

# PARISH MATTERS



DECEMBER 2017  
JANUARY 2018

Monthly newsletter for  
Ambrosden, Arcott, Blackthorn,  
Merton & Piddington

*VILLAGE VIEWS & LOCAL NEWS*



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The Parish Matters committee thanks you for your continued support and wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

If you have any questions about advertising, or if you wish to place an advert, please contact Russell Thompson on 01869 246093, or via e-mail,

[rthom91543@aol.com](mailto:rthom91543@aol.com)

Parish Matters Committee

# LETTER FROM THE CLERGY TEAM

How do you feel about December? Maybe this is a time of year that brings mixed feelings. In the press this year it was reported that the mental health of retail workers was being damaged by shops playing festive music all day every day since the middle of November. And what was the reason it stated? “for causing increasing panic that they were still not prepared enough for Christmas”. In amidst the sense of having to be prepared for the festive period is also sense of pressure to enjoy the festive period and make the most of it. The stakes are high to “enjoy”.

Yet research also shows that when there is pressure to enjoy the converse happens and high expectations are rarely met. It is also a time when distant family are brought together. Again, this can be a lethal concoction when pressure is high and family tensions abound as they naturally do in so many families. Statistics show that most marriage break-ups occur over Christmas. Or maybe like me you love the warm glow of fairy lights in abundance, Christmas crafts, trips with children to see trees and grottos. However, as the month progresses a sense of manic busyness takes over.

December is a time where the pressure to spend money is immense. Presents for children, presents for family, presents to take to parties, food to buy and decorations to buy. It is a time that plunges many low-income families into debt. The advertisements that saturate our TV screens join together with one united message: “spend, spend, spend for a better Christmas!” In addition to all this, December is a difficult time of year for those who find themselves alone without loved ones. The empty spaces that loved ones once occupied loom larger at this time. So is it any wonder that December is a cacophony of mixed experiences. What is the message of

the church of Christ at this time. Well, first of all we must be re-assured that most of the stressors in December actually have nothing to do with what Christmas truly is for Christians. Much of the commercial additions at this time of year are exactly that: “additions”- non-essential and part of the agenda of a profit making society. Christians unite around the simplicity of the nativity story- a story that never fades in power. Jesus a baby born in the middle east to a poor family in order to rescue humanity from our sin. This has very little to do with the festive razmataz that we see around us.

I strongly believe that at this time of year we re-called to stripped back simplicity that focuses on Jesus. The most beautiful and powerful symbol of Christmas is a simple candle shining in the darkness- a reminder that that the birth of Jesus was the God’s gift of light to the world in darkness. This gift is a gift that is beyond any monetary value. The gift of Jesus comes to us with no hidden agenda other than that we may see with our own eyes the glory of God himself. This free gift comes to us regardless of our status, wealth, age, nationality. The combined wealth of the world could not add a jot to it

Secondly, there is a commonly held misconception of Christmas that I often hear, that Christmas is a time for families. Christmas is about Jesus and the most precious gift of all is personal relationship with Jesus- whoever we are. Do you feel alone? Well, you are never alone because when you welcome Jesus into your life you will have the love of the best friend you have ever had with you forever. A friend who laid down his life for you on the cross so that you could join him forever in a kingdom that never ends.

Thirdly, remember that probably over half the presents exchanged will be forgotten within months or even weeks. Some will one day end up in the attic and many will make their way into the bric-a- brac at the Christmas bazaar, ready to return to you one day soon. Christians are called to value people and relationships over “things”. Often the hazy outline of a memory is what stays with us in the future.

A useful experiment might be to ask ourselves , in ten years what do I really want to be able to remember? What do I really want my family to remember? For my little four year old I want him to remember that he is loved, yes by his family, but moreover by Jesus who was born for him and died for him. I want him to

remember being in awe that God was born as a baby and to one day be able to say that knowing Jesus as his friend and savour is the most precious gift that he could ever have received.

So this Christmas time I pray “Grace and peace be yours in abundance through the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord” (2 Peter 1v2) Amen

Revd Victoria Mellor



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# CHURCH SERVICES DEC

Church	Time	Leader	Service
<b>Sunday December 3rd</b>			
<b>2nd of Advent</b>			
Ambrosden	16.00	Steve	Christingle
Merton	09.00	Lisa	Holy Communion
Piddington	10.30	Vicki	St. Nicholas' Patronal Festival Family Service
Islip	10.30	Lucy	Parish Communion – St Nicholas Patronal
Noke	17.00	Lucy	Family Service
Charlton	10.30	Glenys	Family Service
<b>Wednesday December 6th</b>			
Islip	14.00	LT	St Nicholas Service
<b>Sunday December 10th</b>			
<b>3rd of Advent</b>			
Ambrosden	10.30	Steve	Holy Communion
Piddington	09.00	Steve	Holy Communion
Islip	10.30	Lucy	Parish Communion
Woodeaton	09.15	Lucy	Family Service
Charlton	09.00	Brian	Holy Communion – <del>St Nicholas</del> Mountford
	17.00	Vicki	Christingle
Oddington	10.30	Vicki	Holy Communion
<b>Monday December 11th</b>			
Charlton	14.00	Steve	School Carol Service
<b>Tuesday December 12th</b>			
Ambrosden	10.00	Steve	School Carol Service
<b>Wednesday December 13th</b>			
Charlton	18.30	Vicki	School Carol Service
<b>Saturday December 16th</b>			
Oddington	15.00	GE/VM	Crib Service
<b>Sunday December 17th</b>			
<b>4th of Advent</b>			
Ambrosden	18.00	Steve	Carol Service
Merton	16.00	Steve	Christingle
Piddington	18.00	Roy	Carol Service
Islip	10.30	Steve	Parish Communion
	18.00	Lucy	Carol Service
Woodeaton	09.15	Lucy	Holy Communion
Charlton	18.00	Vicki	Carol Service
<b>Tuesday December 19th</b>			
Islip	14.00	LT	School Christmas Service
<b>Friday December 22nd</b>			
Woodeaton	19.00	LT	Carol Service
<b>Sunday December 24th</b>			
<b>Christmas Eve</b>			
Ambrosden	10.30	Steve	Holy Communion
Ambrosden	16.00	Steve	Crib Service
	23.30	Steve	Midnight Communion
Merton	18.00	Lisa	Carol Service
Piddington	22.00	Steve	Christmas Eve Communion
Islip	16.00	Lucy	Crib Service
	23.30	Lucy	Midnight Communion
Noke	18.00	Lucy	Carol Service
Woodeaton			No Service
Charlton	16.00	Vicki	Scratch Nativity
Oddington	23.30	Vicki	Midnight Communion
<b>Monday December 25th</b>			
<b>Christmas Day</b>			
Ambrosden	10.30	Steve	Family Service & Communion
Merton	10.30	TBC	Family Service & Communion
Islip	10.30	Lucy	Family Communion
Woodeaton	09.15	Lucy	Holy Communion
Charlton	10.00	Lisa	Holy Communion
<b>Sunday December 31st</b>			
Charlton	10.30	All	United Benefice Service
Islip	23.00	Lucy	Watchnight Service

