

**Minutes of the Annual Parish Council of Melksham Without Parish Council held at Melksham Town Hall, market Place on Monday, 24<sup>th</sup> March 2014 at 7.00pm.**

**Present:** Parish Council: Cllr. Richard Wood (Chairman), Cllr. John Glover (Vice-Chairman), Cllrs. Alan Baines, Pat Nicol, Mike Mills, Steve Petty, Paul Carter, Gregory Coombes and Rolf Brindle.

Other Community members: Inspector Matthew Armstrong (Wiltshire Police), Graham Ellis (Chamber of Commerce), Bob Brownrigg (Whitley Reading Rooms), Cllr. Roy While (Wiltshire Councillor), Alison Sullivan (Wiltshire Council), Phil McMullen (Melksham Area Community Partnership), Bruce Sanders (Melksham Town Council), Miriam Zaccarelli (Deputy Clerk, Melksham Town Council), John Hamley (Melksham Railway Development Group & Whitley Players), and 5 residents.

**Apologies:** Cllr. Adam Nardell, Terry Chivers  
Peter Davies – Shaw Village Hall Committee  
Maureen Hibbott – Shaw & Whitley Flood Group  
Steve Clark – Headteacher, Melksham Oak Community School

1. **Welcome:** The Chairman, Cllr. Wood warmly welcomed everyone to the meeting.
2. **Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting 2013:** The minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday, 18<sup>th</sup> March, 2013, were confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

**Matters Arising:** Cllr. Carter asked for an update on the Herman Miller development. The Clerk replied that she had been told that it could be May when construction commenced, however the Council were still awaiting receipt of the works licence before work could commence on the Bowerhill Sports Field.

Cllr. Chivers joined the meeting.

3. **Chair's Report:** The Chairman gave his report of the work of the Council during 2013/14 (*See Appendix 1.*).
4. **Reports from Wiltshire Councillors:**
  - a) **Wiltshire Councillor Roy While:** Cllr. While gave a report of the work he had carried out during 2013/14 as a Wiltshire Councillor (*See Appendix 2.*).
  - b) **Wiltshire Councillor Terry Chivers:** Cllr. Chivers gave a written report of the work he had carried out during 2013/14 as a Wiltshire Councillor (*See Appendix 3.*).

Cllr. Coombes asked whether funding generated from the redevelopment of the former George Ward School site would be available to extend local schools rather than relying on portacabins as temporary classrooms. Cllr. Chivers replied that s106 contributions would be available to extend both Melksham Oak and Shaw School.
5. **Written Reports from Community Organisations in the Parish:**
  - a) **(i) Melksham Police:** Inspector Matthew Armstrong gave a written report but also highlighted some points of interest. Of note was that Melksham Neighbourhood Policing Teams had a new sergeant, James Williams. (*See Appendix 4.*).

(ii) **Community Safety Group & Neighbourhood Police Tasking Group:** A written report was received (See Appendix 5.).

b) (i) **Melksham Hospital:** It was noted that people had been very generous with donations in their wills to Melksham Hospital. This had enabled equipment to be purchased that the Health service do not provide. It was reported that Melksham Hospital was re-inventing itself and now had dedicated Children's services. The drop in X-ray service was up and running.

(ii) **Friends of Melksham Hospital:** A written report was received (See Appendix 6.).

(iii) **Melksham Health Working Group:** A written report was received (See Appendix 7.).

c) **Village Hall Committee Reports:**

(i) **Bowerhill Village Hall Trust:** A written report was received (See Appendix 8.).

(ii) **Shaw Village Hall & Playing Field:** A written report was received (See Appendix 9.).

(iii) **Shaw & Whitley Reading Rooms:** A written report was received (See Appendix 10.).

(iv) **Berryfield Village Hall:** A written report was received (See Appendix 11.).

(v) **Beanacre Church Hall:** No report was received on behalf of Beanacre Church Hall.

d) (i) **Melksham Area Board, Campus & SCOB:** Cllr. While reported that Area Boards were being reviewed and that in the future they will play a more pivotal role in the community. He stated that grant take up needs to be encouraged, especially smaller grants of up to £500.

Alison Sullivan reported that sadly next year's grants would be limited to capital bids. She stated that there is now a blog site "*Melksham, Our Community Matters*", where people can go on line to make their views and comments known, giving people the opportunity to get involved without attending meetings – visit [Melksham.ourcommunitymatters.org.uk](http://Melksham.ourcommunitymatters.org.uk).

(ii) **The Chamber of Commerce:** A written report was received (See Appendix 12.).

(iii) **Wilts Association of Local Councils (WALC):** Cllr Coombes reported that WALC met four times a year. The AGM is held in Devizes and they support Parish and Town Councils with legal advice, training for new councillors and support for Clerks.

e) **Melksham Community Area Partnership & Action Groups:** Phil McMullen gave a brief overview of his written report (See Appendix 13.)

(i) **Berryfield:** Berryfield and Semington Road Action Group (BASRAG): A written report was received (See Appendix 14.).

(ii) **Bowerhill:** Bowerhill Residents Action Group (BRAG): A written report was received (See Appendix 15.).

f) **Community Publications:**

(i) **Bowerhill Villager:** A written report was received (See Appendix 16.).

(ii) **Shaw & Whitley Connect:** A written report was received (See Appendix 17.).

6. a) **Bowerhill Diamond Jubilee Sports Field:** The Clerk thanked the Financial Officer for her hard work with all the sports bookings. She reported that trees have been planted and the field was in a very good condition.

b) **Youth:**

(i) **AFC Melksham disabled football initiative:** Mike Rogers, Chairman of Melksham Football Club reported on the success of the disabled football team and that the previous Saturday this initiative had been recognised by the FA with a visit from Sir Geoff Hurst. A written report was received (See Appendix 18.).

(ii) **Pavilion Club Report:** Cllr Mills reported that the Pavilion Youth Club had now been closed for a year due to falling membership. A written report was received (See Appendix 19.).

(iii) **Shaw C of E Primary School:** A written report had been received (See Appendix 20.).

(iv) **Melksham Oak Community School:** A written report had been received (See Appendix 21.).

v) *Youth Action Group*: Cllr Petty reported that he had attended one meeting, but that adults although welcome at public meetings were not overly encouraged to attend as the group did not want more adults than youths attending their meetings.

vi) *Forest & Sandridge School*: It was hoped that building works for the new school would commence in May in order that much of the messy groundworks would be completed in the summer months. Legal agreements were waiting to be signed off on the old Forest and Sandridge School and it was hoped that the new school would be open early next year. A mobile classroom was to be erected on the current school site to accommodate this year's intake of children.

## 7. Transport:

a) **Community Area Transport Group (CATG)**: Cllr Baines outlined the role of CATG and gave an update of issues that have recently been discussed at their meetings. A written report had been received (*See Appendix 22.*).

b) **Melksham Rail Development Group (MRDG)**: Graham Ellis thanked Melksham Without Parish Council for their support. He reported that there were now 8 trains each way per day; the target was for 45,000 journeys, this is now nearer 60,000 and could be up to as many as 90,000. In the summer holidays travellers should be able to get a train directly to Weymouth from Melksham. Additionally twice a day at commuter times there was a free bus between Bowerhill and the Train Station. The original objective was to "Regain & Retain"; now that Melksham Train Station has been regained the hard work is to retain it. Cllr Glover wished to give his support and encourage the use of the Station, adding that ticket prices were more reasonable than perceived if booked in advance, stating that he recently paid £19 for a return ticket to London.

## 8. Other Community Reports:

a) **Whitley Players**: A written report had been received (*See Appendix 23.*).

b) **Rachel Fowler Centre**: A written report had been received (*See Appendix 24.*).

c) **Melksham Almshouses Public and Eleemosynary Charity**: A written report had been received (*See Appendix 25.*).

9. **Matters Arising from Community Reports**: *Shaw & Whitley Flood Committee*: Maureen Hibbott gave a brief outline about why the committee had come into existence after the floods in February 2013. A written report had been received (*See Appendix 26.*). Cllr. Baines reported that he had attended the "operational Flood Working Group North" committee meeting and that it had been resolved that Danny Everett (Wiltshire Council Principle Drainage Engineer) and his team would clear the drains. This had now been completed and the drainage channels were now working. The area to now concentrate on was Lower Woodrow. So far there had been no re-occurrence of the problem. Bob Brownrigg stated that as a resident of Whitley he was encouraged by the time and effort put into the work carried out in Middle Lane to try to prevent future flooding. The Clerk reported that the Parish Council were working on a flood plan.

## 10. Comment & Question Time:

A resident from Kittyhawk Close, Bowerhill wished to voice his concerns about the proposed Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) in Hornchurch Road and to discuss the residents' views on using the land for a MUGA rather than an open space. He stated that he was concerned about a rise in anti-social behaviour and didn't want to have address such issues with teenagers. Additionally he felt that a MUGA would increase the amount of scooters, cars and congregation of youths in the area and that any swearing would be heard by homeowners and young children using the infants play

area. He stated that he felt there were better areas to site the MUGA and that when developers built the houses there this area was designed to be just open space. The Chairman thanked him for his views but reported that there would be no lighting for the MUGA so it should not attract lots of youngsters late at night. He suggested that the resident attend the next parish Council Planning Committee meeting when this will be discussed at greater length. Another resident responded that there was street lighting in that area and that they perceived this would result in an increase in anti-social behaviour. The Chairman replied that the local police were in favour of the MUGA, however, residents' comments and opinions were important to the Parish Council and that they were welcome to give their views during public participation at the meeting to be held on 7<sup>th</sup> April, 7.00pm at Crown Chambers.

Another Bowerhill resident queried the lack of dog bins around the Hornchurch open space area, stating that there were 4 ordinary bins in close proximity to each other. The Clerk responded that Wiltshire council's policy was now that "any bin will do" and that dog waste can be put into any bin.

