

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF RADLEY PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON FRIDAY, 8 MAY 2009, AT 7.30 PM IN THE CHURCH ROOM, RADLEY.

Those present included: Cr J Standen (in the Chair)
Crs Crowley, Davies, Dutton, Henderson, Pasquire,
Rogers, D Standen. Yorston
Fourteen members of the public

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Messrs Nutt, Gasson and Wilson, the WI and the Pre-School Group.

2. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on the 9 May 2008, which had been circulated to the meeting, were approved and signed by the Chairman.

3. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF MINUTES

- (a) TANNOY MESSAGES, RAILWAY STATION: The Friends of Radley Station had been pursuing with First Great Western the complaints about irrelevant messages and the need for Real Time Display visual information.
- (b) LITTER BINS: There was still a litter problem in the village, and residents were experiencing problems with litter being thrown into their gardens.
- (c) DOG LITTER BIN: The emptying of this bin had improved, but if there were problems the DC Waste Team were contacted by the Parish Council.
- (d) TUCKWELLS – NOISE OF MACHINERY/BLEEPING OF REVERSING LORRIES: The DC Environmental Officer had looked into this but did not think there was anything amiss.
- (e) POTHOLE: Government grants were received by Highway Authorities, but these were used up within a matter of months.
- (f) BUS PASSES: A detailed response had been received from the DC which indicated that the scheme was costing more than originally estimated and it would not be possible to allow earlier travel for hospital visits as this would increase the cost even further.
- (g) DOUBLE-DECKER BUSES: It was noted that double-decker buses were scheduled to operate all of the journeys on Service 35/35A/35B that run through the village. The vehicles themselves had a footprint smaller than the single-deckers being 10.5 metres long as opposed to 12 metres. Both were 2.55 metres wide. The Parish Council had recently questioned the need for the double-deckers because the passenger capacity was not all that different and because the stairs were so difficult to negotiate. The weight of the

double-deckers was also of concern, and the Parish Council was asked to pursue this.

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

Cr Jenny Standen was pleased to be reporting, on behalf of the Parish Council, during her second year as Chairman. As the subject of the Radley Lakes had been the main focus of the Parish Council's attention over the year, she started her report on this matter.

The future of Radley Lakes had continued to be one of the main items for discussion at Parish Council meetings – the discussions started in 2005/2006 and the matter was still being discussed at every meeting during 2008/2009, with a number of Extraordinary Meetings of the Parish Council. In addition, there had been an exploratory meeting with Didcot Power Station staff in May 2008 and it had been decided that the Radley Local Liaison Committee should be reconvened, since which this Committee had met on four occasions.

As reported last year an application to undertake a Judicial Review had been submitted to the High Court on the 1 April 2008. The Parish Council agreed that, as soon as the Judicial Review papers were submitted, a stay in the proceedings should be requested to enable discussions to take place between the Parish Council and RWE, with the involvement of the Oxfordshire County Council if appropriate. Despite a planned meeting between the Parish Council and Power Station staff, the majority of parties involved indicated that they were not prepared to agree to a stay, and the Parish Council decided that the Judicial Review must proceed.

The Court took the view that the matter was too complicated to deal with on the papers, and that a rolled-up hearing was the next step, which in effect was a Judicial Review hearing. About the same time the Parish Council was informed that the Oxfordshire County Council had engaged a QC and after much deliberation, the Parish Council agreed that it must also engage a QC to ensure equal representation. The Parish Council had anticipated that the action would take eighteen months/two years to complete, but the Court's decision meant that things had moved on much faster than expected, and this view was endorsed when the hearing was fixed for 26 and 27 February 2009.

Mr John Rainford, Didcot Power Station, made a public statement in December 2008 on behalf of RWE Npower which indicated that it planned "effectively to gift" Thrupp Lake to the community. Following this press statement the Parish Council reviewed the position and agreed that it should seek an adjournment of the Judicial Review proceedings while discussions took place with RWE npower to secure a more specific commitment to the preservation of the lakes and, if this was not successful, the Parish Council would continue with the Judicial Review. The Court agreed to an adjournment, on the understanding that a report to the Court on the progress on negotiations was received within a three months period, which is the 22 May 2009.

