

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF RADLEY PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON FRIDAY, 4 MAY 2011, AT 7.30 PM IN THE CHURCH ROOM, RADLEY.**

Those present: Cr J Standen (in the Chair)
Parish Councillors Crowley, Davies, Henderson, Johnston, Pasquire, D
Standen.
Alexis Pym (Earth Trust)
Eight electors of the parish

The Radley Parish Plan prize questionnaire was drawn and the winner was 27 Ferny Close.

The Chairman noted that there had been a 50% response to the questionnaire and the steering committee was very grateful to those who delivered and collected and also to the Village Shop for accepting returns.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Mr Gasson, County Councillor Fatemian, Mrs Linda Hull (Primary School Head), Mrs Dot Hewlett.

2. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on the 7th May 2010, which had been circulated to the meeting, were approved and signed by the Chairman.

3. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF MINUTES

- (a) FOOTPATH 8: The footpath widening was not up to standard and the contractor agreed to resurface it once the oil seed rape had been cut. The path would not have to be formally closed, but rather would be partially closed in sections.
- (b) THRUPP LANE – SPEED OF TRAFFIC: The Council was speaking to the other users of the lane.
- (c) GRAVEL EXTRACTION: The Parish Council was pleased that no sites in Radley will be included in Oxfordshire County Council's minerals extraction plan.

4. CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT ON THE WORK OF THE PARISH COUNCIL:

"I am pleased to be reporting on the work on the Parish Council this last evening of my fourth year as Chairman.

It is always surprising how quickly a year passes, but it is good to have this opportunity to appraise what has been achieved over a twelve-month period.

The councillors have been involved in regular monthly meetings, plus numerous committees, to ensure things are kept moving, and I am sure you can imagine the vast amount of discussion that takes place.

Details of the work undertaken by the Parish Council during the last twelve months are given below:

1. Planning Applications:

The Parish Council gives a lot of thought to planning applications and over the twelve months from April 2010, it has been consulted and responded on 21 planning applications; surprisingly the same number as last year.

Tuckwells: I reported to you last year that Tuckwells had submitted a second Certificate of Lawful Existing Use or Development (CLEUD) application for their site. The Parish Council took legal advice and a robust objection was submitted. Councillors have attended several meetings with OCC regarding this so it is disappointing to have to report that the application has still not been determined.

J Curtis and Sons submitted a CLEUD application in December to which the Council also sent objections, but this again has not been determined by Oxfordshire County Council officers.

The threat of new sites for gravel extraction in the parish was raised by Oxfordshire County Council Mineral Spatial strategy options which identified a new site in Radley as one its nominated sites for gravel extraction.

The Parish Council raised its objections and was delighted when Radley and the linked site in Nuneham Courtenay were removed from the list of sites to be put forward for consultation as being “undeliverable” for the life of the plan.

2. Highway Matters:

Another severe winter has taken its toll on road surfaces throughout the parish and the Parish Council is continually pressing for improvements and pointing out particularly dangerous potholes.

The Clerk has appealed through her report in Radley News for the public to report faults on the Oxfordshire Highways website to enforce the action being taken by the Parish Council, and I make the same appeal to you this evening.

The Council was consulted, along with residents living close to bus stops, on Oxfordshire County Council’s plans for road markings and lowered kerbs along the premium bus route, but this work appears to be in abeyance at present.

The Council was pleased that after intervention from our County Councillor, the route of the 35 premium bus service has been added to the roads which are gritted in icy weather.

Residents have asked for a grit bin to be installed in the area of Sugworth Crescent and assuming the location is approved by OCC, this should be in place before the winter.

Thrupp Lane: Veolia moved out of Thrupp Lane following the placing of the new waste contract but this has not as hoped led to a reduction in the number or size of lorries using the lane.

The Parish Council feels that serious consideration must be given to making a road through from Thrupp Lane to Barton Lane to allow this large number of heavy goods vehicles to access the major road quicker and safer.

3. Village Hall:

The Parish Council applied for a grant on behalf of the Management Committee to replace the kitchen and this work will be starting shortly. Graham Collett, Chairman of the Management committee will report in detail later on all the work that has been done over the last year to improve the hall.

4. Sports Pavilion, Playing Field and Play Area:

The Parish Council has extended the blue fencing and a gate to the next field and hopes that this will help to keep secure the field. Unfortunately, dog walkers continue to use the Playing Field, and don't always clean up after their dog. The Parish Council has agreed that the bylaw will be enforced.

