

WHITCHURCH BULLETIN

AUTUMN
2024

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Arun Readings



Sue Warmingham

CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE – OCTOBER 2024

With Winter coming and the weather as unpredictable as ever, it is important that we prepare for an ever-increasing risk of river flooding or flash flooding from heavy rainfall. I know the Greyhound has upgraded their defences in the past year and I encourage all residents to ensure that they are prepared. One way is to sign up for Flood Alerts with the Environment Agency. Unfortunately, I have already received one in the past month which is unusual this early in the season.

Communal sandbags for flood defence – Following the flooding experience in January, the Emergency Team recommended that we provide a communal sandbag storage facility in the village, although we are still strongly recommending that all residents who may be at risk of flooding keep their own sandbags. As it is not possible to predict the full extent of future flooding, a communal sand storage bin is now available off Eastfield Lane at the Village Green car park to supplement supplies held by residents. Neil Huntington of Eastfield Lane has a supply of about twenty sacks that can be filled with sand in the event of flooding. If you need sandbags, please contact Neil on 07979 751985, or you can contact me or another emergency team contact if he is unavailable. The village emergency plan is on the web-site.



Village drains clearing, 1-8 November – Another important preparation for flooding is to ensure that the village's drains are working effectively. OCC Highways have confirmed that they plan to be in the village for 6 full days from 1-8 November to clear the drains on the High Street and other streets in the village. I am told that this will be a full cleaning including the gulleys as well as the street run-off pipes between them along the High Street. OCC Highway's policy of clearing drains has officially reduced from once a year to every four years, but in reality they now arrange these 'full' cleanings, as and when, based on identified flooding risks. So it pays to continue to raise issues with drains on *FixMyStreet*.

I have also asked if they can improve the 'catch-pits' on the steep part of Whitchurch Hill to see if they can upgrade these to soakaways that would provide more effective drainage. Budget approval is required for this which they said they will consider. The present catch-pits are not very effective and stones and other debris flow into the village filling High Street drains and leaving debris on various parts of the road. This debris also impacts the drains at the Greyhound Pub, which fortunately still appear to be effective in removing water, but only after debris is swept off of the drain grills manually after heavy rains.

High Street Residents' Parking scheme implemented – The long discussed changes were finally implemented in August and September, formally going into effect as of Monday 16th September. We have had some feedback from residents with various concerns such as not being on the scheme that we have tried to address. I have also had some anecdotal feedback that traffic may be speeding up on certain stretches or that some cars may now be parking on Eastfield Lane, Manor Road and Hardwick Road, although it is hard to know the impact at this point, especially on Eastfield Lane with Cedar Lodge Care Home work going on. I've also had feedback from a number of residents who are very pleased with the changes as it certainly seems to make High Street traffic much safer and more orderly with reduced congestion. None of this comes as a surprise. OCC's view is that it should be reviewed in 8-12 months, when longer term patterns of changes to driver behaviour will be clearer and specific actions can be taken to address any new issues resulting from the changes.

One clear benefit of the changes is the increased visibility that pedestrians now have crossing the High Street near Eastfield Lane. We are in discussion with OCC Highways to implement a virtual pedestrian crossing by the Greyhound that will likely be done in the next year. We are also evaluating options for at least one speed activated traffic calming sign.

Tea Hut Replacement Feasibility – Cllr Parkes and I are involved in a feasibility study to look at options to replace the old tea hut that was recently demolished. The new facility would be a small building to support outdoor village events on the Village Green such as fetes and youth club activities. We will be developing designs and cost estimates before any decision is made. Please feel free to contact us if you have thoughts on this or would like to get involved.

Bellmouth Wall Damage – I've been in touch with the residents responsible for the wall and they report that things are progressing well. They have a preferred builder and the company responsible for the damage is being very cooperative with covering the costs for the work, with some improvements already started.