# CHURCH SERVICES JAN

Church	Time	Leader	Service
<b>Wednesday January 3rd</b>			
Ambrosden	10.00		Holy Communion
<b>Sunday January 7th</b>			
<b>Epiphany 1</b>			
Ambrosden	10.30	Steve	Holy Communion
Merton	09.00	Steve	Holy Communion
Piddington	10.30	Glenys	Family Service
Islip	10.30	Lucy	Parish Communion
Noke	17.00	Lucy	Family Service
Woodeaton			No Service
Charlton	10.30	Vicki	Family Service
Oddington			No Service
<b>Sunday January 14th</b>			
<b>Epiphany 2</b>			
Ambrosden	10.30	Steve	Family Service
Merton			No Service
Piddington	09.00	Vicki	Holy Communion
Islip	10.30	Lucy	Parish Communion
Noke			No Service
Woodeaton	09.15	Lucy	Family Service
Charlton	09.00	Steve	Holy Communion
	18.00	Vicki	Evening Prayer
Oddington	10.30	Vicki	Holy Communion
<b>Sunday January 21st</b>			
<b>Epiphany 3</b>			
Ambrosden	10.30	Lisa	Holy Communion
Merton	09.00	Lisa	Holy Communion
Piddington	18.00	Vicki	Evening Prayer
Islip	10.30	Steve	Parish Communion
Noke	09.15	Steve	Holy Communion
Woodeaton			No Service
Charlton	10.30	Lucy	Family Communion
<b>Sunday January 28th</b>			
<b>Epiphany 4</b>			
Ambrosden	10.30	Steve	Holy Communion
Merton	10.30	Vicki	Family Service
Piddington	09.00	Vicki	Holy Communion
Islip	10.30	Lucy	Family Service & SC
Charlton	09.00	Steve	Holy Communion
Oddington	18.00	Steve	Evening Prayer

# CLERGY CONTACTS

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## CLERGY

Church of England contacts:

Rev Steve Hayes (Rector Ray Valley Benefice)	01869 247813
Rev Lisa Holmes (Ambrosden, Merton and Piddington)	01869 240435
Rev Victoria Mellor (Charlton on Otmoor and Odd'ton)	01865 331124
Rev Lucy Thirtle (Islip, Noke and Woodeaton)	01865 379470
Mrs Glenys Edwards (based in Oddington)	01865 331233
Lynne Lewis Benefice Administrator	01865 331225

Methodist: Rev Steve Mann (Bicester Methodist Church) 01869 323030

*Methodist services: Please consult the website: [www.bicestermethodist.org.uk](http://www.bicestermethodist.org.uk)*

Roman Catholic: Fr John Batthula [jbatthula@googlemail.com](mailto:jbatthula@googlemail.com) 01869 253277

*Catholic services: Please consult the website: [www.immaculate-conception.org.uk](http://www.immaculate-conception.org.uk)*

## CHURCHWARDENS

Ambrosden: Matt Holmes, Holly Tree Cottage, Merton Road	01869 240435
Angela Jones, 16, West Hawthorn Road, Ambrosden	01869 323960
Piddington: Margaret Hutchings, Kings Cottage, Lower End, Piddington	01844 238724
Merton: Lawrence Comiskey, 2 Church Close, Merton	01865 331429
Robert Kerr, Merton Croft, West End Lane, Merton	01865 331870

## ORGANISTS & BELLS

Ambrosden: Mrs Pam Newell (bells only)	01869 241667
Organist (vacant)	
Piddington: Mrs Betty Newell	01844 237236
Mr Tony Pearce	01844 237688
Merton: Mr Russell Thompson	01869 246093
<i>(no ringable bells)</i>	



# AMBROSDEN NEWS

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Ambrosden Parish Council meetings held in the Village Hall on the 3rd Thursday of each month. At 7.30. Apart from December when the meeting is 14th.

Parish website

[www.ambrosden.info/parishcouncil](http://www.ambrosden.info/parishcouncil)

Ambrosden Parish Councillors:

Mark Longworth (Chair) – [ambrosden@mlongworth.co.uk](mailto:ambrosden@mlongworth.co.uk)

Maureen Cossens (Vice Chair) –  
01869 252722

Chris West

Philip Blazdell

Serinne Mills Curtis

Sue Posselwhite

The Parish Council has one vacant seat, please contact the Parish Clerk for further information.

Parish Clerk

Lynne Bustin

11 Otmoor View, Merton, Oxon

[Ambrosden.parishclerk@gmail.com](mailto:Ambrosden.parishclerk@gmail.com)

District Councillors

Three District Councillors represent the ward of Ambrosden and Bicester South.

David Anderson (Conservative)

[david.anderson@cherwell-dc.gov.uk](mailto:david.anderson@cherwell-dc.gov.uk)

Nick Cotter (Independent)

[Nick.cotter@cherwell-dc.gov.uk](mailto:Nick.cotter@cherwell-dc.gov.uk)

Dan Sames (Conservative)

[da.sames@cherwell-dc.gov.uk](mailto:da.sames@cherwell-dc.gov.uk)

County Councillor

Dan Sames (Conservative)

[dan.sames@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:dan.sames@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

Facebook Community message boards

Ambrosden Community

Ambrosden and Caversfield Forces Wives

St. Mary's Church

[www.ambrosdenchurch.org.uk/](http://www.ambrosdenchurch.org.uk/)

Five Acres School

[www.fiveacres.org.uk/](http://www.fiveacres.org.uk/)

Children's Centre

[www.oxonchildrenscentre.org](http://www.oxonchildrenscentre.org)

Ambrosden Village Pre School

8.35-11.35 Monday - Friday term time only

Jackie Floyd - 07759755179

[ambrosdenvillagepreschool@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:ambrosdenvillagepreschool@hotmail.co.uk)

Tiddlywinks Playgroup

8.30-11.30, 11:50-14:50.

Debra Cherry 01869256555

[tiddlywinks\\_playgroup@msn.com](mailto:tiddlywinks_playgroup@msn.com)

Ambrosden Doctors Surgery

01869 256336

Parish and Village Hall Notice Boards

Costcutter and Merton Road (outside village

hall. Community Notice Board

Public board – Ploughley Road bus shelter

opening times and availability

Garrison Gym and Swimming Pool  
Contact Garrison centre for latest updates on opening times and availability

Army Welfare Service Community Development Worker  
Lynn Waite - 01869 256135

Recycling  
Bottle banks, behind Doctors surgery

### THAMES WATER MAINS REPLACEMENT

The road has now re opened, but works will be on going until mid-December.

Further information regarding the works may be obtained by contacting Rebecca Strange of SMB JV on 07581 348952

We understand that it may be possible to claim compensation for loss due to the road works.

You can either call 0800 3169800 selecting option one or email [customer.feedback@thameswater.co.uk](mailto:customer.feedback@thameswater.co.uk) please quote reference "eight2o BB183348 Merton Road" on all correspondence.

If you're claiming for compensation, please provide as much supporting evidence as possible.

### LATE CHRISTMAS DINNER SATURDAY 20TH JANUARY 2018

It's back after a year's gap!  
The Village Hall committee will be organizing the annual village dinner on the 20th January 2018 at 7pm

For a nominal charge of £2.50 villagers can enjoy a late Christmas dinner, a glass of wine plus live entertainment.

Tickets on a first come first served basis will be

available from the village hall committee from mid December onwards. See notice boards and Facebook for more information

**BULBS PUT A 'SPRING' IN AMBROSDEN**  
Ambrosden Parish Council purchased just under 2,000 bulbs which were planted a few weeks ago by Lynne Cox, Wendy Cheeseman and Will Oram.

Daffodil 'Cheerfulness' was planted in the verge along Church Walk, also a clump of dark blue hyacinth 'Kronos'. Both of these are highly scented and will flower April - May.

The staggered crossroads of Merton Road, Ploughley Road and the Blackthorn road was to be planted, however the water mains work has meant that this year only the Ploughley Road and Blackthorn road junction were planted with over 1,000 daffodils. The two varieties were 'St Keverne' which should appear in early March and 'Spellbinder' which will flower from late March. These two varieties were mixed together so there should be continuous flowering for the 4 weeks of March.

If the result next spring is met with favourable comments from residents further areas of the Parish will be planted next Autumn. It is hoped that overtime the bulbs will multiply and put on a fantastic springtime display.

### DOGS

The Parish Council is receiving complaints about an increase in dog fouling, the dog waste bin at Park Rise will be replaced and a new bin installed near Ambrosden Court, once Thames Water and Croudace have completed their works.

The Parish Council has recently been given CCTV footage of a serial dog fouler and this will be handed to Cherwell DC for further action.

There is up to a fine of £1000 if you are caught dog fouling. The Parish Council is putting up new warning signs around the village. Please bag it and bin it.

