

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF RADLEY PARISH
COUNCIL HELD ON FRIDAY, 7 MAY 2010, AT 7.30 PM IN THE CHURCH
ROOM, RADLEY.**

Those present included: Cr J Standen (in the Chair)
Crs Crowley, Davies, Dutton, Henderson, Pasquire, D
Standen, Yorston
County Councillor Fatemian
Eleven members of the public

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Messrs Ivimey-Cook, Nutt and Rogers and Mrs Pat Earl.

2. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on the 9 May 2009, which had been circulated to the meeting, were approved and signed by the Chairman.

3. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF MINUTES

- (a) **USE OF DOUBLE DECKER BUSES:** The Oxford Bus Company had reported that the double decker buses were kept as a spare option if needed. The weight was just the same as a single-decker, but in fact fuel economy pressures meant that the newer ones were more likely to be lighter.
- (b) **FOOTPATH 8 – SIGN INDICATING PRIORITY FOR PEDESTRIANS:** It was noted that a sign indicating that pedestrians had right of way had been ordered and should be installed shortly.
- (c) **STREET LIGHT POLLUTION:** It was reported that the lights of the all-weather pitch had been turned off earlier recently.
- (d) **THRUPP LANE – SPEED OF TRAFFIC:** The Parish Council had had no feedback from the police, although the police were patrolling the area regularly following a motorcyclist problem.
- (e) **PATH BY CEMETERY/BEAGLES KENNELS:** The bank had been cleared by the Parish Council when the area was particularly muddy and hazardous for pedestrians. Oxfordshire Highways had been asked several times to do the work, had agreed to do it but this had never happened.
- (f) **TREES BY LOWER RADLEY CARAVAN PARK:** It had not been possible to find out who had cut the trees back, leaving the cuttings over the road, although Oxfordshire Highways had looked into the matter.
- (g) **FOOTPATH 8 – CONDITION OF NEW TARMAC PATH:** The path was due to be resurfaced across the whole width at any time. The firm who had undertaken the work was paying for the resurfacing of one half, and the Parish Council had decided to meet the cost of the other half.

- (h) **SPEED LIMIT – REPEATER SIGNS:** Repeater signs cannot be installed where there was not a 30 mph speed limit, such as Sugworth Lane.

4. CHAIRMAN’S STATEMENT ON THE WORK OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

Cr Jenny Standen reported that it had been another busy year at the Parish Council during her third year as Chairman – we had not only been coping with the work of the Parish Council but had also had to find a successor to our Clerk, Sally Raven, who was retiring after 36 years in post. She indicated that she could not speak too highly of the Parish Council’s indebtedness to Sally over all these years, and she knew that this sentiment was echoed by the many Councillors, past and present, that she had served. She had encyclopaedic knowledge of the procedures for almost any eventuality, allied to a background of the recent history of our village. Indeed Cr Standen felt that although Sally did not live in the village, she was truly a member of our community. And we must not forget the great support both she and we receive from her husband, Les, who had given so much time and effort to recording the features of Radley as a keen and expert photographer. She hoped they would both continue to spend time with us in their retirement when they would always be welcome.

A lot of the Parish Council’s energy had been taken up with planning issues on which she reported last year, although a number of other items had engaged us. However, she indicated that she would start with planning so you could appreciate the problems we were having:

- 1. Planning Applications:** Over the twelve months from April 2009, the Parish Council had been consulted and responded on 22 planning applications, one more than last year. With respect to domestic planning applications, the Council had observed that, increasingly, greater densities were being approved by the District Council as it attempted to fulfil the house building targets passed down from central government via the South East Region and the County. This meant that the Parish Council’s opposition to high density projects was regularly over-ridden, as we endeavoured to keep the rural nature of our village. However we were fully aware of the need for the village to grow – but at a carefully regulated pace – to keep up full use of our primary school, post office and Village Shop, and to bring in more people to contribute to these and our many voluntary groups.

The other planning matters which had been discussed related to:

- (a) **Tuckwells:** The Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) turned down Tuckwells’ application for a Certificate of Lawful Existing Use and Development (CLEUD) to allow the firm to continue activity on the site. Since then the OCC had been considering the enforcement action it would take about the continuation of the business on the site down Thrupp Lane following the refusal of the planning application for its extension. The Parish Council and the Thrupp Lane Residents

Association had continually pressed for action over the last twelve months and the Parish Council was horrified that enforcement action had still not been taken. In addition, Tuckwells' had submitted a revised CLEUD application which now had to be considered in detail. Because of the importance the Parish Council placed on returning this land to the Green Belt, it had decided that it must again obtain legal advice to ensure it took all the necessary steps to prevent the CLEUD being granted.