Meeting closed at 8.32pm

Chairman, 16<sup>th</sup> March, 2015

**MELKSHAM WITHOUT PARISH COUNCIL**

**WRITTEN REPORTS**

**FOR THE**

**ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

**24th March, 2014**

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FOR THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

**24 March 2014**

**INTRODUCTION**

This is my first Chairman's report for the Annual Meeting. It has been a very eventful 12 months both for the Council and for me. Taking over from such an experienced and committed chairman as Mile Mills has been quite a challenge for few can match Mike's knowledge of the parish, and his dedication to the parishioners. I was very relieved when he told me that, perhaps with his wife's prompting, he had decided to continue as a member of the Council, albeit sitting on the backbenches!

The second seismic change this year was, of course, Mary's decision to stand down as clerk. She has served the council with dedication for thirty years, and worked for six separate Chairs, Bill Coleman, Alan Baines, Kathy Crosby, Angie Barker, Mike Mills and now myself. I hope my brief tenure of the chair hasn't provided the final straw! Mary has been an outstanding clerk, her work ethic, attention to detail, friendliness to all the staff and visitors to Crown House and her legendary refusal to be fobbed off by sub-standard responses from Wiltshire Council, developers, sundry service providers and indeed anyone who is not trying to do the best for Melksham Without has been admired by all of us.

We have appointed Teresa Strange as our new clerk. She saw off a strong field to gain the post, and the experience that she gained working with Mary stood her in very good stead. We look forward to Teresa emulating Mary's length of service!

**PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS AND COUNCILLORS**

We were all disappointed, I think, that the May 2013 election for the Council were uncontested, and indeed that we had one vacancy to fill.

We said goodbye to Elizabeth Bean, our tireless councillor from Shaw, Paul Clark, with his very detailed knowledge of local health issues, Don Millard, who always seemed to have his finger on the pulse of concerns in Sandridge and Maurice Hubert. We welcomed back Terry Chivers, newly re-elected to Wiltshire Council, Adam Nardell and Trudy Fennell. We invited applications for the vacant seat and subsequently invited Paul Carter to join the Council. Paul has proved to be a keen and committed colleague.

**COUNCIL STAFF**

We were sorry to lose Rachel Burton during the year. She was a very industrious worker, but she received an offer she couldn't refuse. However we have been fortunate in finding Jo Ecclestone to replace her as parish assistant. The appointment of Teresa will result in our seeking a finance assistant, and a concomitant readjustment in working hours. We anticipate that the hours worked will be little changed from those worked in 2013/14.

**PRECEPT**

The Precept set for 2014/15 is £123,496.42, a 15 % increase on last year. This amounts to less than £3 increase per annum for each household and comes after several years of very low or no rises in the precept, and is the result of a very low top up grant from Wiltshire Council last year and this, the imminent capping of parish Council precepts and our need to finish the MUGA at Hornchurch road to a decent standard. This % rise is very significantly lower than the rise from the Town council.

## **PLANNING**

Reviewing and commenting on plans submitted to Wiltshire Council are an important part of MWPC's responsibilities, one we take very seriously. This year we received 74 plans. Some of our best attended meetings have been to planning meetings dealing with controversial developments like solar farm applications, changes to access arrangements at Shaw Hill, and redevelopment of the Forest and Sandridge school site. I always enjoy these meetings as they seem to me to be a fine example of democracy in action; I may not agree with many of the views expressed, but I love the passion and commitment shown by the participants. They are also fun to chair!

### **Current Developments**

Community Land, Hornchurch road.

This development is well advanced, with the majority of the houses now sold, and several occupied. MWPC will be looking to ensure that remedial planting of hedging species will take place to make good loss of hedgerows.

MUGA, Hornchurch road.

This development on the open space at Hornchurch Road will go before the planning committee at Wiltshire council very soon. Its building has been made possible largely by community benefit (106) money from the Hornchurch road housing development.

Herman Miller.

This major development should start early in the Summer, and one of the first builds should be the new pavilion on the Bowerhill Sports Field, to replace the old pavilion demolished to facilitate the building of the link road to the Bowerhill industrial estate.

Forest and Sandridge School.

The planning application to build houses on the current site of the Forest and Sandridge School proved very controversial, and was the subject of a spirited discussion with local objectors. It has now been passed by Wiltshire Council, and will be built when the new school on the East Melksham Development is finished and open for business.

Solar Farms.

This has proved to be a very contentious issue, and the large development to the east of Melksham occasioned particular controversy. It is worth restating that the Council has no objection in principle to the development of these farms, as long as they do not take agricultural land completely out of use, and do not cause a significant visual intrusion.

### **Future planning issues**

Development at Berryfield.

The proposal by Selwood housing to build houses and a block of flats on ground to the rear of Berryfield Park has caused concern from residents. We look forward to examining this new proposal, which involves demolishing a house to provide access. We are generally in favour of building social housing but the plans must make sense in planning terms and not lead to the diminution of the quality of life of other residents.

Wilts and Berks Canal Melksham link.

Submission of the plans for this exciting project has been delayed by the need for a comprehensive environmental assessment of the route. The Council is wholeheartedly in favour of the project, so long as it results in a new playground and village hall for

the community of Berryfield, which will be much affected by new road layouts and significant disruption during the building works. In the meantime Berryfield village hall continues to deteriorate.

#### **GRANTS**

As always, the Parish Council ensures good support for local organisations via grant aid - £7000 was awarded in total for grants this year as last.

#### **FLOODING**

Mike Mills reported on our reaction to serious flooding at Shaw and Whitley in his report for 2012/13. Unhappily we were revisited by major flooding issues this year as well, this time with particular difficulties being experience in Westlands Lane, Beanacre, caused by blocked drains which hadn't been cleaned in over a decade. A successful and active Flood Group was formed in response to last years floods in Shaw and Whitley and it is hoped that a similar group can be set up in Beanacre. Happily clearing of drains and ditches in Shaw and Whitley helped prevent major flooding this year, although problems in Westhill once again demonstrated that flooding can crop up in unexpected areas.

#### **NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING**

Melksham Without Parish Council are joining with Melksham Town council to produce a Neighbourhood Plan for the whole of the Melksham area. Neighbourhood Plans enable local councils to influence future growth in their area, including issues such as housing and industrial development, transport provision, and environmental and recreational concerns. With the news that the number of houses required to be built by 2026 will now significantly exceed the former proposal in Wiltshire Council's Core strategy document the creation of a Neighbourhood Plan becomes even more important.

#### **BOWERHILL SPORTS FIELDS**

2013 was the first full year of our ownership of Bowerhill sports field. We have had a very good usage rate from the beginning, with both youth and senior football taking place on our pitches, and from early in the year the first games for the newly formed Melksham disabled team, under the leadership of Mike Rogers.

We took over the maintenance of the field from Wiltshire Council contractors in June and have been fine-tuning the maintenance specification to get the best value for money and the best result for our users.

#### **A PERSONAL NOTE**

In conclusion I would like to thank everyone on the Council for their support in my first year as Chair. At my first meeting in the chair it was pointed out that I was the first person to chair the Parish having once chaired the Town council. The contrast between the two has been very marked. The Parish tends to work in a very collegiate way, discussion can be a little more informal, and party politics don't seem to intrude. My time at the Town was defined by the existence of voting blocks; the Parish is rather a collection of individuals all working for the best outcome for the parishioners.

We understand that the Town council would like to see moves towards one council for Melksham; in my view they would struggle to do a better job for our parishioners that we do, and I would really regret the demise of the independent councillor and the introduction of party politics for all of Melksham.



Finally can I thank Mary, the world's most conscientious clerk, Teresa, the most unflappable finance officer, Margaret, not least for the bottomless teapot, Terry for his excellent work out and about and Jo, for her pretence that I've hardly changed since she was at school!

**Richard Wood**

**Report from Roy While – Wiltshire Councillor, Melksham Without South**

It seems like only yesterday that I was preparing my previous report! It has been another eventful year starting off with the Wiltshire Council elections in May which saw changes in the Area Board with newcomers Pat Aves, David Pollitt and Terry Chivers joining John Hubbard, Jonathon Seed and myself. I have attended Parish Council and BRAG (Bowerhill Residents Action Group) meetings and put out my latest newsletter to all residents in December.

I have been heavily engaged with my SCOB (shadow community operations board) colleagues with the exciting Melksham Campus project. Some of you will have attended the pre planning road shows in November and subsequently the Area Board gave the go ahead for the submission of the planning application. Hopefully this will be approved this Spring and we can move forward with the construction of the first phase in late Summer coupled with the impressive development of the rugby and football facilities adjacent to the Melksham Oak Community School – surely a positive answer to those who say ‘Melksham gets nothing’ ! In June we had an interesting and rewarding visit to Bowerhill Primary School where we met year 5 pupils who were doing a project on the campus and invited us to talk to them and we fielded a wide range of testing questions! Subsequently they were invited to County Hall to look at the new library and meet Jane Scott, Leader of the Council.

The Area Board continues to make grants to local organisations and I am always pleased to be able to help those local organisations who ‘help themselves’ such as the Bowerhill Scouts, the Village Hall Trust and BRAG. I particularly like to encourage applications to the small grants scheme Up to £500, no match funding required.

I continue to deal with residents concerns. Top of the list? The cars parked along Halifax Road – the Traffic Regulation Order has been approved and the work programmed. Weather permitting implementation by the end of March. Other issues include dangerous trees, hedges, planning disputes, estate maintenance, and road safety on the industrial estate and a smelly, dead hedgehog!

I sit on the Planning (West) and the Wiltshire Pensions Fund committees and I am vice chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee being involved with the Councils emerging Business Plan and the Financial Plan/ budget process. Tight financial constraints continue but with service transformation (changing the way we do things and with increased use of technology) providing target savings of £25 millions we have a balanced budget which includes further resources for vulnerable children and adults and also an additional £8 million for road maintenance. The Council Tax freeze continues. No increase in car parking charges. The refurbishment of County Hall is complete, The Devizes offices have closed, the Bradley Road, Trowbridge offices ( where I spent part of my working life ) are, sadly, being demolished and staff have all returned from Shurnhold. We have hubs at Bourne Hill, Salisbury and Monkton Park, Chippenham.

