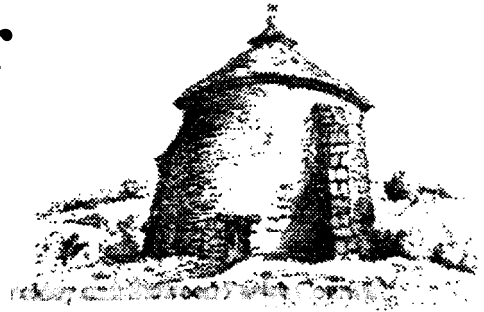


# The Beckley Newsletter

News Views and Comment from  
around the Parish

Summer 2009



Produced under the auspices of the Beckley and Stowood Parish Council  
Any comments or opinions expressed herein are not necessarily those of the Council

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## PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

### **Mains Drainage**

We have received the following update from Richard Maggs, Construction Team Manager, Thames Water, dated 1 May, 2009:

-Pumping Station on Woodperry Road – commissioning nearing completion

-Treatment Works on Otmoor [Constables' Piece] Installation works substantially completed. Commissioning started mid-March 2009 and now almost complete.

- Some customer connections have been made to provide us with a base flow to use for commissioning and these flows will need to be tankered off site until effluent is compliant with discharge consents.

- Letters and forms should have been sent out 1 May stating that connections can be made in accordance with protocols outlined in the documents. Flows can be taken at the STW as soon as residents are connected. Resident do not need to notify the site-based team of their activities.

- No more updates forthcoming unless specifically requested.

### **Playground**

Work on the playground in the Recreation Area behind the Village Hall is completed except for the wall, and the playground has become a much needed addition to village life. Thank you all who worked on this vital project.

## **AGM Beckley & Stowood Parish Council Annual General Meeting 2009 Thursday 21 May 2009-05-18 Beckley Village Hall 7:30pm**

Business will begin at 7:30pm. Peter Gibbons, Chairman; Michael Soanes, Vice Chairman; Council Members: Chris Cox, Gayle Scott, Geoff Henman. Parish Clerk: Sam Hawkins

### **Agenda**

Welcome and Announcements  
Minutes from 2008 AGM  
Chairman's Annual Report  
Beckley 1<sup>st</sup> time Sewerage  
Tennis Court/Football Club  
Newsletter and Website  
Village Pond – peoples' ideas  
Twinning  
Councillor Anne Purse Report.  
Any Other Business

## OTHER COMMUNITY NEWS

### **Burying of Electricity Cables**

Church Street will have its electricity cables buried this summer after school breaks up as a result of a long campaign of letter writing and meetings. It is disappointing that the scheme could not have been extended further, but there is always the opportunity for others to take up the campaign at a later date.

### **New Waste Collection Scheme Begins 8 June**

All residents should now have received their wheely bins, kitchen refuse containers, and accompanying pamphlet of instructions from South Oxfordshire District Council for the new scheme of waste collections to begin 8 June.

## **RSPB OTMOOR NATURE RESERVE**

### **Volunteers**

With the winters coppicing completed at the end of February, volunteer effort moved to checking and repairing the reserve's fencing, gates and boundaries. Temporary electric fences have also been erected to compartmentalise the grazing effort.

After spending a long winter working to benefit Otmoor's wildlife, volunteers spent the end of March and the beginning of April giving their best efforts to improving the reserve for visitors. This involved making repairs to Otmoor Lane, the access route to the reserve, and placing 60 tonnes of crushed limestone to fill many a rut on the diagonal track and the visitor trail.

April also saw the volunteers building and placing artificial fish reefs in strategic positions



in our reedbed. This habitat improvement should help provide refuge for young and smaller fish, including the 500 Rudd introduced on 24 April.

### **Bird/wildlife news**

March was time to wave goodbye to the site's photogenic bittern, which left us at the end of the month after providing people with once in a lifetime views of this magical bird.

The skies have also been full of raptors, with favourites from the winter, such as the peregrine, hen harrier and merlin, all still being seen. A marsh harrier passing through at the end of March joined these, along with resident species such as red kite, kestrel and sparrowhawk.

Waders have also put on a good show for visitors, with the last few dribs and drabs of the large flocks of wintering lapwing and golden plover remaining throughout March. These birds were complimented by transient others, such as green and common sandpiper, ringed and little ringed plover and ruff. Breeding waders returned to the moor in the form of redshank and curlew, to join the already present lapwing and snipe.

