

ICKFORD PARISH COUNCIL
ANNUAL PARISH PUBLIC MEETING

Monday 16th May 2016 at 7.30pm
at Ickford Village Hall, Bridge Road, Ickford

Annual Reports Provided by Ickford Community Groups

Annual Report of Ickford Parish Council for 2015/16

Produced by Andrew Brunet - Chairman of Ickford Parish Council 2015/16

The last year has been a period of transition for the Parish Council, it started with a series of retirements and resignations so that at one stage there were just three councillors, which is the minimum required by law. However, since then, we have been joined by Councillors Louise Arnold, Peter Jordain, Vina Parmar and Keith Green and with all four of these appointments and their involvement in village activities it means that the council can, and does, better represent the wider village community.

We also appointed local resident Nikki Dawson as Clerk to the Council who has applied her administrative and business skills to update the process of producing meeting minutes which, with all supporting documentation, are available on the community website for all to view.

Despite all these changes the Parish Council has been able to continue to work on various projects for the benefit of the local community, the following is just a brief list, further details can be found on the community website. www.ickfordcommunity.wordpress.com

Village Maintenance and Landscaping

- Reviewed option for devolution but, after competitive tendering decided to stick with current arrangements and contractor.
- Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (ROSPA) inspection of recreation ground, repair work of play equipment completed
- Expert inspection of recreation ground trees, pruning of trees completed in line with recommendations.
- Fouling of play area by dogs of irresponsible owners. Publicity via Informer, before deciding if more action is required.

Highways and Byways

- Transport for Buckinghamshire (Bucks County Council) introduced their website "Track-it" scheme for reporting highway issues. It seems to work, pathways and road signs have been repaired, extra bollards added to Church Road, repainting of road junction lines opposite the School and inspection and removal of dying trees on Worminghall Road. This system is open to all residents to report issues and can be found at <http://www.transportforbucks.net/Tell-us.aspx>
- Thames Water (Flooding). Following a technical meeting with Thames Water Authority, Cllr Peter Jordain reported that currently Thames Water do not have Ickford registered as a high priority as they have not received enough complaints. Subsequently circulated to all residents, was a leaflet with free-phone numbers and the website address for our community "Flood Watch" so that residents can report their sewerage issues directly.
- Replacement of damaged street light in Turnfields
- In conjunction with Ickford School, agreed to make the recreation ground driveway available for school car parking. Initial feedback is that this is working well, we are now evaluating improvements to the scheme.
- With a grant from the Local Area Forum (Bucks CC), we installed a Mobile Vehicle Activated Sign (MVAS) to warn drivers of excessive speeds and record statistical data. The sign will be moved between Bridge Road, Sheldon Road and Worminghall Road on a regular basis.

Communication and Publicity

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- Ickford Informer. As previously advised, the production costs of the Ickford Informer are paid for by the Parish Council in order to provide and support good communication and information for all local residents. Except when an article is attributed to the Parish Council, then all the other views and opinions expressed in the Informer are those of the contributors, not of the Parish Council.
- At the beginning of the year, Informer costs were substantially over budget so arrangements were agreed with Ickford School to use their photocopier for an “at cost charge”. The lower production cost means that the Informer can maintain the frequency of issues.
- Website: Councillor Louise Arnold has set-up and managed a new website for the Parish Council and the wider community. It goes from strength to strength including all council meeting minutes and supporting documents, it can be accessed at www.ickfordcommunity.wordpress.com
- Village Mapping: The Parish Council has registered with Ordnance Survey Public Sector Mapping Agreement and can have access to free digital maps and we have begun to create our own Ickford village map to include locations of village assets such as lampposts, footpaths, bus stops etc. Eventually this will be published on the community website.
- During this year Aylesbury Vale District Council (AVDC) issued for consultation their Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan (VALP) for comments. After much debate the Parish Council responded on the basis of contesting the AVDC classification of Ickford as a “large village” and therefore requiring an additional 100 houses in the 20-year plan. The Council will wait until the outcome of the AVDC consultation before deciding on the next appropriate action.
- The council has the opportunity to form a “cluster” with the local parishes of Worminghall, Oakley and Shabbington with a view to sharing resources and expertise and potentially to develop a combined neighbourhood plan.

Village Organisations and “Institutions”:

- A defibrillator is used to deliver a controlled electric shock to help a person recover after going into a heart attack. It has been purchased with a grant from the British Heart Foundation and we are now arranging installation. Once completed a training course will be organised with the Oakley based local First Line Responder.
- Regular contact with Ickford Combined School, the Village Hall, Village Shop Association, Sports Pavilion Committee and Football Club to review areas of mutual interest.

