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## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – Autumn 2018

Autumn is a busy time of year around the village and probably my favourite season. This year there was no Fete, but there are plenty of other community activities like the Outdoor Cinema, Apple juicing day, the Art Exhibition, and of course the Christmas activities in December at the Ferryboat and Church. You may have seen posters for "An Evening of Music" at St Mary's on 20th October in aid of the Friends of St Marys & St Johns. I know that many people have been working hard on this and it will offer a rare opportunity to hear a variety of talented local musicians, so it should not be missed. It has also been a busy time at the Parish Council:

**Eastfield House Application** – The recent planning application from Ross Healthcare that proposes to demolish and replace Eastfield House has raised over 80 objections from individuals in our village, as well as surrounding villages, and even from a former resident now living in Australia. Given this unprecedented level of concern, the Parish Council voted in our October meeting to object to the application. While we have co-existed well with the smaller 27-unit home since 2002, this new proposal with 48 rooms raises serious concerns:

- The building is an important feature in our village and without this house, the namesake of the lane; the conservation area would be much less.
- Exacerbation of traffic on a narrow, single-track lane used for the school run as well impacts to the High Street traffic, which is a growing problem at peak times.
- Concerns about the impact on flooding, and the application's insufficient groundwater and sewage assessments.
- Given the history of scope creep in the applications, there is a justifiable concern that Ross Healthcare will further increase the size beyond 48 units in the future.
- Overlooking of houses in Swanston Field properties from balconies and first and second floor in rear is un-neighbourly and unacceptable.

- Risk of overflow parking onto Eastfield Lane and other areas of the village.

Until recently, Eastfield House was considered to be one of the most attractive buildings in the village and something to be proud of. Ross Healthcare has created a situation where Eastfield House has been left vacant for nearly 2 years and is now in a deteriorated state. The Parish Council will work with SODC to try to address the issues raised by this application.

**Travellers** – While there is no reason to suggest that the recent travellers in Pangbourne were interested in re-locating to our village, the difficulties and costs that the Pangbourne Parish Council faced with their removal make it prudent for us to ensure that our community open spaces are sufficiently secured. We have taken measures to reinforce the gate to the Village Green and are investigating more secure styles of locks at key locations. We are also keeping local private landowners informed of the situation and advising them to take similar precautions. I have been told that with the summer travelling season now ending, the movements of travellers will now decrease in the winter months.

**The new Pavilion** – Many thanks to Neil Huntington and Cllr Keith Brooks for their work with an Architect to complete the planning application for the new replacement Pavilion. We are now targeting approval of the application by the end of November, after which will be in a position to press ahead with applying for grants, fundraising, and working with suppliers to plan its construction.

**Village Hall Improvements** – The windows to the Village Hall were replaced in August. This much-needed replacement improves insulation and heating, security, and general appearance of the hall. The barricades where the chairs are stored have also recently been removed on a permanent basis providing increased light through the windows that were previously blocked. We've had some recent feedback that the lighting still needs to be improved and will look at this as a priority as part of a 2 -3 year improvement plan



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[David.bowen@honeylegal.co.uk](mailto:David.bowen@honeylegal.co.uk)

Lastly, I would like to thank those people from the village that came to visit me whilst I was enduring my marathon ten week multi-hospital stay. In particular thanks go to Keith & Diane Brooks who also helped out with a number of tasks at my house. The next Bulletin (Winter 2019) will include a response from English Heritage (Historic England)

*Peter Worsley*

## **WINTER 2019 BULLETIN**

The deadline for articles will be Sunday 13th January; these can be sent to my email [rlwilliamsafcw@btinternet.com](mailto:rlwilliamsafcw@btinternet.com) in MS word or PDF format. Bulletins will be distributed by w/e 26-27th Jan.

Please contact Clare Donahue directly if you are interested in seeing your pet appearing in “Pet’s Corner”. Her email address is [claredonahue17@gmail.com](mailto:claredonahue17@gmail.com).

*Richard Williams*

developed by Jean Marc Grosfort with the Village Hall Management Committee.

