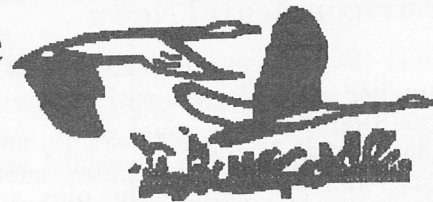


The Langford Life

The Newsletter of
Langford Village Community Association

Issue 12 - July 1997



Langford Village Community Association Annual General Meeting and Committee Meetings

As advertised in the last newsletter, Langford Village Community Association held their Annual General Meeting in the Community Centre, Nightingale Place on Friday 6th June 1997 at 8.00 pm followed by a Wine and Cheese Party. The turnout from residents was disappointing. The annual accounts were presented and new Officers of the Association were elected. A list of the confirmed officers with their telephone numbers is on the back page for you to keep as a reference. If the committee is to help provide appropriate facilities for Langford Village and adequately represent the residents in local matters, for instance liaising with local government officials, we must have your views. This is best done by turning up to the LVCA meetings in the Community Hall. Throughout the year (roughly every two months) on dates published in the newsletter, there are committee meetings at which we inform others about what we are doing to help the community and to plan for future activities. These meetings are open to all Langford Village residents and we welcome your attendance. Although we try to start on time, if your domestic responsibilities delay you, please come anyway. The next meetings are planned for:

Mon 01 Sep 7.30 p.m.

Mon 27 Oct 7.30 p.m.

Ian Lawrence
LVCA Chairman

Community Policing

The Community Policeman for Langford Village, PC John Payne, attended the LVCA AGM. LVCA members discussed concerns about policing matters in Langford Village which residents have raised in recent months. To allay peoples' fears, PC John stated that Langford Village had few problems compared to other local areas. Oxfordshire Police who had limited resources directed their attention to where their efforts were likely to achieve results. If residents had specific worries about vandalism, intimidating behaviour, drugs etc. PC Payne would attempt to investigate them but he does need timely notification with details about locations, which night incidents were most likely to happen and at what time and if possible, descriptions. Contact him on 01865 266886

Ian Lawrence
LVCA Chairman

LVCA Wants Your Help

LVCA has the elected posts but the committee welcomes assistance on any matter, however small, even for limited periods. We are always glad of help, for instance on one of the sub-committees or before, during and after social functions and fund-raising activities to set up, sell raffle tickets, do a stint behind the bar or help clear up. We are also in great need of individuals to distribute newsletters. If you can deliver to your neighbours, that will share the task out and ensure the newsletter is delivered on time. We are particularly in need of people in Avocet Way, Hawksmead, the cul-de-sacs off Ravencroft, Sandpiper Close, Partridge Drive, Swansfield, Robin Way and Jay Close. Individuals who will serve on a rota to unlock/lock the Community Hall for occasional weekend bookings are also wanted. If you can help, even in a small way, please contact the Secretary Mrs Val Say, 98 Kingfisher Way (Tel. 320163) who can give further details and pass your name on to the appropriate committee member.

The LVCA is voluntary and forms the heart of our community's effort at creating a vibrant and lively community spirit.

Ian Lawrence
LVCA Chairman

Cygnets

Playschool and Toddler Group

The new Autumn term for Cygnets Playschool starts on 3rd September and already we are full to brimming with eager children. However, new recruits to the Toddler Group are always welcome and sessions are held every Tuesday and Friday from 1.30 - 3.00pm in the Community Hall. Admission is only 75p per family which includes refreshments, lots of new toys and we have recently bravely introduced some wonderful messy craft suitable for toddlers and fridge doors. The first Autumn session starts Friday 5th September and new children are welcome to bring well behaved parents or carers. Our aim for the new term is to make everyone feel welcome so do come along for your sanity and your child's sake. Their toddler group friends will become their future school friends.

