

# The Beckley Newsletter

## News Views and Comment from around the Parish

### Spring 2011

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



#### PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

##### AGM Thursday 19 May Village Hall

Please mark your calendars for the AGM on Thursday 19 May at 8pm in the village hall.

##### Beckley Village Hall and Parish Council

Recently an extensive survey was carried out by the Village Hall Fund Raising Committee regarding the future of the Village Hall and the raising of funds to build a new one. See right-hand column for results of the survey.

The VH Fundraising Committee approached the Parish Council for financial support. Their request was for £10K per year for five years. This would be added to the £25K already donated from the sale of part of Constables Piece to Thames Water, plus other fundraising monies to make a sum of approximately £90K by the 5th year to enable them to secure grants from the District Councils/Lottery etc. The Parish Council debated this at the February meeting and unanimously voted to support the Village Hall Fundraising Committee's proposal.

##### New Parish Councillors

Last month we had two new councillors join the committee following the resignation of Gail Scott. They are David Scott and Vivian Rust both from Otmoor Lane. We welcome them to the PC.

##### New Baby

Congratulations to Sam (the Parish Clerk) and Andrew on the birth of a baby boy, Jensen weighing in at 7lbs 8oz.

**Pete Gibbons 351 466 (Parish Council Chairman)**

##### VILLAGE HALL BUILDING PROJECT

Most readers of the newsletter will be aware of recent moves to tackle the problem of replacing the village hall which is nearing the end of its useful life. The Village Hall Management Committee set up last year a separate group (the Village Hall Building Fund Committee) and plans were laid for taking forward a project that would first have to take account of the views of everyone who lived in the parish. The project would also need to rely on efforts made from within the community to raise funds and on the willingness of those living in the village to do whatever they can to help realise the plans for rebuilding.

The first phase of the project was to consult the village at open events and to carry out a survey which would aim to guide the work of the new committee. The next phase of the work will be to produce a detailed plan for completing the project and to work towards a design and specification for the proposed building.

The questionnaire survey, designed to gather opinion on the replacement of the village hall, was carried out in October and the results have now been reviewed. Thanks are due to those members of the new committee who covered the parish in distributing questionnaires, and to all those who took the trouble to complete them. The brief report on the findings of the survey will shortly be posted on the **Beckley village website**. If anyone is unable to access the website, and would like to read the report, a paper copy can be made available by calling **Peter Dickson 358 237**. Meanwhile, some of the key findings are summarised below.

- Questionnaires were returned from 52% of the households in the parish to which they were delivered and from 66% of the households in the village.
- The village hall has over the last two years been used on average about 18 times each month.
- 80% of all those responding to the questionnaire had taken part recently in an activity at the village hall. About 60% had done so on at least a few occasions each year.

(continued on page 2)

## VILLAGE HALL REPORT (cont. from page 1)

- About half of all those responding to the questionnaire had attended the village hall for an average of 5 different activities.
- About 80% expected they would attend the village hall for new events.
- 24 people said they were willing to organise or help to organise new activities.
- Small though significant numbers of people, including young people under 16, would take part in football, cricket and tennis if these were organised.
- Over two-thirds of people thought that there was a strong case for building a new hall. Only 6% did not think so.
- The features that were considered of greatest importance in making provision in a new hall were: more space; and space for a shop/post office. Also thought important were: a more spacious kitchen; space for sport; a separate studio/meeting room; and flexible space (e.g. partitions).
- Over half thought that a new hall should primarily cater for activities presently envisaged, and about a quarter, that it should prioritise rental income.
- A significant number of people had suggestions for new activities that could be held in the village hall and some of these would offer to organise them.
- About 60% of people would be willing to make a contribution to the village hall building fund through the parish precept (that part of the Council Tax raised for use in the parish). About 10% were unwilling to do so.

