

ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY  
TUESDAY 18 MAY 2010

REPORTS SUBMITTED BY THE CHAIRMEN OF  
THE SHRIVENHAM PARISH COUNCIL  
AND VISCOUNTESS BARRINGTON'S TRUST,  
PARISH COUNCIL COMMITTEES, COUNTY COUNCILLOR,  
DISTRICT COUNCILLORS, "THE NEWS" AND  
LOCAL CLUBS AND ORGANISATIONS

**Shrivenham Parish Council**

David Pratt, who served as our Parish Clerk for 10 years, decided to retire at the end of last year

David's knowledge, advice and support was invaluable during my 2 years as chairman, as I know it was during Peter Saunders time of office. I would, on behalf of all the Parish councillors, like to record our thanks for his many years of hard work.

We are fortunate indeed to have been able to appoint Peter Anderson as our new Parish Clerk. Peter comes to us with a wealth of knowledge and experience in local government and in the past few months has already made his mark.

Shrivenham has a very good team of Parish Councillors who bring to the council a variety of skills and talents and I would like to thank them for their hard work as I do Sylvia, Sarah, Elwyn and Trudi.

Matters where the Parish Council were involved include:-

Glebe Close was officially opened on the 26<sup>th</sup> June last year with a rousing speech by Steven Cottrell, the Bishop of Reading.

Such was the demand for these affordable homes that the Parish Council aided by the Village Projects Committee are conducting another Housing Needs Survey in the next few months.

The Village Plan Group, headed by Bjorn Watson, finished their many months of hard work last October and completed the Village Plan.

This group has evolved as the Village Projects Committee of the Parish Council to implement the objectives of the Village Plan in the areas of Community, Environment, Economics, Housing & Development and Transport & Highways.

The Organization and Finance Working Group has had a busy year under the chairmanship of Richard Bartle and their work on the organization, budgets, terms of reference and standing orders, together with the appointment of our new Parish Clerk is very much appreciated.

Potholes and Pavements. This is an ongoing battle. Most Parish Council meetings have reports of potholes, uneven pavements and flooding. These are always reported and sometimes we see repairs being made.

Street Cleaning. The Parish Council has unfortunately lost the grant from the Vale Western area forum so that we will have to provide additional funds from the precept to ensure our streets are kept clean. There is a similar problem with weed control.

Eastern Swindon Expansion has been slowed considerably by the economic situation. It is interesting to note that many in Swindon are opposed to the plan.

Village Clock. The Parish Council funded the restoration of the village clock at St Andrews Church.

Twinning. Attempts are being made to revive the twinning with Mortree with apparent little enthusiasm on the French side.

Sandy Lane. Further to a suggestion by the Parish Council the site of the new houses was named Charlotte Close.

Training. A number of Parish Councillors and staff attended an excellent seminar on Parish Council finance. The need for building a contingency reserve became very clear.

The Parish Precept has been increased this year to take account of the increasing demands on the Council and the need to build a contingency reserve. Bearing in mind that the contribution per household went down by 3.2% last year, the annual increase over 2 years is £3.04 for a band B property, £3.91 for a band D property and £5.65 for a band F property.

### **Viscountess Barrington's Trust**

Once again the Trust has had a busy year completing old projects and implementing new ones.

The gates have finally been installed at the Manor lane entrance after a lengthy absence. New fencing has been erected and the old leaf bins removed, with the hope that this would stop the fly tipping. Unfortunately it appears that old habits die hard and we were disappointed to see that a barrow load of garden waste had appeared on the newly cleared site. Also on the Rec the signs asking for dogs to be kept on their leads are regularly being ignored. This is unfair to the other users of the Rec. It is also disheartening to see that there are some owners who are still not cleaning up after their dogs. Not only is this unpleasant but it is also a health hazard. You may have noticed that seven chestnut trees have been recently felled and replaced by lime trees. Some of the logs have been donated to the school to be used as outdoor seating. I am sure some of the residents of the ex-servicemen houses will be happy with the increase in light coming in.

The grids in the car park are still giving us cause for concern. During the summer a number of them lifted, possibly due to the hot weather and the gravel working its way underneath and forcing them up. These were replaced but now some have started to break up and the Trust is looking at possible solutions to overcome this.

