



BROOKTHORPE-WITH-WHADDON

NEWSLETTER

September 2011



DETMAR

BLOW

and

GLORIA

WIGGALL

at

HILLES

(see page 4)

Linking Brookthorpe-with-Whaddon and surrounding villages

See Websites at www.brookthorpe-with-whaddon.co.uk and

www.edge-pitchcombe.info/community/parishmagazine

PARISH COUNCIL

Well what happened to summer !!!! Here we are again.

The next Parish Council meeting is on **Tuesday 6th September, at 7.30 pm**, prior to the normal meeting. John Kaye from Gloucestershire Highways Department, will be meeting with the Parish to discuss any highways matters that parishioners wish to put to him. By now, you should have had a flyer regarding this. It is requested that all questions be put in writing to any Councillor or posted to me **before** Tuesday 6th September. This is so that the questions can be put together and given to John beforehand, in order that he is prepared and has his answers ready. Due to other commitments, we have only have half an hour for this important topic, so time is of the essence and extra questions will not be allowed on the night. However, as with all Parish Council meetings, members of the public are most welcome to attend.

Mrs A Rigelsford 25 Pinewood Road Hardwicke Glos. GL2 4RY

In October, the Parish Council will be looking to award grants within the Parish. If you are a member of a group or organization you are invited to apply in line with the grant awarding policy that can be found on the Parish Council's Website.

Preliminary matters for discussion at the Parish Council Meeting on
Tuesday 6th September at Brookthorpe Village Hall, 8pm
Press and Public most welcome.

1. Police Report
2. County Councillor's Report
3. District Councillor's Report
4. Planning Matters - New applications for discussion
S11/1587/FUL Mr H Whittaker Installation of solar panels
on roof of garage at Withyrows Cottage Haresfield Lane
5. Financial Matters

Anne Rigelsford
Clerk to Parish Council

CAMEO



A group in the engine sheds

On 29th June we went on an outing to Bath. We went first on a boat trip on the Avon as far as the weir at Poultney Bridge, and then in the opposite direction. We had a commentary from our guide about points of interest on the banks of the river. We then went in to Bath for lunch or had a picnic on the river bank. We were picked up by coach to take us on the second part of the outing - a ride on a steam train from Bitton station run by the Avon Valley Railway Company. We had reserved carriages with old advertisements which reminded us of our childhood days. We travelled the length of the line and back. The train came to a halt and we were served cream teas with scones. When we returned to the station, some people went to look at the engine sheds where more engines and carriages are being restored. Others stayed on the train for an extra ride.

Our Speaker at the July meeting was Rosemary Stammers talking about "Changes in wedding fashions". She brought with her many cases of wedding and bridesmaids dresses which she has collected over the years. Some of them had been given to her and others purchased from charity shops. She also brought along her own wedding dress and those she had made for her daughters - one similar to that worn by Princess Diana in the 1980s, the other, pink and cream with embroidery.



Trying on the dresses

She displayed some of the dresses on shops' dummies. Some dresses are designed to look like fashions from earlier periods, such as Mediaeval, Victorian or Edwardian. Suits that could be worn for other occasions were popular in wartime when clothing was rationed. Some wedding dresses were made from parachute silk. Ballerina length dresses were popular in the 1950s, and mini dresses in '60s and '70's. She also brought along a selection of hats that had been worn at weddings for people to try on .

The August meeting was a skittles evening held at Tuffley Community Centre with a ploughman's supper. The winner was Ken Vernall Smith. Our next meeting is on Tuesday 13th September when the Speaker will be someone from the Charity 'James Hopkins Trust' .Anyone welcome to come along - £1.50. On the following day we will be going on an outing to Weston-super-Mare . (See page 7)

Chris New

TEA AT HILLES



On Wednesday 10th August, the owner, Detmar Blow, entertained around 20 people from Brookthorpe and Whaddon to tea at Hilles House. We assembled in the Great Hall, and he gave us an interesting talk about the house and the the Blow family, and particularly his Grandfather, also called Detmar, who started building the house in 1913 and continued building for many years.