Smaller species also returned to Otmoor and the hedgerow's dawn chorus of resident species was joined first by chiffchaff and then by the other 8 species of migrant warbler. The hedgerows have once again become home for cuckoo and turtle dove.

**And finally...** Two dates for your diary

### **Saturday 6 June Otmoor Challenge**

There will be an RSPB stand at of this exciting event, as it celebrates its 30<sup>th</sup> year. So bring along the children to participate in games such as rolling a coin, colouring, and wacky bugs, or just come for a chat. It would great to see you.

### **Saturday 11 July 11 Family Fun Day**

RSPB Otmoor will be holding it's annual family fun day on 11 July. There will be a variety of activities especially for the children, including pond dipping, mini beast hunting, and arts and crafts. A number of guided walks will be running throughout the day, for which booking is essential. Please contact **Judith Lloyd on 01865 351163 or e mail [judith.lloyd@rspb.org.uk](mailto:judith.lloyd@rspb.org.uk)** prior to the day. We hope to see as many of you as possible!

## **BECKLEY AND ST LOUANS, FRANCE**

We are still seeking someone (or group of someones) to coordinate and follow through with exploration of twinning Beckley with this hillside village eight miles from Chinon. There are many similarities between the two communities and a current St Louans resident used to live in Beckley. **Please contact Ann or Geoff Henman 351 492** if you would be willing to donate your time and efforts.

## VILLAGE HALL

Long-time chairman Colin Day has stepped down and John Baker has taken his place. Pat Moss now serves as secretary. **Contact John at 351514 or Pat at 358849 for details.**

Beckley is much indebted to Colin's years of enthusiastic and innovative service. He is a man of many talents and concern for Beckley and will be sorely missed. Thank you Colin for eleven fine years.

## BOOK CLUB

Our next session will be on Friday 22nd May at Rhulin. The two books for discussion will be Kate Atkinson's *When will there be good news?* and Yasmin Hai's *The making of Mr Hai's daughter*. New comers are always welcome.

**Donna Dickenson 352223**

## BECKLEY WI

Beckley WI has started our 61st Year with some lively meetings.

As Liz Bixby will have shown us how to make beads in May you may well be able to spot members wearing their new jewels.

The next two meetings we hope to enjoy the outdoors with a Stroll in June and a Garden Party in July at Ann and Geoff Henman's.

As ever all are welcome to join us on the first Tuesday of the month at 7.15pm at the Village Hall

**Marion Weinstein 351 251**  
**Brenda Lambourn 351 793**

## WELCOME NEW NEIGHBOURS

Welcome the following new neighbours to village life:

Greg and Wendy Kimball and their children Christlene 15, Shade 8, and Sabine 4 have moved into Rose Cottage on High Street from Washington D.C. Greg has opened his own business in Summertown.

## BECKLEY CHURCH

The repointing and stone preservation work on the exterior of the church began in April and is being carried out by Beard (Oxford) Ltd. It will take approximately 12 to 15 weeks.

The organ restoration has also started and will take up to four months. It is being carried out by Foster-Waite Organ Builders of Newbury. Because of insurance stipulations, the church will be locked during the day when the organ restorers are not working in the building. Anyone who urgently needs to get into the church should contact the church warden, **Georgina Robson, on 351637**, or the organist, **Mary Worthington, 351270**. Church services on Sundays are as usual and concerts through the summer as detailed below.

### **Church Organ Restoration Appeal**

There is still a shortfall of about £5,000, so please support the remaining concerts:

### Forthcoming Concerts

#### **Saturday, 6 June**

Chris Britton and Peter Ward Jones,  
music for flute and harpsichord

#### **Saturday, 20 June**

Virginia de Ledesma with Stephanie West,  
soprano and harp

#### **Saturday, 26 September**

The Banks Quartet

**All concerts start at 7.30 p.m.**

**Contact Mary Worthington (01865 351270) for more details**

## NEW NEIGHBOURS CONTINUED

Keith and Frances Valentine and children have moved into Middlefield on Otmoor Lane.

Also on Otmoor Lane in Wyatt's Cottage are Luke and Jemma Marsden, who moved from Chesterfield to work as technical lab assistants at Nuffield Department of Surgery.