I am proud to be a Wiltshire Councillor helping to develop community services but do, at times, get a little tired of unconstructive criticism.

## **Wiltshire Councillor Report.**

I was elected to Wiltshire Council, in May this year as an Independent member. I immediately joined the Independent group which has a membership of ten Independent councillors from across the County. This is solely for me to be allocated committee places; we have no group line, unlike the Conservatives, Lib Dems and Labour Groups.

Since being elected, I have attended all full Council meetings, and area boards, also I am a member of the Strategic Planning Committee and also a sub on many other committees.

I attend committees if there is a local issue on the agenda which affect my constituents and also a member of the Task Group which monitors the Belfour Beatty Highway Contract.

I hold regular Councillor Street Surgeries, right across my ward, and do my best to attend all three Parish Councils meetings most who meet on a monthly basis. I have dealt with many complaints from local residents, and local businesses.

I have been working with local residents, officers and Parish Councils regarding local flooding issues which as we all know has been a major problem and affected many people. I always make a point of attending the Councils Operational Flood Group that meet on a regular basis to help overcome the problems the local residents have experienced.

I have campaigned on many local issues, such as cuts to local bus services, environmental issues, highway problems, and the massive increases that will see leading Councillor receive increases in the allowances of up to 37%, and the Leader of the Lib Dem Group an increase that will see his allowance rocket to over £26.000 per year. This is to name a few.

Terry Chivers

Independent Melksham Without North.



**Melksham Without Parish Council  
February 2014**

***Current NPT Priorities:***

Up-to-date information about Neighbourhood Policing Teams (NPTs) including profiles, priorities and forthcoming community consultation events can be found on the Wiltshire Police website [www.wiltshire.police.uk](http://www.wiltshire.police.uk)

***Team Structure:***

<b>Sergeant:</b>	James Williams
Town Centre:	PC Kane Fulbrook-Smith, PCSO Helen Wilson PCSO Christopher Pugh
Rural North:	PC Barry Dalton PCSO Janet Gould PCSO Maggie Ledbury
Rural South:	PC Emily Thomas PCSO Rose Baldock

At the time of writing this report the existing priority for Melksham Without has been to tackle reports of ASB across the new estates bordering the A3102 in Melksham. This was set back in November when Police were receiving a number of reports from members of the public concerned that groups of youths were emptying dog litter bins and throwing the contents at passing cars. We have undertaken an increase in focused patrols to tackle this issue through the gathering of intelligence and effective targeting of a group of known local youths who were suspected of being involved. In partnership with Wiltshire Council ASB Officer, four identified youths were spoken to and issued ASB warning letters as to their future behaviour. Through this joint approach we have had no further problems with the throwing of dog litter.

There will be a review of this priority on the 24<sup>th</sup> February and a new one put in place through the Neighbourhood Tasking Group process.

Over the last 12 months the NPT have also tackled issues in and around the canal path and Giles Wood to the south of Bowerhill.

In relation to the canal the county of Wiltshire was targeted by one person committing a number of thefts and breaks to barges. These breaks were not solely located within the Melksham area but stretched along the length of the Kennet and Avon in Wiltshire. Our teams

patrolled along the canal to raise awareness of the problem and deliver crime prevention advice to the boating community and to also try and locate the offender. The offender was eventually located in a Northern County and given a custodial sentence of over four years.

Reports of ASB in Giles Wood, located between Bowerhill and the canal, is accessed from both directions. Previously not the easiest location to get to for local Police officers we acquired a pair of electric bikes for the NPT team in Melksham. These cycles made patrols of the canal and this location much easier for the whole team. On one such patrol PC Dalton located and seized a stolen moped in the woods and reports of ASB soon dwindled as the patrols increased. The use of the woods by the younger generation appears to be seasonal and the electric bikes will be invaluable next summer.

#### **Community Speedwatch (CSW):**

Unfortunately interest in CSW for Melksham Without has dropped since its introduction. Areas eligible for CSW are Shaw and Whitley, Bowerhill and Beanacre. Schemes were in place at Shaw and Whitley and Bowerhill but numbers of volunteers have dropped. To date the NPT have been unable to raise an interest in the scheme at Beanacre. I recognise the difficulties we had in supporting CSW last year and there were doubts and concerns over how the scheme was previously run, with little feedback or support being given to the original schemes. To rectify this the Police and Crime Commissioner instigated the recruitment of two coordinators to facilitate the support each scheme and the Police require. Anyone who is interested can get details from their local NPT.

#### **NHW:**

NHW is still well supported within Melksham community area and we have set up two new schemes in the last year in Hawthorn Road and Goldfinch Road to add to the many existing schemes. In other areas of Wiltshire pilot schemes will be run for a new IT system to support NHW. In other areas of the country the systems have greatly improved the information sharing between NHW and Police, further enhancing the schemes. One the pilots are concluded and if deemed a success I will be pushing to roll this out to Melksham as a priority.

#### **Facebook:**

Melksham NPT is now delving in to the world of social media with a Facebook account. We have our own NPT page up and running which is being updated on a regular basis by the team. Our following is steadily growing as we include more and more news and information. For many officers in Melksham NPT this new step has been a little daunting but hopefully it will become a popular resource in keeping in touch with the community. Log on to Facebook and type in Melksham Neighbourhood Policing to take a look. To receive regular updates 'like' the page and our activity will be sent to you.

-----

There are currently no significant crime series in the area. A focus on those causing crime has paid dividends in reducing offences of both dwelling and non-dwelling burglary and vehicle crime. Through the year there have been spikes in offending but our response has been swift and some significant criminals caught.

Our efforts will continue throughout 2014. I welcome your input to shape policing in the community and my team appreciate the support they receive.

**Matthew Armstrong**  
Inspector, Devizes, Melksham, Pewsey

**Wiltshire Police - 170 years of public service**

2

**COMMUNITY SAFETY GROUP AND NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICE TASKING  
GROUP REPORT TO MELKSHAM WITHOUT PARISH COUNCIL 2014**

The Melksham Area Community Safety Group meets on a monthly basis with quarterly meetings also combining the Police Neighbourhood Tasking Group.

The Community Safety Group has been involved with the following subjects:

- a. King George V Playing field – this area had become a priority of the Melksham police team as there had been reports of anti-social behaviour and damage. However increased police patrols and warnings being issued to some individuals has led to a significant reduction in anti-social behaviour.
- b. Community Speedwatch - a number of Community Speedwatch schemes had been set up but the interest in the work declined when the police co-ordinator left and was not replaced immediately. The Community Safety Group put pressure on the police and the police commissioner to have a co-ordinator appointed which has now happened so we hope that the local dormant schemes will now be reinvigorated.
- c. Neighbourhood Watch - the Group supports the Neighbourhood Watch scheme and encourages other areas to take it up so a publicity campaign has resulted in more neighbourhood watch schemes starting up especially in the new development off Snowberry Lane. A Neighbourhood Watch event was organised recently in Berryfields to reinvigorate the scheme in this area and new volunteers have come forward.
- d. CCTV system - the Group has supported the campaign for a new CCTV system in Melksham Town Centre. There is no definite installation date for the new system as the project is waiting for extra money to pay for two high definition cameras.
- e. Metro Speed counts – the Group has started to make comments on requests for metro speed counts, the most recent being for Snarilton Lane where we have suggested that the count should take place half way down the lane rather than at the start.
- f. At the quarterly Neighbourhood Police Tasking meetings the police team agree with representatives of local groups the three main issues to concentrate on over the next quarter and report back on the issues that were raised at previous meetings. This system works very well and gives residents an opportunity of raising issues directly with the police team. Crime in this police area is at a very low rate and vandalism is a rare occurrence now, which is a credit to our police team.

Mike Mills

Friends of Melksham Hospital & community.

This meets quarterly any body can join or attend George Brown is its  
Chairman Allan Weymouth Secretary and Jean Harris Treasurer  
The cash balance showed £156,498. 38p in hand  
An appeal from the hospitals community child adolescent Mental Health  
Service requesting appropriate toys and play material was unanimously  
Agreed to purchase these items.  
The A G M and next quarterly meeting would be held on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup>  
Feb at 7PM place to announced.

Shaw Hall management Committee attended 1 meeting on joining  
The committee.

G A Coombes

## **Melksham Health Working Group**

The Group met twice in 2013. A meeting is due to be held in March 2014 and if this occurs before the Annual Parish Meeting any important matters arising will be reported verbally.

In April 2013 the Wiltshire Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) formally became the responsible body for commissioning health care services in Wiltshire. Its stated aim is to provide 'The right healthcare for you, with you, near you'. It serves a population of 460,000 and has a budget of £520 million. Its Management Board is made up of local GPs representing all the GP practices in Wiltshire together with a team of professionals and lay persons who will oversee the planning and purchasing of health care in Wiltshire. The Group suggested that the CCG should be asked to provide a representative to give a presentation at a forthcoming meeting of the Melksham Area Board. The Wiltshire Clinical Commissioning Group's Prospectus 2013 – 2014 and a range of other local health topics and news are available at [www.wiltshireccg.nhs.uk](http://www.wiltshireccg.nhs.uk).

The Melksham Campus development will include the St Damian's Surgery which will transfer from the Melksham Hospital building. Plans for the Campus are currently being finalised.

Melksham Town Council and Melksham Without Parish Council are in the process of preparing the Neighbourhood Plan and asked for assistance from the local GP practices and others to nominate a representative to help to ensure local health related matters are adequately incorporated within the Plan.

It was reported that the minor injury units at Chippenham and Trowbridge were being reviewed by the CCG to ensure they provided the local services required. It was requested that the CCG be asked to consider the reinstatement of a minor injury unit in Melksham. The Community Area Partnership is planning to undertake a consultation exercise to establish the local needs and provision.

Elderly respite and recuperative care is now available using local residential and nursing home beds releasing hospital beds for acute and urgent patient treatment. It is planned to continue to increase the provision of this service as more care beds are identified.

It was reported that recently introduced arrangements for a geriatrician to work within the community and in liaison with GPs has helped provide more timely and responsive local care when compared with the central service previously provided in Bath. GP surgeries and the Social Services Department are working together to ensure an integrated and comprehensive service is provided in the future.

