

SOUTH HINKSEY ECHO

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www.southhinksey.org

Jubilee Party

We held back this edition of the Echo in order to include pictures and a report of the Jubilee Party. Everyone will know by now that IT RAINED. The bouncy castle was up and running for about ten minutes in the afternoon, but apart from that Manor Road and the newly cleared community land was empty.



It was disappointing after all the work that people had put in clearing the land, organizing food and working out games to keep us all amused, but in spite of the weather it was a very good party - not exactly the one we had planned, but the move to the village hall meant that we were at least dry and able to enjoy food and fun. The bring-and-share picnic was a successful format, we all seemed to have brought far more than we could eat. Some people even managed to picnic on the floor of the hall!

Thanks are due once again to the organizers, particularly Adrian, our entertaining MC, and Maggie Rawcliffe and Linda Bloch for organizing the food. The Donkey House Band also worked wonders to produce a festive atmosphere. It was good to have the company of MP Nicola Blackwood and County Councillor Arash Fatemian.

Here are a few pictures...



South Hinksey Parish Council

The Annual Parish Meeting, held on 1 May provided a summary of the year's activities. It was a shame that not very many parishioners turned out, but the minutes of the meeting can be found on the Parish Council pages of the website: www.southhinksey.org. There have been changes in personnel during the year: Tom Barron and Elizabeth Halcro, both very active Councillors, resigned. Sandra Bingham has joined the Council; a replacement for Tom is being sought.

The Council made **grants** to the Village Hall for general running expenses and Stepping Stones pre-school group for new play equipment.

Current concerns: The perennial issues of safety on the A34 and Hinksey Hill were covered, as were: a proposed new railway bridge, the future of the General Elliot pub, the Village Hall and flooding.

Environmental topics included the wildflower meadow; the Community Woodland next to the Garden Centre road and use of the Old Car Park as community land. There was also a report from the Parochial Church Council and information about the new-look South Hinksey website. Several of these topics are covered elsewhere in this edition of the Echo.

News

Overbridge work

Way back in February, the work on the bridge over the A34 was done in the immediate aftermath of the burst water main and flooding at the top of the village. It made for interesting times and access during the day was very difficult for a couple of days. The bridge doesn't look any different, but I'm assured that the work was completed successfully.

Footbridge over the railway

Network Rail (NR) plan to raise this bridge 'before Christmas', as part of the electrification of the line. We are trying to see if it can be made to be buggy, bicycle and wheelchair friendly in the process. It seems unlikely that NR will fund this. At the time of writing we are waiting to hear back from them: they have been very slow to respond, even to a letter from Nicola Blackwood MP.

Depending on NR's reply we can involve others, including Andrew Smith, MP, District, City and County Councils (preliminary contacts already made with District and City), as necessary. We will also consider a petition, and publicity via the local media. Updates will follow on Shinfo.

Peter Rawcliffe, on behalf of the Parish Council

Dave Markham

I promised Dave an "obituary" when he left the village and moved to Devon, so here it is. Few of you may be aware of the amount of work he did for the community behind the scenes.

From a very early date he took on the job of producing all the printed copies of the South Hinksey Echo on his laser printer. He would spend hours meticulously adapting the text to fit on the page, tidying up the pitifully amateur word processing and generally improving the look of things. He spent hours putting each edition of the Echo online.

When the South Hinksey website was set up Dave volunteered to do what he calls “the greasy bits” – vital given the lack of technical knowledge on the part of the editor. Dave can be extremely funny and his mordant wit was, from time to time, exercised over the contents of newsletter and website. I know his patience was sorely tried at times. Sorry, Dave, and thank you. I really appreciate all your help and expertise.

Linda Slater

Village Hall

Although ownership of the Village Hall has been transferred to the Parish Council in order to guarantee that it will remain in local hands, the day- to-day running is still the responsibility of the Village Hall Management Committee. The arrangement is working well and bookings are up. It is interesting to note that most of the bookings now come from the website rather than any other advertising. It is a good idea to book early if at all possible. All the information you need can be found on the website: www.southhinksey.org. Parishioners benefit from preferential rates. Remember to book early.