## WELCOME BACK

During July we will welcome back Nick, Kate, George, Abe, and Josh Lea from two years in Malawi. Travellers Geoff and Ann Henman, and Nessie Ross were able to visit the Leas while they were in Lilongwe and witness the beauty and challenge of their life 30 degrees south. There will be many experiences to share and we all look forward to learning more about life in this corner of Africa and the connections we might make.

Well done, family Lea, and Welcome Home!

## JAN WELLER PRE-SCHOOL

Spring has been a busy time at pre-school with the planting of potatoes, runner beans and sunflowers. The children are avidly watching them grow and we are hoping for a bumper crop! The children have enjoyed some marble printing, junk modelling and very messy table painting - the messier the better. We have made some jam tarts and scones although unfortunately these never made it home - but were devoured at snack time.

On the fundraising front we have had some very successful cake sales and our sunflower competition continues to grow - excuse the pun! We will be holding a 'Pamper Evening' on the 30 June at the Millenium Hall Horton cum Studley which we hope will appeal not only to our hardworking mums but any other ladies out there who feel the need for a little indulgence. Details will follow with the opportunity to pre-book therapists in advance.

We are currently filling for the September intake so if you have a child who will be aged 2 1/2 it is advisable to book early to guarantee the sessions you want. Details can be obtained from Hazel at 01865 358076.

## ART WEEKEND 9/10TH MAY 2009

This year Beckley Art Group participated in Art Week for the first time. It was a beautiful weekend and the event was well attended by Art Week visitors and locals alike. It was clear that the availability of parking and children's play facilities were a significant attraction. Refreshments were provided with the help of the WI President and we were also grateful to non exhibiting members of the group and friends for their help and support.

The standard of work was very high and comments were very favourable. One of the attractions of the exhibition was the range of art on display. This included paintings by James Gemmill, Tim King, Michael Worthington, Rupert Carruthers, Maeve Bayton and Gill Beecher. Cassandra Wall exhibited mixed media, and Kate McMichael silk painting, Lesley Moxham onglaze porcelain painting and Liz Bixby silver and jewellery. We were very sorry that two of the original enthusiasts for Art Week, Nicola McMurphy and Ian Mclean had to move from Beckley just before the weekend. We thank them for all their help and wish them well with their new gallery in St Ives.

The group was greatly enthused by participating in Art Week and were encouraged by the response. We started 5 years ago as a group of like minded people wishing to develop skills through mutual support. We meet once a fortnight in the village hall and outside when the weather permits. We occasionally have a tutor or model. During the weekend we were pleased that several people enquired about joining us as new members are always very welcome. **Liz Bixby 351282**

## MEET YOUR NEIGHBOUR BILL WEINSTEIN

While my husband and I were out crossing the highways and bi-ways of Africa, on a trip that friends and family had described as possibly dangerous and full of uncertainty, we learned the startling news that while we in our travelling Land Rover had remained safe and serene, the rest of the world had fallen apart. In the places we travelled, news was not always available or complete, so the question of “What happened?” continued to pursue us – and never really went away. It will come as no surprise that one of the first people I rushed to talk with on re-entry was Beckley resident and friend, Bill Weinstein.

In an interview in his home at The Old Manor House, Bill’s retrospective analysis was: “Immense borrowing of the English speaking world and immense saving by Asian countries such as China and Middle-East oil-producing countries, who made money exporting and selling to the English-speakers. The Anglo Sphere generated growth in the economy through consumption, producing an imbalance in world spenders and savers. Ever since World War II the leading advocate of open trade has been the United States, egged-on by post war reconstruction and the threat of communism. Enlightened elite in Washington across party lines included Presidents Truman and Eisenhower, as well as Southern Democrats, who traditionally had advocated free trade.”

Analysis in words for even a novice like me is Bill’s specialty; the reason for Bill’s journey from a childhood in New York City to the academic halls of Oxford; the reason for Bill’s continual trips to business conferences and meetings, as well as daily communication with business leaders seeking to pin-point: “What happened? What might happen next? And, what should we be doing to prepare for it?”

Despite his obvious ability for academic subjects discovered at an early age, Bill always had a leaning toward business, which eventually evolved into the specialized niche of marketing and the growth and decline of markets and product innovations, which in turn

has led him to serve on the boards of international companies concerned with electrical goods, soft-ware, IT technology, management consultancy, dot-coms, and insurance, as well as teaching and advising through seminars, lectures, and correspondence. Never having been formally educated in management, he has been free to spread his interest to what seemed challenging, which lead to concentrating on the impact of change on the financial strengths and weaknesses of companies.

