

The WOODCHESTER Word

JULY 2008

WOODCHESTER PARISH COUNCIL

NEW COUNCIL ELECTED

May saw the election of the new Woodchester Parish Council. Seven individuals stood for the seven seats and were thus elected uncontested. Of those elected, four were existing councillors standing for re-election. The council welcomed its new members Penny Brown, Peter Lead and Paul Syrett and was pleased to note a doubling of the number of women on the council. At its first meeting the new council elected as its chairman, Rhiannon Wigzell, who will serve with Vice Chairman, Gervase Hamilton.

Your councillors are:

Rhiannon Wigzell

Chairman of Council, member of finance committee, local enterprise representative

Peter Lead

Chairman of planning committee, design statement representative

Penny Brown

Member of planning committee, environment representative, events representative

Gervase Hamilton

Vice Chairman of Council, member of planning committee, parish emergency coordinator, local enterprise representative

Malcolm Swait

Member of planning committee, member of finance committee, snow warden, village hall representative, highways representative, local enterprise representative

Paul Syrett

Member of planning committee, watercourse warden, youth representative, environment representative

George Bastin

Member of finance committee, website representative, local enterprise representative.

VILLAGE FETE PLANNED

The council is hoping to promote a village fete in 2009 to bring together residents from all parts of the village. If you are interested in getting involved, please contact the clerk.

WOODCHESTER DESIGN STATEMENT

A working group is putting together a draft design statement for Woodchester. Essentially this is a documented review of what's special about Woodchester and what residents like and dislike. Once adopted, it will act as supplementary planning advice to Stroud District Council when taking planning decisions. Once a draft is available it will be put to the village for widespread consultation. Please keep an eye on the parish notice boards for details of how you can contribute.

BUS SHELTER TO BE REPLACED

The council has agreed to replace the bus shelter opposite Frogmarsh Lane on the A46. Contractors have been engaged and we are awaiting a date for completion of the work

LITTER PICK 2008

Woodchester village held its annual litter pick in April. Around 30 residents turned out on what was mostly a sunny afternoon to collect rubbish from roadsides and along the cycle trail. The

afternoon's pickings varied from bottles and cans to a bicycle. In total around 20 giant bags of litter were collected for disposal by Stroud District Council.

WEBSITE VISITS INCREASING

There were over 1,000 page views of the www.woodchestervillage.co.uk website in May. The website is fast becoming an important source of news and debate for the village. It is also being used as a source of information by local newspapers. Village organisations can now contact the council for a password to edit their own space on the site.

CHANGE OF CLERK

The Parish Clerk has regretfully had to resign due to other work commitments. The parish council is currently trying to recruit a replacement for the post and will hopefully be able to announce its new clerk in the next edition of the Woodchester Word.

To contact the council, please get in touch with the Parish Clerk, Duncan Hayes on 01453 873107 or council@woodchestervillage.co.uk

WOODCHESTER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The next two meetings of the Woodchester Historical Society are:-

Tuesday 22 July "Visit to Selsley Church "

- meeting there at 7pm for a talk, coffee and homemade biscuits. Please speak to Mike Warnes (872181) or Jill Merriot-White (872999) if you wish to attend and to confirm the charge.

Tuesday 16 September at 7.30pm Dr Nicholas Herbert will be giving a talk in the Undercroft St Mary's Church, North Woodchester entitled 'Interpreting the Gloucestershire Landscape'. Admission is £2 members, £3 non-members. All are welcome. Mike Warnes

WOODCHESTER OPEN GARDENS

The Open Gardens took place on the afternoon of the 26th May, Bank Holiday Monday. Despite the wild, wet and windy weather, intrepid villagers braved the elements and were rewarded with a lull in the rain. There were sixteen gardens to visit, giving a chance to see many of the hidden corners of South Woodchester and giving rise to exclamations of, "I never knew this was here!" and "I've never been here before!" Teas were popular even though they were served in a garage rather than a wet, windswept garden. There were also plants and flowers for sale. In the evening the Open Gardeners enjoyed the tour themselves, finishing up with an impromptu social. The intention was to hold a community event rather than a fund-raising one but nevertheless £83.10 was raised and donated to Woodchester based charity Inishfree (www.inishfree.org.uk) towards their project to replant an orchard. There have already been several requests to hold a similar event next year and offers of more gardens to see. Thank you to everyone who helped make the occasion so enjoyable and memorable. Rhiannon Wigzell

1ST WOODCHESTER BROWNIES

Many girls made their Promise at the Thinking Day party, which was organised by the Guides in February. Along with our usual mix of badgework and activities we have had a games evening and a singing evening. Some girls were awarded their hostess badges. In March we had another joint evening with the Guides, when Easter/Spring was the theme. This busy evening we had an Easter egg hunt, made chocolate nests, decorated an Easter egg, made Easter cards and two craft activities with Easter chicks. Another Promise ceremony took place and some more hostess badges were gained. We ended this Spring term with a nature treasure hunt around the village and a chocolate theme evening when we tasted different chocolate, had a quiz about chocolate and shared a chocolate fondue.

