

**MINUTES of the Annual Parish Meeting of Melksham Without Parish Council held at Shaw Village Hall, The Beeches, Shaw on Monday, 16<sup>th</sup> April 2018 at 7.00pm.**

1. **Present:** Cllrs. Richard Wood (Chairman), Alan Baines, Paul Carter, Nick Holder, David Pafford and Mary Pile.  
Officers: Teresa Strange (Clerk), Jo Eccleston (Parish Officer), Justina Barber (Finance Officer) and Marianne Rossi (Assistant Parish Officer).
2. **Apologies:** Cllrs. John Glover (Vice-Chairman) was on holiday, Gregory Coombes had another appointment and Paul Taylor had given apologies due to illness of a family member; these reasons for absence were accepted.
3. **Not Present:** Cllrs. Kaylum House and Terry Chivers.
4. **Welcome & Housekeeping:** The Chairman, Cllr. Wood warmly welcomed everyone to the meeting and invited Clive Briggs (Chairman of Shaw Village Hall Management Committee) to explain the evacuation procedures in the event of a fire.
5. **a) Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting 2017:** The minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting held on Thursday, 18<sup>th</sup> May, 2017, were confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a true record.  
**b) Matters Arising:** There were no matters arising.
6. **Chair's Report – Appendix 1:** The Chairman gave his report of the work of the Council during 2017/18. Cllr. Wood explained that the Parish Council would be moving out of their current office accommodation at Crown Chambers and will be moving into the lounge area of the Bowerhill Sports Pavilion in August. Cllr. Wood drew attention to the recent issue raised in the Melksham News of the merging of the two Councils, namely the Town and Melksham Without Parish Council. He stated that Melksham Without Parish Council strongly believes that the distinct personality of villages should be protected should Wiltshire Council wish to relook at this issue. It was noted that Cllr. Pattison had resigned from the Parish Council today due for personal reasons and that there would therefore be a vacancy in Bowerhill Ward, which would be advertised in due course. Since the chairman's report was written Cllr. Steve Petty had also resigned after 10/15 years as a councillor, and there was currently a vacancy for the Berryfield Ward.
7. **Presentation of Grant Aid Cheques Brought Forward:** The presentation of the grant aid cheques to the 1<sup>st</sup> Broughton Gifford Scouts and the new Shaw, Whitley & Atworth Beaver & Cub Group were brought forward as young people from the Beavers and Cubs were present to accept them. Mr. John Cox from West Wiltshire Scouts stated that there was an increasing demand for the service of Scouts and that there was a big waiting list of children who wished to join. In response to this a new group had been set up in Shaw for Beavers and Cubs to help with the demand. He appealed for volunteers to help with the set-up of this new group.
8. **Reports from Wiltshire Councillors:**
  - (i) **Wiltshire Councillor Roy While – Melksham Without North – Appendix 2:** Cllr. While gave a verbal overview of his written report of the work that he has carried out as a Wiltshire Councillor during 2017/18. He stated that he agreed with everything

that Cllr. Wood had said about any merger of the two councils and that he supported the retention of two councils and that he felt Melksham Without Parish Council were a very efficiently run council.

- (ii) **Wiltshire Councillor Phil Alford- Melksham Without South – Appendix 3:** Cllr. Alford gave highlights from his written report of his work as a Wiltshire Councillor during 2017/18. Cllr. Alford reported that he has had a very busy and exciting year as a new councillor, stating that he wants to be an effective member at local council level. Cllr. Alford concurred with Cllr. While and stated that he believes that the Parish Council is an efficient Council and will continue to champion the Council and feels that any merger would be detrimental to the dynamics of the Council.

9. **Cllr. Jon Hubbard – Chair of Melksham Area Board:** Cllr. Hubbard gave an update on how the Area Board has developed since it started in 2009. He said that the Area Board is working well and is having more responsibility coming their way. CATG (Community Area Transport Group) projects which are jointly funded by the Area Board and Parish Councils is a good example of this, citing the improvements at the Semington roundabout which would not have been brought forward without the mechanism of CATG. The Area Board had fully funded the new kissing gate at the rear of the Shaw Recreation Field which had now been installed and match funding has been granted for the connecting footway on Hornchurch Road Public Open Space. Cllr. Hubbard also stated that the Area Board gives out grant funding and that the organisations represented this evening were welcome to apply but advised that funding is for capital projects only. However, there is some Health and Wellbeing funding, that replaces the old Good Neighbour Scheme, which can be used for revenue projects.

He added that on a personal note, the issue of merging the two councils had been resolved under the community Boundary Review. He stated that although the outcome was not what he had wished for, that it was something that should not be re-considered for at least another 5 years. In his opinion all the parishes in the Melksham Community Area should work more closely together.

10. **Written Reports from Community Organisations and Groups in the Parish:** The following written reports were noted with some organisations expanding on these:
- a) **Melksham Neighbourhood Police - Appendix 4.**
  - b) **Melksham Community Area Partnership - Appendix 5.**
  - c) **Transport:**
    - (i) **CATG (Community Area Transport Group)- Appendix 6.**
    - (ii) **TransWilts –Appendix** Graham Ellis wanted to thank the Parish Council for their help and support. He stated that there is an increasing number of passengers using the local railway network. Cllr Wood congratulated Graham for all of his hard work in gaining additional rail services.
  - d) **Action Groups:**
    - (i) **BRAG (Bowerhill Residents Action Group) – Appendix 7.**
    - (ii) **BASRAG (Berryfield & Semington Road Action Group) – Appendix 8.**
    - (iii) **CAWS (Community Action Whitley Shaw) – Appendix 9.**
    - (iv) **CAWS CEG – Appendix 10.**
  - e) **Village Halls:**
    - (i) **Bowerhill Village Hall Trust – Appendix 11.**
    - (ii) **Shaw Village Hall and Playing Fields – Appendix 12.**

**(iii) Whitley Reading Rooms – Appendix 13.**

**(iv) Rachel Fowler Centre – Appendix 14.**

**f) Schools:**

**(i) Melksham Oak Community School – Appendix 15.**

**g) Youth Organisations:**

**(i) 2385(Melksham) Squadron – Appendix 16.: Flt. Lt. McKay, Commanding Officer** of the 2385 Melksham Squadron of the ATC gave an update. The ATC now have 41 cadets between 13-20 years old, but there is capacity for 70 cadets. The ATC offer many opportunities to young people such as using the shooting range, the flight simulator, field crafts and increasing opportunities to fly with the RAF. They also get involved in parish council run community events such as tree planting, litter picking and being shown how to use a defibrillator. Flt. Lt. McKay explained that the RAF is 100 years old this year and that there will be a fly past, with the 2385 Squadron being involved in a number of ways. He stated that the Remembrance Sunday parade this year will be brought forward to 11am. He informed that the Squadron's Dining In Night would take place in Bradford-on-Avon on 19<sup>th</sup> May this year and that he had leaflets for anyone interested in attending.

**(ii) Broughton Gifford & Holt Scout Group – Appendix 17.**

**j) Melksham PHAB – Appendix 18.:** Melksham PHAB have started their programme for this year and do lots of activities outside of meetings such as trips to the sea side and cream teas.

**k) Happy Circle Day Centre – Appendix 19.**

**l) Wiltshire Mind – Appendix 20:** Wiltshire Mind's grant will go towards the running of the Melksham support group

**m) Read Easy Melksham – Appendix 21:** Read Easy have been running in Melksham for four years with 16 adults learning to read so far.

**n) Shaw and Whitley Garden Club – Appendix 22.**

**o) Melksham Gardeners' Society – Appendix 23.**

**p) The Melksham Food and river festival – Appendix 24.**

**q) Young Melksham-** Young Melksham have continued to have an increase in attendees from 3,500 to 7,000 visits in 2017. On a Monday evening there are between 20-25 attendees for the SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) club who are aged between 13 and 25. On a Tuesday evening between 70-90 young people attend from school years 5 and 6. Wednesday evenings have around 50 young people attending who are in years 7 and 8. Thursday evenings are open for young people who are in year 9 and above and brings in around 15-20 people. On a Friday night around 40/50 people secondary school age attend the disco run by "DJ Jon". For children aged 10 years and above they have been delivering the Teen Talk counselling programme for children in the local area. However, Young Melksham have been working with their providers "Off the Record" in Bath, and now due to additional funding and trained counsellors, moving forward they will be able to offer this service to a wider catchment of children from North and West Wiltshire.

**11. Update on Community Response during severe winter conditions:** The Clerk reported that there was a fantastic response from the community during the recent spell of very cold and snowy weather, with people offering to give lifts in their 4x4s for vital hospital staff etc. She informed that the community response to an emergency required all levels of support and can also include the opening of Village Halls as rest centers and volunteers making tea and coffee and chatting to people who may have had to leave their homes; or

are housebound. The Clerk asked for anyone who had skills such as first aid and counselling to volunteer their help as well as general help.. She made it very clear that this initiative was not to replace the emergency services, merely to offer support at a much lower level. The Clerk explained that whilst it was really good that the community looked out for each other and recognised that their vulnerable neighbours may need help, she reminded people not to give out personal and vulnerable people's information on social media.

12. **Community Access Defibrillator Demonstration:** The Clerk gave a demonstration on the community access defibrillator and explained that the defibrillator will talk you through what to do. It was made clear that you cannot hurt anyone because the defibrillator will not shock anyone if it is not required. It was explained that the emergency services will give out the access code to the defibrillator cabinet if there is one close enough to get to and will talk people through the process to follow.
13. **Information on the new General Data Protection Regulations:** The Clerk gave an update on the new General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) that are coming in, in May this year. This is an EU directive and the UK law will follow suit, which has already had its 3<sup>rd</sup> reading in Parliament. This will update the existing data protection legislation and all organisations have to comply. Community groups need to be very clear as to why they are sharing personal information and that people are aware of why their data is being kept. It was explained that there is a 12-step online checklist from the Information Commissioner's Office to help organisations get ready for this. Organisations should demonstrate that they are thinking about the new regulations and are making themselves aware of sharing emails and using shared computers.
14. **Comment & Question Time:** Cllr. Carter wanted to find out what the thoughts were from the Parishioners about the recent talk of having only one Council. Only one person put their hand up to say that there should be one Council, with approximately two thirds of the room, indicating by a show of hands, that they wished the two councils to remain separate. It was noted that this was a Straw Poll that had not been organised by the Parish Council.

One Parishioner queried what was happening to Woolmore Farm, as she had heard that students were setting fire to the farm building. The Clerk explained that there is a Public Right of Way (PROW) going through the Woolmore Farm site, but that Wiltshire Council had protected the PROW with fencing. However, the Heras fencing was being pulled down and vandalised, so Wiltshire Council's site security team were checking this fencing on a daily basis. The site was due for sale, with an offer in progress.

Graham Ellis reported that the hourly bus service (272) that goes through Whitley to Bath currently will soon increase its frequency to a half hourly service. He appealed to everyone not to drive into Bath but to take advantage of this service.

15. **Presentation of Grant Aid Cheques:** The Chairman presented the 2018/19 Grant Aid cheques to groups and organisations who had been awarded a grant as they provided a service which benefitted the residents of the Parish. The Chairman invited groups and organisations to say a few words when they received their grant cheques.

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

**16 April 2018**

This year Melksham Without Parish Council has been overshadowed by the sudden and devastating loss of Mike Mills. Mike had been a mainstay on the Council since he joined in 1983, playing a huge role in helping to create a community in Bowerhill, and in designing the village hall, setting up BRAG and keeping the Village Hall committee functioning so well.

When I joined the Parish Council in 2006, I was really struck by the friendly atmosphere and the inclusivity of the Parish. Mike was very welcoming and his chairmanship set the tone for everyone. Mike always looked for a collegiate view, and if he could steer the council away from a confrontation he would. This is the essence of a good chair, and it came naturally to him even in the heat of argument. He was very conscientious and it seemed to me that he never hesitated to give his time and energy when there was a job to done.