**20 is Plenty Stickers** – The Parish Council will be offering residents of the High Street, Eastfield Lane, and Hardwick Road “Twenty is Plenty “ stickers to be placed on their bins in an effort to reduce speeding in the Village. The Village Plan Survey showed that residents are in support of the lower speed limit. The stickers will help make the case that Traffic and Parking Advisory Group (TAPAG) is preparing for an application to the Police and the Department of Transport to allow the speed limit to be lowered for key roads in the village.

**Polish Memorial Church Garden** – The Parish Council has purchased a picnic bench for use by the public in the Polish Garden behind Manor Road. Thanks to Cllr Brooks and Pete Woolhouse for installing it. There will be more improvements in the future, but if you’ve never been there, please stop by and take a look!

**“The Boat”** – A little like marmite, the disused boat flower bed at the entrance to the Church has a number of supporters as well as some people that felt it was not in keeping with the character of the village. The Boat was a project developed by a dedicated and enthusiastic group of volunteers in the Make Our Whitchurch Special (MOWS) group that advises the Parish Council. They have now decided that the Boat should be removed and replaced with an alternate garden design that will be presented to the Parish Council in the future. There is an article by Leslie Maynerd later in the Bulletin requesting ideas for its replacement and I would encourage you to offer your ideas.

Whatever the new design, I do think the Boat showed some of the creativity the village has to offer, as did some of the guerrilla art that it attracted such as “the Love Boat” on Valentines Day. There are so many unique things about the village that show our creativity. Just a few recent examples I’d like to mention:

- Nick Brazil’s time elapsed films of the Open Air Film night and other events, as well as his project to interview long-time residents
- all can be seen on Nick’s YouTube channel.

- The latest Art Café Project on the Pangbourne Meadow, Equinox Together
- The work Leslie Prater is doing to restore the Maze
- The local band the Never Nevers playing at the Greyhound
- The new WOTSing community choir, now firmly established
- All of the participants in the Autumn Show contributing home grown vegetables, flowers, cakes, and other crafts
- Tolhurst Organic's plans to improve the Veg Shed on Hardwick Road, now under construction

I'd like to close by thanking Richard Williams for his continued work on the Bulletin. Richard has recently returned from an extended period in hospital and I hope you will join me in wishing him a full recovery.

*Jim Donahue, Chair*



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These have the advantage over flint cobbles in that they are difficult to fracture and even if they do the edges are not razor-sharp like the former when it breaks.

One of the frustrations in demonstrating the local geology to interested parties is the lack of guaranteed exposure, i.e. the rocks are normally covered by a combination of vegetation, crops and urbanisation etc unless an open excavation is by chance found. This problem particularly applies to the former Thames gravels. Accordingly, the cobbled courtyard at the almshouses was a very valuable resource as it provided a clean, convenient and secure insight into the 'foreign' composition of the Goring Heath 'terrace' sub-surface. It also beautifully demonstrated the role of the local geology in determining the character of an engineered construction. Additionally, the Queen Anne style architecture of the adjacent historic buildings could be enjoyed.

### **Basis of the controversy**

Unexpectedly on a routine geologically orientated group visit to observe the cobbles at the almshouses in late 2014 the shocking discovery was that they had been entirely removed and replaced by a resin-bonded very fine gravel surface. The contractor was the driveway division of Cirencester Civil Engineering and they were asked to store the cobbles rather than dispose them. Alas the storage location is currently unknown.

By this action, the site has been rendered useless for geological demonstration purposes. Apart from this, it was apparent that the setting of the Grade 1 buildings had been seriously compromised – vandalised is not too strong a word. After an unfruitful conversation with the chapel priest, who was unable understand the problem, Historic England was approached as it was difficult to believe that the removal of the cobbles had been sanctioned by them (about that time English Heritage was being split at the dictate of government).

## Geology and landscape

Although the Chiltern Hills are normally assumed to be undulating, parts of the south easterly inclined dip slope display planar facets. Most of these reflect fragments of the former floodplains of the ancestral River Thames produced as the river progressively cut down into the underlying chalk. These 'River Terraces' are normally underlain by several metres of gravel. One such facet, now some 80 m above the river, corresponds to Goring Heath and the almshouses are built on it. The Goring Heath feature forms part of a dissected system of surfaces which are inclined at a very low angle towards the south east and these can be traced to the North Sea coast in Essex. 'Upstream' the surface disappears above Goring as to the north west it has been totally removed by river erosion. A generalised age for this particular fragment of the old river Thames is about one million years. Geologists now call it the Beaconsfield terrace although earlier it was known as the Lower Gravel Train.

