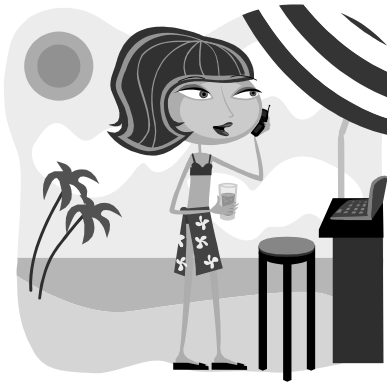


Oving with Pitchcott Newsletter



August 2007

www.all-saints-oving.org.uk
www.oving.org

SEPTEMBER 2007
CONTRIBUTIONS



**By 10th
August
please**

Many thanks, Valerie Adams,
12 The Pightle, Oving 640296
Email:- valadams@waitrose.com

LADIES NIGHT

I will not be hosting a meeting in
either July or August due to
holiday and other commitments.
The next meeting will be Wed.
September 12th at 7:30pm
Newcomers welcome
Call Val on 640296 for info

THE FRIENDS OF WHITCHURCH SURGERY

The Friends are holding a Cream Tea at Mary Monks House, Hawleys Lane, Whitchurch by kind permission of Mr and Mrs Rider. It will take place at 2.30 pm on Saturday, 18th August. There will also be a raffle and a stall. We are looking forward to seeing you all.

Oving Parish Council - Update

The Parish Council meeting in July was after the copy deadline for this months newsletter. Consequently the detailed update is available as an insert to this newsletter. Should you for any reason not receive a copy of the insert you can view the update at www.oving.org and the update is also be available on the notice-board at the Rec' ground.

Ambrose McGinn Chairman OPC

Whitchurch and Oving Parents
and Toddlers
(Babies Welcome Too)
Every Wednesday
British Legion Hall
10am - 12pm,
Oving Road, Whitchurch - £2.00
Tel. Jenny on 641513
or Zantie on 640427

A Good Walk in the Country

If you fancy fresh air and healthy exercise every now and then why not join us on the first Friday of each month for a good walk and a pub lunch.

Weather permitting we may have a picnic this time

We'll pick a different walk of around 6 miles each month, ending at a pub, but suggestions would always be welcome

The next walk will be on Friday 3rd August

If you're interested phone Jack or Mary on 641738 or email

[*j.peeters@btinternet.com*](mailto:j.peeters@btinternet.com)

CHURCH NEWS

Page 3

All Saints Church Fete

A huge thank you to everyone who helped with the Church Fete this year; from those who donated their time to the generous donations of produce, cakes, plants and unwanted gifts.

Running stalls involves time, organisation and hard work as does erecting the marquee, we really appreciated all your efforts

We had surprisingly good weather which meant a pleasant evening was enjoyed by all who came and we were able to raise much needed funds for the Church

Kind regards Tessa Baker

Baptism

Two children were welcomed into the family of the Church at their Baptism.

June 10th Joshua Callum Goose of North Marston

June 24th Callum Honour of Aylesbury

Marriage

Our very best wishes for their future happiness go to: -

Emma Myatt and Aldous Smewing who were married on June 30th

And Helen Couper and Simon Lodge who were married on July 7th

Team Service

August 26th at 11:00am will be held at Fleet Marston - only one or two services a year are held at this very old Church across the field so it will be an opportunity to attend one.

November 2nd

Please book this date as we are having a visit by a Harpist named Paula Smith. She will give a talk on 'Life on a Harpstring and Harping on with a Harp' and this will be followed by a selection of harp music.

ROTAS					
	05-Aug	12-Aug	19-Aug	26-Aug	02-Sep
11.00 am	Family Service		Family Communion		Family Service
Sidesmen	K.Ryle C.Roberts	S.Berriman H.Bowen	D.Jones S.Larman	J.Brunswick S.Hodges	C.Jenner T.Baker
Readers at 6.00pm		S.Hodges		T.Cleaver M.Ponsford	
Chancel	N.Law	M.Hodges	M.Hodges	J.Brunswick	J.Brunswick
Nave	S.Berriman	D.Hilton-Jones	C.Jenner	L.Watson	J.Smith
Path and Bins	D.Smith	J.Peeters	R.Smith	E.Watson	P.Goss

PROPOSED NEW SPORTS PAVILION

By now fellow villagers will have read in the July copy of the Parish Magazine the report of the Annual Oving Parish Meeting held on Thursday 10th May, 2007.

