

## **MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL, SOUTH CERNEY ON WEDNESDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2011**

**Present:** Parish Councillors Mrs F. Chapman, Mrs E. Chubb, J. Harris, J. Kimberley, M. Stuart, Mrs C. Tunbridge, R. Webb; Cotswold District Councillors E. Jenkins and Mrs J. Layton; Dave Martin (Station Staff Officer 29 Regiment RLC); Roger Edgar (Community Governor at Ann Edwards School Governors); Revd David Bowers Vicar All Hallows Church; Reta-May Matthews (United Reform Church); Mary Mychaleckyj (Gloucestershire Youth Service); Emily Hallett (Young Gloucestershire).

Thirty members of the public including the youth from R-Way were also in attendance.

Cllr M. Stuart opened the meeting at 7.30 pm and welcomed all present to the meeting.

### **APOLOGIES**

There were apologies from Cllr Jay and Cllr Nicholas, Cllr Bennett (CDC) who had to rectify a domestic incident, Mr Graham Stanford, Mrs Jenny Gardiner and Mr Roger Gardiner.

### **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

It was proposed by Raymond Fenton and seconded by Roger Edgar that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 19th May 2010 as published were a true record. The meeting was all in favour.

### **MATTERS ARISING**

The Chairman reported that the wooden stiles on the public rights of way in the parish had been replaced with metal kissing gates. This was a joint endeavour between the Gloucestershire County Council PROW (public rights of way), the Cotswold Water Park and the Parish Council. Settlement of the outstanding account with Thames Water over compensation was still awaited.

### **CLLR MIKE STUART, CHAIRMAN OF THE PARISH COUNCIL – REPORT**

As I said at the start of the evening, we have all been selected by default to serve for another four year term. Legally this is looked upon as our having been re-elected. We await final confirmation as to how we will fill the one vacant seat left by Julian Counce's leaving us, so watch out for details in the press.

I must take a few moments to record my thanks to Julian on behalf of this Council. He has been a very active member of the team and his attitude of being willing to seek alternative or new ways of dealing with thorny situations has helped this parish on many occasions. We will miss him and are genuinely grateful for all his efforts.

This has been a great team to be a member of. Everyone has had input into a wide variety of problems and although we occasionally do have a few strong words at meetings I can honestly say we all get along extremely well. Long may that continue.

Of course, it is pointless all of us talking away if there is no one to see that what we want is achieved and that is where our long standing Parish Clerk Maurice comes in. His is a very important role in our community. His experience and knowledge is priceless. Thank you Maurice and please keep up the top class job you are doing.

The past twelve months have been one of the busiest years this Parish Council has experienced for a long time with more contentious issues to face than usual. I suggest we could say this has been The Year of Public Meetings. There have been public meetings here in this hall, in the United Church, in the Gateway Centre and the never to be forgotten evening at Somerford Keynes village hall. All of which related to situations having a direct bearing on this community.

Before dealing with the contentious matters, I will deal with the other things that have happened in the past year.

Following the foundation of the new allotments now occupied by the Digger Uppers, it has been so gratifying to see the way in which those gardens have developed and the amount of pleasure the gardeners have gained.

The Composting Scheme is up and running with a few teething problems still to ironed out. Do get involved with this even if only to help by buying some of the compost.

Working with GCC Public Rights of Way and the CWP Society, we have had virtually all the timber stiles throughout the Parish replaced with metal kissing gates giving the less agile walkers the opportunity to enjoy strolling over the fields.

We have addressed the on going drainage problems at Upper Up car park but as it hasn't rained much since the work was finished several months ago we do not know if it has been successful.

Later we will hear from our youth group which is a great success not only due to the top class work carried out by our professional Youth Workers, Emily and Mary but also due to the absolute enthusiasm of the young people themselves. If South Cerney Parish Council can be credited with anything it must be the way in which we have supported and financed that team. Well done "R Way". Unfortunately, Mary is leaving not only us but Gloucestershire due to the financial cut backs made at Shire Hall. So many young people owe a debt of gratitude to Mary as do we the adults who have watched the way in which our youngsters have benefited from Mary's work. A million thanks Mary and good luck in everything you do in the future.

A highlight of the year was when the United Church was the venue for the judging of the presentation we made as a community in the Gloucestershire Vibrant Village of the Year. The place was packed and the presentation was totally unrehearsed but everyone who spoke did so with such enthusiasm that it made us all proud to live in Cerney.