He is sadly missed by all of us on the Council, and especially by the good folks of Bowerhill. Ours thoughts are with Marilyn and his family.

This is my fifth Chairman's report for the Annual Meeting. Last year the consequences of the boundary review had just been enacted, with the consequent large drop in our precept.

Last year's elections left the Parish short of Councillors but we have managed to recruit some excellent co-optees.

They are: -

### **Blackmore Ward:**

Paul Taylor who has a strong background in the NHS and is currently a psychotherapist and hypnotherapist. He is very interested in environmental issues.

### **Bowerhill Ward:**

Paul Carter who has previously served three years on the Council and proved to be an energetic and committed councillor.

Nick Holder who has a wealth of experience as a local councillor, recently in Corsham. He has been heavily involved in working with 16/17-year olds' training and also with helping older people back into work.

Kaylum House who was recently a member of the Wiltshire Assembly for Youth and works as an IT expert in County Hall.

Joanne Pattison who works for Wiltshire Council

David Pafford was recently elected to replace Mike Mills as a Bowerhill councillor. He is a retired teacher looking forward to playing a role in the community.

## **PRECEPT**

The Precept set for 2017/2018 is £190,091.74, an increase of £12,091.74 (6.81%) on last year's precept. An average Band D household will contribute £74.97 for the year, an additional £4.78 (40p per month) on last year, which is a rise of 6.81%.

We have managed to keep our council tax rise relatively low and this year's small rise is needed to maintain our policy of taking over and running play areas and assuming responsibility for new facilities built by developers over and above the normal inflation in Council costs. Wiltshire Council face the loss of £34 million phased out over four years. This hollowing out of local government at County level will force the Town and Parish councils to step in to fill the gap for the foreseeable future.

## **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 86 planning applications, including 8 for large developments, either outline planning, reserved matters or amendments to the plans for these large developments.

Since last year's Annual Meeting we have seen the opening of the new Dick Lovett dealership and the new Travelodge hotel (plus the town's second Greggs!), both at Hampton Park.

The development on Sandridge Road is now well advanced and will be followed this year by a start on the Semington Road estate, built across the historic line of the Wilts and Berks canal, which will provide a new Village Hall for the Berryfield and Semington Road community. The planning of this new hall will heavily involve local representatives. Reserved matters for this development have been submitted and we have recently met with the developers of the Pathfinder Way site, prior to their submission of reserved matters. It is likely that initial work on highway works will start in the Autumn, with the bulk of the build in 2019.

The largest new development for the coming year will be for the long-delayed 450 houses east of Melksham.

As a Council we have resolved to be very proactive on new proposals. Whether we approve of them or not, it is our responsibility to get the best deal for our parishioners in term of community gains.

One interesting issue that has emerged recently is assuring that all new estates come with well-developed all-weather routes for a recreational walk (with or without a dog!). We plan to retro fit a path at the Hornchurch Road green space and have been in discussions with two other developers to make sure such paths are provided.

## **The Wilts and Berks Canal**

Plans for the Wilts and Berks canal to Melksham from the Kennet and Avon are still just plans. The withdrawal of another landowner, and critical reports from the Environment Agency had held things up but we understand that a preliminary development of a marina at Semington and a short piece of canal may be brought forward this year. Even this modest proposal will need some associated enabling development at Outmarsh farm. We await new developments with great interest.

## **NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING**

Neighbourhood planning is potentially a way to shape future development to the needs of Melksham rather than the needs of developers. Melksham Without Parish Council and Melksham Town Council continue with their work on our own Neighbourhood Plan. Melksham already has its housing quota for the period until 2026, and the County has a 5-year land supply in place, so only exception sites would be allowed. One part of the work this year has been to meet would-be developers with a view to assessing possible significant community benefit. The completed plan will need to have some sites which would be acceptable for the benefits they would confer. We now have planning consultants Lemon Gazelle on board to help us write the plan.

## **EMERGENCY PLANNING**

The year has seen the further development of all the work of recent years on emergency planning. Flood wardens for Shaw, Whitley and Beanacre, and CAWS, the new community group for Shaw and Whitley were able to show the efficiency of the planning when there were very heavy downpours in December and January. Work has continued with Wiltshire Council on ditch clearing so that future wet events need not be so catastrophic. Recent winter weather has added another facet to our emergency planning, with our roster of 4x4 drivers coming to the fore.

## **AT THE COUNCIL**

The Parish has resolved to move out of our Crown Chambers offices this Summer. Our accommodation is a sub-let, and our immediate landlords need the space. We plan to move to purpose built offices in the new Campus, but these cannot be available until 2021 at the earliest. We are currently still seeking new office space, with a fall-back plan to use the Bowerhill pavilion if required.

We appointed a new financial officer this Summer, Mrs Justina Barber who has just completed her probationary period with us. We also employed Mr David Cole as allotment warden, to relieve a little of the pressure on Terry Cole, our hard-working parish caretaker. Marianne Rossi, our apprentice has successfully completed her time with us, and she was so valuable that she has become a permanent member of staff.

This year has seen continuing and growing co-operation with the Town Council. We jointly fund the toilets in the Market Place, run the SIDS speed warning scheme across three councils, jointly contributed to the Station platform extension, helped with the set-up costs for the immensely successful **parkrun**, and most excitingly have undertaken to work jointly on the project for the recreation area at the George Ward site. We hope this will contain allotments for the Parish, a memorial wood in remembrance of the people from Melksham who lost their lives in WW1, recreation space, a perimeter path and an attenuation pond to aid flood prevention in Shaw, Whitley and Shurnhold.

A Blooming Success

We have seen some outstanding results this year for our communities. BRAG received an outstanding award from South West in Bloom for their work over the year, Shaw was placed first in their category in the Best Kept village competition, Bowerhill were second in theirs, and Berryfield achieved their best ever result moving up two places to fourth. Well done to all involved.

One of the first big jobs of this year will be the refurbishment of the Hornchurch road play area. Finally, we will be able to go ahead as we have just received, after much effort, the paper work transferring the play area to the Council. This has been a long and at times, baffling, saga. At one time Wiltshire Council thought they owned it only to find they didn't when we asked them to transfer it to us!

## **A PERSONAL NOTE**

Finally, I'd like to thank all the hard-working staff who keep the show on the road in such a friendly and efficient way.

Our clerk Teresa Strange has now become a full-time employee to cover the increasing workload, mainly caused by the transfer of significant responsibilities from Wiltshire Council. She is always well briefed and on the ball, and her proactive approach has kept the Council moving forward, Jo Eccleston, the ultra-efficient assistant clerk has also seen her workload increase. She continues to be the go to planning expert (and expert cake maker, involving ever more interesting ingredients!)

Justina Barber our new finance officer has settled in well since her arrival in the Summer and is a valuable member of the team. Marianne Rossi proved her worth during her apprenticeship, so much so that we won't let her go! She is the public face of the council being the first point of contact with the public.

Terry Cole's responsibilities seem to increase every week. He is having to check an increasing number of play areas on top of all his maintenance work. He is in many ways our other face of the council, meeting the public all the time that he's out and about.

David Cole checks and monitors our allotments and does a sterling job.

It is a great honour to serve on this Council, and a privilege to be the Chair. This has been a very busy year, and I expect it will become more and more busy in the future as the very nature of local government changes. Sooner or later Westminster will have to decide if it wants decentralised institutions like Councils to continue, and if it does, it will need to fund the larger Councils more generously. They are cut to the bone; any more cuts and they will begin to fail.



**Councillor Roy While, Melksham Without South.**

My year began with the WILTSHIRE UNITARY COUNCIL ELECTIONS in May. Elected for a third term I was pleased to welcome colleague Phil Alford, new councillor for Melksham Without North. I had previously served with him at West Wiltshire District Council. At the same time, I was sorry to see Terry (Chivers) depart having known him for 25 years.

As most of you are aware Councils, financially, are having tough times. In Wiltshire the Council has produced a new business plan with our priorities - strong communities, growing the economy, protecting the vulnerable (children and older people) working with partners, including town and parish councils. The corporate officer team has been reshaped and strengthened with a fourth post (following vacancies) created with the Clinical Commissioning Group -a joint appointment integrating health and social services.

Following the budget Council Tax has been increased by 2.99% with a further 3% social care levy. Savings of £25 million are being targeted through service reviews/transformation and digitisation.

Working with partners is partly achieved through Area Boards. The Melksham Board, comprising the six county councillors meet six or seven times a year in venues throughout the area. These meetings are well attended with councillors from the town and the ten parishes, representatives from various organisations and residents. The agenda includes topical issues regarding Wiltshire Council services, updates from the police and others with specific meetings targeted at young people and the elderly. There are regular updates on progress of the Campus. Meetings can be quite lively attracting attendances of over 100. For some the highlight of the evening is the award of grants to local voluntary groups including scouts, guides, sports clubs, Village Halls, BRAG. For more information about meetings, grants, WC support please contact Rhys Schell our Community Engagement Manager. E mail [rhys.schell@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:rhys.schell@wiltshire.gov.uk) Tel 01225 716752, Melksham – Our Community Matters website

Finally.....for many years I worked closely with Mike Mills - on the Bowerhill Village Hall Committee when I was Treasurer, on many resident and Wiltshire Council issues, grant applications for BRAG and the Village Hall. He lived barely 200 yards away.. I miss him.

**Councillor Phil Alford, Melksham Without North**

This was always going to be an exciting year for me; in my first year as a Wiltshire Councillor I knew I would be busy getting up to speed, pushing forward our local priorities and representing us at Wiltshire Council in both a scrutinising roll and in a quasi-judicial one.

There is so much that I could put into this report to reflect my activities this past 10 months but I will endeavour to slim it down and give as brief as possible overview of my time so far.

There is no doubt that I have joined Wiltshire Council in one of its most challenging times. Just last month we had to agree a 3% tax rise to cover our inflationary linked costs; fill some of the funding gap generated by central government withdrawing all our grant and to cover the costs of increases to the minimum wage. In addition, a 3% increase was also added to fund our extra Adult Social Care responsibilities. We have an aging population in Wiltshire and it is vital that we make sure we can provide the best possible care to ensure people are supported at home in a dignified and safe way. We also need to find a further £6.6 million of savings from our existing £327 million a year budget. This is about 2% and will not be as easy since the economy drive of the past 10 years has meant that we are already one of the leanest local authorities in the country.

To date I have attended over 100 meetings and at every chance I have been championing our local priorities. At the CATG meetings I have pushed every project for the residents of Melksham Without to secure funding to improve pavements, roads and any other manner of minor highways investments. On the Area Board I have sought to direct investment into the all local projects as well as prioritise the issues that most affect us. The campus and highways being notable examples. Other meetings include parish meetings, conservative group meeting's, full council, flooding updates and the Neighbourhood plan steering group.

Immediately after election I sought a position on the Planning committee and in that role I have attended 11 meetings to date. We have scrutinised many planning applications across West Wilts and sought to balance planning law with local need. Evaluating the applications, interests and law to come to a balanced and legally secure position is a delicate skill and has required a thorough consideration of the law and issues in play.

Of all these meetings one group is particularly important to me as a priority and that is the CAMHS task group that I chair. Wiltshire Council and the NHS are jointly funding the Community Adolescent Mental Health Service across Wiltshire and we have recently moved to a new delivery model. I am Chairman for the task group looking into how the service is accessed, provided and overseen. I report to the Children's Select Committee and the Health and Wellbeing Board. The intention is to make recommendations on how to improve the service for our young people and will hopefully have a crucial impact on some of the most in need people in our society.

In addition to this I have been involved in lots of local casework. These range from helping people access mental health services, challenge planning decisions, working with the police to influence traffic speed on the A350, filling numerous potholes, applications for Rights of Ways, helping with an asylum claim and hours liaising with the Environment Agency and Wiltshire Council to deal with the blocking up of a tributary feeding the river Avon.

This has been an eventful year for, it has thrown up new and exciting challenges to solve, opened my eyes to parts of our community I was completely unaware of, allowed me to meet an extraordinary range of fascinating people and I very much look forward to seeing what the next year brings.

