

Turville Times

Issue 14

April 2011

Give us a Bell – or an A

The parish council now owns the red telephone boxes in both Northend and Turville (the latter is a grade II listed building). The telephone service has been removed from both boxes. What should we use them for? The Turville Philharmonic, pictured below, is already trying out the Turville box as its new band room. Give **Deirdre Hansen**, **Steve Blake** or **Garrick Steventon** a bell with your suggestions for other uses.

What have other villages done? The box in **Great Shelford** features a mannequin dressed as a regularly changing seasonal, historical or fictitious character suggested by local school children. The children then practise their creative writing skills by writing about the phone call the character might be having. One story is featured in the parish magazine each month.



Inspired by Antony Gormley's "fourth plinth" in Trafalgar Square, **Stoke St Mary** rents its phone box to members of the community to entertain, educate or amuse their fellow villagers. The income is used to fund a stained glass window in the church.

At **Waterperry** in Oxfordshire, villagers use their box to display their favourite poems, and as a fruit and vegetable exchange and magazine swap box. The box in **Cilgerran**, Pembrokeshire, exhibits photographs by a local folk life photographer. The box in **Lighthorne**, Warwickshire, is used as an information centre about local wildlife, flora and fauna. **Settle** in Yorkshire claims that its box is the world's smallest art gallery.

And the box in **Brookwood** in Surrey has its own blog (<http://blog.brookwood-expo.org.uk/>) with useful guidance on what's involved in restoration.

Wanted: Five Parish Councillors

An election will be held on 5 May for **five** councillors to serve on the parish council from May 2011 to May 2015 (current councillors are eligible for re-election but **Danny Fois** is not standing – see page 2).

The key dates for potential candidates are:

Monday 4 April (noon): closing date for nominations

Wednesday 6 April: statement of persons nominated published by district council

Thursday 7 April (noon): deadline for candidates to withdraw from election

To obtain a nomination pack or further information, contact either **Deirdre Hansen** (01494 562 254) or Wycombe district council (www.wycombe.gov.uk).

The key dates for voters are:

Thursday 14 April – deadline for applications to be added to the register of electors, new postal votes and changes to existing postal and proxy votes

Thursday 21 April - deadline for applications to vote by proxy

Thursday 5 May – election day (parish and district councils and referendum)

Further information from:
www.wycombe.gov

Parish Council: 2010–2011

David Cairns (chairman)	638 296
Danny Fois (vice-chairman)	638 454
Steve Blake	638 740
Margaret Drage	638 384
Ray Jones	639 344

Parish Clerk: Deirdre Hansen 01494 562254
turvillepc@tiscali.co.uk

Parish Council Diary

Parish council
5 May

Parish council and Wycombe district council elections

18 May

Turville school (annual parish meeting and annual general meeting), 7.30pm

13 July

Village hall, Northend, 7.30pm

14 September

Turville school, 7.30pm

9 November

Village hall, Northend, 7.30pm

Parish Council News

Turville Court: the council has rejected the proposed stopping up of the lane leading to Turville Court and the creation of associated bridleways. It also rejected an alternative proposal for the creation of the bridleways without the stopping up of the lane. Further information in the minutes of the February meeting.

Turville Times: the council has agreed to continue with the publication of the *Turville Times* in hard copy and to seek sponsorship to cover the printing costs. A new editor is also required (see page 3).

Snow clearance and gritting: the council has agreed to proceed with a community snow clearance and gritting plan which would be funded by voluntary contributions from parishioners.

Garsington Opera has submitted a traffic management plan which confirms that all opera-related traffic will use the Ibstone road gate; there will be no other means of vehicular access to, or exit from the site. In order to facilitate the plan, the Wormsley estate has approved a two-way traffic system which eliminates the need for the use of the Holloway lane gate by the few vehicles departing between 4pm and 6pm on performance days.

Council members: **Danny Fois** announced at the end of the March meeting that he will not be standing for re-election to the council in May 2011. Council members and the public thanked him for his contribution as a councillor for 12 years and as vice-chairman in 2010/2011.

A 30% Increase in Council Tax! Why?