Inside the hall we were lucky enough to secure grant funding to replace the inadequate lighting system with something more aesthetically pleasing and environmentally friendly. We have also had repairs carried out on the external doors, which had warped, and we are now confident that this will lessen some of the draughts.

During the year it became evident that far too many people had keys to the hall. This was potentially an insurance nightmare. We have installed a key code system complete with CCTV so that anyone wishing to enter the hall does so with the hall supervisor's knowledge. If anyone needs to enter the building for whatever reason then they should contact Trudi first. On the subject of hall bookings it was agreed to pass this area over to the hall supervisor. The idea was to streamline the booking process and stop any potential double bookings.

Recently, Trustees were surprised to find that there were two wells under the front lawn. These had been discovered by the Gas Company who had been called in to investigate a gas leak. There is still an ongoing investigation regarding one of them and fencing has been erected as a precaution.

I think you will agree that we are very fortunate to have been given this beautiful hall. A building of this size is extremely costly and we are very grateful to have the support of the Parish Council. Some of you may not be aware that the Parish Council is sole Trustee of the Memorial Hall and its grounds and as such is authorised to provide financial support when necessary. We have had to call on this support regarding the hall roof. You will know that we called in a specialist stone tiler to repair some of the valleys on the roof at a cost of £21,381.98. There is further work to be carried out that will be of a similar cost. The Trustees have had many a debate as to how we should proceed. The original re-roofing was completed eleven years ago and we expected it to last longer than that. There were two options. The first was to have the repairs done and pay the price. The second was to seek a legal opinion as to whether litigation was the correct action to take. We decided to seek the opinion of a Solicitor and a Barrister to see whether or not we have a viable case. I wish to point out that if the legal opinion is not favourable then it is unlikely we will proceed with litigation as we do not have the funds to support such a case.

Finally, I would like to thank the Trustees, Peter, David, Sarah, Sylvia and Trudi for all their hard work and I wish Bjorn Watson the best of luck in the role of the new Chairman.

Sarah Day

### **Parish Council Committees etc.**

#### MAY DAY WORKING GROUP REPORT

The May Day Working Group have continued to fund raise for the May Day celebrations in the village during the past year. To that end they have organised the following functions during this time:

- a. July 2009, "One Small Step" a play by the Oxford Playhouse touring group
- b. March 2010, Loving April a play from the Oxford Touring Theatre Company
- c. Feb 2010, a Quiz night at the Bowls club

The money raised enabled us to have another very successful May Day celebration in the village on Mon. 3rd May which was enjoyed by a large number of children and adults despite the cold weather.

In addition the May Day Working Group organized another Village Dinner in January, which, judging from the many complimentary comments received was one of the best ever. My thanks to all of those willing helpers on the Working Group.

Richard Bartle (Chairman)

#### ORGANISATION AND FINANCE WORKING GROUP REPORT - MAY 2010

The Organisation and Finance Working Group (O&FWG) was set up by the Council in June 2009. Its terms of reference were to look at the Council organisation with a view to making savings. To that end we have carried out the following during the past year:

- a. An examination of the organisation, structure and working practices of the Council office and its subsidiary services.

- b. Looked at the opening hours of the council office and made changes to the times of access to the public.
- c. Took responsibility for the replacement of the retiring Parish Clerk. This included rewriting the job specification, advertising for the post, making a short list, interviewing and selecting the new Clerk.
- d. Examined the income and expenditure of the Council looking at cost savings and drafted the precept for acceptance by the full Council.
- e. Drafted the terms of Reference for the Village Plan Group Sub-Committee.
- f. Examined the possible reorganisation of Office Work in the Parish Office.
- g. Looked at the new legislation regarding the Standing Orders for Parish Councils and drafted new Standing Orders for adoption by the Council.
- h. Set in motion arrangements for demonstrations of various systems with a view to the possible Computerisation of Parish Burial Register.