Regarding finances, your Parish Council reviewed the budget for this current year and set a precept slightly lower than we did for last year which resulted in a Band D dwelling paying £1.37 less than last year.

I will not say much about the problems we have had with our dealings over the Cotswold Water Park except to confirm that we as your Parish Council unanimously agreed that we should work in unison with our neighbouring parish councils of Ashton Keynes and Somerford Keynes in attempting to ensure that the public have unfettered access to the footpaths by the Keynes Park lakes. I am sure that Cllr Esmond Jenkins and Cllr Shaun Parsons will be speaking about that situation and the police action that followed shortly after our very heated public meeting at Somerford Keynes.

The reorganisation of the Cotswold Water Park which ceased to be a society and is now a charity has caused a high level of concern to everyone in this area. We wait to see the way in which the new Trust develops and overcomes the considerable financial problems it is experiencing. We will continue to work and support their team as much as we can and do recommend that everyone here also supports them by becoming a member of the Trust.

The most recent public meeting was in here only last Friday evening when the Lake 12 Group put forward their proposals to take over the running of SCOEC which GCC are closing down by the end of this summer. GCC cabinet was meeting earlier today and I hope that Cllr Shaun Parsons will be able to give us an update of how their decision went.

Of course the most contentious situation we have had to deal with has been the future of the old Bradley/ Camas site behind the Limes. Everyone here must be aware that Harrow has applied to build dwellings on the old industrial area and that over the year two schemes have been proposed firstly for 180 dwellings plus a site of a community centre. Parish Council was totally against that scheme. However, after discussions between the developers, CDC Planning Officers and members of this Parish Council that plan was amended to build 150 houses including 30 affordable dwellings plus various facilities available to all the village including woodland walks, cycle paths, lake side parkland and a purpose built 400 sq M building to provide facilities for our Youth and for various sporting pastimes. A very important factor of the second plan was that the 150 dwellings would cover the entire site which meant that there could be no future increase in numbers of dwellings being constructed there.

The reason why Parish Council entered into discussion with Harrow and their planning consultants Pegasus design, was that we were made aware by CDC officers that if we did hold such discussions, we could influence the overall plan being resubmitted including potential benefits for the community. We were also informed that there was a distinct possibility that should the CDC Planning committee refuse permission, the applicants would most probably appeal against that decision with a pretty strong chance of being successful. If that appeal was to be successful, the Inspector would have no option but to give Harrow the scheme it wanted namely 180 dwellings and all we would get was a site for a building which we could probably never have been able to afford to build. With information like that we had no option but to talk with Harrow.

There have been several meetings about this scheme with members of the public having a lot to say on the matter. Following the last public meeting Parish Council met and voted on the application. Of the eight councillors present at the meeting, only two voted to object. Although we voted by signed ballot I personally have no hesitation in telling everyone that I voted not to object. I and my colleagues are fully aware of the criticism and anger that our decision has generated but I can assure you that none of us reached that decision lightly.

My own reasons for voting as I did are that I am sure that sooner or later that brown field site will be developed. Coincidentally, I have spoken with several of the protestors who have told me they share that opinion. As I see it, we can either have the proposed 150 dwellings with all the benefits including the low level density the current scheme will provide, or we can expect a series of small batches of houses being built piecemeal over several decades to no overall design and more importantly also, no guaranteed density which could well result in a site of well over 200 with the social and practical troubles associated with high density estates. I cannot see how it will be possible to stop that site being developed and I much prefer the option of having a well designed comprehensive development built within the five year time period suggested than going through a series of applications such as we are experiencing with this one and ending up with a dog's dinner of houses of various designs and densities. Sorry if you do not agree with me but I was elected to represent the entire community and I for one would not be swayed from my views by a very vocal group of protesters.

## **R WAY GROUP REPORT**

These reports were preceded with a presentation showing slides of youth activities.

### **Get Our Way**

Emily Hallett gave a short introduction on the formation of the group. Last July, the youth group in South Cerney held an event at Upper Up called Get Our Way. We decided we needed to ask all the young people in South Cerney what they liked about the village, and what things they felt needed improving. To do this we organised a fun day, with games, football, music and food. When people came into the park they first had to go to the youth bus, where they filled out a short questionnaire. After this they were given a ticket for a free burger. We also had a huge map of the village drawn out on a table, and everyone could put suggestions for the village, from the sensible – like more buses and holding football tournaments – to the ridiculous, such as a theme park!

