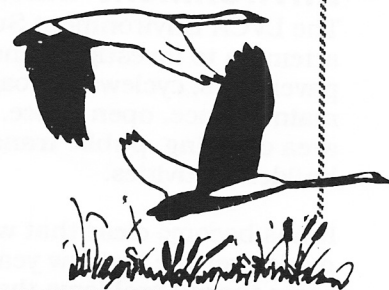


The Langford Life

The Newsletter of Langford Village Community Association

Issue 6 - February 1996



Name the Pub

The competition run to name the Pub was very popular and we received nearly 100 envelopes. John Kerrison, the pub owner took them all away and he and his family finally chose *The Nightingale*. A number of people had entered that name so the entries were all placed in identical envelopes and I drew one from the hat. The lucky winner was 7 year old Ross Potter from Ravencroft. Well done Ross. You will probably have all seen that the pub is nearly finished and an open day of Tuesday 27 February has been announced.

Community Entertainment

The LVCA is urgently looking for local residents to join our Entertainment & Fundraising Sub-Committee.

Are you an organiser, lively, self motivated, keen on supporting your local community? If so then please contact Tony Brown on 322563 or Val Say on 320163 to discuss details.

Calling all Young Residents

- Are you aged between 13 and 18?
- Are you bored, nowhere to meet friends, no playing fields, nothing to do in the evenings and weekends and fed up with being scapegoats?

If so, then come along to a Public Meeting to be held at the Village Hall on **March 15th at 8.00pm**.

Your parents are welcome too, but it is your views we want to hear - *What do you want to see in Langford Village?*

PS. If you are an adult living on Langford Village and would like to be involved in the provision of facilities for the 13-18 year old then please come along to the meeting and let the youngsters know how you can help and support them.

The "Litter" article in the last Langford Life proved to be a very emotive issue. I received several letters and telephone calls from residents both agreeing and disagreeing with Mr Ng's comments. A number of youngsters also came to the November Committee Meeting where the various problems were discussed in detail. As a result LVCA have arranged the Public Meeting mentioned above.

Langford Life is published at least quarterly by the Langford Village Community Association (LVCA) and circulated free to it's members.

LVCA exists to promote a community spirit and to improve the facilities and environment in Langford Village. Membership of the Association is by annual subscription of £1 per household.

The opinions of contributors are not necessarily those of the Association.

Editor: Eleanor Thompson of 15 Heron Drive, Langford Village, Bicester. Tel: 01869 322425

Deadline for the inclusion of articles in the next issue: 15 April 1996

The Village Hall

Cllr. Catherine Fulljames stated recently that: "As a trustee of the Village Hall I am delighted that so many user groups are making use of this excellent facility. Residents of Langford Village have a community centre they can be proud of. The centre is also available at weekends for private functions such as Birthday Parties, Wedding Receptions, Christening Parties or any other events."

Members of the LVCA can hire the Hall at reduced rates. If you are not a member then contact Mick Deeley on 324457 to find out how you can become one. If you wish to hire the Hall then please contact Linda Lawrence on 241361 for full details.

The Hall now has a notice board on the front door. Details of regular user groups and LVCA events can be found there.

"At Home" Group

- Are you over 55?
- Would you like to meet other mature people who live on Langford Village?

If you have answered YES to the above questions, then please come along to the Village Hall on either **Monday 4th March or Thursday 7th March** between 1.30 & 3.30pm.

If there is sufficient support we will be able to open the Hall during these hours every week.

During the first week we will sit and talk and decide what YOU would like to do. Tea and biscuits will be served at 50p.

Please come along and meet together.

LVCA Meeting Dates

Committee Meetings are held at the Village Hall on Saturdays at 9.30am and are open to all residents, dates for 1996 are as follows:

2 March 4 May 6 July 7 September
2 November.

Our AGM will be at 7.45pm on Friday 17 May
Please put these dates in your diaries and support us by coming along to meetings.

Environment Matters

The LVCA Environment Sub Committee (ES-C) attempts to investigate and address problems with pavements, cycleways, roads, shrubs & grass maintenance, open space, landscaping, street & area cleaning, public transport and the impact of builders activities.