The Council has had to do some repairs to the Pavilion; some fascia has had to be replaced because of vandalism and a water leak in the very cold weather caused quite a lot of damage in one of the changing rooms.

The Play Area continues to be well used by young children. A picnic table was installed last spring and the council is considering whether another one would be useful. There has been some vandalism with offensive graffiti on the equipment and broken glass but these were cleared quickly.

5. Police Matters

- PCs Katrin Gardener and Carl Bryant and PCSO Adi Wright have attended Parish Council meetings. They have held several Have Your Say meetings at the Bowyer Arms and the next one is planned for Monday, 24th May 2011 at the Station. The new neighbourhood office at Radley Youth Club should make Adi more accessible to Radley.
- The Neighbourhood Action Group (NAG) is very active and has been meeting regularly. Eric Davies has been attending as Parish representative and reports back to the Parish Council about points of interest to the village.
- Speeding continues to be a concern and the police do regular speed checks in the area.
- Motorbikes on the BOAT: The police are addressing the problem of van drivers bringing motorcyclists to ride on the BOAT and warned them that if they are found there again their bikes can be crushed. The Parish Council has been told categorically that no landowner in the vicinity has given permission for motorbikes on their land and this information is being passed on to the police so that they can take action.

- Nuisance parking: The Parish Council has passed on complaints about vehicles parking on pavements and close to junctions in various parts of the village. Both are illegal and Adi Wright has spoken to the offending drivers.
6. Conservation
- The Parish Council has regular discussions on conservation matters, and the items which have come up throughout the year are:
- Tree Planting: Each year the Parish Council looks for sites to plant more trees – if you have any ideas please let your Councillors know.
 - Trees in the Parish: The willows in the Play Area were obstructing the pavement and had to be cut back. The large sycamore tree on Lower Radley green was a much bigger job. The Council was advised that it was diseased and it had to be cut right back to healthy wood.
 - Litter: The Parish Council is very pleased with the excellent work done by Mr John Rogerson in helping with litter collection throughout the village. His work is of great benefit to Radley village.
 - The Annual Garden Competition is continuing for its fifteenth year and is being held on Saturday, 2nd July. This has become a very successful event, and is looked forward to each year.
 - Footpaths in the Parish: The Parish Council is planning to carry out restoration work to resurface Footpath 8 and improve the surface for walkers and cyclists. Repairs had been planned for this week, but unfortunately, the council has just been told that they have had to be delayed.
 - The Parish Council will be approaching Oxfordshire County Council regarding having the BOAT re-designated as a footpath or bridleway.
7. Website: Please use the website to publicise and report on village events and let us have your views on matters relating to the Parish. The website address is www.radleyvillage.org.uk
8. Other Matters:
- The Village Shop will shortly celebrate its fourth birthday. Parish Council appreciates the work done by the Management Team and volunteers and was pleased to be able to support them with a grant towards the costs incurred in buying the freehold.
 - A community notice board has been installed at the Lower Radley turn and this is being very well used.
 - The Parish Council has asked its contractor to clean the village seats.
 - Several reports of noise nuisance have been made this year - by use of motorcyclists on the field behind Stonhouse Crescent, bird scarers at the beginning of the planting season and weekend working in Thrupp Lane and these have been reported to the Vale Environmental Health department.

- The Parish Council was asked to contribute to the Oxfordshire Rural Community Council's 100th birthday celebrations and submitted the Village Shop and the Youth Club as two features which contribute to the special character of the village. Joyce Huddleston represented the parish at the 100th birthday celebration.

It has been another busy year and as well as full council and council committee meetings, councillors have attended:

Neighbourhood Action Group meetings
 Didcot Power Station liaison meetings
 Village Hall Committee meetings
 Meetings of the Earth Trust
 Oxfordshire Conservation Conference
 And other meetings concerned with
 Emergency Planning information
 Minerals and Waste Strategy
 OCC's Abingdon Parishes Partnership Working Unit

The Parish Council has had the opportunity to comment on numerous reports (more often than not for Councillors to refer to the web to see the details) and the following are a few examples:

Vale of White Horse DC: New Waste Collection Service
 Oxfordshire County Council

- : Local Transport Plan 3
- : Premium bus route markings
- : Mineral Spatial strategy options for Oxfordshire
- : Transport Strategy LTP3 from 2011 to 2030.
- : Concessionary fares scheme
- : Review of subsidised bus services in the Wantage, Faringdon and Didcot area
- : Revised Household Waste Recycling Centre Strategy for Oxfordshire
- : Residential parking standards