Residents' Issues:

- **SSE pavement work unsatisfactory** – A number of residents raised concerns about the poor pavement repair work by the Ferryboat that SSE did after the week-long repair work. I am heartened that they at least made an effort this time, however the results are feeble to the point of being somewhat laughable. I have raised these concerns with photos to OCC Highways and their response was that they were 'shocked at the state they left it in'. A resident also compiled a report of a number of other shortcomings of the entire SSE repair operations that week including severe pedestrian safety risks that could have been avoided. I have also forwarded these concerns to OCC Highways.
- **Debris on the roads** – A resident raised concerns about debris on Eastfield Lane and Hardwick Road from construction and flash flooding making it difficult for the school run with children walking and on cycles. I have raised this to SODC street sweeping. This would tie in well with the drainage clearing planned for November to avoid them getting blocked again quickly.
- **Walled Garden demolition** – Some residents have raised concerns about the recent demolition of the Walled Garden on the High Street. They are concerned that it did not comply with all planning conditions such as tree protection and care for bat roosts. We advised them to raise this to SODC Enforcement, who have confirmed that they are investigating the request.

- **Playground dip filled** – A resident raised a concern about a low spot on the village Playground where their child twisted an ankle. Cllrs Higley and Smith filled a dip on the playground that was the site of an old tree stump with soil and grass seed.
- **Polish Gardens Maintenance** – Concerns about the overgrown nature of the Polish Memorial gardens this summer were resolved by asking the maintenance contractor to cut the area ahead of the annual scheduled date. In the future, a plan is agreed to have the contractor keep the path cleared by the fences bordering residents' homes in addition to current regularly cut paths.

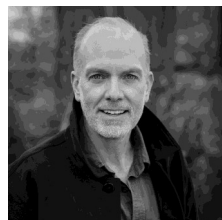
New Parish Clerk – We are pleased to welcome Brian Inglis as our new Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer. Brian, who lives with his wife near Twyford, has been working as clerk in two other Parishes in the area and is engaged in training to achieve his Certificate in Local Council Administration (CILCA), which would bring benefits to us as a council. Despite not living in the village, Brian expects to visit Whitchurch on a regular basis and is looking forward to getting to know the residents. He is personable and approachable, and is also a keen golfer and cyclist with young grandchildren in Scotland. He can be contacted at parishclerk.whitchurchonthames@gmail.com or 07737 982907.

Brian is being helped in his transition by Jane Yamamoto, who has made herself available even while working a new full-time job. Please join me in thanking Jane for everything she has done for the village as Clerk for the past five years; from working with so many residents to address often difficult issues to managing our village maintenance contractor and ably managing the Parish Council's finances and processes. There are so many things that Jane did above and beyond her normal role including organising recent royal celebrations for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in June 2022 and the King's Coronation celebration last year, both of which were very well attended and very enjoyable celebrations!

kind regards,

Jim Donahue

Chairman, Whitchurch-on-Thames Parish Council



QUARTERLY PLANNING UPDATE for WOT PC – October 2024

Planning Ref	Address and Application	Comments by WoT PC	SODC status
P24/S2309/ FUL	<p>Land to north and west of Pangbourne Technology Centre, Bozedown Drive, Whitchurch Hill RG8 7QR.</p> <p>Installation of ground mounted photovoltaic solar panels and battery energy storage system to supply electrical power to Pangbourne Technology Centre; associated plant, plant enclosure and cabling; access driveway; landscaping; and ancillary works.</p>	The Parish Council voted to object to the application, supporting the Heritage and Landscape Officer recommendations to avoid development on AONB green land and consider car park mounted solar panels.	Application under consideration
P24/S1965/ FUL	<p>Whitchurch Primary School, Whitchurch Pre-school Group, Eastfield Lane</p> <p>Replacement of a single-storey "terrapien" type building currently used as a Pre-school with a new building of the same overall footprint constructed to current standards for the same use.</p>	The Parish Council voted to support the application.	Application under consideration
P24/S2700/ S73	<p>Cedar Lodge Care Home, Eastfield Lane, Whitchurch-on-Thames RG8 7EJ</p> <p>Retrospective application to change of rooms with some impacts to roof dormers and other external impacts not in approved plans.</p>	The Parish Council voted to strongly object to planning application due to the increased massing of the extension and there are concerns about the implications to the tree plan which has not been provided. The proposal was implemented without approval and is considered unneighbourly due to increased over-dominance and overlooking from a gable end that has previously been objected to and rejected. The building in question is a key part of the village Conservation Area with the plans impacting neighbours on all sides.	Application under consideration