There was general acceptance that, although there would be a difference in the access arrangements for a Village Green from those of a Wildlife Area, the area was more suited to the arrangements for a Wildlife Area.

There had been a number of meetings with representatives of Abingdon Town Council, and that Council had agreed to give financial support. Sunningwell Parish Council had given token support, and Kennington Parish Council was willing to give some financial support, the level of which had yet to be determined. In addition, Save Radley Lakes had also agreed to give a large amount of financial support to the legal costs incurred for the Judicial Review, whilst stating that it would like to see all parties coming to an amicable arrangement over how best to secure and improve this whole area for posterity. It no longer considered that applying for town green status for this land was a productive way forward.

The Parish Council considered that it was almost at the point when it could withdraw from the Judicial Review, but it still felt that some sort of formal correspondence between RWE and the Parish Council was essential to allay elements of fear and mistrust that still pervade the community, and this would greatly improve the prospects of a successful venture. A detailed letter had been sent to Mr Rainford in April 2009 asking for a more formal agreement and, when this was discussed with Power Station staff they indicated that they would require legal advice before a response could be made. The Parish Council was now awaiting that response.

You can see that this took up a vast amount of Parish Council time, but there had also been many other matters to deal with, which could be summarised as follows:

- (a) **Planning Applications:** Over the twelve months from April 2008, it had been consulted and responded on 21 planning applications. This was low compared with the previous twelve months when the Parish Council had been asked to comment on 30 planning applications. However, there had been other very difficult planning issues to occupy the Parish Council – all along Thrupp Lane:
 - (i) Tuckwells had put in an application for a Certificate of Lawfulness (CLEUD) to allow the firm to continue activity on the site. This activity was outside the existing planning permission but the firm considered that it had been carrying out these activities on the site for a period in excess of ten years. This gave it the right to apply for a CLEUD. The Parish Council had obtained legal advice on this, and a solicitor's letter had been sent to the Oxfordshire County Council on behalf of Radley Parish Council. In addition, a strong letter of objection had been submitted by the Parish Council with many queries on why stringent enforcement action had not been taken over the years.

The application from Tuckwells and Sons to extend its workings in Thrupp Lane which was considered at the end of last year had been refused by the Oxfordshire County Council, but if Tuckwells could prove to the OCC that it had been carrying out activities on the site

over the last ten years which were not covered by any of the previous planning permissions, there was a strong possibility that a CLEUD would have to be granted. The Parish Council found it difficult to comprehend the CLEUD Regulations which contradicted planning permissions.

The Parish Council had recently noticed that Tuckwells had been undertaking major construction work on its site but, following pressure from the Parish Council and a number of wildlife groups, the firm had stopped this work for the present.

- (ii) Tarmac Ltd, who had been granted a CLEUD a few years ago, had started undertaking major construction work on its site. Again, the Parish Council was following this up with the Enforcement Officer at the Vale of White Horse DC.
- (iii) A number of firms based along Thrupp Lane were applying for Goods Vehicle Operators Licences. The regulations did not stipulate that Parish Councils had to be consulted and it had been ascertained that only persons who were the owner or occupier of land/property in the vicinity of a proposed operating centre might make representations against the granting of the application on environmental grounds. The large amount of heavy goods vehicles along Thrupp Lane meant that the traffic affected most of the households who might not, of course, live within the vicinity of a proposed operating centre. Again, the Parish Council found it difficult to comprehend these Regulations.
- (iv) There was one piece of good news for Thrupp Lane residents – the waste recycling firm would not be using the Thrupp Lane site after October 2010.

- (b) **Highway Matters:** Everyone was aware of the terrible state of the roads in Radley Parish and many of the community had expressed very strong views when replying to the recent NAG Survey. The Parish Council was continually pressing Oxfordshire Highways for improvements, pointing out particularly dangerous potholes. Reports had been made through the Oxfordshire Highways website and by correspondence throughout the year, and particularly since the bad winter weather had such a devastating effect on our roads. A CD with photographs showing the poor condition of the roads from the roundabout at Twelve Acre Drive to the church at the top of Church Road has recently been submitted with a further appeal for urgent attention.

