



Gold at the end of the Rainbow ?

Taken from Robins View

Bruce Wiggall



The colourful Daffodils recently planted by a small group of volunteers, beautifying the A 4173 through Brookthorpe

C.B-S



BROOKTHORPE-WITH-WHADDON

NEWSLETTER

April 2011



PALM SUNDAY

Procession from St. Margaret's Whaddon to St. George's Tuffley

(see page 9)

**Linking Brookthorpe-with-Whaddon and the surrounding areas
Published in colour on Website at www.brookthorpe-with-whaddon.co.uk**

PARISH COUNCIL

VACANCY FOR PARISH COUNCILLOR

If you are interested in serving and shaping the future of your community and have a few hours to spare each month, then please find out more by getting in contact either with one of the Councillors or myself. All details are on page 11 of this Newsletter.

Anne Rigelsford
Clerk to the Parish Council

A TRAVELLER'S NIGHTMARE

We woke to a beautiful bright crisp morning, with not a hint of the problems that lay ahead us. The cases had been packed the night before, so we knew we had a leisurely morning to tend to the last minute things around the house, as we were going to be away for four weeks. The day was Tuesday 5th January 2010.

The previous evening's weather forecast predicted that snow would be progressing northwards from the south coast to reach Gloucestershire during the Tuesday evening. No problem we thought, we would still stick with plan A. We were embarking on another trip to Australia, this time to meet-up with my sister and brother-in-law in Sydney, and we had arranged with our younger daughter Jane, to come with us to Heathrow airport in order to bring the car back, thus saving on car parking charges. We were picking Jane up early afternoon, intending to get to the airport before 18:00hrs, giving us four hours before the 22:00hrs departure.

Well..... Jane rang around 9:00am alerting us to the latest weather forecast, as she and Hubby were concerned about her getting back from Heathrow Airport later that day, because of the M4 corridor. We said - 'no problem' - we'll go for plan B - and promptly booked with National Express, via the internet, the 16:00hrs coach leaving Gloucester from the bus station.

Soon after 10:00hrs it started snowing, and by 11:00hrs it was thumping it down! Thinking it would be best to get to Heathrow as early as possible, we rang the coach company and changed our booking to the 14:00hrs departure.

By midday, unbeknown to us, because conditions were getting so bad, Gloucester Education Department decided to close all schools, resulting in a total log jam within the city. I rang for a taxi at 13:00hrs and it took forty minutes to reach us. The driver did his best to get us as close as he could to the bus station, and at a jammed Eastgate Street, we abandoned the taxi and legged it to the coach station arriving there breathless ten minutes after two, to discover that the coach hadn't yet arrived! Phew! Twenty minutes later, having taken fifty minutes to get from the depot at the Cheltenham end of the Golden Bypass, the coach finally arrived. So began a very fraught journey to Heathrow airport.

First part of the route was to get in and out of Cheltenham, and by the time we reached the crossroads at Seven Springs via Charlton Kings, having negotiated abandoned cars on

INFORMATION PINBOARD

Produced for the Parish Council

Mr. Eric Hibbert (<i>Chairman</i>)	302656
Mr. Bruce Wiggall (<i>Vice Chairman</i>)	812195
Mrs. Elizabeth Brent-Smith	812258
Mr. Paul Gaze	812948
Mr. Duncan MacKellar	07960016304

Clerk to the Council :

Mrs Anne Rigelsford	01452-536940
---------------------	--------------

DIARY

April 5th Parish Council BVH 8 pm

April 12th CAMEO Meeting BVH 7.30 pm
See page 12

Forthcoming Events

May 3rd Parish Council BVH 8pm

May 24th Annual Parish Meeting

Mobile Library Thursdays

(Sadly discontinued)

Green Boxes Tuesday

April 12th & 26th

Mobile Police Station

*April 5th & 19th
14.50 - 15.05*

VILLAGE HALL BOOKINGS

for Village Hall Bookings, contact
NIGEL BONE
Tel: 01452-812628
Email : nigel.bone@btinternet.com

**COPY DEADLINE FOR
MAY 2011
NEWSLETTER**

FRIDAY APRIL 15th
(NB Earlier this month due
to Printers being on holiday)