It has become clear that while progress has been made over the last few years in many areas there are some thorny problems that have been raised time and again at Committee and Public Open Meetings that remain unresolved despite Oxford, Cherwell and Bicester Town Council officials promises to the contrary.

The ES-C has now carried out an up to date survey of the estate and catalogued the problems which they are in the process of formally presenting to the appropriate authorities. Our results to date are:

Play Areas

LVCA has been promised a grant for childrens play equipment provided we can supplement it with funds of our own. Before we can purchase we need the space to erect it. Land has been allocated for this purpose but not handed over by the developers - Merganser Drive and Kestrel Way.

A petition in support of this was gathered and handed to Cllr Sibley at November's LVCA Meeting. He has promised to pursue the matter. Mr Duxbury of Cherwell DC is a key person in this matter.

Overgrown Verges & Shrubs

This matter was brought to the attention of Mr Crowther at CDC. Excuses of "Problems with new contractors" were offered. Since his assistant has been shown the estate we have been promised immediate action to cut back excess growth and in due course fill the gaps where plants have died. An article appeared in the Bicester Review which will hopefully raise the profile of this matter. The grass should be cut 14 times a year (!) and the shrubs cut regularly so as not to intrude onto the paths. If you have evidence to the contrary you should let us and CDC Landscape Dept know

Environmental Cleaning

The subject of rubbish, dog mess bins and cleaning was raised with Mr Melotti of CDC. We will pursue the provision of additional bins where they are deemed necessary. CDC should empty all bins weekly. If you have evidence bins are not being emptied or adopted roads and footpaths are not being cleaned then complain to CDC (Contracts Management) but let us know too. Complain to Rosie Biggs (CDC Landscape Officer) about fly tipping and rubbish on landscaped areas and verges. Unadopted roads and footways are still the responsibility of the builders.

Roads, Cycle and Pathways

Many concerns were raised with Mr Carritt of Oxon CC. It would appear that all statutory signs and road markings are in place on adopted roads. Where the surface has deteriorated then this is being attended to. Barriers at the end of foot/cycleways should permit access for prams and wheelchairs. If you have problems we would like to know specific details. We are to raise the provision of further cycleways with the County Engineer.

Plans for future developments can be viewed at CDC, Bodicote House. There is to be pedestrian access to the London Road at the end of Goldcrest Way. The appears to be little chance of traffic calming on Peregrine Way, even beside the new school. When the new Distributor Road opens and exiting the estate by the lake becomes more difficult, more cars are expected to follow Peregrine Way to leave by the roundabout. The traffic problem will undoubtedly get worse. Please consider others and keep your speed down.

Shops

One shop remains vacant. The terms of the lease are that it must not compete with MACS.

We can only address the problems we know about, so tell us your concerns. Please don't complain if we do not act immediately. We are only few in number and have daytime jobs. In fact, do something about it yourself and help share the workload. If you can help on environmental matters please let Ian Lawrence know or come along to the next LVCA meeting. (Dates on page 1).

Useful contacts

LVCA (ES-C) Chairman- Ian Lawrence, 12 Pipitscroft
Tel: 241361

CDC, Bodicote Hse, Bodicote, Banbury, OX15 4AA
Tel: 01295 252535

- Landscape Officer - John Crowther	Ext 4109
- Landscape Officer - Rosie Biggs	Ext 4034
- Environmental Health - Geoff Melotti	Ext 4289
- Dog Warden - Jane Goode	Ext 4159
- South Area Planning Officer - Bob Duxbury	Ext 4184

OCC County Engineers Dept, London Rd, Bicester
- Colin Carritt Bicester 241144

CDC Sports Roadshow

If you are aged between 5 & 14 then turn up to the hall at 1.00pm on 22 February and have two hours fun learning how to play kwick cricket, pop lacrosse, football, uni-hoc, parachute games and much more. It will cost you £2 per session. If you don't use the facility then it may not come again!!

The Van

A mobile advice and information centre for young people under 25 will visit the Hall car park between 7- 8.30pm on 6 March, 3 April, 9 May, 5 June and 3 July.

The Van is staffed by 2 trained workers offering confidential advice and information about things that worry you or that you simply want to know about.

For more information see hall noticeboard or phone 01865 794524.