**Peter Dickson, 358 237**

### Village Hall Management Committee

Marion Weinstein [Chairman] Pat Moss [Secretary]  
Clare Marsh [Vice Chairman] Tom Norman [Treasurer]  
Mary Ashdown, Pru Dickson, Susan Roberts, John Baker,  
Peter Carter, Colin Day

### Village Hall Building Fund Committee

[a Sub-committee of the Village Hall Committee]

Colin Day [Chairman] Julie Ross [Secretary]  
Marion Weinstein, Ted Cloke, Pru Dickson, Bob Bixby,  
David Scott, Peter Gosney, Kate Carruthers, Geoff Mills,  
Peter Dickson

We would like more help with both of the above committees. If you are interested in joining the Village Hall Management Committee, please feel free to approach any member informally, or contact **Pat Moss 358 849**

Do you have Quantity Surveying skills? If so, the Village

## QUIZ NIGHT

Thursday 7 April  
7:30 P M

ABINGDON ARMS

Teams of 6  
(or fewer)

£10 to include  
Curry Supper

TICKETS FROM:

Colin Day 351 581

Kate Carruthers 358

711

**FIRST COME FIRST SERVED!**

**Profits to  
New Village Hall Fund**

## “COME DINE WITH US” The Abingdon Arms, Beckley

3 course menu created by villagers  
Mark, the pub's chef, will cook the  
meal for just one evening

First event on Thursday 24 March  
Meal served at 8.00pm

**TICKET: only £15.00 for 3 courses**  
Vegetarian options/small portions available

**SHARE OF PROFITS TO  
NEW VILLAGE HALL FUND**

Tickets available, pre-payment please, from:  
**Marion Weinstein - Tel: 351251**  
**Pru Dickson - Tel: 358237**  
**Nick Crowley -Tel: 07740 292021**

## FUNDRAISING FOR A NEW VILLAGE HALL AND HOW YOU CAN HELP!

Recent activities have raised £1,941, and donations and sponsored events £805. So far we have amassed approximately £29,000 towards a notional target of £80,000/90,000 for local funds. This level of local fundraising is necessary to demonstrate the commitment of our local community and will stand us in good stead when applying for external funding.

Consequently, we are now able to make our approaches to Grant-giving bodies and Charitable Trusts in order to raise a further £25,000/30,000 to accumulate a sufficient sum to replace our ageing Hall. This is necessarily a protracted process and related to the *modus operandi* of these bodies. We expect the earliest that we shall make funding applications will be towards the end of 2011.

As referred to elsewhere in the newsletter, we shall continue with fundraising events for the rest of 2011 and beyond, and shall regularly keep you informed of progress, but we would like to draw your attention to two additional methods by which villagers can contribute to this process.

### 1) Donate using Gift Aid

It is a simple process to make a DONATION using Gift Aid, a system by which our committee can reclaim the basic rate tax from HMRC. At no additional cost to the donor, every £100 donated through Gift Aid becomes worth £125 to the Village Hall Charity, very cost effective! Higher rate tax payers can contribute even more. Your committee can provide you with the necessary minimal paperwork – **call Tom Norman 351 933 or Ted Cloke 358 881.**

### 2) Easy Fundraising - Shop Online and Raise Money for Beckley Village Hall!



Secondly, Have you heard about **easyfundraising**? We've just created our own area within the **easyfundraising website**, so we now need your help to keep donations coming in. SIGN UP FOR FREE at <http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/beckleyvh> and start making a difference...simply by shopping. You use the the links on the easyfundraising site to link you with over 2000 major on-line retailers such as Amazon, Argos, John Lewis, M&S, Comet, iTunes, eBay or HMV, where you shop with them as normal; however, as the village hall is registered as a charity, a percentage of whatever you spend comes straight to us for the new village hall fund at no extra cost to you. 3

A big thank you to the villager who suggested this website via our r recent questionnaire!

## FUNDRAISING VILLAGE HALL [continued]

### Hang on...what's the catch?

No catch. The donation is passed on from the actual retailer as a percentage of the purchase price and doesn't cost you a penny. It's much cheaper for retailers to sell goods online than in the high street so they're happy to pass part of the extra profit to Beckley & Stowood Village Hall as a donation.

### Why not raise money as you search too!

If you are one of the 6.4m people that use a search engine every day, did you know you can raise money for Beckley Village Hall while you search?