Finance and Administration

- During the year councillors were encouraged to attend training courses to update knowledge and skills on an increasingly demanding role. All councillors are unpaid volunteers.
- Approved updated Standing Orders and several protocols to include requirements from last years’ audit such as monthly bank reconciliations and quarterly reviews of expenditure against budget.
- As previously reported, the Parish Council received just over £14,000 /annum (known as the precept) via the Council Tax to cover expenditure within the Parish. It has hardly changed over the last 5 years. The Parish Council reviewed the provisional budget for 2016/17 and , as with this year , there was likely to be an overspend of around £2,500 of expenditure versus income, which is clearly not sustainable. It was therefore agreed that to raise the precept by the expected shortfall equivalent to an average of £5-£8 per annum (for a Band D) household.

The Council tries to make decisions taking into account the the needs and opinions of the community, so please come along and help to contribute to the Parish Council discussions. The Parish Council meetings are held on the 2nd Tuesday of each month (except August and January) at 7:30 pm in the Village Hall annex.

Ickford Pre-School/After School Club

Produced by Helen Harris - Manager

We have had another very successful year with full morning sessions by February (and a long list of children wishing to start) and very busy afternoons too. We currently have 46 children on roll, of which 19 go on to school in September and 4 leave us as they are moving away. We, however, already have 30 on roll from September, which is fantastic, so if you know anyone who wants their child to start in the new academic year, tell them to get in contact quickly so they are able to choose their sessions!

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Breakfast Club continues to be relatively quiet, but this has always been the case and means children have a chilled start to their days, but we are finding After School Club is usually bursting at the seams – possibly because we offer a friendly, relaxed, fun atmosphere after the rigours of school life, as well as a hot meal to those who would like it. We have invested in more outside games and toys for those at ASC so they can enjoy the warmer evenings outside, as well as new board games, craft materials etc. to keep children entertained if the weather is less kind.

We have held a number of fundraising events this year and plan a summer fayre in June/July with an Olympic theme and a quiz night too for adults. Many thanks to everyone who came and supported the race night, which raised an enormous £1,200 for our outside play equipment. We purchased a new Wendy House and a ‘jungle gym’ which has a climbing wall and a slide. The Easter Fayre raised £250 for items such as buckets, spades, balls, ride on toys and accessories for the Wendy House which have all been very popular. Again, thanks to all of those who came and supported us at this event. We were able to secure a generous grant from Haddenham Beer Festival towards our outside play equipment too. Paul Rogers was an absolute angel putting up the wendy house with Billy’s help – thanks!

Staff continue to maintain their professional development, attending regular training sessions provided by Bucks County Council and other providers. Sometimes these courses are a legal requirement (e.g. first aid) but there are more fun courses to inspire us, including ‘Boys, Girls, Dens and a Spaceship to Mars’. We are delighted that our newest member of staff, Sharon, has successfully completed her level 2 diploma and will start her level 3 in the new school year. We sadly say goodbye to Sarah Chatterton at the end of this half term, after over a decade working at the preschool. She will be greatly missed by staff, parents and children but we are sure she will be very happy in her new venture. We continue to overstaff every session by at least one staff member to ensure that we can provide a variety of activities and experiences for the children. Staff also have their own areas of ‘expertise’ and ‘passion’ and we are pleased that we are able to offer many different styles of adult-led activities. Of course, ‘Learning through Play’ is at the very heart of our setting, and we never fret if a planned activity turns out very different to the idea we initially had, or when toy cars end up in paint or there are outlines of bodies on the playground in chalk!

We are looking for a new chairperson for the committee as Rebecca (who is currently the chair) will step down in July when her son leaves preschool to go to Great Milton school. The role need not take up too much of your valuable spare time and is a good opportunity to be involved in the running of the preschool. Committee meets 3 times a year for 1-2 hours to discuss finances, staffing, fundraising etc. and other decisions in the meantime are taken via email on an ad hoc basis. If you are, or know of anyone who is, interested in the role, please contact me on 01844 338785 or on ickfordpreschool.manager@gmail.com

Ickford Village Hall Annual Review 2015/16

Produced by Will Richards – Chairman

- We have had another productive year with more people using the hall, increased income and further expenditure to continue our programme to ensure that the hall is ‘fit for purpose’ for future generations.
- During the year we replaced the tall window in the middle of the hall which means that all the windows have now been replaced with pvc frames. In addition, the front doors were stripped, painted and the glass replaced by an Ickford volunteer.
- Current plans are in place to purchase 80 comfortable (hooray!) banquet style chairs and 8 round tables.
- We are also considering installing an audio system with internal and external speakers which will connect to iPads and laptops. And finally we intend to screen the bins and paint the kitchen.
- The project for next year under consideration will be revamping the toilets.