When the terrace formed, the River Thames was much larger than it is today, and its headwaters extended well into the Midlands, an area which is currently outside its drainage area. Pieces of rock derived from the rock types which underlie the Midlands, were being supplied to the river by erosion and moved along its channel towards the North Sea. The outcome is that the bulk of the gravel beneath the Goring Heath area was sourced in the Midlands, their composition reflects the geology of that area. The most obvious component of the 'exotic' materials are the very well-rounded purple or liver coloured cobbles of an exceptionally hard quartzite, these are popularly referred to as 'Bunters' (this name is derived from the rock formation known as the 'Bunter Pebble Beds'). An example of Bunter cobbles at outcrop are found in the cliffs at Budleigh Salterton in Devon. At Goring Heath in winter, after ploughing, the land surface is littered by these Bunter cobbles. Consequently, the builders of the almshouses had a ready local supply of suitable material to surface their courtyard. Significantly, the cobbles must have been carefully selected as they were exclusively Bunters.

## WOTHabs: Nature Notes

Autumn is now here and we are surrounded by the glorious colours in the woods and in our gardens. Many creatures will be starting to hibernate or hide away in undisturbed corners, to await the arrival of the spring and the return of warmer and longer days again. But this doesn't mean that there is nothing to watch and listen to, in our beautiful surroundings – far from it! After the lull following the busy summer months rearing their young, the garden birds will be returning to our feeders, as the supplies of natural food in the hedges and field margins dwindle. There will also be the winter visitors to spot, such as redwings, fieldfares and possibly the colourful waxwings.

If you would like to take part in some 'citizen science', I have read about an easy and fun survey being run by the BTO (British Trust for Ornithology) - it is called the Tawny Owl Calling Survey. By listening out for them in your garden or nearby green space you could help BTO to understand their calling behaviour and distribution. It's easy to take part - just listen for 20 minutes during at least one evening between now and 31 March 2019. All the information about how to take part can be found by searching for BTO Tawny Owl Calling Survey,

Another idea for wildlife spotting in the next few weeks is to look for *Colletes hederæ* – the Ivy Bee. It is a very stripy distinctive late-flying solitary bee. It was first recorded in the UK in 2001, and has now been found in much of Southern England and Wales. As suggested by its common name, Ivy is the main plant used by this bee for pollen. It is seen when Ivy is in flower, from early September to early November. The ivy bee is not a pest or a threat to anything and so should be seen as a welcome arrival to our shores,-not all in-comers are bad! If you see any, BWARS (the Bees, Wasps and Ants Recording Society) would love to know about it!

*Sally Woolhouse, WoTHabs*

## PLANNING APPLICATIONS

**P18/S1202/T28, PCP014**, Hardwick Road OPP 1 West Lodge. Installation of 1 DSLAM equipment cabinet. This was sent to the Council for information only & required no action.

**P18/S1043/HH**, 'The Baulk', Path Hill. Replacement of timber pool room. 'No objections'.

**P17/S3578/HH**, 'Prospect House', High Street. application withdrawn.

**P18/S1163/HH & P18/S1164/HH**, 19 Swanston Field. 2-storey side & rear extension. 'No objections'.

**P18/S1192/HH**, 3 Old Barn Cottages, High Street. 'No objections'.

**P18/S1417/HH**, 'Herringbones Cottage', High Street (single-storey extension). 'No objections but materials used must be in keeping with the original building'.

**P18/S1043/HH**, 'The Baulk', Path Hill (amendment no. 1. Replacement of pool room). This had been sent for information only & has already been approved.

**P18/S1756/HH**, 14 Swanston Field (front & rear extensions). 'No objections'.

**P18/S2051/DIS**, 1 Duchess Close, High Street (amendment to planning application & listed building consent granted in June 2016). This was for information only & permission has already been granted.

