



ROYAL
WEDDING
CELEBRATION
EVENING
ST.
MARGARET'S
see page 4



EDGE
COMMON
CUCKOO
see page 5



BROOKTHORPE-WITH-WHADDON

NEWSLETTER

June 2011



**MARLING SCHOOL DEBATING TEAM
IN THE SWEDISH PARLIAMENT
BUILDING STOCKHOLM**

see page 9

**Linking Brookthorpe-with-Whaddon and the surrounding villages.
see Websites at www.brookthorpe-with-whaddon.co.uk and
www.edge-pitchcombe.info/community/parish-magazine**

PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

It was good to see so many of you at the Annual Parish Meeting on the 24th May. I think it is fair to say that there was a lively debate and a frank exchange of views !!! This is what Annual Parish Meetings are all about. It is the parishioners' chance to have their say and ask questions as well as finding out about some of the things that go on locally that they may not be aware of.

The Parish Councillors were asked about the 0.7% rise in the Parish's part of the Council Tax. The Chairman explained that this was due to the tax base for the Parish changing and not the precept going up. The tax base changes when new homes are built, when homes become empty and when householders are eligible for deductions in their Council Tax.

The Council was criticized for not being open enough with their financial affairs. I pointed out to the meeting, and take this opportunity now, to say that the books can be examined by parishioners at any time. All that is needed is to ask and I will willingly arrange a suitable time and location. The law states that we only need to do this once a year before the external audit. A summary of accounts are posted on two of the Parish Noticeboards, one in Brookthorpe and one in Whaddon as well as parishioners attending the Council meetings and the Annual meeting having one to take home. The law states that we only need to put one copy up in a prominent place and it is not needed to distribute any at all. All financial affairs are discussed in meetings that are open to the public and agendas are posted at least three working days before meetings in line with legislation. Minutes of meetings are also posted on notice boards and the website. Copies are available on request.

We were very glad to see PS Adrian Smith at the meeting. He gave a full and useful account of changes within the Stroud area and it is hoped that communication between the Parish Council and the Police can be improved. Keith Pearson, our Stroud District Councillor, explained some of the changes as a result of the difficult financial climate, the latest on the canal regeneration project and the advantages to the district, changes to the way Stroud District's housing stock is paid for and green initiatives for powering the District Council's buildings. Other speakers included Brian Stanley the Chairman of Harescombe Parish Council who explained the way in which his Council was working with the Parish and the advantages of working closely with other Councils.

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	07960 016304

Clerk to the Council :

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

DIARY

June 5th	Land Rover rides to Robinswood Hill (see page 5)
June 7th	Parish Council Meeting BVH 8.00 pm (see page 2/3)
June 14th	CAMEO Meeting BVH 7.30 pm (see page 6)

ADVANCE NOTICE

July 7th	Last Mobile Library visit
July 9th	Pig Roast at the Village Hall

Mobile Library Thursdays

June 9th & 23rd
NB LAST VISIT on JULY 7th
see page 4

Green Boxes Tuesday

June 7th & 21st

Mobile Police Station

June 2nd 14.50 - 15.05
June 16th 10.20 - 10.35
NB A Stroud DC Councillor will
also be present on 16th.

VILLAGE HALL BOOKINGS

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

**COPY DEADLINE FOR
 JULY/AUGUST 2011
 NEWSLETTER**

FRIDAY JUNE 24th
 NB. COPY PLEASE FOR
TWO MONTHS

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

CHURCH SERVICES

<u>DATE</u>	<u>EDGE</u>	<u>HARESCOMBE</u>	<u>PITCHCOMBE</u>
05/06	-----	10.00 am Three Parish Service	Sung Eucharist at Pitchcombe
12/06	-----	11.00 am Holy Communion	09.30 am Holy Communion
19/06	-----	11.00 am Morning Prayer	09.30 am Holy Communion BCP
26/06	-----	-----	-----

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,

ST. MARGARET'S

JUNE

5th	10.30 am	Family Praise
	6.00 pm	Evensong
12th	9.00 am	Sung Eucharist
19th	6.00 pm	NO Evensong
26th	9.00 am	Sung Eucharist

Thursdays 10.30 am - Said Eucharist
June 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd & 30th

The Benefice Festival Week kicks off on Saturday 11th and there will be two events taking place at St. Margarets.

