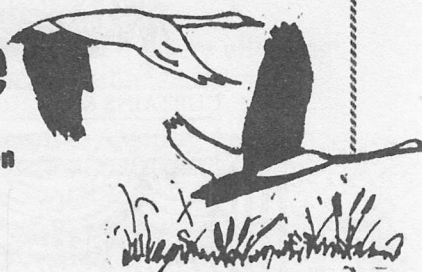


The Langford Life

The Newsletter of Langford Village Community Association

Issue 8 - July 1996



LVCA AGM

The Community Association AGM on 17 May was well supported and a new Committee was formed. Our new Chairman is Richard Conway-Hyde of 57 Shearwater Drive (Tel 323193). The Committee is broken down into a number of Sub-Committees each responsible for different areas of concern. Our Vice Chairman and Chairman of the Fundraising and Entertainment Committee is Tony Brown. The Hall Committee is chaired by Val Say and the Environment Committee continues to be chaired by Ian Lawrence.

As Langford Village continues to grow two Road Rep Co-ordinators have been appointed. The North Area includes the following roads: Avocet Way, Heron Drive, Falcon Mead, Kingfisher Way, Merganser Drive, Merlin Way, Osprey Close, Redwing Close, Shearwater Drive, Swallow Close, The Bramblings and Whimbrell Close and is managed by Karen Ward Tel: 324237.

The South Area includes Goldcrest Way, Hawks Mead, Kestrel Way, Lapwing Close, Martin Close, Pipitscroft, Ravencroft, Sandpiper Close and Turnstone Green and is managed by Diane Lavender Tel: 243731.

If you are new to Langford Village or do not know who your Road Rep is, then give your co-ordinator a call and she will be able to put you in touch with the person that represents you on the LVCA Committee.

Residents Questionnaire

I have been contacted by Elizabeth Wilkins who is currently studying Geography at the University of Wales. During her summer break she is undertaking a dissertation on residential growth which involves an in depth study of Langford Village. One of her projects includes a random survey of the opinions of 150 residents. Please give her your co-operation by completing her questionnaire should she call on you. Some of the answers will be shared with the LVCA which will help us know what you, as residents want, when we lobby the Council and other Authorities.

Langford Village Youth Group

Since last March the Community Hall has been open, firstly on a Friday night and more recently on a Monday night, as a drop in centre for young people between the ages of 13 and 18.

Unfortunately, now that the light nights are with us and the weather reasonable, youngsters have not been attending.

We have reluctantly decided to close the drop in centre for the Summer - opening again on Friday 13 September at 8.30pm.

We keep hearing that there is nothing for teenagers to do on Langford Village, it would be a pity therefore if the drop in centre had to close permanently due to lack of interest.

If you are a teenager then please, please attend - this facility has been established for your benefit. Ideally in future we would like to organise a properly run Youth Club. To do this we need support from the Community, particularly parents and adults who are trained youth workers or have had previous experience in running youth clubs.

If you want to help or want to find out more then contact Elaine on 244553, Tony on 322563 or Jacqui on 248034.

CDC Sports Roadshow

If you are aged 5-14 years then you will be pleased to hear that the Sports Roadshow is again visiting Langford Village Hall on the following dates:

31st July, 1st & 2nd August
27th, 28th and 29th August

between 1.00 and 3.00pm.

The cost is £2 per head.

Adult Monday Group

The group has decided to continue meeting throughout the summer. If you are free between 2.00 and 4.00pm on a Monday afternoon then pop along to the Hall and join us for a cup of tea, chat and some fun. The cost is 50p.

Calling all Writers and Astrologers

Interested in forming a writers and/or astrology group? If so give Ethell a call on 324597.