- (b) Tarmac Ltd, who had been granted a CLEUD a few years ago, had undertaken major construction work on its site in Thrupp Lane. It had been confirmed with the Vale of White Horse District Council that this was legal under the terms of the CLEUD, but the Parish Council was disturbed by the number of vehicle movements this allowed along Thrupp Lane.

Oxfordshire Highways had stated that Thrupp Lane was a failed road, and the Parish Council felt 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.

- (c) Sand and Gravel Extraction: The Parish Council had recently been represented at a consultation meeting held by Oxfordshire County Council which indicated that Radley was being put forward as one of the options for Gravel Extraction. The Parish Council was dismayed at this, and was working out how to deal with this when the formal consultation commenced.
- (d) There was still concern about the lack of consultation with Parish Councils in relation to Goods Vehicle Operators Licences. This concern was a national one and the National Association of Local Councils was pressing for a change in the regulations. Unfortunately, it would take time to get change introduced but at least there was national support for the Parish Council's concerns.

The Parish Council continued to work closely with the Thrupp Lane Residents Association on issues relating to Thrupp Lane, and valued their input in the "fight" to return Thrupp Lane to a highway safe for residents, pedestrians and cyclists.

- 2. **Highway Matters:** The Chairman reported what she could only repeat what she had reported last year. The position was bad before the extremely cold and snowy winter period, and now the roads and footways had deteriorated much further. Over the last twelve months, the Parish Council had continually drawn attention to the problems experienced. Since the winter, our County Councillor had toured the Parish with a member of staff from Oxfordshire Highways and, although a few potholes had been filled, the position was still bad and

in some cases hazardous, particularly to cyclists and motorcyclists. The Parish Council had been told that Church Road was going to be resurfaced in the summer, but it was not certain what type of resurfacing was envisaged.

Oxfordshire Highways now had a new contractor, WS Atkins, and had reassured the Parish Council that work would be done quicker and better than it had been done in the past. It would be necessary to wait and see, but she assured the parishioners that the Parish Council would continue to pressurize for improvements.

The Parish Council had been trying to ascertain why the route of the 35 Bus Service was not gritted or salted during the winter, especially as this was a premium route. It was understood that a report was expected from the Oxfordshire County Council on this.

Following discussions between residents who lived around the Sugworth Lane/Sunningwell Turn on the A4183, the Oxfordshire County Council had agreed that the speed along the A4183 should be 50 mph. This would be introduced later this year.

3. **Radley Lakes:** The Judicial Review was concluded in May and RWE Npower and the OCC agreed not to ask the Parish Council to pay their costs. More details on the finances relating to the Judicial Review would be given in the Financial Report. The Parish Council was extremely grateful for the additional work the Clerk had undertaken during the period Thrupp Lake had been threatened. Crs Crowley and Pasquire had also undertaken a tremendous amount of work during the same period as had Save Radley Lakes, and without this additional input it is doubtful that the outcome would have been so good for the Parish.

4. **Radley Lakes Wetland Centre:** After some of the disappointing news in relation to Planning and Potholes, Cr Standen indicated that the news about this project was good and exciting. Northmoor Trust, who had been given a lease for twenty-five years by RWE Npower to run and develop this site as a Wetland Centre, had been extremely active on site over the last few months. Harry Barton, the Chief Executive of the Northmoor Trust, was an extremely enthusiastic leader and this was generated to all who work with him. Radley Parish Council, Abingdon Town Council and the District Council were represented on a Management Committee and formed part of the decision-making body on what developments were going to be pursued. At the moment there was talk about the provision of a Visitors' Centre and whether Sandles could be adapted or whether a new building would be needed; the building of a small lily-shaped shelter; other landowners were being approached to see if they would join in the plans for a Wetland Centre; there were regularly community work days when members of the public were encouraged to join in and do work on the site; and shortly there would be a person from Northmoor Trust in regular attendance at the site. It was very

stimulating and encouraging after the long fight which took place to retain Thrupp Lake.

5. **Village Hall Provision:** No further action had been taken on the replacement of the village hall, but it was hoped that the Radley Parish Plan Steering Committee would ensure that this subject formed part of the questionnaire which would be going to all households in the Parish. However, the Parish Council had agreed to be responsible for refurbishing the kitchen area of the existing village hall. It had set aside £2,000 towards this project, and would be raising money through WREN.
6. **Sports Pavilion, Playing Field and Play Area:** Both these facilities continued to be extremely well used. The Flygt Pumps had been upgraded to stop the blockages experienced over the last couple of years. Radley College had been contracted to cut the grass on the Playing Field, and Berinsfield Community Services looked after the gardening in the area, and this had been working well. Some new fencing had been agreed at the back of the village hall which would improve the area considerably, and fencing was going to be put up by the ditch at both sides of the Sports Pavilion to restrict access to the ditch. A new picnic table had been installed in the Play Area to replace a metal seat, and hopefully would be a bonus to this already well used area.