Local Government Boundary Commission for England: Electoral Review of Oxfordshire
 Planning Policy South: Leisure Facilities Consultation

- : South Oxfordshire Core Strategy – review work
- : Leisure Facilities strategy consultation

I have tried to ensure that Councillors are given the time to discuss matters of importance to the Parish and yet ensure meetings are completed by 9.30 pm. But as you can imagine this is a very difficult task, especially when there are so many matters the Councillors wish to comment on.

As I noted at the beginning of my report, the present Council term of office ends tomorrow. Derek Nutt resigned earlier in the year. Guy Rogers, our vice-chairman for the last four years,

Ian Yorston, Joan Dutton have decided not to stand again. I would like to take this opportunity to thank them all for their many contributions to the parish and the council.

Only ten people stood for the eleven Parish Council seats so the election was uncontested.

You will have some continuity as Basil Crowley, Eric Davies, Chris Henderson, Bob Johnston, Lynda Pasquire, Denis Standen, and I carry on for another 4 years and you will have three new councillors: Phyl Howard who is returning to the Council, John Platts, Kayla Tomlinson. One of the new council's first jobs will be to fill the last seat.

I am very grateful for the support I have had from the Councillors and the Clerk, and would like to take this opportunity to thank them for all the help and assistance they have given during the last twelve months. I must also give a public thanks to Radley Guides for their help with delivering Garden Competition leaflets in the village. “

5. FINANCIAL STATEMENT AND REPORT

Cr Crowley, as Chairman of the Finance and Administration Committee reported on this item.

A copy of the Parish Council summary of payment and receipts for 2010/11 had been circulated to the meeting, together with the audited accounts for 2009/10. The following shows the Expenditure and Income of the Parish Council during 2010/11.

Expenditure: As you can see from the table below, the total expenditure (including VAT) for 2010/11/was 52,018.37, compared with £57,948.97 for 2009/10, although there are minor accruals to take into account. The main items of expenditure are:

	2009/2010 £	2010/2011
Administration/IT:	17,328.22	26,071.67
Annual Subscriptions:	643.16	684.52
Donations (including Section 137 payments):	1,100.00	2,560.00
Playing Field Expenditure:	6,665.81	6,638.10
Play Area:	196.00	1,748.92
Conservation:	11,788.03	4,702.97
Car Park:	102.66	64.66
General Maintenance:	5,257.34	4,924.51
Radley Lakes Judicial Review	7,498.93	0
Parish Plan	263.58	2,576.68
Bus shelters	2,477.00	0
VAT	4,628.24	2,046.34
Total:	£57,948.97	52,018.37

Administration: Although the cost of administration has risen, the increase is mainly from the payment of a retirement gratuity to the former clerk. The gratuity was based on a nationally agreed formula according to her 36 years of service and the figures were checked by the National Association of Local Councils.

Donations (including Section 137 payments): The donations given this year are more than 2009/10 but they include a donation of £900 made to Radley Village Shop to help with expenses associated with purchasing the lease of their premises.

Playing Field Expenditure: The playing field expenditure continues at the same level and this really covers the running costs of the sports pavilion and playing field.

Play Area Expenditure: Play area costs have increased because repairs were needed and some parts were replaced. MRH Services undertake a quarterly inspection and PlaySafety (RoSPA) undertake an annual inspection.

Conservation budget: The main spend this year has been on gardening (grass and hedge cutting) and the village cleaner. The Parish Council is very pleased with the excellent job the village cleaner does in keeping the village clear of litter.

General Maintenance: The main spend this year has been on gates between the two fields and fencing to close off the ditch, as well as repairs to the Pavilion guttering. A new noticeboard has been installed at the Lower Radley junction and this is already well used by village organisations.

Parish Plan: The Parish Council has supported the work of the steering committee and expenditure has been funded by significant grants from Oxfordshire Community Foundation, ORCC and Npower.

Income: The balance brought forward for 2010/11 was £105,530.32, the precept received was £49,500, and the remainder of the receipts amounted to £11,199.79. The main receipts were VAT refund (£4,628.24), a refund from Oxfordshire County Council for the new bus shelter and grants to the Parish Plan.