However, it was clear that the resources of this department were completely inadequate to cope with the amount of work which was needed throughout Oxfordshire, and the damage caused by the extreme weather had stretched the department even further. Whilst appreciating the problems, it did not stop the regular complaints from the Parish Council and the County Councillor. The Clerk had 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 the Chairman made the same appeal to those attending the Annual Parish Meeting.

There had been some successes – Catharine Close had been resurfaced; pedestrian signs had been put up by the Railway Bridge, Lower Radley; and signs were being put up at Sugworth Lane indicating that the road was not suitable for heavy vehicles.

- (c) **Village Hall Provision:** All households had received a detailed statement from the Parish Council on this subject so a detailed report was not given. However, the Village Hall Working Party was visiting a number of Village Halls in Oxfordshire to get background information before preparing a detailed report to allow further consultation on the way forward. The Village Hall had regained its Entertainments Licence but would not be reapplying for the bar licence.
- (d) **Sports Pavilion, Playing Field and Play Area:** Both these facilities were extremely well used. There had been problems with blockages on the Flygt Pump which served the Sports Pavilion which had been expensive to remedy, but recent discussions with ITT Water and Wastewater would hopefully lead to some permanent solution. Vandalism had also been a problem – unpleasant graffiti had been daubed over the play equipment and the sports pavilion, but it was removed very quickly, the police had a word with a group of youths playing around the sports pavilion, and there had been no repeat of the problem. In addition, the tube was damaged in such a way that it had to be replaced. The Parish Council had considered putting CCTV equipment in the area, but in the end decided not to pursue this.
- (e) **Police Matters:** In recent months the Parish had been looked after by PC Jimmy May and his PCSOs, although the Parish Council had been informed that PC May was moving on shortly. This group covers about 14 villages, so it was not surprising that the response to the NAG survey showed that few people knew the police staff that covered this area.

The Neighbourhood Advisory Group (NAG) had been meeting regularly, and the Parish Council representative, Eric Davies, had been attending regularly. There was a good response to the NAG Survey, almost 11% of the forms were returned, the majority with multi-response from each household. The forms had been submitted for analysis but the Parish Council had considered a preliminary summary prepared by the Clerk and was going to consider each section in more detail over the next few meetings. It was clear that the major concerns of the public related to the following – Speeding; Potholes and conditions of pavements; Road side vegetation; Litter; Lack of police visibility; Vandalism; Inconsiderate Parking/parking on pavements; Street Lighting.

Recent vandalism in the village had caused great concern. The Parish Council was very much aware of the problems and had pressed the police for action.

Speeding continues to be of great concern, particularly along the Kennington Road, Foxborough Road, Church Road and Lower Radley. The police and Oxfordshire County Council did regular speed checks in these areas but the problems continued.

- (f) **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): This Working Party had met quarterly during the last year. It had met representatives from BBOWT, Oxfordshire Nature Conservation Forum and the RSPB to gain wider information into the work it had to do under the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006. The Parish Council had recently decided to purchase a digital mapping system which would be used as a data base for a number of matters, but would be a useful aid to the Conservation Working Party (Nature) in plotting areas of particular interest.
 - Tree Planting: Two trees had been knocked down along Whites Lane – the Parish Council was extremely grateful to local people who had photographed the offending vehicle. The trees would be replanted in the autumn, and the Parish Council was discussing further tree planting in the Parish.
 - Litter: The Parish Council had reviewed the position very recently following a meeting with Colin Marshall, the Environment Warden at the Vale of White Horse District Council, and would be doing a further review following the NAG Survey. However, the Chairman was pleased to report that the village cleaner continued to do valuable work throughout the village, Radley College had agreed that its pupils could do a monthly litter pick when going to the boathouse, and dog bins/litter bins were going to be installed at Whites Road/Foxborough Road at the entrance to the field by the footbridge, at the entrance to the field off the Parish Council Car Park and possibly by Sandles off Thrupp Lane. Colin Marshall was in contact with the Primary School and had taken action in relation to the litter along Sandford Lane, Whites Lane, Kennington Road and Thrupp Lane, and the Parish Council was delighted to learn at its last meeting that local residents were doing regular litter picks along Sugworth Lane.
 - The Annual Garden Competition was continuing for its thirteenth year and was being held on Saturday, 4 July 2009. This had become a very successful event, and was looked forward to each year.
 - Village of the Year Competition: The Parish Council was shortlisted for the second time at the 2008 event, but the final judging was set on the same day as our Village Fete and it was not possible to find anyone to attend this event as village organisations were needed at the Fete. Despite this set back, the Parish Council has decided to enter this competition again this year.
 - Village Pond: Following the completion of the building work at the school, the Parish Council was able to proceed with its plans to provide bow-top fencing all around the pond site and at its last meeting accepted an estimate for this work. It was hoped that there would be a working party to clear the duckweed from the pond in the spring but this proved impossible; this would be pursued in the autumn.