### FLYTIPPING

The Parish Council, have had a number of complaints about fly tipping, around domestic rubbish bins at near Wretchwick Farm and on the junction of Merton and Ploughley Roads.

These have been reported to Cherwell District Council.

Please ensure rubbish bins are not left on the highways verge as the Parish Council will report these in the future.

If you are cutting hedges, cuttings must not be dumped on the highways verge.

### FIX MY STREET

Broken Street Lights, Pot Holes and Fly tipping and overgrowing hedges obstructing footways, along with many other highways issues can be reported direct to the County and District Councils, via

<http://fixmystreet.oxfordshire.gov.uk/>

### STAY AND PLAY SESSIONS

A new stay and play session has commenced for at the Village Hall on Tuesday mornings for fathers, mothers and carers of children aged 0-3.

A community group Ambrosden 4 Children has also set up stay, play and Learn Sessions at the Children's Centre for children of 0-5 years old.

### NEW DEVELOPMENTS

16/02611/OUT - An outline application for 130 houses has been submitted by Hallam Land for a development adjacent the Officer's

Mess.

This application was refused at Planning Committee, and the applicants advise they are planning to submit an appeal.

16/02370/FUL – An application has been submitted for 85 houses at Church Leys adjacent Springfields by Archstone and Bellway.

This application was approved by CDC subject to completion of a legal agreement

### PLANNING

Wretchwick Green

An application has recently been submitted for 1500 houses and warehouses on land between Wretchwick Farm Cottages and Langford Village. We understand from the planning department that there are fundamental technical and design issues delaying progression of this application.

### ALLOTMENTS AT SPRINGFIELDS

Bloor has completed the remediation works on the allotments. The Parish Council has appointed a solicitor to undertake the conveyancing.

An Allotment committee is being established and is Co-ordinated by Parish Councillor Serinne Curtis.

Ambrosden Diary

Turners Arms Public House- Ambrosden Bicester Lions – 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month - Turners Arms- Merton Road Contact Facebook – Bicester Lions

Open from 7pm onwards on weekdays additionally a on Saturday it is also open lunchtime 12-3 and then from 7pm. On Sunday it is open from 12-4.30 and then from 7pm.

# your village, your news ... your village, your news ...

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## Monday

Aqua Splash Swimming lessons for Primary/  
secondary School Age at Ambrosden's  
Garrison Pool. Contact Georgina Newell  
07544 360500

Circuit training 9.30 – 10.30 Village Hall  
Kirsty Kennedy – Contact via Facebook

Ambrosden Gaming club first three Mondays  
of the month every month Selection of  
table top wargames such as bolt action and  
warhammer. Minimum age 18  
Contact 07887 761154  
[https://www.facebook.com/Ambrosden-  
Gaming-Club-539843919418164/](https://www.facebook.com/Ambrosden-Gaming-Club-539843919418164/)

## Tuesday

Little Munchkins  
Stay and Play 10 – 11.30  
Debbie 07222 838652

Taekwondo – Village Hall  
Juniors age 7 years and over 6:30pm - 7:30pm.  
Contact Adrian - (07979) 524923 - [http://www.  
buckstkdacademy.co.uk/](http://www.buckstkdacademy.co.uk/)

Aqua Splash Swimming lessons at  
Ambrosden's Garrison Pool.

Kettlercise 8pm-9pm  
Contact Sharon – 07771 884928 -  
[kettlercisefitness@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:kettlercisefitness@yahoo.co.uk)  
Codfather – Fish and Chips, Kebabs  
Next to Costcutter – new extended hours  
4.15-9pm

## Wednesday

Bingo – Village Hall  
Doors open 7.15 – Eyes down 8pm. - Contact:  
- 01869 244785

Bicester Bereavement Support Group - 1st and  
3rd Tuesday 10am – 11.30am  
Residents Lounge, Hanover Gardens,  
Manorsfield Road, OX26 6DG  
Youth club – 12-17yrs - 7-9pm  
Contact read Lynn Waite on 01869 256135

Slimming World 3, 5 and 7 pm  
Salvation Army Hall, Hart Place, Bicester  
Contact Tina Hawkins via Facebook –  
Ambrosden Community

1st Ambrosden and Arcnott Scouts  
Have you got any children aged between 7 and  
a half and 10?  
5:30-6:45 ...to find out more about our new  
cubs.  
Arcnott Village Hall

Bicester Military Wives Choir - 7.30pm –  
9.00pm  
Silibaravi Families Centre, Ambrosden  
Karen Rea - [Bicester@militarywiveschoirs.org](mailto:Bicester@militarywiveschoirs.org)

## Thursday

Thrift Shop – behind doctors  
10.30-3.30

Parish Council  
Every Third Thursday – 7.30pm (December  
meeting subject to change)

Kebab Van – Costcutter car park -evening

Kettlercise 7pm-8pm (Not third Thursday)

Contact Sharon – 07771 884928 -  
kettlercisefitness@yahoo.co.uk

Friday

Rainbows – (age 5-7)

[http://www.oxfordshiregirlguiding.org.uk/  
index.php/rainbows](http://www.oxfordshiregirlguiding.org.uk/index.php/rainbows)

Brownies Ages 7-10yrs from , 6.30-8pm  
[www.girlguiding.org.uk/interested](http://www.girlguiding.org.uk/interested)

Kebab Van – Costcutter car park -evening

Saturday

Kebab Van – Costcutter car park -evening

For any errors or omissions please contact  
Mark Longworth - [ambrosden@mlongworth.co.uk](mailto:ambrosden@mlongworth.co.uk)

VILLAGE HALL BOOKINGS  
ANDY & LISA CAMPBELL - [ANDYAMP-  
AIR@TESCO.NET](mailto:ANDYAMP-<br/>AIR@TESCO.NET) - 01869 321318

### Christmas Bargains at the Thrift Shop

In the run up to Christmas, the Ambrosden Thrift Shop (open 10:00 - 3:00 every Thursday) is stocked to capacity with hundreds of Christmas Bargains. This includes Christmas decorations, childrens toys and games, a huge quantity of Lego and party clothes for all. Being so close to Bicester Village shopping outlet, the Thrift Shop has many donations of designer brand clothes. In previous weeks there have been furniture, electrical, crockery, mirrors and lamps donated and available for sale.

Come along and have a look and rummage through the clothing rails for a bargain.

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# ARNCOTT NEWS

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REPORT FROM ARNCOTT VHMC & ACA  
MEETING 31st OCTOBER & PARISH  
COUNCIL MEETING 7th NOVEMBER  
2017

Arncott Parish Council meetings usually take place in the village hall at 7:30pm on the 1st Tuesday of every month. All parishioners are welcome to attend.

Your current Arncott Parish Councillors are ;  
Paul Wilson (Chairman) 01869 245514  
Lee Savidge (Vice Chairman) 01869 246565  
Martin Byrne 01869 246532  
Ade Doore 07850 979455  
Di Selby 01869 243527  
Nicola Smith 01869 244106

Parish Clerk - Anne Davies 01865 379645 -  
clerkatarncott@gmail.com  
Parish website - <http://www.parish-council.com/arncott/>  
Parish email - [arncottpc@gmail.com](mailto:arncottpc@gmail.com)  
Parish Matters Magazine – [marionmoore20@btinternet.com](mailto:marionmoore20@btinternet.com)

Your contacts for the Village Hall Management Committee are ;  
John Cooper (Chairman) – 01869 323349 –  
[johncooper47@btinternet.com](mailto:johncooper47@btinternet.com)  
Christine Dunkin (Village Hall hire) - 01869  
249560 – [avhlettings@gmail.com](mailto:avhlettings@gmail.com)

If you have any issues that you would like to raise then please contact a parish councillor or send an email to the parish clerk or the parish email address.

