

FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

Hi everyone I hope you have had a great summer now that the nights are drawing in and there is definitely an autumnal feeling in the air. The Parish Council continues to push forward projects and your councillors are constantly in touch with the residents of Whitchurch on Thames, in order to get their feedback on how they feel about important issues which are impacting on their lives. In this way, we can then move confidently forward in the knowledge that we are doing the right thing with the interests of the villagers foremost in our minds which is of course what is most important.

One of the projects which we have been working on is the new pavilion for which we put in a planning application only to be told that we would have to re-site it, away from protected trees. As a consequence, we would like to gauge the opinions of the villagers on our new plans and we will shortly be asking for your comments.

The bus service continues to serve the village. However, after speaking to Mike who is the manager, it appears that it is not used as much as it could be. I encourage people to use it more which will secure its future. Take a trip into Reading: there is a bus at 10.05, from the Greyhound getting to Reading Station at 10.48. Then you can come back at 11.15 after shopping/going to the bank etc. or stay for lunch and return at 1.45 or 4.15 for a more extended stay. There is also an early morning and evening service at the moment. Check the Going Forward website for the latest news. www.goingforwardbuses.com

The new cross for the war memorial is almost finished and Goring Heath Parish Council Chairman Peter Dragonetti, Councillor Martin Wise and myself went to the stonemasons to see the progress being made in its construction which is right on track. There will be a short ceremony on Remembrance Sunday before the normal service on the hill to celebrate its installation.

I would like to welcome our new councillor Sarah Hanfrey onto the Parish Council. Sarah has already been working on our Neighbourhood Plan and has built up a sound knowledge of the

village and she is also a school governor; attributes which will be very useful in her role.

The next Bulletin will be in January so I hope you all have a splendid Christmas and New Year.

Keith Brooks October 2017

VILLAGE PLAN

The Parish Council voted in the September meeting to prioritise the development of an update to the 2009 Village Plan over the development of the Neighbourhood development plan in the September meeting. It was felt that the village would get more benefit in the short to medium term addressing issues that we can directly influence such as

- Traffic and parking issue recommended solutions
- Future plans for our community facilities (Village hall, new Pavilion, Old Stables, etc)
- Planned improvements to our infrastructure
- Vision for open spaces such as the Village Green and beautifying the high street

The Neighbourhood Plan activities that focussed on housing allocation and future development policies will be out on hold until after the Village Plan is completed. The goal will be to complete the Village Plan update by the end of 2018.

We have already had a number of consultations over the past two years that will feed into this work and the members of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Committee have expressed interest in contributing in to the Village Plan activities. Councillor Donahue will be leading this effort and setting up a working group and steering committee structure. Anyone interested in getting involved should contact Jim at jimdonahue7@gmail.com. One area where we urgently need volunteers is to plan and prioritise improvements the existing Village Hall.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO TEACH DIGITAL SKILLS

Your county council has launched a new campaign appealing for digital helper volunteers to teach basic digital skills to people in their community.

What are digital helpers? Digital helpers teach basic digital skills to people with little or no experience of using computers or the internet. They volunteer in libraries, providing one-to-one support and encouragement to boost confidence and help people to help themselves.

Digital helpers teach skills such as how to set up an email account, search for jobs, complete online forms, navigate the internet and find useful websites, and use e-learning courses.

Why volunteer? Teaching digital skills has lots of benefits. It enables others to access employment and training, use online services, become more independent and less isolated.

But starting to do anything online when you don't know how can be daunting. That's where digital helpers come in!

Could you volunteer? If you are patient, have good communication skills, enjoy working with learners of all ages and can spare a few hours a week, we want you! Schedules can work around you so that you can fit it around your busy life.

Visit www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/digitalhelper or contact your local library to find out about volunteering as a digital helper and helping people in your area.

Naomi Slade

Oxfordshire County Council

07584481222 | naomi.slade@oxfordshire.gov.uk | www.oxfordshire.gov.uk

WHITCHURCH BRIDGE – WIDENING OF THE PANGBOURNE APPROACH ROAD

We asked our engineering consultants Peter Brett Associates (PBA) to identify options for widening the Pangbourne approach road. They proposed various options and we later asked them to evaluate a further option – a “path through the trees” – suggested by a local resident. The PBA Reports are on our website. All the options are constrained by the trees, topography and other features of the local area.

After careful consideration we have decided on PBA’s option C2 as our preferred option. This would widen the narrowest part of the road from 4.7m to 5.2m – the same width as the road on the Bridge – and widen about 20m of the footway from 1m to 1.5m. The railings and kerbside rumble strip would be replaced, the roadway and footway resurfaced, the speed limit signage improved and automatic “20 mph – Slow Down” signage installed.