- Footpaths in the Parish: Footpath 8 had now been widened and this was very much appreciated by those who used the path. This would not have been possible without the agreement of Radley College and Bill Homewood and without the substantial grant of £10,000 from the Trust for Oxfordshire's Environment (TOE) and £2,000 from the Vale of White Horse DC.
- (g) **Street Lighting:** The Parish Council had recently considered a request for more lighting along Kennington Road, up to the 30 mph speed limit, but decided that it was not appropriate to provide more lighting along this area at a time when measures were being taken to reduce the amount of street lighting. The OCC had asked the Parish Council to advise on possible changes in the street lighting timing, and local people had been asked for their views on these possible changes through Radley News and the website, but the responses from the NAG Survey showed that local people felt there was insufficient lighting in the Parish!
- (h) **Website:** Please follow Parish Council activities through the website. It was essential that the community used the website and let the Parish Council have their views on matters relating to the Parish. The website address is www.radleyvillage.org.uk
- (i) **Other Matters:** The Chairman indicated that she had really only mentioned a few of the matters discussed by the Parish Council, and the following gave a flavour of some of the others:
- Village Shop: The Parish Council was delighted with the success of the Village Shop, now in its second year. Thanks go to all the volunteers and customers who helped to make this such a success.
 - Station Adoption: After a Public Meeting called by the Parish Council, a Friends of Radley Station group had now been formed, under the Chairmanship of Eric Davies. Tubs had been planted and a flower bed was being prepared. The help given by these volunteers was very much appreciated.
 - Parish Plan: Discussions had continued on the need for a Parish Plan, and this would be reported further under that agenda item. In addition, the Parish Council had agreed to form a Working Party to look into the designation of Lower Radley as a Conservation Area, and would start this work in 2009/2010.
 - Bus Shelters: The Oxfordshire County Council had introduced a new scheme for the provision of Bus Shelters, and the Parish Council would be applying for two new bus shelters in 2009/2010 – on the Oxford bound side of Foxborough Road, opposite the Bowyer Arms and on the Oxford bound side of Kennington Road, by Radley College.
 - Freedom of Information: Under the Freedom of Information Act, the Parish Council had agreed a new schedule which set out the papers available to the public.

- Flooding policies: There had been full consultation through the Environment Agency and the Vale of White Horse District Council.
- 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 are shown in the Parish Council minutes.

Two Councillors had resigned from the Parish Council during the year – Mark Wren and Martin Wilson – but after advertising the two vacancies Joan Dutton and Lynda Pasquire had been co-opted on to the Parish Council.

There had been some very long meetings during the last year to get through all the business before the Parish Council, but hopefully things would improve once the Radley Lakes issues had been settled.

The Chairman indicated that she was very grateful for the support she 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. She also gave a public thanks to Radley Guides for their help with delivering leaflets in the village much more than in previous years – during 2008/2009 they distributed leaflets for the Garden Competition, the NAG Survey, the Village Hall and the Parish Plan.

5. FINANCIAL STATEMENT AND REPORT

A copy of the Parish Council summary of payment and receipts for 2008/2009 had been circulated to the meeting, together with the audited accounts for 2007/2008. The following showed the Expenditure and Income of the Parish Council during 2008/2009

Expenditure: The total expenditure for 2008/2009 was £66,217.52, including VAT, although there were minor accruals to take into account. The main items of expenditure were:

	2008/2009 £	2007/2008 £
Administration/IT:	12,319.68	11,736.50
Annual Subscriptions:	637.45	575.90
Donations (including Section 137 payments):	1,050.00	2,450.00
Playing Field Expenditure:	5,769.62	5,298.71
Play Area:	3,935.60	4,508.34

Conservation:	17,953.17	6,137.07
Car Park:	1,035.68	129.32
General Maintenance:	1,931.91	562.00
Village Hall:	0.00	9,020.00
Radley Lakes – Judicial Review	14,416.27	0.00

Administration: Although the cost of administration continued to rise, the increases were mainly in the salary of the Clerk. 2009/2010 showed a bigger rise due to the fact that the Parish Council had reviewed the salary and hours of the Clerk in line with new recommendations from the Society of Local Council Clerks, and she had been re-graded and her hours increased from 12 to 15 a week.