Bill was born in the New York borough of Brooklyn in 1934 and spent his childhood in a terraced house near the Williamsburg and Brooklyn Bridges. His father was the first in a family of nine children to gain a college education, and worked as a free-lance insurance broker and accountant. Before he entered school, he learned to read the newspaper, a habit/addiction that has stayed with him all his life (more on this later).

After eight years at Public School 122, he attended an Academic Selective High School, one of three specialized schools run by the city of New York. At graduation, he applied to Columbia University, but was declared too young for admission, and told to wait a year. When finally at Columbia, he majored in politics, or social science as it was then called, and in his senior year was selected to represent Columbia in its semi-annual exchange with Oriel College in Oxford. At Oxford, politics, philosophy and economics were all linked together (PPE). Here Bill turned his appetite for reading into philosophy and for several years lectured and tutored in politics, public policy, and management as a fellow of Balliol College.

The offer of a lifetime position at Balliol College when he was only 24 years old led Bill to pitch his tent in Britain and become a British citizen. In 1959, on a train between London and Oxford, he shared a newspaper with a fellow newspaper addict, a young midwife named Marion. Within a few months they were married, and the rest is history as far as Oxford and Beckley are concerned.....

Continued page 5

**BILL WEINSTEIN (continued)**

Son Robert and daughter Helen were born and through the years professional opportunities led Bill and his young family to travel and live for short periods in many different countries and continents, always returning to their home in first North Oxford, and then after 1987 Beckley. After 26 years at Balliol, fifteen in a dual career between academia and business, Bill left to become a professor of International Business at Henley Management College near Henley.

Bill described his introduction to economics as the soft capitalism of Franklin Delano Roosevelt. In his early years in Oxford, Bill taught and analysed Marxism, later working with Ericsson and Volvo and other Scandinavian businesses in their battle to succeed in the midst of the crises faced by socialist countries in the 1980s and 90s.

When asked if he had been invited to work for different governments, Bill said that his interest is in the commercial sector, and he prefers to direct his global interest in politics for the use of businesses. "I study and deliver presentations to business audiences on changes to their external environment principally in politics and economics, but also social, or 'people change'.

Now, for the second most important question anyone would have to ask Bill; "What was there about that newspaper on that train? "We both got hooked on reading newspapers before we went to school. Just look at this house, it is full of newspapers! (They subscribe to five!) And once we had met, it was only months before we were married." When asked for other hobbies, Bill said he (and Marion) like to seriously listen to classical music. "I grew up with 24 hour classical music on two public radio stations in New York City, had a fantastic history of music course at Columbia, and have been hooked ever since."

I walked away from the Old Manor House with a not totally rosy picture of what might lie ahead in the field of economics, but with an overwhelming awareness that the most amazing things do work out in the end. "Risks can also be opportunities for those who are prepared." Thank you, Bill and Marion, for daring to risk and being willing to prepare.

**SIR ANDREW MCMICHAEL**

Friend and neighbour Andrew McMichael was another person I wanted to visit upon re-entry. We had taken six sewing machines up to Kitwe in the Copper Belt of Zambia for Kate, who had become inspired with helping re-train women Andrew met in his search for an AIDS vaccine. What a treat it was to be with them again, and, to be able to see the video and hear the details of Andrew's being made a knight last September at Windsor Castle.

A letter asking if he would be willing to accept an honour from the Queen had arrived in June. Shortly thereafter, Andrew's name appeared in the Queen's Birthday List. A few weeks after that, they were told the ceremony would take place on 11 September at Windsor Castle. Dubbing usually takes place at Buckingham Palace, or even sometimes at Hollyrood, and this was to be the first time during this Queen's reign that the ceremony would take place at Windsor (Buckingham Palace was in the midst of preparing for Prince Charles's 60<sup>th</sup> birthday).

They were told they would receive three tickets. Since they had three children, a call was made, and Andrew's story of having to miss his father's dubbing ceremony met sympathetic ears, and an extra ticket granted.