With reference to the proposal regarding the new/replacement village sports pavilion, as past Chairmen of the Oving Parish Council we feel that much that was said at that meeting has not been accurately reported. Parishioners who were unable to attend may gain the impression from this and from the 'report' in a recent copy of the Bucks Herald that the vast majority of parishioners are happily in favour of the proposal put forward by the Chairman and members of the Parish Council.

We do not believe that this is the case. Of the 40 plus who did attend the meeting, the majority of those who spoke voiced very strong objections to important sections of the proposal.

The siting of any new pavilion should take into account building security, the cost of relaying and connecting new services, access for emergency service vehicles and for fuel delivery vehicles and safe vehicle parking.

With reference to the proposal to re-site the Children's Play Area this has not been fully investigated or costed. Reference is made to a recent RoSPA inspection but this was regarding the site's present condition and siting and not re-siting. Necessary advice on a new site has not been sought from RoSPA or The National Playground Association as took place and acted upon before the siting of the present Play Area. It is vital for the safety of village children that full advice is taken before any change of site takes place.

The current proposal does not include accurate costing and measure of disruption which may be caused by the laying and connecting of the four amenity services. Nor does it include any reference to provision of a suitable system of heating the building, siting of fuel storage "tanks" or access for large fuel delivery vehicles.

A statement contained in the original 2006 proposal that "The location (of the pavilion) is chosen to maximise the proximity to the facilities" clearly does not fit the facts. The electricity, water, sewerage and telephone facilities are already in situ at the site of the existing pavilion.

We fail to see the logic behind the proposed site. It gives the impression, rightly or wrongly, to many villagers including the writers that it has been chosen purely for the benefit of the members of the Tennis Club and to the disadvantage in both cost and convenience of the Children, the Football Club and the residents of Oving to whom the Recreation Ground was gifted.

We believe that there appears to be a majority of Oving residents in favour of providing new facilities for our sportsmen and women to possibly include two separate changing rooms, showers and lavatories plus an adequate kitchen and leisure area. We do not consider that there is a requirement for a large social room or hall adding a further 50% to the area of the whole structure. The overall proposal, including the veranda is over five times the ground area of the existing pavilion; the cubic capacity is over six times and the height of the ridge is estimated at 5.7m or 19ft.

The maintenance and running cost was glossed over in the 2006 document as "not expected to be significant and only marginally greater than at present for the old pavilion...." An accurate forecast must be established with reference perhaps to similar buildings in adjacent villages.

The arguments that the provision of such a recreation area would stimulate a miraculous interest in forming clubs for bridge, painting or dancing is purely wishful thinking not based on factual evidence. Those parishioners who may have an interest in such pursuits will have already discovered and joined established clubs meeting elsewhere, or will have been instrumental in their formation.

Established groups such as the WI, Scouts, Guides, Play Groups etc., already exist and make use of meeting places in the larger villages. In point of fact it could be said that there is an excess of such meeting places in our immediate neighbourhood; there are three in Whitchurch; The Church Hall, The Methodist Chapel Schoolroom and the Legion Hall all underused. North Marston, Granborough and Quainton all have village halls and in addition Whitchurch School may be available.

We understand that the "managers" of many of these buildings would be very pleased if greater use was made of them as a means of increasing income to cover their maintenance costs.

Again the original 2006 document states that the function room would not be licensed. Laudable. However at least one of the local village halls could not exist without a contribution from its licensed bar. A future Oving Parish Council, if short of funds could easily overturn this commitment. In the past a request for a licenced bar was turned down on the argument that it would compete with The Black Boy to the latter's detriment and possible closure.

