

Whitchurch on Thames Parish Council – Profiles

Updated in March 2022

Jim Donahue, Chairman

Jim joined the Parish Council in 2011 after moving to Whitchurch from Pangbourne in 2008. He was elected chairman in May 2018. He runs a small Programme Management consultancy focused on the telecoms industry and also works as a part time photographer. Jim can often be seen mountain biking through the Chiltern Hills with local cycling groups or on walks down Hardwick Road and through Hardwick estate with his son William.



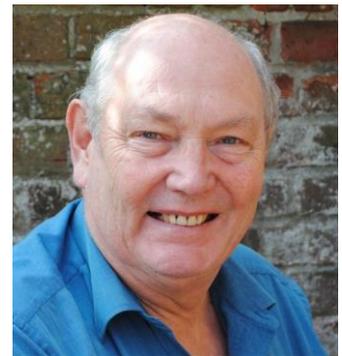
Diana Smith, Vice-chairman



Diana moved to the area in 1985 and to Whitchurch in 2003 when her husband Peter retired. She has worked in local government administration and education and most recently was a volunteer and then an employee with Citizens Advice in Newbury, Thatcham and lastly in Henley. She has two daughters and four grandchildren who live locally. Her interests include singing with the Pangbourne Choral Society and helping with a variety of village activities. She was elected vice-chairman in 2020.

Nick Brazil

Nick is an author, film maker, photographer and public speaker. He first came to Whitchurch in 1976. After a break of some years, he returned to the village in 1993 and has lived in Hardwick Road ever since. In 2003, he had the idea to create a Maze, which has since become a local landmark. Nick joined the Parish Council in September 2021.



Katherine Higley



Katherine has lived in Whitchurch for over 20 years and spent most of her childhood in the village. She joined the Parish Council in November 2018. Her ancestors were first recorded here in the 1600s, so the family have a long association with the village. Katherine studied Environmental Management, Planning and Law at university and is a qualified Coach. She is a Trustee of Whitchurch United Charities and is also part of the brass cleaning team at St. Mary's Church.

Carrie Leadbeater-Hart

Carrie has lived in Whitchurch for six years and is married to Nick. A chartered engineer, she served on the parish council from 2015 to 2018. Returning in 2020, she says: “After completing our family with three lovely children, I now have some time to dedicate to our village. I’m particularly passionate about providing facilities for young children and teenagers and engaging them in village life, and also ensuring that any changes to parking and traffic flow are in the best interests of all villagers, taking into account safety and households without driveways.”



Paul O’Grady



Paul joined the Parish Council in May 2021, having lived in the village since 2019 when he moved here from Goring with his young family. Prior to that, he and his wife were frequent weekend visitors to the area before deciding to call it home. Paul is a chartered surveyor and a director of one of the historic London estates, overseeing the strategy and management of a well-known part of central London. His local interests are in planning, pedestrian safety and conservation, in particular celebrating Whitchurch’s past whilst finding sustainable ways to improve the village for the future.

Frances Parkes

Frances and her family moved to the area in 2003 and to Whitchurch in 2016. She has worked in academic publishing for nearly 30 years. Last year she joined the newly re-formed Traffic and Parking Working Group (TAPWG) and has greatly enjoyed being part of this, looking at ways in which the village can address the complex problems of traffic, parking and pedestrian safety. She is looking forward to continuing to work on this and other issues which are important to people living in this lovely village.



Parish Clerk: Jane Yamamoto



Jane Yamamoto moved to Whitchurch in 2002. She has been working for a local renewable energy company on the Hardwick Estate since 2008. If she is not in the office or on the farm, she is out playing tennis or eating, which is her favourite pastime. She joined the Parish Council as Clerk in December 2019.