Woodpiece Road parking

To the best of our knowledge, CDC is currently working out all of the planning and arrangements necessary for the parking provision to be constructed. CDC have not yet informed the parish council of the date(s) when work will begin. The nice surprise and good news is that it seems we are also getting some parking provision that we didn't expect to get – namely from the end of the lay-by near the shop towards the top of the road. The finalised map is on the parish council website and shows the sites. The work will be done in two phases. The first phase will be the creation of the parking provision at sites 3, 4 and 5. The second phase of work will create the parking provision from the end of the layby next to the shop and improvements to the existing parking area off the Buchanan Court road. Also a reminder that CDC have approved a financial option to provide subsidy to Woodpiece Road residents wishing to submit an application to get the kerb dropped to enable parking in the front of their houses.

Old playground area – Woodpiece / Buchanan Road

The parish council would like to get some ideas from the residents in Woodpiece Road and Buchanan Road as to what you think should be done to this area. As we said last month, the parish council is conscious of the fact that whatever might be done will directly affect those residents whose houses back on to this old playground area so if this applies to you then your thoughts please. Send in an

email or come and talk to us at the next parish council meeting.

### Speedwatch

The program has now been closed down for this year and will start again in the spring of next year. Many thanks to the volunteers who have given up some of their time to help out with the program. We hope you can help us again next year and we'd appreciate more volunteers signing up. If you can help then let us know by emailing the parish clerk, the parish email address or by contacting any parish councillor directly.

### Speed monitoring

The parish council agreed to apply to OCC for the temporary installation of speed monitoring cables on the village roads. The number of vehicles using the roads and their speeds will be recorded 24/7 for at least a week and this information will give us the times of the day(s) when speeding is at its worst. This information will then be passed onto the police so that they will be better informed as to when they are more likely to catch speeders.

### Murcott Road Build-out

The disappointing news is that OCC's consultation process received one objection to this project going ahead. At the time of writing, the parish council does not know who the objection was from or why and OCC will not tell us at this time. However, when OCC publish the associated documents the parish council will find out. Because of the objection, the project has now got to be considered by OCC's full council cabinet and this is scheduled to happen on November 23rd.

### Defibrillator Units

There are two public defibrillator units within the village. One unit is fitted to the village hall outer wall facing Murcott Road – cabinet

ID number AR84. The other unit is fitted at The Tally Ho Hotel and is located on the building end wall in line with the hotel car park entrance – cabinet ID number AR82. To gain access to either unit you need to dial 999 and speak with the ambulance service. The call desk operator will decide if the use of a defibrillator is necessary. If asked for then tell the call desk operator the ID number on the cabinet door. You will then be given the code number to open that door.

### Motor Parc

Parishioners have expressed concern to the parish council that some motocross events have taken place this year on days other than those shown on the 2017 management plan. The reason this happened was that the landowner(s) / tenant(s) applied to CDC for permission to hold events in lieu of cancelled events earlier in the year. CDC granted permission for these events to take place. The management plan is agreed annually in advance between the landowner(s) / tenant(s) of the motor parc and CDC. The parish clerk was asked to write to CDC asking for an explanation of the policy that it applies regarding applications to run events on days that are not shown as event days on the management plan. Concern was also expressed that noise levels have increased over time so the parish clerk was also asked to raise this issue with CDC. All of the event days that take place at the motor parc are subject to an agreement reached in 2012 between the landowner(s) / tenant(s) and CDC. The parish council at that time was not involved in the agreement process and was told by CDC what had been agreed after the agreement was finalised. The parish council does not have any control or authority over the terms of the agreement or as to the events that take place. A document showing the terms of the agreement can be seen on the parish council website in the NEWS section. The document gives details



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of the permitted number of days that events can be held on. There is a link to the 2018 motocross schedule at the bottom of the GENERAL INFO page and this will open a calendar showing the days when next year's events are scheduled to take place. If you have any concern(s) regarding the motor parc then the parish council would ask that you please email them to Paul Ihringer at CDC. His email address is ; Paul.Ihringer@cherwellandsouthnorthants.gov.uk Please also cc your email to the parish council email address so that we have a record of it.

Grant money for village art project  
Cllr Smith met with CDC community services on September 18th to discuss ideas and possible options as to how the grant money can be used. Suggestions at that time included picnic tables / benches, carved log bench, horseshoe bench at the far end of the field, artistic fencing / bollards / planters across the Murcott Road end of the field. The parish clerk was asked to contact the CDC art organiser to ask what progress has been made.

Grant money for sports facilities  
As mentioned before, the parish has an entitlement from CDC to grant money that can be used for improving the off-site sports / changing room facilities. The parish council and the VHC are considering using this money towards improving / extending the dressing room / shower / storage facilities at the village hall. Cllr Selby agreed to make contact with and seek the advice of other parish councils who have already had similar work done.

## Dog Poo

Our appeals are obviously falling on deaf ears. Yet again, dog poo is being left behind

at the bottom of Green Lane next to the cut through into the playing field and also around the edges of the playing field itself. Some residents are finding dog poo left behind on their garden paths and drives. The parish council is currently working with the CDC dog warden about this problem within our village and we all hope that it will not be too much longer before he manages to catch the selfish and uncaring individuals who are responsible for this happening. No apologies for saying again, as always, if you or anyone you know see people not picking up after their dog(s) then please report it to the CDC dog warden and let the parish council know that you did so. The dog warden's name is Christopher Cundy and his telephone number is 01295 221633. If you can get photographic / video evidence of the offence taking place then so much the better.

## Illegal drug use

If you are aware of or see this happening anywhere in the village then please report it. You can phone the police, make the report anonymously by telephoning Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 or fill out an anonymous form online.

## Litter

The litter louts will not go away. Empty cans, bottles, bags, paper etc. are still being discarded in the hedges, on the playing field, the village green and roadside verges. If you see discarded bottles and / or cans laying around on our green spaces or roadsides, please consider picking them up and putting them in a rubbish bin. If you witness people leaving bottles / cans / litter in public spaces then please report it to CDC. Again, video / photographic evidence is useful. If the problem persists, CDC can assign an enforcement officer to get involved. If it wasn't for the sterling work of Fred Milloy

the litter problem around the village would be much worse. Fred regularly walks around our village with a bin bag and collects up the rubbish that he finds so, on behalf of the parish council and everyone else in the village, thanks very much Fred. Your efforts are very much appreciated.

#### Anti-social behaviour

It has been reported that some of the younger members of our community are making a real nuisance of themselves. Events held at the village hall have recently been subjected to youngsters opening the doors and throwing stones / gravel / sand across the floor, knocking on windows, and generally being a real pain in the backside. People pay money to hire the village hall and should not have to put up with this sort of stupid behaviour. The litter bin in the playground next to the village hall has been vandalised – the top has been smashed open. A new bin will be ordered at a cost of £155 plus labour charge for installation. That money is yours as it will come out of the parish precept – money that should have been used for something more worthwhile. If you happen to witness this type of thing happening and can identify any of the youngsters involved in these sort of activities then please inform their parent(s) and / or the parish council.

#### Roads and streetlights

OCC have indicated that white road lines will be repainted in 2018 but we don't know when. At the moment the potholes in the road in Lower Arncott are not deep enough to warrant remedial work. Patching work has been carried out in Hopcraft Close and Teale Close. As always, if you notice something wrong with our roads / pavements / streetlights then please report it to the parish council or to OCC directly via the [www.fixmystreet.com](http://www.fixmystreet.com) website.

#### Facebook

If you use Facebook you can have a look at the parish Facebook page for village news and information.

#### VILLAGE HALL / VHMC/ARNCOTT COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Meeting dates for the VHMC are the last Tuesday in each month except for December when no meeting will be held.

#### Scout group

The scout leaders have reported to the parish council that the scouts section continues to grow and they have the same regular people coming back each week. They have therefore decided to extend their scouting offering to children aged 8-10 in the form of a cubs section and this will take place in the village hall on Wednesday evenings. On the back of announcing this expansion they have also had countless messages and enquiries from people asking for a Beaver unit which is for children aged 6-8. To see if this is possible they have contacted the village hall lettings secretary to check for availability and have been given a time slot on Fridays before the scout session. They are now in the process of finding volunteers who can run the section and they have already had a great response.