### Annual Report for MWPC 2017/2018 Neighbourhood Policing

This year has seen a loss of a few PCSO's from the Trowbridge Hub which means the remaining one's have had to support each other across the beats. We have recently lost PCSO Helen MANSELL nee WILSON who has been replaced by PSCO James PARTON covering the town centre. I, PCSO Maggie LEDBURY will still be covering the two rural beats for a few more months. The CPT has a new Deputy Inspector James WILLIAMS, who you might remember used to be the Sargeant of the Melksham NPT.

The reports below have been gathered from the Occurrences listed in the Niche system and I have gone through and taken out the ones I believe are now inside the parish boundaries for ED11 Melksham Town. Some of the RTC's listed at the end were on the A350 bypass so again possibly not ED12 beat. Others were on Sandridge hill which is prone to have the more serious RTC's.

#### 2017

#### APRIL

13th Fire damage to Picnic area, Bowerhill  
13th Vehicle stopped, car seized no insurance. Driver under the influence of drugs.  
18th Police Officer assaulted, Catalina Court.  
18th ASB Eden Grove  
20th House broken into at The Spa.  
20th Vehicle stopped Bowerhill; driver had drugs and offensive weapon.  
21st Phone and cash stolen from The Pear Tree garden.  
28th ASB Door knocking Hornchurch Road.  
29th Car seized no insurance Commerce Way

#### MAY

11th Theft of cash from Bowerhill business.  
12th Female student with small amount of Cannabis.  
13th Dwelling Burglary Halifax Road. Nothing taken.  
16th Female student in possession of unknown substance.  
17th Burglary Bader Park, Keys to house and car taken.  
23rd Diesel stolen from business in Lysander Road.  
27th Vehicle damaged Brabazon Way.  
29th Items stolen from van in The Spa.  
29th Wheelie bin stolen from a Farm in Lower Woodrow Road

#### June

4th Items stolen from a driveway in Eden Grove.  
5th Mesh fencing stolen from a house in Shaw hill  
5th Vehicle damaged road furniture in Devizes Road.  
6th Garage door damaged in Halifax Road.  
8th Male driver arrested no insurance or licence. Hampton Park West.  
12th ASB Belvedere Road  
14th Theft of a Visa Card Hornchurch Road.  
14th Male arrested Public Order Offence Berryfields.  
16th Road Rage A365.  
20th Theft of Barbed wire Fencing from a Farm in Woodrow Road.  
21st Smashed window in Britannia Close  
21st Local PCSO bitten by dog whilst making enquiries.  
25th Theft of Hot Tub from garden in Hurricane.  
27th Road Rage Hampton Park West.  
27th ASB Bowerhill

#### JULY

6th ASB Fires in Hornchurch play area.  
10th Bicycle stolen from Woodrow road.  
11th Fires in Giles Wood.  
11th Phone scam victim in Shaw.  
12th Road Rage Semington Road.  
13th Persons shooting on farm land in Woodrow Road.  
13th Wellingtons stolen from house in Middle Lane. Whitley.  
14th ASB in The Spa

14th Criminal damage to Farm Fencing. Woodrow Road.  
 24th Alcohol stolen from Tesco Bowerhill.  
 25th Telephone cable cut three times in Hurricane Road.  
 27th Car seized A350 no insurance.  
 27th Shop lifting Tesco Express  
 28th Table set fire to near Pavilion.  
 29th Assault in Hornchurch Play Area.

#### AUGUST

4th Poured petrol outside the door of a flat in Hurricane Road.  
 10th Vehicle seized Portal Road, no insurance.  
 11th Bilking at Turnpike Garage.  
 13th Male arrested drink driving Semington Road.  
 13th Bonnet Stolen from vehicle in Semington Road.  
 14th Vehicle seized no insurance. Catalina Court.  
 22rd Creosote poured outside an address in Hurricane Road  
 22nd Window smashed at an address in The Spa.  
 23rd Tiles stolen from a unit in Red Stocks. 3males arrested.  
 24th Two vehicles keyed in Berryfield Park.  
 26th Vehicle damaged near Beechfield House.  
 29th Vehicle seized Commerce Way Licence expired.  
 30th Deisel stolen from vehicles in Lancaster Road.

#### SEPTEMBER

3rd Road rage and criminal damage A350  
 10th Theft of vehicle from Turnpike garage.  
 13th Diesel stolen from 2 vehicles in Lancaster Road.  
 13th Victim assaulted in the area of The Spa.  
 13th Parts stolen from parked vehicle in Sunderland Close.  
 14th Criminal damage to a gate chain at an address at The Spa.  
 16th Car seized no insurance Goodes Hill  
 18th ASB Martlet Close.  
 19th Assault at the Football Club.  
 19th Criminal damage to a door in Lancaster Park.  
 20th Car seized no insurance A350  
 21st Bilking at Turnpike Garage  
 22nd Public order offence Bowerhill  
 23rd Violence against a person in Belvedere Road.  
 24th Criminal damage to a parked vehicle. Bowerhill.  
 25th Violence to a person at Martlet close.  
 26th ASB Corsham Road Whitley.  
 26th Car stolen from Berryfields.  
 28th Male bitten by dog in Trenchard Way.  
 29th Safe stolen from a business on Bowerhill.

#### OCTOBER

1st Damaged barricade Bowerhill.  
 1st Cannabis found in vehicle on Hornchurch Road.  
 3rd Woodrow Road burglary Woodrow Road.  
 7th Damaged Mini Bus on Lancaster Road.  
 7th Male found to have Cannabis at the Football Club.  
 9th Car damaged in Kittyhawk.  
 9th Student assaulted whilst playing rugby at school.  
 10th Parked vehicle damaged in The Spa.x 2  
 15th Bicycle stolen from Shackleton Close.  
 17th Diesel stolen from 2 vehicles in Lancaster Road.  
 18th Criminal damage to parked vehicles in Barnes Wallis Close.  
 18th Vehicle seized no insurance Sandridge hill  
 21st Large disorder Hornchurch Road  
 26th 16yr old boy found with Cannabis on Bowerhill.  
 27th Criminal damage to Police vehicle on A350  
 27th Vehicle damaged Dowding Way.  
 28th Dwelling burglary Osprey Close.  
 29th Dwelling burglary Chadwick close.  
 30th Theft of Tortoise from Brampton Court.

#### NOVEMBER

1st Criminal damage to vehicle on drive Woodrow Road.

3rd Assault at The Oaks.  
 4th Attempt theft of a dog Littleworth Lane.  
 5th Large crop of Cannabis found in farmers crop Beanacre  
 7th Public order offence Berryfield Park  
 11th Theft from Melksham Oak  
 14th Parked vehicle damaged in car park West End Pub  
 21st Childs scooter stolen Bowerhill.  
 23rd Caravan stolen from Semington.  
 23rd Criminal damage to wire fence Semington  
 23rd Public order offence Berryfields.  
 27th Burglary Lowden Garden Centre.

#### **DECEMBER**

4th Dwelling burglary Shackleton Close.  
 8th Criminal damage to a moped on Bowerhill.  
 8th Pupil found in possession of Cannabis The Oaks  
 8th Vehicle and trailer stolen from address in Shaw.  
 8th Jacket stolen from Hercules way.  
 12th Pupil found in possession of Cannabis The Oak.  
 16th Drink driver arrested on A365  
 16th Vehicle damaged in Kittyhawk Close.  
 17th Vehicle damaged in Hornchurch Road.  
 23rd Dog killed on A350 FTS  
 27th Vehicle seized not insured A350  
 30th Driver reported for careless driving Red Stocks  
 31st Male arrested DUI

#### **2018**

##### **January**

1st 2 males arrested Drunk and Disorderly Bowerhill  
 7th ASB door knocking in Kittyhawk Close  
 8th Vehicle damaged in Shackleton Close.  
 11th ABH at The Pilot  
 11th Vehicle damaged in Merlin Way  
 12th Trailer stolen from Bath Road A365  
 27Pth Sheep attacked and had to be destroyed Sandridge Hill  
 29th Pushchair stolen from outside of address on Sunderland Close

##### **February**

2nd Vehicle tampered with in Woodrow Road  
 12th Theft of company laptop Sandridge Hill  
 14th Theft from Tesco Express  
 14th Male arrested DUI A350  
 16th Driver reported with defective number plate.  
 19th Violence against a person at Football Club  
 22nd Motorcycle tampered with at Tesco car park.  
 28th Male arrested in stolen car no insurance or full licence.

#### **MARCH**

2nd Vehicle stolen from layby in Beanacre  
 3rd Vacant property entered by youths.The Spa.  
 8th Vehicle wheels tampered with on Bowerhill Farm.  
 11th Criminal damage to vehicle on Semington Road.  
 16th Theft from Tesco Express  
 19th Wheel alloys stolen from Semington Road.  
 23rd Graffiti on front door in Semington Road  
 26th £250 stolen from an address in Padfield Gardens.

#### **RTC's**

39 in total for the last 12 months.

2 Fatais  
 4 Involved single vehicles  
 13 FAIL TO STOP  
 11 Non-Injuries



# MELKSHAM COMMUNITY AREA PARTNERSHIP

## Annual Briefing 2017-18

### 1. INTRODUCTION

On behalf of the local community, the Melksham Community Area Partnership seeks to:

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

We have established a wide-ranging network 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.

#### Reflect local concerns and ideas

We are looking to bring about positive change through a combination of encouraging local projects and finding ways to raise awareness.

#### Maintain strong links with our partners

We engage with unitary, town and parish councils and other partners to build effective participation, consultation and community engagement across the community.

**Below are just some of the highlights of Melksham Community Area Partnership in the previous year.**



#### Melksham Neighbourhood Plan

Melksham Town Council and Melksham Without Parish Council are working together to support and facilitate the production of the Melksham Neighbourhood Plan, and a Steering Group has been formed with their support to oversee the process. MCAP has been engaged in this process since 2015 and forms a key element of the Steering Group, as well as providing administrative support.

#### Community Apple Pressing Day was held on 17<sup>th</sup> September 2017.

These events have become very popular since we started them in Board grants enabled the Environmental Group to purchase a pulping machine and a much larger apple press.



2012. Area powerful

another event

**Community Seed Swap** This took place on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2017 and is which the Environment Group has established as a

regular attraction in the Melksham community area calendar of events. The planned March 2018 event unfortunately had to be postponed due to snowy weather.

## Health Information Evenings



after."

Working closely with the Spa Medical Centre's Patient Participation Group, MCAP volunteers have successfully launched a series of public health information evenings which have been extremely well attended. Since 2015 these have tackled issues such as men's health, women's health, obesity, mental health, and diabetes. A Carer's Information Evening was held which prompted a professional from Carer's Support Wiltshire to write: "It was great to see such a good age range and I was pleased to be able to answer so many questions both in the group and individually afterwards. This event was extremely well organised and it was very clear that Carers feel looked

In 2015 MCAP helped form a steering group to drive forward **Friendly Melksham**. According to Alzheimer's Support, there are 370 people in Melksham living with dementia. The group has include a wide range of local people, including carers and people dementia, and partner agencies and organisations. They meet continue to develop their aims, actions and links to the wider The group has been working hard over the last year to reach out to local organisations and groups who may come into contact with with dementia; as well as nursing homes, the library, leisure centre, GP surgeries, supermarkets, as well as running Dementia Friends sessions.



**Dementia** approximately grown to living with regularly and community. a huge range of someone living

Last but not least, the **Community Safety Group** meets on the last Thursday of every month and has been successful in introducing a volunteer-run state-of-the-art digital CCTV system to Melksham Town Centre and a highly commended Safe Places scheme across the community area,



as well as serving as a focal point for the PCC and the Neighbourhood Policing teams to ensure that community safety priorities are identified and tackled. MCAP also hosts Melksham's award-winning Neighbourhood Watch volunteers, a scheme which is being held up as an example to the County.