<http://beckleyvh.easysearch.org.uk> combines the results of several search engines to ensure you can always find what you're looking for. But the fantastic thing is that **EVERY TIME** you search, half a penny is raised for Beckley Village Hall. So please make <http://beckleyvh.easysearch.org.uk> your home page; by searching just 15 times a day you can raise around £25 a year for us.

**Pru Dickson 358 237 Ted Cloke 358 881**

### *SEE COMPREHENSIVE LIST OF VILLAGE FUNDRAISING EVENTS ON PAGE 5*

### THE BECKLEY BLOG

The Beckley website now has a Blog!! The idea of the Beckley blog is to encourage interaction between the people in the village.

It has only just been launched so is in its early days but theme contributions that will encourage comments from other villagers are most welcome. If you have a topic that you would like to start discussion on please email it to [gary.r.chalmers@btinternet.com](mailto:gary.r.chalmers@btinternet.com) or if you have something to say about an article that appears in the blog then just click on the Comments link at the end of the article. As the Blog develops it will be divided up into sections that you can see on the right. Please use it. The Beckley website is accessible at **Beckley website at [www.beckley-and-stowood.gov.uk](http://www.beckley-and-stowood.gov.uk).**

Once again we also appeal for any contributions to the website. If you run a club, have an agenda for a forthcoming meeting or have anything that may be of interest to other villagers then send an email to Gary at the above address.

Recent additions have been photos from the Burns Supper, more from our twins in St Louans, an article about sport in Beckley and a couple of notifications of upcoming events. Thanks to those that have sent information to me.

**Gary Chalmers 358 897**

## SPORT IN BECKLEY

During recent discussions about the facilities that should be provided in our new village hall, the need for changing rooms has been questioned. This, of course, reflects the fact that today no sport is played on the playing field by village teams. This is quite a shock as one of Beckley's major assets is the playing field. I have lived in the village for about 35 years and have been quite heavily involved in village sport during that time. When we first came to the village there was a football team with a number of the players living in Beckley or having links with the village. Indeed members of the football club were involved in the construction of the village hall.

Soon after we arrived in the village a group of fathers set up football training for the children. This met every Saturday morning. Occasional games were organised against outside teams. There was a cub pack in the village and, as most of the cubs came to the football training, we were able to put out a team in the district cub competitions that managed to win both the outdoor and indoor events. This was even though we only had about 11 cubs so all had to play! It is good to see that football training is again being organised for the children.

In the mid 1980s, mainly due to the enthusiasm of Peter Robinson, who lived in Rose Cottage, a cricket team was formed. We cut out a square, purchased equipment, constructed a net and, in the first instance, played a number of 20 over evening games against other villages and various teams from Oxford. A number of players rediscovered cricket skills that had been dormant for some time and others attempted to learn to play from scratch. We didn't always manage to get exactly 11 players on the pitch as selection and availability of players could be unreliable. We were just as likely to turn up with 12 players as 10! However the club prospered and we eventually played longer matches on Sunday afternoons.

Whilst there was a hardcore of regular players there are many people in the village who played occasionally, having been persuaded to play by Peter at short notice, either having been found in the pub on Saturday evening or, more likely, having been woken by one of his famous late night phone calls. During the winter, working parties attempted to improve the square, by scarifying, raking, top dressing and seeding until eventually the square ceased to be a danger to life and limb if a bowler attempted to bowl above medium pace. Players ranged in age from 10 to over 60 and teas were organised by ladies who probably covered an even greater age range. At the end of the day of course the teams retired to the pub. The club was finally disbanded in about 2008, due to lack of support, having operated for over 20 years. The square now seems to have disappeared from sight. [continued next column]

Soon after the cricket club was formed Arthur Cooke very generously offered to put the money up for a tennis court. The Parish Council oversaw the construction of the court and asked for volunteers to form a club that would manage the court and encourage tennis to be played. An American tournament was arranged when potential players could get to know each other and a committee was formed. Members paid a small membership fee and a booking system was set up. The court was kept locked to discourage vandalism and to encourage people to pay the membership fee. The money collected was used to pay for the maintenance of the court. That system operated for over 10 years until the committee ran out of steam. We played 2 matches against Horton and some members made regular use of the court whilst others were more infrequent users.