#### Ska Martial Arts Tang Soo Doo.

New martial arts and fitness class at Arncott Village Hall every Monday from 6.45 till 7.45. All welcome from 5 years - 65 years. First lesson is free. Please contact Sean on 07740684164 or turn up on the night.

#### Dance Fitness

Every Wednesday at 7.15 at Arncott Village Hall. £2.00 per person. Come along and enjoy a good evening.

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## Craft Club Every Thursday

Everyone welcome from 6.30 p.m. onwards in the Greenfields Common Room

## Arcott Friendship Club

We meet in the Greenfields common room on the second Wednesday of each month at 1.45pm till 3.45pm.. Why not come along and meet up with old friends and make new ones. For more information ring Christine on 01869249560.

## 300 Club winners

- 91 Mr S Arrowsmith
- 183 Mr R Taylor
- 82 Mr R Dancer
- 216 Mr A Cox
- 59 Mr T Danistan

Please note that the only source of income for the ACA is the profit made by the 300 Club, and it is all spent on the children's Christmas Party and the senior's Christmas Lunch, both of which are completely free for residents of Arcott. If you are not a member and you or any family members or friends do come along to these events would you please consider starting or rejoining the 300 Club, if you would like to do this please contact Wendy Wilkins by email at [Arcott300club@gmail.com](mailto:Arcott300club@gmail.com). This year the ACA will have to take about £150 from its reserves to help fund these events, this is not a long term solution and we may have to reconsider without an increase in income.

## FUTURE EVENTS

Christmas Fayre – Saturday 2nd December 2.00 - 4.00pm. Contact Christine Dunkin 01869 249560.

Childrens Christmas Party Saturday 9th December 3.00 – 5.00. Contact Vicky 07837 646893, Jenny 07814 122044. Catherine 07984 595139

## ARNCOTT SENIOR CITIZENS CHRISTMAS LUNCH SATURDAY 6TH JANUARY 2018

Arcott Community Association invites all senior citizens living in the village to the annual Christmas Lunch in the Village Hall on Saturday 6th January 2018, at 12.30 for 1.00 pm. This is free for senior citizens resident in Arcott, friends and relatives who do not live in Arcott are welcome and are asked to contribute £5.00 each towards the cost.

Please return the slip below showing the numbers coming, your choice of a traditional roast turkey Christmas lunch or the vegetarian option, and your choice of Christmas pudding or trifle.

There will be a welcome drink, red or white wine, and port or brandy to finish.

Please ensure that you reply by 20th December 2017 at the latest, bookings made after this date cannot be accepted.

To: Mrs M Moore, 20 Norris Road, Upper Arcott, Bicester OX25 1NZ  
Tel 01869 253600 Email: [marionmoore20@btinternet.com](mailto:marionmoore20@btinternet.com)

ARNCOTT SENIOR CITIZENS CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Please reserve ..... seats for

(Names).....

**Number of non-residents included above @ £5.00 each, please include payment, cheques should be made payable to ACA.** Please indicate if you have any preferences for whom you would like to share your table with. We will try to accomodate all requests.

MENU

number required

Main Course: Traditional roast turkey .....

OR Vegetarian option .....

Sweet Traditional Christmas pudding.....

OR Trifle .....

Followed by Coffee or Tea

*Please advise any special dietary requirements, allergies etc*

Date:.....

Contact number in case of queries: .....

Signature: .....

CHARITY DINNER DANCE 10th FEBRUARY IN AID OF MARIE CURIE AND SENSE

**Starter Course:** Prawn Cocktail or Pate with Melba toast or Tomato and basil soup

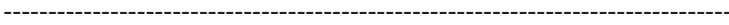
**Main Course:** Parma Ham wrapped Chicken breast with hunter sauce or Gammon steak Hawaiian or Roast Salmon with champagne cream and tarragon sauce or Roasted vegetable filled crepes with red pepper sauce

**Pudding Course:** Belgian chocolate cheesecake with coffee ice cream or Brandy baskets filled with seasonal fruits and Chantilly cream or Tart Ta Tin or Cheese and biscuits

Price £13.00 per person

Red or White Wine available £7.50 per bottle

Cheques payable to Gwen McEwan. Please send cheques together with menus by 12th January please. Contact Gwen McEwan on 01869 248309 - 14 Hopcraft Close, Arncott, OX25 1QL.



CHARITY DINNER DANCE 10th FEBRUARY

Names(s).....

Menu Selection.....

.....

.....

Wine Red or White.....

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# BLACKTHORN NEWS

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## BLACKTHORN RESIDENTS

New

Vanessa and Mark have moved into Lower Road.

Moved out

The Bannock family, Ed, Teresa and family, Connie, Katie and Ed have moved out.

## BLACKTHORN VILLAGE HALL

Recent Events

Coffee Morning

The last coffee morning in the village hall was a success with a lovely age range. Our next coffee morning with mince pies will be 11.00 am Thursday 7th December and the first of the new year will be on the Thursday 4th January. All are welcome mum with babies and toddlers the idea is to meet your neighbours make new friends and just get you out on a dark day, we are also encouraging magazine swaps so please bring any you have finished with. Anyone who would like transport to coffee morning phone me and I will arrange to pick you up my telephone number is 01869 322226 Thanks, Janet Watson.

Crafty Natters

Crafty Natters is a group of likeminded people who meet in Blackthorn Village Hall to craft with a bit of natter added for extra enjoyment. The crafts carried out include paper crafts, cross stitching, scrapbooking, knitting, crocheting, beading, sewing, needle felting to name but

a few... everyone brings their own projects unless we have a special class arranged. Our group meets once a month on a Sunday 10am - 4pm.

Dates remaining for this year are 19 November and 10 December.

Dates for 2018

January 14, February 18, March 11

April 15, May 13, June 10

July 15, August 12, Sept 16

October 14, November 11, December 9

Everyone is welcome and should you want to know more or have any queries please email Sally Harris at [mimahcat@hotmail.com](mailto:mimahcat@hotmail.com) or contact via Crafty Natters Blackthorn on Facebook or call 07747614002

Forthcoming Events

Sat 25th Nov - Quiz Night

Sun 3rd Dec – Christmas Carols and Lights

serving hot chocolate and snacks

Pub Nights open at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

Frid 24th Nov – Pub Night

Frid 22nd Dec – Pub Night

Look out for the flyers and reminders on Blackthorn village Facebook page.

## PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Councillors are:

Jenny Lamont (Chair)

Randal Rue (Vice Chair)

Sandie Stevenson

Richard Burden

Diane Procopiou

Rachel Lamont

Tracey Charlesworth (Clerk)

Meetings are usually on the first Thursday of the month.

Correspondence should be through the clerk.  
clerkblackthornpc@gmail.com

### Speeding through the village

The Council will be purchasing speed awareness stickers for wheelie bins. It is hoped they will be available to hand out FOC at the Christmas Carols and Lights event at the village hall on Sunday 3rd December.

Traffic and recent accidents on A41

The last meeting was attended by Cllr Corbin who has agreed to look into the accidents on A41.

### Parish Council Vacancy

The Parish Council has a vacancy and any Interested parties should contact Tracey Charlesworth, Parish Clerk, at clerkblackthornpc@gmail.com

Agenda, minutes, etc are published on the notice board outside the village hall, and on the website [www.blackthornparishcouncil.co.uk](http://www.blackthornparishcouncil.co.uk)

## OTHER

### Church Lands Trust, History

2017 marks the 50th anniversary since a local trust became a UK Registered Charity. So far so unremarkable. However, the Church Lands Trust, based in our parish, can trace its origins back around 1000 years, making it one of the

UK's oldest charitable foundations, on a par with the first recorded almshouse, founded in York by King Athelstan. The Trust derives its income solely from rents on agricultural lands and property it owns in and around Blackthorn and Marsh Gibbon.