The group continues to work to introduce SmartWater across the whole community area in 2017-18 to make it a safer place to live and work in. Community Speedwatch in and around Melksham has also been a major success, most notably in Atworth, Beanacre, Snowberry Lane, and

Semington Road.

For further information about Melksham Community Area Partnership please contact:

Phil McMullen, Partnership Coordinator – [melkshamcap@gmail.com](mailto:melkshamcap@gmail.com) or Colin Goodhind, Chair of the Partnership [colingoodhindofmcap@gmail.com](mailto:colingoodhindofmcap@gmail.com)

## **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. Meetings are held at roughly quarterly intervals, chaired by a Melksham Area Wiltshire Councillor, currently Cllr. While. 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.

All Community Transport issues must be first discussed with the Divisional Member and, where funding is required, subsequently recommended for progression to the CATG by the relevant Town or Parish Council.

Funds available 2017/2018 for Melksham CATG proposals = £13225, plus any monies carried over from the previous year. Contributions are expected from Town/Parish Councils for projects that they put forward and this now seems to be 1/3 with the other 1/3 coming from the Area Board. 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. In addition for this year there was a separate allocation of revenue money for pavement & footway improvements, which provided £7934.83 for the Melksham Area.

During the 2017/18 year the following schemes in the Parish were addressed:

The provision of drop kerbs in Corsham Road, Whitley either side of Middle Lane, and the north side of First Lane was completed under budget by £823 in the end, so the Parish contribution was reduced by £205 to £795. This welcome bonus helped us to fund separate resurfacing repairs done at the same time to the adjacent footway in Middle Lane at a cost of £450. A very satisfactory outcome when the Parish contribution originally requested for just the drop kerbs was £1325 !

After MWPC support for a request by the Beanacre Speedwatch group, "SLOW" markings on A350 at Beanacre, either side of the Westlands Lane junction were provided in the summer, with funding from the normal highways budget.

A request to extend the 30 mph speed limit in Woodrow was agreed, but not including the New Road junction, so that it could be done without a Traffic Regulation Order as within the existing street-lit area. This has been completed very recently and has made the signage much more prominent. The yet to be given final price will include traffic management costs, so the Parish 1/3rd contribution could be slightly higher at £250, than the £166 originally suggested.

MWPC were successful in promoting the resurfacing of the footway in Corsham Road between First & Middle Lanes as one of the two priority schemes for the pavement & footway improvement funding allocated for the Melksham Area. However, no timescale has yet been given for when this work will be done.

Also agreed, but yet to be programmed are:

- 1) Improvements to the hardstanding at the bus stop in Top Lane, opposite Eden Grove Whitley, for which the MWPC contribution could be up to £1210.
- 2) A 'Bowerhill' village sign at The Spa.
- 3) A replacement 'No Through Road' sign for Wellington Drive.

The old Speed Indicator Device from Wiltshire Council, shared with the Town and Atworth parishes, suffered technical issues and its internal electronics were extracted and sent to Germany for repair/reprogram. Upon reassembly, it now operates properly again and is being deployed fortnightly at the 12 qualifying sites in the 3 parishes in accordance with the agreed programme, with the recent addition of a site in Semington Road, Berryfield. The deployment is still being ably carried out by the Town caretakers at a cost of £100 per site.

DoNM: Thurs 21st June, at Melksham Fire Station at 16.00

Cllr. Alan Baines



**Community Office report for 2017 - our year to 31.1.2018 / TransWilts CIC incorporating TransWilts CRP, and reflecting Melksham and Chippenham Rail User Groups**

2017 was the first year of the TransWilts as a fully-fledged permanent rail service after a three-year trial under the support of an LSTF grant from central government, during which we more than reached our targets. Passenger numbers announced in December 2017 for the previous financial year showed a continued growth, with passenger number at Melksham up from 61,000 to 75,000 - a good measure for the line as Melksham is served only by TransWilts trains. The growth, way above targets, has led to challenges - the single carriage train becoming so busy at peak times that there was no room for any more passengers, so growth will be much more constrained in the next year's data. Good news at the tail of the year - as from January 2018 the train has been increased to 2 carriages and the Community Rail Partnership helped promote this with a party at the station and press coverage. Within a few days, we were asking "how did we manage with one carriage" when we travelled on the peak trains, and it's good to see the modal shift to public transport that the TransWilts service has brought. Our team is largely volunteer, yet makes a real difference for people in their daily lives.

Engineering works associated with the electrification of the Great Western main line, with resulting closures and diversions and a need for staff to learn how to operate the new trains have conspired to reduce the reliability of the standard timetable well below what we would like to see, and there's more of the same to come in 2018. The Community Rail Partnership volunteers, working along with Great Western, have helped inform people ahead of planned works, and passed local feedback back in return, helping to make small adjustments that make big difference, and helping people understand where no early adjustment can be made.

Such small adjustments include the running of the early Sunday train - which was summer only - all year now. And within weeks, we were into double figure passenger numbers ... with people starting to use the service as a vital link to get to work, as well as for leisure and family visits. We truly are an all day, all week line now ... we just need to sort out a later service to make it all evening too. And an early morning Sunday train starts back at Warminster as from the start of 2018, giving a first train of 08:47 rather than 10:49 from there - opening up the town for residents to go out for day trips, and for people to take Sunday jobs in Bath and Bristol

Marketing and promotion events included our attending "Community Rail in the City", the Melksham River and Food Festival, and we were fortunate to have Santa visit the line again in December. Walks between stations also helped bring the line into public view, and the countryside is really beautiful too. Our team attended and spoke at meetings too many to mention - right across the patch from Swindon to Salisbury and sometimes beyond.

Our social media presence through the year has helped keep people informed both of opportunities and preplanned service changes - with Paul looking after the Twitter feed, and myself on Facebook and with Bob on the Coffee Shop forum. Facebook posts have been reaching upwards of a thousand people, and "how did you hear about this" questions on trains often point back to our social media campaigns. Timetables were distributed to all houses in Melksham in early November, and Frome, Westbury and Melksham local papers carried half page adverts including timetables which people cut out and carry around to this day. GWR's new "B5" timetable has been a handy marketing tool too - a quick and easy reference for local passengers, with key connections shown too.

The TransWilts "app" - downloadable from your regular app source for Apple and Android, and on the TransWilts web site at <http://www.transwilts.org/app> - has been warmly welcomed - giving your local train information, up to date as the train run, without the clutter of the wider network and drilling deeper down into online information than just a departure board - data comes from a source called "Tiger" and this app has a real bite to it. There's already a rip-off in the Bristol area (OK - with our blessing) and once coming for Devon and Cornwall.

The Melksham Rail User Group continued to support us as our "eyes and ears" in the town, and we have helped start up a group for Chippenham - the second of our designated stations. Early days for Chippenham yet, but really valuable feedback already, and a look forward to growth of the group ahead.

Around 20 volunteers helped us survey passengers over a three day period in October, to help ourselves, Great Western and Wiltshire Council understand passenger's journeys and aspirations better. A huge "Thank You" to the team out during Storm Brian, and to all our passengers for willingly provisioning so much valuable data. And this helps so much in us looking forward.

The TransWilts is a growth line, We are not "steady as she goes". It's my role as Community Rail Officer to promote the exiting service and to look at the tactics for doing so / short term gains. Our chair - Paul Johnson - has done a magnificent job through 2017 in oiling the wheels for a service that's not every 2 hours but every hour, that's not turning back at Westbury but carrying on to Southampton, and is carrying not quarter of a million journeys each year but a million. Paul's work on the Melksham Master Plan (to ensure the station can cope), on line capacity work (to see how we can fit more trains through) and on promoting and doing background work for a new station at Wilton for Stonehenge has been phenomenal, and effective. It's often background stuff, unseen by the public and too future-looking to be appreciated a much as it should be - THANK YOU Paul.

We celebrate other team members to this year, Peter Blackburn, our president, was shortlisted in the national individual award category at ACoRP' event in Derby ... he's one of the top half dozen right across Great Britain with his unstinting and effective support and background work for going n 20 years - Peter was around before any of the rest of us, and without him I doubt the station would still be open. John Hamley, long time secretary of the Melksham Rail Development group that has morphed into the Melksham Rail User Group was nominated for "Person of the year" in Melksham, and the Melksham Rail User Group won the award for best user group all across the UK at the RailFuture awards in Leicester in November. And I would like to add a special mention for our friend's secretary - Bob Morrison - here. Winner of an award in a previous year, he's continued to be our rock with his bus and train knowledge, common sense, and ability to quickly and efficiently do things the rest of us dread and take an age to complete. Thank you, Bob.

The TransWilts board has also been delighted to welcome Horace Prickett - portfolio holder for Public Transport - which has already further strengthened our partnership working. Horace has been a support for a number of years and his presence and knowledge at so many events has enable us to show truly joined up thinking, and achieve so much.

The end of 2017 was an important time for looking ahead, with a Department for Transport consultation looking at the next 10 years of services across the South West, a consultation on the whole future direction of community rail, and several timetable consultations from South Western Railway, into who's area our proposed Swindon to Southampton service will run. We are delighted to be working with the Three Rivers CRP on this service, which will add many through journey opportunities, as well as covering existing passenger needs, yet running more efficiently.

Town and parish councils along our line, and Wiltshire Area Boards, have also been very supportive through 2017; really the lists are long and I extend a "Thank You" to them all. And big "thank you" personally to the whole team for their help through the year, which has had its issues and meant that I haven't been able to deliver as much as I should have done.

2018 promises to be another year of challenges - but our volunteers, partners and passengers are up for those challenges. The TransWilts is turning from a "nice to have" to a vital part of life for so many people, and we're seeing signs of a modal shift to public transport. Exciting train and bus developments, much seeded by your team in 2017, mean that TransWilts is "onwards and upwards" this year, next year and beyond. Effective total journey public transport, with people using it in droves because it's the best solution to their travel desires or needs.

*Appendix 8.*

#### BOWERHILL RESIDENTS ACTION GROUP (BRAG) REPORT TO MELKSHAM WITHOUT PARISH COUNCIL 2018

The work of BRAG has been overshadowed of late by the untimely death of the Chairman, Mike Mills, after a short illness. He was BRAG and it will be difficult to pick up the pieces, but in his memory the remaining members of BRAG will strive to continue what he has achieved.

Mike and his wife Marilyn attended the South West in Bloom presentation day in Yeovil where he as a BRAG representative collected a third consecutive Level 5 Outstanding award for the BRAG picnic area, a fitting tribute to all the hard work by BRAG volunteers. The BRAG volunteers continue to maintain the picnic area and the bridle / cycle path that leads to it throughout the year. This year they have spent a considerable time and effort cutting back undergrowth at the side of the ditch as well as cutting the hedge that borders the field. Many residents comment on how good it looks. We have entered the picnic area again in South West In Bloom, It's Your Neighbourhood section to hopefully continue our success.

The BRAG litter pickers have continued to keep Bowerhill tidy throughout the year and BRAG organised a litter picking event for The Great British Spring Clean, a Keep Britain Tidy initiative. Bowerhill came 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Best Kept Large Village in the West Wiltshire competition and BRAG is entering the competition again and hopefully will regain top spot.

Our Facebook page had proved very popular and our messages were reaching over 1000 people. As Mike Mills ran this, it unfortunately has not been updated, something the BRAG members are hoping to do shortly. BRAG is very grateful to Melksham Without Parish Council for its annual grant that goes to paying for our Public Liability Insurance without which we could not operate, and towards the Village Hall charges for our meetings. Our treasurer also seeks for grants from other organisations and the Area Board to pay for things such as litter pickers, a new bench for the cycle path and bird food for the picnic area. We know that the Bowerhill Community support our work and they are very grateful to BRAG for the work we do around Bowerhill.

I wish to thank all the volunteers who give their time freely to improve the environment in Bowerhill.

