

# **LITTLE MARLOW PARISH COUNCIL**



**YOUR COUNCIL FOR YOUR  
AREA**

**NEWSLETTER  
NO 21**

**SPRING 2011**



Dear Little Marlow Resident,

Once again I am delighted to recommend this latest edition of our newsletter.

The government is an enthusiastic proponent of “The Big Society” and “Localism”. Parish Councils welcome this with open arms and are only sorry that it has taken a near financial meltdown to push the idea up the agenda. It may be stating the obvious but for many things the locals really do know best! From the range of activities referred to in the accompanying articles it is clear that the involvement of local people in volunteering and all the benefits that brings is alive and indeed thriving in the parish of Little Marlow.

The activities and proposals regarding the Country Park only happen because of the vision and sheer hard work of a dedicated band of enthusiasts with a wish to improve the facilities for residents and visitors alike. There have been challenges to this vision but it is to be hoped that after all the years of gravel digging and other commercial activities the land can be returned to a more natural state and provide a source of pleasure for future generations.

The “street” party on the 29<sup>th</sup> April is another good example of people prepared to spend time and effort for the good of the community as a whole. Thank goodness we have folk who have the inclination to put themselves out to give pleasure to the rest of us. Do please support the event and make it a day to remember.

Finally, a big reminder of the election on the 5<sup>th</sup> May. First of all please show you are interested in the future of your community and vote. Secondly, please think about whether you could contribute something to the community by becoming a Parish Councillor and if so details of how to apply are inside.

*Dallas Banfield*

## Country Park



The Little Marlow Parish Plan, researched and developed in the period 2004-6, resulted in an Action Plan of 10 main action points. Little Marlow has fully achieved 9 of those 10 objectives.

The final objective was the creation of a Country Park, with the rough boundaries of Coldmoorholme Lane, the A4155, the Marlow By-pass (A404) and the River Thames. The original idea of a Country Park located in Little Marlow dates back to planners in the 1960s, but it was also included in Wycombe District Council's Little Marlow Gravel Pits Supplementary Planning Guidance of March 2002. Our task now is to bring the idea to fruition.

An awful lot of work has already gone into the Country Park project. We have a strong committee working under the title '**Little Marlow Lakes Country Park – Community Partnership**', and that's just what it is! An association of all interest groups – Residents' Committees, Parish

Council, fishing groups, bird watchers, Chiltern Society, Marlow Society and the Thameside Preservation Trust; all focussed on providing a local amenity for you to enjoy.

You may already have enjoyed a walk around Spade Oak Lake, having done so you will have seen the magnificent maps and signs put up by the Parish Council. Our volunteers are at work with hedging, footpath maintenance, and the other tasks associated with this sort of project. But we could do with more volunteers. Come and have a day in the air, working on your Country Park.

Our immediate plans for 2011/2012 are to organise structured visits to the Park, perhaps just to walk in a group, maybe in a bird watching party (we have 219 species!), or you might just want to be by yourself and enjoy the peace and solitude. Just come and enjoy it.

In future Parish Council newsletters, I will ensure that you are kept up-to-date with our progress.

If you would like further information, please contact:-

John Brownridge, Chairman LMLCP,  
**johnbrownridge@btinternet.com**

01628 523367

## **Royal Wedding Street Party**

To celebrate the Royal Wedding on Friday 29 April, the Little Marlow Village Amenities Committee are organising a "Street Party" on the Recreation Ground starting at 1330 with a Hog Roast at around 1400. All residents of Little Marlow are most welcome to come along and join the fun. We will supply tables but please bring your own chairs, extra food and drink.

We will keep you in the picture, but if you are going to come, could you please let Jennifer Hulford know (jenniferhulford@hotmail.com), so that we can get the right size of hog!

Put the event in your diary now

## **PLANNING REPORT**

The Annual Report of the planning applications received by Little Marlow Parish Council will be presented at the Annual Parish Meeting on April 15<sup>th</sup>; meanwhile here are some brief notes on two topics that might be of interest.

### **The Localism Bill**

This is going through Parliament at present and embodies the Coalition Government's thinking on devolving power to Local Communities. You will have heard of the Big Society! I am quoting from a talk I heard recently by David Buxton, Planning Advisor on neighbourhood planning at the DCLG:

'For the Big Society to flourish, people need power. New rights will help them reclaim that power' these are a

'Right to Buy – helping communities save local facilities and services threatened with closure'. This is things like village shops or community halls - not applicable to Little Marlow. There is a question about land. The first information we had implied that it might be possible to safeguard the Country Park area, but I have not seen anything recently on that aspect of the bill.

'Right to Challenge – giving communities the right to bid to take over local state-run services'. I do not have any more information on that one, but I know it will be possible to have local referenda on various topics.

'Right to Build –allowing communities to decide where to create new homes, shops and businesses and facilities where they want them and where they are needed.' This is where Neighbourhood Plans come in. They are different from the Parish Plan because they involve only planning for development. They are an extension of the existing Local Development Plans prepared by Wycombe. The way it would work is shown below.