Donations (including Section 137 payments): The donations were lower in 2008/2009 than 2007/2008, but were more in line with the Parish Council decision to work to a limit of 2% of the precept.

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 increase was the rent for the Gooseacre field as Radley College had carried out a well overdue rent review.

Play Area Expenditure: The cost of the fencing was met over two years and in addition it was necessary to replace part of the play equipment (the tube) due to damage.

Conservation budget: The main spend this year had been on the widening of Footpath 8, the grants of £12,000 being received in 2009/2010.

Income: The balance brought forward for 2008/2009 was £83,067.26 and receipts for the year were £61,097.55, making a total income of £144,164.82. Again, there were some accruals, mainly the VAT refund and the grants from TOE and the DC. The Parish Council changed its accounts to Barclays Bank at the beginning of 2008/2009, and was receiving healthy interest rates during most of the year. However, these had dramatically dropped and would lead to a drop in income for 2009/2010.

For 2009/2010, the Parish Council considered that it could contain the costs it was going to incur in this financial year without any increase in its precept, and it had therefore asked for the same precept as last year, i.e. £49,500.

As the Chairman had reported, work continued on assessing the village hall provision required in the Parish. The Parish Council set aside £2,000 in 2008/2009 in case the Radley VHMC required financial help due to a downturn in its bookings. However, this was not required and the Parish Council agreed that this amount should be put in its reserves.

Again, on the Radley Lakes and the Judicial Review, the Chairman had reported fully on this so you will appreciate that the Parish Council was on the point of deciding whether to proceed with the Judicial Review. The accounts show that money had been allocated to meet the cost of legal expenses and generous grants had been offered, but until the Parish Council decided whether it proceeded with the Judicial Review or withdrew, the cost implications could not be more clearly defined.

The 2007/2008 accounts had been approved by the External Auditor. The date for the 2008/2009 external audit was 31 July 2009. The notice would be displayed 15 to 28 June 2009, and the records would be available from 29 June 2009 to 24 July 2009.

The accounts 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 History Club
- Radley Lunch Club
- Radley Pre-School
- Radley Retirement Group
- Radley Swimming Club
- Radley Women's Institute
- Radley Youth Club
- Save Radley Lakes
- Village Community Shop
- Women's Fellowship
- 1st Radley Guides

The reports are attached as an appendix to the Minutes.

The meeting considered this a useful and enjoyable arrangement, and one which should be repeated next year.

7. ITEMS RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

- (a) FOOTPATH 8: The Parish Council was asked to consider providing a sign indicating that pedestrians had priority.
- (b) THRUPP LANE – CYCLE WAY: The possibility of buying land to accommodate the cycle way was raised. The difficulties experienced by Sustrans were discussed, and it was thought infeasible to pursue this.
- (c) STREET LIGHT POLLUTION: Mr Yorston agreed to raise with Radley College the late lighting at its all weather pitch.

- (d) **THRUPP LANE – SPEED OF TRAFFIC:** It was queried whether the police could check the speed of lorries travelling along Thrupp Lane, although it was appreciated that the road was so narrow it was difficult to judge the speed of lorries.
- (e) **PATH BY CEMETERY/BEAGLES KENNELS:** It was reported that the bank was encroaching on the path and needed clearing back.
- (f) **TREES BY LOWER RADLEY CARAVAN PARK:** Trees had been cut back and the cuttings were left in the road and not cleared away quickly.
- (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: Following an initiative by the Parish Council, Oxfordshire County Council and First Great Western, a group was formed in August 2008 with a view to adopting the Railway Station and ensuring that it was well loved and maintained. A grant of £250.00 has been received from Oxfordshire County Council which has partly been spent on plants and compost for the tubs on the station. Further funding will be required to maintain a supply of plants, etc. First Great Western have provided a shed and tools for those who love gardening to lend a hand in keeping the station looking presentable. We have several gardening volunteers and if there are people in the village who would like to join us, please let the Secretary, Joan Dutton, have their names and contact numbers. We will arrange for them to be enrolled on Friends of Radley Station's volunteer list and ensure they are fully trained in the health and safety issues of working on the station.