There is no record of the original benefactor of land in Blackthorn and in Marsh Gibbon for the repair and 'ornament' of the St Mary's church in Ambrosden. The gift may have been given as part of a rich individual's will around about the time when St Mary's was built. These 'Church Lands' are first mentioned in the reign of Edward I (1272-1307). White Kennett's, "History of Ambrosden and Burcester," published in 1695, records that Kennett, the then Vicar of Ambrosden, had seen a document dated 1336, which recorded the rents gained from lands endowed to the church by a charity. Kennett recounts, in the Preface to his mighty seventeenth century history of the area, that when he arrived as parish priest he found "some disturbance" about the church lands among local people and, in order to reconcile their "differences," he set upon the task to, "secure the firm title and just disposal of a Publick Charity." The situation he found was as follows:

The profits from the lands were applied honestly to the church, it seems, until 1568, when Hugh Counsell and Robert Pister claimed that the lands or their profits were being put to 'superstitious use,' (whatever that may have been!). Queen Elizabeth rewarded these informers with both money and the grant of the church lands. The parishioners complained about this but, in the early 17th century, five people, including some of the tenants of the church lands, claimed they owned it all. In 1614, The Bishop of Oxford ejected the five imposters and ordered them to pay £40 in back rent to a trust led by trustees appointed by his commission. The notorious five imposters then appealed to the Court of Chancery, which



rejected their claim in 1635.

During the civil war the church lands' rents were again redirected, this time to pay for repairs to roads and bridges in Blackthorn, Ambrosden and Arncott, and other sundry uses, but during the reign of Charles II some in the parish called for the profits to be put again to their original use in maintaining and repairing the now ancient building of St Mary's. Others preferred the money to be put to its more recent deployment as a form of income for each village. Disagreement between the parties was intense until White Kennett was appointed vicar. He set about trying to determine the true history of the gift of these church lands. He submitted his findings to the Bishop of Oxford in 1685. The Bishop drew up a form of regulation or trust for managing the church lands benefaction. Twice the incumbent trustees refused to comply with him. So the Rev. Kennett applied to the 'commissioners for charitable uses' in Oxford, to consider the case. They ruled, in 1686, that the existing trustees must be dissolved as a body, and, at last, a new governing trust should be established. So, for nearly 130 years the rent from the church lands was misappropriated!

The Church Lands Trust has since then directed profits properly to the church for repairs and maintenance. In 1967 the Charity Commission registered it as a charity. The building remains – after 1000 years - an important religious and community resource and hub, as well as a notable historic building.

David Wood - Chair, Church Lands Trust

If you have any news or other items you would like included please email John Henderso



## Blackthorn Village Hall.



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# MERTON NEWS

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## MERTON NEWS COLLECTOR

All completed and written news articles for inclusion in the following month's magazine should be sent to [wendymeads@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:wendymeads@yahoo.co.uk) by the 13th of the month.

## MERTON PARISH COUNCIL

If you wish to contact a councillor, please use the following information:

Rachel Foord: [rachelfoord@aol.com](mailto:rachelfoord@aol.com), 01865 331720.

Pat Murphy: [patmurphy153@btinternet.com](mailto:patmurphy153@btinternet.com), 01865 331643.

Ron Leaver: [ronandfe@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:ronandfe@tiscali.co.uk), 01865 331360.

Kay Crowden: [kaycrowden@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:kaycrowden@hotmail.co.uk), 01865 331423.

Fred Foxon: [fred.foxon@btinternet.com](mailto:fred.foxon@btinternet.com) 01865 331678.

Tony Bradley: [ajrbradley@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:ajrbradley@hotmail.co.uk) 01856 331604

Parish Council Clerk - Mrs Charlesworth: [Clerkmertonpc@gmail.com](mailto:Clerkmertonpc@gmail.com) 01865 331481

Parish Council meetings are held on the 3rd Monday of the month at the village hall from 7.30pm. (Subject to any last minute cancellations). Details of the agenda may be found on the notice board by the bus station.

## FLOODLIGHTING OF ST SWITHUN'S CHURCH

We would like to thank everyone who has supported this facility so far and if anyone would like to use it to celebrate or commemorate a special occasion could they please ring either 01865 331429 or 01865 331360.

## VILLAGE HALL and PLAYING FIELD - FOR HIRE

If you are planning an event – don't forget that the village hall is available for hire.

There is also a playing field with football pitch available for hire, either for separate occasions or on a regular basis. If anyone knows of any football teams, or other clubs or organisations, like Brownies, Cubs, Martial Arts or fitness clubs looking for a venue, please, contact Kay Crowden on 01865 331423.

Free film show in Merton Village Hall: Thursday 21st December

The next in our 2017/18 'season' of free film shows in the Village Hall will be at 7.30 pm on Thursday, 21 December. 'Salmon Fishing in the Yemen' is a 2011 romantic comedy-drama starring Emily Blunt, Ewan McGregor, Kristin Scott Thomas and Amr Waked.

As usual, there'll be (free!) tea/coffee and biscuits afterwards.

Further film shows are scheduled for the following Thursdays: 18 January, 15 February, 15 March and 19 April.

These films are open to all residents of Merton and we would be delighted to welcome folk from neighbouring villages.

Please send suggestions of suitable future films to [patmurphy153@btinternet.com](mailto:patmurphy153@btinternet.com) (or 01865 331643).

## MERTON PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITE

The Merton Parish Council website can be accessed from the following address. <http://www.mertonparishcouncil.co.uk/>.

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# OTMOOR GARDEN SOCIETY REPORT NOVEMBER 2017

The 2017 programme is drawing to a close. In October our penultimate speaker was Christie Leary and the subject was Organic Gardening. The first section of the talk covered composting, which I thought she covered well, but it was a shame that we had already had one talk on this this year. There are now no excuses for not knowing how to compost, and I think we have covered the organic theme sufficiently for a while. She did not lecture us, the moral is do your bit, do what you can given your circumstances. Always good advice.

November will have been our last meeting of the year, and the winner of the Garden Photography competition will have been decided. In good Countryfile fashion, all will be revealed next time.

Looking ahead, the 2018 programme is now available, and if you attended the November meeting you may have already renewed your membership. Our membership year runs from January to November and so now is a very good time to renew or indeed to join us as a new member. We are still trying to reach the magic 100, and we welcome everyone whatever their level of gardening experience. I can not reveal 2018s subjects yet, but they are varied and we have a few extras this year such as a May talk and a Garden Photography workshop (limited places), so join now as there should be

something to suit all.

All members are invited to the AGM on January 23rd at Murcott starting at the earlier time of 7:30pm. This is by no means a formal evening, it includes a garden related quiz played in teams and a full supper prepared by the committee. Alcohol is also available! We hope to see you there.

My gardening advice for the festive period is 'Hoe Hoe Hoe!' (stolen from a Christmas card!) In addition to that it's a good time to cut back your perennials, weed the borders and mulch with compost or leaf mould. Do leave some seed heads standing for the birds though – Sedum, Phlomis and Rudbeckia are good examples. All this is good preparation for spring, and means that when your early bulbs emerge they will be set off by your tidy black-surfaced borders. Snowdrops – aah, now isn't that a nice thought!