## How is the Neighbourhood Plan prepared ?



For more information go to [www.communities.gov.uk](http://www.communities.gov.uk) or the planning pages of the [www.wycombe.gov.uk](http://www.wycombe.gov.uk) I will bring all the information I have to the Annual Parish Meeting.

Garden Grabbing Another government pronouncement last year removed back gardens from the definition of previously developed land. Several of us thought this was relevant to the application for 2 houses to the rear of 10-18 Abbey Road. This is not the case. I now have a 12 page Information sheet from Wycombe Planning Department explaining why. I can let anyone who is interested have a copy. Incidentally, the WDC Planning Committee refused the application.

*Barbara Wallis*

## FERN LANE CEMETERY



The cemetery is situated at the end of Fern Lane. It is a well kept and pretty country cemetery where several generations of local families are buried and the later generations still attend these graves. In every season, there is always something different to see. After Christmas, the snowdrops appear as a carpet of white, followed by the daffodils and primroses, then the bluebells and the foxgloves.

The recently refurbished chapel has been used for funerals and will again be used this year for Bucks Arts Weeks ( details elsewhere in this Newsletter).

We are going to have a new area levelled soon. This will be the area behind the David Heath seat in the new section and will be for ashes interments. We will retain the cherry tree, but will remove the smaller shrubs and lay the area to grass. The fence will be moved back. We do not anticipate having to move into this area just yet, but by doing the works now, it will give the soil a chance to settle and will be ready when it is needed. The current rubbish bins will be re-sited on the hard standing area where the old shed used to stand.

*Ruby Taylor, Clive Innocent.*

## **PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS**

Parish Council elections take place on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> May.

If you would be interested in becoming a councillor, time is running out. Nomination forms are available from [Julie.mills@wycombe.gov.uk](mailto:Julie.mills@wycombe.gov.uk) (01494 421242), but must be completed and returned to Wycombe District Council no later than noon on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> April

The current Little Marlow Parish Councillors are:

Dallas Banfield  
Geoff Fitchew  
Phillip Emmett  
Clive Innocent  
Richard Mash  
Vivien Morton  
Ruby Taylor  
Barbara Wallis  
Verity West

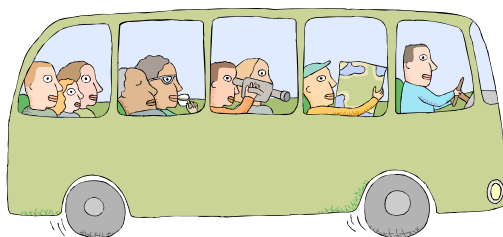
## Changes to Concessionary Bus Passes

From 1 April 2011, responsibility for the Concessionary Travel Pass (Bus Pass) for older people and people with disabilities, will pass to Transport for Buckinghamshire.

The scheme allows residents who are registered disabled or are of pensionable age, free travel on buses from 9.30am (9am in Buckinghamshire only) Monday to Friday, weekends and bank holidays.

All enquiries regarding new passes and new applications will be referred to the County Council from 6 March 2011. Residents applying for their first pass can download an application form online at [www.buckscc.gov.uk/transport](http://www.buckscc.gov.uk/transport) or telephone 0845 5212521 to request a form.

Existing holders whose concessionary bus passes are due to expire between 31 March and 30 June 2011, will receive a renewal form in the post from their District Council. Passes for those who have already returned this form to their District Council, will be sent out by 1 April 2011. Any queries regarding your renewal form should be addressed to your District Council. Buckinghamshire County Council will be responsible for all bus pass renewals, from July 2011 onwards.



**ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

**THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING FOR  
LITTLE MARLOW  
WILL BE HELD ON**

**FRIDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> APRIL**

**AT 8PM**

**AT ABBOTSBROOK HALL, WELL END.**

**ALL RESIDENTS ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND.**

**JOIN US FOR A GLASS OF WINE AND  
HEAR WHAT YOUR PARISH COUNCIL HAS  
BEEN DOING OVER THE PAST YEAR**

**PLEASE NOTE**

**THIS DATE IS EARLIER THAN ORIGINALLY NOTIFIED.**

## EXERCISE WATERMARK



At Osney Lock awaiting the rescue demonstrations

On Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> March, we took part in Exercise Watermark. This was a nationwide exercise lasting all week which tested and evaluated the national response to a local or national emergency. It was rather poignant in view of the disastrous events that had occurred in Japan the day before.

We took part in the flooding scenario event at Osney Lock in Oxford where the Environment Agency have a depot. We were with representatives from other parishes, district and town councils from the area of the Thames from Henley to Cookham. Also taking part were the emergency services and the military, and representatives from the health service, and there were examples of flood alleviation equipment.

We watched the fire service undertake water rescues, assemble potable flood barriers, and viewed rescue rafts and 'pavements' for laying across mud. We also discussed how we could help victims after the disaster.