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

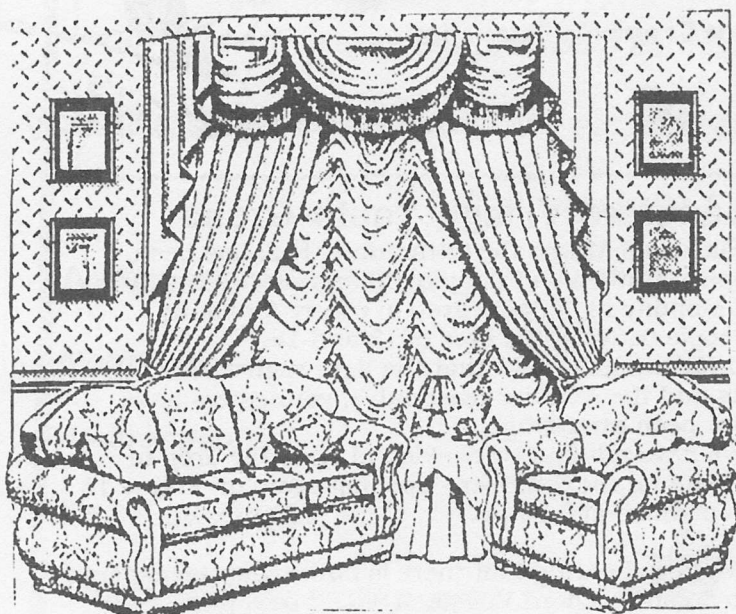
The opinions of contributors are not necessarily those of the Association.

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

Deadline for the inclusion of articles in the next issue: 18 October 1996



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Langford Cygnets

Cygnets **Playschool** is open everyday during term time from 9.30 to 11.45am and is a thriving social opportunity on Langford Village for children aged 2 1/2 - 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. If you would like to know more about Cygnets Playschool, even if your child is not yet 2 1/2, 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 Edwards on 246231.

The **Toddler Group** is open every Tuesday and Friday afternoon from 1.30 to 3.00pm during term time, recommencing after the summer break on 10 September. Everyone is welcome to join us who have or look after children aged 3 or under. Drop in for a cup of tea and a chat whilst the children play. We look forward to meeting you.

Garden Waste & Recycling

Are you new to Bicester and wondering where to dispose of your garden waste?

The nearest "Tip" is at Ardley Quarries, which is situated on the A43 between Ardley Village and The M40 Services.

Remember that we also have Recycling Bins situated at the shops.

Langford Village Scout Group

The Beavers have been very busy celebrating 10 years of Beaver Scouts. They joined in a District Camping Day when their Birthday Flag was paraded and they enjoyed having their tea in tents, making sweets, cooking and a traditional Campfire. They have been challenged to see how far their flag can travel - are you going to some far flung place in the next few months and would be willing to pack their flag in your case? If so give David a call on 322593.

Twenty Cubs had a very enjoyable camp in May when our Theme was Space and activities included cooking on an open fire, tracking, orienteering, making jet engines and star gazing. The 8 sixers and Seconds went on a District Camp and won the Incident Hike by showing off their skills in map reading, tent pitching, fire lighting and first aid. They will represent the District in a County competition in October. Over the last term we have earned many badges including the Astronomers, Athletes and Swimmers.

The Cubs would like to thank everyone on the Estate who sponsored their Trash Dash. In an hour we collected 15 sacks of rubbish, an old bike and 3 discarded traffic cones. It was interesting to note that we had to go much further afield this year, a similar amount was collected in 1995 from outside the Hall and shops. Money raised from this event and a generous grant from Bicester Town Council will be used to purchase camping equipment and a Cub Scout Flag.

As you can see, both the Cub Pack and Beaver Colony provide a full and varied programme of activities for the boys of Langford Village. As the Group continues to grow - we will have 20 Beavers and 30 Cubs in September - we again appeal for more adult help. If you would like to join in the fun then give Ellie a call on 322425.

The Cygnets

We were all saddened to hear of the death of the family of cygnets on Jubilee Lake. Many thanks to the lady who dealt with their removal and the RSPCA. When you telephoned to inform me of the incident you did not leave your name or number. The Environment Group are anxious to speak with you and ascertain whether an explanation as to their death was ever established. Perhaps you would be kind enough to give Ian Lawrence a call on 241361.

Advertising

To place an advert in the Langford Life call Ellie on 322425. Fees to business customers start at £10 and we distribute to 1450 homes.

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Fundraising and Entertainment Activities 1996/97

Following on from the AGM a new Fundraising and Entertainment sub-committee has been formed.

Ideas for the next 12 months include:

- * A monthly sweepstake
- * Disco/Dances at various times through the year eg: Halloween, Christmas, Valentines
- * Christmas parties for various age groups
- * Table top sales, Teas
- * Christmas raffle
- * Fun Day '97 - Fete, Fun Run, Road Team Challenge, Dance

A meeting of the Fundraising/ Entertainment sub committee will take place at the hall on August 5th at 8.30pm. A full itinerary of activities will be published in the next edition of the Langford Life.