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- To fund this and our future plans we need income and I am delighted to say that the Hall is being used more than last year with income nearly doubling - we have had 2 Weddings and there are events 4 nights a week including Yoga, Tai Chi, Box Fit and Jazz Dancing.
- In addition, we have had 2 excellent Village Nights – a Quiz night followed by the very successful 70's night in January which combined, generated an extra £1,200 versus the previous year.
- This has enabled us to continue our investment in the hall and we have spent an extra £1,600 compared to the previous year.
- So we have finished the year achieving our targets and will continue to work on our next plans with the support of a very proactive and positive team- but more importantly the support of the Ickford community who recognise and appreciate the improvements that have been made -keep July 2nd free for the Summer Party!

Ickford and District Darby & Joan 2015/2016

Produced by Maureen Parker-Farrell

- Over the past 12 months we are pleased to report that we have had new younger blood joining the club, which has given our monthly meetings a boost of energy.
- Unfortunately, yet again 3 of our original members have decided the time has come for them to move on to the luxury of being looked after and have gone into residential homes, leaving us with only 15 of the original 30 members we had when we took over in 2012.
- 2015 saw another action packed year for the club, including 2 visits from the “Sisters of Swing” (who also played with their band Wigwam at the Village Hall 70's night), they are coming back to perform again in September
- We had a visit from “Lush” of Oxford, who came to give our members hand and arm massages.
- Our summer fete in June raised a total of £190 we were joined by Al and his Amazing Owls.
- Waddesdon Manor was the destination for our September trip. We managed to hire a coach with a ramp which enabled our less mobile members in wheelchairs and with walkers to join us. We enjoyed lunch in the Manor restaurant followed by a presentation on the history of Waddesdon and finally a walk round the beautiful gardens. We were very grateful that our new members were there and willing to help with some of our less mobile members.
- Other months saw a range of activities including a quiz, bring and buy sale, and bingo.
- Christmas lunch last year was held at the Rising Sun, not in the village hall as usual, this was due to the organizers getting older and running out of steam. Not sure where we will be dining this year.
- In February we found ourselves back in the Rising Sun for our first meeting of 2016.
- March found our members enjoying a dance to the music of Ray Taylor, a local organist.
- April was all about the Queen's 90th Birthday and we held a quiz to test our member's knowledge of the Queen. As you would expect they nearly all came out with top marks seeing as most of our members are nearly the same age or older than her!!!!
- The schedule for the remainder of this year includes our annual fund raising Summer Fete on June 8th (any help or suggestions most appreciated) a picnic lunch at the “Pheasant” Brill and a return visit of the Sisters of Swing in September
- Yet again we would like to say a big thank you to Paul and Jan at the “Rising Sun” along with their customers for their continued support, a grand total of £682.50 was raised from various events throughout 2016. Also to Shabbington and Tiddington Parish Councils for their kind donations.
- If anyone would like to join us, or knows of anyone who would enjoy a few hours of company each month, then please give us a call.

Friends of St Nicholas: Annual Report 2015/16

Produced by Keith Tattersfield - Chairman

- The Friends continue to prosper with a very enthusiastic committee.
- Numerous events were successfully organised throughout the year and raised £1,862.

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- These events included Open Gardens, a Garden Party, Tour of Oxford Colleges, a talk by a Lancaster bomber tail gunner and the annual “Christmas at St Nicholas” event.
- In addition, we received £1,770 in subscriptions and donations and £2,513 in grants.
- We incurred costs of £7,459 on essential repairs and maintenance plus £292 for public liability insurance
- Therefore, there was a deficit of £1,607 which resulted in closing reserves totalling £6,647
- Our annual general meeting will be held on Tuesday 24th May at 8pm.
- Forthcoming events will include a visit to the Hospital of St Cross in Winchester, a visit to the Bugatti renovation works here in Ickford, a ploughman’s lunch and a return of the Opera Dudes with a completely different programme from four years ago.
- We will also have the annual “Christmas at St Nicholas” event on 21st December
- When dates are finalised, we will notify everybody in the Ickford Informer.

Ickford Village Shop Association: Report for Parish Meeting 2016

Produced by Paul Farrell – Chairman IVSA

- There is little for the Shop Association to report since its AGM last July.
- All commercial loans have now been paid and we are now accumulating reserves to commence repayment of villager loans starting with the emergency funding provided five years ago and we hope to start this process in the coming weeks.
- By agreement with Vina there have been a number of alterations to the interior layout of the shop and extensions to parts of the existing shop area to enable Vina to make better use of the space and improve the range of products and facilities she can offer to encourage greater use and to ensure its continued success.