Colin Randall

Photoscene

**Will be at Jardines Pharmacy
Langford Village**

**between 10am & 4pm
Tuesday 20th-Friday 23rd February
to take your baby & children's photographs**

Call in or phone the shop on 323008 for more details.
Please note shop shut 1.00-2.00pm

Road Reps

New residents to Langford Village may be unaware that their road is represented on the LVCA Committee by a network of "Road Reps", who have kindly volunteered their time to help foster a Community Spirit. However, a number of roads remain unrepresented and new Road Reps are urgently required. In addition, some existing roads need extra help (especially those with many houses)

A list is given below of all Roads where help is required together with the approximate number of homes.

Avocet Way (150), Hawk Mead (50), Kestrel Way (75), The Bramblings/Redwing Close(50), Sandpiper (50), Heron Drive/Falcon Mead (160).

Since the last newsletter we are pleased to welcome Sally Astle of 6 Martin Close. If you would like to be a Road Rep, or just help to deliver LVCA leaflets, newsletters, etc. or would like further information then please contact David Cooke (Co-ordinator) on 247839 or Val Say on 320163 or Tony Brown on 322563.

School Open Day

Our new school will be opening on April 15th at the beginning of the summer term.

Already, the names of over 130 children have been registered with the school.



Head Teacher John Moffitt reports that "the Governors have been delighted with the response from parents within the local community. We have had two public meetings attended by over 150 people where we have outlined the school ethos and some of our ideas for the future, including being the first primary school in Oxfordshire to have a network of computers linking each classroom. Another unique feature will be that each classroom will feature wooden bird sculptures by artist Kathryn O'Kell.

We are inviting all of the local community to an **Open Day at the school on Sunday 31st March between 1.00pm and 5.00pm.**

There will be tours of the school, prospective pupils will be able to see their new classrooms, displays of the school uniform and resource facilities. Parents will be able to meet school staff and governors as well as seeing a number of interesting features depicting the school's development and the first terms project - Flight.

We look forward to meeting everybody who is interested in our school."

Karate Classes

United Karate Association Classes will be run at the Village Hall on Monday Evenings from 8.30-9.30pm. for adults. Classes for youngsters will be on Thursdays. Mini Rangers (ages 3-5) - 4.00-4.45pm and Juniors (ages 6-15) - 4.45-5.45. If you would like to know more then please call Paul Wood on 01865 374523

Cygnets Playschool

Cygnets playschool is a thriving social opportunity on Langford Village for children aged 3-5. It has spacious, recently built facilities, with a caring team of organisers who are DPP trained and qualified. The Playschool boasts plenty of varied equipment, all recently purchased and even an outdoor play area.



Due to the imminent opening of the local school nursery, there now exist places for your children to join Cygnets. This is an exciting opportunity for your children to make friends with others of their age group before school and to enhance their social development.

Langford Village residents are extremely fortunate to have access to such excellent pre-school provision and it is only with the support of our community that these facilities will continue to exist.

If you would like more information about Cygnets Playschool, even if your child is not yet 3 but you would like to join the register, or if you would like to visit the Playschool in action one morning to see it for yourself then please contact Andrea on 246321.

Cygnets Toddler Group

Good Morning Toddlers!

As the attendance at the regular Tuesday and Friday groups continues to be high, we wonder if there may be a demand in Langford Village for a Toddlers session on a morning. This may prove useful to parents whose children like to take a nap after lunch, or perhaps to those who work on an afternoon, or those whose slightly older children have been allocated a morning place at the new Nursery and so would be free to bring along a younger sibling. In order to assess whether or not there would be sufficient demand, if you have a tentative interest in a group which would probably meet on Thursday mornings then please contact Jacqui on 248034.

Dressing Up Appeal

The Toddler Group would like to provide a "get out clause" for anyone on LV who might still be harbouring any weird and wonderful or just plain unwanted hats, handbags, old uniforms, accessories or other types of clothing which you no longer need or want but would be loath to just throw away. If you have any items you think might help to stimulate the children's imagination then please call Bicester 240285. We promise confidentiality to perpetrators of the worst fashion excesses!!