In 2000 Studley Wood Golf Club opened and quite a number of villagers joined. In particular young players from the village have done particularly well with some going on to be club champion at a very early age. It has also provided welcome employment opportunities for youngsters from Beckley and surrounding villages. Most years we have had a golf match against Horton, when about 30 villagers, young and old, men, women and children have a most enjoyable day of social golf, with our good friends from Horton, followed by a meal.

No one would claim that the sport outlined above has always been played to a high standard, although Tony Lock, Justin Langer and Matthew Hayden, all test cricketers of distinction, did play cricket against us! However everyone involved will have shared memories of the fun that we have had and, of course, the friendships that were formed.

Looking back it is clear that none of the initiatives above would have occurred if one or two people had not taken the first steps. Then it needs the support of others, who are prepared to put the effort and commitment in to get the sport up and running. Some people have commented how they miss the sight of cricket on the playing field or how little the tennis court is used. In the recent survey carried out to test support for a new village hall people have shown an interest in resurrecting sport in the village but it needs a few people to step forward and take an initiative. I'm sure they would quickly find many others prepared to help to get things going. I would be very happy to help anyone who is interested in getting sport up and running by providing insight from the past or by putting them in touch with others who have past experience.

Sport can be a great catalyst for social interaction, it can bring the generations together, could provide badly needed business for the village hall, improve the social life in the

**MAKE A DATE IN YOUR DIARY FOR  
BECKLEY VILLAGE – FUNDRAISING AND  
OTHER EVENTS PLANNED FOR 2011**

- Thursday 24 March** “Come Dine With Us” at the Abingdon Arms. 3 course menu served at 8.00pm for only £15.00 created by villagers, and cooked by the pub’s chef for one night only
- Thursday 7 April** **Quiz Night** at the Abingdon Arms. 7.30pm. Curry supper and teams of 6 or less compete in a quiz. Tickets £10 each
- Saturday 14 May** Concert in the church
- Sat/Sun 21/22 May** Art Group exhibition in the village hall
- Thursday 26 May** “Come Dine With Us” at the Abingdon Arms. A different menu created by a different villager, still only £15.00 for 3 courses
- Saturday 11 June** Concert in the church
- Sunday 26 June** Village Car Boot/Table Top Sale, 1.00-4.00pm
- Thursday 7 July** Beckley Village Hall Management Committee AGM, 7.30pm
- Sunday 4 September** Beckley Farmers’ Market – sale of produce from the village
- Saturday 15 October** Autumn Supper – a buffet style meal held at the village hall. Tickets £12 each
- November, date TBA** Village Bonfire Night with fireworks and barbecue
- Sunday 4 December** Beckley’s Got More Talent! – family event with performances by children and young people from the village
- Sunday 18 December** Carols and Claret – Carol Service held in the church followed by mulled wine and mince pies

**PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD OF  
THE LYCH-GATE RESTORATION**

The village has no doubt noticed the restoration of the church’s lych-gate from its sad and drunken tilt to its original upright position, now standing on a newly built stone foundation. The Bennett Gibbons Partnership has produced a stunning photographic record, chronicling the work from start to finish. The Partnership has generously donated a limited number of the booklets to the church to launch the latest fundraising appeal to restore and re-hang the historic medieval outer church doors, which have been in danger of disintegrating for several years. Copies of the booklet may be purchased at £5 each from **Michael Worthington 351 270** and further enquiries about donations to this appeal should also be directed to him.

**SUMMER CONCERTS**

Proceeds from this summer’s concerts in Beckley Church will also go towards the doors appeal. Please put the dates below in your diary and support the events:

**Saturday 14 May**

A welcome return of the popular group Serendipity: Chris Britton, Rey Lear and Keith Fairbairn, music for flute, guita rand percussion. A concert for all the family.