Tel: 812258
E-Mail : chrisbs@care4free.net

CHURCH SERVICES

<u>DATE</u>	<u>EDGE</u>	<u>HARESCOMBE</u>	<u>PITCHCOMBE</u>
03/04	-----	11.00 am Family Communion GOOD FRIDAY	10.00 am Family Service
06/04	-----	-----	09.00 am Holy Communion
10/04	9.30 am Holy Communion	09.30 am Holy Communion	11.00 am Holy Communion
17/04	10.00 am Family Service	11.00 am Morning Prayer	09.30 am Holy Communion BCP
22/04	-----	2.00 pm Hour at the Cross EASTER DAY	12.00 noon Hour at the Cross
24/04	9.30 am Holy Communion	10.00 am Holy Communion	09.30 am Holy Communion
Other Services			
First Wednesday in month	:	9.00 am Pitchcombe Holy Communion - 1662	
Third Wednesday in month	:	9.00 am Edge Holy Communion - 1662	
Second Monday in month	:	11.30 am Holy Communion at Resthaven Nursing Home Chapel	
Third Tuesday in month	:	11.00 am Brookthorpe Nursing Home	

For further information or requests for Home Communion and occasional services,
please contact **Reverend Elizabeth Ward** on 01452-812188

ST. MARGARET'S

APRIL

3rd	6.00 pm	Evensong (NB now Summertime)
10th	9.00 am	Sung Eucharist
17th	9.30am	PALM SUNDAY Blessing of Palm Crosses followed by Procession to St. George's Tuffley followed by Sung Eucharist at St. George's at 10.30 am
18th & 20th	7.00 pm	Sung Eucharist
23rd	8.30 pm	Easter Vigil (Bringing in the Light)
24th	9.00 am	EASTER DAY Sung Eucharist 10.30 am Family Praise (plus popular Egg Hunt)

Thursdays 10.30 am - Said Eucharist April 7th,, 14th & 28th
NB. On Thursday mornings 7th and 14th, the Church will be open for Coffee
and Biscuits between 11.00 and 12 noon. Everyone welcome.

St. Margaret's is part of the Benefice of Gloucester St. George, with Whaddon. To speak to the Benefice clergy, please contact:

Priest-in-charge Rev David Smith, The Vicarage, Grange Road, Tuffley. Tel: (01452) 520851
Email : draesmith@blueyonder.co.uk

Websites www.achurchnearyou.com and www.glos-stg-stm.org.uk

Hans Rackham

A TRAVELLER'S NIGHTMARE (Continued)

the hill, it had gone 18:00hrs. At Cirencester, the very competent lady driver announced that she had run out of driving hours and had to take a rest. Luckily, the 16:00hrs coach off from Gloucester was only five minutes behind us, so when he arrived, we transferred our luggage and piled on to his coach, but..... he could only get us to Swindon before he was required to take a rest. At Swindon, we were pleased to see the 18:00hrs coach off from Gloucester, waiting for us, as the driver had used his initiative and had used the M5/M4 to reach Swindon, seeing that the other two coaches were running so late. Once more we transferred our luggage and piled onto his coach and headed for Heathrow. In normal conditions it would take one hour to get to the airport, but..... The time was now 20:30hrs + journey time - half hour to check-in? Some hope!

Anyone who knows the M4 towards London from Swindon, will know that the highest point on that section of motorway are the Membury Services, and by the time we reached there, we were crawling no more than 40mph, with only one lane passable and the snow really thumping down hard, threatening to close the motorway completely. Fortunately our driver kept going, and eventually we arrived at Heathrow and walked into a deserted Terminal 3 at exactly at 22:00hrs - our flight departure time. No doubt our plane at that moment in time, was waiting on the tarmac ready for take-off.

We were flying out with Cathay Pacific and there wasn't a sign of any staff manning their desks. There was only one person in the whole building still on duty on the Virgin Airways desk, who kindly looked up Cathay Pacific's next flight out to Hong Kong - 11:05hrs next morning, and she informed us that the earliest their desks would be manned would be 08:00hrs. With the whole of the Departure terminal shutdown, we made our way over to the Arrivals terminal where there were at least some snack bars open. We tentatively inquired about hotel accommodation..... £250 for a room! So we had a coffee and some sandwiches then found a seat to settle down for a long night. Fortunately I found a power point nearby and was able to charge the mobile phone for a few hours.

The main problem we had to sort out was how to contact my sister and brother-in-law who were in transit from their home in Melbourne to Sydney. We had no means of letting them know of our dilemma, (didn't think to exchange mobile phone numbers !) plus no access to telephone numbers of my two nephews and niece also out in Australia.

Luckily I had a copy of an email previously sent by my sister, giving the name and address of the Sydney hotel they had booked us all in to, so I passed this info to our daughter Jane to see if she could find the hotel on the internet. Not only did she 'find' the hotel, but also sent an email explaining our little problem of missing the plane, and she also let us have their telephone number. Our intention was to ring the hotel once we knew if we were able to get on the next flight the next morning.....