QUARTERLY PLANNING UPDATE for WOT PC – October 2024

Planning Ref	Address and Application	Comments by WoT PC	SODC status
P24/S2959/ FUL	<p>The Greyhound, High Street, Whitchurch-on-Thames RG8 7EL</p> <p>The works are the laying of a hard non porous surface of about 104 square metres to the rear of the property. The resurfacing covers an area of grass and is designed to mitigate issues created by flash flooding which is becoming more frequent (Retrospective).</p>	<p>The Parish Council requests that reports from SODC Drainage Team, OCC Flood Team and OCC Highways are submitted to provide sufficient expert opinion to allow councillors to make a fully informed decision. The PC realises that the impact on neighbours as a result of these works within the Conservation Area are yet to be seen, but considers that a porous material would be more appropriate in this location which lies in Flood Zone 3 and that the Flood Risk Assessment submitted by the applicant lacks detail, considering that the OCC Flood Toolkit is freely available for reference. The PC has concerns over the stated intention to deal with run-off surface water from this location via the main sewer, and requests clarification on this point.</p>	Application under consideration
P24/S2999/ HH	<p>1 Eastfield Lane, Whitchurch-on-Thames RG8 7EJ</p> <p>New openings made in existing rear elevation to provide French doors and a new window.</p>	<p>The Parish Council voted to support the application.</p>	Application under consideration
P24/S3000/ HH	<p>Glebelands, Eastfield Lane, Whitchurch-on-Thames RG8 7EJ</p> <p>First floor rear bedroom extension with glazed balcony.</p>	<p>The Parish Council voted to support the application.</p>	Application under consideration

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR COMMENTS

Unless one is one of the *grande fromages* with a role in the Cabinet, most elected councillors have little power or influence, for much of the council's work is pretty routine. There can be situations where things go off the rails, particularly when people at a Council, officials and elected, fail to exercise proper controls or challenge what is going on. Local government has a long history of wrong doing, ranging from Westminster City Council with Shirley Porter in the 1980s to Thurrock and Woking more recently with their disastrous projects. *Private Eye* keeps me well abreast of current misdoings in other places, and so I try and keep an eagle eye on things in South Oxfordshire.

One area where Councillors have a direct role is on the Planning Committee, where recommendations by planning officers can be overruled by the committee. Most recommendations by planning officers, despite objections raised by Parish Councils, are followed through, but there are exceptions, and if there are good planning reasons to differ from the officer's recommendation, then that is the right thing to do.

It is particularly gratifying when, after rejecting a development at Committee, an appeal is also refused. However, most of the appeals that are refused arise directly from decisions that have been made by Planning Officers and which never come to committee. Unlike a planning application, there is no cost for an applicant to make an appeal.

There are National Standards for the quality of planning decisions, and I am pleased to say that your council does pretty well. There are different standards for major decisions, ie large sites, and for non-major. For major sites 4.2% of decisions were appealed, and about 20% of those appeals were allowed, compared to nationally where, whilst fewer decisions were appealed (3.0%), more appeals were allowed (just under half). For non-major decisions, in SODC only 1.5% were appealed, of which 40% were allowed. Nationally, there were more appeals at 2.3% of which about 30% were allowed.