Richard Bartle  
 Chairman, Organisation And Finance Working Group

## VILLAGE PROJECTS COMMITTEE

Following the successful completion of the Shrivenham Village Plan, the Parish Council has set up the Village Projects Committee to co-ordinate the implementation of the objectives of the Plan. The VPC will be a committee of the Parish Council consisting of four councillors and at least three co-opted members. Each Committee member will be responsible for a working group currently consisting of Community, Environment, Economics, Housing & Development and Transport & Highways.

### Community

Following the success of the litter pick around the village a further Pick will be held on 9<sup>th</sup> October. A Re-cycling Day is being considered as a way of ensuring that unwanted items are offered (free) to other residents. A list of Village organizations is now ready for printing and it is hoped to distribute this to every household in the village. A Showcase will take place on 8<sup>th</sup> July in the Small hall between 5pm and 7pm where village organizations will be invited to participate to publicize their activities.

### Environment

The Group is seeking, in principal, agreement to set up a consultation process with residents, the County Authority and the Parish Council, to determine if there was support for a sympathetic planting of indigenous trees where space permits. The Canal Group organised a scrub clearance at the rear of the Pocket Park which was later enhanced by Project group Volunteers who raked the brash into piles suitable to encourage invertebrates and small. A wildlife survey of the Park is being carried and published in "The News".

A meeting was held with a Consultant on ways to ameliorate noise and light nuisance and this is currently being considered. Two village walk leaflets have now been prepared and are being mapped. A third is being researched and will be available in draft shortly.

### Economics

Following an experimental meeting of a local business group on 27<sup>th</sup> April, it has been agreed to meet regularly, to consider some simple projects to promote the business community and to encourage active membership from the village and nearby area, with the inclusion of homeworkers

### Housing & Development

The Parish Council led Survey into the housing needs in the village is going ahead and the group will be involved assisting with formulating the questions and distributing the survey.

### Transport & Highways

A meeting with the Highways Authority was arranged on 18 March to discuss the state of our roads but a subsequent survey has revealed that no remedial work had been started. The group is closely monitoring the situation. A new bus timetable for a greatly enhanced service came into operation on 1<sup>st</sup> May. The group has requested that copies of the new timetable be made available in the Post Office and on the Web Site.

## THE ENVIRONMENT

During the past 12 months your Council has:

1. Continued with the felling of the Horse Chestnut trees in the Recreation Ground replacing them with Lime trees.
2. Increase the spread of light from the lampost by the bus stop by chopping back the overhanging trees / bushes in the allotments. A new light was considered but the cost was prohibitive.
3. Cut back the overhanging bushes from the northern path in the cemetery.
4. Checked that the allotment plots were being cultivated and kept in a good condition. We reallocated those that weren't. We still have a waiting list for plots so will ensure that they are all well kept.
5. Attended meetings with the Vale Officers and the new Waste Disposal Contractors on the new system to be rolled out on October 4<sup>th</sup> this year, pointing out the needs of Shrivenham.
6. Checked out Parishioners request to have trees lopped or felled.
7. A litter pick on the Village outskirts, with some outside help, was held and will be repeated in the Autumn.

Ken Downton  
Councillor with the responsibility for the Environment.

## **District Councillors**

### INTRODUCTION

As District Councillors we sit on various Committees. Peter attends the Development Control Committee which deals with all referred Planning Applications. He is also a member of the Licensing Acts Committee, General Licensing Committee and West Area Committee. In addition he is a substitute for Personnel and the Staff Consultation Advisory Group. Elaine is the Shadow Portfolio Holder for Legal and Democratic Services, Human Resources, IT and Customer Services. She is the Opposition Spokesperson for the Personnel Committee and sits on the Staff Consultation Advisory Group, Personnel Appeals Sub-Committee, Licensing Acts Committee, General Licensing Committee and West Area Committee. She is also a substitute for the Joint Staff Committee and Scrutiny Committee. Meetings are mainly held in Abingdon with a small number held at Wantage Civic Hall and usually commence at 7pm.

### SWINDON EASTERN EXPANSION

Things have been particularly quiet regarding the proposed Eastern expansion. It is no secret that Swindon Borough Council is against the proposals without the finance to ensure that sufficient infrastructure and road improvements are included. It is however,

possible that the policy regarding housing may well change depending on the outcome of the General Election.