1). On Monday 13th at 4:00pm onwards, for those with a strong constitution, will have the chance to climb the church tower to admire the views from the top. (This event is entirely at your own risk and weather permitting). For the faint hearted, there will be a live video link from the top of the tower, viewable from inside the Church.

2). On Thursday 16th there will be a Candlelit Evening Prayer Service in the spirit of Taizé. A gentle way of worshipping together using uncomplicated, easy-to-join-in-with songs, uncluttered by too many words.

All are welcome to this event.

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

PARISH COUNCIL

Other Reports came from :Carol Novoth, our Neighbourhood Warden, Don Harris, Chairman of the Village Hall Committee, Rosemary Cole, Chairman of CAMEO, Chris Brent-Smith, the Newsletter Editor and one was read out from Joan Nash, our County Councillor, who unfortunately was unable to be present in person. After the formal part of the evening refreshments and a get together were enjoyed by all.

INDEPENDENT INTERNAL AUDIT

I received the books back after this audit by Mr Selkirk on the 24th May. He found them to be in good order and there were no concerns to be brought before the Council. The full Annual Return and Statement of Accounts will be sent off to Moore Stephens the first week in June.

DISTRICT COUNCIL AND MOBILE POLICE STATION PARTNERSHIP

A member of Stroud District Council will be travelling on the Mobile Police Station when it visits on THURSDAY 16TH JUNE from 10.20 to 10.35 am.

VACANCY FOR PARISH COUNCILLOR

Unfortunately there is still a vacancy for a Parish Councillor. If you have 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. It really is vital that we have a full Council in these challenging times.

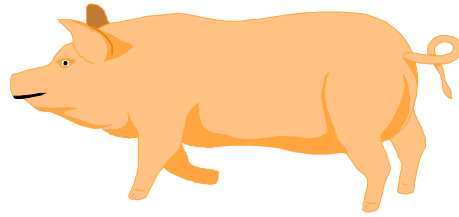
Preliminary matters for discussion at the Parish Council Meeting on
Tuesday 7th June at Brookthorpe Village Hall, 8pm
Press and Public most welcome.

1. Feedback regarding Annual Parish Meeting
2. Independent Auditor's Report
3. Police Report
4. County Councillor's Report
5. District Councillor's Report
6. Matters surrounding Old Forge Green
7. Planning Matters
8. Financial Matters

Anne Rigelsford
Clerk to the Parish Council

PIG ROAST

This will be taking place on Saturday 9th July. Tickets will be £7.50 each/ £2.50 for children and are available from any Committee member. This will include a pork roll (or a vegetarian option) and a glass of wine or soft drink. I hope everyone will put the date in their diaries and come along. The event, you will recall, was very successful last year - let's hope for a good warm evening again.



Following the very successful evening in November when we were entertained by Cate Cody, it is the intention to hold two similar events - one later this year and another in the early part of 2012. The acts that are booked are promoted by Air in G, an independent theatre company which has Arts Council Funding. The scheme operates specifically for Village Halls and allows any Hall to hold an event and also to make a small profit towards their funds. We shall be selecting some Acts from the Air in G brochure over the next few weeks and then announce the dates of the shows later in the year. More details on Air in G can be obtained from their website www.airing.co.uk

Nigel Bone

ROYAL WEDDING EVENING FOR ST MARGARET'S

The Village Hall was transformed into a "Royal" evening wedding venue on the 30th April. As guests came in, a real Party spirit prevailed with most Ladies and Men wearing wonderful hats and button holes. Philip Treacy would have been proud to have created some of those hats! Guests were welcomed with a glass of sherry and then we had a few light hearted games and competitions. This was followed by a meal and sweets. We had our own "Bride and Groom" who cut a beautiful fruit wedding cake.

We enjoyed a lovely time with a great atmosphere. The evening finished with everyone in fine voice with a sing-along. The sum of £250 was raised for St Margaret's Church. Thanks go to everyone who supported this event in any way.

Gloria Wiggall

MOBILE LIBRARY

We have been informed that the last visit by the Mobile Library will be on July 7th. This will be the last chance to return locally any library books you have not returned.