Melksham Hospital's re-equipped radiography department provides patient appointment service with up to a two week lead time. Many local patients opt to travel to Bath and use the walk-in service provided at the Royal United Hospital. It was requested that local authorities make representation to request a walk-in service at Melksham Hospital similar to that available at the Royal United Hospital.

Other topics discussed include Trowbridge Maternity Unit, 111 Service, vested interests and the Liverpool Care Pathway.

Paul Clark



**BOWERHILL VILLAGE HALL TRUST**

**REPORT TO MELKSHAM WITHOUT PARISH COUNCIL 2014**

The Bowerhill Village Hall Trust is a charity comprising local volunteers who give their time freely to ensure that the Bowerhill Village Hall remains a viable resource for use by the local community.

Regular bookings and one off bookings for social events have both increased. The biggest expense that the Hall Trust faces is the ever rising cost of energy and our fuel bills to heat and light a large Hall are very high. Recently when the Hall Trust reluctantly has to increase our booking fees to meet the increased energy costs, some of our smaller groups had major problems meeting the higher cost. To help alleviate the situation we have explored the option of solar panels on the roof of the Hall to reduce our energy bills and have decided to go ahead with the scheme. The Hall Trust is paying half of the costs of the solar panels and we have applied for a grant from Melksham Area Board to meet the other half. The next Area Board meeting is next week and we hope we will be successful.

The Hall Trust was also successful in applying for a grant from Melksham Charities towards the cost of a chair stacker to make it easier for our user groups to move chairs in and out of the rooms. The stacker is due to be delivered soon and it will prove to be a benefit to many of our groups.

The Hall Trust is appreciative of the grant from Melksham Without Parish Council that is spent towards the costs of the upkeep of the Hall. We are facing having to get the inside of the main Hall repainted this year so the grant is important to us.

My thanks are due to all of the Village Hall Trust committee who work so hard to keep the Hall viable.

Mike Mills

Shaw Village Hall and Playing Field – Report to Melksham Without Parish Council.  
March 2014.

Shaw Village Hall and Playing Field continues to provide exceptional facilities for the local community, with regular use by individuals and local groups. General work and maintenance of the hall is usually undertaken by Committee Members when they are available, but we do now also have a local self employed person who has agreed to undertake work on the hall at short notice should we find it necessary.

The Committee went out to tender and obtained prices for decorating the Main Hall, Kitchen, Toilets, and Entrance last summer. This was completed whilst the Shaw and Whitley Pre-School were on their summer recess. New curtain rails and curtains were also provided in the main hall. This work brightened and improved the interior of the building.

Shortly the Committee intend obtaining further quotations for decorating and refurbishing the footballer's changing rooms, showers and toilets. It will be necessary for this work to be done after the end of the current football season and before next season commences.

At the annual AGM on the 4<sup>th</sup> March 2013 responsibility for overseeing management of the field passed from Richard Bean, who was retiring from the Committee, to Geoff Williams who agreed to take bookings for the football and maintain the dressing rooms.

The Landscape Group, a company who undertake a large amount of Local Government Ground Maintenance work, took over maintaining the playing field, children's play ground, and surrounding areas in 2013. This company have proved to be competent, reliable and also a substantial financial saving on the previous arrangement.

At the beginning of the last season in August 2013 there were four football teams booked for the season. The Golden Fleece played on Saturday afternoon and Miller 'A' and 'B' terms play on alternate Sunday mornings. On Sunday afternoons it is the turn of Melksham Hurricanes under 13s eleven to fulfil their fixtures. Sadly The Golden Fleece team ceased to exist just before Christmas and there is now no football being played on a Saturday for the rest of this season. However, like the majority of pitches in the area the field has been badly affected by the incessant rain we have experienced since Christmas, and no football was played throughout January, or will be for the foreseeable future. On a brighter note, a firm booking has been obtained for the newly created Melksham 3<sup>rd</sup> eleven to play their fixtures on the pitch next season.

With regard to other activities taking place on the field, there is a six mile run called

## **SHAW & WHITLEY READING ROOMS**

### **ANNUAL REPORT 2013**

I am pleased to report that 2013 was another successful year in the life of the Reading Rooms which remain a popular venue for the whole community. Our regular groups of users include Mother and Toddlers, pilates, sewing, personal fitness, art and music appreciation. The hall is also used as a Polling Station, as a meeting place for the local National Trust committee and for family parties and gatherings.

The year proved to be an expensive one. During the summer, whilst both chimneys were being swept and capped, major faults were discovered in one chimney, which had to be rebuilt as a matter of urgency. The cost of this work together with other roof repairs amounted to £2500. The ground-floor extension housing the kitchen and toilets was repainted externally, which greatly brightened up the building.

The Reading Rooms' income for the year was consistent with previous years, and the accounts showed a 'break even' at the year end. I am sorry to report that the Whitley Players' drama activities are somewhat dormant at present, owing to lack of members, although the group put on a very entertaining comedy in September which was well supported by enthusiastic audiences.

The committee are grateful for the annual grant support from the Parish Council which will be used to provide an additional notice board for the exterior of the building.

The recruitment of new committee members is a perennial problem these days, and the Reading Rooms committee recognises that new members are urgently needed to carry our charity forward in years to come. We will be making an extra effort to strengthen our membership this year to ensure a bright future.

Bob Brownrigg  
Treasurer, Shaw & Whitley Reading Rooms

February 2014

### **BASRAG and Berryfield Village Hall 2013/14**

The Berryfield and Semington Road Action Group continues to work for residents by maintaining the existing village hall, and running events at various times of the year for the whole community.

Overall it has been an encouraging year for Berryfield. The number of people attending the BASRAG meetings and participating in and helping to organise events has increased markedly.

The usual Easter Egg Hunt was successful and the Summer trip to Weymouth, subsidised by BASRAG was very successful, and could become an annual event to look forward to.

The Art group continues to meet regularly, and the new Craft group now meets twice a month. British gas still regularly uses the hall and we have had private bookings as well, to special prices for local residents.

It has continued to be difficult for BASRAG to plan for the future because of the delay in submitting the planning application for the canal. The need for a replacement playground is made clear in comments on the plan, which is yet to be approved. The latest probable date for a decision is now the autumn of 2014 when all the ecological surveys have been completed. In the meantime the existing hall is deteriorating and is already past the end of its expected lifetime. Our worry is that the hall may become unusable before progress is made on the canal, and a replacement hall is provided as part of development in the area.

This year we became members of the Wiltshire Community Land trust, as we explored options for the construction of the new hall. BASRAG has had meetings with Paul Lenaertes, the project officer for the Wilts & Berks Canal Trust and he remains positive that a site for a new hall and play area will be allocated when the planning decision is made. Affording the build may be a bigger problem than acquiring the land.

BASRAG, like all such community groups, relies on its volunteers for its success. If you are interested in working for BASRAG, you can contact Gill Arbery, Steve Petty or Richard Wood via the Melksham Without Parish Council.

## **The Chamber of Commerce**

The Chamber of Commerce meets each month at Well House Manor in Melksham, and continues to strive to represent businesses large and small across the Melksham community area. At just £54 a year local membership for small businesses, we believe it offers great value for money. In addition to regular special presentations (for instance, from the UK Operations Director of Herman Miller, who are moving to Melksham in the next 18 months), current planning applications of interest are raised, and the development of a Neighbourhood Plan for Melksham is addressed. Other recent issues addressed include:

**Transport** - Graham Ellis reported that the new train service for Melksham had been launched 7th February by Baroness Kramer, Minister for Transport. The AGM of the Community Rail Partnership also took place that date. The target for the 1st year was 45,000 journeys – the figures at the moment look like being closer to 60,000. There has also been a new free bus service launched which connects the trains with Bowerhill and East Melksham. As it's a free bus service it doesn't have to run strictly to time, so it can wait for the trains if they are delayed. Also the last bus of the day from Chippenham, the 234, also now accepts train tickets.

**the Campus** - Recent indications are that the planners wish to erect a wall across the front lawn, which is a worrying development as it's used for public events such as the Jubilee and annual Food Festival. Also, plans for the new football and rugby grounds were being delayed by searches for newts and bats, which could mean the campus itself being delayed until they're able to move. The next meeting takes place tomorrow, Tuesday 25th March, at 6.45pm. Everyone is very welcome to attend.

**Phil McMullen**

## MELKSHAM COMMUNITY AREA PARTNERSHIP

# Annual Report 2013 / 14 and Draft Workplan 2014 / 15



### 1. INTRODUCTION

On behalf of the local community, MCAP seeks to:

#### **Reflect local concerns and ideas by tackling them in the Community Plan**

We are looking to bring about change through a combination of encouraging local projects and finding ways to influence decision makers. We do this by

- Organising events and consultations
- Attending community events
- Provide representatives on consultative groups
- Collection and analysis of data
- Consultation across as wide a section of the community as possible
- Preparation of the Community Plan

#### **Maintain strong links with town and parish councils and the area board**

We are engaging with councils and other partners to build effective participation, consultation and community planning within the community.

- Support networking between community organisations
- Provide support and advice to community groups, incl. IT support
- Promote volunteering
- Assist groups with fundraising
- Assisting the Area Board with Joint events
- Supporting Area Board initiatives
- Raising community issues with Area Board
- Feedback of community views to Area Board
- Engagement with Wiltshire Council's OurCommunityMatters blog site

#### **Identify the community's priorities for action**

We are establishing a wide-ranging network of hundreds of community organisations, groups, clubs, societies, schools, churches and businesses as well as interested individuals in order to connect with as many local people as possible.