**P18/S2509/HH**, 2 Whitchurch House, High Street (exterior & interior refurbishment works). 'Full support'.

**P18/S2495/LB**, 'The Old Rectory', High Street (conversion of junk rooms into en-suite bathrooms). 'Full support'.

**P18/S2777/LB**, 'Hill House', Hardwick Road (replacement door & wall & internal alterations). 'Full support'.

**P17/S3578/HH**, 'Prospect House', High Street (replacement of existing garage). 'No objections'.

Until late 2013, the courtyard was mainly surfaced by naturally rounded quartzite cobbles (quartzites are a very dense form of sandstones). Earlier, in 1992-3, a network of flagstone slabs was inserted into the cobbled surface to facilitate walking on a hitherto uneven surface. However, the visual impact of this was small as most of the courtyard remained surfaced by cobbles. This reconstruction or restoration is commemorated by a plaque which records the generosity of Mrs Pam Toyee of Path Hill.

In eighteenth century Oxfordshire, it was normal practice for public circulation areas to be surfaced by carefully selected rounded cobbles. An impressive example is the area around the square containing the Radcliff Camera in central Oxford. Nearer to, similar cobbled surfaces occur adjacent to the almshouses at Mapledurham and in Whitchurch village small scale examples can be seen in front of two cottages which form part of a terrace at the western end of Hardwick Road. Very recently, by chance rather than design, repetition of this practice has occurred, as the Whitchurch-on-Thames Parish Council has placed a similar cobbled surface around the new boat 'planter' on the High Street, adjacent to the driveway to St Mary's church, although they have yet to be properly laid.



## **WHITCHURCH & GORING HEATH TWINNING ASSOCIATION**

We are teaming up with Pangbourne Twinning Association to present an exciting evening of entertainment from France. The fifteen musicians in the EMIJ Soul Band play soul and standards with great flair and energy and had the Whitchurch twidders dancing in the aisles at a visit to La Bouille a couple of years ago. The date is Friday 2nd November, the place is Pangbourne Village Hall, the time 8pm (doors open 7.30pm, the ticket price £10 and there will be a bar for wine, beer and soft drinks).

Tickets from Ian Bruce (07879 405559) [ian.bruce@btinternet.com](mailto:ian.bruce@btinternet.com) or Antonia (07971 859594) [antoniadesforges@gmail.com](mailto:antoniadesforges@gmail.com)

*Vicky Jordan*

## **THE ALNUTT ALMSHOUSES (GORING HEATH) COBBLED FORECOURT CONTROVERSY**

Within the Whitchurch – Goring Heath civil parishes, arguably the most important historic buildings from a landscape perspective, are the brick-built almshouses and chapel at Goring Heath. These were built at the behest of the will of Henry Alnutt, a barrister at the Middle Temple and former Lord Mayor of London. He died, unmarried on March 11, 1724 and he left his lands at Ipsden (12 km to the NNW) to finance them. His executor, Richard Clement Gent, supervised the construction c. 1726. The buildings form a south-west facing an open rectangle, with the Church of England St. Bartholomew's chapel forming the centre piece. Flanking the chapel are two sets of four one-story houses fronting a courtyard. The latter is enclosed by a low brick wall and pedestrian entrance gate which forms an integral part of the building. Visually, the whole site constitutes a sublime assemblage and is rightly classified as Grade 1 by Historic England. Major building restorations occurred in 1953 funded by an Alnutt descendent Major Alfred Ernest Allnatt (changed spelling) and in 2013-4.

## **WHITCHURCH PRE-SCHOOL**

We kicked off the new term in style with a spectacular outdoors cinema event. The Greatest Showman was screened on a magical late-summer evening and was a wonderful and enjoyable fundraiser for the pre-school. A huge thank you to our sponsors: Lamborghini Pangbourne, Warmingham & Co and the Co-op in Pangbourne, as well as the following who made the event possible: Hazell & Jeffries, Jane and Jon Rosi for their generous donation, Leslie and family for their use of power, Whitchurch Cricket Club, the team from the Co-op for selling food for us and all the volunteers who made it possible.