The No Dogs policy on the Playing Field had been questioned by dog walkers, but the Parish Council decided that it must stick to its previous policy of No Dogs, unless exceptions had been agreed.

7. **Police Matters:** In recent months the Parish had been looked after by PC Carl Bryant and his PCSOs and, although Radley was considered a low crime area, the Parish Council had concerns which it continued to raise with the police. One of the on-going problems was the use of Footpath 9 by motorcyclists. The police patrolled this area regularly but had problems as they were on bicycles! Local landowners had been asked to inform the police when motorcyclists were using the area but it was going to be difficult for the PCSOs to intercept the motorcyclists

Councillor Eric Davies continued to represent the Parish Council on the Neighbourhood Advisory Group (NAG), and this was a good forum to push for change.

Speeding continued to be of great concern, particularly along the Kennington Road, Foxborough Road, Church Road, Lower Radley and Sugworth Lane. The police and Oxfordshire County Council dido regular speed checks in these areas and a recent speed exercise led to 15 tickets being issues. Some of the culprits were local people who should be fully aware of the concerns felt by other residents about speeding in these areas.

8. **Conservation:** The Parish Council continued to have regular discussions on conservation matters, and the items which had come up throughout the year were:

- **Conservation Working Party (Nature):** It was hoped to launch plans to develop a community landscape character statement for Radley. These would be announced shortly.
- **Tree Planting:** Tree planting throughout the Parish was going to be reviewed in the summer to ascertain where any further planting could take place. It was generally felt that the Parish Council should avoid planting trees on the bend at Whites Lane, but other sites would be found to replace the two trees knocked down. Parishioners were asked to let the Parish Council know if they had any ideas where tree planting could take place.
- **Litter:** There were still problems with litter but there was good contact with the Environment Warden at the Vale of White Horse DC when there was a problem which could not be dealt with by our Village Cleaner. Mr Hugh Rogerson continued to do a very good job on his regular trips through the main village, and the Parish Council was very grateful for his continuing help. During the year, the District Council provided a dog bin by the entrance to Footpath 8 Whites Lane/Foxborough Road end of the village, and a litter bin had been provided for the Car Park in Church Road.
- **The Annual Garden Competition** was continuing for its fourteenth year and was being held on Saturday, 3 July 2010. The weather was not very sympathetic to the gardens last year as there had been an extremely hot and dry period before the competition. However, this continued to be a very successful event, and was looked forward to each year.
- **Village of the Year Competition:** Unfortunately Radley was not shortlisted in the 2009 competition, which was the last competition of this nature. For 2010, the Oxfordshire Rural Community Council (ORCC) asked for Village Surveys to show vibrant rural communities, and the Parish Council had submitted this for Radley. In addition, it had sent off details of two exceptional features of the Parish - the Village Shop and the Youth Club – for a special event which had been set up to for the ORCC's 90th birthday celebrations.
- **Village Pond:** The new fencing around the village pond had improved the area considerably. This area was looked after by pupils from Radley College and was used as a wildlife area by the pupils at the Radley Primary School.
- **Footpaths in the Parish:** Although Footpath 8 had been widened the surface of the path had deteriorated very quickly. Arrangements had now been made for the whole width of the path to be re-tarmaced and this should be happening during May.

- The allotments in Radley, both those owned by the Parish Council and those privately owned, were fully used with long waiting lists. Local landowners were being approached to see whether there was any other land in the Parish which could be used for allotments.

9. **Website:** The Parish Website Working Party had looked at the accessibility of the Parish Website and some improvements had been made. Compliments had been made about the ease of access to the Radley village website, and it was being used as a model by other Parishes. Please follow Parish Council activities through the website. It was essential that you use the website and let us have your views on matters relating to the Parish. The website address is www.radleyvillage.org.uk

10. **Other Matters:** One of the big changes which had taken place was that most documents the Parish Council were consulted on now arrived electronically or the Parish Council was referred to the appropriate website. This was very difficult for those who like to sit comfortably to read a document, but it obviously saved trees and financial resources.