.....To be continued

Hans & Marian Rackham

BROOKTHORPE CAMEO GROUP

Our Speaker in March was Chris Evans from Dundry Nursery at Staverton. His Grandfather started the Nursery in 1947 after serving in the war. He hadn't had any previous experience of gardening, but he was soon selling bedding plants to Woolworths in Cheltenham, Gloucester and Stroud. His daughter married the Manager of Stroud Woolworths, and they moved to Worcester, and then to Cheltenham where Chris was born. His father went to work at the nursery when Chris was nine and here he was introduced for the first time to the miracle of a plant growing from a tiny seed.

A feature of the Nursery is the 'Potato Weekend' held in January which he started 15 years ago. This year he had 173 varieties - 30 tons of potatoes - and it is possible to buy just one potato for 15p. He is passionate about potatoes and went to an International Event in Holland representing Britain. He wrote to the Potato Marketing Council asking what they were doing for the 'International Year of the Potato'. No plans, so he is organising a 'Chip' week. He had a letter from Lima inviting him to be the official British Delegate. Another tale he told us was how he found a wartime leaflet of 'Potato Pete' recipes. He obtained the copyright and he was given a Potato Pete song - once recorded by Betty Driver - and there is also a game.

He doesn't really like Busy Lizzies and thinks people should grow different varieties like snapdragons, salvias and salpiglossis. He challenged us to buy a packet of seeds and give it to a child so they could experience the miracle of growing plants.

Our Speaker on April 12th is David Fletcher telling us about the Arctic. Why not come along and joins us? Cost £1.50.

NEWSLETTER 2011

This month we have the usual article from our Village Agent, details of Church Services, the excellent report on Cameo activities reprinted above and articles from the same few regular contributors. We also have one new photo, again from a regular contributor. Please, please may we have photos and articles of interest from a wider selection of residents in the two villages? But we do welcome the "Traveller's Nightmare" article which we hope you'll find to be of interest. Please contribute to your Newsletter.

C.B-S

PALM SUNDAY

On Palm Sunday each year, parishioners from the Benefice of St. George's Tuffley and St. Margaret's Whaddon process with palm leaves and branches, from St. Margaret's to St. George's, and are sometimes led (*see above*) by the Hyett's pony from Pound Farm.

Palm Sunday heralds the start of Holy Week taking us up to Easter, when Jesus rode triumphantly into Jerusalem on the back of a donkey. In Anglican and Roman Catholic Churches, members of the congregation today hold small crosses made of palm leaf, both to remember the palm leaves which the people of Jerusalem waved when Jesus arrived, and to remember the cross on which He died.

Easter is linked to the Jewish Passover and is a moveable feast, meaning it is not fixed in relation to the civil calendar, and the date as to when it falls, can vary from mid March to mid April, as it always follows the first Sunday after the full moon (the Paschal Full Moon) following the northern hemisphere's vernal equinox. And this year Easter is the latest it will ever be.

Symbolic as the palms have become, newer elements such as the Easter Bunny and Easter egg hunts have become part of the holiday's modern celebrations, and those aspects are often celebrated by many, Christians and non-Christians alike. Easter Sunday Family Praise - 10:30am at St. Margaret's, always includes a hunt around the Churchyard for the children to find the hidden eggs!

Hans Rackham

HOME FIRE SAFETY

Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue Service offer Free Home Fire Safety checks and fit smoke alarms FREE of charge for elderly and vulnerable people in the Community. If you wish to take advantage of this offer or know any resident who may benefit from this service, please speak to the resident and if agreeable to a check call Freephone 0800 180 4140 or contact one of your Parish Councillors.

Bruce Wiggall

HEATING OIL

A meeting in the Village Hall on Tuesday 23rd March was held to discuss the possible formation of a consortium in the village for those who purchase oil for central heating. By pooling together, it was felt there would be some savings. As the attendance was relatively small, it was agreed that a short article be placed in the Newsletter explaining how a system might work. Details had been obtained from Sheepscombe village where a consortium of approximately 80 people had existed since 2008.

This worked as follows:-

1. A Database was formed containing contact details of each person in the scheme - name, address, telephone & email plus the position of the tank in each property.
2. An Ordnance Survey Map was produced outlining the positions of properties.
3. Each Property was given a unique reference number which was placed on tank.
4. A Database of Suppliers was produced.
5. In Sheepscombe 4 deliveries per year have been arranged as follows:-
Early May - September - December - February
6. One week prior to each delivery, everyone is emailed.
 - a. Asking each household amount of oil required; a minimum of 500 litres must be purchased & the maximum allowed is 2000 litres.
 - b. Requesting a reply within a week.