The grounds on which the Planning Committee has refused consent includes developments being unneighbourly or having an adverse impact on the character of the area. These are necessarily subjective judgments, but the Planning Committee system is there to make subjective judgements and to hear the views of neighbours, parish councils and other interested parties who may not have had the opportunity to express their concerns to Planning Officers as professionally as developers are able to do.

Development has to be in accordance with the Local Plan, which itself has to align with the National Planning Policy Framework or NPPF. The latter is periodically revised, and is currently going through a major revision with the change of government. The District Council is pressing on to complete the new Joint Local Plan as so much work has already been done on it and it would be frustrating if changes have to be made if the new NNPF overtakes it.

Peter Dragonetti (Peter.dragonetti@southoxon.gov.uk)

SODC Councillor for Whitchurch on Thames



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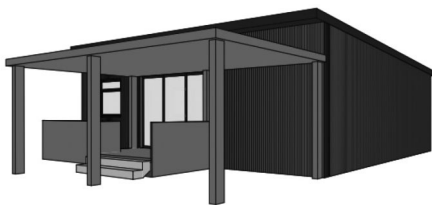
We are so happy to be back for our Autumn term. Everyone is enjoying being back in the classroom, learning and exploring, and we have welcomed some new starters who are settling in well. We have been making the most of our outdoor space, spending time in our dedicated allotment, discovering wildlife and apple picking.



Community Helps Save Our Pre-School!

In April, we were told that our existing building would not last the winter. So what better way to start the new school year than with the fantastic news that we reached our fundraising target? Since we launched our 'Save our pre-school' campaign, we have received donations from families, parents, the wider community and the parish council, adding to existing funds we already had in the bank from previous years. We were also lucky enough to receive several sizable grants and private donations. A huge thank you to the generosity of our parents and amazing community for helping us deliver this exciting new project!

Between 21st October and 2nd December, we will be demolishing the existing end-of-life building and replacing it with a brand new fit-for-purpose classroom.



The new building will be both energy and space efficient, with an improved layout for the children and staff to enjoy, perfect for future generations.

This project is part-funded by the UK Government through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund with South Oxfordshire District Council as the lead authority.

The Pangbourne Band Hits the Right Note for Our Pre-School with Disney Concert

We started off the school year with a magical concert by The Pangbourne Band at St Mary the Virgin Church in Whitchurch, taking us through the history of Disney films with numbers from Snow White, Frozen and Encanto. There was even a fancy-dress competition for the kids. A big thank you to The Pangbourne Band for putting on such a fun event for all the family and helping us to raise much needed funds for our pre-school.

There will be many more events to come. Please check out our website www.whitchurchpreschool.org or follow us on our Facebook page.

Spaces Available from January 2025

From January 2025, we have spaces available for new starters aged from two years upwards.

- We're open from Monday to Friday during term time from 8.45am - 3.15pm with an early drop-off option at 8.30am and late pick up to 3.30pm.
- Government-funded places are available for two-, three- and four-year-olds for 15 or 30 hours per week during term time.
- We are Forest School, Healthy Smiles and Hygge accredited.
- Children from outside the Whitchurch catchment area are welcome to apply.

To register your interest, please use the form on our website or email: hello@whitchurchpreschool.org



*Jo Malcolm
Communications, WPS
Registered Charity: 1183193*

WHITCHURCH PRIMARY SCHOOL PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

We have had a lovely start to the new academic year. We had finished the last year with a fantastic sports day, and we owe a huge thank you once again to Warminghams for their sponsorship. The children paraded out with flags for their different houses and then undertook a series of competitive races with Magpies taking the overall victory this year.

The children came back to some fantastic new outside resources supported by the 'Mend the Gap' funding that was put in place over the summer by volunteers. There is a new den building area, additional mud kitchen resources, posts with stamps to create rubbings of different minibeasts that they might spot in the playground and microscopes for examining exciting finds! The children were very enthused to be able to use these resources in their play at break and lunch times and I am sure lots of interesting mud pies were made and dens built! Over the summer the school also had solar panels put up on the roof and the school staff developed a monitoring system that shows the children how the new solar panels are running. A very industrious and scientific start to the new year.