The Chairman indicated that she had really only mentioned a few of the matters discussed by the Parish Council, and highlighted the following to give a flavour of some of the others:

- **Parish Plan:** A more detailed report will be given by the Radley Parish Plan Steering Group. The Chairman indicated that the Parish Council was delighted that the community decided to form a group to prepare such a Plan. The Parish Council felt that there was a need for such a Plan but nationally it was felt that the initiative had to come from the community not the Parish Council. However, there were Councillors on the Steering Group and the Parish Council had regular updates on its work.
- **Bus Shelters:** Two new bus shelters had been provided this year. The OCC provided the one by Radley College on the Oxford bound side of Kennington Road, and the Parish Council provided the one on the Oxford bound side of Foxborough Road, although it obtained a 50% grant from the OCC.
- **Community Notice Board:** After an appeal for anyone willing to build a notice board for the community, a notice board was donated by Mr Peter Gore. This had now been renovated and would be installed shortly near to one of the seats at the Lower Radley/Foxborough Road/Church Road junction. This would be an open notice board for anyone to pin notices on – The Chairman hoped it would be used well by the community.
- **Unsung Heroes of the Vale:** The Parish Council was delighted to nominate, at the request of the Chairman of the DC, several people

from the Parish as Unsung Heroes – Graham Steinberg, Dot Hewlett and Chris and Brenda Gasson.

- The Parish Council continued to be consulted on numerous reports from the Oxfordshire County Council, Vale of White Horse District Council, Oxfordshire Partnership, Communities and Local Government, South-East England Regional Assembly, Oxfordshire Primary Care Trust, Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils, to name a few! Details of all the reports and correspondence received were shown in the Parish Council minutes.

The Parish Council was delighted with the success of the Village Shop and the way the Friends of Radley Station were looking after the Railway Station – congratulations were given to both groups. The Parish Council was very concerned about the possibility that car park charges would be introduced at railway stations. It had objected strongly to the idea, and it knew that the Friends of Radley Station were equally annoyed at the suggestion.

The Chairman indicated that she was very grateful for the support she had received from the Councillors and the Clerk over the last twelve months, and would like to take this opportunity to thank them for all the help and assistance they have given during the last twelve months. As mentioned earlier, Sally was retiring at the end of this month after a very long stint as our Clerk and this was the final meeting she would service for the Parish Council. Her successor, Mrs Jane Dymock, was here this evening, and the Parish Council was looking forward to working with her.

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 2009/2010 had been circulated to the meeting, together with the audited accounts for 2008/2009. The following showed the Expenditure and Income of the Parish Council during 2009/2010:

Expenditure: The total expenditure (including VAT) for 2009/2010 was £57,948.97, compared with £66,217.52 for 2008/2009, although there were minor accruals to take into account. The main items of expenditure are:

	2008/2009 £	2009/2010 £
Administration/IT:	12,320.11	17,328.22
Annual Subscriptions:	637.45	5,643.16
Donations (including Section 137 payments):	1,050.00	1,100.00
Playing Field Expenditure:	5,769.62	6,665.81
Play Area:	3,935.60	196.00

Conservation:	17,953.17	11,742.63
Car Park:	1,035.68	102.66
General Maintenance:	1,931.91	5,257.34
Radley Lakes – Judicial Review	14,416.27	7,498.93
Total:	£66,217.52	£57,948.97

Administration: Although the cost of administration continued to rise, the increases were mainly in the salary of the Clerk. The main difference, as explained last year, was the regrading of the Clerk with an increase in her hours from 12 to 15 hours a week.

Donations (including Section 137 payments): The donations given this year were only £50 more than 2008/2009. For 2010/2011, the Parish Council had decided to allow £2,000 for its donations.

Playing Field Expenditure: The playing field expenditure continued at the same level and this really covered the running costs of the sports pavilion and playing field. The main increases were due to a rent increase and an increased cost of the services (gas/electricity/water). The Parish Council had now changed the provider for gas and electricity to one provider and was hopeful of a reduction in costs over the next financial year. This would be kept under review.

Play Area Expenditure: The only costs incurred in 2009/2010 were the play area inspections. MRH Services undertook a quarterly inspection and PlaySafety (RoSPA) undertook an annual inspection.

Conservation budget: The main spend this year had been on the new fencing for the village pond, gardening, and the village cleaner.

General Maintenance: The main spend had been on the problems with the Flygt pump at the Sports Pavilion and the cost of replacing the two pumps. It was also necessary to replace parts of the fencing around the Play Area because of vandalism – unfortunately this was not covered by the Parish Council’s insurance.