General:

Expenditure was lower than anticipated last year because some of the work planned on Footpath 8 and the Playing Field was carried over to this financial year. Because of that, we estimate that in 2011/12 we will spend £57,265.00 and the precept was set at £50,000. An increase in the number of Band D equivalent properties has meant that the increase in the precept is not reflected in individual council tax payments.

The 2009/10 accounts have been approved by the External Auditor. The 2010/11 external audit starts on the 10th June 2010. The notice setting out the arrangements is on display from the 25th April to 8th May, and the electorate can request to see the records from the 9th May 2010 to 6th June 2010.

We are submitting the accounts and estimates to the meeting for discussion, and if you have any queries please do not hesitate to raise them.

The accounts were accepted by the meeting.

6. REPORTS FROM VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS:

Radley Parish Plan Steering Committee – Report by Kayla Tomlinson, Chair

Radley Parish Plan Steering Committee has had a very successful year. We have held three very interesting and well attended visits to important businesses in the Parish: two farm visits complete with trailer rides and a walking tour of Radley College. We also had canvassing tables at several of the village events: Radley School Christmas Bazaar, the village Christmas Bazaar, the Good Friday Walk and the Village Fete. We also visited the school to talk to the children to elicit their views of the issues concerning the village. The feedback we received from these events gave us quite a bit of information which we then fed into the major survey of the entire Parish which we conducted this February. The forms were given to Emma Morris, Shared Corporate Projects Officer, Community Partnerships Tea, South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils to collate the data via a special computer programme so that we can analyse the outcomes which will then be put into a written, published Parish Plan. We are intending to have this Parish Plan ready for launch sometime this coming autumn, if everything goes to plan!

I would like to thank: my Parish Plan Steering Committee, Radley Parish Council, Oxfordshire Rural Community Council, Vale of White Horse, npower, GrassRoots Grants, John Curtis, Radley College boys for all their help delivering the questionnaires, to everyone who helped to deliver and collect questionnaires, to those who gave willingly of their time and efforts to provide farm and college visits, and last, but not least the two people who have done heroic work: Sally Raven Hemsworth, our secretary, and Eric Davies, my husband, for all their hard work in keeping me sane and on track!

Radley Village Hall – Report by Graham Collett, Chairman

We continue to provide the village with a multi purpose venue for meetings, parties, wedding receptions and now bingo.

To encourage its further use we will be having a brand new kitchen fitted in May. This will include a dual fuel range cooker, ample cupboard space, work top area and new flooring.

All monies raised by the hall are ploughed back into the hall.

A grant from an organisation called WREN who specialise in community funding and a donation of £2000 from the parish council made the kitchen replacement a reality. We have also improved the small committee room and purchased new chairs.

We hope to refurbish the toilets very soon to improve the facilities and then if you factor in roof repairs and redecoration, you can appreciate the amount of money it takes to keep the hall functioning. My committee and I will continue the good work and would welcome all enquires for its hire.

In answer to questions from the floor:

Mr Collet stated that it would not now be financially viable to reinstate the bar.

Val Hicks was now bookings clerk and her contact details were on the website

The Youth Club runs every Monday night from 6.45 to 8.30pm for ages 8 to 14 and there are 45 members. A huge range of activities is run.

It was worth noting that the Youth Club is a member of the Oxfordshire Association for Young People which often sends representatives and has been so impressed with the running of the club that it often sends youth clubs from around the County to see how it operates.

Thanks were recorded to Chris Gasson for all his hard work.

The Parish Plan Steering committee had visited the club and was very impressed.

Friends of Radley Station – Report by Denis Standen (Hon Chairman)

The group has ongoing contact with First Great Western through their area coordinator, Teresa Ceesay, and recently met the new Oxford Station Manager, Matthew Lee.

A recommendation by First Great Western to impose car parking charges was successfully opposed by both the Friends and Radley Parish Council. Overflow parking on Foxborough Road outside the station remains an occasional problem. First Great Western report that land to the south of the Oxford-bound platform is available, and its development for further car parking spaces awaits funding.

First Great Western have assured the Friends that the new footbridge is constructed so as to take a ramp for wheelchair/disabled access to and from the London-bound trains but this also awaits funding.

Last summer, through Teresa Ceesay, the large wooden planters were installed on both platforms, and FGW have also provided a strimmer, which is now in good use on the embankment.

Members of the group meet on Thursday mornings for general maintenance, planting, litter clearance and other tidying up. Occasional graffiti is painted over promptly.