#### POLICING

We are continuously told by Thames Valley Police that we live in a low crime area so any crime, however small, is a noticeable increase. We do urge all residents to report crimes and anti-social behaviour to ensure that we continue to live a "low crime area". Our local PCSO Maralyn Pack has a large area to cover but she will always help and advise just give her a call – 07779 586392. Her colleague Alison Smith is the new Crime Prevention and Reduction Advisor based in Wantage. Alison will provide advice and practical solutions to assist with protecting your home and personal items she may be contacted on 01235 776007.

Elaine is a member of the Neighbourhood Action Group (NAG 1). This group meets on a six weekly basis at Faringdon Community College. Representatives from Faringdon and the surrounding villages attend along with Thames Valley Police. The NAG has become one of the most active within the Vale and has highlighted a number of rural problems that have in the past been ignored. Hare Coursing is just one of the crimes that have been highlighted and due to the vigilance of the local community arrests have been made. As a group we have grown from just a handful of locals to a group of more than 25. Working together with the police is proving to be a very positive way to help keep our communities safe.

#### NEW WASTE ARRANGEMENTS

The new waste arrangements come into operation on Monday 4 October. This will see a significant change in the way households deal with their "rubbish". Examples of the new kitchen caddy and bins will be on display along with information packs at the Shrivenham Village Fete on Saturday 28 August. Vale residents are fortunate in as much as the snags that occurred with the contract at South Oxfordshire DC from June 2009 have been sorted and the transition to the new arrangements should be easier and hopefully with few problems.

#### SHARED SERVICES VALE & SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE

During the past few months more and more services are being shared by the Vale and South Oxfordshire. The Vale has significant financial problems and there is a need to save money wherever possible. A number of staff have been made redundant and there have been reductions to services. For example last year the Cash Office in Faringdon closed in order to save money well from April this year the Local Service Point in Wantage has been closed. Arrangements have been made for the use of Paypoints in three places in and around Wantage and there will be a Benefits Surgery held at the Wantage Independent Advice Centre. In addition, all grants to help local organisations/projects have been suspended for this financial year 2010/11.

#### REVIEW OF STREET TRADING POLICY

The Vale is in the process of reviewing the Street Trading Policy. This is likely to take some time as there is the need for all Town/Parish Councils to be consulted and comments taken into consideration before finalising the new Policy. It had been hoped that the new Policy would be implemented in January 2011 but the timetable has slipped slightly a new implementation date is awaited.

#### GYPSY ENCAMPMENT

In the early hours of Good Friday 15 gypsy caravans took up residence in a field just off the A420 by-pass in Watchfield. Elaine received a telephone call just after 8am to inform her of the situation and that a number of lorry loads of aggregate had been delivered to the site. By 10am a road had been constructed around the field and within less than 24 hours a 6' fence had been erected. The Duty Officer from the Vale/South Oxon visited



countryside services, transport and transport planning, road safety, highway management and maintenance, traffic signals, street lighting etc; Children's Services (schools, youth service, early years and childcare services, adoption and fostering); Cultural Services (libraries, museums, museum resource centre at Standlake, music service in schools) and last but not least Adult Social and healthcare. This is just a broad outline of some of the functions performed by the County Council. Needless to say all these activities have to be funded and therefore the council tax levied by the County goes towards paying for these services, with a grant distribution from central Government.

Now literally onto a more pedestrian subject – Potholes and road maintenance; I am very much aware of the poor condition of some of our roads and pavements in the Shrivenham Division. This problem has been exacerbated owing to the extreme weather conditions experienced this winter. There will never be enough money to do everything which needs doing and it is an ongoing problem in trying to bring these problems to the attention of Highways Maintenance. I know that the Parish Council frequently contacts Highways and indeed the general public are able to get in touch to leave notification of a pothole hazard by telephoning 0845 3101111.

On a personal note, I am still a member of two scrutiny committees – Children's Services and Social & Healthcare. I am also still on two panels to do with looked after children i.e. a foster panel and an adoption panel. I joined the Planning & Regulation Committee last year and was thrown in at the deep end by having to make a decision as to the granting of an application to build a waste incinerator in the county.

All my contact details are on the County Council web site and I am very happy to be contacted either directly or through the Parish Clerk.