Income: The balance brought forward for 2009/2010 was £77,947.29, the precept received was £49,500, and the remainder of the receipts amounted to £36,032. The main receipts were VAT refund (£6,878.24), grants from TOE/DC for the widening of Footpath 8 the previous year (£12,000) and the contributions towards the Judicial Review (£11,000 from Save Radley Lakes, £500 from Kennington Parish Council and £3,565 from Abingdon Town Council).

General:

Although the summary of expenditure and income showed that the estimated spend for 2010/2011 would be £71,934.42 with a precept of £49,500, the Parish Council felt justified in not increasing the precept because of the balances it held. However the Parish Council could not continue to run its balance down and would need to maintain a healthy reserve towards future projects. Therefore a modest increase in the precept seemed likely for next year.

The total cost of the Judicial Review amounted to £21,515.20, but because it received £15,090 in contributions, the cost to the electors of Radley was £6,425.20.

Some of the reserves had been transferred to expenditure for 2010/2011 as the Parish Council needed to meet the cost of the gratuity the Clerk would receive on her retirement. The gratuity was based on a nationally agreed formula and currently the figures were being checked by the National Association of Local Councils.

The 2008/2009 accounts had been approved by the External Auditor. The 2009/2010 external audit started on the 11 June 2010. The notice setting out the arrangements was on display until the 9 May 2010, and the electorate could request to see the records from the 10 May 2010 to 7 June 2010.

The accounts and estimates were accepted by the meeting.

6. REPORTS FROM VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS

The following groups gave a verbal or written report to the meeting:

- Friends of Radley Station
- Radley Cricket Club
- Radley Flower Show
- Radley History Club
- Radley Lunch Club
- Radley News
- Radley Parish Plan Steering Group
- Radley Primary School
- Radley Retirement Group
- Radley Village Community Shop
- Radley Women's Institute
- Save Radley Lakes
- Women's Fellowship

The reports are attached as an appendix to the Minutes.

7. ITEMS RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

- (a) **LITTER:** It was considered that more needed to be done to reduce the litter problem throughout the Parish. Reference was made about the litter along Footpath 8, and the need to provide litter bins at each bus stop. In addition, dog bins were needed on Woodlands and on the path through to Pebble Hill.

- (b) **SPEED OF TRAFFIC:** The possibility of a 20 mph scheme in Radley was raised. It was noted that an application had been made for a 20 mph scheme in Lower Radley.
- (c) **POLICE:** It was felt that there was a lack of feedback from the Police. Particular reference was made to a break-in at Longmead and incidents along Thrupp Lane.
- (d) **HIGHWAY MATTERS:** Concerns were expressed about the condition of the drains in Foxborough Road and bad areas, such as potholes at the Whites Lane junction. The County Councillor outlined the action being taken by Oxfordshire Highways following pressure by him.
- (e) **PATH BY CEMETERY/BEAGLES KENNELS:** It was reported that the bank was encroaching on the path and needed clearing back.
- (f) **CLEARANCE OF GLASS ON BANK BY ALLOTMENTS:** Although this had been reported to the DC Environmental Department the broken glass was still there and being hidden by growing grass.
- (g) **FOOTPATH 8 – CONDITION OF NEW TARMAC PATH:** It was reported that the new surface was deteriorating.
- (h) **SPEED LIMIT – REPEATER SIGNS:** There was a request for repeater signs along Sugworth Lane.

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

Date:
Chairman

REPORTS FROM LOCAL ORGANISATIONS IN RADLEY

FRIENDS OF RADLEY STATION: We are a well-established group of friends having a good rapport with OCC through Adrian Saunders, and also with Teresa Ceesay of First Great Western. Goodwill and help of all sorts has been gratefully received by Friends of Radley Station (FRS). Climbing rose trees were donated by Robert Mattocks Roses, together with other individual anonymous gifts, and these are now planted in fresh soil. Our numbers have increased, some of us meeting on Thursday mornings for gardening, watering, litter picking, or train spotting. These sessions can occasionally be on other weekdays and we are always pleased to welcome anyone interested in any capacity to help with our tasks. A noticeboard is installed at the entrance to the station for a wide variety of local information, taxi firms, etc. Geoff Capes, the Oxford Station Manager, has entered Radley into a National Rail Award “small station” category and some money is to come our way for further planting projects.

Not all is well though! The 40 spaces marked out for parking is already inadequate, and plans are not under way to increase parking spaces immediately. The mention of parking meters horrifies the FRS. This would lead to displacement of cars, and subsequent parking in nearby streets, while a pay machine would invite the opportunist criminal.