Bicester Adult Education

BACEC are running one day workshops on Saturday 16th March between 10am & 3pm. Classes include Computing, Crafts, Solo Singing, Ancestry, Interior Design, First Aid and Calligraphy. For further information and enrolment details please call 241532.



Langford Village Community Association - LVCA

The Community Association was formed in 1993. the **key objectives** are:

- To protect the well being of the residents of Langford Village
- To liaise with local authorities and voluntary organisations in a common effort to advance education, provide facilities for physical and mental training, recreation, social, moral and intellectual development
- To foster a Community spirit
- To establish and manage a Community Centre

So what has the Association achieved?

- Grand opening of the Village Hall-1994
- Supporting and advising Hall user Groups
- Campaigning for the School - opening April 1996
- Public House survey - opening February 1996
- Campaigning for a public and school bus service - in operation now for over 12 months
- Campaigning for additional post box - in place
- Campaigning for litter bins - now in place
- Organising various social events for the benefit of the whole community
- Campaigning for play areas and improvement in maintenance of our environment
- Plans for a Day Club - first meeting March 1996

What about the future?

- Play areas - this continues to be a major area of contention for residents. LVCA is committed to lobbying local authorities to provide safe areas in which our children can play
- Provision of facilities and activities for our youth are serious issues which need to be addressed by us all
- We will continue to liaise with our Council representatives and officials on Environmental issues
- LVCA will remain committed to supporting the needs of **ALL** our residents

The Committee meets every 2 months, members are all residents of LV and we hope we represent the views of all of the community.

Our local Councillors, including Catherine Fulljames, David Markham, Les Sibley, and Carol Mason attended the last meeting and publicly recognised the contribution made by the LVCA in bringing issues of importance to Langford Village residents to the attention of OCC, CDC and Bicester Town Councils.

Some issues can be easily resolved others need constant pressure, but please be assured all will be pursued.

The Public Meetings we have arranged have been attended by up to 200 residents which shows that so many of you are interested and have concerns about the community in which we all live.

If you can offer your skills, support and assistance then please join our Committee and make a contribution for the benefit of all our residents.

You can speak to our Chairman Tony Brown on 322563 or our Secretary Val Say on 320163.

Membership

You can also support us by becoming a member of the Association. We charge £1 per home per year.

Members are entitled to:

- Reduced hall hire fees
- Reduced entrance fees to LVCA events
- Regular issues of the Langford Life
- The opportunity to vote at our meetings on issues that affect us all
- "Two way" contact with a neighbour through the Road Rep System

To find out how to join speak to your Road Rep. If you do not know who this is then call our membership Co-ordinators Mick & Mary Deeley on 324457 and they will be only too pleased to help you.

Advertising

Do you run a business or offer a service that you would like others to know about?

How about advertising in the Langford Life?

We distribute to 1300 homes (this figure goes up each time!) on a quarterly basis. Our fees to business customers will be as follows:

1/8 page	£10
1/4 page	£20
1/2 page	£40

All prices exclude artwork costs.

Other advertising by arrangement.

Interested? Then call Ellie on 322425 to discuss your requirements. Remember - the deadline for the next issue is 15 April 1996

1st Langford Village Scout Group

The Cubs and Beavers had a busy programme up to Christmas and the term finished with their "Christmas Sing a Long". The Beavers sang carols and the Cubs performed a playlet and played their homemade musical instruments. The cubs also made mincepies which were served to our guests with tea and coffee.

The Beavers have recently said thank you and goodbye to Carol and Anita, founder helpers of the Colony and also welcomed Val and Sharon as new helpers. This half term the boys have been busy finding out all about animals including making things and learning new songs and games. The Colony held its first "Swimming Up" Ceremony when 4 boys left and joined the Cub Pack - Good Luck Shaun, James, Henry and Stuart.

Most of the Cubs gained their Entertainers badge at Christmas and are now busy working towards their Road Safety Badge. We have taken part in several District events and were very proud when Matthew Hazell won his league in the Chess Competition last month. We wish him luck in the County finals. We hosted the Road Safety Quiz and even though we didn't win, enjoyed taking part. We are looking forward to the football competition next month and a camp in May.

If you would like to know more about Scouting in Langford Village or wish to help in anyway then please call Ellie on 322425.