Pauline Helps (Secretary)

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

### **Report of Berryfield and Semington Road Action Group, 2017/2018**

#### **1.0 Aims**

From its formation over fourteen years ago Berryfield and Semington Road Action Group (BASRAG) has been the main driving force behind social events in the Berryfield area. The play park and the village hall were established with the Action Group's involvement and it continues to stage community events for both adults and children. BASRAG has long campaigned for a permanent village hall for the area. It also produces a regular newsletter, the "Berryfield Buzz"

#### **2.00 Report on Events**

Early March saw local volunteers clearing litter from the hedges and ditches around Berryfield and Semington Road. Eight bags were collected. It was noted that fly tipping was still a problem at the far end on Berryfield Lane which can be accessed from the main road.

Berryfield was entered in the Best Kept Village Competition again which was judged by CPRE in the early Summer. After coming 5<sup>th</sup> out of 6 entries in the medium village category in 2016 we were pleased to be placed 4<sup>th</sup> out of 7 entries this year which is a reflection of the hard work by residents to keep Berryfield and Semington Road tidy.

The annual Easter Fun Event was held on Easter Saturday, April 15<sup>th</sup> in the hall and playpark. It was well supported by the local children and their parents and the Easter themed craft activities held in the hall proved very popular.

Another regular event, the Summer Fun Day, was enjoyed by local children during the August school holidays although numbers were down on last year.

In October a Halloween themed pumpkin hunt and craft day proved very popular. This is the second year this has been staged and we hope to continue this event.

We are very grateful to Marion Plumley who works with the children and to all those who give their time at these events.

Santa was out and about just before Christmas and once again our thanks go to Melksham Lion's for the loan of Santa's Sleigh.

#### **3.00 Committee**

Richard Wood was re-elected as chair at the annual meeting in April,

Gill Arbery continues as secretary and continues as Acting Treasurer.

Sue and Jim Whyborn and Liz Callaway continue on the committee and they have played an active part in events and in the maintenance of the hall. We are also pleased to have Sue's sister, Jane Burgess on the committee this last year.

Sue Stoker, Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator for this area, regularly attends our meetings and events which is appreciated.

#### 4.00 Hall User Groups

The Art Group continues to use the hall weekly and the Berryfield Crafters meet twice monthly.

The hall is available for private hire for meetings, parties, etc.

#### 5.00 Future Events

An Easter event has been arranged for 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2018

We are hoping to run a craft day during the May half term, another Summer Fun Day in the summer school holidays and another children's craft day in the autumn.

#### 6.00 Village Hall Maintenance

BASRAG has been very conscious that the village hall is in need of constant attention to ensure its survival until we have a new building. Although the hall has a limited life and it is not worth spending an excessive amount of money on its upkeep it was decided that we need to keep it going for the community. Therefore, with grant assistance from MWPC we have been able to renew the flooring in the lobby area of the hall as it was becoming a trip hazard. Sadly vandals had caused some damage at the rear of the hall which had to be repaired.

A fridge and microwave have been installed in the kitchen area to provide better facilities for hall users

#### 7.00 New Hall Working Group

Further delays with the Wilts & Berks Canal Link project make it unlikely that a new community hall will be facilitated in the foreseeable future through this development.

However, the development of 150 houses on the east side of Semington Road includes an agreement to provide £500,000 for the provision of a new village hall. Building works are scheduled to start this year but it will probably be some time before a new hall is completed, hence the need to keep the existing hall in good repair.

#### Summary

Despite frustration regarding the progress of a new hall building BASRAG continues to promote the present village hall as a focus for the community and to encourage local participation in events designed to bring the community together.

BASRAG is a member of Wiltshire Community Land Trust and the Village Hall Association. BASRAG appreciates the assistance given by The Parish Council over the past year and their encouragement and practical help for which we are very grateful .

Gillian Arbery  
Secretary  
March 2018

**Community Action: Whitley & Shaw (CAWS) - Chair report 2017/18**

February 2018 sees the end of a fantastic action packed CAWS year. During CAWS' third year, activities ranged from music events to planters being placed in the village and much more in between. The successful year could not have taken place without the dedicated committee, the partnerships with other community groups and of course the support of the local community.

At the start of our year Melksham without Parish Council announced the revised decision to adopt the two BT Telephone Boxes in the villages. Since then the booths have been inspected, a maintenance agreement has been drawn up and a plan for their refurbishment begun. A CAWS objective for 2018/19 is planned for the refurbishment of the red box in Whitley to become a book lending library. With a successful fundraising event at Christmas, some of the funds have already been established. Support is now required from volunteers to help make it happen.

From March to May CAWS set their sights on getting ready for the Best Kept Village competition for both Shaw and Whitley. CAWS purchased three planters using the Waitrose community fund money they were awarded and worked with our local gardening club to place the planters in the village. Throughout the year the gardening club have continued to look after them with the help of volunteers. Thank you for your hard work, it's appreciated by so many. Our first litter pick of the year took place in May collecting rubbish from around both villages. The judging of the Best Kept Village Competition awarded Shaw a first place in the medium size village category and Whitley sixth in the small village category. Shaw then went through to the county round and came second.

During April slow your speed stickers were distributed to all residents on Top Lane, Shaw Hill and Corsham Road. The money won from the previous Best Kept Village Competition meant that we could provide each household with two stickers for their refuse bin. It's a great sight on a Monday evening when you drive up one of these roads and see the stickers all in a line. Thanks to those who helped distribute them and residents for helping support the initiative.

Picnic and Music at the Beeches took place on 8<sup>th</sup> July. CAWS and Shaw Village Hall Committee came together once again to put on an event, not with the aim of fundraising, the aim was to give an opportunity for the community to spend an entertaining afternoon together. The work that the committees put in was second to none and this showed on the day by how smooth the day ran and the great feedback from those that attended. There were of course lessons learnt on how to make an event even better the next time, which will be taken into consideration for future events. A huge thank you to all those who supported the event, the musicians, those that came and of course the committees. Particular thanks go to Mike Booth for his time, effort, design skills as always, and his quick response to overcome any hurdles we encountered in the planning. Thank you. If this wasn't enough the committee were back out the next day to litter pick Shaw ready for the county round of judging...fortunate timing as the judging too place the very next day!!

Amongst the summer event planning, CAWS were already thinking about what fundraising event they would hold at Christmas. This year we held a bingo and auction night at Shaw Village Hall. With some very generous donations from local people and businesses, and the donations made on the night, money was raised to go towards replacing the much needed new door on the red phone box in Whitley. The event again required the time and effort of the committee, however this year saw the lowest turnout of the community to one of our Christmas events. Therefore in 2018, the time of year and type of event are all under

consideration, as without the support of the community at this type of event, CAWS are unable to consider projects and request funding in other ways to make them happen. Thank you to those who made the evening happen, Shaw village hall for hosting and Roger Hollest for being our excellent auctioneer.

A further two litter picks also took place in September and January, with around 20 volunteers at each. The litter pick days are becoming a successful feature of the CAWS calendar – even on a rainy day in the middle of January. CAWS will look to continue these in 2018/19.

The Community Emergency Group continue to do fantastic work and this year have been on hand to help those in need and put their hard work and planning to the test. Thank you on behalf of the village for the work you do with so much going on behind the scenes.

We extend our thanks to Melksham without Parish Council who have again been there to support us, not only through funding, also through the advice they give and so readily, and the welcome to their meetings. Of course the BT phone box project would not be taking off if they hadn't decided to adopt the booths on our behalf.

*Appendix 11.*

#### Shaw & Whitley Community Emergency Group 2018 – operating as part of CAWS

The group continues to be active in the community. We have a core team of about 8, who meet every 2 months, to review plans and chase progress on issues. And there is a list of 20 active volunteers who could be called on.

- The Atkins report has been received from Wiltshire Council, and a meeting to communicate the conclusions to households flooded in 2014 is planned.
- CEG pumps were used in anger for a flood incident in January 2018
- Weather warnings are circulated to the group. “Would you be available?” test messages are sent, quarterly.
- We walk the watercourses, and check drains, twice yearly, and issues are reported to the appropriate body.
- Equipment familiarisation exercises are held at the equipment store.
- Representatives attend training sessions in Bradford-on-Avon, and have attended Wiltshire Council flood operations group meetings

We're well supported by Melksham Without Parish Council, for operational issues; and liaison with Wiltshire Council, the Environment Agency, and other bodies.

This year, two of our founding members – Brian Roberts and Tony Bruun have stepped down. It is down to their efforts that we have such a well established and resourced group, and we owe them a debt of gratitude.

## **BOWERHILL VILLAGE HALL TRUST VICE CHAIR'S REPORT AGM 2018**

It is with great sadness that we have lost Mike Mills who has been the Chair of the Village Hall for three years and a member of the committee for over 30 years. He died in February following a short illness.

Our web and Facebook pages have proved to be a great success and have led to an increase in bookings. The Bowerhill Village Hall continues to go from strength to strength. Coffee on the Way who book the Hall all day on the 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays of the month offer a place for residents to meet and have a natter and to enjoy top quality coffee is proving to be a great success.

The Hall is running at a profit which is important to enable us to pay for maintenance. The Hall has a maintenance diary on display which assures users that equipment in the Hall is regularly and thoroughly maintained. The Committee is very grateful to Melksham Without Parish Council for their annual grant which enables the Management Committee to keep the booking fees as low as we can and we would like to welcome the new representative from the Parish Council David Pafford.

The incident book is very important to the Hall Committee as issues are recorded when they occur and it also provides an audit check to determine when problems arise. The incident book is monitored regularly and at every Management Committee meeting.

'Parking for Village Hall Users Only' signs have been put up outside of the hall to try to reduce the amount of vehicles parking in the spaces by drivers who are not village hall users.

The flooding at the front of the Hall has now been resolved with TJ Builders undertaking the ground work in August.

Other hall benefits throughout the year are:

- A new refrigerator has been installed in the kitchen,
- The outside windows and guttering has been cleaned,
- PAT testing has been completed
- Four new ceiling lights with emergency lighting has been installed in the main hall.
- A deep clean of the floors was undertaken.
- In August Coffee on the Way donated and installed two picnic benches to the outside area.
- Child safety plugs placed in all exposed sockets.
- New V sweeper purchased.

I wish to thank all of the committee members for their hard work managing the Hall. They are volunteers who give their time freely and without their tireless work there would be no Hall.

Mark Harris  
Vice Chair Bowerhill Village Hall Trust  
May 2018



## Annual Summary of Shaw village hall activities 2017/2018

I am pleased to report that the Shaw hill playing field and Village hall premises (working name Shaw village hall) has been maintained for the use of the inhabitants of the area of benefit (Melksham Without and neighbourhood) and in particular provided accommodation for the Preschool and Friendship Club Charities, the Shaw & Whitley Women's Institute and the Shaw & Whitley Whist Group and that Hall bookings remain exceptionally buoyant.

It has to be said that building the new Oakfields stadium, rugby and football pitches and changing facilities in Melksham has dramatically reduced the level of usage and income from the playing field at The Beeches. But, thanks to Geoff and his contacts the pitch has been hired for use this season by a local team looking for a 'home' ground. So, for a while the goal posts will stand and the pitch-marking continue.

With or without a football pitch the field is a superb asset. The hard-standing multi-use- games- area and the field itself are frequently used on sunny days by children and their parents/guardians for general recreation and enjoying the fresh air. In June the field and the hall were made available at no charge for a picnic and musical event, thoroughly enjoyed by all, jointly staged with the Community Action: Whitley & Shaw (CAWS). And in August the hall and playing field were open for, the popular and well attended, "Fun in the sun" sports coaching afternoons for 8 to 11-year olds promoted by Wiltshire Council.

Throughout the past year members of the hall committee have been fully involved with local action group activities and look forward to continuing to do so.

The continuing loss of young elm trees on the playing field boundaries to disease and the recognition that the stump of the grand old chestnut tree, that once graced and shaded the car park / children's play area, is beyond help are both causes of concern. But it is intended that some of this further expense in field upkeep will be mitigated by forming a local working party.

