

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
HELD ON 25th APRIL 2013 AT 8PM IN THE CHURCH ROOM, WEST WYCOMBE**

PRESENT:

Cllrs Mrs J. Smith (Chairman), Mr N. Harris, Mr N. Timberlake, Mrs K. Cheshire
Mrs S. Henson, Clerk

2 members of the public including
Mrs A. Rimmer - Churchwarden West Wycombe PCC

APOLOGIES: Cllrs Mr F. Downes, Mr R. Seymour, Mrs L. Cook, Dist Cllr Mrs J. Teesdale, Distr
Cllr Mr I McEnnis,

The Chairman, Cllr Mrs Smith welcomed everyone.

West Wycombe Parish Council Chairman's Report 2012/13

It is 26 years since West Wycombe residents elected 7 local people to form a Parish Council. There hadn't been a Parish Council for West Wycombe for the previous 55 years. During the last 26 years your parish councillors have worked hard to try and give the whole area of West Wycombe what is needed to make it a welcoming, good and safe environment to live in.

The parish plan questionnaire which is similar to the one we produced about 7 years ago is almost ready to go out to all homes in West Wycombe Parish. As the third tier and the most local form of government we feel this is the way to ensure that we try, where possible, to meet the needs of the residents of our parish and it will help us when we work with other agencies such as the District and County Councils and the police because they will be able to see that we have done our best to consult and engage with our electorate.

With Central Government, over the last year, talking of Localism and taking policies and decision making closer to the electorate we were not sure how this would affect us but we have found it has made little difference to our decision making this year. Basically, because of the continuing recession there is no extra money to take on new projects, by us or the two tiers above us. We have kept our precept the same for the last 2 and also for the current year. The precept is the money that we ask Wycombe District Council for to run the Parish Council and it comes out of our resident's council tax.

We are pleased that Mr Eric Pickles, The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, has changed his mind on one of his original ideas. He has decided that if you want to build an extension to your property you should consult your neighbours and with luck, it should go on to the local planning office.

The work of the Parish Council

Much of the every day work of the Parish Council is to monitor work or sometimes the lack of work, carried out by BCC and WDC. For instance for many months we have asked for our street lights and the pot holes in our roads and the pavements and kerb stones in the High Street to be repaired with no real success up to the time of writing this report.

We have looked at the problem of parking on the road beyond West Wycombe Caves, however although this will take some time and money to try to sort out and we have issued requests for double yellow lines at the all the junctions in our parish on West Wycombe Road and outside Old Station Place.

We passed on to BCC resident's complaints about the large signs they had put up in 2012 saying they were dealing with the road conditions.

We look thoroughly at every planning application that comes in from WDC. Knowing the parish as well as we do, our comments to WDC reflect how the application will impact on the area surrounding it. Occasionally we are disappointed that some plans go through that we think shouldn't but understand that WDC can only work to government rules and regulations.

At our meeting every month we discuss a diverse range of subjects from highways issues, the allotments, maintenance of the burial ground and playing field, planning, future plans, parish finance and items brought up by the members of the public and we report back on meetings, forums, training and consultations we have attended during the month.

We are consulted on many things including the Wycombe Air Park Noise Action Plan.

We were somewhat irritated that we were not consulted by BCC on plans for the Chapel Lane junction so invited the officers in charge of the project at BCC to come and talk to us about it at our April meeting. It will be a difficult time when the road is realigned and traffic lights are installed but hopefully in the end our residents will see the benefit. See our website for details.

One of the interesting things we discussed this last year was the 6 sets of Roman remains that were found when earth was removed during some renovation work from a garden in Church Lane. After the bones had been analysed, we felt it was right that they should be buried in our burial ground which is not too far from where they were found. Last summer we held a moving little ceremony and are hoping to place a memorial stone there.

We helped with the cost of replacing the surface around the war memorial in St Lawrence Church Yard and for the last two years have laid a wreath on behalf of West Wycombe residents on Remembrance Sunday.

We make sure the grit bin owned by us at the Garden Centre is filled regularly in bad weather and report to BCC when theirs in our parish are getting low on grit.

