

# THE CHILTON CHRONICLE

Published by Chilton Parish Council

No. 360 April 2010

## ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on **Wednesday 21st April at 7.30pm** in the Village Hall. All electors of Chilton are entitled to attend. Do come along to make a comment, ask a question or to just listen.



## AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Chairman's Report
3. Resumé of last APM
4. Matters Arising
5. Comments on Items in the Chronicle
6. County Council Report
7. District Council Report
8. Area Beat Officer's Report
9. Chilton School Report
10. Scout Troop Report
11. Appointment of 2 Independent Representatives to VHMC
12. VHMC Report
13. Playbuilder Report
14. Discussion on possible 20mph speed limit in Main Street/Village
15. General Discussion



## Chairman's Report

During the past year in Chilton much has changed and yet much remains the same. Things that were expected have not transpired and others not thought of this time last year have been planned and built, changing the face of Chilton forever. It just demonstrates that living in this corner of Oxfordshire is the same as anywhere else, often predictable but also full of surprises.

The last 12 months have given Chilton much to celebrate, especially for our younger residents. Our Primary School was rated Outstanding in its OFSTED inspection last summer and the village benefitted from more than £53,000 of grants to build a new play area for the older children.

In less than 12 months the funding was secured, the design, type of equipment and its location were planned (largely by the kids), and this February it was constructed and then approved for use. Everyone is already enjoying this exciting new facility which will give fun, enjoyment and pleasure to all who use it for many years to come. As the landscaping around it grows and develops it will become a much more natural play space with quiet areas for the less adventurous or those seeking a little quiet or privacy.

The Recreation Field is one of the biggest assets in the village and as events like last July's Chilton Active and this January's snow have proven, when it is full of people using and enjoying it, it is something we must care for and treasure.

The Chilton calendar is full of events and meetings for all to enjoy, with our clubs, organisations and Church that meet weekly or monthly offering sport, recreation and stimulation for those from under one to the more senior over 100. If you want to participate why not join the Cubs, Scouts, Toddler Group, WI, Bowls Club and others. Visit the Church or Pub, go to one of the annual events in the village, the Summer Fair at the School or Quiz in the Hall, the Dance, Plays or Plant Sale and later this year a Produce Show. All are, and will be full of people enjoying the best of Chilton, if you don't already why not join them?

The one annual event which we have to hold every April is the Annual Parish Meeting. This has traditionally been fairly uninteresting and poorly attended, a great shame because it should be the one event in the year that is open to everyone to air their views and try to influence what happens, or could happen in Chilton. By law this meeting must contain official elements and sadly in the past this part of the meeting has become over long and for many a little boring. This year this required part of the

meeting **will** be kept to less than one hour leaving more time for full discussion of **your** topics (and if we all have nothing to say at least we can go home early.) Topics already for discussion are; The future development of the Recreation field, how can it better cater for adult needs? Should dogs be banned or restricted? And, speed limits in the Village, is 30mph low enough? Is a lower limit desirable or achievable? Please come along on Wednesday 21st April and make your voice heard.

So, whatever the coming year brings, I really hope it's a good one that we can all enjoy and I thank you all for making the past year a great one.

Ian Thompson

Chairman Parish Council



### Village Hall Management Committee Report 2009-2010

2009-2010 marked another busy year for the Committee. The Village Hall is now well over 25 years old and the upkeep of facilities and renewal/improvement of fabric continues to be a first priority. Following the now regular annual inspection in September a list of almost 60 items were identified for attention. A combination of voluntary work by Committee members and small contracts of a total value approaching £2000 have enabled over 90% of these items to be completed to date. The works included replacement double glazing units in the meeting room, kitchen and main hall. All work has been funded from the Committee's reserves and operating income.