**Saturday 11 June**

Sarah Stuart-Pennink (cello) and Maddy King (piano)

**Both concerts start at 7.30 p.m. Contact Mary Worthington 351 270 for more details.**

**BOOK GROUP**

New members are always welcome. The group meets at different houses each time. The next meeting will be on Friday 1 April at Donna and Chris's house, Rhulen, in the High Street and the two books chosen are *Your Presence is Requested at Suvanto* by Maile Chapman, published price £12.99, Amazon £7.19, and *The Very Thought of You* by Rosie Alison, published price £7.99, Amazon £4.97.

**Mary Worthington 351 270**

**OTMOOR RANGE CHANGE**

The usage Otmoor Range wil change from mid February:-

Thursdays will become a live firing day, this is due to the increase of the Regular Armed Services' Personnel using the range for pre operational needs. Weekend usage will decrease from 40 weekends a year to 28 weekends a year.

It is recommended to **contact the Range Warden on 07717 542387, or The Booking Cell on 01420 483362 for clarification of when the range will be in use, it will remain open for public access before 8am and after 4pm on active days.**

## **RSPB OTMOOR DECEMBER 2010 - FEBRUARY 2011**

### **Volunteers**

Hedgerow management continued through December. The blackthorn and hawthorn coppiced down to ground level will start to re-grow, providing welcome ground feeding opportunities for birds, and breeding habitats for hairstreak butterflies. A new management idea, of leaving a few dead thorn bushes lying on the newly coppiced blocks, will provide cover for birds such as wrens and robins and further diversify habitats within the hedgerows on Otmoor.

The New Year rolled in with a little more variety for the volunteers as they undertook reed cutting. This year a whole island was cut within the reedbed, rather than the traditional small sections. A new venture for all involved, and an estimate of two weeks work was scheduled; not for our volunteers, the task was completed in three days! A magnificent effort.

As we head towards spring, it is almost possible to think of warm sunny days and birds in song. For now though, it's still winter and we continue with - you have guessed it - coppicing! While competing with cold frosty mornings and wet windy days, the volunteer teams' stoic efforts will continue until the deadline of February 28<sup>th</sup>. Will they top the achievements of previous years?

### **Bird/Wildlife News**

Due to the cold wintery weather early in December, the expected influx of winter wildfowl, lapwing, and golden plover didn't really happen, but in its place, some unseasonal sightings.

As the harsh weather hit harder around the country, and the water on Otmoor froze, birds were on the move. Curlews were spotted on Ashgrave, a redshank later in the month on the reedbed. Not unusual birds for Otmoor, but very unusual for them to be so far inland in December.

The star bird this month was a waxwing. Normally seen in residential areas feeding on berries, this year's influx has seen this stunning bird with its punk-like crest, turning up all over the place, including Otmoor!

The bearded tits seen in November were reported again, encouraging news and good that they were coping well with the cold weather, pecking seed off the ice. Water rails also became very conspicuous, walking on the ice and feeding in the open. **(continued next column)**

January was a great month for the winter wildfowl of Otmoor. The cold weather and some ground works reduced the numbers of geese and ducks seen before Christmas. However, with improved weather conditions many of the birds returned to Otmoor.

During the Wetland Birds Survey (WeBS), high numbers of teals, wigeons, pintails, and shoveler ducks were counted across the moor, but hope is that numbers will continue to increase throughout February.

The New Year star so far has to be the flock of European white-fronted geese that were seen amongst the greylags throughout most of January. These spectacular winter geese are rare visitors so far inland, and a real treat for Otmoor. This is the second year in succession that a flock has wintered for a period here. The hope is they will return each year, and with luck stay longer next time.

### **Projects**

January and February saw the installation of another sluice on the reserve, this time on Big Otmoor, near Noke. The sluice was completed in early February and is now fully operational.

Machinery will now move off the moor until the summer, when a major restoration will begin on Flood field.

**Judith Lloyd, RSPB Otmoor**

### **BECKLEY WI**

The Beckley WI meets on the first Tuesday of most months for an evening of fellowship and programs. Recent meetings featured a New Year's Party at Marion Weinstein's in January, and a talk at the Village Hall by Dr. Matt Giles on strokes and aging in February. Both evenings were highly enjoyed by all!

