



Newsletter

Summer 2008

Question: So just how big is Burghfield Parish, in acres or Square miles?

Answer on back page.

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From the editor

If you remember I had a bit of a rant in the last newsletter in the hope of getting some feedback, and it was successful.

Thank you to those who took the time to respond. (All contributors gave their details but I have not published them) I have been told that I do not need to rant and that you will now respond to those letters and let me know how you feel.

Two thoughts for the front page:

See the back page - Village Design Statement. We need people to come along and give us practical help in preparing this document. Meetings are currently planned for Saturday 27 September and Saturday 8 November and we are trying to arrange a venue.

Also there is a Family Bike Ride and Barbecue on 19 July so pop that in your diary.

Email or send your letters to Jim West who will also provide further details on the VDS and Bike Ride. Details in side panel.

Editor—John Valentine

Burghfield Womens' Institute

Has been celebrating its 90th Birthday. It is the oldest WI in Berkshire and one of the oldest in the country. The WI was formed to boost food production in the 1st World War and to improve conditions for women in rural areas. Most women today join the WI to meet people, make friends and hear interesting speakers.

Education has always been high on its priority list whether it is through the speakers, discussing burning issues, visiting lovely gardens or taking one of the 500 courses available at their own residential Denman College, near Abingdon. Many women like to get involved in the WI campaigns, whether on local, national or international issues. But most women STILL join the WI to make friends and have fun.

It meets in the Village Hall at 7.30pm on the 2nd Tuesday each month, a speaker, a cup of coffee and to hear all the things that we do you would be made very welcome.

Details of upcoming meetings can be found in the library, the post office and places throughout the parish. For more information -

Contact Joan on 983 2877

Your Say-1

I received your newsletter through the door in April. It refers to meetings on 13 March? This is too late for me and others to know about or attend!

[Ed: We do not deliver the newsletter but put it in public places for you to pick up.]

Litter:

I don't get to go around the village much, so I can't comment on how good or bad it is. Respect for your environment is something that

should be taught to young and old alike. Many adults throw litter around. It is NOT just the fault of children and they shouldn't always be used as scapegoats for adult failings.

Speeding:

You could get cameras to help entice drivers to slow down, but its the nature of people and cars that mean that speeding is a fact-of-life. Driving a car too fast is something, I feel, that can

never be stopped.

So the idea of spending money on speed cameras is not worth it! Look for something that would be providing more things to DO in the village and not chastise us all the time!

Maybe I'm just disheartened by a society and country that believes we need to be restricted and taxed in every aspect of our lives.

Your Say-2

Your piece re lack of response made me think a bit. I don't think that as a whole we are an apathetic lot, but I would say that I, and many like me, are unaware of some of the things you mention in your piece, or indeed many that you don't.

I have no children who play football and indeed no inter-

est in the sport so would not be aware of the football club? Why do we pay twice for litter collection rather than enforce standards on our "supplier". Many of us commute and are therefore unaware of some of the potential things we could be involved in. I assume that your article is fuelled by frustration but you do seem to be

having a bit of a rant.

Ranting at people puts them off. Perhaps rather than using the publication to castigate your parishioners, you could let us know what goes on in the area that affects us and then we could comment

Your Say-3

I picked the newsletter from The Fox and Hounds pub, never having one before in 26 years in Burghfield.

I think you will find that a lot of people care about their community but do things quietly.

Twelve of us (Brighten Burghfield) spent a Saturday morning picking up 15 large sacks of litter. By midweek rubbish was again very obvious. It may not be the fault of the litter pickers but of those who continually drop litter, particularly on their

way in and out of the village. Burghfield is, in general, a well-kept village and a good place to live and bring up children. This is only possible through dedicated people like yourself so 'thank you' and please continue doing what you do so well.

Your Say-4

I am writing to comment on Burghfield Football Club.

It is doing great work with youngsters in the area but the use of Recreation Road 'rec' does annoy people living in the area.