Anda Fitzgerald-O'Connor

### **"The News"**

Our readership continues to grow. The News is now read by over 1,000 households in and around our local area. This increase is due primarily to the inclusion of Longcot in our area of distribution. The magazine also goes to other places in Oxfordshire, Wiltshire, Berkshire, London and North Yorkshire. It is interesting to note that even when people leave the area they still like to know what is going on in our villages.

We are keen to keep the price as low as possible and we believe that 12 copies for the price of 10 or just 25p when you purchase from an outlet is really good value. Obviously the advertising keeps the costs down but even our advertising charges are cheap compared with other local publications.

During 2009 we made donations to various organisations and these included St Andrew's Church, SWIFT (Shrivenham & Watchfield Initiative for Fairtrade), Watchfield Village Hall, Bourton Village Hall and Viscountess Barrington's Trust for the purchase of new waste bins for the toilets.

Whenever possible we like to put something back into the community and we welcome applications for donations to worthy projects. So if you know of any particular project that requires a small donation please let us know.

Finally The News is brought to you by a very small team of dedicated people who give their time once a month to help print, collate and distribute. Without them "The News" would not survive so thank you – you know who you are!

### **Clubs and Organisations**

#### **Bowls Club**

The outdoor bowls season started on 18<sup>th</sup> April and is now in full swing with friendly matches with other clubs and men's and ladies afternoon and evening league matches. We will soon be starting our own Club competitions and county competitions. Although we are geographically in Oxfordshire, our Club is affiliated with the Royal County of Berkshire and we play our league games in the Swindon and District Leagues.

Last year we had a number of successes:- our ladies were runners up in the Women's County Fours competition; one of our ladies won the Swindon & District 2-Wood competition and our men reached the quarter final of the Men's County Fours competition and we were runners up in the Ashley Baker League.

The outdoor season finishes all too soon on 26<sup>th</sup> September.

Our current membership is Full Playing members - men 48, ladies 30, juniors 4 and Short Mat (social members) - 51. We hope to gain some new members this year from our Open Day on 15<sup>th</sup> May. The current membership fee for a full member is £60 a year.

We keep ourselves busy during the winter months. We have room for two shortmats in our clubhouse and throughout the winter we are able to use these for Club shortmat league competitions. We also have Bingo every Tuesday and this attracts good numbers, mostly non bowlers, from the village.

Finally we wish to thank the Parish Council for its help and interest over the years

Roger Powell  
Chairman  
01793 827224

### **Cricket Club**

2009 was another successful year for the Club.

The 1<sup>st</sup> Team achieved its highest ever position in The Oxford.Cricket.Assoc.. Div. I finishing 3<sup>rd</sup>. In most matches we fielded 6 teenage players.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Team were mid table in Div.6, and our Sunday Friendly team were unbeaten over the season.

We had 4 Junior Teams playing in Competitions: at U17; U15; U13 and U11's. The U13's won their league in Wiltshire and The U17s were semi finalists in Oxfordshire.

We have 3 teams playing in the Swindon Indoor league in winter.

Junior Cricket remains a priority. We coach indoors in winter and have 4 coaching sessions a week in summer. We now coach ages from 7 to 17 years old. We have 4/5 juniors in County Squads and more at District. Last year we introduced a summer coaching week in the school holidays. Approx. 30 players attended the 5 day course.

We would like to thank The Academy and Pinewood School for allowing us to use their facilities for coaching and matches.

We continue to invest in ground and coaching equipment. We are now are the proud possessors of a bowling machine.

We remain ambitious about having our own Clubhouse and hope to pursue

the possibilities further this year.

### **Youth Cricket Coaching**

Boys & Girls Age 7-17

Summer outdoor coaching will begin  
week commencing 3rd May (weather permitting)

Age 7-10s & Under 11s :

Tuesdays, Shrevenham Recreation Ground, 18.30 to 20.00

Under 13s :

Fridays, The Defence Academy Cricket Ground, 18.30 to 20.00

Under 15s & 17s:

Wednesdays, The Defence Academy Cricket Ground, 18.30 to 20.00

Please contact Ann Winskill, Youth Secretary, for a membership form which must be completed and fees paid before a child is covered by the club's insurance policy. Fees: £30 for the whole season; reductions for additional siblings.