Report by Denis Standen

RADLEY CRICKET CLUB: Radley Cricket Club had a somewhat mixed season, with the first XI being relegated from division 3 of the Oxfordshire Cricket Association league, whilst the second XI, in only their second season, were promoted as champions of division 11 (a significant improvement the previous season where we were second bottom). With the new season just started, we are looking forward to both teams being successful this year, having added a few new players. We are extremely grateful to Radley College for providing facilities and support, including excellent pitches, throughout the season.

Report by Mr Richard Ivimey-Cook, Secretary to Radley Cricket Club

RADLEY FLOWER COMMITTEE: The Flower Show is held on the same day as the Village Fete. Details of the Flower Show are put around in Radley news and at various places around the Parish. It is a week earlier this year, on the 19th June, because of problems of borrowing trestle tables from Radley College. It is very much hoped that people will enter the various categories to make it a good show.

Report by Ann Blake

RADLEY HISTORY CLUB: During the last year the club has had some excellent speakers and our knowledge of Radley and its surrounding area has greatly increased. Members are always encouraged to share their interests with the club and there have been opportunities for them to do so. Visits to the St Thomas’ district in Oxford, Nuneham Courtenay and Lower Radley have been well attended and enjoyed. A supper in December at the Bowyer Arms provided a pleasant opportunity for members to get to know one another.

Robert Sephton completed his book about the history of Oxford University Golf Club and this is now on sale. Radley History club has an impressive list of publications and

there is a steady sale of these often through the internet. The projects sub-committee are hoping to have a booklet, which they have been working on, ready for the Radley Fete, which is entitled *Roads in and around Radley*. The big project though, which is ongoing at the moment and which we hope will be ready for next year is the one about farming and rural life in Radley over the last 400 years. I am pleased that over 20 members of the club and others are contributing articles for a book, which is being written as part of the project. The club has an exceptional set of archives with Stan Baker as the hard-working archivist and we are extremely fortunate in this respect. Radley History Club now has over 70 members and we are always happy to welcome new members and guests. The club usually meets on the second Monday of each month in the village schoolroom at 7.30 p.m. More details can be found on the club's website and in Radley News.

Report by Mrs Christine Wootton, Chairman of Radley History Club

RADLEY LUNCH CLUB: The Lunch Club continues to thrive. We still average about 30 members each month and they seem to enjoy meeting friends and having a good cooked lunch at a reasonable price. We were fortunate in August when the school was closed to have a very good meal catered for us by Margaret Lovell and Maureen Hill. However this is not possible on a regular basis. We had our usual stall at the Village Hall Christmas Bazaar which helps our funds to pay for the rent of the Church Room.

Report by Dot Hewlett, Radley Lunch Club Organiser

RADLEY NEWS: The three editors of Radley News, Elizabeth Handscomb, Judy Harris and Ann Blake, have been doing the job of editing since October last year and hope that we are proving satisfactory. Margaret Lovell is in charge of the distribution and has been fine-tuning the numbers given out to Radley Village Shop, the Post Office, the Church and Martins at Peachcroft, so that we have as little wastage as possible. We are very grateful to all the distributors who rush round at the beginning of each month making sure that everyone is "informed" as soon as possible. We are always on the lookout for advertising and have gained some new ones but have also lost one or two. We are also happy to have one-off advertising if anyone is interested. We have set up an e-mail address which is being used very successfully and can be found on the front of the magazine. We would be happy to receive feedback, positive or negative and any ideas for items to be included in the magazine as long as a name, telephone and/or address is included.

Report by Ann Blake, Editor of Radley News

RADLEY PARISH PLAN STEERING GROUP: The Steering Group has been meeting monthly since May 2009, and members have attended training sessions organized by the ORCC. It has been collecting views on what people/children feel is needed in the Parish, and have been organizing various activities in the Parish, such as Trailer Rides around Peachcroft Farm and Lower Farm, and visits to Radley College, to make people aware of our activities. There are regular reports on how the Parish Plan is proceeding in Radley News and on the Blog through Radley Village website.

Report by Kayla Tomlinson, Chairman

RADLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL: The school currently has 95 children on roll from Reception to Year Six and a further 45 children in the Foundation Stage Unit. Children are taught in four classes, the FSU which takes children from 2 ½ years old, Cherwell Class (Year One/Two), Isis Class (Year Three and Four) and Thames Class

(Year Five/Six). The school is currently fully subscribed in all year groups apart from Year Five.