His Grandfather Detmar was an architect. He was a friend of John Ruskin and William Morris, and the house was built in the Arts and Crafts style, reflecting their ideas. Sadly there was a disastrous fire in 1940, the thatched roof and upper floors being completely demolished. Fortunately the Grand Hall was saved. This has the coat of arms of James I over the grand fireplace - as seen on the front cover - with the motto "Beati Pacifici" being translated as "Blessed are the Peacemakers". One wall is flanked with massive Mortlake tapestries woven by Dutch weavers, and the walls of the whole house upstairs and down, are covered with amazing paintings. The views from the house are staggering, and one is able to see five counties with the Severn winding through and May Hill in the distance.

Grandfather Detmar eventually gave up architecture, and was appointed Estates Manager for the Duke of Westminster. All the while, Hilles played host to the great and the good, with magnificent parties being held in the Great Hall. In more recent days, Alexander McQueen used to spend much time there, creating his beautiful designs. We all enjoyed our wonderful visit to Hilles. We would like to say "Thank you Detmar for your hospitality and welcome." We all have memories of your interesting home and the panoramic views of our wonderful countryside.

Gloria Wiggall



A dress made entirely of Postcards, all with singed edges - with tapestries in the background.

C.B-S

ROBINSWOOD HILL



*View of the Cotswold Escarpment
from Robinswood Hill*

Trips up Robinswood Hill for the elderly and less able.

On Sunday September 11th, Friends of Robinswood Hill are again arranging Landrover trips to a view point near the summit of Robinswood Hill. This is another opportunity 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 Barnabas Cub Scouts and the trips will start from the car park at 11am and will continue until 4.0pm with no stop over the lunch period.

Should you have any difficulty in reaching the Hill car park, the Friends will happily collect you from your home. Please contact Jackie (01452 527397) to arrange this.

Bruce Wiggall

MOBILE LIBRARY



You will be aware that the mobile library service was due to be withdrawn. Following a recent Court hearing, it was confirmed that the mobile libraries will continue to run throughout the summer, until the Judicial Review on 27th and 28th September. Visits to Brookthorpe in September will be on 1st, 15th and 29th.

Please note that the dates for the visits up until the end of September and other information are now on the libraries' website at the following link <http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/libraries/index.cfm?articleid=13364>

VILLAGE AGENT

The Supporting People Programme offers vulnerable people the opportunity to improve their quality of life through greater independence. It promotes housing-related services which are cost-effective and reliable, and which complement existing care services. Supporting People is a working partnership of local government, service users and support agencies. One such agency is Qcare which is an organisation that supports people with sensory impairment. Qcare can offer support to anyone who is : Profoundly Deaf, Deaf/Blind, Hard of hearing and the Visually Impaired.

The organisation offers help on a number of issues including :

- General Support /Help to access services/Social issues
- Housing Needs/ Family and Home
- Health/Mental health/Rights of Service users
- Financial matters, including Benefits

The cost of using the Service will depend on your financial situation. For those people on low incomes the cost may be very little or no cost at all.

For information about this service please telephone : **0845 688 6674**

Additionally, you can contact the Sensory Team through the Adult Help Desk (social services help line) and be referred for help with equipment to use around the house or outdoors. It's important that you have been fully professionally investigated to find the reasons for your difficulty with seeing or hearing .Adult Help Desk **01452 426868**

The Gloucestershire Deaf Association offers a support service to anyone who is hard of hearing, working with them to overcome day-to-day difficulties which they may face. They offer the following services; information and support, home visits for those who are housebound, hearing aid services to care homes, and help with their wide range of equipment. G.D.A Tel: **01452 372999**

Similarly there is GCAB (Gloucestershire County Association for the Blind) which offers help to people with serious sight impairments. They have a variety of equipment to try, offer help and advice, have a quarterly newsletter, have a Hospital Information Service in most of the eye clinics in our local hospitals and can make home visits where appropriate.GCAB Tel: **01242 221170**

VILLAGE AGENT

Royal National Institute of Blind People (RNIB) is the UK's leading Charity offering information, support and advice to almost two million people with sight loss. RNIB Helpline: **0303 123 9999**

Citizens Advice have let us know they have brought out a new national telephone number for people wanting advice, but don't worry, if you ring from within the Stroud District, your call should still come through to the Stroud Bureau, as long as there is an adviser free to take the call. The new number is **08444 111 444**.

The telephone number we gave in our previous article about CAB regarding enquiries from people over 65 years is still **07815166143**; we understand this service will continue until the end of 2011.

