

Gardening Club Our AGM was attended by a record 19 members, and following the meeting we enjoyed a glass of wine and cakes while the fuschias were judged by Ted Perrin. Linda Cahill won first prize and Jenny Bryan came in second. Our next meeting will be held at 7.30 on 28th Sept when Lucy Frost will talk on **Gardening for Wildlife**. All are welcome; £3 being the cost for non-members and £1 for members.

"PERENNIAL" – THIS YEAR LIKELY; NEXT YEAR UNLIKELY!

The **ART GROUP** will have resumed on 8th Sept. so next session is on Thurs 22nd Sept. Gill says "please join us and bring along your paint boxes and brushes for a couple of hours between 7 and 9pm." Full info for both of these clubs/groups from Gill Bally on 772896

Looking further ahead, Jeremy is planning the next **P.D.P.** i.e. progressive dinner party. He says please note Saturday 12th November in your diaries, and if you need further details call Jeremy on 772896. Letters to regulars will follow later this month.

Village celebration of HARVEST (Christine Barrett) There will be a Service in the Church at 6pm on Sat. 8th October. At 7.30 pm, following on from the Church Service, there will be a **Three Course Harvest Supper** (chicken casserole, apple pie, cheese & biscuits) in the Hall. Price will be £10, to include one free drink. Bar available for further purchases. Children under 12 - £5. If you require a vegetarian option please let us know when booking your tickets, available from Christine 772904, Val 772094, or Charles 773546

Please book your tickets by 1st October. Everyone welcome.

Macmillan(1). Sue King is again hosting the Macmillan Coffee Morning. It's on Fri. 30th Sept.

At 16 Beech Close from 10 am onwards. Everyone welcome for coffee, cakes, remarkable and chat, to raise vital funds.

Macmillan (2) As last year The School will be holding an **Open Morning and Biggest Coffee Morning in the World** on Fri. 30 Sept from 9.00 to 11.30 am. Head, Pam Simpson, says "I hope you'll be able to join us for a cup of coffee and a slice of cake; have a wander round the School to see what's happening and look at the plans for our **new classroom**. The morning is open to the local community as well as prospective parents, so please bring along your friends, relatives, neighbours, and any mums and dads you think might be interested in having a look round.

We're looking forward to meeting you all!

Wallop Artists' Exhibition an exhibition of work by local artists and sculptors including **Vivi Mallock** and **Margaret Rome** from Thruxton. To be held in the recently refurbished Wallop Parish Hall (A343 Salisbury Road) from Fri 23 Sept to Sun 25 Sept (inclusive). Open from 10.0 to 5.0 pm each day. Free entry for all, and refreshments will be available.

"Local Boy Makes Good" In August a film **"Rise of the Planet of the Apes"**, opened in London, to considerable acclaim. The Telegraph said "British director Rupert Wyatt making a strikingly confident leap into the big time.....". Rupert spent most of his "growing up years" in Thruxton. He was a good customer at our shop for sweets, and later came here for coaching in French for his GCSE. The film was shown at The Reel in Andover last week, and it was quite something to see DIRECTOR RUPERT WYATT emblazoned in splendour across the screen. He lives in California, where he is considering his next film. Incidentally, we thought this one was terrific and wouldn't mind seeing it again.

Connie Dent died on July 17. As we were "off air" in August we were unable to record this until now. Connie was in her 101st year, and lived in Thruxton for half of that. She reported events in this area to the Andover Advertiser until well into her nineties. It was good that our Chairman, Charles Milner-Williams was able to attend her funeral, and reception, to represent our community

Great Result. We ended our July issue with the words "our brave cyclists have made it to Penzance." Now having talked to Steven Payne who took part in the epic John O'Groats to Lands End cycle, we are delighted to report that with "some money still coming in" they have raised well over £17,000. This is to be split 4 ways, and as Steve was riding for the **Three Villages Sports Trust**, it will benefit by more than £4000. This will help with the ongoing enhancement of the facilities at the top of the hill. Brilliant! Steve's number, in Kimpton, is 773049, if anyone would like to add a bit more.

And, speaking of the Sports Field

"Dogs are fouling the sports field again. It has got PRETTY BAD.

I am sure the owners would not appreciate it if I was to start fouling on their lawns.

Disgusted Football Supporter

Trevor Barrett.

Our sentiments too, Trevor. (Ed.)