Bookings continue at a satisfactory level. Our 11 separate groups of regular hirers means the Hall is in use most weekday evenings and also during the day. The number of casual hires has seen a slight downturn in the last 12 months, possibly as an indirect consequence of the recession. The website ( <http://chiltonvillagehall.co.uk> ) continues to be a useful source of information for prospective users, both from the village and beyond. The cost of hiring the Hall represents good value for money compared with other halls of a similar standard, especially for those from the village.

In December the Committee hosted Oxfordshire Theatre Company's (OTC's) production of Momotaro for the Hall's 2009 Christmas family show. The pre-Christmas

show is always popular, typically selling to a full house of 80-90, which is excellent for a community of only 360 homes and an indication of the high level of support for this community activity. The OTC, our local touring theatre company, has been the group of choice for a number of years, not least because of the consistently high standard of its productions.

It is therefore most regrettable that the Vale of White Horse District Council decided earlier this year to withdraw its annual grant to the Company. The grant has in the past enabled the OTC to keep performance costs at a modest level, which we cover by realistic but affordable admission rates, with no profit element as the productions are organised by the (entirely voluntary) Committee. The loss of grant has had a severe effect on the OTC and its 2010-2011 programme and we can only hope that the very popular pre-Christmas show will go ahead this year- both the village and the hall venue are small, so even at full capacity it would be impracticable to increase ticket prices to full commercial production cost. It is unfair that our village should lose these valued events because the rural theatre productions are one of the very few tangible benefits that the village receives from VWHDC leisure funding, the main portion of which is concentrated on the market towns. Hopefully you will make your view on this mis-targeted cut known to your District Council.

Brian Morris

VHMC Secretary



### Chilton WI Annual Report April 2009-March 2010

I am pleased to report that Chilton has continued to increase its membership and now has members spanning several generations!

We have enjoyed some interesting speakers, in particular Duncan Wells who gave a very humorous account of his experiences in hospital following a serious accident. We also heard Martin Woodgett, great grandson of the captain of the Cutty Sark talking about his passion for the ship and his mission to keep her going. More recently Liz Wooley told us about the often forgotten St Thomas area of Oxford prompting some of us to do her guided walk round this fascinating part of the city

At our birthday meeting in October one of our members, June Nash was transformed into a very elegant Tudor lady whilst our speaker Ann Hobday gave us some fascinating facts about the costume and the Tudor period. The star attraction at the first meeting in 2010 was Ted, a golden Labrador PAT dog who managed to steal the show, and his owner Julia Sharp who told us all about her work for the Pets as Therapy charity.

Chilton WI continues to support local charities. Two members took part in the Sobell House Hospice Moonlight Stroll on a very wet night in July and in September we were involved with a sale on the village green which raised an amazing £452 for See-Saw, the Oxford based charity for bereaved children. At our November meeting we held a Bring & Buy sale in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support which raised £100. Our President Gwen Pearce has been given an 'Unsung Heroes' Award for her services to the community in Chilton. Gwen is unwell at the moment and we send her our best wishes for a good recovery.

In spite of appalling weather, our annual WI Summer Sale on 6<sup>th</sup> June raised an amazing £356. We maintained our links with Diamond Light Source by serving teas and providing cakes at an event to celebrate the launching of a new website. At the Chilton Active sports weekend in July we were involved in helping with refreshments for those taking part in the various sporting activities. Also in July, encouraged by our President a small group of us took part in a WI litter pick up around the village.

In October we will be 50 years old and inspired by the Federation's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday celebrations at Christchurch Cathedral earlier this year we hope to have our own banner and to look forward to the next 50 years of WI in Chilton!

Chilton W.I. meets every 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month at 7.45pm in the Village Hall, new members and visitors are always welcome.

Dorothy Woodhouse Secretary



## Play Park Committee Report 2009-2010

Following consultation with young people from the village and primary school, 2009-2010 saw the award of a Playbuilder grant to Chilton village to the tune of £46000 for the provision of play facilities for the 8-13

age group. To manage the delivery of this project on behalf of the young people the play park committee was formed from the instigators of the grant application and co-opted members of the village. This committee is now responsible for play facilities on the village recreation ground and represents and reports to the Parish Council.