Little Marlow Parish Council already has its Emergency Self Help Plan in place which is updated regularly. We were one of the few councils at the event to already have this and it proved very helpful. If you are in need of assistance in the event of an emergency, please can you let the Clerk know so that you can be assisted in such an event? We have a large number of people who have to help in many varied ways, for which we are very grateful.

*Barbara Wallis and Gloria Barclay*

**BUCKS OPEN STUDIOS: EXHIBITION of GLASS ART at  
THE CHAPEL  
LITTLE MARLOW CEMETERY, FERN LANE, SL7 3SD  
Saturday 18th to Sunday 26th June 2011 daily 11am – 3pm**

Jane Vincent, Marilia Carvelho, Tracey Holmes and Suzanne Raffellini look forward to welcoming you to The Chapel in June for this year's exhibition of Glass Art. Using the techniques of traditional leaded stained glass, copper foil, fusing and slumping, our work includes stained glass window panels, pictures, vessels and more.

It was such a pleasure to hold our exhibition in The Chapel in Little Marlow Cemetery last year and especially to welcome so many local people who came to see our work in the newly renovated building. Our Visitors' Book was filled with comments about the lovely setting and we were so pleased to hear the stories people shared about the last time they had been there and how glad they were to see it in use again. We are returning to The Chapel for nine days of this year's Bucks Open Studios Fortnight from 18 – 26 June from 11am to 3pm to exhibit new work especially made for this event.

We will have the kettle on and a sponge cake or two, and we will also have some work in progress to show how to make a stained glass window as well as other techniques for working with glass.

Bucks Open Studios Fortnight has been running for more than 25 years and there are over 150 venues open around the county. The aim of the event is to show our work and share our enthusiasm for our art and we

hope it will be an inspirational and enjoyable visit for you. Brochures will be available in the public library or you can look on line now to see who is exhibiting and where:

[www.bucksopenstudios.org.uk/exhibitorlisting.asp](http://www.bucksopenstudios.org.uk/exhibitorlisting.asp)

If you are inspired to learn more, there are beginners (and more advanced) courses in stained glass run by Bucks CC Adult Education (at Hatters Lane) and in hot glass (glass blowing, fused glass and sculptural glass) by Bucks New University in High Wycombe.

Jane Vincent

Email: [jane1.vincent@btopenworld.com](mailto:jane1.vincent@btopenworld.com)



*Glass Work by Jane Vincent*

## **Police Drop-In Sessions**

These are held on a regular basis at various locations around the parish. Look for information on our notice boards for your next opportunity to meet with our PCSO's to discuss any issues you may have, or for information on security and safety.

To find out more about policing in the area log on to **www.thamesvalley.police.uk** Remember to report non-emergency incidents to 0845 8 505 505 and only emergencies (ie happening at the time) to 999

## **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

April 12<sup>th</sup>

Parish Council meeting at  
The Pavilion, Recreation Ground, Little Marlow  
at 8pm.

April 15<sup>th</sup>

Annual Parish Meeting at  
Abbotsbrook Hall, Marlow Road, Well End  
At 8pm

April 29<sup>th</sup>

Royal Wedding Party at  
The Recreation Ground, Little Marlow  
(see page 6)

May 5<sup>th</sup>

Parish Council and District Council Elections  
Polling Stations at The Pavilion and Abbotsbrook Hall  
Remember to vote!

May 10<sup>th</sup>

First Meeting of the newly elected Parish Council at  
The Pavilion, Recreation Ground, Little Marlow  
At 8pm

The public are very welcome to attend all Parish Council meetings and have an opportunity to speak

**LITTLE MARLOW PARISH COUNCIL**

**Chairman**

**Dallas Banfield**

**dallas\_banfield@littlemarlowparishcouncil.org.uk**

**01628 526851**

**Vice Chairman**

**Geoff Fitchew**

**geoff\_fitchew@littlemarlowparishcouncil.org.uk**

**01628 523107**

**Councillors:**

**Phillip Emmett**

**phillip\_emmett@littlemarlowparishcouncil.org.uk**

**07939142480**

**Clive Innocent**

**clive\_innocent@littlemarlowparishcouncil.org.uk**

**01628 484687**

**Richard Mash**

**richard\_mash@littlemarlowparishcouncil.org.uk**

**01628 485552**

**Vivien Morton**

**vivien\_morton@littlemarlowparishcouncil.org.uk**

**01628 486680**

**Ruby Taylor**

**ruby\_taylor@littlemarlowparishcouncil.org.uk**

**01628 476498**

**Barbara Wallis**

**barbara\_wallis@littlemarlowparishcouncil.org.uk**

**01628 523444**

**Clerk**

**Gloria Barclay**

**clerk@littlemarlowparishcouncil.org.uk**

**01628 890301**

**The Parish Council Office is open on Tuesday, Wednesday and  
Friday from 9am to 12.00 noon**

### **Useful Numbers**

Bucks County Council	0845 850 5505
Wycombe District Council	01494 461000
Police (non emergency)	0845 8505 505
Crime Stoppers	0800 555 111
Highways (BCC)	0845 230 2882
Trading Standards	0845 404 050

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