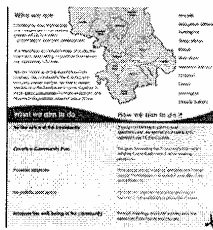
- Build links with town and parish councils by providing practical support
- Support parishes to take advantage of areas of mutual interest
- Develop communications channels and help community groups get their message out (Twitter, Social Networking websites, newsletters, etc)
- Try to develop links to hard to reach groups

#### **We do this by**

- Maintain and promote Partnership website
- Develop a database of community groups and contact information
- Maintain a partnership steering group with regular meetings
- Maintain thematic sub-groups as necessary with regular meetings
- Partnership administration
- Partnership planning and budgeting
- training of staff and volunteers to build capacity
- attendance at meetings or events held by other CAPs, groups or regional or national bodies

Below are just some of the highlights of Melksham Community Area Partnership in the previous year, and at the end of the report, a snapshot of the year ahead.

## 2. CONSULTATIONS



**Community Plan – latest version published February 2014**

Having collected comments and concerns throughout the year, the priorities for the community are outlined in the February 2014 version of the Community Plan.

This document is for the Area Board, Wiltshire Council, community groups and individuals to refer to in order to address priorities and organise projects.

### Survey Software

Melksham Community Area Partnership have been closely involved in the development of some innovative new software which revolutionizes online survey participation at a local level. Melksham is proud to have been chosen to pilot this scheme (the other shortlisted community was the London Borough of Hackney), the development of which has drawn on the Partnership's wealth of knowledge and experience without costing a penny in terms of direct funding.



<http://tinyurl.com/mkpz5gm>

### King Street Car Park Melksham Coach Parking Residents' Survey September 2013

At the instigation of Melksham Area Board, 63 surveys were hand delivered to residents living around King Street Car Park Friday 20th and Saturday 21st September 2013

Question: Are you happy to see coaches use the King Street Car Park during the daytime or campus opening hours only? Required response: Yes or No

Response: 17 people for, 2 against. The Area Board passed the proposal at their public meeting in December 2013.



### Community Campus Project – ongoing

Following an in-depth consultation across the community area in 2012 involving meetings, open days and a questionnaire sent to every household, we continued to encourage participation and provide feedback into the campus project, particularly through a seat on the Shadow Community Operations Board.

### 3. COMMUNICATIONS



Our website continues to develop as a source of communication and information for the community, and we have established links with Wiltshire Council's "Our Community Matters" blogsite, for which the Partnership provides regular updates. See: <http://tinyurl.com/l99vso6>

### 4. THEME GROUPS and PARTNERS

Our theme groups look at specific issues and arrange projects and report direct to the Steering group. We also link to existing groups that are active in the community.



#### Community Safety

This group meets on the last Thursday of every month and has been successful in introducing the Touch2id age-verification system to the area, as well as working with pubwatch, neighbourhood watch, the PCC and the neighbourhood policing teams to ensure that community safety priorities are identified. Thanks to some additional funding from the Area Board, the Partnership produced and distributed over 1,000 very well-received "slow down in our community" stickers. This year the group has been particularly active in bringing a CCTV system to the Town Centre of Melksham.

#### Waterways



This group has been looking at issues around the river Avon through town and the numerous tributaries that feed into it, and in particular to support and promote the Melksham Link to the Wilts and Berks Canal. Two major consultation events in partnership with the Melksham Trust have also raised the profile of the Waterways group.

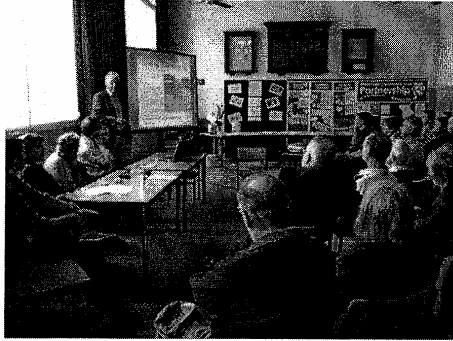
#### 55+ Forum

The 55+ Forum continues to explore and address issues affecting the older generation in the Melksham area. Many people in this age group are lonely and typically hard to reach, and much good work has been done to help them feel included:

- 100+ attending monthly film groups from Melksham and outside the area
- Over 55s luncheon clubs, shopping trips, car-share
- Support from Wiltshire online digital champions: <http://tinyurl.com/kfldt4q>







### **Energy group**

A very busy Energy group continues to support and promote alternative and cost-effective energy initiatives. A public event was held in which people heard presentations and received impartial advice on renewable energy. Melksham Community Area Partnership and the Energy Group have both written letters of support for solar panel initiatives in the Melksham Community Area.

### **Melksham Community Environmental Group**

The Partnership's Community Environmental Group hosted a very successful Community Apple Pressing Day in October 2013, which saw over 60 people come together in the grounds of Well House Manor. There was also a Community Seed Swap event held in March 2013 which drew in people from all around the area. Both events were advertised widely on Wiltshire Radio, and Phil McMullen's press release for Apple Pressing won an award and a special promotion on BBC Wiltshire during January 2014.



### **Leisure and Culture group**

2013/4 was a particularly busy year for the Culture group, who were involved in delivering the Arts and Heritage JSA information for Wiltshire Council, pulling in information from across the whole of the Community Area. We have volunteers working hard on the development of an all-inclusive database of groups, clubs, events, venues and facilities in the community area. The Partnership also has close links with the development of a Museum for Melksham, which seeks to help people to gain appreciation of the history of the town, and is liaising with the Melksham Oak School to arrange partnership working between young people interested in social history and the work of the Museum itself. The Partnership is also represented on a steering group looking at ways to commemorate the outbreak of World War 1 a hundred years ago.

**Y.A.G**  
**Youth Advisory Group**

### **Young People**

The Partnership provides administrative support and facilitates meetings for the young people of the Melksham Community.

### **Health and Wellbeing**

The Partnership continues to provide valuable input to the Health Working Group in Melksham. Minutes of the most recent meeting may be found here: <http://tinyurl.com/l8hsvxn>

On the 28/10/13 the Spa Medical Centre hosted a Men's Health Awareness evening, with stalls dispensing refreshments and information manned by volunteers from the Patient Reference Group and Melksham Community Area Partnership, who had highlighted concerns regarding men's health in general and particularly their perceived unwillingness to go and see a doctor as a priority in their Community Action Plan.



Following extremely positive audience feedback, further similarly themed public sessions are planned, details of which will be publicised by the Patient Reference Group and Melksham Community Area Partnership in due course.

The next planned similar event will be on 31/03/14 and look at two "hot topics", Dementia & Pain Management.



### Transport Group - Buses, Cycling, Walking

A comprehensive audit of the bus stops in central Melksham was undertaken in April 2013, the results of which can be found on the Partnership's website: <http://bit.ly/12Ez6P8>

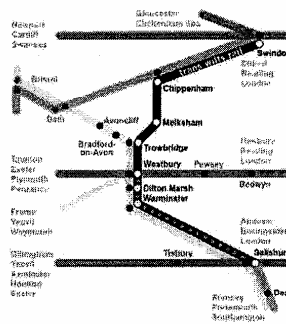
Work has additionally been started on a leaflet that shows the cycle routes in and around Melksham, updated to show the various new developments.

There is also a footpaths project underway, along with plans to print a Melksham Walking Map.

### Transport Group - Trains

Melksham Community Area Partnership is both represented on the Melksham Rail Development Group and is a charter member of the Trans-Wilts Community Rail Partnership, which has close working links with both Wiltshire Council and First Great Western. The Partnership Officer provides secretarial services and support to the group. Thanks to a lot of hard work by a small group of dedicated individuals, the town has seen a rise from just 2 trains each way per day to a much improved service of 16 trains per day.

An extensive Passenger Survey was undertaken by the Transport sub-group at Melksham Station in October 2013.



## 5. LOOKING AHEAD

The Community Area Partnership has a number of projects lined up for 2014. In addition to extending the Men's Health Awareness campaign and working towards transport improvements, these include:

**Theme: Transport**

### **Project: Improvement to Melksham station & local bus links**

Melksham, a town of 25,000, the 4th largest urban area in Wiltshire, has seen a rise from just 2 trains each way per day to a much improved service of 16 trains per day. This is largely thanks to Wiltshire Council successfully bidding for £4.25 million from Local Sustainable Transport Fund for improving Wiltshire's Rail offering, which enabled work in partnership with First Great Western to be undertaken which led to improved TransWilts services. LSTF is for station access / integration / sustainable improvements that are needed to link to trains and provide support resource for new rider levels. It's important that Melksham Station sees a fair proportion of that funding compared to other stations in the region. The Community Area Partnership can and will play a key role in gathering and presenting statistics and working closely with our partners to ensure Melksham Station becomes a transport "hub" – the proposed link road past Foundry Close via the McDonalds entrance, joining up with the station car-park, would be for bus, pedestrian and cycle users only, but would also provide additional parking and green space that's so badly required – thus tying in well with the Community Priority to *enhance parks and green spaces* and also addresses issues of *Isolation, Unemployment* and *Tourism*.

**Theme: Leisure and Culture**

### **Project: Mark the centenary of the outbreak of the 1<sup>st</sup> World War in 2014**

There are a number of events and commemorations happening across Wiltshire and indeed the whole of Great Britain, where communities and individuals of all ages will come together to mark, commemorate and remember the lives of those who lived, fought and died in the Great War. Melksham is twinned with towns in both Germany and France, and is in a particularly strong position to really make the town stand out next year by working together with them on a project involving schools and veterans associations in all three towns to show how the Great War affected everyone – ordinary people in small towns such as ours – on both sides of the divide.

The Partnership intends to work together with the key stakeholders, the Museum of Melksham, the Historical Association, Town and Parish Councils and the Twinning Association, to mark the centenary with public exhibitions and displays. Pupils from Melksham Oak School have already been engaged to investigate the stories behind the names recorded on local War Memorials.

**Theme: Economy and Education, Jobs and Skills**

### **Project: Opportunity Melksham Jobs Fair**

In 2013, the Melksham Community Area contributed 7.3% of Wiltshire's NEET population overall. The Area Board has identified that creating employment and work experience opportunities for young people is a top priority. An event is being held in March 2014 called Opportunity Melksham, led by Melksham Extended Services. The Community Area Partnership is lending considerable support and expertise to this venture.