We have seen new Willow children settling in really well. There are still places available in this year's current reception class so do contact the school if you would like a tour and share with friends who might be interested in their child joining our wonderful school.

We had our first Art Café of the year the other weekend and once again are so grateful for the wider community showing up and supporting us. We raised an impressive £250 to put towards vital funding for the school and have already been putting funds to good use purchasing some new basketball nets for the children to use in PE.

We are going to have the 'Light Festival' again this year on Friday 1st November organised in partnership with St Marys Church. Once again we will meet at the maze at 4pm and then wander down to the 'Old Stables' with our lanterns to celebrate the turning of the season together with mulled wine and hot chocolate.

Recently several classes have taken part in the Henley Literary Festival meeting authors online and in person including Hannah Gold and Cressida Cowell, inspiring the next generation of authors.

A fantastic start to the year and exciting us for the year ahead!

Nicola Armstrong
Chair

whitchurchpa20@gmail.com

THE WHITCHURCH 2024 ART & CRAFT EXHIBITION



The weekend of

23RD & 24TH NOVEMBER

in the Whitchurch Village Hall on Manor Road

Viewings: 10am to 5pm on Saturday
10am to 4pm on Sunday

Prize-giving: 4.30pm on Sunday

Entry £1 per Adult (non-exhibitors only)

Refreshments will be available.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Details about the categories and how and when to enter are on the village website here:

www.wotarts.co.uk

Also look out for our Facebook event page or for more information contact Sally Woolhouse at sally@wotarts.co.uk



WHITCHURCH VILLAGE HALL

“Three Men in a Boat” - Thursday 28th November, 7:30pm.

We are thrilled to announce that Whitchurch Village Hall will be hosting “Three Men in a Boat”, an enchanting stage adaptation by Giles Shenton Productions of Jerome K Jerome’s classic comedy masterpiece (see inside back cover for poster). This delightful play promises to be a magical evening for all ages, filled with laughter, music and drama. *Opening Night Review* said it’s “95 minutes of pure delight”, and *The Telegraph* described it as “Pitch-perfect comedy”. There will be a licensed bar. Places will be limited, so book your tickets now - £14 at www.buytickets.at/gilesshentonproductions

We look forward to seeing you there!

Adrian Dixon

WHITCHURCH & GORING HEATH HISTORY SOCIETY

On Thursday November 21st we will be welcoming Jim Donahue to our first afternoon meeting to talk to us about his newly published book “The Thames Valley: Past, Present, and Future – A Snapshot of British Life”. The title covers a wide range of information in a long-time frame, focusing on the Thames from Windsor to Oxford and features many photographs of local people and events. I’m sure we’ll have lots of questions for him.

NOTE – the meeting will be 2.30pm at Goring Heath Parish Hall, followed by tea.

There’s no meeting in December, but we start up again in Whitchurch Village Hall at 2.30pm on Thursday 16th January 2025 for a session of members’ contributions and discoveries. Then on 20th February we hold our AGM, followed by a presentation by Alan Copeland on the curiosities he has found in the Cotswolds.

All are welcome to attend our meetings, with non-members paying £3 to include tea/coffee and biscuits.

Vicky Jordan

THE FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S AND ST JOHN'S

The Friends is an independent charity to which we welcome members from all faiths and none.

A reminder that the Friends aim to:-

- Help preserve the heritage of our two historic buildings in this Parish.
- Support the use of the churches by the wider community.
- Help bring together people from Whitchurch on Thames and Whitchurch Hill.

Since last writing, The Friends continue to be active in organising events to raise funds for the Charity.

We had an enjoyable afternoon manning the Granny's Attic Stall at Whitchurch Hill Fete and were delighted with the contributions that we received and the money that we subsequently raised. Our thanks go to all those who donated, and to those that supported us on the day.