We supply the Christmas tree lights on the tree in Village Hall car park and the lights on the tree at the High St/ Chorley Road junction and pay for the electricity they use.

The Chorley Road Allotments

After 4 years most allotments are now established. There was one tenancy change in October. There will be an allotment competition at the Fete.

The Fete

It has been decided to set up a West Wycombe Events Team to organise the fete and any other local events. This group will have its own bank account, Chairman and Secretary. Neil Harris is the Chairman of this group and Kate Cheshire is Secretary. Although the team at present consists of a good many of us Parish Councillors we welcome anyone who would like to come and help with the organising of the fete etc. or perhaps just help on the set up and take down days.

The Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Celebrations.

For the evening of The Queen's Diamond Jubilee the Parish Council and the National Trust organised a special evening on West Wycombe Hill. People brought picnics. There was a glorious bonfire, singing led by West Wycombe Chamber Choir, musicians and a juggler. It was joyous time and from the top of the Hill we could watch all the celebration fireworks going on around High Wycombe. Our Parish Councillors decked the whole of the village High Street out in bunting for the occasion.

We joined with the National Trust again to put on our third fete.

This time we were lucky to have Sir Edward Dashwood's kind permission to have the Diamond Jubilee Fete in West Wycombe Park.

Planned for July 14th, we had everything ready but it poured with rain for days (weeks even) beforehand and the ground became so soggy that we, regretfully, had to postpone the fete the fete until September. This time the weather was kind to us. Lots of people came and enjoyed themselves and we felt it had been a big success and we plan to have another fete this year on July 13th 2013.

We would like to acknowledge all the hard work our local National Trust Rangers put into these event days because we wouldn't be able to put on the Fete without the help of the team from Hughsden Manor.

The Pedestal Playing Field.

We are always delighted to see families using the playground equipment but were disappointed at the beginning the children's Easter holidays when two local boys broke into the pavilion, took out some florescent tubes and smashed them over the play equipment. We couldn't allow the multi system to be used because of the danger of glass fragments. This was not an easy job to clean up and in the end we had to pay for a specialist team to do it for us. Since then Sir Edward who owns the pavilion, has had it made safer and vandal proof and has licensed it to Downley Dynamos Football Club for the next three years. We would very much like to make the pavilion useable but at present we do not have funds to do this.

We are very pleased to see football being played on the field and the boot camp using it too.

We do, however, wish people would clear up after their dogs and take their litter home or use the litter bins provided.

Your Parish Councillors

We have had a few changes of Councillors this year.

Carol Dakin resigned in May 2012; Kate Cheshire joined us in May 2012; Danny Callaghan resigned in July 2012; Lisa Cook joined us in September 2012; Neil Harris became Vice Chairman of the Parish Council in September 2012.

Your parish councillors are unpaid and they use their knowledge and personal expertise to serve our community. They give up an enormous amount of their time to attend meetings and seminars etc. They are members of other committees on our behalf and make sure we are represented and often involved in discussions throughout the High Wycombe and Buckinghamshire area. In fact we will go anywhere if we think there will be information that could affect our parish.

They very much deserve your thanks.

Mrs Sharon Henson, our Parish Clerk and Financial Officer, also deserves your thanks. We parish councillors all know that without Sharon's understanding of parish council law and her experience it would be much harder to run this Parish Council as efficiently as we do.

It makes my job as Chairman of the Parish Council much easier knowing I have an enthusiastic team of people who are dedicated to moving West Wycombe along with the times without losing sight of this area's unique character.

Thank you

We would like to thank our Wycombe District Councillors Mrs Jean Teesdale and Mr Ian McEnnis for their support and keeping us informed with news from WDC. Frank Downes is one of your Parish Councillors and is also your Bucks County Councillor. In May this year Frank is standing down from BCC and we thank him most sincerely for the 12 years of service he has given to them and the support he has given us in his capacity as our County Councillor.