We had local bands playing and a local DJ, and held a football tournament towards the end of the afternoon. In total we had around 100 young people attend the event, and from their responses to the questionnaire we have been able to look at what young people in South Cerney feel is important about the village.

We all worked really hard preparing for the event and on the days itself. By the evening we were all exhausted! But we were all really pleased with how successful the event had been.

We would also like to say thank you to all the different people and groups from the village who helped to make the event so successful.

### **Bushcraft 2010 – Karl**

In June 2010, 14 young people took part in a Bushcraft Project with Johnno at the Forest School. As we have done overnight stays and basic bushcraft skills before, we decided that this year would be Bushcraft Extreme. This meant we had to work in teams to learn new skills and earn points, and the project finished with an overnight stay in the woods. We had to build camp, light a fire and cook our dinner in teams, and then in the evening we had our challenges. These involved finding points in the forest while wearing wellies full of baked beans, digging through buckets of gunk to find points and apple bobbing. The evening ended with a pick and mix game – everyone had to pick a bag and eat whatever was in it, which could be sweets, or could be a lolly with a scorpion in it!

The next morning we had a delicious cooked breakfast and packed up to go home. Everyone who took part in the course gained an ASDAN Award and we are already looking forward to our next bushcraft course!

### **Snowboarding**

During September and October the youth group decided to try something new and took part in a snowboarding course at the dry ski slopes in Gloucester. As there were so many people who were interested in taking part, we had to split the group into two, to make sure everybody who wanted to go had the chance.

We started off by learning the basics, such as how to balance on the boards, and how to stop! We could then start working on riding the board down the slope without falling over!

The course was great fun, and really funny as most of us spent a lot of time on our backsides! Luckily our only injury was a broken thumb! On the last session we had the option to go tubing down the slope, which was a really fun way to end the course.

### **Scavenger Hunt**

Last year in the autumn we had a treasure hunt around the village. We were given a sheet with clues on, and there were stars hidden in various places such as the park, the Scout Hut, the church and on road signs.

Each star had a letter on it and once we had collected them all, we had to run back to Upper Up and try and work out the word – which was BUSHCRAFT. The winning team won themselves a box of chocolates and everyone had a really good time.

### **Easter Treasure Hunt – Karl**

This Easter, the youth group took part in an Easter Egg hunt and a fun quiz, that I organised. I really enjoyed putting the session together, and the preparation really paid off as I think the group had a really enjoyable session.

The hunt involved 20 anagrams of different places around the village, which I put together with the help of Tom. We placed the different clues around the village and then met the rest of the youth group at the park at Upper Up, to put them into teams and set them off.

The teams ran round the village collecting envelopes from the different places by solving the clues. Both teams ran back to Upper Up and we went through all the clues. Each team opened the envelopes they had collected and found numbers in them. This told them how many chocolate eggs they had won!

To finish off we had an Easter Quiz with a guess the chocolate quiz. I think everyone enjoyed the session, especially as they got to eat a lot of chocolate.

### **SCOEC**

In July 2010, eighteen young people from the youth group went to SCOEC to do outdoor water-based education. We did a variety of activities including sailing, kayaking and raft building which helped us develop our team skills.

After the four weeks we finished with a BBQ by the side of the lake which really finished the course off on a high.

### **Alton Towers – Jasmin**

Although the rain poured down for most of the trip it was still a very enjoyable occasion.

### **Cosmos**

In January the youth group went for a meal at Cosmos in Swindon. We were all amazed at the amount of food and the chocolate fountain was a favourite! It was a fantastic way to start the year.

### **Cribbs Causeway Shopping**

This was a most enjoyable event and it is hoped we can repeat it.

### **Lantern Project**

The slide presentation showed the youngsters enjoying them displaying a long snake like kit.

### **Climbing – Myles**

Our most recent project has been doing a 4-week climbing course at Wild Rock in Northleach. Before we went on the course I felt nervous because I didn't know what to expect, but after the first session I knew it was going to be fine.

During the course we learnt lots of climbing skills such as how to climb safely, tying the ropes properly and how to put on the harnesses and helmets.