Another "behind the scenes" development over the past year has been a review of our constitution. The Committee operate as the trustees of the Hall and Playing Field under a Declaration of Trust made in 1962 and some of the provisions of that 1962 document are considerably out of date. A number of bodies or organisations which today have nothing to do with the Hall and Playing Field were given certain powers under the declaration and we are in the process of contacting some of them to establish whether they wish to play an active part in the trusteeship of the Hall and Playing Field or give up these powers. The most significant of these – the Department for Education, has already given written agreement to surrendering its powers under the declaration. When this process is complete we shall be putting a scheme to the Charity Commission for their approval. None of this involves weakening the local community's control over the Hall and Playing Field – merely allowing us to get on and administer it efficiently for the benefit of the local community.

Richard Bean  
Secretary 24<sup>th</sup> March 2018.

## **Whitley Reading Rooms** **Charity No 305595**

### **Annual Report to Melksham Without Parish Council** **2017**

I am pleased to report that 2017 was a very successful year for the Reading Rooms which is a popular venue for the whole community. Our regular groups of users include Mother and Toddlers, Pilates, art, sewing, Zumba, personal fitness, community teas, yoga and Oigong. The hall is also used as a Polling Station and for family parties and gatherings. We continue to get more and varied users and many can not be accommodated as we have so many evening bookings on weekdays, we now also have most of Saturday morning booked on a regular basis.

We have replaced the mugs and fitted the new gates, I am pleased to report that the outside is now used by the toddler group whenever the weather permits.

Income for the reading continues to improve. We have received a grant from the Area Board to help replace the roof on the garage/storage.

We have applied to Melksham Without Parish Council for a grant to replace the flat above the kitchen and toilets, which has recently started to leak.

I hope that we can continue to build on the Reading Room's success and would like to thank both the Melksham Without Parish Council and the Area Board for their kind support of this community facility.

Ian Uffindell  
Chairman Whitley Reading Rooms

March 2018

### **Rachel Fowler Centre**

The Rachel Fowler Centre is a community hall which is available for use/hire by local organisations and inhabitants. The hall is currently used by a wide variety of organisations including:- music groups, choirs, dancing groups, amateur dramatics, and gardening societies. The Rachel Fowler Centre is located in the centre of Melksham and includes kitchen facilities, wi-fi, a projector screen and projector.

## ***Report from Melksham Oak Community School for Melksham Without Parish Council 2018***

It has been another year full of hard work, challenge and success for Melksham Oak. Our focus has, as always, been on trying our hardest to achieve the best possible results for our exam year groups and as in five of the six previous years, the Year 11 pupils who left us in the summer did so having achieved above national average progress for their GCSE results. Which this year places us 12<sup>th</sup> in all secondary schools in Wiltshire. In attainment terms, our pupils arrive at Melksham Oak significantly below the national average for KS2 test scores, so to be within 1/10<sup>th</sup> of a grade below the national figure for points scored across pupils' eight best subjects, including English, Maths, Science, Humanities and MFL is a most noteworthy figure.

Our sixth formers also did themselves proud, especially those who had applied through the UCAS process for university places, with all of those students securing a place at either their first or second choice university. And, as with every year, we examine our successes and areas in which we could do better, and work with all pupils to ensure that they experience even more success than those in previous years.

We also want to make sure that life in our school is not solely about exams. It's been a fantastic year for pupils who have taken part in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme. At the end of the summer term over 45 students successfully completed their Bronze or Silver expeditions and over 60 new students have signed up to complete their Award over the next year. As well as completing the expedition, students volunteered over 370 hours of their time, helping out in the local community.

On the Performing Arts front, the school's production of 'Disco Inferno' proved a huge success. Seeing more than fifty pupils, from all years, dancing, singing and acting their way through a raft of 70s disco classics was wonderful for parents and staff. It is events and productions such as this which showcase the superb range of talent that we have amongst our pupils and gives them opportunities to be a part of a new and different experience that they will remember for many years to come.

We have also experienced great success on the sports fields, athletics tracks and indoor arenas. Amongst our pupils we have area, county, regional and even national champions in sports as wide-ranging as football, athletics, cross country and taekwan-do.

Follow us on Twitter @ProudOfMelkshamOak

Stephen Clark  
Headteacher  
March 2018





#### "My Time in the ATC" – by Corporal Eccleston

During my time in the cadets, I have learnt a lot of new skills. Some key skills I have learnt are in Leadership. This has helped me a lot in progressing in my cadet career as I am now a Corporal. Not only has it helped me progress, it has also helped my confidence.



Whilst in the cadets, I have done my activities such as shooting training, walking training and fieldcraft. Not only have I done cadet activities, I have also participated in charity events such as Castle Combe. Castle Combe, in my opinion, is the best charity event. It raises a lot of money for the Squadron and you also get to watch the racing during the day which is fun.



Role models I have come across in cadets include the Squadron staff such as Flight Lieutenant McKay who have done a lot for the Squadron; by improving the facilities at the Squadron and providing more activities and promotion processes. WO2 Booth and Mr. Gerrish have also been role models for me. With WO2 Booth assisting in the fieldcraft by sharing knowledge he has from his military career. Also, Mr. Gerrish always participates in charity events and increasing the morale of the cadets.



Overall, I have really enjoyed my time in the cadets.

#### What has happened in the last few months?

- Ramstein Camp
- Various Castle Combe Events
- Gliding
- Various Wing and Regional Sports Events
- Squadron Overnight Fieldcraft
- Dorset & Wiltshire Camp
- Remembrance Parade
- HMS Bristol Camp
- Melksham Food & River Festival
- Melksham Christmas Fayre and Lights Switch-On
- Wing Activities Day
- Bournemouth Air Show

#### Promotions, Qualifications and Awards

Congratulations to all of our cadets on their many achievements in 2017, both individual and their contributions to the success of the Squadron. There are too many to mention individually but here are some prime examples in the second part of this year:

- Promotions: Rudd from Corporal to Sergeant and Diggins and Green from Sergeant to Flight Sergeant
- Passing First Class: Hardiman, Coyle, Gale and Strong
- Heartstart Award: Alston, Brown, Hubbard, Parsons-Green, Price, Rabone, Rudd and Strong
- Activity First Aid Award: Green
- Music Awards: Booth (Blue) and Diggins (Silver)
- Flying and Gliding: Rabone (Bronze), Coyle (Blue) Tate (Blue), Hardiman (Blue)

#### New Social Media Presence



The Squadron is starting to develop its online presence and can now provide the new Twitter Feed: [@2385MelkshamATC](https://twitter.com/2385MelkshamATC)



#### **We are currently looking for more Staff Volunteers**

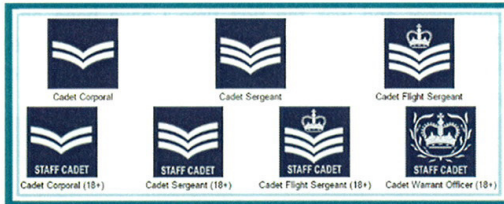
Details of specific roles required can be found on the last page of this newsletter but any volunteers are very welcome; be it to offer administrative support; teaching; female cover; sports or just general assistance.

No experience is necessary as full training can be provided.



**The difference between a Corporal and a Sergeant – by (then) Sergeant Green**

Carrying on from Corporal Rudd's piece in Issue 9 of the newsletters "The Difference between a Corporal and a Cadet", I will be explaining the transition from Corporal to Sergeant.



To qualify to become the most junior SNCO rank, you have to meet some criteria. Firstly, you have to pass the Dorset & Wiltshire Wing's JNCO course; which consists of Drill, Inspection, Leadership, Presentation Skills, General Service Knowledge (GSK) and the completion of the JNCO workbook on Uniform and Drill. You must also have a good attendance record and have been a Corporal for at least 6 months. You should have proved yourself a great cadet JNCO (Junior Non-Commissioned Officer) to become a cadet SNCO (Senior Non-Commissioned Officer).

Once promoted to Sergeant, you will be expected to take on new roles and responsibilities which are taught to you from ACP 40 on the SNCO course. The SNCO course includes an interview, presentation, inspection, a General Service Knowledge test, a leadership task and class discussions.

An SNCO will have responsibilities like looking after a whole Flight of cadets; monitoring cadets and JNCOs in development and the Cadet Development Course. Mainly, you will become a role model to the cadets, so you must be at the best of your abilities. SNCOs will work with their fellow cadet NCO team in many tasks; from ensuring a parade night runs smoothly; to making sure basic Health & Safety checks are done every month. Many SNCOs will also take up a specialised role on the Squadron like teacher or run things like Projects or tasks set by the staff.

Overall, the transition is hard, but rewarding and it is amazing to see how much of an impact you have on the younger cadets and other cadet NCOs. It is an experience I urge all cadets to aspire to.

**Contact Details, Out of Hours, Authorised Absences, Website**

Email: [adj.2385@aircadets.org](mailto:adj.2385@aircadets.org)  
Phone: 01225 700979  
Website: <http://2385atc.org.uk>

**Ramstein Camp – by Corporal Chilcott**

On the 18<sup>th</sup> of July, I went to MOD Boscombe Down to travel to Ramstein in Germany. The journey was meant to take 8 hours but actually took 12 due to unexpected diversions (slow driving) by coach.

During the time there, we went to visit 322 Squadron and watched and learnt about the different controls and maintenance of the various Tornado aircraft. Also, we went to fly in a C130 Hercules, it was amazing – the bits I can remember (I was having a good sleep during most of the flight).



On another day, we went on a walk, lasting about 2 hours, in the local area. We visited the historical town and wandered through tunnels before going on a McDonalds hunt!

We spent a day on an Assault Course with some German Soldiers. It was timed and similar to the ones we see the Royal Marines doing, with 7ft or so wall, which was amazing! I was so impressed that I was able to get over the wall – it was very physically demanding!

The accommodation consisted of huge dome tents. They had electrical hook-up, which was cool and had about 11 people in each one on bunk beds. They were not very comfortable, but I did get the top bunk. All of the guys in my tent were hilarious. RAF chefs provided the food and one of them was very funny. The food was actually alright.

We were able to visit the local shopping centre (KMC) where I bought an American patch and loads of Gummy Bears.

The journey home was good too; my mum got me KFC! Most of my spare time, I was sleeping because I needed the sleep. The camp was definitely alright – I would definitely go again.





#### Indoor Skydiving and Parachute Training – By Flight Sergeant Green

On the 21<sup>st</sup> of August, I was invited to go Indoor Skydiving as a replacement of my cancelled Parachute Camp. I went up to an Indoor Skydiving Centre in Hampshire with 4 other cadets from Bristol and Gloucestershire Wing and another cadet from Dorset and Wiltshire Wing.

Once we arrived, we had to sign a Consent Form to allow us to fly in the tunnel. Once we had been given our class number, we went upstairs to watch the current group that were in the tunnel. I looked rather scary! After a 10 to 20-minute period, we were called into a Briefing Room to watch a safety video and practice certain Skydiving positions under the supervision of Tunnel Staff, when during this time, the RAF Parachute Trainers from Brize Norton, who run the actual Parachute Camp, had turned up to take us for lessons within the tunnel. After our Briefings, we were separated into 2 groups of which I was in the first group and we were kitted out with flying overalls, ear defenders, goggles and a helmet for safety.

We then went into a separated area after the group before us had finished where we sat and took our turns in the tunnel. We all had 2-minute bursts which added up to 30 minutes each which is much longer than the usual time of 10 minutes per person, so we had 3 times as long as everyone else which allowed us to learn actual Skydiving manoeuvres and master the skills.

In my first session, I learnt how to turn left and right on the netting at the bottom of the tunnel and spent two sessions mastering that with the help of a Brize Norton Instructor. After that I spent another two sessions learning how to go backwards and forwards with just small bodily movements. The finally, I got to the hardest skill of all, going upwards and downwards unaided. This skill was the hardest because when you first start to move, you panic and eventually relax. Eventually, after learning these six skills, I was able to combine the skills and be able to touch different points in the tunnel at different heights unaided.