On award of the grant, the committee invited designs from play park equipment suppliers which were then presented to the village for further consultation (both young and old) at the Chilton Active weekend last Summer and at the primary school and other youth organisations in the village. The views expressed by the young people formed a large part of the decision making process, resulting in a design from Wicksteed Leisure meeting best the requirements of both the consultation processes and the Playbuilder grant. Following discussions with the grant awarding body a landscape design consultant was employed to further develop the design to add value to the installation and to help project manage the necessary contractors required for installation. Prior to award of the contract to Wicksteed the committee were invited to apply and were successful in obtaining further funding of £7600 from Aiming High, a scheme designed to improve accessibility and availability of facilities for disabled children. This further funding has allowed the addition of extra and improved equipment including a basket swing and tube slide.

Park installation began at the start of 2010 just before the snow hit. In spite of the bad weather, both Wicksteed and the landscapers have worked to allow the park to open most of the facilities before the end of March 2010 (a requirement of both grants). At the beginning of March ROSPA inspected the site and gave it a clean bill of health.

Children in years 5 and 6 from Chilton primary school were invited to take part in the planting of a willow fence/hedge, or fedge as it is now known. In the near future the landscaping will be finished and some modifications and additions to play equipment made to add play value to the park. Equipment and areas will be opened fully to the public as soon as practically possible and a grand opening event will be held on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> May to which the whole village and children (and parents of

course) of Chilton primary school are cordially invited.

Dave Hall  
PlayBuilder Committee



## Chilton Ringers Report for April 2009 to March 2010

Ten years ago we were raising money to restore our village bells as a joint millennium project for the parish and the church. These bells are probably the oldest objects still in everyday use in the village. Our medieval bell cracked in Victorian times; our 3 historic bells date from 1623, 1665 and 1710; the medieval bell was melted down in 1892 and 3 smaller bells cast using its metal so that we now have 6 bells.

All Saints' tower was surrounded by scaffolding in July 2000 and the bells removed while the tower was strengthened and a new bell frame made. The bells were retuned and returned to the tower in December. The Bishop of Reading re-dedicated them at a special service on 7 January 2001. Since then we have tried to ring our village bells for the Sunday service in All Saints' church every week.

In July we held an 'Open Tower' as part of the Parish Council's 'Chilton Active', where we showed people how to chime the bells. The Chilton PCC allows us to welcome visitors once a month at times which are advertised in the Chilton Chronicle and the 'Ridgeway Broadsheet'. We can also ring the bells for other special church functions such as weddings and national celebrations. An old custom at funerals was to toll the tenor bell once for each year of the life of the deceased, but few people ask for this now. This month there is to be national ringing on St George's Day, when every tower band is asked to ring their bells for some time to celebrate our patron Saint. In Chilton we hope to ring for about half an hour starting at 6pm on Friday 23 April 2010. We plan to celebrate our tenth anniversary of the bells re-dedication in January 2011 with some special ringing.

Visitors are always welcome to the tower to see how we ring at 7.30pm on our practice evenings, the 2nd and 4th Thursday each month. Telephone the tower captain, Alec Samler, on (01235) 834589 to check that we will be ringing on the evening you want to come.

Anyone tall enough to reach the bell ropes can try pulling on a rope. There is no upper age limit; you just need to be able to climb 12 steps up to the ringing chamber and to raise your arms above your head. Like learning to ride a bicycle, it takes some practice to do it well. Why not start now? Then you could be able to ring well enough to join us in celebrating the tenth anniversary of the restoration of Chilton bells.

Further details are available on our website: <http://fortran.orpheusweb.co.uk/Bells/>  
Kate Crennell

Honorary Secretary Chilton Tower



## Harwell Bowls Club

Do you like fresh air and pleasant company with the gentle exercise of inexpensive Bowling? Why not come and give it a try.