Over the year we have been grateful for generous donations of plants, including 3 climbing roses from John Mattock Roses, formerly of Lodge Hill; bedding plant from Radley College and from our member, Don Jones; bulbs from Steve Baxter of Lower Radle; and perennials from Mrs Winkworth of Kennington, one of our longstanding front garden judges.

I would like to thank all our members who work so hard, Radley Village Shop for occasional proceeds of their donations box, and our treasurer, Lynda Pasquire for keeping track of our finances.

The Friends of Radley Station will always welcome additional helpers either on Thursdays as at present or at times to suit themselves. Please contact us directly or through the Parish Council.

Mike Sadler, Chair of Radley Village Shop Association, presented a verbal report to the Parish Council meeting on Wednesday, 4 May, 2011.

The Village Shop Association wished to thank the Parish Council for its support of the shop, and its generous contribution towards the conveyance costs associated with the purchase of the shop lease. The shop is now paying a mortgage instead of rent, which is approximately the

same cost. Some sterling work by members of the committee has secured a grant that has significantly reduced the mortgage to be paid.

The shop has had another successful year, due to the dedication and commitment of its army of volunteers. The shop is managed by a full-time paid manager, and has one other employee, who is paid a few hours a week to assist with deliveries. The shop having absolutely no storage area, newly delivered supplies have to be loaded straight to the shelves. Nonetheless, the shop still manages to stock a wide range of goods, and consequently attracts and maintains regular custom. Some 60/70 volunteers, without whom the shop could not function, provide the workforce to cover every aspect of the shop's function, including serving at the till and serving on the committee.

The shop AGM will be held in the Church Room at 1430 on Saturday 4 June. We hope that all those that can attend will do so.

In response to questions, it was noted that space is at a premium and this causes some difficulties, even for waste and recycling.

It was also commented that the shop is remarkably clean and organised and is an excellent example of what can be done with limited space.

Friends of Radley Lakes – Report from Ms Lynda Pasquire

Friends of Radley Lakes has continued to support the Northmoor Trust – now renamed as the Earth Trust – in its plans for a Visitor Centre at the Radley Lakes. Our members regularly attend the work parties at Sandles and over the last year have helped with a partial clearance of the site.

Our fund-raising has decreased somewhat for the time being to give those involved a well-earned break for five years of fund-raising during the Save Radley Lakes campaign.

We are also waiting to hear the outcome of the planning application before the Vale of White Horse which, once approved, will give more definition to the plans and the amount of money needed to be raised to ensure the success of the project. We were disappointed to learn the Oxfordshire County Council Highway Department had objected to the Earth Trust's plans for the Visitor Centre on the grounds of increased traffic. One school bus a month is hardly significant grounds compared to the number of lorries that traverse Thrupp Lane every day.

On Saturday 14th May, there will be a chance to visit a unique Wildlife Garden at 17b Park Crescent in Abingdon. Funds raised will be shared between Friends of Radley Lakes and the Abingdon Bridge Project.

There will be a talk on the 18th May at the Peachcroft Centre in association with Abingdon Naturalists Society, which raises awareness of our declining swift populations and how the Radley Lakes helps these migrant birds.

Mr and Mrs M Wilson of 33 Lower Radley are opening their garden for Friends of Radley Lakes on Sunday 3rd July from 2.00pm to 6.00pm when there will be teas, cakes and plants on sale. Proceeds for the new visitor Centre.

The Summer season will see the return of our stall in the market Place in Abingdon, where people can enjoy a flutter on the tombola which provides a steady source of income for the general administration of the Friends of Radley Lakes.

Report by Lynda Pasquire.

Radley News – Report by Ann Blake

I represent Radley News and I am one of the 3 editors. It spreads the load and to date has worked well. We have 31 people or companies advertising at the moment in the News. Our aim is to report on what has happened and inform readers what is going to take place in the near future. Each month we have 360-370 printed. Margaret Lovell, who is in charge of distribution keeps a keen eye on wastage and does alter numbers from time to time. As we run at a loss we may find it necessary to put the monthly cost up come Jan 2012 and/or the cost of advertising.

Our printers Copycat in Drayton, who are very helpful in the layout when necessary, and take a keen interest in the News as they do other work for various people in Radley and have got to know us quite well over the years.

Thanks were given to the Parish Council for its donation.