Our Art Café coffee mornings are held at the Old Stables on bi-monthly Saturday mornings and continue to give us a steady stream of funding. We are so grateful to those that regularly bake and donate cakes, give raffle prizes, are there to serve on the day and to the loyal Friends and to all who come and sample our wares.

On Saturday 12th October, The Friends and supporters attended a Musical Evening at St Mary's which was extremely enjoyable and eclectic. We heard the Oxford Fiddle Group give a stunning display of their talents; folk music was played from Scotland, Ireland and England which was evocative and entrancing. We also heard music from America, and some jigs and songs which were captivating and most enjoyable.

After the interval we heard music from a talented group of local musicians. First of all, a selection of contemporary songs was sung by Carrie and supported by

Nick Leadbeater-Hart which were energetic and captivating; Lesley and Dave Maynerd performed a wonderful selection of jazz pieces, and the Whitchurch Wallopers Handbell Ringers gave a marvellous display of their talents. The evening ended with the amazing performance by Derry Pope singing some well-known songs from Broadway and the West End. It was a fabulous evening and made very special by the introductions from our vicar James Leach in the beautiful atmosphere of St Mary's Church and the welcoming and introductory piano playing by Tim Valentine.

Our work of maintenance and clearing in the churchyards continues. Good progress has been made at the churchyard of St Mary's whilst at St John's the bramble has grown exponentially with the rain we have experienced this summer. Regular work parties are organised over the year at both churchyards and we hope to increase our activity in order to tackle the problem. The next two sessions are scheduled at St John's on Thursday 24th October and at St Mary's on Tuesday 29th October. Do let Sally Woolhouse know (via whitchurchfriends@gmail.com) if you are keen to join us for a morning of gardening and being outside with other locals.

We will be planning our future events for the New Year at our next meeting and will keep you posted via the website and on the usual noticeboards.

Sarah Dragonetti (Chair)
The Friends of St Mary's and St John's
Registered Charity 1168335

HARDWICK HAPPENINGS

Organic Growers' Gathering

Despite the weather not being on our side, the Organic Growers Gathering at Tolhurst Organic and around the Hardwick Estate was a wonderful success! Organized by the dedicated members of both the Hardwick community and the Organic Growers community, everyone came together to create a fantastic atmosphere, rain or shine.

The Gathering is all about connecting, sharing skills, and building a vibrant community. Attendees enjoyed a delightful mix of activities, from practical sessions and workshops to cozy breakout spaces perfect for networking and exchanging ideas. Plus, there was an array of delicious organic vegan food, live music, and even a sauna and wellness space to relax and recharge!

We can't wait for next year's event and are hopeful for sunnier skies. Here's to even more fun and learning ahead.

Heritage Wheat and Rye - Stone Ground Flour

As part of the estate's ethos of organic, local food production, we have been experimenting with growing a small block of heritage wheat and rye up at Collins End.

The wheat is an old milling variety called Maris Widgeon (pictured), which some of you may remember. Both have been in their first year of conversion to organic production. Harvested in September, they are in storage at Vines Farm and we can mill it to order.

The flour is 100% stone ground and wholemeal, as nothing at all is removed in the process. The flour is suitable for baking bread either as pure flour or as a mixture of the two, which makes a tasty moist loaf. People on the estate have found that it makes excellent pancakes and waffles too. Since it has had no fungicide applied, it is ideal for making a starter for sourdough bread.



As bread is the staff of life, we do hope that producing grains for human consumption can be a cornerstone of the effort to steer the estate toward organic food production with a local focus. The grain will be available to order in 500g bags for £2 each.

Michael Faretra (Estate Manager)

Upcoming events at Hardwick

Wednesday 30th October, Wild Day, Path Hill Outdoors 9.30–3.30pm Freaky Fire Day Age 8–11 years. Join Path Hill Outdoors for a spooktacular day of den building, campfire cooking and creepy crafts.