### **Litter Pick**

The group organised a litter pick throughout the village as a way of giving something back to the community for its support.

At the end of their reports the youngsters were presented with certificates in recognition of their performance at the various tasks by the Chairman, Cllr Stuart.

Cllr Stuart thanked both Emily and Mary for their work with the youngsters.

**PC ANDY BURFOOT, GLOUCESTERSHIRE POLICE – REPORT**

The past year has been a time of great change for the Constabulary both with the force re-structure and the financial restrictions being imposed on the Police as part of the Government’s public spending policy.

Locally to the Parish we have seen the loss of PCSO Vicky Beale, but as Beat manager I have now been given sole responsibility for the villages of the rural south along with PCSO Mike Owen. This has enabled us to focus our efforts on South Cerney and the surrounding villages.

In recent Neighbourhood meetings the issue of anti social use of vehicles was highlighted to be of concern for residents and it was decided to generate a SARA plan around the use of vehicles be it for speeding or inconsiderate parking. We have been conducting speed checks in the village and a number of vehicles have received penalty notices for obstruction. The issue of speed will continue to be monitored.

Incidents of Anti Social Behaviour have decreased over the past 12 months. There has been some good work carried out by the Parish Council and youth services to engage with the younger population of the village and I understand the youth forum is going from strength. PCSO Owen has maintained strong links with the school and is continuing to run the tag rugby scheme with pupils.

I would encourage all residents to report incidents of Anti Social Behaviour and damage. I often hear it said that “What can the Police do?”. It is essential that we know of such events so we can effectively tackle the problem and direct patrols to where they are needed. Particularly as we approach the summer months I would ask for people to report problems.

There was a number of burglaries at properties within the parish towards the latter end of last year, but as a whole the crime levels in the village are declining. We offer free crime prevention advice and should anyone require a visit please contact us.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Parish Council and its members for the continued support and efforts throughout the year. These efforts have greatly assisted the Safer Community Team in achieving its goals and making the village and surrounding areas a safer place to live.

Offence Class	Average 2009/2010	Average 2010/2011	% increase/decrease
Burglary (dwelling)	9	9	0
Robbery	0	0	0
Vehicle Crime	18	6	66
Violence	30	24	20
Criminal Damage	31	17	45.16

Figures for the period 1st May 2009-2010 to 1st May 2010-2011 for South Cerney

**DAVE MARTIN, STATION STAFF OFFICER, DUKE OF GLOUCESTER BARRACKS – REPORT**

First a quick introduction. I am Dave Martin and hold the position of Station Staff Officer in the barracks. I am a retired officer and will be the continuity point in the barracks for the next 10 years or so, dealing with infrastructure projects and the local community.

This has been another busy year for the Regiment operationally. 88 Squadron returned two weeks ago from Afghanistan and 50 Squadron were there earlier in the year. In addition, 47 Squadron have a permanent presence out there in the air despatch role. We have also supported the extraction of nationals from Libya and continue to have a small footprint wherever the Army is training round the world. Currently 80 Squadron is undergoing training to deploy for 6 months in the autumn.

Like everyone else in the public sector we are facing an uncertain time with redundancies looming in both our civilian and military workforce. Our civilian workforce is already lean and we are hoping that voluntary redundancy will see us through. However, the military situation is not so easy to deal with. As part of the review undertaken, 29 Regiment’s role remains unchanged and still has a future in the area. However, in the short term the postal and courier trade is being reduced. Since this is one of our two main trades at South Cerney, we face the possibility of redundancies in the near future – with all the welfare issues that brings to soldiers and their families in finding both work and accommodation either here or their home area.

We were given planning permission to build an additional 60 homes on site in 2010 to accommodate the families of the two squadrons that moved from Abingdon and Aldershot in 2009. The effect of Government funding cuts to the MOD has again delayed this project and it may well not commence in

the near future. We have to face the possibility of continuing to accommodate families in Lyneham until funding is released some time in the future. Not an ideal situation, but well within MOD commuting guidelines.

Revd David Bowers has officially become the chaplain to the Regiment which we are all delighted with. He can often be seen around the barracks in his pastoral role talking to the soldiers. I'm sure he will include comment on this important work in his report.

Weekend sky diving on our airfield is back under military management as of the end of 2010. This move was for service reasons rather than any particular problem with Skydive South Cerney.