Committee: Peter Rawcliffe, Chair; Maggie Rawcliffe, Bookings Secretary; Anne Allsworth, Treasurer; Linda Slater, Secretary; David Minns; Philip Saugman, Buildings Manager.

Flooding News

An abnormally dry winter meant that there was no significant flooding from the river. To make up for this, the top of the village flooded in February when a very large old water main in Parker Road burst early one morning, cutting off the village from the rest of the world for the rest of the day. Half a dozen houses were damaged and repairs are still ongoing.



The Sloppy Gardener is sad to have to report that since February's burst water main the garden has suffered not from benign neglect but from almost total desertion. We go back from time to time and Jo mows the lawn, which has an instant effect. Most of our perennials survived, though some are a bit sorry for themselves. I've scattered a few packets of annual seeds among the flower beds and that will have to do for this year I'm afraid. We miss the garden and hope to be back at the end of August.

The New Website

The website: southhinksey.org has changed, as many of you will have noticed. The website came into being as part of the Parish Plan in 2004. The idea was to improve communications in a community divided by the A34, where it could be difficult for everyone to know what was going on. I found myself editing the website, while Dave Markham

looked after the technical side. David Rawcliffe has volunteered to take it over and has given it a makeover while keeping just about all of the original content. The website has always been independently owned and is not part of the Parish Council. It retains that independence. It will be an item on the agenda for the Parish Council's APM, where anyone can raise concerns or indeed stage a takeover. Do use the website. You can contact the editor via editor@southhinksey.org

Linda Slater



News from the Community Woodland

Our community woodland, now in its fourth year, is starting to grow nicely, helped by the (rather too) bountiful rain and the help of some rugged volunteers. Sixteen people came out on 11 March and helped to re-stake trees whose stakes had rotted, and since then a student at Oxford Brookes University's MSc course in Environmental Assessment and Management has re-staked and tied up more of the trees. Thank you to everyone who helped out.

Ragweed pulling, Saturday 30 June 2-4pm

The next project is to pull out ragweed as it starts sprouting in the woodland. In large quantities, ragweed is poisonous to hooved animals, and we legally need to keep it under control. Please come along on Saturday 30 June, any time between 1130 and 1330, to help pull it out. Bring sturdy gloves, and in case it's warm (ha ha ha) some water and sun protection. We look forward to seeing you there. Cakes will be provided; to ensure there will be a plentiful supply, please let us know if you can come.

Tel/email 735288 mstopard@btinternet.com

Riki Therivel and Maggie Rawcliffe

The Old Car Park

The old pub car park had been lying derelict for some time, despite various plans for its use by the community. Finally sisters Louisa Nahhas and Charlotte Brannan took matters into their own hands (literally) and cleared the site of weeds. Later work parties did a thorough job checking and clearing dangerous debris. Thanks to all of them, particularly Miles for his weed killing and brute strength. The Old Car Park is now a valuable asset to the community. If only we had been able to use it, as planned, for the Jubilee Party!

Saint Laurence Church

Report to the South Hinksey Parish Council AGM 2012



St Laurence continues to have a weekly Sunday service at 9.15am; this is mainly a service from Common Worship (the CofE's modern prayer book) and is Morning Prayer on the first Sunday of the month and a Eucharist for the other Sundays. On the fifth Sunday of the month the service is Holy Communion from the Book of Common Prayer. There are usually well known hymns.

We are lucky to have the help of Fr Richard Smail who takes services as well as the Priest in Charge. We are also blessed with Wilbur Wright playing the organ on most Sundays.

The main highlight of the year is the Patronal festival of St Laurence on or around the time of his feast, 10 August. This is usually part of a Gift Day when we try and raise money towards the upkeep of our ancient building. The congregation from New Hinksey come over to St Laurence for a procession and service and we also have a bring-and-share lunch on the vicarage lawn after the service.

The real challenge for St Laurence Church at the moment is the continuation of a weekly Sunday service. The numbers of people attending church are perilously low and the Church Council is discussing the future earnestly. The majority of those who worship on a Sunday come from outside the village, having historic or family connections.

The building is in excellent repair, having had much work done in recent years. We are very grateful for the financial help the Parish Council has given us over the years. Recently the newly created toilet and kitchenette extension has greatly enhanced the life of the church. We are looking forward to the installation and blessing of a memorial in memory of Fr John Davis who was Vicar for twenty years.