It was an amazing experience that I would love to do again, although 80mph winds are not good with long hair (I had many knots to untangle)! We then went to McDonalds to celebrate our hardwork and successes in the tunnel. Overall, an amazing day that I would recommend to any cadet.



#### Fieldcraft – By Cadet Gale



The Fieldcraft Overnight activity was on the 16<sup>th</sup> of September and was the first time I have been on a Fieldcraft activity overnight. The cadets had to set up their “Bashers” to sleep in and we all had a 24-hr Ration Pack for all of our food during the entire activity.



We had to work as a team throughout the day to set up the 12x12 and bashers quickly and effectively and all helped each other out to make sure that everything was done the best it could be.



The activity we had to carry out at night time, was to go as a team to “recon” a patrol and setup sentries to view when they patrol and find out where their base was. All whilst being as quiet as possible to ensure we were not spotted. We then had to use the information we gathered to create a model of what we saw. After we completed the activity we then went to sleep in our bashers. Overall, it was a fun night and I am excited about future activities like this one.





**Knook Camp (D&W Camp) – By Cadet Carter**

A couple of Air Cadet Squadrons' were offered to spend two weeks at Knook Camp doing team building and badge earning activities. When we got there, we were seated in a hall and shown the rules and information about what is going to happen and our safety. After all that we were split into three squads, A, B and C squad, then we were sent to our dorms which we looked after with people from other Squadrons.



Every day, after getting changed and washed by 7am, we all went to the canteen to get our breakfast. After we did that, the different Squads had to do different activities at different times; so for my squad, C Squad, we had to go through a long PowerPoint about radios and how to use them CORRECTLY. Halfway through we all had a small bag which was given to us which contained our lunch. We then finished off our PowerPoint the next day but we had to try to do a few radio checks and things like that.



After every activity we headed back to our dorms to make friends with fellow cadets. The dorms consisted of four rooms (Boys), a hallway, a broom cupboard and two rooms that consisted of about nine to ten beds per room. The girls got lucky and got the same but they got THEIR OWN TOILET + SINK! Every bed place had a desk next to it and consisted of a frame and a mattress, but no pillow so we brought our own sleeping bag with pillow.

The next thing we did was a day out at the most fun place ever, THORPE PARK! My Squadron was the first to go and we were given a pass that let us go on ANYTHING free. We had to stay in groups and were given six hours of fun to go and do whatever we pleased. The best ride for me was the ride Nemesis and even better, no grown-ups could hold us back!



After that we did two more activities; First we did a two-day course which is called the YFA (Youth First Aid) which gives us a badge and qualification. We first watched a bunch of slides then on the second day we did three tests, an awake casualty, a knocked-out casualty and CPR.



Finally, the BIG one, we did one and a half days in the field doing exercises. We had tiny tents and we ate out of ration packs. Sadly, I couldn't stay for the full time so that's all I could experience.

Finally, on the last night we had a very fancy dinner and GREAT FOOD as usual. After all this we had a mini-party at our dorms and hall. On the last day we packed our stuff. After tidying up we went to the largest number of simulators in one place in Europe. Once we arrived we had to get a driver and a gunner and we battled until we had to go home. THATS IT FOR THIS YEARS NOOK CAMP!

**HMS Bristol Camp – By Cadet Gerrish**



In September, me and Cadet Tate went on a camp to Portsmouth to stay on the type 82 Destroyer HMS Bristol.

As it was my first camp, I was very excited, but also very nervous s there was only one other cadet I knew going as well. Despite this, I made a lot of new friends on the camp so did not have to worry.

When we arrived, I was very nervous as I had never been so close to anything this large before, which made me a little scared, however, I got over it. The accommodation was not the best as I had been the last one to turn up to the room the males were staying in and due to this I was without a bed for 10 to 20 minutes which made me worried that I would have to sleep on the floor! However, despite this I was able to find a bed.

The food on the camp was amazing however we did have to march about 1 and ½ miles just to get to the mess every day but because the food was so good, I did not complain. The activities that id did on the camp were amazing; my favourite was the trip to the cinema despite me falling asleep midway through and waking up because of a scary bit in the film where everyone jumped. Overall, I think the camp was a good start for cadets that have not been on any camps before.





**Remembrance Day Parade – By Cadet Parsons-Green**

The Melksham Remembrance Day Parade is an important event for 2385 (Melksham) Squadron. We arrived at the car park in Melksham and performed a uniform inspection.



Corporal Chilcott then formed the Squadron up, preparing for us to march. Flight Lieutenant McKay, who led the parade, informed all of the groups attending what was going to happen. Flight Lieutenant McKay commenced the march and the Squadron marched towards the church with the Squadron Banner Party in front.



The Squadron entered the church and remained there throughout the service. After the service, we stood around the War Memorial in Melksham and Corporal Chilcott and Cadet Booth laid down wreathes. We then turned around and marched back towards the Town Hall with the Mayor and other important people watching over us (including our Mayor's Cadet, Cadet Gerrish). After the Parade was over, we had hot drinks and food in the Assembly Hall.



**Gliding – By Corporal Rabone**

Corporal Rabone here, this report is all about the fabulous time some of the cadets of 2385 (Melksham) Squadron had at Gliding. The day started off very early and very cold but we had SI Booth's music keeping us going until we reached RAF Upavon.

We got to the base extremely early, but time flew and the staff arrived. We had individual briefings where we were told what each spec (job) each of us would be doing that day in the glider. Then we had a go on the PTT (Part Task Trainer), this is basically a simulator for the gliding. Then we got measured up with our gear, for example a parachute.



One of the best parts was sitting in a staff briefing where the members were all being allocated jobs. It felt like a movie; I was so excited! I absolutely loved it! After we gathered the weights and made our way down to the airfield where we got the gliders out and prepared to start.

I had butterflies so bad, but luckily, I had an amazing pilot who spoke to me about everything in the glider and what it would feel like. Then we flew up. I cannot explain how fab it was! I even got my Bronze Gliding Award, which is so cool. All the other cadets had a great time as well, even if they did feel a little queasy.



I would so recommend going, I will never forget the memory.



**Wing Activity Day – By Cadet Booth**

17<sup>th</sup> September, day of WAD (Wing Activities Day). Starting at the Squadron, everyone was up early with smart, top-notch Wedgewood's in suit carrier and wearing their Greens. Everyone was looking forward to a cracking day. Going to MOD Boscombe Down, where the event was taking place, the bus got hyped and everyone was ready to get out the bus at the place we were to setup base.



We saw many other Squadrons; but we were mainly focused on getting a good result at the end after being briefed on the day. We set up in great time and everything was put inside the tent, including some yum-yum treats from the OC (Officer Commanding)!

After setting up and having time in the tent, the first group went to do the first activity – they came back with successful efforts! After everyone had completed their own events such as First Aid and Aircraft Recognition competitions and also come extensive time on breaks and the cadets and cadet NCOs had time going around the base taking part in the fun activities; we got sorted for the most important part of the day – Inspection and Drill!



We got a good standard on Inspection and our Drill was a good performance and other than some minor corrections in our sequence, our Squadron (and the important personnel reviewing us) was happy and in good cheer. Obviously, our OC was pleased with our Squadron turnout and all of the staff! The place we came was only 6 points behind our position last year – we came 5<sup>th</sup> last year and 8<sup>th</sup> this year – with much effort! A result at the end of the day and a resonance of the day. At the final award ceremony, we were all packed, we set off out of Boscombe Down and back to our Squadron to look forward to the celebration BBQ.



**Melksham Christmas Fayre and Lights Switch-On**  
Well done to all of the Civilian Committee, Staff and Cadets who helped with the Melksham Christmas Fayre where you all raised a total of £303.19 for the Squadron.

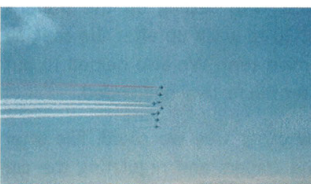


**Bournemouth Air Show – By Corporal Eccleston**

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> of September, we went to Bournemouth Air Show. It was an excellent day where we got to see a range of different aircraft, doing a range of different stunts. We also saw the Army and the Royal Marines Commando.



On the beach, the British Army were showing equipment, the vehicles they use and they were also recruiting people. The Army showed us equipment such as artillery weapons and shells. There were also vehicles on the beach such as Landrovers, a Challenger 2 Tank and there was a Gazelle Helicopter.



We also saw an assortment of planes and helicopters when we went to the air show. Some of the aircraft we saw were a Merlin, Chinook, Tornado, Hurricane and Hawk. We also saw the Royal Air Force Red Arrows' amazing performance of the low flying, flips, spins and all sorts of stunts. This was one of the best experiences, witnessing this performance.





**Wing Sports – by Corporal Rabone**

Let's just start and say that Sports was a great success! On the 23<sup>rd</sup> of September, seven of our cadets went to Tidworth Oval to try and get a place on the Wing Sports Team. The boys were trying out in the Rugby and Football; and the girls were trying out for the Netball and Hockey.

When we arrived, there were many people who were ready to get transported to their selected venue. The Netball was on the base, so we had to go through Security. Hockey was also fun but the astro-turf is sandy so it is always in my shoes which is so annoying! I, Corporal Rabone, am the junior team because of my age so I compete with cadets aged between 12 to 15 and because I have been doing sports for a few years, I know all of the team, which is even better. The day went very fast and we listened to music non-stop. It is so nice seeing people from camp and other activities again! All of our cadets got a space on the Wing Team! I am on the Netball and Hockey Teams, so in the next few months you shall have to look out for the outcomes of the day.



**2018 Junior Football Team**

**Food and River Festival 2017 - by Cadet Coyle**

The Food and River Festival was on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of September, we were there to assist with setting up the trader's market stalls and at 12:30 to wash up after the cooking demonstration in the main tent. We also helped to put down the marquees after the festival had ended.

We also helped in any other way we could, like litter picking, pushing around trailers and regulating the car park. As a reward for our work, a bakery marquee had some leftover stock that they gave to us to take home; we even had to give some away! Overall, it was a good day and we got lots of thanks from the Mayor!



**Corps Rugby – by Flight Sergeant Diggins**



In September there were Wing Trials to get into the Wing Senior Rugby Team. Unfortunately, I had injured my finger so was unable to go to the Regional Trials. I wished the team luck and hoped they would win.



In the beginning of December, I received a phone call to see if I would like to represent the Region as someone could not make it. I went to the Regional Tournament in RAF Cranwell and managed to make the Senior Corps Team. This meant that on the 13<sup>th</sup> of May, I represented the ATC at RAF Cosford playing against Bromsgrove Rugby Club. I am the only person in the Dorset and Wiltshire Wing who made the Corps Team and there are only 5 of us in the whole of the South West Region.





Time to Reflect on 2017 with 2385 (Melksham) Squadron and Look Towards 2018 – Some Thoughts and Reflections from our Cadets:



"2017 was a great year for the Squadron" Cpl Rabone



"A lot more stuff became available" Cdt Tate



"It was fantastic" Cdt Brown



"Too many injuries – but it did not stop me!"

"It was fun" Cdt Hubbard



"Absolutely banging year!" Cpl Chilcott



"Enjoyed trying new things" Cdt Parsons-Green

"ATC Saga 'a new hope'" Cdt Williams



"Enjoyed flying" Cdt Gerrish



"Enjoying Fieldcraft" Cdt Coyle

"It was great" Cdt Price



"No trousers fit me" Cdt Paradise-Harding



"The Squadron was Triumphant" FS Green



"Enjoyed gliding" Cdt Hardiman

"Great year, love it, good job guys!" Sgt Powell



"Fun and differentiate" Cdt Gale

"Can't wait to fly" Cdt Chan



"I like my uniform" Cdt Smith



"Actually got some badges" Cdt Alston



"I'm loving it!" Cdt Pieragostini



## Request for Volunteers to support Melksham Squadron

At the start of this newsletter I wrote about the developments the Squadron has made, in part due to the extra volunteers who have joined us over the last 6 months.