Reg White had retired from producing covers.

Radley History Club - Report by Mrs Christine Wootton

Radley History Club has had another successful year with any increased membership which now stands at about 80. We have had good attendance at meetings, often with visitors there as well.

The speakers have been of a high standard and very informative. In October we learnt about searching for buried objects through metal detecting. November was a talk by Janet Cumber who talked about old Abingdon. We will be visiting the Marcham Archaeological dig on the Cumber's land in July. December was our traditional Christmas meal at the Bowyer Arms and in January Liz Woolley made a welcome return visit to talk about child labour in 19th century Oxfordshire. February's talk was about soldiers of Oxfordshire and Roseanne Butler who is always very popular as a speaker gave us Part 3 of her talks about Cowley in March.

Members gave very short talks about their own items of historical interest in April and this was very well received and made for a very enjoyable evening.

On July 16th and 17th the club is putting on an exhibition about Farming and families of Radley over the last 400+ years. A book, which documents the story of farms and many families in the village through the years, will be on sale for the first time on that weekend. There will be plenty of publicity about it in the near future and we look forward to seeing lots of people there.

The Chairman commended the Club's publications which were available in the Shop.

Radley Retirement Group Report – Report from Mrs Maureen Varju

Radley Retirement Group continues to thrive and has well over one hundred members. 2010 was a busy year – we had a full programme of interesting and varied speakers at our monthly

meetings as well as numerous trips to places of interest such as Kew Gardens and Gloucester Quays. We arranged a day visit to the seaside at Southsea and an evening trip to the races at Newbury. There were several theatre visits to the New Theatre, Playhouse and Amey Hall. We also found time to hold our anniversary lunch, summer and Christmas parties and holidays on Majorca and at Scarborough and Great Yarmouth. We also enjoyed supporting local village activities such as the Fete and the Christmas Bazaar.

We appear to be giving our members the activities they want as the regular attendance at our monthly meetings is around seventy and we hope this success will continue long into the future.

Radley Lunch Club Report 2011- Report from Mrs Dot Hewlett

Radley Lunch Club is run by volunteers and it was set up to provide a cooked lunch for people who might be on their own and would welcome an opportunity to have a social meal. It has proved very successful with members meeting and making new friends. It is not now restricted to single people we do have some married couples.

Inevitably due to age of the members we have lost some members but we have also gained some. We have always had about 30 members which is the right number for the venue.

Meals are provided by Long Furlong School except for August when it is the school holidays. We were very fortunate last year in having Sue Crabb to provide us with an excellent meal. Our Christmas meal comes from Long Furlong but pudding is provided by Mary Blanks. We are restricted by Health and Safety rules to be able to do more than this.

We had our usual stall at Radley Christmas Bazaar to enable us to pay our rent.

Radley Cricket Club - Report from Richard Ivimey-Cook:

The village cricket club had a season of consolidation in 2010, with both teams finishing in the top half of their respective divisions. Although at one stage both teams looked to have a chance of promotion, a series of injuries mid-season put paid to that. The club has put a lot of effort into recruiting players and starts the season with a number of new additions, which gives us a good chance of a successful 2011. As usual, we would like to thank Radley College for providing excellent pitches and facilities and our umpires for the time they give up to support the club.

Radley Bellringers

The bell ringers at St James the Great meet every Sunday morning at 10.15 to ring for the Family service at 11.00, we also meet for practice on Thursdays between 1930 and 2100. As well as the Radley ringers, we are supported on both Sundays and Thursdays by other ringers from neighbouring churches.

In the past year we have gained several new members, Lyn and Charlie returning to ringing after an absence of some years and providing welcome assistance with both service ringing and practices, plus three new learners, Edward, Oliver and Sam who are all progressing well.

Over the last year we have rung for various weddings which were celebrated at the church, including a peal of 1260 changes for the Royal Wedding on Friday 29th April.

The ringers hosted the 'Radley Course' in April. This course is organised by the Oxford Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers and provides tutorage to ringers from across the diocese in various

aspects of bell ringing. Radley is used as the base for the tutor groups and for refreshments; and, together with other towers in the district, practical sessions. Ringers from across the Diocese attended this year, together with tutors and numerous helpers. Radley lady ringers provided the evening refreshments.

On Monday 2nd May the local churches across the old North Berkshire area hosted the Diocesan Guilds Ringing Day, with twenty nine bell towers open during the day for ringers from across the Diocese to visit. As well as being open for ringing, Radley also provided refreshments courtesy of the ladies again.