Happy Gardening and Happy Christmas,  
Judith Rawlinson

For more details, or to join, contact Brian Eadle on 01865 331472  
[www.otmoorgardensociety.org.uk](http://www.otmoorgardensociety.org.uk)



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# PIDDINGTON NEWS

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## PIDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 19th December at 7.30pm. If you have any concerns or questions the Parish Council is always keen to hear from you, details below. The first 30 minutes of our meetings are an opportunity for villagers to address the council. Agendas and minutes from the meetings are available to view on the village website and the two Parish Council noticeboards: [www.piddingtonvillageoxfordshire.org.uk/meetings.html](http://www.piddingtonvillageoxfordshire.org.uk/meetings.html)

The Parish Council would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a very happy Christmas and good wishes for the new year. Councillors:

Francesca Darby (Chair)

Tel: 01844 238294

Email: [francesca.darby@piddingtonpc.com](mailto:francesca.darby@piddingtonpc.com)

Pam Feltbower (Vice Chair)

Tel: 01844 237523

Email: [pam.feltbower@piddingtonpc.com](mailto:pam.feltbower@piddingtonpc.com)

Andrew Coleman

Email: [andrew.coleman@piddingtonpc.com](mailto:andrew.coleman@piddingtonpc.com)

Lynda Galloway

Email: [lyndawillis.sunflower@gmail.com](mailto:lyndawillis.sunflower@gmail.com)

Ken Howard

Tel: 01869 320950

Email: [ken.howard@piddingtonpc.com](mailto:ken.howard@piddingtonpc.com)

Mike Nixon

Email: [michael.nixon@piddingtonpc.com](mailto:michael.nixon@piddingtonpc.com)

Mario Terzino

Tel: 01844 238154

Email: [mario.terzino@piddingtonpc.com](mailto:mario.terzino@piddingtonpc.com)

PLANNING APPLICATION 17/01962/F  
Material change of use of land to use as a residential caravan site for 6 gypsy families on Widnell Lane.

At the time of writing the Parish Council are still awaiting confirmation as to whether the application will be heard at the next planning meeting at Cherwell District Council on Thursday 14th December. It is also our understanding that comments can still be submitted on the planning portal, via email to Cherwell Planning Office for the attention of Stuart Howden or in writing.

Yet again the village has come out in force. However, it is imperative that as many people as possible submit their comments. The power of local feeling really does have an influence (particularly as the arguments are on purely planning concerns). If you have not made a submission, please do so – the village gets only one chance to make its case. If you would like a Parish Council factsheet, please contact Francesca (details above). **THIS IS A NEW APPLICATION**, with a different planning officer, and any previous comments will NOT be taken into consideration. Please send comments individually rather than in joint names.

## PIDDINGTON CLP

Due to the new planning application submission for a gypsy/traveller site on Widnell Lane there will be a delay in the publication of the plan. The team hope to be able to re-focus in the new year.

## WIDNELL PARK, THE JUBILEE RESERVE & PLAYING FIELDS

Cherwell's dog warden is now officially monitoring the playing field and the Parish Council asks that dog walkers act responsibly and pick up after their four-legged friends. There is a dog poo bin and two waste bins at Widnell Park and the playing fields, and two bins in the village: one opposite the entrance to Ludgershall Road and the other at Vicarage Lane. Please use them! There are also two bins within the village.

## RURAL POLICING

The Community Resilience Group discussion evening comprising Thames Valley Police officers and local communities met at the Tesco Community Centre, Lakeview, in November to discuss issues affecting their communities. Representatives from Piddington are now part of the core group. If you have any concerns or issues you would like raised please contact Ken Howard. The next meeting will be held on 21st February.

This winter stay vigilant when defrosting your cars whilst in your driveways. Car crime has been noted by the police as being on the increase in the area.

Regular relevant crime updates are now being provided by the police on their TV Alert system. You can sign up for these at [www.thamesvalleyalert.co.uk](http://www.thamesvalleyalert.co.uk).

## AN EMERGENCY PLAN FOR PIDDINGTON

Two councillors from Piddington attended Oxfordshire County Council's Community Emergency Plans and Resilience Workshops in November. Discussions were twofold: (a) for villages to have systems in place in the

event of an emergency happening in their own communities, and (b) for strategies to be in place in the event of something happening in the locality where our assistance might be needed. A plan is now being formalised by members of the Parish Council, Village Hall Management Committee and Church.

For more information on emergency planning issues please see the village website: [www.piddingtonvillageoxfordshire.org.uk/information-centre.html](http://www.piddingtonvillageoxfordshire.org.uk/information-centre.html)

## SSE PRIORITY SERVICE

Oxfordshire County Council's Community Emergency Officer believes that the county could be in line for a bad winter and urges people to make use of the free Priority Service being offered by SSE to people who may have special needs, particularly in the event of a power outage. These might be health issues, mobility problems or having young children. The Parish Council fully support this initiative. If you think you might find these services useful and would like to register or have questions about the offer, please contact the SSE Careline team directly on 0800 622838 or email [careline@sse.com](mailto:careline@sse.com)

Within the village we would like to promote a 'Good Neighbour Scheme', highlighting the need to get to know the households around you so that in the event of power outages or severe weather conditions those individuals in need of special help or care can be assisted. Many villages are now formalising 'Good Neighbour Co-ordinators' within their communities, and this is something the Emergency Plan hopes to address.

# your village, your news ... your village, your news ...

---

## BOUNDARY COMMISSION

The 2018 Boundary Review is on its 2nd consultation. If this goes ahead, Piddington will no longer be part of the Bicester/Banbury constituency but will become part of a rural area covering the length of the county down to Henley. The deadline for making comments on these changes is 11th December. For more information, see the BCE Consultation Portal: <https://www.bce2018.org.uk/>

## WEIGHT RESTRICTION LIMITS

You can report any breaches by contacting Oxfordshire County Trading Standards via their websites, [www.oxfordshire.gov.uk](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk), or phone 03454 040506. The website will need detailed information on the vehicle in question, with a photograph if possible. Alternatively, you can contact our Parish Clerk with the full details including registration number and company name.

## PIDDINGTON'S INFORMATION CENTRE

A range of useful information can be found on the village website, including phone numbers and email addresses: [www.piddingtonvillageoxfordshire.org.uk/information-centre.html](http://www.piddingtonvillageoxfordshire.org.uk/information-centre.html)

## CHRISTMAS AT ST NICHOLAS CHURCH

The church will be decorated for Christmas on Saturday 16th December. Any offers of festive foliage and help with the decorating will be gratefully accepted.

Christmas services are as follows:

Sunday 17th December: Carol Service at 6 pm  
Christmas Eve: Holy Communion at 10 pm.

## UNDER-16s FOOTBALL

As a consequence of the CLP results the Parish Council are looking to promote football sessions for the under 16s at the playing fields at the weekend. If you are interested and would like more information, please contact Mario Terzino (details above). The Parish Council have agreed to investigate funding opportunities with Sport England for equipment. Mario needs to gauge the level of interest before moving forward so please get in touch.

## A PIDDINGTON AFTER-SCHOOL CLUB?

If anyone is interested in starting an after-school club in the village hall, once a month on a Friday for games, tea and maybe wine for the grownups, please contact Sandra Paisley, 01844 237718 or [sandra.paisley@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:sandra.paisley@hotmail.co.uk). All proceeds to go to the upkeep of the playground.

## CAROL SINGING

Please help keep this village tradition going by joining in with the carol singing on Monday 16th December, We will start in Lower End at 7.00pm and make our way through the village. This is a very enjoyable evening and all are welcome to join in along the route even if it is just for a short time.



## PIDDINGTON 200 CLUB WINNERS - OCTOBER 2017

1st	002	V. Burchell
2nd	108	M. Ashton
3rd	078	T. Clark
4th	015	M. Chambers

Drawn at the Halloween Pop-Up Pub by Christopher Weavers. Verified by Morticia Addams. There are some spare numbers available. The price for the remaining seven months of the 200 Club year ending May is £7.00 but will revert to £12.00 for a full year thereafter. We have some lovely new villagers who may like to have a ticket. If so please ring Morticia on 01844 238707. Good luck.

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

2nd December – The Pantry Christmas Market at the village hall, 10-2pm. It's the 5th anniversary, so there will be more stalls than ever before!

15th December – Village Christmas drinks, sponsored by the Village Hall Committee and Parish Council, will be held on Friday 15th December from 7pm. Mulled wine and mince pies (mince pies very kindly donated by Hilary). Dressing up encouraged! It's an opportunity to meet up with your neighbours for a chinwag before Christmas frivolities commence in earnest.