RADLEY HISTORY CLUB: The History Club meets on the second Monday of each month in the Primary School. It is open to anyone interested in local history from Radley and the surrounding area. Current membership is around 60. The evening meetings consist of talks from outside speakers or from members. Talks this year have ranged from a presentation of detailed photo reconnaissance photos of Radley during the Second World War and a talk on the excavations at Marcham to talks on the area of St Thomas the Martyr, Oxford and The Titanic. Visits this summer will be to the Global Retreat Centre at Nuneham Courtenay and to two important houses in Lower Radley. A major research project into the history of Radley Primary School culminated last summer in an exhibition in the original part of the school and the publication of a book on the history of the school. The Club is currently working on a project entitled "The History of Farming in Radley, 1600 - 2000 (Elizabeth 1 to Elizabeth 2)". In due course this will lead to another exhibition and book/pamphlet. Further details about the Club can be had from Christine Wootton, Chair (01235 202725) or Joyce Huddleston, Membership Secretary (01235 524866).

RADLEY LUNCH CLUB: The Lunch Club is run by volunteers and is not connected with any other organisation in the village. 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 proven very successful with members meeting and making new friends. It is not now restricted to single people and we do have some married couples. We do say that it is for Radley people or we would be overwhelmed with others from Abingdon who want to join. It has been running now for over 25 years since the Church Room was opened. 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 we cater ourselves. The only thing we do apart from the monthly lunch is have a stall at the Christmas Bazaar to enable us to pay our rent. Most members are also involved in other organisations in the village which provide outings and entertainment.

RADLEY PRE-SCHOOL: Radley Pre-School closed at the end of December 2008 after being in operation for almost 30 years. Since moving from Radley Village Hall to the Primary School site in the late nineties the Pre-School had enjoyed a very successful partnership with the Primary School where all pre-school children and the school's reception class were taught jointly by the Reception Class Teacher, Teaching Assistant and pre-school staff. The pre-school operated independently though as a charity, run by a board of trustees (mainly parents) which acted as a management committee. However, this committee membership changed almost yearly providing little continuity for the staff. In September 2004 discussions began to physically link the school's building with the Bowyer Building with a view to integrating fully. However this proved unfeasible and plans arose to create a whole new wing for the school which the pre-school children and school children would

share. These plans evolved to also include new office space for the head teacher and the school secretary as well as a formal reception area which the school lacked until this point.

In January 2009, this partnership ceased to exist as Radley Pre-School and Radley CE Primary School have merged together. Fundamentally for the children and parents there has been very little change. However the pre-school staff is now employed by Oxfordshire County Council and all the children previously attending the pre-school are now on the register of Radley CE Primary School and are governed by the Primary School's Governing Body. This integration gives Radley a purpose built flagship Foundation Stage Unit within the Primary School, which Oxfordshire County Council has invested £400k to create. The new Unit which houses 39 children aged from 2 years 3 months – 5 years is staffed by a full time teacher, three full time Teaching Assistants and one part-time Teaching Assistant. This gives an adult to child ratio of 1:8, a ratio which few schools can match. The new wing has been in use since October although it will have its official opening at the end of May.

RADLEY RETIREMENT GROUP: The Retirement Group has over 100 members and is open to retired people in the village. There is a £5 membership fee with a charge of 50p per meeting. It has monthly meetings with speakers, the talks ranging from the History of the Loo to growth of popular music in the 20th century. There are monthly outings to stately homes, horse racing and exhibitions, theatre outings both to the West End and local productions, and three holidays – this year they were at Cardigan, Wales; a festive break in Weymouth, and a winter sun trip to Denia in Spain.

RADLEY SWIMMING CLUB: The club meets at Radley College on Mondays, Thursdays and Saturday mornings. Recently we received grants of £4,000 towards the cost of lifeguards, but the Club needs members urgently to be able to continue.