Shrevenham Youth CC will play league cricket at Under 11, Under 13 & Under 15/17 levels throughout Summer 2010.

For more information please contact either Steve Bowles, Head Coach or Dave Winskill, Youth Development Officer.

### **Village Fete Committee**

The Shrevenham Village Fete Committee is made up of a small group of volunteers who arrange a number of village events. The aim is to support the local community spirit by holding events such as the Village Fete and arranging for the village Christmas tree and lights. Funds raised are also made available for donation to local village charities/groups.

2009 was the 29<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Village Fete in its current form and plans for the 30<sup>th</sup> year are taking shape for this summer. The Fete itself made a small profit overall which helped with the provision of the Village Christmas Tree, and at the end of the year we were able to make 3 sizeable donations to local groups in support of the work they do around and for the Village.

As soon as the Fete is over the focus switches to Christmas and the planning for the Christmas tree, Carol Service and the Woozel Hunt. Last December saw 4 "villagers" on a very wet Sunday morning trying to source a tree and overcoming floods and terrible conditions to haul an appropriate tree from a wood. A few hours later it took pride of place in the High Street duly decorated to be admired by all who passed by.

The Carol Service, held on the second Sunday in December, was well attended on a dry and crisp evening and the weather was also kind for the Woozel Hunt on Boxing Day where a record turnout enjoyed the event which concluded with mulled wine and mince pies in the Memorial Hall.

Planning is already well underway for the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Fete and due to the reduced numbers on the Committee many members are taking on 2 or 3 roles to keep things running.

Hopefully the sun will shine on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> August.

The Committee is always seeking to recruit new members and we encourage people to come along to our monthly meetings which are now held in the Vic Day Hall on the second Monday of each month commencing at 8.15pm.

Simon Howell  
Chair

### **Shrivenham & Watchfield Royal Junior Football Club**

The Shrivenham & Watchfield Royals are an FA Chartered Standard Club running junior football for children from 6-18 years old.

We had a change of committee at the beginning of the season with James Dore taking over the ropes as Chairman from Adam Ridley, Sarah Rainer, and our existing Treasurer also taking over the role of Secretary from Sarah Kill. Mark Rainer as Vice Chair and Val Clinch continuing as our Youth Development Officer, together with our committed team managers.

The 2009/10 season has been another busy year for the Royals successfully running; U7's, U8's, U9's, U10's, U11's, U12's, U13's and U15's teams. We have had 135 children registered, training and playing football each weekend from in and around the local area all year round.

All our teams are entered in to the North Wilts Youth and Minor League, very organised and well run, the league has now become FA Chartered Standard. We play teams in and around Swindon, playing against clubs as close as Highworth and Swindon, but also travelling as far as Newbury and Tetbury.

With each team playing an average 16-18 league games and about 20 Cup games throughout the league season, this amounts to 144 games played, we had up to 72 home games to organise at the Shrivenham and Watchfield Grounds. With the snow and ice we experienced a few months ago, this created quite a challenge with the deadline for games to be played by Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> May some games were played during the last two weeks on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings.

The new U7's team are looking a very strong team for the future being unbeaten all season until their last two games, with some very promising talent for the future. The U8's have also had a good and successful season. Our U9's had their first taste of competitive football this season and ended a successful 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the 4<sup>th</sup> division narrowly missing out on runners up. The U10's finished in 7<sup>th</sup> place in the 2<sup>nd</sup> division. The U11's brought home our only silverware this season winning the 3<sup>rd</sup> division comfortably leading the table all season and their second league victory 2 years running, they will now be promoted to the 2<sup>nd</sup> division. The U12's had another tough season in the 1<sup>st</sup> division finishing a very acceptable joint 5<sup>th</sup>. The U13's had a difficult start to the season with their manager and our outgoing chairman finishing, it fell to Steve Harris to take on the ropes and keep the team together after several team members left. Although well beaten throughout the season, they have grown stronger and gained new players throughout the year and are looking forward to starting next season in the 3<sup>rd</sup> division. We lost our next age group at the start of the season, unable to register enough players to keep the team running and so jump straight to the U15's, who have had a very competitive season finishing a well deserved 5<sup>th</sup> place in the 2<sup>nd</sup> division.