Council tax bills from Wycombe district council arrived in mid-March. They show no increase in the council tax required by the county and district councils, the fire authority and the police but a 30% increase for the parish council. There are two reasons why the parish council asked for such a large increase.

First, the parish council's budget is so small that relatively insignificant increases in the amount of expenditure give rise to large percentage increase. For example, in 2011/12, the parish council has to pay a share of the costs of the council elections (some of this comes back as income for the village hall). This unavoidable expenditure, estimated at £600, adds 12% to the council tax.

The second and more significant reason for the large increase is a change in policy by the parish council. The council has kept council tax payments artificially low over the last five years by reducing its bank balances from £7,810 in April 2006 to £2,323 in March 2011 (see table below). The council cannot prudently continue with this policy. Therefore, the parish council agreed in November to levy a precept, which forms the basis of council tax payments, that covers fully its budgeted net expenditure for 2011/12, hence the 30% increase.

How does the parish council spend the money? The major item is the salary and expenses of the clerk, without whom the council could not do its work. The *Turville Times* is the next biggest item (the council agreed in March to look for sponsorship in order to reduce the costs), followed by the election costs. The remaining 30% of the total expenditure covers such items as insurance, maintenance of the bus shelters and village green, external audit and training. The 2011/12 budget also reflects a significant reduction in interest income as a result of lower interest rates and, of course, the lower bank balances. It also assumes no filming income.

Turville Parish Council: Income and Expenditure

	Actual				Forecast 2010/11 £	Budget 2011/12 £
	2006/7 £	2007/8 £	2008/9 £	2009/10 £		
Clerk salary and expenses	2,666	3,263	3,714	3,360	3,555	3,550
Turville Times	-	-	130	771	660	680
Elections	-	823	-	-	-	600
Other expenditure (net)	2,747	934	1,290	1,041	1,169	1,625
Interest income	(173)	(206)	(158)	(4)	-	-
Filming income	(375)	(260)	(60)	(400)	-	-
Net expenditure	4,865	4,554	4,916	4,768	5,384	6,455
Precept (council tax)	3,000	3,500	3,500	4,000	5,000	6,500
Surplus (deficit)	(1,865)	(1,054)	(1,416)	(768)	(384)	45
Closing bank balance	5,945	4,891	3,475	2,707	2,323	

Other expenditure is reported net of grants and VAT recovered. The full accounts are available at www.turvilleparishcouncil.org.

TPCC Heads for the Grand Duchy

Turville Park cricket club begins its season two weeks earlier than usual with a home match against Penn Street on 17 April. Other home fixtures in April and May are listed below.

At the end of June, the club will be touring Luxembourg where it will play the Optimists and Luxembourg. After a bye in the first round, Turville will play Buckland and Aston Clinton in the second round of the Bucks Cup on 7 August. The vice presidents' match will again take place at Wormsley cricket ground in either July or August.

2011 Fixtures

April – May: home fixtures only

17 April	Penn Street
1 May	Brightwell-cum-Sotwell
7 May	Greys Green
22 May	Checkendon

June-September; selected fixtures only

11 June	Invalids (with barbecue)
12 June	Stonor (A)
17 June (evening)	Nettlebed (20/20)
25-26 June	Luxembourg tour
7 August	Buckland and Aston Clinton (Bucks Cup)
27 August	Stonor (H)

If you would like to play, call **Sam Beardall** (captain) on 07717 664579 or any of the three vice captains: **James Hunt** (638 246); **Jon Hancock** (572 272); **Tom White** (639 351).

Book Group

The next meeting will be hosted by Sarah Mais on Tuesday 19 April starting at 8pm; the book is *Dissolution* by C J Sansom

Future meeting dates:

17th May ~ Liz Mackie's house at 8pm
(book: *Solar* by Ian McEwan)

21st June
19th July
16th August

Contacts: **Anne Jones** (639 344), **Sarah Mais** (638 539) or **Vicky Hollier** (638 760)



Turville Times VACANCIES

EDITOR AND EDITORIAL ASSISTANTS



An editor and editorial assistants are required to obtain copy for, write, edit and design the *Turville Times* with effect from the June 2011 issue. The newsletter is published every two months. If you can help, please contact either:

DAVID CAIRNS ON 638 296 OR
DEIRDRE HANSEN ON 01494 562254

Fundraising for Kenya

Rosanna Bucknill is organising two fun events at the village hall in Northend to raise funds for **Camps International** where she will be volunteering for two weeks helping local schools and villages in Kenya

Quiz Night

on **Friday 13th May** ...lucky for some...
only £12.50 to include food - 7.45pm start
Wine and raffle available

To book tickets or a table of eight please contact Rosanna on 01491 638763



Easter Party



on **Thursday 21st April 10am-1pm**
4 to 8 year olds welcome
for games, art, cooking and fun + a mega egg hunt
£10 per child
contact Rosanna on 01491 638763

Around the Hambleden Valley

On Saturday **7 May** choral music from five centuries will be performed by Christ Church cathedral choir, Oxford at Hambleden church (tickets from Hambleden Stores or at the door).

At 9.30am on Sunday **15 May** the vintage tractor run in aid of the Thames Valley Air Ambulance sets off from the field opposite the Bull and Butcher. Tractors are expected back in the village at about 4pm when all are welcome to take a closer look and talk to the drivers. More info from **Gary Anderson** on 07740 173225.

Woodland reared pigs at the Berkshire Pig Company in Hambleden are thriving on nectar rich Himalayan balsam. Two or three year's attention from the pigs allows native plants to return. Next stop Turville Heath and Northend, perhaps? Learn more in *News of the Woods* at www.chilternsaob.org.

Easter Services at St Mary the Virgin

3 April	<i>Mothering Sunday</i> 9:30am All-age Eucharist
17 April	<i>Palm Sunday</i> 6pm Lent Evensong
20 April	10.15am Eucharist 11.30am Lent study group
24 April	<i>Easter Sunday</i> 9:30am Eucharist (with egg hunt after the service)
26 April	Church AGM at 7:30pm at St Katherine's Parmoor

More information at www.hambleden-valley-churches.org.uk



“Giving Us Back Our Childhood”

For six weeks every summer, Turville school is home to a very special group of people. Inner city children whose lives may have been affected by poverty, family breakdown, abuse or neglect enjoy six day residential breaks which help restore their confidence and self-worth and offer respite for parents and carers.



“We have such a good time, I forget all my worries when I am here”

In a safe, caring and fun environment, holidays are led by experienced residential and family workers and are geared towards the needs of these extremely vulnerable children: supporting and empowering them to cope with the difficult challenges they face in life. Organised and funded by the Turville School Trust, a typical programme of activities for the week includes farm visits, swimming, arts and crafts, cooking, boating and walking. The children also take part in two days of sporting activity in partnership with “Sports for All”. Non-competitive and team-based, the emphasis is on encouraging the children to take part, have a go, do their best and to help each other.

The children leave at the end of the week having benefited from fun-packed days and a real sense of achievement and self-worth. A DVD diary is kept each week and copies are given to each child as well as a cap and a T-shirt. Many children come two or three years in a row, gaining much from the experience of visiting the same houses and meeting the same people.

The Turville School Trust relies on fund raising activities and donations. It would like to encourage more faith groups, schools and members of the local community to become involved in supporting its work. Many families in the area already open their homes to offer swimming, tennis, riding and other sports as well as lunches or teas.



Supporting the Trust

If you would like to invite a group of children with their carers into your home for a few hours, or feel that you have something to offer the children during the summer, please contact **Sally Scott** (577 506) or **Barbara Phillips** (638 190).

If you would like to support the work of the Trust by making a donation, please send a cheque, payable to The Turville School Trust (together with a gift aid form if possible) to: **John Ingram**, The Turville School Trust, School Lane, Turville, Henley-on-Thames, Oxon. RG9 6QX.



“I can’t wait to come back, it makes you feel good about yourself”
“It was the best experience of my life”

The **Turville Times** is published six times a year by Turville parish council and distributed to all households in the parish and adjacent areas of Northend. Past issues and agendas for, and minutes of, meetings are available at www.turvilleparishcouncil.org.uk.

Editor: **David Cairns** (638 296); design: **Fiona Jennings**; turvilletimes@btinternet.com.
Printed by Ruscombe Litho & Digital Printing Ltd, Reading