West Wycombe Parish Council Website

Mr Mike Henson looks after our website and keeps it full of interesting information not just council related but items that will be of use to the community at large.

www.westwycombe.org.uk

We would like to thank the regular members of our community who come along in the rain and cold to our Parish Council meetings, it is much appreciated by us and we value your support. They do say they prefer our meetings to watching television on a Thursday evening!

Affiliated Groups

We belong to the following groups and associations

The Wycombe District Association of Local Councils.

Our Clerk, Sharon Henson, is the Honorary Secretary of this association. It is open to all parish councils in the High Wycombe Area. It gives training and has regular open discussions on anything related to parish councils and their residents.

We belong to The Bucks and Milton Keynes Association of Local Councils who meet in the County Offices in Aylesbury. Parish Council members come from all over Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes. This Association also arranges training sessions on a larger level and keeps us informed of news from the National Association of Local Councils.

The Marlow and South West Chiltern Local Area Forum.

This is a group run by Bucks County Council and where we presented a case to be able to obtain funding for the Vehicle Activated Sign last year.

We attend Wycombe District Council's Rural Forum meetings because we think it important to keep up with news from the farming community. 80% of the Wycombe District Council area is rural.

I am a member of the Neighbourhood Action Group (NAG) a police led group who include members from Lane End, Piddington and Wheeler End and Studley Green and Stokenchurch. We help each other with problems such as anti-social behaviour and parking problems. Parents parking outside schools at home time is a problem for most villages and our local police officers now come regularly to monitor the parking problems we have in West Wycombe, handing out parking tickets when necessary to persistent offenders.

I have been on Wycombe District Council's Standards Committee since it was formed some years ago. Cllr Neil Timberlake represents us on the Wycombe Air Park JCC Committee.

We keep very busy making sure West Wycombe Parish Council warrants it's qualification as **A Quality Parish Council.**

We are known for attending all sorts of meetings to gain knowledge, bring West Wycombe to everyone's attention and to support everything that will lead to improving our parish.

Our aim is always to make West Wycombe good place to live and work.

Presentation of the Financial Statement

The Clerk/RFO issued a set of accounts to everyone present.

We have finished our financial year with a balance of £12,572. During the year we installed phase two of the pay equipment at The Pedestal Paying Field and contributed towards the Diamond Jubilee Celebrations on West Wycombe Hill and the Fete. We made a donation to St Lawrence Church for the restoration of the surface around the War Memorial. Due to the lengthy and cold winter we had to spend more money on salt/grit for the salt bin at the Garden Centre. We had a higher income than the previous year from the Burial Ground. Once again we have been able to keep our precept at £37,500 for the coming year.

Cllr Neil Harris, Head Ranger – The National Trust

Buildings

We are now into the second year of the of a 3 year major refurbishment project to repair and restore our housing stock in the village; a major financial investment will see improvements both externally and internally. A second open day was arranged for residents to ensure that everyone is aware of what is happening.

Events

The National Trust built the Diamond Jubilee Beacon on the hill and has worked with other groups within the community and the events team to run the Diamond Jubilee Fete and the Festive Fayre. Our support of community events enables all areas of the village to become part of these events and increases visitor numbers to the village enabling it to thrive

Mr Len Bernamont moved away from West Wycombe and we will miss his work on Conservation of our open spaces and gardens in the local area.

Conservation

We have carried out considerable scrub clearance on the Hill working with a new volunteer team and have undertaken a consultation process with residents at the fete, to visitors of the village

and the top of the hill to show people our 'vision' for the future management of the Hill and to discover how people would like the Hill to be looked after and maintained in the future. We continue to clear scrub and trees to keep grassland area of the Hill open.

Cllr Neil Timberlake –West Wycombe Community Library

Madam Chairman, Members of the West Wycombe Parish Council, and residents and friends of West Wycombe parish.

To the astonishment of some, West Wycombe Library is now in its seventh year as a volunteer-led, community-based enterprise. What a wonderful testament to the dedication of the volunteers and supporters of the library, and to the vision of Jean Teesdale in those uncertain days when we started! We are grateful for the support of everyone who has contributed to our success.