Bruce Wiggall

THE BEAST OF WHADDON (Contd)

So many questions to be answered. What is the Beast? A panther for sure. Big, black and moves like a cat. Duncan looked it up on the internet. Google always has the answer. Where does it live and what does it eat? And most important of all, why won't anyone believe these God-fearing, hard working, and sometimes sober citizens? Are they to be believed only when a moggie in the village doesn't return home one morning for his Tuna and Vegetable Go-Cat? We have courageously faced the threats to our survival from the Regional Spatial Strategy and Teebay Services. Are we to be finally driven to live behind locked doors by the Beast?

Be aware. Be safe. And always carry a camera as there may be a few quid in it.

Our Big Cat Reporter

DEBATING TEAM IN STOCKHOLM

In April, I was offered the chance to represent the UK at the first International Forum of the European Youth Parliament (EYP) Sweden. I was part of the UK delegation, a team of ten from Marling School who had gained this opportunity by winning other previous rounds of EYP UK, including a National Final at Durham.

So on 4th April, we set off for Stockholm, for five days of debating. The theme of the session was "Different Fights for Equal Rights" and prior to the session, we had been assigned our specific Committees; ranging from the effects of the recent protests in northern Africa and the Middle East, to the European fur trade and to the EU position on the wearing of the veil by women in EU countries. After an initial day of team building, we spent two days in our Committees writing resolutions on our topics, which got extremely stressful, especially as I was the only native English speaker in my Committee, even though the English of all of the other European delegates was incredibly good, it fell to me to arrange the exact wording of the clauses.

Next came two days of debating in the main chamber of the Swedish Parliament. Each Committee proposed their resolution, followed by an open debate ending with a vote on each of the resolutions.

It was a wonderful experience to be able to meet other like-minded young people from over twenty European countries and spend five days discussing and debating important current issues.

Thanks European Youth Parliament!
(for more information, head to www.ifes2011.com)

Tomas Kaspar

THE BEAST OF WHADDON

"It took the wall into Wynstones School with one leap." In these words, concerned mother of three Rachel Peet, described the moment earlier this year when the Beast was sighted in Church Lane. Sitting in the kitchen of her charming cottage overlooking St. Margaret's Church and cuddling her angel-faced baby Nadia, she re-told the harrowing story to our intrepid reporter. Only her neighbours in the churchyard hadn't been losing sleep since this started. Her friend Jean was confronted by the Beast as she was driving up the lane late one evening after an agreeable, but otherwise uneventful evening. "It ran across the road from Agatha's garden and disappeared into the school. It was large, about the size of a Labrador, and black" Jean reported the next day. As she was driving her Land Rover, handbuilt by craftsmen in Solihull for the plains of the Serengeti, she was safe from attack. Later there was talk of police roadblocks on Stroud Road.

And then it appeared again. In the same part of Church Lane on the 27th April just as the night was closing in. Local teacher and mother of two Ruth MacKellar and son Duncan were fetching his brother Hamish who was heroically serving his country in the Army Cadets, when they were shocked to see the Beast in their headlights as it ran across the lane and bounded through a hole in Agatha's hedge. "It was black and the size of a huge dog" said Duncan. As a Parish Councillor and keen photographer, his account has to be believed, but does this mean that it is in Agatha's garden where the Beast's lair can be found? Does it sleep undisturbed on a nest of sun bleached bones behind the deceased's trailer caravan?

And then another was confronted by the Beast. On Wednesday the 18th of this month, kindly and jovial Dennis Smith, resident of Standish Lane, was enjoying the warm May sunshine and the beautiful views soon to be ruined by the MSA, while haymaking on the Hyett farm when he noticed something big walking along the hedgerow. "It was black and bigger than a dog" said Dennis. "I saw its face and the white of its eyes". More used to the happy clatter of a Massey Ferguson diesel than the sight of ferocious wild animals, Dennis told us that he was glad that he was inside his tractor cab. His normally smiling face was clouded by worry. This is a man of the land with sixty years of farming to his name. But he thought he just wouldn't be believed. "I can only tell what I saw" he murmured again and again. Poor man.

CUCKOO !!

My elderly Border Terrier and I now go for gentle ambles rather than long strenuous walks, and she objects to anywhere that is not nice, soft grass !!!! Our favourite place used to be up on Haresfield Beacon, but even on weekdays, it seems to have become more like a doggy Bournemouth beach on a Bank Holiday, so a few days ago I tried somewhere that I have driven past every time on my way to Haresfield. A sign tells me it is called 'Rudge Hill'. There are quite a few places to pull off the road and park, and only occasionally is a car parked in them.