In April a former Guide joined the leadership team, which we have named Kingfisher. Since then we have had another games evening, made collages using natural materials and played host to Nailsworth Brownies who joined us for an Hawaiian theme evening. We have spent two evenings at Stroud Fire Station, working towards the fire safety badge and learning more about the fire and rescue service.

Our plans for the rest of the term, (after completing the fire safety badge and going on Pack holiday with Nailsworth Brownies) include working towards another badge, outdoor activities, craft work and a joint campfire/barbeque evening with the Guides. If you'd like any further information about Brownies, please contact Jackie on 01453 821258 or Jenny on 07966 665050.

1ST WOODCHESTER GUIDES

One girl made her Promise at the Thinking Day party held in February. Various badges have been awarded and along with our usual mix of activities we have also participated in a games evening and a singing evening. We joined the Brownies for a meeting based on Easter and Spring. One evening, a girl made her Promise by torchlight on the cycle track, and it goes without saying that we enjoyed the chocolate theme evening when we shared a chocolate fondue and made a campfire using chocolate!

Since the lighter evenings we have been out in the village, tracking and trailing in our Patrols. We also had a music theme evening. Recently we have met in Cainscross where we have played ball games and been treated to a fish and chip picnic.

The majority of the remainder of term will be spent at Stroud Fire Station working towards our fire safety badge, although we plan to find time to have a campfire/barbeque with the Brownies. If you'd like to join Guides please contact Jackie on 01453 821258 or Jenny on 07966 665050.

VILLAGE HALL NEWS

HEARING LOOP/AUDIO SYSTEM

The quotation for the above system has come in at £5,000, which includes personnel training. We have pleasure in announcing that the sum of £500 has been received from Age Concern towards the cost, which brings our total fundraising so far to £1,900 (£500 Age Concern plus £1,400 from Villagers). Whilst we are trying to raise funds from other public sources, we are still appealing for private donations, or if possible from public-spirited people to do fundraising events within the village. Your help is needed for this very useful and worthy cause.

VILLAGE HALL RENTS

The cost of gas/electricity/water and other maintenance services has risen considerably during the past few years, therefore it is with regret that the Trustee Management Committee has found it necessary to raise the rent for Village Hall regular courses by 50p to £5.50 per hour as from the 1st September 2008. The hourly rate for occasional bookings stays at £9 per hour and will be reviewed at the next Annual General Meeting in April 2009. These charges include heating, lighting and the use of the kitchen.

VILLAGE HALL COURSES

Details of the various ongoing activities are published on all the Village Notice Boards and on the telegraph pole outside the Village Hall. There is a vacant bi-monthly Tuesday afternoon, which would be ideal for anyone interested in running a discussion group or general get-together with perhaps the offer of afternoon tea. This could be a good follow-on from the Friendly Circle, which meets every other Tuesday afternoon. Alternatively and in addition, every other Wednesday afternoon is available. If you are interested in running a course or activity, please contact Bob Ludlow on 01453 872340.

ARE YOU RETIRED, looking for something to do and interested in the community? Would you like to be involved with the Village Hall as a volunteer? If so, please contact Bob Ludlow on 01453 872340

TABLE TENNIS IN WOODCHESTER

With the demise of the youth club at the end of the 1960s, young villagers from the cricket club set up a table tennis section which played firstly at South Woodchester Hall. Tony, Martin and David Bourne, Vic Murray, Tony Vick, Geoff Russell, Mike Hanks (whose father still lives in Woodchester) and John Higgins to name but a few. After several years in exile at Farmhill cricket pavilion, the table tennis club returned to Woodchester to play in the Village Hall. Employment elsewhere and the cost of housing in Woodchester depleted the original membership, with Mike Hanks being the only survivor. Workmates were introduced to the club, and players now come from Stroud, Gloucester and even Cheltenham. The vastly improved facilities at the Village Hall have helped in getting good players to join the club, which in return provides the largest income from users of the hall. Our thanks go to Bob Ludlow, the Village Hall Chairman, for his tireless work in getting funding for the Hall modernisation. For the season just ended, Woodchester A and B sides finished 1st and 2nd in Division 1 of the Stroud League. Four teams play at the hall on Tuesday and Friday evenings from September to March. No club night as such exists. With new tournament tables costing £500 plus, care has to be taken in their use.

Committee member John Smith co-ordinates table tennis use of the Village Hall, and can be contacted on 01453 766116. Most of the participants in table tennis today are veterans,

so age is not a bar to playing. Interested villagers who could perhaps make up an additional team (minimum 3 members) in due course should contact John. You might even persuade him to run a few sessions for practice and start a local revival.

THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST MARY, NORTH WOODCHESTER

Tom Elliott is a young Christian ventriloquist, illusionist and creative speaker. On Sunday 20th July at 5pm he will be at St Mary's to present his new show 'Magical Message'. It will be an amusing and inspiring illustrated talk on the Christian faith and what it means for people's lives in the 21st century. It will be suitable for all ages, especially children, so please bring your family along to enjoy this unique event! Entrance is free and refreshments will be available afterwards.

Children and young people are always welcome at St Mary's. During term-time Junior Church takes place at Woodchester Endowed School during the 11am Sunday service and there is a week-day service especially for toddlers once a month. Please contact Liz Hale on 765422, if you would like to know more.

WOODCHESTER W.I.

The Woodchester WI is hostess this year to five other W.I.s in the area and on Wednesday evening 7th May the Village Hall was filled with members from these W.I.s. If you were passing and heard strange noises coming from the hall, it was only the guest speaker for the evening demonstrating many different types of bagpipes. It was an enjoyable and enlightening evening with Woodchester ladies making their guests very welcome. Delicious refreshments of home-made biscuits and coffee rounded off the evening and everyone went home happy and looking forward to our next Group meeting.

Our W.I. has been in the village for over 50 years and it would be very sad if it had to close due to lack of support. We welcome any ladies who wish to join us -- Woodchester Village Hall the 3rd Thursday of the month at 7.30pm. Why not pay us a visit one evening?

Arthur and Muriel McTiffin would like to thank those who took part in the sponsored walk on April 20th for the Breast Cancer Appeal and also to any who sponsored walkers. Over £6,000.00 has been pledged, a wonderful response. Once again we had a good turn out and no rain!

WOODCHESTER FRIENDLY CIRCLE

Members of the Circle have enjoyed the events in the past year. At the last meeting in May a party of 41 enjoyed a Spring Lunch at the Clothiers Arms in Bath Road. Other topics included "An Early Morning Talk" by Mark Cummings of Radio Gloucestershire. Ron Knott entertained at the piano; a local antique dealer gave a talk on "Hidden Treasure" and A Bring and Buy Auction helped to swell the Circle funds. Other talks included photos of people in Stroud 100 years ago, "Concentration Camp Life through the eyes of a child", Crossroads and Emmaus who give help to the homeless. The slides of Woodchester Mansion showed the restoration made from time to time. During World War II the Mansion had been occupied by various troops.

Meetings begin again on September 2nd in the Village Hall at 2.30pm, new members will be welcome. The Circle aims to provide

friendship in a caring community for both men and women. Meetings are normally held fortnightly on Tuesday afternoons. Enquiries 01453 872424.

SNACK BAR SUCCESS

Congratulations to husband and wife team Paul and Sharron Holt who run the mobile snack bar at the Frogmarsh lay-by. In April, at their annual inspection by the local environmental health officer, they were awarded five stars for hygiene. This is the top mark; it is a clear indication of their high standards and their pride in their work. Several years ago the snack bar was nominated by a county newspaper as the best for food of all the mobile snack bars in Gloucestershire. Well done Paul and Sharron!
John Cull

AONB WALKS

Some local walks courtesy of the Cotswold Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty website.

Sunday, August 17, 2008 • 10.00am
40th Anniversary Walk: North and South of Nailsworth • Journey through glorious and varied countryside in the southern Cotswolds. Features include former mills, upland commons, wooded valleys, attractive villages and an historic house. Please bring a picnic lunch. Possible pub stop for drinks only. Moderate
Starting Point • Nailsworth long stay car park/old market (opposite bus station) Leaders • Graham Bateman, Virginia Rawlings
6.5 hours 10.5 miles
OS: 162/849996 B6

Sunday, August 31, 2008 • 10.00am
Time Travel in the South Cotswolds • A scenic walk of historical interest from Woodchester to Selsley Common and back. On the way we shall see evidence of life in this area going back in time from the 18th century to Roman, Neolithic and Jurassic ages. Moderate
Starting Point • Lay-by on A46 near South Woodchester Leaders • Alan Bulley, David Harrowin
3 hours 5.5 miles
OS: 162/841017 B6

ST DOMINIC'S CHURCH

Greetings from the Parishioners of the Catholic Congregation to the readers of the Woodchester Word.

By the time you have this edition all our main activities for the Summer will have taken place, including our Fete. You may like to know the most important event was when our Parish Priest, Father Piers Linley OP, celebrated the 40th Anniversary of his Ordination on June 29th. As I write this, we are organising a BBQ for Father, his friends and Parish Family. So far we expect over 100 people and a happy day is expected whatever the weather.

STORIES PLEASE

If you have any stories about local events, people or issues, please send them to us. We can't promise to publish them all but we'll do our best. Send to any of the team by 1st October for the November 2008 issue.

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