March 1 will be the WI's AGM followed by a Swap/Shop. April and May's programs are yet to be announced due to the start of the new program year, but will be posted on signs around the village.

All women are encouraged to contact any of the WI officers for rides or further information.

**Marion Weinstein, President 351 251**  
**Brenda Lambourn, Secretary 351 793**  
**Ann Day, Treasurer 351 581**  
**Mauveen Pether and Ann Henman, Programs**

## BURNS' NIGHT

On the last Saturday in January the Beckley Bells organised and hosted a Burns' Night Supper in the Village Hall. It was attended by a capacity crowd who enjoyed a traditional three course meal prepared and served by the Beckley Belles themselves. The haggis was imported especially from Scotland but the puddings were definitely local! A number of guests added colour to the occasion by wearing their kilts.

The hall was suitably decorated and looked very welcoming. The haggis was paraded around the room on a silver platter by Janet Carter to the sound of the pipes played by Tim Key and was addressed by Peter Jacques in fine style. Later in the evening Gary Chalmers paid eloquent tribute to Robbie Burns. The Beckley Bells played a few Scottish tunes and the evening was rounded off by more excellent playing of the bagpipes. Master of Ceremonies for the evening was Colin Day who performed his duties splendidly in his own inimitable style.

The whole event was brilliantly co-ordinated by Celia Crowley, and Janet Carter masterminded all culinary activities. Thank you to all who came and made it such a fun evening.

**Liz Bixby 351 282**



## THE YEAR AHEAD IN ST LOUANS

Many of you may have seen the St Louans Calendars which are displayed in the Abingdon Arms and at the Village Hall. The calendars include the dates of all the village events for the coming year and, in discussion with our friends in St Louans, we have set out the dates of the main events to give a flavour of life in St Louans! We hope it will also help with planning visits - so do get in touch if you're interested.

### Sunday April 24th - Bric à Brac

This is an all-day event, this year on Easter Sunday. There will be about 150 tables throughout the village. It is a bit like a car boot sale and there is food served in the village and a musical group who play. It is always a very jolly affair and we have been invited to have a stand perhaps selling Beckley/English produce and gifts. Anyone interested in planning ahead for next year? **[continued next**

## ST LOUANS continued

### Saturday June 4th - Diner Champêtre

From experience we know this is a very enjoyable event. The dinner is served outdoors, last year in glorious sunshine, and there was wonderful food and dancing. Our friends in St Louans are very much hoping that a group from Beckley will join them for this event again this year.

### Saturday 26th June - Pique-Nique

The picnic is held on the banks of the river. It is open to other local villages and usually about 60 people come. There is a lot of eating, drinking playing games and usually a boat trip.

### Sunday 11th September - Apéritif de Rentrée

The apéritif de rentrée is held in the chateau gardens in the village. It is to celebrate all the villagers returning from their holidays and usually about 100 people turn up and drinks and nibbles are served. It also includes a trip to a pumpkin festival at nearby Château du Riveau where they have a beautiful garden.

### Saturday 16th October - The Bernache Châtaigne

This is held during the afternoon and is the occasion to drink the nouveau wine and eat roasted chestnuts. Somebody usually plays some music and apparently it's always very cold and drafty outside the village hall!

### Sunday 11th December

The Balade de Noël is a walk arranged with four other village associations. It is about 12 kilometers, although some people opt out of the whole route. It starts with coffee and croissants, everybody walks and talks and it is a very social gathering. We're reliably informed that at some point there is a stop at a cave which is stocked with nourishment, coffee and mulled wine!

**Mary Ashdown 358971 Susan Roberts 351898**

**Claire McIntosh 351346**

## FRENCH CONVERSATION

A few of us have been having an hour and a half of French conversation on Monday afternoons in an attempt to "improve" (salvage?) our French under the excellent guidance of Susan Roberts. Anyone interested in joining our little group can call **Ann Henman 351 492**.