Environmental News

Over the past year we have fought for and gained a number of successes with improving the village. The fight, however, must go on. Amongst the items where further action is needed are the overgrown cycle and foot paths, the play areas, un-adopted roads, the promised 'strip park', the two balance ponds etc. let alone keeping a very watchful eye on future commercial developments. To do this we need the assistance of you all, but most of all direct help in the form of 'Environmental Committee Members'. No one will be asked to do more than they feel capable of doing or to give more time than they can spare, so if you feel that you can contribute in any way, either with a specific item or as a committee member please give me a call - John Warman, Environmental Committee Chairman, 31 Redwing Close, Tel 369526. No help is too small.

I am pleased to be able to report that at long last the broken railings below the pumping station on Jubilee Lake are to be repaired or replaced. The orders for this and to repair the split retaining wall in the same area are being issued by Thames Water Utilities as I write, and who knows the work may be complete by the time of publication. (On the other hand !) I have also been assured that work will soon be in hand to bring the small balance pond off Gavray Drive up to standard. This has only recently been taken over from the developers, and Thames Water and Cherwell District Council are currently working out their maintenance agreements.

With regards to the cycle / foot paths we are aware of problems with the barriers at the ends of the paths. Although CDC have indicated that they are a standard design the gaps seem a little tight to say the least. We have known of one case where a wheel chair actually got stuck. Fortunately help was at hand. In order to put up a successful fight to get these adjusted we need information, mainly in two separate areas. Firstly we need examples of difficulties experienced by individuals, and secondly information on acceptable wheel chair access from directly interested bodies, e.g. any disability group. Information to John Warman please.

Many people have been disturbed by builders working out of permitted hours, especially on Sundays. The permitted hours are 08:00 to 18:00 (6pm) weekdays, 08:00 to 13:00 (1pm) Saturdays with no working on Sundays or Bank and Public Holidays. Unfortunately CDC offices are closed in the same out of hours periods, however if you can make a note of the time and the contractors / transport companies names (from vans etc.) and / or registration numbers, a complaint can be made to CDC when they next open.

Telephone 01295 252535 and ask to speak to Mark Harmon in the Environmental Health Department. It may not solve the immediate problem but it will go a long way to stop it happening in the future.

Whilst we are on the subject of noise, with the summer months upon us and the subsequent open windows and doors, please remember that Vivaldi may be your idea of heaven, but it's hell for someone else, and the Spice Girls may be your dream but they are another's nightmare. Please think of your neighbours.

John Warman
Environmental Committee Chair

It's That Pong Again!

Last year Ambrosden supported Langford Village in its fight against UNIPART. Shortly after we were asked to support Ambrosden in their fight against the expansion of the battery chicken farm. The application was rejected by CDC at the time, but unfortunately the threat is still there with an appeal against the decision, plus a further application, this time incorporating a high capacity extract fan to supposedly blow the smell away from Ambrosden. Considering that the expansion is more than an EXTRA TWO MILLION BIRDS PER YEAR it is most likely that the net result will be considerable increase in smell. The stench from this factory affects Langford Village, especially on warm, still, summer evenings - just when you want to have a BBQ! If you have concerns about the smell or possible effects on health or wish to object to this application on any other grounds, there are two ways that you as a resident of Langford Village can help fight the expansion. One is to complain to CDC whenever the smell descends upon us (see Environmental News - contractors noise). This will emphasise the fact that we do have grounds to object. The other is to make your objections in writing to CDC as we did with UNIPART. The main point for objection would be increased smell, perhaps affecting people with respiratory problems, especially with the proposed high capacity fan. Two other points worth mentioning are that the extension would be on a green field site, and that there would be no local employment generation.

Letters to:

Mr R Duxbury
Area Planning Officer South
Cherwell District Council
Bodicote House
Bodicote
BANBURY
OX15 4AA

Quoting:

Reference: Planning Application 97/00667/F
"Ambrosden Poultry Unit"

The more individual letters of complaint, the more likely this will be rejected.