17th December – Carol service at St. Nicholas church, 6pm

18th December – Carol singing through the village, from 7pm

## VILLAGE UPDATES

Email updates on village matters and events please contact Francesca list (francesca.darby@piddingtonpc.com).

Other ways to keep in touch:

Piddington village website:

[www.piddingtonvillageoxfordshire.org.uk](http://www.piddingtonvillageoxfordshire.org.uk)

The Pantry blog:

[piddingtonpantry.wordpress.com](http://piddingtonpantry.wordpress.com)

Piddington village Facebook page:

[www.facebook.com/piddingtonoxfordshire](http://www.facebook.com/piddingtonoxfordshire)

Piddington Swap Shop Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/447881082064329/>

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# BUS TIMETABLES

## Oxford - Islip - Ambrosden

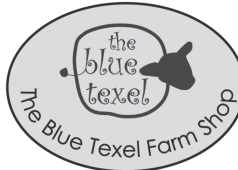
Oxford St Giles (Stop C5)	16:10	17:10	18:10
Gosford, o/s Kings Arms PH	16:30	17:30	18:30
Islip, opp The Red Lion PH	16:35	17:35	18:35
Oddington, opp Glebe Barn Bus Shelter	16:40	17:40	18:40
Charlton-on-Otmoor, opp Bus Garage	16:45	17:45	18:45
Merton, o/s The Plough Inn PH	16:50	17:50	18:50
Ambrosden, adj Birch Road	16:55	17:55	18:55

## Ambrosden - Islip - Oxford

Ambrosden, opp Birch Road	07:00	07:45
Merton, opp The Plough Inn PH	07:05	07:50
Charlton-on-Otmoor, o/s Bus Garage	07:10	07:55
Oddington, o/s Glebe Barn Bus Shelter	07:15	08:00
Islip, o/s The Red Lion PH	07:20	08:05
Gosford, opp Kings Arms PH	07:25	08:10
Oxford St Giles (Stop C5)	07:40	08:25



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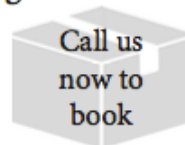
## Ray Valley Benefice For December 2017

- Fri Dec 1<sup>st</sup> - 9.30am Tiny Tots, Fencott  
Fri 1<sup>st</sup> to Sun 3<sup>rd</sup> - Christmas Tree Festival, Ambrosden  
Sat Dec 2<sup>nd</sup> - 10-2pm Piddington Pantry  
- 2-4pm 3 Parishes Fair, Islip  
- 7pm Curry & Carols, Charlton  
Sun Dec 3<sup>rd</sup> - 4pm Christingle, Ambrosden  
Wed Dec 6<sup>th</sup> - 10am Holy Communion, Ambrosden  
Sat Dec 9<sup>th</sup> - 2pm Christmas Bazaar, Charlton  
Sun Dec 10<sup>th</sup> - 5pm Christingle, Charlton  
Tues Dec 12<sup>th</sup> - 9.30am Holy Communion, Islip  
Fri Dec 15<sup>th</sup> - 9.30am ABC for pre-schoolers, Islip  
Sun Dec 17<sup>th</sup> - 4pm Christingle, Merton  
- 6pm Carol services, Ambrosden,  
Piddington, Islip and Charlton  
Mon Dec 18<sup>th</sup> - 7pm Village Carolling, Piddington and  
Ambrosden  
Wed Dec 20<sup>th</sup> - 10am Holy Communion, Charlton  
- 7pm Village Carolling, Islip  
Sun Dec 31<sup>st</sup> - 11pm Watchnight Service, Islip

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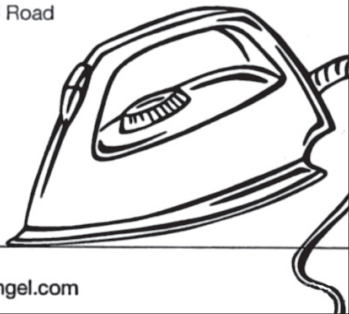
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# OTMOOR WOMANS INSTITUTE

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The Otmoor WI November meeting resulted in much hilarity as members were introduced to Laughter Yoga. Following a brief business session to report on recent activities and announce final arrangements for the Christmas meal and other upcoming events, the speaker for the evening, Caroline Edwards, was introduced. Offering reassurance that there would be no need to lie on the floor or adopt a lotus position to enjoy Laughter Yoga, she outlined its history and benefits.

Members were taken through a series of exercises, clapping to establish a rhythm before working with a partner. (How hard can it be to count to 3? Harder than you think when taking turns!) Moving around the room greeting each other and offering compliments and a final small group session followed before Caroline led us in a calming and relaxing breathing exercise to end the experience.

Laughter Yoga was new to all at the start of the evening but resulted in much animated discussion over a delicious spread provided by Charmaine and Landi.

December sees the members Christmas party at Murcott Village Hall in December with the January meeting back at Charlton Community Hall at 7.45 featuring a members Would I Lie To You? panel game.

Dates for the Diary

December

Tuesday 12th Members Christmas Party 7.30 (MVH)

There is no Coffee, Craft and Cake session in December.

January

Tuesday 9th Would I Lie To You? (CCH) 7.45

Thursday 18th Coffee, Craft and Cake (MVH) 7.30

February

Tuesday 13th 40 Years in bomb disposal and still 10 fingers! (CCH) 7.45

Thursday 15th Coffee, Craft and Cake (MVH) 7.30

For further information please contact Virginia on 01865 331521

Ann Williams

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## THE COLLECTION AND EDITORIAL TEAM

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Advertising: Russell Thompson [rthom91543@aol.com](mailto:rthom91543@aol.com) 01869 246093

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Piddington Chris Howard 01844 237928 [chris.howard38@btinternet.com](mailto:chris.howard38@btinternet.com)

All items for the next magazine and all adverts should be given to the village collectors by the 13th of the month preceding publication, and to the editor by the 15th.

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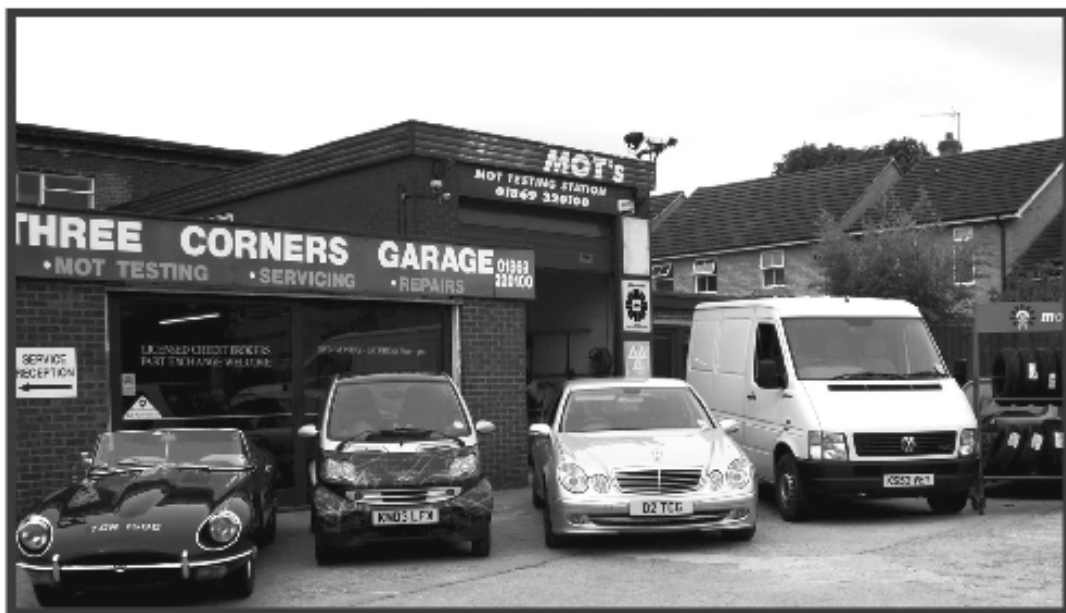


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