We continue to be the grateful recipients of a continuous supply of high-quality and varied donated books given to us by residents in the local community. Lady Hambleden was generous in her donation of many wonderful books, some of which we were able to sell through Penn Bookshop. More recently we have found ourselves the recipients of generosity in other directions – a call through Contact magazine for more items of crockery to support our tea-shop facility has been met by some very generous donations of fine bone china tea cups and some very attractive teapots.

No vote of thanks can ignore the support from a dedicated team of some twenty active volunteers, who provide librarianship services during the five days a week that the library is open, or who support the work of the library behind the scenes in fundraising or administrative support.

We continue to negotiate with Bucks County Council over the precise terms of our new lease and Service Level Agreement. There is no significant matter about which we are not agreed, it is just a matter of crossing the 'T's and dotting the 'I's. As was referred to in our report last year, the County Council have been immensely supportive and the new terms under which we operate will be very much more generous than were the terms of our first five years.

As some of you will have seen, we have recently completed, thanks to Bucks County Council, the re-paving of the courtyard area outside the library, which we use as an outdoor café in the summer, and an extended trading space for such events as the West Wycombe Christmas Fayre. The old courtyard was very uneven and we worried that it represented a significant trip hazard for visitors and volunteers. We were moved to act by visions of pots full of scalding tea being poured over the laps of our summer café guests, or broken ankles of users of the courtyard. We were mindful of the Conservation Area status of the village, and the heritage of the building and its surroundings. We feel that the end result is properly respectful of that, and is a great improvement. We kept the central brick feature, but would be fascinated if anyone could tell us its history and purpose. Thanks are due in particular to Bucks County Council and to Charmaine Gallagher for liaising and progressing the project, and to Denise Hurst for the original investigation into materials and design. The stones chosen are a beautiful red and grey, matching the flint and brick of the library building very nicely.

During the work the builders uncovered a horse-shoe, and the remains of a post to which the horses would have been tethered. It is a reminder of the building's history as the village blacksmith's, before it became a library in 1947. A photo of the building as a smithy appears in the High Wycombe Library archive.

By way of an exchange of gifts with posterity, we buried a time capsule, containing a copy of 'Contact' magazine, a list of the names of all the library volunteers, some coins, a tea-bag, some sweets, and much more. I wonder what future generations will make of that when the courtyard is next re-paved in however many decades or hundreds of years from now!

You will know only too well, that we live in straitened times financially. The County Council has sought to reduce its costs by transferring more and more libraries to local volunteers to run. We

were pioneers in that regard, back in 2006, and we noted have now been joined by Stokenchurch Library as of the beginning of 2013. We wish them well.

We continue to adapt West Wycombe Library's opening hours occasionally, in response to demand, and our resource of volunteers. During the last year we took the decision to close on Wednesdays, in recognition of the fact that there is an alternate, mobile library in the Garden Centre car park for part of that day. However, we continue to be open from 9am to 5pm on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, 9am to 1pm on Fridays, and from 10am to 1pm on Saturdays, and with Sunday afternoon opening in the summer months once again underway, this year from 1 April to the end of August Bank Holiday Monday, to align with the longer period of summer opening of West Wycombe House and grounds in 2013. This is over a month longer than last year, which itself was a longer summer Sunday series than 2011. We can only do so thanks to the tremendous efforts of our volunteers, and we have already welcomed new helpers for our 2013 rota.

The summer Sunday openings, serving cream teas and other delights to tourists and locals alike, are a huge money-spinner for us, and nowadays meet almost the entire costs of running the library service.

We have tried a wide variety of fundraising events over the last 7 years, but have noticed that the level of support for these has declined in recent times. In the last 12 months we had arranged a Caribbean Evening in September 2012, and had tried Radnage Village Hall as the venue, hoping that it might attract a new clientele. The evening would have included a Reggae band, Cressex School steel band, Caribbean food, limbo competition, etc. and all for the princely sum of £10. Alas, ticket sales were poor and we chose to cancel the event rather than commit to costs which would have meant a loss for us.