Our new starters have settled in brilliantly, and all the children have loved playing outside in the improved mud kitchen, as well as enjoying fun and interactive French lessons with Emily. Pre-school have a couple of full-time spaces and a few part-time spaces, so if you're interested in your little one joining our happy band, contact Kathleen on 0118 9844516 or [whitchurchpreschool@me.com](mailto:whitchurchpreschool@me.com)

The fundraising team are planning some fantastic events to keep us entertained (and fit!) this Autumn, kicking off with a Halloween Zumba-Box-Bellathon run by Rachel Grocott and Gareth France in Pangbourne Village Hall, on Sunday 28th October from 2.30–5pm. And if you fancy an evening of bingo, bubbles and beer – and a charity auction on the side, with some impressive lots already lined up – do come along to the Ferryboat on 15th November for a fabulous evening, all in aid of the pre-school.

And an extra reminder that the village fete will be held on 4th May 2019 – plans are already underway, so it's sure to be another wonderful event!

For those starting to feel a bit festive, the popular Christmas Market will be taking place at Whitchurch Primary School on Sunday 25th November, and the annual Carol Concert, with festive music from the Ferryboat Brass, will be held at 6.30pm on Sunday 2nd December at St Mary's Church.

## **PETS' CORNER – Oscar (King of Hillside)**

I inherited Oscar when long-time Hillside resident Sheila Hill, my next door neighbour, passed away in 2014. Oscar is very territorial, so whilst he was very close to Sheila, and most certainly felt her loss, the fact that he could stay in his neighbourhood and live right next door seemed to ease the transition for him.

Sheila took Oscar over from a family with a small child who found Oscar a bit too much to handle. When Oscar first came to Sheila's, he was particularly traumatised and apparently hid under a cupboard barely coming out for a week. But Sheila was very good with cats and Oscar soon found his way.

I certainly knew Oscar, and knew of his reputation of being one of the most dominant cats in a neighbourhood full of cats (lots of spraying going on in the front garden). But I didn't realise how unique Oscar was until I took him in.

If you ever visit my house, one of the first things you will notice about Oscar is that he is very social. He will normally make a bee-line for your lap and be loathe to give it up. At dinner parties, he will travel from lap to lap, trying everyone's out if you let him. On most evenings, I find Oscar on my lap as soon as I sit down. He is particularly fond of keeping my wife Clare company in the kitchen, and loves attention from my son William.

If you live in the neighbourhood, you will have heard Oscar. He is extremely vocal, announcing his entrance to a particular garden that can be heard at some distance. Living with Oscar, you get to understand his wide repertoire of meows, that range from "feed me now" to "hello, here I am" to the unmistakable "I'm going to be sick."

He is also somewhat food-obsessed to put it mildly. I try to keep him on a regular diet of 2 meals per day, but he is always trying for more at any opportunity. And his cries for breakfast start as soon as he hears of any stirring in the bed upstairs, and unfortunately, sometimes earlier. Many other households in the neighbourhood will

### **WHITCHURCH ON THAMES PARISH COUNCIL: VACANCY FOR A PARISH COUNCILLOR**

This is a voluntary position and requires a minimum of one evening a month to attend parish meetings. Other meetings may occur as required. It is interesting and varied and requires becoming involved in all things relating to the village, such as planning, environment, maintenance etc. For a full job description refer to the next page.

To apply, or to obtain more information, please contact the Parish Clerk:

Felipa House, 23 Swanston Field, Whitchurch-on-Thames, RG8 7HP

Tel: 07419 118449

Email: [parishclerk.whitchurchonthames@gmail.com](mailto:parishclerk.whitchurchonthames@gmail.com)

Alternatively, contact the Parish Council Chairman:

Jim Donahue, 17 Hillside, Hardwick Road, Whitchurch-on-Thames, RG8 7HL.

Tel: 0118 984 1182

Email: [cllrdonahue.whitchurchonthames@gmail.com](mailto:cllrdonahue.whitchurchonthames@gmail.com)

Applications must be received by 31st October 2018

The Floral Arrangement trophy was shared three ways by **Angie Simpson, Denyse Williams and Sue Matthews**.

Both the Art trophy and the Arts and Craft trophy were won by **Liz Gibson**.

The Handicraft trophy – **Frances Strange**

Baking and Preserves cup – **Carol Lane**

**Tricia Clapp** swept the boards to take the Photography cup.

The Children's cup was won by **Bethany Strange**.

