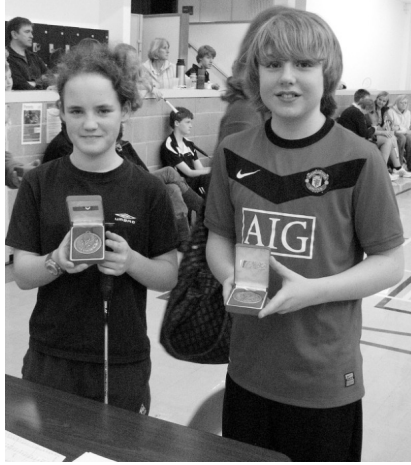


Badminton Successes

We have three very lively groups of badminton players at the New Beaconsfield Hall, Shipton. Ten of them entered the Oxfordshire Schools Tournament and we won both Gold and Silver medals. Emily Day won the Under 13 Girls singles and with David Kloos was also runner-up in the Mixed Doubles (see photograph).



Kirsty Plant and Tara Quirke-Leach were runners-up in the Under 15 Girls Singles. They all represented Burford School. Although they did not win medals they all played singles on a full court, a luxury we don't have in the Hall and most entered doubles as well. As their coach I was very

proud of them. The categories cover two years in age so some of the younger ones had to compete against players much older than themselves.

My rising stars are:
Under 11s: Eliot Jones and Charlie Spencer (Windrush Valley), Matthew Gambrell and Will Young (Wychwood School) Under 13s: Sarah Gambrell (Wychwood School) and Molly Parker (Burford).

For information about classes for young beginners/improvers at the New Beaconsfield Hall please call me on: 01993 832591.

Jean Kloos

Mr Fixit Says Raise Your Eyes!

Don't just look at all the work waiting for you in the garden! Raise your sights a bit and take a look at the exterior of your home. Do those small inexpensive jobs before they become big expensive jobs!

Start with a look at the roof and chimneys and deal with any missing, broken or slipped tiles. If you have flat roofs, don't wait for leaks which may damage the underlying timbers, but look for bubbles and heat cracks. Check the lead or fibre-glass valleys between roofs for splits or any missing cement.

Look a little higher; if pointing is missing around your chimneys it can affect the top brick or stone courses. Gutters need checking twice a year. Remember a faulty gutter can lead to damp inside the house or expensive frost damage to stonework.

Now lower your sights to look at something rarely considered - manholes and their covers. These can cause big and expensive trouble. Bricks can come loose and cement break up so that pieces fall into the drain and cause a blockage.

Dry, warm days are ideal for replacing old exterior doors as there is little moisture in the air. Take the old one off but don't throw it away. Fit the new one and then put the old one back on. This enables you to paint or stain the new one all over including the hinge and lock cut-outs and the bottom of the door which will probably never receive another protective coat in its life. Give it a couple of days to really dry out and then re-hang the new door.

Anthony Hemming