## TRIP TO ST LOUAN IN MAY

Anyone thinking of making the trip to St Louans for the June 4 week end is asked to contact **Ann Henman at 351 492**.

## BECKLEY VILLAGE HALL 150 CLUB DRAW

### JANUARY DRAW

1st	£20	Fiona Bonney	2 Lodge Farm Cottage Islip Ros
2nd	£15	Ian Cave	Whistlers Cottage Common Road
3rd	£10	Christine Tagg	Brill View Woodperry Road
4th	£10	Richard Buckingham	8 Beckley Court
5th	£5	Claire Tasker	The Grey House High Street
6th	£5	Mrs Lea	Willow Cottage Church Street

### FEBRUARY DRAW

1st	£20	Mrs McMichael	Midsummer Cottage Church St
2nd	£15	Mrs Pether	The Blossoms High St
3rd	£10	Chris Britton	Rhulen High Street
4th	£10	Nigel Roberts	Leigh Bec Otmoor Lane
5th	£5	Chris Cox	Folly Farm Common Road
6th	£5	Mike Bennet	4 Beckley Court

### MARCH DRAW

1st	£20	Cathy Davies	Royal Oak Cottage Islip Rd
2nd	£15	Margaret Partridge	Tanglewood Woodperry Rd
3rd	£10	Mr & Mrs Bixby	Crestan Otmoor Lane
4th	£10	Lizzy Reis	Meadow Cottage Church Street
5th	£5	Mr & Mrs Ross	Prospect Cottage Church St
6th	£5	Mr & Mrs Hampshire	Dove Cottage Woodperry Rd

### MEN OF BECKLEY i.e. The MOB

As if you might not know, the Men of Beckley meet for a pie and a pint and excellent Conversation on the first Wednesday of each month at 12.30 at the Abingdon Arms. So the next is March 2nd. If you've never been, work at home wondering about lunch or retired looking out of window at the rain, come and join us. We are usually 6-8 but the new Abingdon Arms has a great welcome, plenty of sustenance and larger tables available. No fees, no initiations, no expectations, just come and join us. **John Edmonds-Seal 351 582**

**p.s. Lost, one wedding ring; possibly came off as I delivered newsletters in the Woodperry Rd. Very small reward!**

### POPPY COLLECTION FOR 2010

Village total for this year is £707.34 and I would like to thank everyone for giving so generously at this difficult time.

An especially big thank you goes to all our wonderful poppy sellers who braved all weathers and the job in hand with customary fortitude and determination.

**Liz Reis**

## EDITOR'S COMMENTS

It has again been a pleasure and a challenge to put together this issue of the Beckley/Stowood Newsletter. A big thank you is due to all who helped with content, proof-reading, technical assistance, and delivery.

Please do begin to use the **Beckley website at [www.beckley-and-stowood.gov.uk](http://www.beckley-and-stowood.gov.uk) for up to the minute news of the parish.**

The next edition of the newsletter will come out on the first of June, with deadline for material 20 May. Please email to [annhenman@gmail.com](mailto:annhenman@gmail.com) or mail or hand deliver to **Ann Henman, Otmoor Cottage, Church Street, Beckley. Telephone 351 492.**

The editor reserves the right to edit any material submitted for publication and to reject anything considered unsuitable. Editor's decision on all such matters shall be final.

**The Beckley-Stowood Newsletter is published four times a year at the end of February, May, August, and November.**

### NEXT ISSUE

### Operation Christmas Child Shoe Box Appeal 2010.

We would like to thank everyone who prepared Shoe Boxes last November. The boxes received were checked and assembled ready for delivery by lorry at a Warehouse on the Long Crendon Industrial Estate. Just over 9,000 boxes were processed from this location which were sent to Montenegro in December.

There were many processing centres in the UK to deal with the Samaritan's Purse International Project for Poor Children.

Many of the children who receive boxes live in poverty, have been orphaned or abandoned, or are sick with aids or other life threatening diseases. A big thank you from Erica & Ian Cave of Whistlers Cottage, Common Road, Beckley, on behalf of The Shoe Box Appeal.

**Ian and Erica Cave 351 226**