With our reduced need for fundraising, and the increasing success of the summer coffee shop outlet, it seems likely that we will produce rather fewer events in future. This is a shame, as we have always felt that our fundraising events contributed to the variety and to the jollity of village social life, and we hope had a value far beyond their importance to us. However, it perhaps creates an opening for other local groups to stage their own events to support their own needs.

We continue to participate successfully in the Village Fete and the Village Christmas Fayre, and we have recently put on a Quiz Night in The Swan PH, which made a profit of over £300 and was hugely enjoyed by all. We warmly thank Christine Barry for her support in putting on this event, which we may well seek to repeat next year. We urge all members of West Wycombe parish, and those further afield, to continue to support such events, and us, in this way.

We continue to hold occasional book sales, and held a Grand Prize Raffle during last summer.

Our book borrowings continue to hold up well, but we always welcome more people! It is good to have a good-news story to report, and we want to share it with more members of the community. The more people use the library, and the more books that are borrowed, the more we are vindicated in our central aim of keeping this valued facility in the heart of the community. Please visit us soon, and tell your friends and neighbours too!

To support our fundraising we also sell a number of small items, such as bags, potted plants, jewellery, chocolates, and surplus books.

I can particularly recommend the chocolates, which continue to be rigorously taste-tested every Saturday that I am on duty there!

Our website – www.westwycombelibrary.org.uk – is not currently functioning, but we do have a Facebook page, which provides a source of regularly-updated information on the library's programme of activities; and we are grateful too, for the support and co-operation of the parish magazine "Contact", of the Parish Council, and of the Bucks Free Press for all they do to publicise our activities and raise awareness of the library.

In recent months we have started a regular programme of craft skills sessions, including course on knitting, bracelet and necklace-making, cake decorating etc. These daytime courses, each no more than two hours per session, have been generally quite popular. We would love to introduce more classes, so if you have a skill you would like to teach to others, please let us know!

The Library is run by a charitable Trust. There are currently seven Trustees, but the Trust Deed allows for up to nine. If anybody is interested in joining our ranks, or being trained as a librarian, or to be a chef or waiter on summer Sundays, or who wishes to support us in some other way, please talk to me or introduce yourself to the duty librarian. You will be made very welcome.

Finally – although we are an independent, volunteer-run and volunteer-financed library, we are nevertheless part of the County Council library network. As such, if you have a Bucks County Library card then you are automatically a member of our library, and can borrow items on the same terms as from other libraries. You can borrow books from West Wycombe and return them to other libraries in the county – and vice versa. Some people may be of the mistaken belief that because we are an independent charity-run library there is some form of charge or fee to use our library. There absolutely is not – we are free to all residents of Buckinghamshire.

We look forward to continuing to provide a library service to West Wycombe, and the wider population of Buckinghamshire, for many more years to come!

Cllr Mrs Vicki Smith – Chairman, West Wycombe Community Association - (The Village Hall Management Committee)

West Wycombe Village Hall has been well used again this year. Luckily in these difficult financial times we have lost none of our regular users and the Hall has also been a venue for number of meetings, children's parties, parties, quizzes, coffee mornings, other fund raising events.

This means that the Hall has to look clean and welcoming at all times and it imperative that we have a good reliable cleaner.

In September Mrs Pauline Martin our excellent cleaner moved on to pastures new and Miss Phoebe Chapman Travers took over the cleaning of the Hall.

A reliable Letting Secretary is also important and we relied heavily on Mrs Maureen Plumridge to look after this for us. Mrs Plumridge has been poorly of late and has decided to give up the letting sec job; Mr and Mrs Plumridge live next door to the Hall and keep a very close eye on the area for us. Mr Plumridge has regularly swept the car park too for which we are immensely grateful.

We are pleased to say that Mrs Judith Gerrard has taken over the Letting Secretary job at present.

We have a 3 year contract with Roger Hyde, a flooring specialist, to treat the main hall floor once a year.

The Art group have asked for stronger lighting in the main hall. The Committee have agreed to this and it was installed in February 2013.