In November 2009 the school was inspected by Ofsted and was judged to be good. *“The school provides a good education, and is improving rapidly. Parents are strongly supportive of the school, and particularly value the leadership of the head teacher. She has secured what one parent described as ‘a dramatic improvement over the last two years’, during a fairly turbulent period. She is supported well by governors and staff. Attainment has risen and is now well above average. All pupils, including those with special educational needs and/or disabilities, make good academic progress and their personal development and behaviour are good. All aspects of provision have improved, because of effective planning, based on an accurate evaluation of the work of the school. The school is well placed to continue to improve.”*

The school achieved an ‘outstanding’ rating in the local authority Health and Safety Audit and the local authority Audit of Educational Inclusion concluded that *“overall provision is good and there is good capacity for sustained improvement.”*

Curriculum: There have been many exciting and interesting aspects to the curriculum planning for this year. The two-year rolling programme ensures that children experience different topics as they move through the school, and links are made between subjects as appropriate. Through the year we have three curriculum focus weeks – in the Autumn Term we had an Eco-week including working alongside the Northmoor Trust, in the Spring Term our focus for Science Week was Space, where the children were able to visit a mobile planetarium and we are currently planning an Arts Week for the Summer Term where we will be going round the world in a week! In addition to these themed weeks the curriculum has been enhanced by a wide range of trips and visitors relating to our work in different subjects. Visits have been made to Corinium Roman Museum, Chiltern Open Air Museum, Oxford Playhouse Pantomime, the Oxford Literary Festival, the River and Rowing Museum and many other exciting places. Two residential visits take place in the Summer Term, and in Summer 2009 children from Thames class visited Woodlands in Ross-on-Wye, while Isis Class visited Court Hill Hostel near Wantage.

Extra-curricular activities: There are a rich range of after-school and lunchtime activities in school, including Latin, Cake Decorating, Dance, ICT and Multi-skills. There have been a number of charity events including a Cake Sale following the Haiti Earthquake, a collection for Sightsavers and a shoebox appeal for families in Romania. The school has also participated in a number of sporting events including cross country in the Autumn Term and Cluster Sports with other local schools in the Summer. More recently the school team won the Small Schools Football Tournament and the Netball Team have progressed to County Finals.

Links with the church: The school had a successful SIAS (Church) Inspection in November.

“Radley is a very good church school where excellent relationships together with the Christian ethos and values guide the daily life of the school. The children’s positive attitude to learning and behaviour is a great asset, and the school plays a key role in the life of the village community.”

There are regular church services including the Easter Service and Christmas Nativity Service. Another highlight of this year was the Foundation Stage Wedding conducted by Rev. Pam McKellen as part of the youngest children's learning about celebrations. Some fabulous photos of the occasion can be found on the school website, along with many other photos of school life, at <http://www.radley-pri.oxon.sch.uk/>. Children also take part in regular Godly Play sessions.

Developments: In May 2009 the new Foundation Stage Unit and school offices were officially opened. Since then the refurbishment of the Old School has also been completed, with installation of new computers and it is now fully utilised. Our website is kept well updated and is a rich source of information about school life, and we have launched the Kaleidos Learning Platform which is another means of engaging pupils and parents in learning activities. Our current areas for development are the Foundation Stage Garden and the building of a new staffroom and kitchen area to maximise use of space.

I have been Acting Head teacher at Radley Primary School since February, and have thoroughly enjoyed my time here so far. This report is just a snapshot of the extensive range of activities the school is involved with and I have no doubt missed many things out. However it should give a flavour of the dedication of the staff team and the enthusiasm of the children who participate in all areas of school life with gusto.

Report by Linda Hull, Acting Head teacher

RADLEY RETIREMENT GROUP: The Radley Retirement Group is open to fully and semi-retired people over 50 who live in the ecclesiastical parish of Radley. Our current membership is 107. Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of the month. At the meetings we have a speaker and many subjects are covered, some serious and some not. There is a monthly outing to many varied venues, theatre trips both to the West End and to local shows and we have two or three holidays a year. Last year our speakers' topics included 'The versatility of sheepskin', 'Running from land's End to John O'Groats by a 61 year old', 'Rudolph Hess', 'The history of Waitrose', 'The Life of a TV cameraman' by a young lady and many more. Theatre trips included Sweeney Todd and Anything Goes by Abingdon Operatic and an eventful trip to see Billy Elliot in London which was stopped halfway through because of a fire alarm. The visit to the pantomime in January also had to be cancelled because of the snow. The monthly outings took us all over the place from Newbury Races, Sulgrave Manor, Tewkesbury, Althorpe, a trip on the Kennet and Avon horse drawn canal boat, Cadbury's World to name but a few. Our holidays started in Paignton in July for some summer sun and then Majorca in February for some winter sun – both of which we managed to find. In between, in November, we went to Tenby for a festive break.

So you see, we are a very active group with a wide variety of activities to suit all interests and we would be very pleased to welcome new members.