If you would like to visit Stroud and District Citizen's Advice Bureau, their office in Stroud is open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday between 10 am and 1.45pm provided staff are available (not Wednesdays).

There are also the following services across the rest of the district:

Monday	DURSLEY LIBRARY	10 a.m. -12 p.m.	1.00 pm - 4p.m.
Tuesday	WOTTON UNDER EDGE CIVIC CENTRE	10 a.m. - 1.00 p.m.	
Wednesday	BERKELEY TOWN HALL	1.00 p.m. - 3.00 p.m.	
Thursday	STONEHOUSE TOWN HALL	10 a.m. - 1.00 p.m.	
Thursday	STONEHOUSE ART CENTRE, PARK PARADE	1.00 p.m. - 3.00 p.m.	
Friday	DURSLEY LIBRARY	10 a.m. -12 p.m.	

Background information on most topics can also be accessed from the CAB Web-site: www.adviceguide.org.uk

Lou Kemp :Tel 07776 245767

Weston Trip to Weston Super Mare with CAMEO

There are 2 seats available for a trip to Weston.

Wednesday September 14th Leave Brookthorpe at 9.15 am Home approx 5 ish.
Cost £8.50 Please ring 812195 if interested.

LIFE IN THE 1500's

The next time you are washing your hands and complain because the water temperature isn't just how you like it, think about how things used to be. Here are some facts about the 1500s:

Most people got married in June because they took their yearly bath in May, and still smelled pretty good by June. However, they were starting to smell, so brides carried a bouquet of flowers to hide the body odour. Hence the custom today of carrying a bouquet when getting married.

Baths consisted of a big tub filled with hot water. The man of the house had the privilege of the nice clean water, then all the other sons and men, then the women and finally the children. Last of all the babies. By then the water was so dirty you could actually lose someone in it. Hence the saying, "Don't throw the baby out with the Bath water."

Houses had thatched roofs - thick straw - piled high, with no wood underneath. It was the only place for animals to get warm, so all the cats and other small animals (mice, bugs) lived in the roof. When it rained it became slippery and sometimes the animals would slip and fall off the roof. Hence the saying "It's raining cats and dogs."

There was nothing to stop things from falling into the house. This posed a real problem in the bedroom where bugs and other droppings could mess up your nice clean bed. Hence, a bed with big posts and a sheet hung over the top afforded some protection. That's how canopy beds came into existence.

The floor was dirt. Only the wealthy had something other than dirt. Hence the saying, "Dirt poor." The wealthy had slate floors that would get slippery in the winter when wet, so they spread thresh (straw) on floor to help keep their footing. As the winter wore on, they added more thresh until, when you opened the door, it would all start slipping outside. A piece of wood was placed in the entranceway. Hence the saying "A thresh hold"

In those old days, they cooked in the kitchen with a big kettle that always hung over the fire. Every day they lit the fire and added things to the pot. They ate mostly vegetables and did not get much meat. They would eat the stew for dinner, leaving leftovers in the pot to get cold overnight and then start again the next day

LIFE IN THE 1500's (continued)

Sometimes stew had food in it that had been there for quite a while. Hence the rhyme, "Peas porridge hot, peas porridge cold, peas porridge in the pot nine days old"

Sometimes they could obtain pork, which made them feel quite special. When visitors came over, they would hang up their bacon to show off. It was a sign of wealth that a man could, "Bring home the bacon" They would cut off a little to share with guests and would all sit around and chew the fat.

Those with money had plates made of pewter. Food with high acid content caused some of the lead to leach onto the food, causing lead poisoning death. This happened most often with tomatoes, so for the next 400 years or so, tomatoes were considered poisonous.

Bread was divided according to status.. Workers got the burnt bottom of the loaf, the family got the middle, and guests got the top, or "The Upper Crust".

Lead cups were used to drink ale or whisky. The combination would sometimes knock the imbibers out for a couple of days. Someone walking along the road would take them for dead and prepare them for burial. They were laid out on the kitchen table for a couple of days and the family would gather around and eat and drink and wait and see if they would wake up. Hence the custom of "Holding a Wake"

England is old and small and the local folks started running out of places to bury people. So they would dig up coffins and would take the bones to a bone-house, and reuse the grave. When reopening these coffins, one out of 25 coffins were found to have scratch marks on the inside and they realized they had been burying people alive. So they would tie a string on the wrist of the corpse, lead it through the coffin and up through the ground and tie it to a bell. Someone would have to sit out in the graveyard all night (the graveyard shift) to listen for the bell; thus, someone could be, "Saved by the Bell" or was considered "A Dead Ringer".