We held our fun day on the airfield on 10th July and the good weather helped draw in a good crowd from the local community.

Quickly looking ahead, 104 Logistics Brigade headquarters will be moving into South Cerney on their return from Afghanistan in July. They are not a large set up (18 Officers) therefore they should slip easily into local life. Anna Kimber, the Commanding Officer of 29 Regiment will remain the Station Commander.

Finally, this year we have attracted the annual Gloucester Steam Fair from Kemble – where it has successfully run for the past few years, to South Cerney Airfield. Dates are 5th to 7th August 2011. Stroud Vintage Transport and Engine Club have held this fair annually for 37 years and therefore have a great deal of experience. The fair will attract thousands of visitors to our area. All profits from the event will be given to local charities.

#### **CLLR JULIET LAYTON, COTSWOLD DISTRICT COUNCIL – REPORT**

Cllr Ms Layton informed the audience, that as she had just been elected she did not have a lot to report except that she wished to thank all those who had voted for her at the election.

#### **CLLR ESMOND JENKINS, COTSWOLD DISTRICT COUNCIL – REPORT**

Cllr Jenkins stated that the year had been one of significant change. The hangover from the poor management and maladministration of the Cotswold Water Park Society and the threat from developers to remove public access and amenities was an on-going battle, especially at Keynes Country Park; SCOEC was also a valued facility which is under threat. On the positive side he welcomed the parishes of South Cerney, Somerford Keynes and Ashton Keynes forging alliances to combat the threats and he was proud to be associated with the campaigns. He encouraged as many people as possible to join the newly formed Cotswold Water Park Trust as members, to secure its future and strengthen its resolve. The new era of localism will affect all tiers of government including the Districts and County establishments.

#### **CLLR CLIVE BENNETT, COTSWOLD DISTRICT COUNCIL – REPORT**

As Cllr Bennett had been unable to attend the Clerk read his report.

The major item of the year has been the application for housing on the old Camas site.

I can safely say that I have received more emails and phone calls regarding this application than any other matter in the eight years I have been your district councillor. At the last planning meeting of the district council I put forward the views of the objectors and persuaded the committee to consider a visit to the site. Yesterday the new committee agreed that they should all visit South Cerney to judge the likely impact of the development on the village. They will be in the village on June 1 and the matter will be decided at the planning committee on June 8.

While the committee members are in the village they will not be allowed to speak to anyone nor receive information from residents. They are simply here to look at the site and surrounding area.

I will ensure they visit the critical access points as raised by the objectors.

At the council's annual meeting yesterday I was re-elected for the third year as chairman of the licensing committee and you will be pleased to know that the three pubs in South Cerney have not caused us any real problems.

The committee does take its role seriously and is concerned about under aged drinking and the problems that brings. Following complaints and test purchases by youngsters from an off licence in Tetbury the licence holder was brought before the committee and after hearing all the evidence we removed the licence. This was the first time we had done that since we took over the licensing administration from the magistrates in 2003.

## **CLLR SHAUN PARSONS, GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL – REPORT**

Cllr Parsons stated that the County Council had to make cuts of £140 million from a base budget of £400 million and that excluded schools. In four years time, he continued, the base budget will be the same. The major saving will be on staff with some 1,000 people leaving their posts. There will also be a large saving on buildings but some of these are very old but everyone will try and maintain services. Every service in the Council has been hit. There will be a reduction in road maintenance and also in traffic enhancement schemes. Potholes are prioritised on severity but it is more cost effective to repair large areas.

Regarding the future of SCOEC, there will be a decision tomorrow 19th May on whether to accept consultants recommendation. Hopefully it is to adopt SCOEC rather than to sell it off. There has been huge support for the facility which has been very encouraging but it is a cabinet decision rather than one by the full council. Personally Cllr Parsons is very unhappy about the possibility of a 125 year lease being granted.

Q. Roger Edgar asked Cllr Parsons why the procurement process took so long?

A. Cllr Parsons stated that there was nothing unusual with this.

## **REVD DAVID BOWERS, VICAR ALL HALLOWS CHURCH, SOUTH CERNEY AND HOLY TRINITY, CERNEY WICK**

Our ministry, outreach and worship at All Hallows and Cerney Wick is supported by a team of several people, including two honorary ordained colleagues, John Martin and Don Adams, a team of Readers – Joan Townsend, Richard Wrightson, Bill Irving and Helen Caine, as well as Liz Pearse, who is training for reader ministry. Also a very active Local Ministry team. Last year John Lugg, a very faithful retired priest in our parish decided to hang up his robes for the last time and we marked that occasion with a presentation to him and Naomi.

