competitive edge in playing County games as well as the social side in spending time with a very friendly group of people.”

Our bowling green is at the Recreation Ground, Thames Avenue, Pangbourne and we look forward to seeing you at our Open Day when you can meet us all and take advantage of the greatly reduced membership fee for this year.

For further details, please contact Alan Copeland by e-mail to alan@alancopeland.co.uk or by phone on 01491-681471.

Whitchurch & Goring Twinning Association

We shall be celebrating 35 years of our link with La Bouille, the village on the banks of the Seine near Rouen.

We expect a party of about 35 people to come on May 4th to 6th and be entertained by us.

If you would like to be involved, please e-mail vickyjordan5@hotmail.com, or ring 0118 984 3260.

We would really like new people to be involved, especially families with children, and of course next year you will be entertained in France.

Goring Heath Parish Charity Regd. No. 1056772

SPRING SHOW

Goring Heath Parish Hall

Saturday

6th April 2013

Exhibitors 8.30—10.15

Open to the Public 2.30 - 4.00 pm

Raffle * Refreshments * Plant Sale

Photographic Section

A flower

New life

Pub signs

Children's Section

Vase of five primroses

Single daffodil

Three stems of narcissus

For schedules and entry forms contact

Liz Gibson 01189 842012

Rosamund Heath 01189 842358

Ann Lewis 01189 842377

Sue Sexon 01189 844236

Helen Willis 01189 843620

Or see the full schedule and download an entry form at

<http://www.whitchurchonthames.com/diary.php>

THAMES VALE SINGERS

are performing

The Crucifixion

By John Stainer

Friday 22nd and Saturday 23rd

March 2013

At 7.30pm at

St Michael's Church, New Lane Hill, Tilehurst, RG30 4JX

Tickets £9 & £7 (concessions)

Refreshments included

On sale from:

email: tickets@thamesvalesingers.org.uk

Tel. Box office: 9842563 or 9624425

www.thamesvalesingers.org.uk

Woodcote Library News April 2013

We were delighted to welcome the children from Woodcote Primary School into the library to celebrate World Book Day. The children took part in a treasure hunt in the library which encouraged them to look around the library a bit more closely than usual, they had to find all sorts of books, by author and category. It is a pleasure to see the children especially as so many of them are enthusiastic readers.

At Woodcote Library we are always trying to meet the needs of readers, to that end we have put some forms in the library for visitors to complete if they feel that we need more books of certain categories. For instance, you may want more books on traction engines, gardening, cookery or science, or you may have a particular author whose books you love to read.... please let us know by completing the form – its just ticking boxes, and will only take a moment.

World Book Night is Tuesday 23 April. World Book Night is a fantastic organisation that aims to ‘promote the love of reading’. Each year 20,000 volunteers give away 20 books. Woodcote Library is a collection point for WBN ‘Givers’, so I’m sure there will be books given away locally - if you are lucky enough to get a WBN book please read it and pass it on. Share a book and start a conversation. For more information go www.worldbooknight.org

Woodcote Book Club’s next meeting is Monday 23rd April at 6 p.m.

WHACKY SCRAP RACES

Calling all budding racing drivers, pilots, sailors and tank drivers, this is your chance to be a part of an exciting project called Whacky Scrap Races. Families are invited to come along and work together over an 8 week period to build anything from tanks and robots to bulldozers and submarines.

Sessions are held on Saturday mornings at Denefield School in Tilehurst, and will start on Saturday 20th April 2013.

If you want to find out more, please come along to our launch event at Denefield School on **Saturday 23rd March** between 11:00 - 15:00. Information will be available about the crèche facilities and the possible reimbursement of travel costs.

Whacky Scrap is organised by Central Berkshire Education Business Partnership. Please visit our website www.cbebp.co.uk or contact Andrew at andrew.haydon@cbebp.co.uk or 0118 984 6947 for further information.

DIARY DATES

Contributions welcome for this column if anyone knows of a date that would be of interest to the village.

March

22nd/23rd TVS Concert

April

Saturday 6th GH Spring Gardening Show
Saturday 6th Hardwick Lecture
Tuesday 6th Village Assembly
Saturday 13th Pang. Bowls Open Day
Sunday 21st Spring Walk
Saturday 27th SCCS Entente Musicale

May

Saturday 18th Whitchurch Spring Fair
Saturday 25th Whitchurch Hill Fete

THE NEXT ISSUE OF THE BULLETIN

will be published in May 2013

Please send your contributions **preferably by e-mail to**
Sarah.pongo@btconnect.com by 9th May 2013

Views of individual contributors
are the views of those contributors,
and are not necessarily the views of the Parish Council, or the
editor.