Option D – the “path through the trees” – initially looked attractive but we have had to rule it out for various reasons including cost, maintenance and access issues, planning risks, pedestrian personal safety and arboriculture concerns.

We have asked PBA to seek pre-application planning advice from West Berkshire Council and we will decide how to proceed when that work has been completed. We will continue to engage with our neighbouring landowners, Pangbourne Parish Council and Pangbourne Medical Practice, both of whom have kindly agreed in principle to site investigations and the proposed works on their property.

Geoff Weir

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

WHITCHURCH SOCIETY AUTUMN WALK

This will be on Sunday 29th October and will leave at 10:30am from The Maze.

The route will take us to the small hamlet of Nuney Green via Collins End and Gutteridge's Wood and return back to the village via Holme Copse and Haw Farm and Holmes Farm.

The distance is about 6.5 miles so we hope to finish around 1:30pm.

We are planning a NYD walk but haven't agreed the route and starting point yet. Details will be on the village website and posters in December.

Richard Williams

AFC WHITCHURCH FOOTBALL CLUB

AFC Whitchurch are a small, friendly club based in Whitchurch on Thames, welcoming players from Whitchurch and surrounding areas. We run 6 teams plus our blossoming Academy section for our very 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. Team and training details are below, if you are interested in joining us please get in touch – afcwhitchurch@yahoo.co.uk

Academy / U7 – train on Saturday mornings at Whitchurch Village Green, Eastfield Lane.

U9 – train on Thursday evenings at Whitchurch Village Green in the summer, Langtree School in the winter. Play in the Berkshire Youth Development League on Saturdays.

U10 – train on Friday evenings at Langtree School. Play in the Berkshire Youth Development League on Saturdays.

U12 – train on Friday evenings at Langtree School. Play in the Berkshire Youth Development League on Saturdays.

U14 – train on Thursday evenings at Langtree School. Play in the Berkshire Youth Development League on Saturdays.

U18 – train on Thursday evenings at Langtree School. Play in the East Berkshire Football Alliance on Saturdays.

Keep an eye on our Facebook page for news and photos – facebook.com/afcwh

Lindsay Austin

Club Secretary

WHITCHURCH PRE-SCHOOL NEWS

The annual Whitchurch Pre-school fete was held on the 2nd September under brilliantly sunny skies. The organisers pulled out all the stops to host a wonderful day, children were treated to pony rides and the first hobby horse gymkhana which proved to be enormously successful as well as bouncy castles, inflatable slides, face painting and fun rides. Mums, dads, grandparents, family and friends enjoyed the array of delicious food and beverage on offer whilst browsing the various stalls. We would like to take this opportunity to thank the Whitchurch and Pangbourne community for your fabulous support, funds raised will be ploughed back into our Pre-school to enhance the children's learning and to reinvigorate the Pre-school outside play area.

We are holding our first fundraising social of the academic year on the 16th November. The 'Bingo, Beer and Bubbles' evening is kindly being hosted at the Ferry Boat. This promises to be a lively evening and an opportunity for parents and friends of the Pre-school to socialise, play bingo and raise funds all at the same time. For more details or to enquire about tickets, please contact Hannah Dunbar hannah_dunbar@icloud.com.

We have welcomed a record number of new children to Pre-school this year, the classroom is filled with activity and enthusiasm as the children start each day with 3 new interactive play zones. Trips

to the local cricket ground have been happy occasions for our Pre-schoolers who enjoy playing outside and collecting autumn treasures. We are currently recruiting a new play assistant in order to meet the demand. Our staff and committee are excited about the growth and positive feedback as new children have settled in.

Play Assistant Required. An opportunity has arisen to join our enthusiastic and friendly team at Whitchurch Pre-school. We are currently seeking a play assistant available to work a minimum of 3 sessions a week for competitive pay. For further details please contact Kathleen (Supervisor) on 0118 984 4516 or visit our website www.whitchurchpreschool.org Whitchurch Pre-school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people. The post holder will be subject to a DBS check. Closing date 3rd November 2017.

If you would like more information about Whitchurch Pre-school please visit our website www.whitchurchpreschool.com or contact Kathleen on 0118 984 4516 or email: whitchurchpreschool@me.com.

WHITCHURCH & GORING HEATH HISTORY SOCIETY

On Thursday November 16th we welcome back Liz Woolley, a local history tutor and researcher into Oxfordshire's history. This time we'll hear about the "Beer, Sausages and Marmalade" that make up Oxford's claim to epicurean fame. The meeting will take place at Goring Heath Parish Hall at 8pm, coffee from 7.30pm.