We now look forward to the many 6 a side tournaments we enter our teams into over the summer months.

Our mini soccer teams U7's to U10's have again enjoyed the use of the Shrivenham Recreation Ground for their training and matches throughout the season, and our youth teams U11's to U15's having the use of the Airey Neve Memorial Ground at Watchfield. We are very fortunate to have the use of the Defence Academy Astro turf for our weekly training over the winter months when the clocks change and the dark evenings prevail.

The new Pavilion at Watchfield has again impressed all our visiting teams and parents, who comment regularly on the excellent facilities that we have to use at home games for our youth teams.

We continue to train our managers on FA coaching courses so that we are fully qualified to coach the children to the high standard that Chartered Standard demands in a safe and friendly environment

We have held various club events throughout the year to get teams together. This has included our annual outing to Somerset each July, where several of our teams enter the Bridgwater Tournament in the morning and then we head off in our coaches to Weston Super Mare for an afternoon of fun on the beach and finishing off with a fish'n'chip supper before we return in the evening. James is very busy organising this year's trip on 1<sup>st</sup> July.

The Shrivenham Football Club first team coach very kindly gave up his time to run a special training session for our different age groups earlier in the season, giving them a taste of some different and fun training methods, we then provided a hot lunch and the children and parents were invited to watch a very exciting match at Shrivenham FC during the afternoon.

Each team celebrated Christmas in different ways, with outings to Lazer quest, Futsal and of course MacDonald's!

We hope to hold some more fun team events over the summer with BBQ's and Dad's vs Lads matches.

### **Shrivenham & District Gardening Club**

The Club has a membership of over 70. The monthly programme provided subjects of both garden interest and beyond. The highlight was Bob Flowerdew's talk that attracted 150 people. We have donated to both the Bat Society and the National Gardens Scheme for cancer charities. A garden party was held at a member's private house in gorgeous weather, though our annual plant sale was held in somewhat unseasonable conditions. Both the weekend break to North Devon and our day trip to Coughton Court attracted a good few members. Pusey House hosted us for an evening garden visit – the first group since it was closed to the public over 10 years ago. A group visited Welford Park to witness the snowdrops followed by a pub lunch, and, another to hear a major speaker at Stanford in the Vale's club. Our social life is very important to us – the AGM, pudfest and quiz night, together with the annual dinner, were well attended – and we do not always talk about gardening!! We believe that the club offers a valuable asset to both the local community and beyond – we have no boundaries for membership at just £8= per calendar year and welcome visitors at £3= per session. An interesting programme for next year includes a weekend in Wales and a visit to Wisley. We must record our thanks to Trudi and Martin for all their help.

## **Shrivenham Heritage Centre**

The Centre was given a great start with the opening and inaugural lecture by Professor Richard Holmes, the eminent military historian, last September. Since then it has been open every Tuesday morning as well as on several other occasions to anyone interested in the heritage of the village. We are immensely grateful to all those who have given their time, donated archive material and money to the Centre. The task continues of recording and archiving the large amount of information on the village that we have collected.

Our activities for this year are a series of lectures on the theme of "Shrivenham through the Ages". The first talk on "The Archaeology of Shrivenham and its Surroundings" given by Margaret Andrews was hugely successful. There were so many people that we had to switch venues from the Vic Day Hall to the large hall to accommodate everyone. We held the Heritage Centre AGM at the start of the meeting. It was agreed that to raise funds for future activities we should have a concerted effort to widen the membership and that we would have a membership fee of £5.00 per person per annum as well as charging a small entrance charge at future lectures.

We plan to have three further lectures through the year on the same theme. Firstly, "Tudor and Stuart Shrivenham" on June 24<sup>th</sup> given by Joan Dils, a leading authority on the local history of the area followed by a talk on "A Study of Shrivenham's Vernacular Buildings" by David Hughes of the Oxfordshire Buildings Record in September. Finally we are planning a talk on memories of Shrivenham in WWII.

