

# **Whitchurch Association**

## **ANNUAL TOWN ASSEMBLY REPORT**

### **April 20<sup>th</sup> 2011**

Whitchurch Association Report in Two Parts.

#### **FIRSTLY THE ... Gill Nethercott centre report**

Sarah Castle, our centre manager, will have been in post 2 years in June, and during that time the Nethercott Centre has taken giant leaps. Financial support for the centre manager's salary comes to an end in June 2012, the trustees are busy putting a case together to increase income in order that she can stay in post.

The landscaping has altered radically in the last 12 months. Work at the front of the building was completed in the autumn of 2010 , a path has been laid to steer the visitor round to the viewing platform and a smart information wildlife board put up. This spring saw the installation of an otter Holt, a project lead by Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council and the Hampshire Wildlife trust with work being done by older members of the youth club and adult volunteers. Land at the rear of the building was filled in with plug plants in spring 2011.

The audio visual equipment is used regularly, with films to appeal to different ages showing every month. The youth club use the docking station to play their music and many hirers connect up laptops for presentations. A noise limiter has been installed so that we can control the amount of noise coming from the centre and continue to consider our neighbours.

The centre saw the first folk concert in February and another is booked for September, the musician was very impressed with the acoustics and he promised to return as a result. Forest Forge theatre company continues to visit and more coach trips are planned

Whitchurch had its first and very successful Volunteer fair held here last month. This was organised by the Borough and Sarah Castle. 15 organisations attended, a great deal of networking was done, and plenty of interest shown and some groups had new volunteers sign up

A weekend supervisor started last December; this relieves the manager and trustees from having to open at the weekend and also provides extra cleaning at this time.

#### **WA Activity**

The Trustees are coming to the end of Visible Difference, the accreditation scheme that will award us with a kite mark of national recognition with

local authorities and funding bodies. Our Policies are being brought up to date and put on the Whitchurch Association website.

We have acquired an additional trustee and completed an analysis of the trustees' skills; a trustee induction pack has been created and training attended.

Jean Watts received an award this year from the Town Council for her volunteering efforts, well done Jean.

As you are all no doubt aware, Whitchurch was one of the lucky few to win the BT Faster Broad Band competition last December. The Whitchurch Association was tasked with looking after the finances and Sandra Smith, our treasurer, did a sterling job for which we are all very grateful.

### **Remaining SEEDA projects as follows:**

The Notice board to go at the entrance to the car park has been ordered and should be in situ before the summer. We will contact all the people who use the fence to ask them to put their notices through the Town Hall letterbox so they can be put in the notice board.

An up-to-date town map has been completed and will be available to download from the community website. A new one will be put in the town hall forecourt notice board.

The committee is hoping to place plaques around the Town to commemorate various people and events in the town's history. Cllr. Keith Watts has offered to help in discussions with the Borough conservation team.

The warranty for the community website has come to an end and the designers are in the process of a 'Handover' to the communications team. The cycle brochures are being worked on with support from the new cycle shop and the Towns art group has several new bollards in the design process.

On Cllr. Eric Dunlop's recommendation, the A34 signs have been dropped due to endless planning complications.

The final SEEDA report has been completed and sent to Anne Harrison at Hampshire County Council.

---

Harriet Titcomb, Chair, Whitchurch Association  
(Delivered in her absence by Richard Cooper)