Report by Joy Riley, Chairman

RADLEY VILLAGE COMMUNITY SHOP: On 22nd May this year the shop will have been open for three years and is a very successful venture. It won third place in the Community-owned category of the Oxfordshire Village Shop of the Year 2009 Competition, organized by the ORCC, only two years after it opened. The ranges held are continually reviewed and extended, taking into account the views received

from shop users. A scanner system is being investigated, and in addition an application is being made to SEEDA for grant funding to purchase the premises which it currently leases. The work undertaken by the Steering Committee and subsequently by the Management Team and the many volunteers has achieved a very successful Village Shop. The people who work at the shop are very proud of their achievements, and the feedback is that the whole community is extremely proud of its Village Shop.

Report by Margaret Lovell, Village Community Shop

RADLEY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE: There have been 10 members meetings, including the 'Supper with Scarecrows' at Milletts Farm in July, which was part of the OFWI 90th birthday celebrations. Our January meeting had to be cancelled due to the heaviest snowfall in the area for around 30 years. Our speakers have covered topics ranging from Historical Research to Stories of Oxford Castle, calling along the way to find out about the Alexander Technique, a Royal Weekend and the health problems of Honey Bees. We visited St Ethelwold's house, had Supper with Scarecrows to celebrate OFWI's 90th birthday, and a lunch at the Bowyers in February to celebrate our 85th birthday. We had a visit from our WI Adviser, learning about the History of the WI. Our Harvest Supper was once again provided by the Committee, and we were entertained by the Organ Grinder at our December meeting. We made a scarecrow, which was used for both the village fete competition, which we won, and the Supper with Scarecrows.

Teas were once again provided for the Wick Hall Open Garden afternoon, but unfortunately that will be the last time. We ran a stall at the Radley Fete, which had a 'Travel' theme. A team of four, the Wise Ones, took part in the Brains of Radley quiz, and came 5th, having had a fun evening. We also participated in the village Christmas Bazaar.

We were represented at the Federation AGM in March and participated in the bulb scheme. Members have attended both Group meetings. Some of our members attended courses at Denman College, which they thoroughly enjoyed.

It has been an interesting and varied year.

Report by Pat Earl, Hon Secretary

SAVE RADLEY LAKES: With the conclusion of the judicial review, and now that all the costs have been settled, it is an appropriate moment for Save Radley Lakes (SRL) to express its sincere thanks to Radley Parish Council and the people of Radley who supported the 'Save the Lakes' campaign so strongly. SRL is very aware of how much effort this involved for the Parish Council. Taking on the judicial review, in particular, was a very brave step: it was a big thing, and put a significant load on Sally Raven in particular. It was, though, very important, because it kept up the pressure on RWE npower, leading ultimately to the Lakes being saved. SRL is deeply grateful to everyone who supported the campaign.

The past year has been (thankfully) a quieter one for SRL. We have continued with some fundraising (notably through the very successful 2009 Dog Show). We are glad that the judicial review proceedings are now finally settled, and we were pleased to be able to make a substantial contribution to the overall legal costs. In the summer of 2009, Longmead Lake, another part of the Radley Lakes complex, was put up for sale.

We would have liked to see this bought by a trust or other public body, but unfortunately were not successful in our attempts to achieve this.

In the past six months or so, we have been turning our attention to the future, and to how we can work with the Northmoor Trust (NT) on their plans for Thrupp Lake and the Radley Wetlands Centre. SRL members have taken part in two NT conservation working parties at Sandles already, and further events are planned.

With the Lakes now saved, SRL obviously needs to review its objectives (and its name). To this end, we are seeking the approval of our membership to rebrand ourselves as 'Friends of Radley Lakes' (FRL). In this new guise, we will support NT in its work at Thrupp Lake and the surrounding area, while remaining an independent organisation which can also undertake its own activities. We will continue to organise fund-raising events for the benefit of the Lakes: the next event will be the Dog Show in Radley on Saturday 3 July 2010.

Report by Roger Thomas, Vice-Chairman, SRL

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP: The aim of the Women's Fellowship is, as the name implies, to provide fellowship in a cheerful and relaxed atmosphere and to support one another in and outside the monthly meetings. The meetings usually consist of a talk by a variety of speakers, as well as games evenings and a couple of meals on a bring and share basis. As well as these we have a meal out together in the summer. We also enjoy, and have much fun, in participating in the village Summer Fete and the Christmas Bazaar where we hold stalls of differing kinds. Many of our members come from outside the village and from a variety of different churches. We meet every third Monday in the month and always welcome newcomers of any denomination.

Report by Heather Rogerson