#### RELATED ISSUES:

- Unemployment
- Social isolation
- Mental health
- Educational attainment
- Intergenerational problems
- Anti-social behaviour
- wellbeing

**Theme: Children and Young People**

**Timescale: Summer 2014**

**Project:**

Encourage YAG members to be community reporters for Wiltshire Council's Community Blogsite, which are now incorporated into the CAPA. An Area Board Grant could be applied for to purchase microphones and adapters for SmartPhones. Young people could then report specifically on youth issues and take photos – see for example <http://www.100cameras.org/>. This could appeal on a number of levels: learning new skills, show proactivity, report their own issues, and community cohesion.

**Theme: Leisure, Culture and Sport**

**Project: Mapping the Creative Network**

**Timescale: by Summer 2014**

**Priority: Communication – Lots of activities happening, but people lack awareness**

Melksham Community Area Partnership is undertaking a project to map the Creative Network in our area, in line with Arts, Culture and Leisure Provision proposals emerging from Wiltshire Council's latest round of Joint Strategic Assessment. Melksham is a growing community with many different groups doing various things. We are interested in looking into the creative networks within the area to see if there is some way of bringing them together in an accessible way. The project will include:

- Public consultation, both in person and online
- Extensive research to assess the groups, venues, events, audience and footfall
- Looking at innovative ways to share the information, both online (for example via a Twitter Newspaper), broadcast (advertising, radio and film), and public announcements on notice-boards and in libraries.

**Theme: Leisure, Culture and Sport**

**Project: What Matter to You public consultation (March 2014)**

In September 2013 MCAP produced a comprehensive 11 page report into the Arts and Culture offering and availability in the Melksham Community Area.

The Community Area JSAs have now been updated, to be published shortly, and that data is to inform the 'What matters to you?' events.

The events are Wiltshire Council/Public Health events, hosted through each area board, but working in partnership with the CAP.

The event's objective is to bring together community members to discuss the data, prioritise issues and propose actions to address these.





Themes: Community Development and Inclusion, Health and Wellbeing, Environment

Project: Melksham Community Seed Swap

Timescale: March 2014

Working in partnership with Wiltshire Wildlife Trust,

- 1000 flyers advertising MCAP's Seed Swap event were distributed in the market and door to door around Snowberry Lane on January 21st
- Seed Swap community event planned for 8th March 2014

Themes: Community Development and Inclusion, Health and Wellbeing, Environment

Project: Melksham Community Apple Pressing Day

Timescale: October 2014

Melksham Community Apple Pressing Day was first held in October 2012 at Well House Manor in Melksham using a small 12 litre press owned by one of the organisers. Nobody knew how well it would go: it was said to be a poor year for apples, and nothing like it had been tried in Melksham beforehand. The day was hugely successful and has now become a fixture in the town's calendar of events. 2013 saw crowds of people patiently queuing with their bags and wheelbarrows full of apples waiting for their turn to help out with the chopping, pulping, pressing and bottling.



Thanks to a grant from Melksham Area Board, a 30 litre press has now been purchased, and in 2014 Community Apple Pressing Day will see even more people able to take away as many bottles and cartons of healthy freshly pressed juice as they wanted. All completely free of charge.



Themes: Health and Wellbeing, Environment

Project: Dog Fouling awareness campaign

Timescale: Spring 2014

Dog Fouling is an issue that's causing increasing concern here in Melksham and the Community Partnership Area. With the blessing of the Town Hall and the Keep Britain Tidy campaign, MCAP is starting a campaign to raise awareness of the problem, and to try to find ways to encourage dog owners to pick up their dog's mess. An anonymous questionnaire has been drafted and distributed by hand, and this is to be followed by further questionnaires and a poster campaign.

**Melksham Without Parish Council Annual General Meeting.**

**Report of Berryfield and Semington Road Action Group, 2013**

1.00 Aims

Berryfield and Semington Road Action Group (BASRAG) was formed to encourage community cohesion through co-ordinating initiatives and social events to improve the lives of people living in the Berryfield area. It played a key role in establishing the existing Berryfield Village Hall and adjacent play park and it is now working towards establishing a permanent village hall in the area.

2.00 Report on Events

The annual Easter Fun Event proved successful when several local children attended with their parents and enjoyed Easter themed art and craft activities in the hall.

A Spring litter pick produced several bags of rubbish, most of which came from the hedgerow along Semington Road and five volunteers helped Spring clean the hall.

A Summer Fun Day was held for local children during the school holidays and an outing to Weymouth was also enjoyed.

In September a table top sale was held and the Art and Craft Groups joined forces to stage an Art and Craft Exhibition in October.

The year's activities concluded with the annual Santa Run in December.

3.00 Committee

Richard Wood was elected as chair at the annual meeting in March, Gill Arbery continues as Secretary and Steve Petty as Treasurer. Sue and Jim Whyborn continue on the committee and we have gained three more members in Liz Callaway, Cynthia Legge and Jayne Hurd. The increase in committee has been very encouraging .

4.00 Hall User Groups

The Art Group continues to use the hall weekly and the craft group has increased its meetings to twice monthly.

The hall is still let on a regular basis to British Gas who hold team meetings there.

The hall has been let for private parties during the year.

BASRAG is a member of the Village Hall Association and attends their meetings whenever possible.

**BOWERHILL RESIDENTS ACTION GROUP (BRAG)**

**REPORT TO MELKSHAM WITHOUT PARISH COUNCIL 2014**

This has been a very busy year for BRAG although the weather spoilt some of our plans leading to the cancellation of some of our working parties although we have still been able to keep the picnic area by the canal tidy and the grass cut using the strimmer that we bought from the Area Board grant. A bench was erected here in memory of a well-known and well-liked local man Matt Dicks. This bench was vandalised and then repaired by a Bowerhill resident and then BRAG members discovered that one day it had been moved to the top of the bridle path near Bowerhill Lane. I and another BRAG member arrived just as a white van turned up with the driver taking one look at us next to the bench and driving off. We are convinced this was an attempt to steal the bench. It has now been concreted into the ground to deter any other thieves.

A flowering cherry tree has also been planted using money given to us by Mr and Mrs Phillips in memory of their daughter Michelle who was killed in a car crash ten years ago. They have been Bowerhill residents for over 30 years but have now moved away and they wanted a memorial to their daughter. The tree was just what they wanted and it is doing well next to the bench. Both the tree and the bench have plaques on them giving the names of the people being remembered. BRAG has asked if any other Bowerhill residents wish to buy a bench or tree in memory of a loved one.

BRAG was given a number of bird feeders that have now been erected in the picnic area and they are attracting a wide variety of birds and many residents enjoy sitting on the benches watching the birds fly around. This is costing BRAG a lot of money to buy the bird food and we are grateful to the residents who top up the feeders with their own bird food.

We have also had a meeting with Wiltshire Council and Wiltshire Wildlife about the balancing pond area near Hastings Road and whether any improvements are needed in this area. Wiltshire Wildlife regards it as acceptable as it is and they recommended doing nothing with it. The channels that feed it from the residential area are choked with overgrown vegetation and litter and Melksham Without Parish Council has written to Wessex Water and Wiltshire Council asking for improvement work to be done.

Instead of organising regular litter picks BRAG have now organised their own network of volunteers who keep the area near their homes free of litter. Melksham Charities gave BRAG a grant to buy litter pickers for which we are grateful. This dedicated band of volunteers, who now number 20, have not only made a big difference to the cleanliness of Bowerhill but they also report back any major issues that they find when they are collecting litter.

My thanks are due to the dedicated band of volunteers who give their time freely to help keep Bowerhill tidy and BRAG members know that the Bowerhill community are very grateful for the work that is done.

Mike Mills

## **BOWERHILL VILLAGER**

It has been another good year for the Villager. Our Newsletter has been distributed ,on time to all houses in Bowerhill.

We deliver 1600 Villagers, this includes houses in Bowerhill Lane, The Spa and Mallory Close. We will be including the new houses that are nearing completion in Hornchurch Road to our delivery rota.

We have 60 volunteers, some just deliver a few copies in there own road, other people deliver many, or have quite a long walk. They all do a very good job without complaining and we always get a couple of offers if we advertise that there is a vacancy to be filled. I would like to thank everyone that helps us by doing an excellent job of delivering the Villager in all weather.

The Team would like to thank P C Barry Dalton for his regular Police reports, they are a very popular feature of the Villager.

On behalf of The Bowerhill Villager Editorial Team I would like to thank Members of the Melksham Without Parish Council for their continued interest and support.

Brenda Chandler  
Chair. Bowerhill Villager  
February 2014



## **Connect**

Connect is the magazine which caters for the villages of Shaw and Whitley. It is produced every two months, and includes details of organisation and activities within the villages. There are regular contributions from the Churches – Benefice of Atworth with Shaw and Whitley, and the Methodist Chapel -, Shaw Primary School, Shaw & Whitley WI, Shaw & Whitley 'Pre-School', Shaw & Whitley Garden Club, Neighbourhood Police, Golden Fleece Cricket Club, Whitley Golf Club, Shaw & Whitley Friendship Club and the Walking Group. Details are included of Melksham Without PC Councillors and meetings, and adverts for local services are published. We also publish varied articles from readers about their hobbies and leisure activities, and weather records for the area contributed by one of our readers.

We are extremely grateful for the financial support given by the Melksham Without Parish Council.

John Harding

Chairman

## AFC Melksham disabled football initiative

**AFC Melksham, who have set up and run an Ability Counts disabled football team some 14 months ago, are now proud to have achieved affiliation as a Wiltshire FA Club in its own right.**

The management of the scheme was master minded by AFC Melksham the Chippenham Sunday football premier league side, and its success is considered a model pilot for other local Wiltshire areas.

Brian Evans and his coaching/support team work with a squad of some 20 lads every week, based indoors in winter at Melksham Oak School gym and in the summer outdoors at Christie Miller Sports fields Bowerhill. All new players are always welcome.

Mike Rogers, AFC chairman, has, in conjunction with Wilts FA, obtained a Sports England Grant to further extend Ability Counts coaching sessions across the county, the latest being Fairfield Farm College near Westbury, having indoor coaching sessions every Sunday morning and being affiliated as an adult disabled team. Facility and coaching costs, plus kit and balls have been funded by an AFC Melksham Grant and this is now in progress.