Thursday 31st October, Wild Day, Path Hill Outdoors 9.30–3.30pm Halloween Spooktacular Age 8–11 years. Have you got what it takes to fool the world that you are a Hardwick Witch or a brain chewing zombie?

Sunday 10th November, Forest Bathing, 9.30–11.30am. Join Path Hill instructors Nicky and Selina in Hardwick's beautiful beech woodland at Path Hill for a two-hour Forest Bathing experience. Immerse yourself in the forest whilst taking a gentle, meaningful walk, allowing you to open up your senses, slow down and stay in the moment. It is not a hike or nature expedition, and it is not swimming! The focus is on forming connections and relationships as you develop an appreciation for the healing power of nature.

Tuesday 12th November & Tuesday 10th December, Woodland Women, 7–8:30pm. Join Path Hill Adventures for a dose of nature therapy and a space in the week to focus on your health and well-being.

Saturday Market – every Saturday 9am– 1pm – Outside the Veg Shed at the entrance to Hardwick. Serving organic locally roasted coffee, organic pastries, bread and locally grown flowers, with guest pop-up stalls throughout the summer.

Winter Talks at the Packing Shed, Tolhurst Organic

31st October 7:30pm – The return of the native. By Matthew Grant

28th November 7:30pm – The Thames Valley: past, present and future. By Jim Donahue

THE PARISH OF WHITCHURCH ON THAMES, OXFORDSHIRE

Acreage – 1,320, Population – 824 (2011 census), Electors – 622

WHITCHURCH ON THAMES PARISH COUNCIL			
Chair	Jim Donahue	cllrdonahue.whitchurchonthames@gmail.com	07557 668601
V/Chair	Diana Smith	cllrsmith.whitchurchonthames@gmail.com	
	Nick Brazil	cllrbrazil.whitchurchonthames@gmail.com	
	Katherine Higley	cllrhigley.whitchurchonthames@gmail.com	
	Paul O'Grady	cllrgrady.whitchurchonthames@gmail.com	
	Frances Parkes	cllrparkes.whitchurchonthames@gmail.com	
	Debbie Leach	cllrleach.whitchurchonthames@gmail.com	
Clerk	Brian Inglis	parishclerk.whitchurchonthames@gmail.com	07737 982907

SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL			
135 Eastern Ave, Milton Park Estate, Milton, Abingdon, OX14 4SB, www.southoxon.gov.uk			
Councillor	Peter Dragonetti	Covert Cottage, Hill Bottom	0118 9844711

OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL			
County Hall, Oxford, OX1 1ND, www.oxfordshire.gov.uk		01865 792422	
Councillor	Kevin Bulmer	35 Springhill Road, Goring on Thames, RG8 0BY	07526 743091

WHITCHURCH ON THAMES VILLAGE WEBSITE			
www.whitchurchonthames.com			
News Editor	Richard Wingfield	rmwingfield@btinternet.com	0118 9843682

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL			
St Mary's Whitchurch and St John's Whitchurch Hill			
Hon Secretary	Rosemary Pearce		07761 056125

WHITCHURCH PRE-SCHOOL GROUP			
Eastfield Lane, Whitchurch on Thames, RG8 7EJ			
Supervisor	Kathleen Barrow		0118 9842347

WHITCHURCH PRIMARY SCHOOL			
Eastfield Lane, Whitchurch on Thames, RG8 7EJ			
Head Teacher	Dawn Chesters		0118 9842347
Head of Parent Association	Nicola Armstrong		
Chair of School Governors	Eleanor Sugrue		

LANGTREE SCHOOL			
Woodcote, RG8 0RA			
Head Teacher	Simon Banford		01491 680514
Chair of School Governors	Alan Dunstan		01491 680514

WHITCHURCH AND DISTRICT ALLOTMENT SOCIETY

Chair	John Coupland	jvcoupland@yahoo.co.uk	07397 778872
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WHITCHURCH TWINNING ASSOCIATION