The Spring show is on April 13th, 2019. It would be lovely to see you and your friends there, both entering and visiting for viewing and tea.

*Susan Sexon*

## **WHITCHURCH & GORING HEATH HISTORY SOCIETY**

Our last meeting of the year takes place at Goring Heath Parish Hall on Thursday November 15th when Mike Hurst presents “Saunders of the River”. The Saunders in question was the famous boat builder in Goring who went on to found the Saunders-Roe aviation company.

Meetings start at 8pm, coffee from 7.30pm. All welcome, non-members £3, to include coffee and biscuits.

We start off the New Year down the hill, at Whitchurch Village Hall, on Thursday 17th January. This will be a Members' Evening, when we will have the chance to present research we have done, look at queries received, and scrutinise some of our archives. Often this is the most “local” of our meetings.

Stephen Barker will speak at our AGM on Thursday 21st February on the subject of “The Armistice of 1918 and after”.

*Vicky Jordan*



have seen these urgent entreaties for snacks or meals, some surely giving in to him.

But while Oscar may have his peculiarities, he is far from aloof, and is certainly as loyal a friend as you will every get. Always there to greet you when you come home, with a stern “where were you?” meow. He is a good friend to many humans in the area, if not particularly cosy with the other cats who are too used to fearing him, including my other cat Sammy, but that’s another story.

Oscar is now 16 and will be 17 in January, and unfortunately is starting to show his age. He is suffering from an overactive thyroid that he has medication for but is still getting quite thin. Oscar is no longer the formidable figure in the neighbourhood that he once was, but still remains the King of Cats in Hillside.

# A Big Thank You

Art Cafe Together would like to thank everyone who joined our community to make Equinox 2018 a success:

- creators of totem poles,
- woodworkers and sculptors,
- installers and removers,
- repairers and guardians,
- afternoon tea helpers and bakers,
- advisers and marketers,
- Councilors and Adventurers,
- visitors and photographers

– we couldn't have done it without you ☺



## Owls That!

We have some owls that would like good homes in exchange for a donation to The Silvers Workshop, woodworkers extraordinaire, who are raising funds to buy their own premises.

Please contact:

*Gill Williamson*  
[gill@artcafe.co.uk](mailto:gill@artcafe.co.uk)

## Make Your Own Mosaic Totem Pole

Jane Dipple will be holding workshops at the Art Cafe next February designed to show you how to construct a totem pole using the indirect and direct methods of mosaic making.

If you are interested please contact:

Jane Dipple  
[janedipple@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:janedipple@yahoo.co.uk)



art  
cafe

## WHITCHURCH SOCIETY NEW YEAR'S DAY WALK

The NYD walk will start at The Maze at 11am. As usual, this is a circular walk taking us eastwards to Hardwick House and upto Path Hill through Bottom Wood. We then head along the Chiltern Way to Whitchurch Hill and return to the village via Beech Farm and the War Memorial. This is about 4 miles and we are expecting to finish at about 1pm.

Everyone is welcome and dogs can be brought along albeit that they may have to be put on leads if traversing any fields with cattle. The organisers are hoping this will be well attended as recent turnouts have tailed off somewhat and we will need to review whether to continue these activities in the future.

*Richard Williams*

## AUTUMN SHOW

The Goring Heath and Whitchurch Autumn show was a testament to the entrants who managed to provide flowers, fruit and vegetables in spite of the cold spring and the very hot summer this year. The weather couldn't have thrown any more obstacles in the way. Surprisingly, the entries were of a high standard. There was also a good number of entries in the gingerbread category. Many thanks to all the helpers who got the show on the road, particularly Sarah Hanfrey for her computer work, and to the judges who give of their time and expertise.

*The winners were:*

The Allotment cup for most points in the vegetables and fruit section, as well as the Whitchurch Hill trophy for most points overall – **John Coupland**.

The Betty Haytor Memorial cup was won by **David Pearson** who also won the Douglas Allardyce Memorial Rose Bowl for his magnificent begonia.