Starting in January will see AFC Melksham and Wilts FA working with Trowbridge Active in setting up another starter coaching session(s) at John Gaunt School, spreading the availability of football outlets for Ability Counts boys, girls and adults.

Wilts FA and AFC Melksham, with support from the Chippenham Sunday football league, have been active in organising Wilts and Dorset multi team Ability Counts tournaments at Stanley Park Chippenham, and teams from Swindon, Bournemouth and Melksham have participated. More are planned and it is hoped the new start up clubs will join the numbers, bringing healthy competition to the ever improving disabled football scene.

The further extension of disabled football coaching to local towns such as Devizes and around Wiltshire will be goals for 2014.

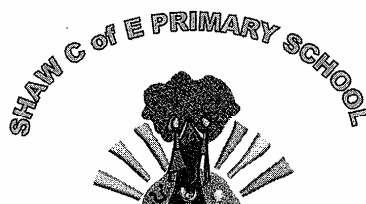
**PAVILION CLUB REPORT**

**MELKSHAM WITHOUT PARISH COUNCIL 2014**

The Pavilion Youth Club has been closed for over a year because of falling membership. It is hoped that the opening of the new pavilion and changing rooms at the Bowerhill Sports Fields will prove the catalyst to re-opening the Club. This however depends on the availability of volunteers to run the Club and enough young people being interested in attending the Club to make it viable.

No further action will be taken in this issue until the new facilities have been built.

Mike Mills



**Report to the Annual Parish Meeting Melksham Without Parish Council – Mon 24<sup>th</sup> March 2014**

There have been a number of significant changes at Shaw CE VC Primary School over the past year. After 11 years of service, Mr David Borrie retired from the Headship in April 2013. During his time at the school, the buildings and grounds have been transformed and the school now boasts some of the most up to date facilities of any school in the Country. As a tribute to Mr Borrie, the new school hall was named the "Borrie Hall".

Mr Simon White took over the Headship in April 2013, having previously been Headteacher of Winsley Primary School, Bradford on Avon. Mr White is also a School Improvement Advisor for Wiltshire Local Authority, supporting leadership in several other Wiltshire Schools.

Numbers on roll have been steadily rising and in September 2013 the school was reorganised into seven single-age classes. With 206 pupils on roll, the school is fast approaching its capacity of 210. Two long-serving members of the teaching staff have left the school in the last few months to take up new opportunities – Mrs Jackson and Mrs Reid.

Since September, the school has taken the decision to greatly enhance its provision in Music and PE through the appointment of specialist teachers for these areas. Feedback from parents has been overwhelmingly positive.

Some internal re-organisation has enabled the school to better meet the needs of the children in the areas of Computing and Creative development. The old ICT suite has been removed and a mobile suite of laptops purchased for use in the classrooms. The ICT suite has been turned into a Creative Studio for the teaching of Music and as a space for pursuing larger and messier art projects!

Under the leadership of our talented Deputy Head, Carol Sampey, the school continues to develop as a centre of excellence for the teaching of Science. Carol is a Fellow of the Primary Teaching Trust and runs network meetings for the Local Authority, supporting Science Leaders from across the County. The school is also involved in a National project with Bath Spa University, looking at assessment in Primary Science. The results of this research will influence National policy in this area. The school has also recently applied for accreditation as a Gold level school in the Primary Science Quality Mark scheme.

The school has not been without some troubles this year – sharing the issue of severe flooding with some of our neighbours in Shaw and Whitley. We are going to have to look at some flood alleviation works in our car park to protect our lovely new hall from flooding in exceptional weather. The school has also only just got back to normal following extensive damage to the Offices over Christmas when a car struck the corner of the school, causing many thousands of pounds of damage.

The other big issue for the school is the perennial one of parking and access. Despite many, many pleas and reminders to Parents, inconsiderate and sometimes dangerous parking is a regular occurrence. We have involved the Police in this and they are making occasional visits at peak times to enforce the law. We understand that the double yellow lines are to be extended, which will be a step in the right direction, provided road users observe them! We will continue to remind people of the importance of this through our regular newsletters.

Along with all other Maintained Schools in the Country, we will be introducing the new National Curriculum to Shaw School from September. We have taken this as an opportunity to review and enhance our already vibrant

Shaw C of E Primary School  
Corsham Road  
Melksham. SN12 8EQ  
Tel: 01225 702544

**Headteacher. Mr. S. White**

curriculum and are very excited about the opportunities which our new curriculum will bring. The Shaw School curriculum is based firmly on a deep understanding of the skills and knowledge which children need to develop. It also sets out clear milestones which we aim for all children to achieve at key points in their schooling. We believe that children learn best from practical and first-hand experience and that regular visits and residential provide memorable learning experiences for all children. We also believe that personal development and "Learning to learn" skills should be embedded across the curriculum. Supporting all this, the "spine" of our curriculum involves a clear and core focus on developing excellent Literacy and Numeracy skills.

We are very proud of our school and would be delighted to show you around. Contact Clare Lemay-Lamb, Senior Administrative Officer on 01225 702544 or [administrator@shaw.wilts.sch.uk](mailto:administrator@shaw.wilts.sch.uk) for an appointment.

Simon White

Headteacher

February 2014

Shaw C of E Primary School  
Corsham Road  
Melksham. SN12 8EQ  
Tel: 01225 702544

**Headteacher. Mr. S. White**

***Report from Melksham Oak Community School for  
Melksham Without Parish Council 2014***

We are delighted to provide this report for the Parish Council.

***Examination Results***

***GCSE***

For the sixth year running the number of students achieving 5 A\*-C's has increased; with 84 % of our students achieving 5A\*-C and 60% of students achieving 5A\*-C including English and Maths. This places us in the top 25% of schools nationally (by Value added). The new league tables show the impressive progress our students make.

***A Level***

The 'A' Level results were again good with a 100% pass rate; the key point is that all students were able to access the next stage in their education or career.

***Community Use***

Our Sports Facilities are well used by the community and adult and family learning sessions have taken place.

***Other Information***

In Sept 2013 we launched our House system focused on: Attainment, Leadership and Competition. The students chose and voted for Stars as names: Castor, Omega, Polaris and Sirius. It has also successfully added a healthy competitive streak to the school.

Stephen Clark  
February 2014

## Melksham Community Area Transport Group (CATG)

The Melksham CATG addresses transport related matters raised as 'Issues' with the Area Board and is attended by Councillor Baines on behalf of MWPC (Councillor Brindle also attends for Bowerhill). Meetings are held at roughly quarterly intervals, chaired by a Melksham Area Wiltshire Councillor, currently Cllr. Seed. The Group has no formal decision making authority on operational matters or budget expenditure, but acts as an informal discussion forum making recommendations to the Area Board.

Funds available 2013/2014 for Melksham CATG proposals = £13225, plus monies carried over from the previous year (£802). Contributions are normally expected from Town/Parish Councils for projects that they put forward. Further 'CATG substantive scheme funding' for whole county is £250K, for which each CATG can make application, before July, for schemes which would be beyond their budget.

Last year the Group funded the final stages of the provision of a continuous footway in Top Lane Whitley, gateway features on A365 at Atworth, bollards along Melksham High Street, drop kerbs at Cornwall Crescent and sockets for mounting poles for Speed Indicators at Woodrow.

The Group recommended the following allocation of 2013/14 funding for 'Schemes for Consideration':

1) Non-slip surface on Melksham Bank Street 'high-pavement'. Total cost likely to be £20K, funded by £2K5 from CATG; £2K5 MTC; remainder was the subject of application for 'substantive scheme funding', as over CATG budget. This scheme was approved and is ready to be done when weather conditions are drier and warmer to ensure successful implementation, so likely to be done on two Sundays (when businesses closed) in March or April.

2) Additional footway at Keevil @ £1K.

3) Footway at Whitley Middle Lane, including drop kerbs @ approx £6K (much less than costing from previous contractor). Contribution of £1K offered by MWPC was accepted.

Consultation with local residents supported the proposals and work is scheduled to be done in the first two weeks of February. Remedial restoration of the verge outside the Methodist Chapel in Top Lane is planned to be completed at the same time.

4) Restoration of four coach parking bays in King Street Car Park @ approx £1K.

This finally became the solution to recover from the original 'kneejerk' banning of coaches as well as HGVs and followed consideration of using Lowbourne, Bath Road or allocation of spaces in Church Street Car Parks.

About £5K5 remains unspent to carry over.

Other Requests:

Speeding problems and danger from passing traffic attempting to overtake at Farm Shop entrance west of Atworth has again taken up much time and effort, but there are limited permitted actions available on an A-class road.

Additional signage and 'hatching' road marking has been carried out, but it remains an issue.

Ongoing consideration is being given to pedestrian/cyclist crossing of A365 at The Spa roundabout, but following site observations, no solution seems available. Some additional signage may be possible, but of doubtful value, so meanwhile some clearance of vegetation on The Spa side will be done to improve sight-lines.

Class C Roads Speed Limit Review - CATG could suggest 2 plus a reserve scheme. Bradford Road Atworth and Top Lane/Westlands Lane were put forward last year, with New Road/Forest Lane as reserve. These reviews were eventually carried out, but recommended no changes. MWPC have requested an extension of the 30mph limit area at Westlands Lane to include the railway bridge and to make the signs more obvious to drivers as where they currently are often gets overgrown. For this year, it has been agreed that New Road/Forest Lane will be one of the 2 routes to be reviewed.

The SID (Speed Indicator Device) programme has finally been resumed following initial problems encountered by the new highway contractor. However, the sockets installed into the footway at Woodrow have yet to be used and enquiries as to when these locations will be included are awaiting a response. The Community Speedwatch scheme has been 'reborn', but its previous failings have left many volunteers, who already had doubts over its effectiveness, very disillusioned and discouraged.