We continue to have baptisms, weddings and funerals for villagers, people from Hinksey Hill or New Hinksey as well as those with historic or family connections.

In the summer we have the church open for tea and chat, do watch out for posters advertising the Sundays that we will be open this summer.

If there are any questions, please do be in touch.
Fr James Wilkinson, frijwilkinson@gmail.com 01865 245879

Forthcoming Events

Teas in St Laurence Church

Afternoon tea, with home-made cakes, will be served in the Church on the following Sundays from 3-5pm.

8th July

5 August

2 September

30 September

All are very welcome.

Cricket Match against North Hinksey

The second titanic battle against North Hinksey will take place on Sunday 2nd September at Wootton and Boars Hill Cricket Ground.

More details to come.

The Fourth Annual South Hinksey Fete

This is scheduled for Sunday 9th September, and promises to be the best yet. Do keep the day free. You will be hearing a lot more about this in the course of the summer.



South Hinksey Outdoor Swimming Pool. Don't forget the pool, which first opened in 1934, is now open for the summer from 7.00am to 7.00pm.
Details: http://www.fusion-lifestyle.com/centres/Hinksey_Outdoor_Pool/home

Barracks Lane Community Garden (off the Cowley Road) has lots of events over the summer for everyone, including young children. Here are a couple more unusual ones:

Sat 14 July 2012 Dinnertime in the Garden 3pm-9:30pm. The popular Dinner Time will be running an outdoor community kitchen in the garden. Plus music. What a way to spend an afternoon/evening in summer in the garden!

Bring: your spare vegetables and pulses, odd tins from the cupboard, herbs and spices – anything that is edible and too good to throw out. Plus plates & cutlery.

Note: sorry but we aren't able to take meat or dairy products for reasons of food safety.

Programme: 3- 7pm: preparation and cooking; 5-8pm: eating; 6pm onwards: music; 9-9:30pm clean up and close.

Sat 21 Jul 2012: Family Nature Clubs - den-making and water play 12pm-4pm. A family day out of experimenting with water, learning how to put up a geodesic dome, making camps, and having fun. The garden relies on donations and a donation of at least £5 helps to cover costs and to help them continue in the future. Please give more generously if you can.

General visitors to the garden also welcome. Supported by: The Nature Effect and Oxfordshire County Council.

Kennington Health Centre

We welcome Dr Emma Warren to our team. She will be working on Wednesdays and Fridays and will work with Dr Katahrina Winkel to cover Dr Frankum's patients.

Important for all patients

Thames Valley Primary Care Agency (TVPCA) are currently carrying out a number of exercises to check and validate patient data. If you receive a letter from them to check data please ensure that you respond or they may remove you from the practice list. If you find yourself removed you will need to re-register. This is something that the TVPCA are carrying out across the whole of the county and it is beyond our control. Please ask to speak to the Practice Manager if you have any concerns with this.

Telephone consultations

We now offer telephone consultations for each GP when they are in work. These give access to a GP if you feel you cannot wait until the next available routine appointment. They are NOT a second best response but provide contact with a GP who can give you advice and reassurance, start you on medication or call you in to see you. The feedback we get from patients who are using this option is very positive.

Cancelling appointments

We are aware that things happen that may mean you cannot attend for a pre-arranged appointment. Please help us to reduce the number of no shows by calling us and cancelling your appointment. We are then able to offer these appointments to other patients waiting to see a GP.

Prescriptions

We are only able to accept requests for repeat prescriptions over the phone from patients over the age of 65 or who are housebound. Please use our e-mail link on the website or drop off your requests at the surgery. If we are closed please put it through the letter box and it will be processed within 48 hours from the NEXT WORKING DAY.

Community notice board

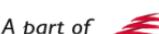
You will be aware that we allow community organisations to use the notice board in the waiting room to display appropriate material. Please contact the Practice Manager if you wish to book a month and display something.

Please remember that the Practice Manager is always willing to discuss any matters concerning the practice with you. Call around to his office, catch him if you see him walking around or ask a receptionist if you can speak to him.

Shaun Guard
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