Radley Village Website Working Party - Report by Basil Crowley

Over the year the various members of the working party (John and Joyce Huddleston, Lynda Pasquire, Ian Yorston and Basil Crowley) have continued their allotted tasks in maintain the various pages of the village website. These include:

- Providing a photographic record of the year in Radley and key annual events such as the Good Friday Walk, Garden Competition, Flower Show and Summer Fete
- Chronicling, by means of reports and photographs, the work with the Earth Trust (formerly the Northmoor Trust) in developing the area around Thrupp Lake as a nature conservation area for all to enjoy
- Detailing the ups and downs in the battle with Oxfordshire County Council to stop more gravel being extracted in Radley
- Publicising the work of the Parish Plan committee
- Maintaining a calendar of events in Radley and a record of some of those events on the Memories pages.
- Validating and uploading photographs of wildlife taken in Radley submitted by members of the public to the natural history pages. The object here is to compile a comprehensive largely photographic record of wildlife in Radley with at least one (good) photograph of each identified species. Nearly 120 photographs of mostly new species were posted in the past year bringing the total to over 600 photographed species.
- Maintaining a detailed species list of the Radley Lakes by collating observations from individuals and groups. The list currently stands at nearly 1600 species.
- Publishing the agendas and minutes of Parish Council meetings
- Acting as a source of information on Radley organisations, places and facilities
- Providing practical information on topics such as the new household waste collection system, local services, village facility bookings etc.

The working party members also deal with emails from members of the public. These cover topics such as booking requests for the village hall, footpaths, sighting of birds and other flora and fauna, camp sites, bed and breakfast accommodation, swimming lessons and gravel pits. Requests for information about Radley and people in days gone by are generally referred to Radley History Club. One such request in January this year was from someone living in France who had been evacuated to Radley for a short period in 1940/41.

What is disappointing is the poor response generally from people in the village to send information in for the website and the decline in the number of visitors to the site now that Radley is no longer in the headlines with the Save Radley Lakes campaign. Statistics tell us that the site received an average of 323 unique visitors (counted as IP addresses) per month over the year, with an average rate of 311 hits per day. Visitor numbers have dropped still further in the first four months of 2011 to an average of 195 per month and the daily hit rate

to around 140. Of note is the fact that the natural history pages and Radley Lakes species data pages are always at or near the top of the list of most frequently visited pages. So while the website may not be getting as many visitors as the working party would like, it is providing a valuable record of life in Radley and acting as an important publicity vehicle for the village.

So, if you have any stories about significant happenings in Radley, please send them in. You can also advertise forthcoming events in the Events Calendar.

Future plans include exploring the use of social networking sites such as Facebook and Twitter to encourage more people to use the website.

Other reports:

A report from Radley Village Primary School is attached as an appendix to the minutes. It was commented that people would like to see school information on the website.

Radley Guides' report is attached as an appendix to the minutes. Guider Wendy Faulkner reported that there were 21 guides, with 2 on the waiting list.

County Councillor Fatemian's report was not available to the meeting but is appended to the minutes.

The Chairman thanked all the groups which provided a report. It was good to hear that the village was so busy and that people are involved in so many different activities.

7. ITEMS RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC:

- (a) **RADLEY FOOTBALL CLUB:** It was disappointing that the Football Club has not submitted a report.
- (b) **LAND BY THE BOWYER ARMS:** It was reported that the Parish Council had recently been in contact with Greene King and the Council would this follow up by asking that they tidy up the area.
- (c) **LITTER BIN:** A request was made for the litter bin by the Foxborough Road bus stop. The Council would contact the District Council.
- (d) **OVERHANGING BRANCHES:** It was reported that the branches of a Euclyptus tree at a house in Church Road were obstructing power lines.
- (e) **EARTH TRUST:** Alexis Pym presented the Trust's plans for the proposed Wetland Centre and invited the meeting's views on the drawings and leaflet. There was to be a celebration on 17th June which members of the Parish Council would attend.
The Trust was looking at ecology. Trees were planted in the Spring. Many new and exciting species had been spotted in and around the lakes.
Dogs were allowed on the circular walk if under close control, particularly in the nesting season.
PCSOs were visiting regularly and volunteer wardens were on site daily.

The Chairman thanked members of the public for attending the Annual Parish Meeting.

Date:
Chairman