Cllr. Alan Baines



## WHITLEY PLAYERS

As always local drama suffers from a lack of members who can spare the time participate in what is a very significant effort in staging a show, let alone learning lines. We are very short of male actors, and were pleased to be able to work with Neston Players to help cast plays at both groups. Two of the Whitley Players acted in Neston's comedy thriller, and then Neston helped out with our play in autumn. Their help was excellent, both with actors and supporting teams and we were especially grateful to Sue Dickinson who directed. Whitley are now helping out at the next Neston show, and we hope this cooperation will continue. Of course, there are a number of excellent amateur groups for drama and music locally, and many of our members are also in other groups, including those at Bathford and the Argyle Players in Bath.

Our play in September was 'Prepare to Meet Thy Tomb', a comedy thriller by Norman Robbins. This has an unusual plot, and was very enjoyable to rehearse and stage, and we hope was also appreciated by the audiences.

We try to chose a production that allows everyone who wants to participate on the stage (and off-stage) to contribute. Our current plan is for a comedy later in the year, possibly a spinoff play from a TV sitcom.

Our shows are staged at the Whitley Reading Rooms in Middle Lane. This is a small venue, which limits the size of the production and the audience. However, we feel at home there, and strive to be a local group for the local community. We feel confident that we can continue to be successful in attracting support. Particularly pleasing is our ability to offer entertainment for whole community including the elderly and the infirm, who may not have the opportunity to travel to see live drama. We appreciate the support from the Reading Rooms committee, as our shows can be very disruptive. We try minimise the inconvenience to other users of the Victorian building and we are grateful for their understanding.

We are very appreciative of financial support from the Melksham Without Parish Council which helps us in these changes, both directly by grants to the Players, and also to the Reading Rooms.

John Hamley

# RACHEL FOWLER CENTRE

CHAPEL COURT  
MELKSHAM  
WILTSHIRE  
SN12 6EX

Telephone Centre: 07503156091  
Bookings: 07425175849

Reg. Charity No. 286333

*'CHERISH THE PAST  
ADORN FOR THE PRESENT  
CONSTRUCT FOR THE FUTURE'*



## Rachel Fowler Centre Report for 2013

The Rachel Fowler Centre is a community centre in the heart of Melksham offering a location to hire for community groups and residents of Melksham and its surroundings.

The centre currently hosts many regular users including the following:-

Melksham Music and Drama Club

Choral Society

Shapes

Hot tap

Rock and Roll

Band practices

Melksham Gardening Club

Bingo sessions

Church of God

Folk Group

Melksham Music Festival functions

In addition the hall is used for private functions such as children's parties and runs regular Thursday lunch time recitals to raise money for the operation of the centre.

During the year a new wooden floor was laid in the main hall to the universal acclaim of all users.

The back room has been refurbished and is now available for hiring for functions or events that do not require the larger space provided by the main hall.

John Windebank

Secretary/Treasurer

Rachel Fowler Centre

Tel: 01225 790639 Mob: 07776202870

e-mail: [jewindebank@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:jewindebank@blueyonder.co.uk)

Melksham Almshouses Public and Eleemosynary Charity

Report 2013-2014

This is my first year as a member of the Committee, and we have seen very big changes to the Alms Houses. The houses themselves were very out of date and needed refurbishment to comply with building standards of today.

They have gone through a building programme to bring them up to date and are now very modern comfortable homes. They all have tenants who are delighted with new homes.

The company overseeing the building work did a Stirling job keeping the many builders on track to finish in the time proposed, even though there were some unforeseen problems.

The charity has also looked at the monies invested and have now put their capital into a more profitable holding account.

Pat Nicol

REPORT: Shaw and Whitley Flood Committee

## An Overview 2012-2014

The Committee was formed in February 2013 following the disastrous floods that affected the villages of Shaw and Whitley on 5 August 2012. At that time a meeting for residents affected by those floods was called by Melksham Without Parish Council and attended by representatives of Wiltshire Council, Wessex Water, the Area Board. A survey was produced of the village properties that had been affected and the 'pinch points' in our two villages that needed some flood prevention work done on private properties, local ditches that needed clearing and culverts/ drains that appeared to be blocked due to lack of maintenance.

At that meeting a committee was formed consisting of 7 local villagers who were strategically placed near the 'pinch points' in Shaw and Whitley and whose properties had been affected by flooding. Subsequently those affected areas were marked on large maps procured by the Melksham office of the Parish Council for safe keeping and for liaison with Atkins, the Council's contractors for helping the village solve some of our flood problems. This work took place up until Tim Bray left in August 2013 and I believe Balfour Beatty has now taken over from Atkins for carrying on this type of work for Wiltshire Council.

The Committee continued to meet during 2013 and produce 'self-help' articles for our village magazine "Connect" culminating with a tear-out-and-keep insert for every villager to customize to their own needs (see attachment) and keep accessible in their own homes as a 'ready reference' should they need flood help in the future. A big thanks go to all those who gave so generously of their time and effort working on behalf of the villages of Shaw & Whitley, especially Mary Jarvis and Teresa Strange in the Parish Council offices as well as flood and drainage experts from Wiltshire Council and Atkins. In co-operation with them, I believe we greatly helped the flood relief effort in our villages but still need to remain watchful to help with any future flood problems which are bound to arise.

I would also like to add that Councillor Terry Chivers has been especially helpful around our villages and the Melksham Without parish council area. He visited with local flood-affected residents, liaised with Wiltshire Council and the Parish Council and his invaluable help continues to assist us today. Although the Committee itself has formally completed the work it set out to achieve, Terry was on hand over the Christmas 2013/4 floods to help wherever he was needed. We are most grateful for his assistance and vigilance. Thankfully, Shaw/ Whitley were not so badly affected in the most recent floods but there is still a case for each household being vigilant and clearing their own ditches, helping neighbours and remaining alert to new dangers or lack of maintenance to existing flood relief measures.

Maureen Hibbott  
Chair, Village Flood Committee  
24 March 2014

### Cleaning Up (Continued)

Clothing, bedding and other soft fabric items including children's toys should be washed on a hot wash 60 degrees and above to destroy any germs present. Other items that cannot be put in the washing machine will need to be professionally cleaned or if this is not possible they may have to be disposed of.

Throw away any food that has been in contact with floodwater and any food that has been in a fridge or freezer should also be disposed of if the power has been off for any length of time.

Food preparation surface, storage cupboards and fridges etc should be washed and disinfected with a food safe disinfectant such as Milton, Dettol etc.

Allow to thoroughly dry, this will also help destroy any germs left behind.

### Don't Forget:

If any resident becomes aware of someone leaving rubbish or other debris in a ditch thus preventing it from flowing freely, please contact your local councillors via Melksham Without Parish Council on 01225 705700, so that contact can be made with the person causing the problem, and the matter resolved.

Also available to help is -

Terry Chivers 01225 949114 or 07794 489506

[terry.chivers@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:terry.chivers@wiltshire.gov.uk)

Terry is a Wiltshire County Councillor who lives in the village

**Finally:** Please, please, keep an eye on your neighbours' well-being!

### What if.....

.....as happened on 5<sup>th</sup> August 2012  
.....Whitley and Shaw were flooded again?



### First Contact in an Emergency:

CLARENCE - Wiltshire's Customer Lighting And Roads Enquiry Centre service for reporting road and lighting defects and other hazards including flooding and drainage issues.  
Email: [clarence@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:clarence@wiltshire.gov.uk)  
Tel: 0800 23 23 23

### Personal details and other important contacts:

Our Insurers/Brokers are:

.....

Their Contact Number is:.....

Our Insurance Policy Number is.....

My Landlord's Contact Number is.....

Fire and Rescue: 999

Floodline Information: 0845 988 1188

or [www.environment-agency.gov.uk/flood](http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/flood)

### **Flood damage limitation:**

**Valuables:** Important documents and items should be stored safely in waterproof containers at the highest point of the property such as upstairs. These may include items like; passports, financial documents, insurance details, photos, etc.

**Appliances and Furniture:** Make sure you know how to turn off your gas, electricity and water supplies, even in the dark. All electrical appliances should be unplugged, smaller items moved upstairs or to the highest part of the property, and larger items raised on blocks.

**Insurance:** The average cost of flood damage is £30,000 so you will need to check with your insurance company that your insurance policy covers flooding and add the necessary cover if needed.

**Controlling water:** Before floods threaten next time, consider ways to help surface water flow away from or around your property. Keep all ditches and gullies clear of debris. If surface water is still a threat, have some sandbags prepared ahead of time, though these are difficult to fill and heavy to handle. Dry flat-pack gel filled sacks that expand to do the same job are becoming available.

Ground water flooding, where the water comes up under the house, is more difficult to control, and may require specialist assessment and prevention, such as an automatic pump installation.

When heavy rain is forecast and floods may be expected, a further sensible precaution is to plug ground floor sinks, baths and showers, weighing the plug down, to prevent backflow should the sewers be unable to cope. A sandbag can be used to prevent backflow up into the toilet bowl.

### ***This advice and more detail can be found at:***

<http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/communityandliving/civilemergencies/floodinganddrainage.htm>

### **Returning to your home after a flood:**

Contact your insurance company's emergency helpline to report your flood damage. If you have to pay for immediate help or emergency plumbing etc, keep a receipt for any work done.

Ensure all power and gas supplies, and appliances that have been in contact with flood water, are checked by a professional before turning them back on.

Check with water supplier that it is safe to use water, then disinfect and clean taps; be sure to run them before using any water.

Keep a photographic record of any flood damage.

Your insurers will usually arrange for a loss adjuster and other specialists to visit your home to assess the damage, and they should manage most of the clear up. Speak to them before you start.

### **Cleaning up**

The floodwater affecting your home may have been contaminated with sewage or other pollutants. Be careful to avoid skin contact with floodwater by wearing waterproof clothing, rubber boots and gloves.

Remove water and silt from the property as much as possible, including the space under downstairs floorboards. This may require pumping out.

Good ventilation and a constant temperature will aid drying.

Wash down all hard surfaces with hot soapy water several times until visually clean. Use a domestic disinfectant as the final clean.

Take out of the building all soft furnishings and fittings that are damaged beyond repair.

A dehumidifier appliance can be used to remove water from the fabric of the building.