RADLEY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE: During the past year, your Committee has met 10 times, with all of its members being in attendance for seven of those meetings. There have been 10 members meetings, including our guided walk in Oxford followed by tea in August. Our February meeting had to be cancelled due to the heaviest snowfall in the area for 18 years. Our speakers have covered topics ranging from Life as a Diplomat to the History of Harwell, calling along the way to find out about the Guinea Pig Club and the Eisteddfod, community policing, making hanging baskets and natural healing and therapies. Our Harvest Supper was once again provided by the Committee, and we were entertained musically at our December meeting. Unfortunately, we have continued to suffer from the heating problems in the hall at some of our meetings, but the sound levels have improved since the recent insulation work was carried out.

Teas were once again provided for the Wick Hall Open Garden afternoon. We ran a stall at the Radley Fete, taking Bill & Ben as our theme. A team of four, the Wise Ones, took part in the Brains of Radley quiz, and were, once again, the runners-up. We also participated in the village Christmas Bazaar. One of our members, independently of the WI, also raised funds during the year for Save the Children.

We were represented at the Federation AGM in March and the National AGM in Liverpool in June and participated in the bulb scheme. Members have attended both Group meetings. One of our members, who had been Group Convenor for some time, resigned during the year. A group of us visited Denman College to take part in its Diamond celebrations. A few members also attended courses there, which they thoroughly enjoyed. It has been an interesting and varied year.

RADLEY YOUTH CLUB: The last twelve months have not been the best in terms of membership. In the 10 years Chris Gasson has been associated with the Youth Club, eight of which have been as Youth Leader, it has always been a case of "highs and lows". This last year, we lost our entire older element (16 years) with very little gain in younger ones filtering

in. We currently have a core membership of fifteen, aged 8 (minimum attendance age) to 13. Average attendance this past year has been ten members, which is the minimum requirement we need to pay for the hall hire. Activities, this year – dependant on finances available have included Paper Mache, Cooking (Toffee Apples/ Pancakes), Quelling, Glass Painting, Mosaics, and Inter Games Competitions. We have also taken part in a re-cycled Fashion Show held at the Dragon School, in Oxford. Recently, we applied to the local Abingdon branch of Waitrose for the Community matters project they run, and were successful in getting nominated for the month of April. We are currently waiting to get our reward, which will be a welcome boost.

Radley Youth Club, runs not only the usual games associated with youth clubs (table tennis, snooker, computer games etc) but promotes good behaviour and respect amongst the community. We welcome visits. The governing body we are affiliated to, Oxfordshire Association for Young People (OAYP) sends other youth leaders to see how we operate, as we have a very good record. We have recently been nominated by OAYP for a Youth Club Award of Merit.

SAVE RADLEY LAKES: Save Radley Lakes are awaiting the outcome of the Parish Council's negotiations with Npower over the future of the Radley Lakes. The campaign started four years ago almost to the day when the Parish visited the ash fill site to discover Npower's intentions with regard to Sandles and the two lakes adjoining. Since that time, Save Radley Lakes has raised over £80,000 from people who are committed to saving the area. The Campaign achieved four out of its five objectives in December 2008 when Npower announced that it was no longer intending to use the site as an ash dump. Save Radley Lakes has appreciated the efforts the Parish Council have made in taking on the Judicial Review and it intends to support the Parish Council financially in this respect once the final accounts are received. The campaign to save Radley Lakes was a just one, fought on sound principles, using the weight of public opinion and the judicial system. We are delighted that Npower has found an alternative ash disposal method, and also that the Waste Recycling Group were able to make the alternative site available to them. Save Radley Lakes will continue its fund-raising but in a less frenetic timetable. The next event is the Radley Village Dog Show on Saturday, 20 June.

VILLAGE COMMUNITY SHOP: Lynda Pasquire has been keeping the books for the Village Shop since it opened and in January 2009 she took over the post of Treasurer. The shop continues to turn over £5,000 most weeks on a carefully selected range of products with prices designed to be as near-competitive as possible with the big supermarkets. It has proved a successful venture because of the hard work put in by the Management Committee and a dedicated team of volunteers. The Village the shop shareholders and the volunteers should be rightly proud of the achievement to date. This very small retail area has produced a huge amount of added value to the community. The contribution the volunteers make to the shop is enormous. Without them there would not be an enterprise. However, the enterprise also needs its customers – without them there would be no business and we are delighted that the residents of Radley and elsewhere continue to support the village shop and long may they continue to do so.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP: The Women's Fellowship is an informal group for women only, largely for fellowship, which meets on the third Monday of the month. There are speakers at most meetings, sometimes DIY members. The Fellowship has a table at the Village Fete and the Christmas Bazaar, and is a happy cheerful group.