Play Areas

There are two areas in Langford Village designated to become play areas. One is behind Merganser Drive. As soon as Gallaghers the land owners have handed over the land, CDC will finish the landscaping and install play equipment for the under 11s. Residents in adjacent properties have been consulted on position of the equipment and access. The other area is a larger plot adjacent to London Road behind the new Westbury development. When Westbury have finished the landscaping, this will have sufficient space for both play equipment and general recreation. Potential "participants" were consulted at an open meeting in January to select designs for the play equipment. Money for purchase, installation and maintenance of the play equipment has already been lodged with CDC. The remaining area may be part grass and part tarmac, allowing games in wet weather and a safe area for roller skating.

Wado-Ryu Karate Club

More and more people are interested in exercising and keeping fit these days. Learning a martial art can contribute towards this healthy approach to life and if you are interested in taking up a traditional form of Karate then come along to Langford Village Hall on a Wednesday evening. Classes for beginners and children from age 5 upwards start promptly at 6.30pm and last for 1 hour. Classes for adults and those further advanced within the grading structure follow at 7.30pm for an hour. The above club is part of the United Sport Karate Organisation.

Beginners are very welcome and the first lesson is free. (If you are not sure that this is for you or you would like some questions answered then come along one evening.)

The following members have taken and passed gradings recently:

10th kyu (White/red belt) James Hulbert, Lloyd Cassidy, Richard Girling.

9th kyu (Red belt) Robert, Daniel and David Girling, Yvonne Dixon.

8th kyu (Yellow belt) Sam Houlihan, Lewis O'Connor.

7th kyu (Orange belt) Ian Ramsay, Alison Taylor, Kieron Rodgers.

5th kyu (Blue belt) Darius Behradmehr.

Congratulations go to all the above members on their achievements. It is just reward for their hard work.

Rainbows

Are there any ladies who can help us? The Rainbows have a very long waiting list due to the large number of young girls interested in the Guiding Movement. If we can get at least 2 ladies to help, we could start a second Rainbow group. Please contact Veronica on 322759 for more information.

200 Club -Update

The draws take place on the second Tuesday of the month. The following are the winning numbers

April	1st Prize	Number 82	£31.88
	2nd Prize	Number 63	£10.62
May	1st Prize	Number 13	£31.88
	2nd Prize	Number 11	£10.62
June	1st Prize	Number 35	£31.88
	2nd Prize	Number 8	£10.62

New members are always welcome. The cost is £1 per number, per month payable by cash, cheque or standing order for a minimum of 6 months.

Applications for membership are available from the School Office or by contacting Laura and Ian House at - Tel 243731

New Aikido Club

The new Aikido Club is now established at the Langford Village Community Hall meeting Fridays from 8 pm - 9.30 pm.

Aikido is one of the most subtle and sophisticated of the martial arts, it has also been called the gentle martial art. It is suitable for men, women and children of all ages.

Aikido is more than an art of self defence, into it are woven elements of philosophy, psychology and dynamics. As one learns the techniques of Aikido he/she will at the same time train the mind, improve health and develop self confidence.

During practice sessions partners work out in harmony with each other, learning how and when to yield, and how to lead and guide another persons movements. Thus learning how to down an opponent through non-aggressive techniques.

For more details please contact Martyn Tyas on Bicester 369203.

Being a resident in Langford Village means that many of you are living within the parish of Ambrosden. You may not realise, but there are two very important services available within Ambrosden Parish. Services available to you without paying for parking or queuing.

- All post office services including car taxes and foreign currency.
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TUE	9.00AM-5.30PM
WED	9.00AM-5.30PM
THUR	9.00AM-4.30PM
FRI	9.00AM-7.00PM
SAT	8.30AM-4.30PM

ONE POUND OFF WITH THIS VOUCHER!!!!