What a pong!

Cherwell District Councils Planning Committee have postponed until September their decision on the proposal to extend the capacity of the chicken farm at Ambrosden by 250 000 birds. However, the planning Committee feel that the application would not affect people outside the immediate vicinity of Ambrosden and therefore there would be insufficient grounds for rejection.

If in the meantime you are bothered by a smell from the existing farm, especially on warm evenings, when windows are open, then complain immediately to the Environmental Health Department of CDC. Write or better still ring them on 01295 252535 and ask for Mark Harmon. If sufficient complaints are received, the Committee may reconsider their position.

Jubilee Lake

Jubilee Lake is a nature conservation area for fish and wild birds. Fishing is already prohibited. It has been brought to our attention that some residents have been allowing their dogs to swim in the lake. Although this is obviously great fun for dogs, especially in the warm weather, it disturbs the wildlife and if this is allowed to go unchecked it may drive the birds away altogether. Please keep your dogs under control.

You are also reminded that the Lake is a functional "Balancing Pond" and takes excess water off the roads and drainage system and you are therefore requested not to pour oil down your drains.

The Lake itself is extremely deep and with the steep embankments and large underwater pumps could prove very dangerous should someone fall in - care should be taken at all times - it is not a play area, boating pond or outdoor swimming pool!

Environment Matters

The LVCA Environment Sub-committee is addressing all the environmental matters affecting residents of Langford Village. Subjects include:

Planning, Road Safety,
Footpaths & Cycleways, Amenity Areas,
Litter & Rubbish Collection, Landscaping,
Builders' Activities, Wildlife.

The Sub Committee has set up a "Neighbourhood Watch" for environmental issues, each Sub-Committee member having responsibility for a sector of the Village. If you notice anything which affects your environment, let the committee know, if necessary via the LVCA communication network of Road Representatives. A list of who looks after which sector will be posted in the Village Hall or contact Karen Ward or Diane Lavender for details of your Road Rep (see AGM Article).

We are short of "watchers" for some areas: Avocet Way, Kestrel Way, Goldcrest/Lapwing /Martin, Hawksmead, Sandpiper Close/The new DWH development, The new Westbury Swansfield Development. Volunteers for this simple task to Ian Lawrence please.

Residents do not have to wait for the LVCA Committee to take action. All residents can pass on problems directly to Oxford County Council (OCC) - Roads & Public Transport or Cherwell District Council (CDC) - Planning, Landscaping & Environmental Health. If you see any acts of vandalism being carried out or suspect a crime, then please contact the Police directly.

Useful Contacts:

Environment Sub-Committee Chairman - Ian Lawrence,
2 Pipits Croft Tel: 241361

Vice Chairman - Derek Finlay, 85 Shearwater Drive, Tel: 323385

OCC Highways Dept, Speedwell House, Speedwell Street Oxford.

CDC - Bodicote House, Bodicote, Banbury, Oxon
OX15 4AA Tel: 01295 252535

Town & District Councillor or Bicester East -

John Hanna, 6 Anson Way, Bicester, Oxon OX6 7UH

District Councillor for Ambrosden Parish -

David Markham, Salcey House, Horton-cum-Studley, Oxon. OX9 1BG



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Interested in a trip to Calais?

- * Luxury Coach
- * Via the Channel Tunnel
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- * Time for sightseeing

Date of trip: **September 14th**
Departure Time: **7.00am**
Depart from: **The Village Hall**
Return: **10.00-11.00pm**
Bargain Price: **£20 per person**

A Full Passport is required

If you would like to come then please return the slip below to:

Derek Hurrell
62 Shearwater Drive
Tel: 322518

ensuring you enclose your cheque of £20 per person (payable to LVCA) by **August 14th.**

28 AUG SEP

A minimum of 49 people are required to make the trip viable. Your payment will be returned if there are insufficient numbers.

Derek is also interested in organising other outings and Theatre Trips - please indicate your interest below even if you can't join us in Calais.

Please reserve tickets for your coach trip to Calais on September 14th.

CHANGE TO 28th SE

I enclose £ being £20 per person travelling.

Signed Name

Address Telephone No.

I would be interested in receiving details of other trips*, outings* and theatre visits* you may propose in the future.

* Delete as appropriate