Joan Townsend will retire as Benefice Administrator at the end of July this year and I would like to express my thanks to her for all that she has done both this year and during her long time of service in this role. We will have an opportunity to thank her more fully as her retirement draws closer.

Our churchwardens, Tony Squire and Vicki Jones, also play an important part and we do wish Tony all the very best as he continues his course of chemotherapy.

### **International Links**

For the last few years we have supported the Wooding family, as they work in Kampala, Uganda in community health projects. We are delighted to welcome them on a visit in July this year.

Also we have developed a link with the village of Garidepalli in Andhra Pradesh in South India. This is from last summer when Judith and I led a group of teenagers on a visit to the Dornakal Diocese. Since then we have funded a church building for the Christian community in the village and we are helping to establish a day care centre for the children of working mothers. We had visits recently from Bishop Devamani and his wife Christina and also from their daughter, Carol, who works as a doctor in the villages. A small group of us will be visiting Garidepalli in August.

### **Community Links**

We continue to enjoy a close relationship with Ann Edwards Church of England School, as well as with other groups and organisations in the village. Last year I was officially appointed as Officiating Chaplain at 29 Regiment RLC here in South Cerney. This brings many pastoral contacts and opportunities for closer links. The regiment join us for Remembrance Sunday, the Carol Service and other events. Ecumenically, we were pleased to welcome Revd James Taylor as the new minister of the United Church last year as we continue to build on our relationship with our brothers and sisters there.

We look forward to a successful Street Fair weekend again this year and hope that we are able to help many local organisations to raise funds.

### **Outreach**

Messy Church continues to be an exciting and well-supported event each month, as is our programme of children's workshops at various times of the year. Also, our under-5s service remains an established part of church life and is appreciated by those who come to it. We are also seeking to develop our work with young families and our all-age service on the third Sunday of each month has just been re-launched as Family Church, which had an encouraging start last Sunday.

### **Practical Projects**

A major survey of the churchyard records was carried out this year by Richard Wrightson, and we are very grateful to him for updating our records and producing a very clear and helpful guide to grave locations, as well as more detailed historical information about the residents of the churchyard.

Last year we installed a fixed screen and projector and this year we have renewed the audio system – just in time for the wedding season!

The pewter flagons which have been stored in church for many years are now on permanent loan to the museum on Cirencester, and with the help of grants from the Parish Council and the South Cerney Trust, they are being restored.

Later in the year we are hoping to re-investigate the area of the church where the head and foot were found. The British Museum have expressed an interest in this project.

Finally, continuing thanks to the Parish Council for the grass cutting in the churchyard, which makes a huge difference to the appearance of our surroundings.

### **RETA-MAY MATTHEWS, SENIOR STEWARD, SOUTH CERNEY UNITED CHURCH – REPORT**

In addition to our regular weekly Sunday service we have many other activities in our building. Most of these are run by volunteers of our church but others are also community or independently sponsored. Some of the extensive activities now being held in our building are listed in the Cerney Newsletter, the Village Directory and most are posted weekly on the double glass doors at our main entrance. They cover everything from children's programs to healthy lifestyle classes and charity events, and from music to simple socialising; something for everyone.

Although we are first and foremost a place of worship, our doors are not just open on Sundays. We have a very strong sense of community and encourage all who can to come and share in anything we have available for them. We have a very good working relationship with All Hallows Church and also with the Village Hall committee. The United Church is probably best known and most appreciated for voluntary support of the elderly and for dedication to the increasingly popular 'Cerney Seedlings' our carers and pre-school children's group which has been running since 1998.

To further enhance what we can do for the community our Methodist Circuit has provided us with a paid Families Worker, Sue Price, whom we are sharing with Cirencester and Tetbury Churches. Sue supports our existing work in theory but her real job is to begin new initiatives to benefit not just our churches but families throughout our communities.