Chair	Wendy Ferguson	wendyefergie@gmail.com	0118 9841262
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WHITCHURCH SOCIETY

Chair	John Bradon		0118 9841574
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WHITCHURCH BRIDGE CLUB

Enquiries	Phillipa Turner		01491 875648
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WHITCHURCH AND GORING HEATH HISTORY SOCIETY

Contact	Vicky Jordan	Little Langtree, Whitchurch Hill, RG8 7PU	0118 9843260
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WHITCHURCH CRICKET CLUB

Sec	Cormac Neeson	cormac.neeson@gmail.com	0118 9843347
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PANGBOURNE AND DISTRICT BOWLS CLUB

Recreation Ground, Thames Avenue, Pangbourne

Contact	Roy Rosekilly	22 Swanston Field, Whitchurch on Thames, RG8 7HP	0118 9843080
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PANGBOURNE AND DISTRICT TENNIS CLUB

Recreation Ground, Thames Avenue, Pangbourne

Chair	Louise Shearer		0118 9842934
Sec	Amanda Holland		07814 369566

WHITCHURCH ON THAMES HABITAT STUDY GROUP (WotHabs)

Contact	Gill Goodwin	1 Swanston Field, Whitchurch on Thames, RG8 7HP	0118 9842934
Sec	John Bradon	Rylands, Hardwick Rd, Whitchurch on Thames, RG8 7HW	0118 9841574

VILLAGE HALL

Hall Manager	Richard Scearce	38 Manor Road, Whitchurch on Thames, RG8 7EU	0118 9842004
Events Mgr	Jean-Marc Grosfort		07881 312233

OLD STABLES ROOM

High Street

Contact	Geoff Weir	oldstablesbookings@btinternet.com	
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GORING HEATH GUIDE AND SCOUT GROUP

Contact	Doreen Pechey	doreen@pechey.org (Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Brownies, Guides)	01491 681236
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PANG VALLEY SCOUT GROUP

The Barn, Purley on Thames

Contact	Ian Shenton	ishenton@ntlworld.com (Beavers, Cubs, Scouts)	0118 9678769
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PANGBOURNE AND DISTRICT VOLUNTEER CENTRE

Committee Room, Pangbourne Village Hall

	Open 09:30 – 11:30am Mon–Friday	0118 9844586
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AFC WHITCHURCH FC (ages 5-16)

Chair	Alex Hilton	hilts123@hotmail.com or afcwhitchurch@yahoo.co.uk	
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THAMES VALLEY POLICE

Wallingford Police Station, Wallingford, OX10 9DW

	Non Emergency Police Number (manned 24/7)	101	
Neighbourhd Supervisor	Barbara Taylor	barbara.taylor@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk	07814 485286

PANGBOURNE LIBRARY

Reading Road, Pangbourne, RG8 7LY

		0118 9844117
Monday 14:00-17:00	Tuesday 10:30-18:00	Wednesday CLOSED
Thursday 9:30-12:00	Friday 10:30-17:00	Saturday 10:00-12:30

ST MARY'S CHURCH

Contact	For Baptisms, Weddings or Funerals	0118 9765905
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THE FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S AND ST JOHN'S

Chair	Sarah Dragonetti		
Secretary	Sally Woolhouse	whitchurchfriends@gmail.com	

PANGBOURNE BOATHOUSE SURGERY

Whitchurch Road, Pangbourne, RG8 7DP

Routine health conditions	Mon to Fri, 08:00–18:30	0118 9842234
Urgent unplanned conditions		NHS 111
Life-threatening emergencies		999

WHITCHURCH ON THAMES BULLETIN

Editor	Richard Williams	rwilliamsafcw@btinternet.com	07810 374280
Associate Editor	Tim Hardwick		
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Winter 2025	15th January	29th January	
Spring 2025	15th April	29th April	
Summer 2025	14th July	28th July	



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