We are a small friendly Bowls Club located in the Village of Harwell and would welcome new faces of any age or gender from the surrounding locality. The Bowls club started bowling in the Harwell Cherry Orchards, between the lines of trees, in 1932

The Club is having an **Open Day on Sunday 2 May 2010** from **10.00a.m.** to **4.00p.m.** and you would be most welcome to come and try us out. Our Bowls Club is located in the Village of Harwell, adjacent to the RBL Club at the entrance to the sports field off a road called Westfield, on the South side of the Village.

Your only requirement on the day is to bring yourself and a pair of shoes that are flat soled to wear when going onto the Green.

If you missed the date or cannot join us on the open day but still want to try us out somebody is always around at the Club from 6 p.m. on a Monday evening from May to September weather permitting.

Further information can be obtained from the Club Secretary on 01235 834408 or the Club President on 01235 210179.



## Chilton Baby and Toddler Group

Chilton baby and toddler group is a chance for all babies, toddlers and children up to 5 years to get together to play, make, sing and have fun with their parents (dads do come too!) or carers.

The group continues to meet Friday mornings at the village hall from 9.30 -

11.30am, and now also meets on a Monday afternoon at the FSU at Chilton school from 1pm-3pm.

At each session there are a range of toys available, a craft or messy play, a singing session, hot drinks for the adults and all for just £1.50 per family per session. On Fridays there is also a free snack and juice for the children.

The group continues to be popular with young families in the village and new faces are always welcomed. Come and make some new friends, big and small! For more information call Emma on 01235 820260, email [chilontoddlers@googlemail.com](mailto:chilontoddlers@googlemail.com) or just drop by and see us at any session!



## The New Chilton Play Area

### March 2009 -April 2010

Many thanks to all parishioners for their patience and co-operation during the installation of the new play area on the Chilton Recreation Ground.

The play area was inspected by RoSPA on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> March and since then continues to be enjoyed by all children, which makes all the hard work worthwhile. There are still certain areas which are out of bounds in order to allow for grass seeds to grow and the newly planted foliage to develop. We would be most grateful if you could help us by keeping away from the cordoned-off areas. Also, we are sure responsible dog owners already respect the childrens play areas throughout the village: keeping dogs on leads, preventing dog fouling yet cleaning up when those little accidents happen in these areas. It would be greatly appreciated if these courtesies were extended to the new play area.

In the very near future, the wooden climbing frame will be modified to rectify a non-safety related installation issue. In the meantime this play equipment is safe to be enjoyed. Furthermore, due to the error in installation, the suppliers will be supplying an additional piece of play equipment for the children. More information to follow.

Finally, we would like to invite all the village to **The Grand Opening of the Play Area**, on **Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2010** from 14:00 to 18:00. Please bring one dish of your choice and your own drink. Soft drinks will be offered to the children free of charge, tea and scones will be kindly provided by Chilton Church and games will be arranged

by Scouts. An ice cream van will be located in the car parking area for those who wish to purchase ice creams. We are hoping to arrange for an 80's-90's disco on the day too (more information to follow).

Many thanks again for all your support.

The PlayBuilder Committee

## Grand Plant and Cake Sale

This sale, for Christian Aid, will take place on **Saturday May 15<sup>th</sup> in the Village Hall from 10am until 12 noon**. If you are able to grow a few plants for us to sell we would be delighted. Coffee and Home Made Biscuits will be available. There will be a Home Produce Stall and we also have a Book Stall and would be grateful for books of any size or description. Please phone if you would like them to be collected, but if you are able to bring them to the Hall early that morning it would be greatly appreciated. Contact Judy Goodall 43 Crafts End, Tel 834503

## Charity Quiz Evening

Thank you to everyone who supported the Wives' Group Quiz Evening. We had a very enjoyable evening and raised the great total of £1,088 to be divided equally between the Abingdon Alzheimer's Support Group and Hamlin Fistula UK.