Parish Council 7.9.11 Charles Milner-Williams in the Chair ; Councillors Davis, Bradbury, Windsor, and Graham in attendance. A slightly delayed arrival of our County Councillor Mrs. Pat West.

In "Public Participation", from the floor, Sue Hulme expressed serious concern about the reduction in **Bus Services**. No Saturday or Sunday buses, curtailed service on week-days. On a long Bank Holiday weekend such as Easter there would be **four consecutive days** without a bus. What could be done?

Charles assured her that all the rural councils in our area were deeply concerned. The protest was being led by Monxton Council, but Thruxton was very much involved. Charles was personally in touch with Ken Thorber, the leader of Hants. County Council. Mention of a bookable "taxi-service" apparently available to Fyfield and Kimpton residents, was dismissed as not being available to Thruxton. Pat West, in sympathy with most of what was being said, reminded the meeting that "infirm people have a right to use the Hospital Car Service" where appropriate.

The Chairman reported that the verge at **Halcyon Drive** entrance had finally been restored, following recent BT works, but it had taken a lot of prodding. He warmly commended **painting work** done by Cllrs. Janet Graham and John Davis to various notice-boards and other fittings. The top BUS SHELTER is another planned project.

He also commented on how good THE GREEN is looking, and the fact that it is being more used.

The idea (see July) of having the **Street Lights** off from midnight to 5am had run into difficulty. The Clerk reported that the Electricity board had quoted a price of £664.01 for altering the timings, and including a bit of tree work which they said would be necessary. This seemed a ridiculous sum, but it was obvious that it would take a vast number of years to recover this by the savings on the electricity bill. Not worth it. Idea dropped!

Also in July, the possibility and desirability of qualifying as a so-called **QUALITY COUNCIL** had come up. Once again, after further research the conclusion was that there was no good reason to pursue this. Pat West agreed. She paid tribute to Heather's work as Clerk, and could not see any need for her to do further training. Heather said that she remained happy to go for the higher CILCA qualification if the Council should want her to.

On the subject of **Grit Bins**, Mrs. West indicated that if we asked, we would probably get. A resident at Church Lane had pointed out a need for one there, and the Council were sympathetic.

On **Planning**, it was noted that a large bough of willow had come down at Flora Villa, Permission

had been given for the necessary pruning. The 24 Stanbury Rd. objections had gone to appeal ; our case being that the gates etc. were totally out of place, and clearly in conflict with the VILLAGE DESIGN STATEMENT.

Concern had been expressed about activities at the FIELD where the end of Stanbury Rd, leads down the lane to Fyfield. Several caravans had come and gone. John Davis reminded the meeting that a caravan can only remain in situ for 28 days. The new owner was said to be preparing the field for livestock. A close watch will be kept. The point was made that this field is "the green wedge" between the villages. Important.

There is a national JUBILEE WOODS project. Encouragement to plant millions of trees. Where could we do with more ? By the old gate to the sports field ? Between the play-area and the football pitch ? Ideas to Councillors, please.

Concern was expressed about **vandalism at the sports field** where a considerable length of top-rail had been ripped off the fencing, and fire had been started. In sharp contrast to this, thanks were expressed for the voluntary work done regularly by Clive and Jason Bailey in keeping areas of grass beautifully neat.

The Chairman also expressed warm appreciation to the **W.I.** (see W.I.REPORT) for providing the lovely new seats for the Green.

Finally...the new "**Library**" has been so successful in gaining books that patrons are asked to **bring no more books** at present.

Questionnaire The Village Association and the sub-cttee that did such a good job organising our Royal Wedding celebration in April, have met and ideas are pouring forth to ensure that we, in Thruxton, celebrate HM The Queen's **Diamond Jubilee** in proper style. In order to do this properly we need to know what **you** would like to see and do. The Jubilee week-end coincides with our annual fête so we are looking for your suggestions – please find the time to complete the questionnaire you will find with this issue of the Thruxton Times, and return it to one of the people named. Charles Milner-Williams.

The VANDALISM highlighted in the Council report; and the anti-social behaviour of another kind highlighted by Trevor Barrett, also a kind of Vandalism, is not to be tolerated in a community which is generally peaceable, and a great place to live. It must not be repeated. Thank you.

Well, that's it for another month. Back with you early in October. A warm **welcome** to people who have moved in during the Summer months. All our organisations will be delighted to see you.