The upstairs room and staircase have been painted and new kitchen cupboards have been installed. The staircase steps have been lino tiled and we have obtained a grant from Bucks County Council's Local Area Forum for £1500 towards new flooring in the upstairs room too. The work for this grant was done in March 2013.

We have also put new flooring in the side stage areas.

We have had some trouble with toilets by the stage which is mainly to do with the drains and the blue paper hand towels that people put down the toilets. The outside guttering in places has been/is blocked, possibly with leaves, making the walls damp.

The windows are still an on-going worry for the Committee and we know that they need to be done as soon as possible but the cost is prohibitive at present. The last estimate was £50,000!

We thank Mr Roger Seymour and Mr Mel Webster for looking after the maintenance and refurbishment works in the Hall again this year. Roger spends hours looking at specifications and liaising with contractors who work on the Hall, his knowledge of the Hall is invaluable.

We also thank Mr Graham Wood and Mrs Marion Brown for the hard work they do for the Hall. Graham is our Hon Treasurer and he works very hard to make sure we keep to our budget. He keeps the accounts immaculately so there is never a problem when they go the accountants. Marion is our Hon Secretary. She organises our Village Hall Committee meetings, writes the agendas and minutes and both she and Graham are valuable members of this Committee and we couldn't run the Village Hall without them.

The Committee organised a quiz and then a cake stall at the West Wycombe Diamond Jubilee Fete to raise funds towards the new flooring in the upstairs room. We raised £500 with the two events. I would like to thank to all the Committee members who helped to raise the money, it was hard work but rewarding.

Thank you to all the Village Hall Committee for their continued support and commitment. We all strive to keep West Wycombe Village Hall a valued asset for West Wycombe and the wider community of High Wycombe.

Cllr Mrs Kate Cheshire - West Wycombe Pre School

The Pre-School is really busy this term and we are running at full capacity every day. We are currently open five mornings and two afternoons each week and have over 30 children each day.

Historically the Pre-School has been open to children from 2½ to 5 years of age with all children over 3 receiving Government Funding to attend for 15 hours per week. The Government have recently started introducing funding for some 2 year olds; this has impacted on the number of children wanting to attend our setting. We have six members of staff working every day, this enables us to spend as much time with the children, interacting with them and providing a stimulating environment which will aid their development in all areas. There has been much talk recently in the press of reducing the legal ratios of staff to children but we are committed to continuing to offer a high staff ratio to ensure the safety and benefit to the children's development during their time with us.

We hope to make the most of some good weather this term with some walks onto the Estate, to the Pedestal playground, library and up onto the hill. The children love going out on these walks and we try to do this as often as we can. Although the village hall itself is large, the play area is small so it is lovely if we can get the children out for a good run around. We would like to thank the Village Hall, Sir Edward, the National Trust and the Library for allowing us to frequent your premises for our activities.

We are a committee led, charitable Pre-School and rely on fundraising for new equipment and resources. We will be holding a sponsored obstacle course later this term along with our annual sports day at the end of term. These events raise valuable funds for the Pre-School.

Mrs A. Rimmer – PCC Secretary - Report on the Churches of West Wycombe 2012.

It's been a delightfully busy year for the churches in West Wycombe – and the pace is gathering!

As you may know, we hold weekly services at St Lawrence except for the 3rd Sunday in the month when we have the Family Service at St Paul's. There are also early morning services at St Paul's twice a month, a monthly healing service there and a monthly afternoon Family service at Piddington. We've been delighted to welcome a new curate on board, Jenny Ellis, whose husband is Rector of All Saints High Wycombe and she brings with her lots of energy, fresh ideas and a wealth of working with children from her previous post as teacher.

Our own Sunday School continues to grow, and ages range from toddlers through to teenagers who are playing an increasing role in helping with the activities – it's really great to see. There have been a good number of baptisms and weddings throughout the year at both churches, and

of course funerals too, some of which have been for long established Village residents. There have also been several concerts throughout the year, which make the most of the wonderful acoustics.