The Cryptic Quiz was won by Mary Napper of Didcot Library with 46 out of 50, second was Barbara Anderson of Harwell and third Molly Farmer. The next Cryptic Quiz will be out in time for Easter and is for Christian Aid.

It will be available from: Judy Goodall, 43 Crafts End, 834503

Audrey Slater, 9 Latton Close 834558

Daphne Boddy, Sans Souci, Reading Road Harwell 221047

Gurmit at the Post Office on Harwell site

Shea at the Rose and Crown, Chilton

Judy Goodall

Chilton Wives Group



## Abingdon Air & Country Charity Show

The 2010 Abingdon Air & Country Charity Show is on **Sunday May 2<sup>nd</sup>** at Abingdon airfield, Dalton Barracks, Abingdon. This year's show will be the 11th event organised by the all-volunteer committee and will once again support the Thames Valley & Chiltern Air Ambulance Trust.

In this the 70th Anniversary year of the Battle of Britain, we are hoping for a full display from the RAF Battle of Britain Memorial Flight including Spitfire, Hurricane and Lancaster. Dominating the static aircraft park will, hopefully, be another of last year's highlights...the RAF's gigantic C-17 Globemaster III transport from Brize Norton. Overseas aircraft participation is also being sought, to give us a little international flavour and pleasure flights will be available in a 1940s vintage de Havilland Dove airliner. Advance Tickets are now on sale, from local Nationwide outlets, selected local Tourist Information Centres, One Stop shop – Didcot, The Warehouse – Abingdon and online from our website via paypal – [www.abingdonfayre.com](http://www.abingdonfayre.com) On the day prices are Adults £13, Senior Citizens £8, Child 5-15yrs £6, Under 5s Free



## From the Parish Council

### Fly Tipping

Anyone who finds items that have been flying tipped should report it to the Vale of White Horse District Council who will remove them. Contact the Vale on 01235 520202 or report on-line on their website. Remember it is an offence to fly tip and if caught you can be fined.

### Lights Out

If your street light is out please phone 0800 317802 for the light to be repaired. This is a free phone number. Remember to note the lamp number, which is printed on the lamp post.

Items to be included in the next Chronicle should be sent to the Clerk (preferably by email) by **Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2010**

Clerk: **Liz Morris, 6 Latton Close, 01235 834233**

Email: [parishclkchilton@btinternet.com](mailto:parishclkchilton@btinternet.com)

### Parish Councillors

Mr. Chris Broad  
14 Latton Close  
834347

Mr. Frank Dumbleton  
1 Lavender Cottages  
Main Street  
832292

Mr. Terry Garrett  
Lime Tree Farmhouse

Dene Hollow  
831926

Mr. Brian Morris, Vice Chair  
6 Latton Close  
834233

Mrs Afsie Swannell  
Colmar  
Lower Road  
834317

Mr. Ian Thompson Chairman  
22 The Orchids  
832385

Please contact our County or District Councillors if you have any problems.

### County Councillor

Mr Stewart Lilly  
2, Hengest Gate,  
Harwell,  
OX11 0HH.  
01235 832867

### District Councillors

Mrs Margaret Turner  
15 Tyrells Close  
Harwell  
OX11 0LF.  
01235 821248

Mr Reg Waite  
7 Hengest Gate  
Harwell  
OX11 0HH  
01235 861779

### Do You Want to Book the Village Hall?

If so, please contact Keith Woods, Layton Cottage, Main Street for details.

### Mislaid Your Chronicle?

You can find it on the Village Hall website:  
[www.chiltonvillagehall.co.uk](http://www.chiltonvillagehall.co.uk)

The Chilton Directory is attached to the June 2009 edition of the Chronicle, also available on the website are minutes from recent Parish Council meetings.

**Attached to this Chronicle are the Annual Accounts for the Parish Council**