It is stressed that people are responsible for calculating their own needs

7. Suppliers are then contacted in order to arrive at the cheapest price.
8. All participants are then notified of the price per litre and given an opportunity to refuse. (In practice in Sheepscombe this has never happened)
9. The fuel is then ordered and people are informed of the delivery date.
10. Each property is invoiced separately after delivery.

In order to move this forward I wonder if people could give me an indication of their interest.

Nigel Bone

Tel: 01452 812628 or email: nigel.bone@btinternet.com

CENTENARIANS !!

More than 10 million people in the UK can expect to live to see their 100th birthday - 17 % of the population. Three million are currently aged under 16, 5.5million are aged between 16 and 50 and 1.3 million are aged between 51 and 65. Around 875,000 are already aged over 65.

These figures are published by the Department for Works and Pensions and are based on Office for National Statistics population projections and life expectancy estimates. Steve Webb, Pensions Minister said " These staggering figures really bring home how important it is to plan ahead for our later lives. Many of us will be spending around a third of our lives or more in our retirement in the future."

In 2066, there will be at least half a million people aged 100 or over. This will include nearly 7,700 super centenarians, those aged 110 or over !

I will just check my Birth Certificate to see what my prospects might be !!

Bruce Wiggall

PARISH COUNCIL

Preliminary matters for discussion at the Parish Council Meeting on Tuesday 5th April at Brookthorpe Village Hall, 8pm Press and Public most welcome.

1. Financial Matters including reason for the Parish's rise in the Council Tax
2. District Councillors Report
3. County Councillors Report
4. Parish Plan update

Anne Rigelsford

Clerk to the Parish Council

ROAD CLOSURES

County Highways have notified us that Haresfield Lane, Colethrop Lane and Green Street in Brookthorpe and Haresfield Parishes will be closed on a rolling program for essential carriageway repairs between 28th March and 8th April.

Bruce Wiggall

VILLAGE AGENT

So, did we all cope with the Census? If at this point you're saying to yourself "what Census"? or "oh, that thing in the big white and purple envelope", then it's time to pay attention. We have a legal responsibility to fill in the Census and there will be reminders if you didn't do it by March 27th and follow up visits by Census staff. Ultimately, if a person refuses to fill it in, there will be a fine of up to £1,000. The people whom I'm concerned about are those who might have simply found the thought of doing it too overwhelming, or a difficulty such as poor memory or eyesight has meant that it hasn't been done. Please give me a call if you would like some help. If you're aware of someone in this predicament, then please lend them a hand or pass on my details. I would also ask that everyone be aware of the possibility of bogus callers taking this as an opportunity to gain entry to a vulnerable person's home. Please ensure you have checked for photo identification before allowing anyone into your home, or perhaps ask them to come back when you can have a neighbour/friend/family member present with you. You can check with the Census help line or Stroud District Council for ID verification, and if you think the person is suspicious, call the police.

I was asked recently to find an optician who would do a home visit for an eye test and was given a list by GUIDE. I thought it might be useful to share it with you, so you will find them at the end of this article. GUIDE is a health, social care and disability information service for the people of Gloucestershire.

Another useful snippet of information which I discovered recently was regarding Council tax benefits. There are a variety of conditions which, if met, will mean a reduction in your bill such as:

- When there is only one person living in the home, there will be a 25% discount (often overlooked when a partner dies or goes into permanent care).
- If a special room or additional bathroom or kitchen has to be made to meet a "disabled" person's needs. This can mean that you will have your

band rate lowered by one band if you have had to convert the sitting room into a bedroom to nurse someone ill. The discount lasts for as long as this is necessary and is calculated on a daily basis.

- If you need space to store a wheelchair you can have the same one band decrease as above.

There are lots of other criteria, so call the Council tax helpline to discuss your particular situation, or ask me to help.

How about a bit of FREE fun to put a spring in your tail? If you're over 50, come along on Friday 6th May from 1-5pm to The Space, Lansdown, Stroud. There will be a melee of American Swing, African dancing, Belly Dancing, Line Dancing, Musical theatre and Tai Chi. You will need to book, so call Sheryl Walpole from Age UK on 01452 42092

Thank you for all your calls and feedback about these articles; I really value and appreciate them.

Age UK -Sheryl Walpole 01452 42092 Census Help Line 0300 0201 101

GUIDE Call Free phone 08000 151 548.

Opticians who will do home eye tests

Mobile Eyes 01453 842061	Norville 01453 822525
MD Bailey 01453 823399/834339	Cotswold Eyecall 01453 833272
Boots 01453 764669	

Stroud District Council -Council Tax Helpline 01453 754 865

Lou Kemp -Tel 07776245767