We are very fortunate to have a strong team of bellringers whose ringing is wonderful to hear on a Sunday morning, and they always welcome new members. Although the church of St Lawrence is not in the centre of the village, it is in a fantastic position and we thank the National Trust for their care of the hill. However, St Paul's church down on the High Street is frequently visited by passers-by and those who are seeking peace & reflection, and it is a very special little church.

Our Rector Nigel Lacey took a three month Sabbatical last year, for which his theme was Searching for God – A study of Church Tourism. Nigel thoroughly enjoyed his Sabbatical, and found it an interesting challenge, covering a large part of England – and even venturing into Scotland – on his motor bike. The Church is, and should always be, looking for different ways to appeal to our very diverse community in this country, and its welcome and outreach is very important. At his fascinating follow-up presentation at a well-attended Village supper, we could see what a huge range there is in a church's welcome and attitude, and there's a lot to learn and take forward. Probably not so welcome was the accident that unfortunately befell Nigel the week that he returned to work, putting him out of the picture for several more days and certainly reducing his mobility for several months. All of us in the West Wycombe churches are very grateful to the care and support given to us over the last ten months by priests Veronica Beaumont and Linda Richardson – they were kept very busy!

Rev Nigel has also been creating a website for the church parish and we hope to build on this with photographs and further information – it will be a great asset.

On the buildings front, the security has been completely overhauled and updated, the heating boiler repaired and the War Memorial base restored, with financial support from the War Memorial Trust and from the Parish Council, for which we are particularly grateful. There is currently a problem with significant dampness inside the church which is thought to stem from damaged guttering – this is being sorted out as we speak. Thank you also for your support in funding and acquiring other funds for the ongoing repairs of the Village Clock, we really do appreciate it. Dendronological dating has taken place in the Church Loft and Room as part of the village project and there is more to be done.

Our Treasurer maintains a delicate balancing act between steady income and increased bills with great skill, and stewardship giving, Gift Aid, tower-opening and Church Teas, amongst other events, have helped hugely with this. We have to meet a Parish Share of £21,000 annually as well as the upkeep of three listed buildings and St Paul's church. We thoroughly enjoyed last year's wonderful Diamond Jubilee celebrations, Village Fete and Christmas Evening, and there have been several other social events during the year (importantly not all of them intended as fundraisers). Charitable outreach has included Christian Aid, the Children's Society, the Women's Refuge at Saunderton and the Wycombe Homeless Connection.

Now we look forward to celebrating the 250th Anniversary of the rebuild and redecoration of St Lawrence at the end of June. Plans are well afoot for a great weekend, and all sorts of activities to appeal to all ages, from a beacon, bar, barbecue and WW Brass Band on Friday night, to displays of arts and crafts and a concert on Saturday and two special services on Sunday.

We shall welcome the Bishop of Buckingham to the morning service when we shall dedicate the new lectern currently being created by Graham Cook in memory of the late Don Varney who did so much for our churches and the village. We have been planning the weekend for several months now and really value the input of many villagers, Sir Edward and Lady Dashwood and the National Trust. We have invited back many village residents who have moved away over as long as we can remember between us! We have also invited Hearing Dogs for Deaf People to share the weekend and will donate part of any money raised to their cause.

At that weekend we plan to launch our next exciting project which is to raise funds to build a small extension at the front of the church to the left of the main door as a room for our growing Sunday School and their learning, discussion, music, drama and other activities. Exciting times!

We are very fortunate that our churches are in a parish such as West Wycombe, which is so caring and supportive. We certainly feel that wherever we are, our community and fellowship extends way beyond the activity at church and we thank everyone who makes it so.

Report on Thames Valley Police by Cllr Mrs Vicki Smith

The police have held regular Neighbourhood Action Group meetings and the main issues for our parish are dangerous and illegal parking by school parents and speeding traffic. We have been lucky in that we do not have any major crime and generally do not have any anti-social behavior. We would like to thank PC Danny O'Driscoll, WPC Claire Marchant and PCSO Penny Ling for their hard work.

The Chairman invited everyone to stay and join in with the light refreshments.