Whilst it is true that the Squadron has achieved a great deal, with a small amount of extra help we could more than double our "output". Of course "output" in this case refers to opportunities for the youth of Melksham, a worthwhile cause if anyone says so.

To this end I would be particularly interested in hearing from anybody (and please do share this little 'advert' as widely as possible) who would be willing to volunteer in any of the following capacities.

### **Volunteer website administrator - 1 Vacancy**

The Squadron website requires an update and occasional maintenance. Anybody with experience of creating and maintaining a website would be welcome to apply.

After the initial refresh, the expected monthly commitment would be 2-3 hours.

### **Volunteer Front of house and Office Manager - 1 Vacancy**

The Squadron requires an individual who is willing to volunteer on a regular basis on parade evenings (Wednesday and Fridays 1900-2130) who can cover the front office and act as Office Manager and administrator for the Squadron. Full training would be provided.

### **Volunteer IT Manager - 1 Vacancy**

As the Squadrons inventory of computer and other IT related equipment grows it is essential it is taken proper care of. The Squadron requires an IT savvy individual to fulfil this role. Tasks would include, routine software and security updates, providing training to other members of staff and also to advise on future purchases.

This role would have an expected monthly commitment of 1 parade evening a month (2.5 hours). This role could be combined with the Volunteer website administrator for the right applicant.

### **Volunteer Flight Simulator Instructor - 4 Vacancies**

This role is key to developing our aviation package on offer to the cadets. The Squadron owns a variety of flight simulation devices, including a large 2 seater aircraft mockup. Instructors would apply having a knowledge of flight simulation and or aircraft flying. Specific training can be provided, however a basic knowledge of flight simulation, computing and aircraft operation is crucial.

The eventual aim is to be able to run our flight simulators on every parade night in the month. With 4 instructors, that would be an expected commitment of 2 parade nights a month (5 hours).

These roles are all voluntary, but individuals giving their time are able to claim for certain expenses and substantial development opportunities also exist for volunteers.

Anyone who is interested in these roles or would like further information please in the first instance contact the Commanding Officer at [oc.2385@aircadets.org](mailto:oc.2385@aircadets.org)

## **1<sup>st</sup> Broughton Gifford & Holt Report** **For Broughton Gifford Parish Council Meeting 2018**

For those who are unfamiliar with the Scout Movement, may I point out that there are 4 youth sections active in BG&H group. We take youngsters from the villages of Broughton Gifford, Holt, Atworth, Shaw and Whitley. We have a high number of members (about 100 in all section) and we are one of the biggest in the District of Wiltshire West. We are also blessed with a good Leader team at the moment, but we are always looking for more help as the numbers who want to join exceeds the numbers we can take. We have a good reputation within the District.

The youngest section is known as Beaver scouts. Their ages are 6-8 years. Their motto is Fun & Friends. They enjoy many activities throughout the year, from Hiking around the local area, mainly the surrounding villages. We make visits to local shops, fire station, the Air Ambulance and even to our ex scouter who resides in the village, Mr Alan Doddington who has a most interesting garden with model trains. Although I think some of the Leaders enjoyed the visit more...

The next age group from 8-10 ½ are the Cub Section. This Section also has a varied programme throughout the year. They also enjoy hiking, cooking, camping, archery etc. They also go on visits to places of interest.

The Scout Section has increased rapidly over the last 2 years and because of its reputation in the District our numbers are at the highest we can take. Their programme is a very wide one. They enjoy Archery, Rifle Shooting, Climbing, Canoeing and Hiking. They go away each year on a Summer camp, destinations dotted around the country, where they undertake very exciting new experiences. They have to cook for themselves, learn new skills for survival and generally improve their own self esteem. It is wonderful to watch them mature over the years.

The oldest section we have are Explorer Scouts. These are aged between 14-18 years old. These are guided to make up the own programmes and encouraged to work together as a team, (which is not always easy with all the technology around today). It is a learning curve for all of the members, but I must say they enjoy the experience, (why else have they stayed so long within the group).

I must not forget our Leader Team who without them none of this would be possible. This year we have welcomed 4 new Young Leaders from our Explorer Section. They are all local people who enjoy helping the youngsters to fulfil something different. They bring together a spirit of friendship. We must remember they do it voluntarily.

We have a small but very important Executive Committee who raises funds to keep up the maintenance of the Scout hut. Most groups do not have a Scout HQ, so we are extremely lucky. We hold fund raising events throughout the year, varying from Easter Egg Hunts, Bingo Family Nights, Bonfire Night, etc. We also have donations from local businesses, but our main regular income comes from Gift Aid on the subscriptions we charge our members. We need at least £1,500 just to meet our annual bills. Our Insurance has increased due to our purchase of new tents and equipment. We enjoy taking part in local events held in the village and we help the fund raising by hiring out the Scout Hut.

Weather permitting we use the common whenever we can. We look on it as our front garden (something other groups envy us for). We often hold District Event here and other groups like using our hut for Sleepovers. The sections often use the village for their projects towards their badge work. All sections attend the village Remembrance Parade. We are only sorry we cannot seem to find a bugler for the end of the service at the Cenotaph (we did manage it for 3 years when we had a local boy in the Scout section who played for us. His name was Laurence de Bruxelles). If anyone locally would like to offer their assistance, please let me know. Our Sections meet regularly with the Beaver & Cub sections on Wednesday evening, Scouts on a Thursday evening and Explorers meet alternate Mondays.

This year the group have been lucky in that 2 of our Scouts have been selected to attend the 2019 World Jamboree in America representing the Wilts West contingency. With this accolade comes the task of raising the funds to attend. Their funding also includes helping raise enough monies to help other Scouts around the world less fortunate to attend the Jamboree. In the coming year we hope our intake numbers will ease a little as Shaw & Whitley are hoping to start a Beaver Colony & Cub Scout Sections of their own. (No written in stone as yet). All in all, we have a healthy and thriving Scout Group.

Anne Cranham (Chairman)

## **Melksham Phab**

Most of our meetings are filled with activities like, bingo, quizzes, beetle drive and craft work. We also took a day out to Weston-Super-Mare and an evening out for a meal at Wetherspoons. We have also gone out for afternoon tea at the Rowdy Cow, this was enjoyed by all of our members. We have been entertained by a magician and joined in with singing with a very nice lady called Sue from sing and smile singing. We find that this helps to raise our spirits and makes us happy.

*Appendix 20.*

## **The Happy Circle Day Centre for Older People**

The “Happy Circle” is a thriving Day Centre for older people living independently and meets on a Monday at Rowley Place in Melksham. It is a small not-for-profit charity whose aim is to increase, benefit and enhance the quality of life by addressing the issue of social isolation and loneliness. The day centre provides a tailor made day of activities, fun, laughter, friendship and support. A hot nutritious meal is also provided. Amongst regular activities the members enjoy entertainment from groups such as dancing by the Bell’s Angels Morris dancers from Holt, Holt and Hilperton hand bell ringers, Concordia singers and more recently the Melksham ukulele club. Our annual trip last summer was on the Barbra McLellan canal boat and we were able to use the community bus to get there.

Fund-raising events help towards trips, resources and entertainment.

Many of our members travel to the club on the community bus particularly those who live within the Melksham Without Parish area. They highly value this facility and for some this is the only time they are able to get out of the house in the week. One of our members said “My world changes when that bus arrives”. The members are well supported by our dedicated team of volunteers and frequently tell us what a life line the Centre is for them.

## **Wiltshire Mind**

“Wiltshire Mind is a local mental health charity working across Wiltshire to support local people suffering from mental health issues. We provide life-changing support to those with a wide range of mental health issues. We currently provide 9 support groups (including 6 main peer support groups, an Evening Group and 2 Groups for Carers of those with Mental Health issues), One to one Counselling, Polish Counselling Service, Telephone support and Mental Health Awareness Training for businesses. We also operate a charity shop.

Wiltshire Mind is a small independent Charity affiliated to National Mind, but it does not receive funding from National Mind however, we do meet their Quality Standards Mark. We are not commissioned to provide services by the statutory authorities in Wiltshire. We have to raise 100% of our own funds to continue our much needed work for the communities around Wiltshire. Currently we are providing in excess of 200 counselling sessions monthly and reach out to around 100+ people each week through our 9 support groups across Wiltshire. The need is growing at a fast rate and Wiltshire Mind needs to expand our services to meet the demand.

For further information on our services please visit our website [www.wiltshiremind.co.uk](http://www.wiltshiremind.co.uk) or contact the office on 01225 706532. We are based at Part 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, 21/23 High Street, Melksham SN12 6JY.”

## **Read Easy**

Read Easy Melksham is continuing to make good progress with an increasing number of enquiries. We have 5 local residents who have trained as qualified Coaches with more recent applications. To date we have had 5 successful local residents who have completed the course giving them the opportunity to fulfil their life skills.

We have a new Coordinator and Referral Agent who work with local agencies. With a dedicated Committee who promote Read Easy at all local events we are therefore, continuing to grow in strength.

The cost to train each Coach will be increasing to £40.00 plus travelling costs and each Reader has a specialised book costing £20.00. In addition there are stationery and advertising costs so to continue this valuable service Read Easy is very grateful for your generous donations.

## **Shaw and Whitley Gardening Club**

Shaw and Whitley Garden Club are group which holds meeting on the second Wednesday of the month. We are very friendly and members like to arrive early so that they can have time to chat to each other before the meeting starts. We invite speakers to come to talk to us on a range of topics and have a visit to a place of interest in the summer. This year our topics cover:- Roses, Elizabethan Herbs, Fuschias, Wiltshire Wildlife Trust, Campanulas, Composting, A Victorian Christmas. Our visits will be to Kilver Court and Aldetha Raymonds smallholding. Speakers need to be able to use a computer and display images and we are grateful for the grant so that we can have a screen to make this easier.



## **Melksham Gardeners Society**

Melksham Gardeners' Society was formed at the beginning of 2009 and averages 70 members from the Parishes of Melksham Town and Melksham Without. We usually meet on the last Tuesday of the month at the Rachel Fowler Centre, (SN12 6EX) at 7.30p.m. Some months we visit a garden instead and have yearly coach trips to RHS Gardens and National Trust properties. For instance last year we had a very exciting trip taking 53 members and guests to Kew Gardens. We have a yearly Flower and Produce Show which is held at the Melksham Assembly Hall on a Sunday in September and all are invited to participate or just come along and see what we do. Our monthly meetings have included talks on Roses, How to Grow Vegetables, Trees and Shrubs for Small Gardens as well as social evenings where we have a Plant Swap and Gardening Quiz. We have a website [www.melkshamgardenerssociety.co.uk](http://www.melkshamgardenerssociety.co.uk) and we welcome visitors at a cost of £2.00 per meeting – no gardening expertise is required and you don't even have to have a garden. Do come along – we look forward to seeing you.

## **Food and River Festival**

The 2017 Food and River Festival was definitely a Festival of two halves. Saturday dawned and the sky was blue and the weather warm. Plenty of residents turned up for the day and enjoyed the food, the river activities, the climbing wall and the zip wire. The afternoon finished with a well attended concert by the Warminster Military Wives Choir.

The bar certainly did well which was good for us as we were on a profit share with the brewery.

Sunday dawned with the most amazing red sky, *red sky in the morning shepherds warning*. Well it was one of the coldest September day I remember, the rain started at about 8.00 and never really stopped. However the amazing Melksham public came out to support us. The ever popular chilli eating contest was still popular and this year we could hide in the Leekes Marquee, that certainly helped. We think about 3,000 people on the Saturday and about 2000 on the Sunday came to the Festival. We really can't thank people enough for braving the weather on the Sunday, sadly profits were down due to the bad weather.

The grant from MWPC goes towards the overall cost of about £12,000 that it costs to put on the Festival. Without our sponsors this could not be achieved, we love the fact that it is a free Festival and want to keep it that way.

This year we will be putting on a full 2 day festival with stalls both days. We just need the sunshine. Can you organise that for us please?

Thank you for your support.