And that's the truth. Now, whoever said History was boring !!!
Educate someone. Share these facts with a friend.

Contributed by Joy Gaze

HARESFIELD PLAYGROUP

Haresfield Playgroup is a happy and friendly community playgroup set in the lovely rural surroundings of Brookthorpe, within easy reach of Gloucester, Stroud and Stonehouse. It offers playgroup and pre-school sessions in a warm and welcoming environment. Sessions are run in Brookthorpe Village Hall by fully qualified and experienced playleaders where children learn from hands on experience. The aim is to give the children as many new experiences as possible from strawberry picking to apple pressing, dressing up to storytime, farm visits and sports sessions.

There is a large garden complete with vegetable plot and a wooden cottage where the children are encouraged to run around and enjoy playing in the fresh air. With plenty of space, lots of play equipment and ride on toys to try, outside play and adventure is encouraged. Inside there is a quiet corner and lots of interesting things to do on rainy days.

Comments by mums in the past year: Mother of Jacob - "Haresfield is like a second home for my son. He settled in so well with the help and support of the friendly staff. They not only helped my son to get ready for Primary school, but helped us too."

Mother of Madeline: " To see your child run in and hug the staff as if they were family friends is the best way to start the day."

At the Playgroup, each child is treated as an individual, encouraging personal, social and emotional development, with particular emphasis on confidence and self esteem. But above all, in the friendly environment, the children quickly settle in and start to make real progress enjoying the activities and familiar routines. Haresfield is recognised as a well organised playgroup where the overall teaching is very good and all the children make very good progress towards starting school.

The Playgroup is open to all children from 2 years 6 months upwards and no more than twenty children attend any session. Brookthorpe is easy to get to and there is a car park for parents to use when they drop their children off. Children in Gloucestershire are eligible for free Nursery Education from the term after their third birthday.

Katy Price

CHURCH SERVICES

<u>DATE</u>	<u>EDGE</u>	<u>HARESCOMBE</u>	<u>PITCHCOMBE</u>
04/09	-----	10.00 am Three Parish Service	-----
10/09	6.00 pm Healing Service	-----	-----
11/09	8.45 am Morning Prayer	-----	-----
18/09	8.45 am Morning Prayer	11.00 am Morning Prayer	9.30 am Holy Communion BCP
25/09	8.45 am Morning Prayer	9.30 am Harvest Family	10.00 am Family Service

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

Heritage Open Day

St. Swithun's Church Brookthorpe will be open from 9.30 am to 4.30 pm
 on September 10th & 11th as part of Heritage Open Day

ST. MARGARET'S

Sunday September 4th	10.30 am Family Praise
	6.00 pm Evensong
11th	9.00 am Sung Eucharist
18th	6.00 pm Evensong
25th	9.00 am Sung Eucharist

Thursdays 1st, 18th, 22nd & 29th 10.30 am Eucharist

The Annual Parish Picnic, held on Sunday 31st July at the kind invitation
 of Jenny & Gerald Hyett of Pound Farm, was another successful gathering, but
 sadly though, no one from Whaddon or Brookthorpe bothered to attend.

Hopefully see you next year ?

Hans Rackham



Produced for the Parish Council

Mr. Eric Hibbert (*Chairman*) 302656
Mr. Bruce Wiggall (*Vice Chairman*) 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

Sept 6th 7.30 pm Highways Discussion,
followed by Parish Council Meeting
at 8.00 pm, both in the Village Hall.
(see page 2)

Sept 11th Friends of Robinswood Hill -
Landrover rides from Car Park
from 11.00 am to 4.00 pm (see p. 5)

Sept 13th Cameo meeting BVH 7.30 pm
(see page 3)

Mobile Library Thursdays

September 1st, 15th & 29th

Green Boxes Tuesday

September 13th & 27th

Mobile Police Station

*September 1st 10.20 - 10.35
September 22nd 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
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NEWSLETTER**

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 23rd

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