I parked at the top end, walked through a gate and up a short steep slope, followed slowly by a complaining dog, who, if she could talk, was telling me that I jolly well knew she didn't do hills any more! Once on the top of the ridge, a lovely view of Painswick down in the valley lay before me AND not another person or dog in sight! We walked a little way down the hill and then turned left along a track - nice and flat and grassy for aged dog, who was getting up quite a bit of speed and looking quite happy!

There were masses of cowslips in bloom, the sun was shining and I could hardly hear any traffic - then suddenly I stopped in my tracks, surely not, were my ears deceiving me, I could hear a cuckoo !!! But no, there it was cuckoo-ing away like mad! The first cuckoo I have heard this year, indeed, for quite a few years. I have been back three times since and heard the cuckoo twice more, and as an added bonus, seen a buzzard circling over the valley looking for his breakfast and a skylark high up singing its heart out! It's a lovely spot - do try it but don't tell anyone - please!

Di Willis

ROBINSWOOD HILL

The Friends of Robinswood Hill are arranging further Landrover trips up Robinswood Hill. On Sunday 5th June and Sunday 11th September the Friends of Robinswood Hill in conjunction with Gloucester City Council are, weather permitting organising Landrover trips to a view point near the summit for those who, for whatever reason are no longer able to walk to the top, but would like to admire again the view of Gloucester and its surrounding countryside.

Refreshments will be provided at the top by St Barnabus Cub Scouts and the trips will start from the car park at 11am and will continue until 4pm with no stops over the lunch period.

Bruce Wiggall

BROOKTHORPE CAMEO GROUP

Our Speaker for the May meeting was Malcolm Watkins. He works for the City Council Heritage & Archeology and is in charge of the Museum.. He has been fascinated by old things since he was a child living in the City. He used to go round building sites, picked up items and took them to the Museum to be identified. He did a degree in Archeology and then came back to Gloucester to work.

We didn't just have to listen to him; he had brought along some 'mystery' items. We divided into tables of four or five people and he gave each table an item. We had to guess what it was made of, what it was used for, where it was made and the approximate date, then pass it on to the next table.

There were some very wild guesses and some reasonably accurate. He told us the details of the items which were: a mate teacup made from a gourd from South America, a tin opener made in England in the 1920's, a wooden item for mending gloves, a marrowbone scoop and a glass linen smoother. He also showed us a 'magic crystal ball' which had 30 facets and answered questions about luck, love, surprise etc. He still had the instructions and answers.

On May 18th, we went on a half day trip to Oakham Treasures at Portbury near Bristol. This was a real nostalgia trip, items and memorabilia from our childhoods displayed in cabinets and as shops - grocers, chemists, haberdashers, tobacconists and toys - many items half forgotten and no longer seen. There was even a collection of saucy seaside postcards! There was one room full of tractors and so much more - there wasn't time to see it all. It is well worth a visit and not too far to go.

Our meeting on June 14th is Chris Brent-Smith telling us about his trip to Vietnam. Anyone, male or female, is welcome - at the Village Hall 7.30 pm, cost £1.50.

Chris New

THIRTIETH WEDDING



Congratulations to Hugh and Ruth Whittaker who recently celebrated their thirtieth Wedding Anniversary with a gathering of friends and family at Painswick Golf Club.

They would like to thank everyone for making the evening so good, and for their cards and good wishes. Money was donated in lieu of presents.

A total of £960 was raised and sent to Cancer Research UK.

DOG MINDER

An elderly Painswick resident has had to go into hospital and is expected to have a 6-7 week stay. She has a white Scottie terrier which needs a temporary home. The dog is fairly low maintenance as it has a leg problem which means it must do only brief walks. The Cinnamon Trust has been contacted but has not been able to help out yet (the Charity tries to find foster homes for pets of elderly people while they are hospitalised/incapacitated).

If anyone is interested, please call me on 07776 245767

Many Thanks

Lou Kemp

QUADBIKE SPRAYER

Hello, my name is Stuart Gardener and I run a small business paddock spraying with a quad bike and sprayer. I charge £25 per hour with a minimum charge of £50 - plus cost of sprays.



If interested, please contact me on 0781 240 2561.