The capital costs put forward in the original proposal of 2006 included £14,500 to be "raised by local activity-, ie by the parishioners. This, in addition to any future running costs which would need to be forthcoming from the Parish rate.

The content of The Questionnaire was raised. It was stated that professional advice was sought. In no way do we dispute this. However there does appear to be a certain slant towards obtaining an answer in favour of the proposal. The very word 'broadly' used in several questions should not be used in the final analysis to indicate a positive agreement. It has however been agreed that a new 'questionnaire' will be circulated. This should be produced and policed by an outside non interested party.

Current statistics from Aylesbury record that there are in Oving 346 registered Council Tax Payers living in 167 households. We understand that 165 replies to the questionnaire were received of which 82% were 'broadly in favour' of the proposal. This calculates out that 135 people out of a total of 346 parishioners were "broadly in favour" or 39% only. Even this number may be questionable since the Chairman admitted that since respondents were not obliged to sign their names, outsiders could have completed a questionnaire. Additionally young non tax payers were encouraged to reply and while we do not deny that their views may be important their 'vote' should not be included.

In brief our suggestions would be:

1. Build a replacement sports pavilion and NOT a village hall.
2. It should be situated on or close to the site of the current old pavilion.
3. Before building commences an accurate assessment of probable running and maintenance costs should be obtained in addition to the initial capital cost.
4. When the new questionnaire is circulated all parishioners should take careful consideration of the total costs which may affect their pockets for years to come.

Oving is one of the smallest villages in the area. Can we afford the luxury of the proposed building now or ever?

Jan Waldron

Phillip Corbett

David Midwinter

John Watts.

Past Chairmen of Oving Parish Council.

Please note that articles in this newsletter are submitted by village parishioners. There are no editorial comments. If anyone would like to add their comments they are welcome to do so.

Val Adams - editor

Green Scene – Rubbish plans

Recently I received another consultation document from Bucks CC about their Waste Development Plan. Buckinghamshire undoubtedly needs more waste processing and recycling sites. Thirteen sites are earmarked as having the potential to be developed for this purpose. These include sites in Winslow, two in Buckingham and one in Woodham (west of Waddesdon). The consultation finishes very soon (3rd August) (nicely coinciding with the summer holidays!) You can fill in a response on 'Have your say' www.buckscc.gov.uk.

Unfortunately six of the sites earmarked could have incinerators on them – or in Bucks CC's less alarming language 'Energy from Waste' plants. Those of you who have been in the area for more than 5 years may know that a huge incinerator (the biggest in Europe at that time) was proposed at Newton Longville in 2002. There was a massive outcry from local residents and after a very heated and winding campaign, the application was refused.

Incinerators bring with them many concerns and Friends of the Earth does not support them for environmental reasons. You save far more energy by recycling than you produce from burning rubbish. In terms of climate change, waste reduction, recycling and composting is the way forward. Incinerators still leave a lot of bottom ash to dispose of or reuse. The fly ash (the stuff that flies up the chimney) is very toxic and full of dioxins. It has to be disposed of in one of the few hazardous waste sites in the country.

Biodegradable waste (food, garden, paper and card waste) produces methane when it rots. Methane is 21% more harmful than carbon dioxide in terms of climate change. Since biodegradable waste makes up 40-60% of the waste stream, we need to do something useful and environmentally sustainable with it. All of us need to make an effort to send less biodegradable waste to landfill and compost or recycle it instead. We also need to throw away less food that could be eaten. Each of us should shop for what we need and check what is in the fridge before going shopping. Each UK household throws away potentially edible food worth up to £400 each year. The Food Standards Agency concedes that 'best before dates' are more about quality than safety. It does warn about eating eggs past their 'best before' date because of the risk of salmonella. To keep food fresh make sure that your fridge is between 1-5°C. To reduce food waste, make a shopping list so that you buy what you need, use up what you have in the fridge before it goes bad, eat what is on your plate and use up left overs. It's not the war, but it's a lot cheaper and environmentally friendly this way!

Rachel Gershon – Aylesbury Vale Friends of the Earth
Tel: 640967 Email: info@avfoe.org.uk