Encouraged by Sue, the Congregational Federation and the Methodist Circuit we embarked on several new initiatives this year and the end of last. Expanding on Cerney Seedlings in 2010 we started an Arts and Crafts afternoon for pre-school children and a Carer's Cafe for parents and carers of babies and toddlers. At Cafe, the adults get pampered with coffee and tea and the children are encouraged to engage in group play and a bit of musical activity. Both these new ventures have been well received.

In 2011 we launched Cafe Church which has proved more popular than we expected. Approximately once a month we serve breakfast to those in attendance and then have a brief worship service which is put together and presented by our Worship Leader who is me, Reta-May Matthews and my husband Paul. Our Families Worker, Sue does a quiet activity with the children during this time and often there is a group discussion or a related quiz which the children are encouraged to and do participate in. We usually have about 30 people coming to this and at least half of them would not ordinarily have attended a service elsewhere.

Just this month we identified the need to start up a Sunday School when our youngest members returned from France with their two children. Since our evening service does not fall into line with their schedule, a morning Sunday School seemed a good solution. This is open as are all our activities to any denomination. So far we have had interest from eleven children and we hope more will join us as we continue to prepare children for their Christian journey in the community.

### **ANN EDWARDS CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL – REPORT PRESENTED BY ROGER EDGAR, COMMUNITY GOVERNOR**

#### **School Numbers**

We currently we have 249 children on roll in nine classes. There has been significant pupil movement since September 2010 with 17 departures (7%) and 16 arrivals (6%), making a figure of 13% overall mobility. In July 40 Year 6 children will leave us as they begin secondary education.



## **Personnel**

We have seen more changes in staff this year. On the teaching staff Mr Andrew Kirkup has returned from his sabbatical in New Zealand but Miss Linda Jones, Mrs Susan Cook and Mrs Carol Bassett have left us to pursue other challenges. Mrs Vicki Roseblade has returned from maternity leave and Mrs Charlie Aitken, teacher, has joined the school. Mr Darren Barker, Mrs Carolyn James and Mrs Jo Jones have all joined our teaching assistant team.

The governing body has also seen more changes with Mr Matt McCahill taking over as chair. Mrs Cheryl Svennson, Mr Daniel Vesma and Mr Jim Ascough have left the governing body. Mr Brian Clifford has rejoined the governing body and Mrs Jenny Caird and Mr Darren Beecher have filled the parent governor vacancies. We currently have a vacancy for another community governor, hence would welcome any suggestions for good candidates from the Parish Council. The governing body continues to challenge and support the school to provide the children of the community the best possible education.

We have also welcomed a number of residents in as volunteer helpers and they are doing a wonderful job in the school, providing a wide range of support.

## **Curriculum and SATS**

All the children in Y6, KS2 and Y2 are about to take or have just taken their optional or statutory SAT's and our SAT's results for 2010 were very pleasing. This year we have been particularly been focusing on our Mathematics provision, with a wide range of new schemes being implemented from Maths evenings for parents to understand how Maths is now being taught to on-line Maths games and development tools for children do at home or in school called "Mathletics".

The school continues to offer a good quality of education for its pupils and they receive a broad and balanced curriculum. We have taken the children on numerous trips as part of the wider curriculum and our thanks in particular to the Forest school for allowing our children to visit and have great fun with their learning.

We are due our OFSTED inspection this year and hence are waiting for the call!

## **Other extra curricular school activities**

The school continues to offer a full range of after school clubs including for example, football, netball, tag rugby, art, modelling/warhammer club, mathletics, stay and play and judo. These are well attended by the pupils. Our Y4, Y5 and Y6 children have either taken part in or will soon be taking part in residential visits to The Wilderness Centre, PGL Liddington and Skern Lodge. Our after school club run by Gooseberry Bush and our breakfast club have again proved very popular. Our PTA has organised a wide range of wonderful events that have been enjoyed by the children ranging from discos to film nights and they have been lovely events to attend. Our thanks for all their hard work.

We have won sporting events this year, winning the annual 6 a side football tournament for the first time and the Y5/6 tag Rugby festival. Our girls played magnificently to finish 4th in the Cirencester primary school tournament and our tag rugby team made the semi-finals in the Gloucestershire Constabulary county tournament, qualifying for the regional tournament in Taunton. Our pupils have taken part in the 4 recent cross country events with finishes ranging from first to 40th but all pupils represented the school superbly and showed real character. As a school we are outraged by the proposed changes to SCOEC and the Wilderness Centre and we are supportive of the Lake 12 group in their efforts to ensure the community continues to have access to the facilities at the lake. This year our KS2 children will be staging 'Treasure Island' as their summer production.