We hope that this series of lectures will lead to added interest in the Study Groups that we are launching on subjects such as archiving, archaeology, vernacular architecture, church recording and aural history.

## **Lawn Tennis Club 2010**

The club continues its core activity of allowing all members to enjoy the great facilities of all-weather courts and floodlights and a well appointed clubhouse. Membership is steady and the club remains comfortably solvent.

We have appointed an official club coach, Chris Hand, who has been very active. Chris continues to provide coaching at many of the local schools, including Shrivenham Primary school, on a regular basis, as well as after-school junior coaching. As a result, there has been increasing levels of junior activity at the club, and we hope this will be increased even further in the future. There is also ladies coaching on Wednesday nights from 7-8 p.m.

Club nights have been moved to Wednesday nights starting at 7.30 p.m.

We have rejoined the Lawn Tennis Association, which will allow us to resume playing competitive inter-club matches and hopefully we will be able to enter junior and adult teams in the future. Joining the LTA also entitles club members to apply for a ballot for the 4 pairs of Wimbledon tickets allocated to the club.

The courts, clubhouse and their environs remain well-maintained and in working order. As has been the case for the past few years, we have not experienced any vandalism or serious trespass.

We hope the club will continue to thrive, to provide encouragement for everyone who wishes to have fun playing tennis, and particularly wish to encourage children and

juniors. We will continue to publish regular news and updates in the Parish News, and we welcome all enquiries and suggestions.

Tony Crockett (Chairman) 782207; Chris Hand (Coach) 07970 481707 or 780586 and Sarah-Jayne Dawes (Membership Secretary) 783002

## **United Charities**

26 Stainswick Lane  
Shrivenham

16 May 2010

Clerk to the Parish Council Shrivenham

Dear Peter

Annual Parish Assembly

I apologise for the late submission of this report from Shrivenham United Charities and also for being unable to attend the meeting due to a prior engagement

Shrivenham United Charities now has 2 main charities: Martens Almshouses Charity and Garrards Charity for giving grants to apprentices living in Shrivenham, recently extended to include a grant to a young person in need going on for training or higher education. The Almshouses consisting of 6 1-bedroomed bungalows in Martens Road are well maintained by the Trustees and historically have been let to the elderly "who are in need, of good character and who have resided in the village for at least 3 years prior to application." I quote from our Charter of 1641. Mr Elwyn Jones keeps the hedges and lawns in good order. Vic Day was one of the Trustees and had served since 1966. His death has created a vacancy that we are hoping to fill in the near future. We were always very grateful to him for his wise advice. Sadly, one of the Almspersons died last week. The bungalow will be advertised next month. Two awards from Garrards charity have been made in the last 12 months to apprentices to help defray the cost of their tools.

Yours sincerely

Vivien Moss (Hon Secretary)



**Viscountess Barrington's Homes For Disabled Ex-Servicemen And Women (Charity 205219)**

The Trust currently manages 13 homes (7 houses and 6 apartments, housing 22 adult residents), under the auspices of the Charity Commission.

Income is from monthly contributions by the Homes' Residents, with the occasional grant from organizations such as the Royal British Legion, and is primarily used for cyclical and emergency maintenance. External woodwork maintenance and painting every 4/5 years and rendering every 7/8 years, as well as common land gardening and the mandatory gas and electrical safety checks are examples of cyclical maintenance. A blocked drain caused by tree roots is an example of a current 'emergency' maintenance cost. Dampness is a continual problem in all the older properties and needs constant vigilance.

The Trust is aware of the different standards and conditions of the properties and before any new resident takes occupancy, major renovations are considered. As an example, a new kitchen was recently installed, along with roof repairs and interior decoration, at 4 Recreation Ground.

Current residents are content, comfortable, recognized, respected, and able to have things done, where possible, through the Trust. Although the Trust is not responsible for the welfare of the residents, occasional help is provided in dealing with agencies such as the local council and care centres as and when appropriate. When residential vacancies occur, they are advertised through the local press and RBL branches and service organisations.

John Lloyd retired as Clerk in April 2010, after 4 years of outstanding service towards the successful administration of the Trust. Graham Vizer was appointed Clerk effective May 2010 after an advertising and selection process.

Graham Vizer  
Clerk to the Trust