It is not so bad in the winter, as most time is spent indoors but unfortunately football games and football practice continue right through the summer days and evenings. I want to come home from

work and relax in my garden, not have to listen to both players and/or parents screaming at the top of their voices.

Is there any way that the number of times the recreation ground is used during the summer can be restricted so that we have some quiet evenings and weekends - or that they are asked to respect the people living in the neighbourhood and keep their shouting level down.

By the way I think that the local litter pickers are absolute marvels and I am proud of the way they keep Burghfield clean. It's a shame they have to do it at all and it would be good if West Berkshire could pay the Parish direct for litter pickers rather than them providing a poor service. The Parish can obviously do it better.



Our esteemed Chairman, Tony Orme, cooking at Bike Week 2007

Thames Valley Police Authority

Back in March, the Authority approved the draft three year strategy 2008/09 – 2010/12 for policing in Thames Valley.

Key headline targets include:

- Strengthen neighbourhood policing to respond to local need and increase public confidence, includes a target to increase the number of Special Constables to 300.
- To develop our partnerships with stake-

holders to reduce crime and disorder

- To improve the service provided to victims, witnesses and the public. Includes targets to answer 90 per cent of 999 calls within ten seconds and 90 per cent of non emergency calls received within 40 seconds.
- To protect communities from terrorism and organised crime,

including a target to recover at least £3m of assets gained illegally.

- To use information and intelligence to be more effective
- To develop staff to give the best service
- To improve the use of our resources

“targets to answer 90 per cent of 999 calls within ten seconds and 90 per cent of non emergency calls received within 40 seconds”

Burghfield Community Centre

Formerly known as C3 is located on Elm Drive in the MOD estate on Clayhill Road.

They have opened up and are trying to get people to use this facility after it was closed 2 years ago.

They hold a 'Tiny Tots' Session on Wednesdays from 11am until 2pm. And are there for Pregnant Mums up to Pre-school children. Please bring lunch. Tea, coffee and biscuits available.

There is also a Thrift Shop raising funds for the centre.

They are also considering a 'Bingo Night' and other activities depending on interest.

Please contact Beth Craig on 07733140268 or 01189835200.



Batman and Robin at Bike Week 2007

Burghfield Parish Village Design Statement

Introduction

Many people feel they have no say over what development takes place in their community; but a Village Design Statement (VDS) offers the community the opportunity to have that say.

A VDS sets out clear and simple guidance for the design of all development in the Parish, based on its character. It is an advisory document produced by the community, and not by either the planning authority or the Parish Council, on its own. It will not stop change from happening, but helps manage that change, effecting how any new building fits into the parish.

Burghfield Parish Council needs YOUR HELP to design and produce the Burghfield Parish Village Design Statement. We need your help to describe what our village looks like, its character and how it should develop in the future.

The things we need to do

To help us decide what our parish looks like and how WE think it should develop, we first need to describe the distinctive character of the parish and the surrounding countryside at three levels;

- the landscape setting of the village,
- the shape of the settlement,
- the nature of the buildings themselves;

Then draw up design principles based on the distinctive local character;

Followed by

Work in partnership with the local planning authority in the context of existing local planning policy, to influence future policies.

Cycling News

We tried to arrange a bike ride to celebrate Bike Week 2008 but were thwarted due to pressure of work on the organisers. As you know all this Parish stuff is voluntary and we have to fit our jobs in around it!

We are going to try again and on Saturday 19 July are arranging a gentle sponsored ride from the Recreation Ground followed by a barbecue, hosted (and cooked) by the Chairman of the Council Tony Orme. All funds will go to the Burghfield Charities which is a small local charity supporting local people who find themselves in financial difficulty.

Please come along and support the function.

Phone John Valentine on 07770 902231 for more details.

Council Meetings

Normal Council meetings are on the second Thursday of each month, except August and December. So the next meeting is on Thursday 10th July.

We meet in the Village Hall starting at 7:45 and the first 15 minutes are set aside for questions from the public, which means you. You are most welcome to come along and see what we do.

Answer to question on front page: 4,039 acres or 6.3 square miles.