## **Other Activities**

We have had our usual visits from the Lifestyle Education Bus, Nick Williams the Birdwise man and the children have visited SCOEC. We held our Harvest Festival earlier in the year and our thanks to Graham James and his excellent team for the wonderful Harvest Experience that the children attended at All Hallows Church also for the bibles provided by the Church that were presented to the Y6 leavers. We also held a 1930 to 1980 "timeline" party and invited a number of older residents from the community, the event was well attended and our pupils enjoyed hearing about the wartime and lifetime experiences.

We have installed a Spiritual garden and we are now in the process of applying the finishing touches and our thanks again for the money donated toward this project. We plan to install a memorial of some sort to Mrs Jan Waters, a former teacher at the school, who sadly passed away this year.

The governing body has started parent council meetings, inviting our parents into school to give feedback and share ideas for improvement on all aspects of school life. This has proved really valuable

with a number of improvement activities being investigated as a result of this feedback including further developing our links within the community.

All in all another busy year to date where the children have really blossomed, please feel free to come and visit us at any time and to see for yourself what is going on in your local school.

Many thanks

S. A. Richardson, Headteacher and Matt McCahill, Chair of Governors

### **CLIVE MESSENGER – SOUTH CERNEY FOOTBALL CLUB (YOUTH AND SENIOR) REPORT**

Clive spoke of the priorities and objectives of the football club which could be summed up as more kids playing more football whilst enjoying the sport. In 2003 there was one team with 13 members. Today in 2011 there are over 70 members. South Cerney Football Club was striving to make football more affordable and in comparison to its neighbouring competitors in Cirencester was positively succeeding in that aim. The Chartered Standard has been achieved by all coaches and are now accredited by the Football Association (FA). The plan for next year is to have a membership in excess of 100 in 6 teams. Meanwhile members are working very hard to raise money to refurbish the facilities.

### **MIKE STUART – CHAIRMAN OF THE VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT**

The past twelve months have been quite an easy period for the management committee of the Village Hall with only a few traumas to tax our minds and pocket. Bookings for our financial year showed a 6% increase over the previous year despite our not having increased the hire charges which show that more people are using this excellent old place. A lot of the increase must be thanks to the excellent work carried out by John Veitch who not only looks after the cleaning of the place besides carrying out a great many running repairs which in turn saves us a fortune, but John also really does sell the use of the Hall to anyone he meets. Thanks John, please do keep up the good work.

After putting off the task of filling in all those forms, we finally successfully applied for a license to sell alcohol here on the premises. To have such a license makes life so much easier for so many users of the Hall as no longer do they have to apply for and pay quite a lot of money for Temporary Events Notices. What is more, we are making some extra profit by having a wine bar at our regular Cerney Cinema showings.

Cerney Cinema is still making a reasonable profit despite our having to pay a lot of money to hire the films through the CDC's Rural Cinema scheme. The fees are set by Filmbank the suppliers not by CDC which does a very good job. We are seriously looking at following the example of other villages in this area which have set up their own film clubs.

Our committee has met only four times in the past year and as ever, we have had very high numbers attending every meeting. Our committee is made up of seven elected trustees plus representatives of the groups and organisations using the hall. Everyone plays a part in the major decision making but it is down to the hard working executive officers especially Roger Scott our treasurer ably assisted by Gill, to keep the ship on course. Between them Roger and Gill negotiated a very favourable fixed price contract for the supply of gas and electricity which is saving us a lot of money. Hilary Thornton our vice Chair does wonders with the raffle at the Cerney cinema and the rest of us do what ever needs doing. It is a great team to be involved with and thanks to everyone concerned.

Even with all these top class positive factors, we could not keep this Hall running without the continuing support of the Parish Council from which we received financial assistance each year. As the years have gone by the Council and our Hall committee work ever closer to the benefit of everyone in this village who use the hall and definitely appreciate it being here.

In conclusion Mike Stuart on behalf of the Management Committee wished to thank GRCC for the invaluable advice always readily available from Chris Cowcher and Barbara Pond. He asked Chris who was present in the audience to relay this message to his associates.

There being no further business Cllr Stuart thanked all those present for their attendance and closed the meeting at 9.30 pm.