We have no meeting in December, but return to the Village Hall in Whitchurch for a Members Evening on Thursday January 18th 2018. We'll discuss the many questions we've been asked, especially by the Victoria County History, and there will be a chance to present research by members on our local history. The meeting starts at 8pm, coffee from 7.30pm.

Our 15th February meeting will offer the chance to study historic maps of Oxfordshire, with a talk by John Leighfield

The Whitchurch Society

are holding their annual

Art & Craft Exhibition 2017

at Whitchurch Village Hall, Manor Road

on the weekend of Sat 18th / Sun 19th November, 10am-5pm

Refreshments served all day

Prize giving at 4.30pm on Sunday

Sending-in of exhibits:

Thursday 16th Nov 7-8pm at May Cottage, Eastfield Lane &

Friday 17th Nov 10am - Noon at the Village Hall

Joyce Voysey Prize Theme is 'CIRCLES'

We look forward to receiving entries for the exhibition from ALL age groups, and from previous contributors, but we also hope that there will be lots of new entrants too, especially children who may not have entered before. Young people might be particularly interested in submitting work in new media. We welcome all ranges of work - it is an enjoyable, friendly event, not an elitist showcase!

All residents (both past and present) of Whitchurch-on-Thames and Goring Heath parishes are eligible to enter their work. Please join in!

The details of all the categories and entry rules are set out on the website at <http://wotarts.co.uk> or please ring the phone number below for a printed copy of the schedule.

If you have any queries or would like to help with running of the exhibition, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Sally Woolhouse 0118 984 4365 or email sally@wotarts.co.uk

All meetings are open to non-members at £3, coffee and biscuits included.

Vicky Jordan

WHITCHURCH & GORING HEATH TWINNING ASSOCIATION

We're looking forward to our visit to La Bouille, near Rouen in Normandy, in May next year when we will celebrate our 40th year of twinning. We will be raising funds for this at the Coffee Shop in Woodcote on Saturday 18th November, when we'll also raffle a hamper of French food and wine.

Vicky Jordan

WHITCHURCH HILL CAMERA CLUB

We are fast approaching the busy festive season so I've set out our programme for the next few months. Take time out to join us, it's so varied, a positive smorgasbord.

1st November – Svalbard, Kingdom of the Ice Bear Tremendous images of all things polar captured in difficult conditions.

8th Rosebowl Competition – Round One. We welcome members from Amersham, Ealing and Leighton Buzzard clubs for this regional competition.

15th Forgotten Heritage – Matt Emmett shares his passion for derelict building and architecture with us. Fascinating images often taken under dangerous conditions, we view them in the safety of the village hall.

22nd Taste of Cappadocia and Journey to the Coast. A return of this talented couple with images of Turkey 's ancient settlements, Lake District and beyond.

Thursday 23rd Practical Photography Group Meeting. Practical Thursdays are given over to members – queries, lighting, portraiture ... and all things technical.

29th Digital Competition No.2 The first set subject of the season “Three of a Kind”. Stan McCartin from the Harrow club is our judge, we’re in for an excellent evening.

6th December Making the Most of Your Digital Images. Kevin Herbert a very experienced club judge shares, not just a talk, but a guided conversation in which all club members participate.

13th Challenges of Photographing on Behalf of the National Trust (and other Organisations) Peter Greenway tells us of the opportunities, challenges and demands of volunteering to capture images for the National Trust etc.

20th Digital Audio Visual Competition. We start our Christmas season in the time honoured way; members get creative and present their digital sequences.

3rd January Have I got Nudes for You – Recorded lecture.

10th Print Competition No.2 ‘Three of a Kind’.

17th Colours of Aotearoa Off the Beaten Track in New Zealand.

24th My Experience in Publishing Photobooks WOT’s Jim Donahue shares. The Arcades of Paris and Arches of London

Visit our website www.whitchurchhillcameraclub.co.uk for more details

Find us at the Village Hall, Manor Road, Whitchurch Hill, at 8.00 pm on a Wednesday or Thursdays.

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO YOU ALL.

Lyn Higgs

WINTER 2018 EDITION

Articles for the next edition of the Bulletin should be emailed to rlwilliamsafcw@btinternet.com by Sunday 7th January.

GORING HEATH AND WHITCHURCH SPRING SHOW

Use the long winter months to prepare your ART works:

A river scene, A Three coloured pattern, Flowers in Spring

Or Handicraft items:

A piece of tapestry, A box for a gift, A knitted or crocheted hat

And don't forget your photographs:-

Building/s, A winter scene, Sheer joy

We look forward to seeing you and your efforts on April, 7th!!

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