1st FIRST RADLEY GUIDES: In April we visited LUSH, the handmade cosmetics shop in Oxford and were given a very informative talk by two of the assistants. The Guides were then encouraged to try some of the products on offer before purchasing their own goodies. An excellent activity and would encourage other organisations to arrange similar visits. Ten Guides from Radley then joined the rest of Abingdon Division at the annual St Georges Day

Parade run jointly with the scouts. A selection of our weekly meetings during the summer and autumn terms were organised by Guides working towards their Baden Powell Challenge. These nights included a Ready Steady 'Cookies' evening where each patrol was given the same ingredients for a basic dough but then a different flavour to complete the challenge, an Irish themed evening and a BBQ challenge evening. All Guides completed their Finding Your Way interest badge which coincided with us delivering leaflets around the village for the Parish Council - a great way of learning about the local neighbourhood. We learnt how to build bivouacs as part of the Survival interest badge which yet again all Guides were awarded. The last three meetings before the break for the summer holidays were all outdoor activities as we wanted to take advantage of the warmer weather. Orienteering at Cutteslowe Park was our first port of call where the Guides really enjoyed being able to run for miles while learning a new fun activity. We then moved onto Oxford City Centre where we completed a treasure hunt in teams - many of the girls saw parts of Oxford they didn't even know about. The golden treasure [a well deserved ice cream] was hidden at Mc Donald's where each girl enjoyed light refreshments and a rest. This activity was mentioned in many girls 'highlight report of the year' that we ask them to write for our annual best bits folder. The final event of the term was our silly sports evening where we completed rowing [on skateboards], skiing [on planks of wood], water bomb shot put, hammer throw with a filled sock, discus with a Frisbee to name but a few.

After the summer break we kick started the new term with an ice breaker games evening as we had several new Guides joining. We completed Go For It Globalistic which involved different activities from around the globe. Then it was back to older Guides organising meetings again... a cooperative games evening, an American themed evening, and a meeting celebrating Hanukkah. We had an excellent attendance at Abingdon Remembrance Day parade - the majority of the Guides there were from Radley!!!! Another highlight of many Guides is when we celebrate with a Children in Need themed night. This year we tie dyed t shirts, made bandanas and dressed in both of them and then made Pudsey shaped fridge magnets. Every year we treat the Guides to one session of skating at Oxford Ice Rink. While there this year we enrolled three of our newest recruits on the ice. Our Christmas crafts spectacular evening was Reindeer fridge magnets or Christmas pudding baubles. We finished this term off with delivering the church cards around the village and then participating in the Abingdon Scout and Guide Christmas Post.

New Year and new ideas and faces: The best news of all is that we have found a new Guide leader and she already has a warrant - we welcome Karen and hope she is with us for a long time. Our first celebration this year was themed on Chinese New Year. We had a fashion show of Chinese costumes, tried typical Chinese food, learnt how to speak Chinese, played the chopsticks game and made Chinese lanterns. Twelve Guides then attended a one day first aid course and all now have their first aid badges. Following on from this we held a wound simulation evening which was really enjoyed by the girls. Everyone then gained the badge 'Right to work together'. More leaflet delivery at the beginning of March was followed by a visit to Oxford Gang Show to see one of our members perform in the cast. We're coming to the end of an extremely busy year with a Mothers Day survival box craft and Easter activities completing our weekly meetings.

We are please to report that during this year we have had four Baden Powell Challenge Guides - Charlotte, Eleanore and Elizabeth in September 2008 and Eve North in February 2009. Eleanore and Elizabeth have since returned to the unit to do their Guiders training and Eve will be coming back to join us in September to start working towards her Young Leader award. At the end of April 2009 we have two warranted Guiders, three pre warranted trainee Guiders and one Young Leader. We have 28 girls on the books and twelve on the waiting list.