### **The Whitchurch Society**

are holding their annual  
**Art & Craft Exhibition 2018**

at Whitchurch Village Hall, Manor Road  
on the weekend of 24th/25th November, 10am-5pm

Refreshments served all day  
Prize giving at 4.30pm on Sunday

Sending-in of exhibits:  
Thursday 22nd Nov 7-8pm & Friday 23rd Nov 10am – Noon

at Whitchurch Village Hall  
*(please note new venue for Thursday evening)*

Joyce Voysey Prize Theme is 'DOGS'

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 the video category. 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!

Please note that we are excited to announce a new prize, namely The Brazil Award.

This will be awarded for the best short video entry (max 5 minutes in length) and is open to all ages. The details of this and all of the categories and entry rules are set out on the website at <http://wotarts.co.uk> or please ring the phone number below

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](mailto:sally@wotarts.co.uk)

### **WHITCHURCH UNITED CHARITIES: CALLING ALL STUDENTS**

The Secretary of Whitchurch United Charities would like to remind all families that the Charity has funds available to help meet the costs associated with educational needs such as books, equipment or educational trips.

Eligible students are young people between the ages of 5 and 25 years and whose permanent residence is within the parish of Whitchurch.

Applications are processed twice a year, with the closing dates being 31st March and 30th September. However, late applications are considered if the available funds for the previous 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: telephone: 0118 984 4262, address: Flint House, Hardwick Road, Whitchurch on Thames, RG8 7HH or e-mail – [whitchchurchunitedcharities@gmail.com](mailto:whitchchurchunitedcharities@gmail.com)



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## WHITCHURCH-ON-THAMES PARISH COUNCIL



### PARISH CLERK VACANCY

The Parish Council seeks to employ a home-based, part-time parish clerk, working a minimum of 6 hours per week. The successful applicant will have to organise monthly parish council meetings, support parish councillors, maintain accounts and manage the village hall.

A full list of responsibilities is available on request.

The applicant must have excellent administration, IT and communication skills.

Salary will be in the region of £9.81 – 10.95 per hour (SCP 18-22), although applications will be considered outside this range depending upon suitability for the role.

Please email your CV and a covering letter to the Chair, Cllr. Jim Donahue, [cllrdonahue.whitchurchonthames@gmail.com](mailto:cllrdonahue.whitchurchonthames@gmail.com).

*The closing date for applications is Wednesday 31st October 2018. Interviews will be held in early November.*

### MOWS – THE BOAT

MOWS (Make Our Whitchurch Special) is a small group of villagers who with other volunteers are trying to improve and maintain areas of the village and in particular the High St. They started with two weed infested areas either side of the church path about 2 years ago and in the first year with the approval of the Council who also allocated a budget for it developed the right hand side with raised planters which have been filled with shrubs and perennials A seat was donated by

Stan Remington, one of the MOWS members in memory of his wife Pockets who died in 2016 This has proved to have been very popular with walkers and others who like to sit for a while

The other side was a more open area and it was decided to do something a bit different with it An rustic Boat was offered by The Beale Trust which was placed on top of attractive pebbles and subsequently filled with tubs of annuals

I think most would agree that it looked very colourful throughout the summer in spite of the drought – watering was very challenging and thanks to all who helped out with that MOWS were invited to enter 'It's Your Neighbourhood ' an RHS initiative – similar to Britain in Bloom but smaller scale and I'm glad to report that after being judged by the Thames and Chiltern in Bloom judges we were awarded a level 3 – where 5 was outstanding and 1 was Establishing – 3 was Advancing – a very satisfactory result.

It has been suggested that the condition of the boat is too shabby for our village and also too big so with the approval of the Council it will probably be removed in its present state. However, MOWS would welcome ideas and suggestions to either use it in a different way or to replace it with something else. The following have been suggested:

- Create a seat out of it
- Dispose if it completely and plant trees instead
- Install a piece of Artwork
- Put a smaller boat in its place

Please send your suggestions to [leslie@aromatherapycaversham.co.uk](mailto:leslie@aromatherapycaversham.co.uk), [chirstybennett@hotmail.com](mailto:chirstybennett@hotmail.com) or Stan Remington 9844660.

We could do with a few more members to help with the weeding and other projects that we may take on so please let me know if you're interested.

*Leslie (Chair) 9845513*