Rendezvous: Annual Report

Produced by Gill Rippin

Rendezvous happens in St Nicholas Church every Tuesday from 10.30 – 12.30, closing for the summer break. We always serve fresh ground coffee, a good selection of teas, and homemade cakes. We do not make a charge but accept donations.

We started up Rendezvous on September 8th 2009 and ran for 43 weeks. We had a total of 449 attendances over this period which averaged at 10.4 people each week. We have been running now for 7 years and last year we had a total of 776 attendances which averaged at over 17 people each week. I don’t have any figures for this year yet but we seem to average about 20.

It was quite difficult at the beginning due to the time and effort involved in setting up and clearing away each week, fetching water from the tap at the entrance to the church and wobbly tables. It goes without saying that the new kitchen and toilet have made a considerable and wonderful improvement to the facilities and it is even more of a pleasure to run the coffee morning.

Over the years we have had other activities going on including pre-school children singing, simple lunches and Pampered Chef coming in. The community police regularly visit and we have done some craft activities, learnt how to make Norwegian waffles, held Christmas parties and many more.

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A big thank you once again to those who support Rendezvous and those who help keep things going when we are not around, and also to the Church PCC who let us use the building for two hours each week.

We would welcome any thoughts or new ideas of how we can reach out to anybody in the villages who are lonely, old, young, in need of fellowship or just enjoy good coffee and a chat. We have a diverse group of people of all ages who regularly dip in and out of Rendezvous.

Little Stars: Annual Report

Produced by Meryl Munson

Little Stars was started on 10th January 2014 and is run from St Nicholas Church every Friday during term time from 10 am until 11.30 am. It is a group for Parents/carers and children to come together to meet and socialise. It is run at the back of the Church and the chairs are moved to allow a large area which we are able to put down carpet jigsaw mats for the children to play on.

We had a total of 257 children, in the first year which averages at 20 parent/carers and children per week. We do not have any figures for this year yet. We only run this during term time as we do not have the facilities to accommodate older brothers and sisters.

The Church PCC have provided a conversion of some of the old pews to make storage units, which help to keep the Church tidy and give us a structured place to keep the Little Stars equipment.

There is no charge for attending Little Stars, there is a collection box for any voluntary donations. This goes towards supplying craft materials and replacing any equipment that is needed.

There is a cake rota and the parents/carers offer to make a cake each week to have with their coffee and teas.

The morning usually takes the format of playing activities with the equipment provided followed by a craft activity of some sort followed by fruit, biscuits and drinks for refreshment. After this a song or two is usually sang and / or a story read to them.

Ickford WI: Annual Report 2015/16

Produced by Vivienne Hayday, President

Ickford WI celebrated its second successful year in May. Last year, as well as our first birthday, we also celebrated the centenary of the WI nationally. One of our members represented us at the Queens Garden Party, another at the very grand Judges lodgings, hosted by Members of the Aylesbury Vale District Council.

Our meetings, in this last year, have included, Wine Tasting (with a local wine maker), Cake Decorating, a taste of aerobic exercise, as well as one of our own members showing us how to make Christmas Wreaths, which were sold at the Schools Christmas fare. We had a talk on Understanding Dementia, and a talk on Wellness (which included chocolate!). We have organised and run a very successful Indoor Christmas Market as well as celebrating the Queen's Birthday with an indoor street party.

We have a very active Committee, with a number of younger members who are filled with a host of great new ideas. Within the membership we have a thriving number of groups including: Book groups, Theatre club, Wine club, Pub quiz group, Knit and natter (craft club) all of which meet monthly, in a very informal way.

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Our membership, whilst a few less than our first year, is very healthy and we always welcome new members. We have a Web Site and a Facebook page.

Our future speakers this year include a talk entitled, Straight Jackets and Cold Tea (about the changes in mental health over the years); Women in Ickford (history); A talk about farming locally, and The Second Oldest Profession (a talk about trading standards).

We have another Christmas Market in late November and, at our Annual General Meeting in October, a taster session on Tai Chi.

Our meetings are held at the Village hall on the first Thursday of every month from 7.30pm. We have a raffle, as well as an activity or talk, wine, tea, coffee and nibbles with plenty of opportunity to just socialise and relax.

Any woman is welcome to join, or to visit, (the first attendance is free) after that if you don't want to join, you can pay £5 entrance fee to listen to any of our speakers. We are always looking to find out what our members would like to do, and what interests them.

Ickford has a thriving WI but it's also good to know we belong to an organisation that is the voice of Woman of the UK, also that we have a vote to choose what campaigns that the WI decide on to make life better for others. It's Your WI and you will be welcomed at our next meeting. We look forward to seeing you.