On the morning of the ceremony, Andrew, Kate, and their children travelled to Windsor, where they were ushered into a room while Andrew went through a practice run in the anteroom. They then proceeded to Wellington Hall, where a moment of silence in recognition of Armistice Day was observed, followed by the ceremony. Those being honoured were then escorted out of the room, and after a voice announced Andrew and the reason he was being honoured (for services to medical science) he re-entered and knelt before the Queen.

The Queen reached down and picked up his medal, while someone whispered in her ear. She turned toward him and tapped him on each shoulder with a sword. He stood up and the Queen (on a dais – Andrew is tall) put a ribbon with the medal around his neck, and shared a few quiet words (what are you working on now – how is it going – will you find what you are looking for soon?). Continued page 7

### **SIR ANDREW MCMICHAEL (continued)**

Andrew replied that “It might be a while yet, Your Majesty”, and backed away, and sat down while others received their awards. After the ceremony, the family adjourned to The Ritz for brunch.

Andrew’s title is Knight Bachelor, one of 10 to 20 people so honoured each year, and one of three Knights and one Dame at September’s ceremony. Announcement of the honours is made twice a year, although the actual ceremonies are spread throughout the year. Despite his father having also been made a knight, the title is not hereditary and doesn’t make Andrew a member of the House of Lords, nor able to claim expenses on a second house.

He was born and grew up in London, attending St Paul’s School, followed by Cambridge, and then a return to London for medical school at St Mary’s. Upon graduation, he spent three years in rotation before starting research at The National Institute of Medical Research. He had met Kate in London, they were married in 1968, and became the parents of Hamish, Fiona, and Robert. The family moved to Stanford University in Palo Alto, California, for two years while Andrew did more research. There followed a crossroads. Should they stay in the US or return to England? Family ties and the weather(!) brought them back to England, where Andrew joined the faculty at the John Radcliffe and in 1982 was made Professor of Molecular Science. For six months the family lived on Banbury Road in university housing, and then moved to Horton cum Studley in 1977 and Beckley in 1993. All three children attended Beckley School.

Hobbies are walking and skiing in the winter, and he used to do mountain climbing. His father was a noted cardiologist and Andrew remembers growing up surrounded by medical research, which he sees as being a natural progression for the path of his chosen career.

His lab is composed of more than 400 graduate students and medics from countries across the world, with focus on the pursuit of an AIDS vaccine, and vaccine for influenza, swine and bird flu.

Their work is to try to understand the first stages of HIV infection because these events are influential in determining the outcome of the disease. They have been working with the vaccine since 1987 and are currently in a consortium with Duke, Harvard, and Birmingham Alabama in the US, the University of Cape Town, and hospitals and research centres in Asia and Africa including Liloongwe, Malawi.

Well done, Sir Andrew. Beckley will continue to keep our eyes and ears open for latest developments in all your endeavors.

### **EDITOR’S COMMENTS**

It has been a pleasure and challenge to put together the first copy of the Newsletter after our extended time away. Many, many thanks to Julie and Gareth for producing the Winter 2008 and Spring 2009 issues, and to all the other people who so generously give of their time and talent.

Several key areas of community life have not been covered for this edition, and I apologize, but remain reliant on what I am given.

Read and enjoy, and think how you can help to make the next issue a more complete picture of community life. Next deadline will be the middle of August for 1 September publication. Send your e-mail address or call with your phone number if you aren’t on the list of people to whom I send notices. Help with distribution as well as content is always deeply appreciated.

**Ann Henman 351492**  
**[annhenman@gmail.com](mailto:annhenman@gmail.com)**

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### Autumn Newsletter

Do you have some interesting information that you would like to share with the community? If so please email [annhenman@gmail.com](mailto:annhenman@gmail.com) for inclusion in the next newsletter.

### GET NOTICED!!

Insert your ad here for only £15

Contact Ann Henman at  
[annhenman@gmail.com](mailto:annhenman@gmail.com)

The last few issues of the Beckley newsletter have been carrying advertising for businesses run by local residents.

It represents a good opportunity to promote your business or trade to people who may not know you are on their doorstep.

Cost of advertising is really good value at £15 for a single 1/8<sup>th</sup> page or £50 for the year (4 issues). Other size combinations are available as can be seen above.

Please Note that copies of the newsletter are also published on the website at [www.beckley-and-stowood.gov.uk](http://www.beckley-and-stowood.gov.uk).

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