

# PARISH MATTERS



FEBRUARY 2018

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

*VILLAGE VIEWS & LOCAL NEWS*



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APPROVED  
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# CONTENTS

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Letters from the Clergy Team	4
Church Services Feb	5
Clergy Contacts	6
Ambroden News	8
Arcott News	12
Blackthorn News	19
Merton News	24
Piddington News	27
Vets Report	31
Otmoor Garden Society	32
Bus Timetables	34
Otmoor Womans Institute	37
Advertising and Contacts	38

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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

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At the time of writing, it is not yet the middle of January and some people are still talking hopefully about new year's resolutions. Meanwhile, I am told that the shops have got Easter eggs on their shelves! And no doubt hot cross buns too. Easter may be relatively early this year (1 Apr) but it's still over two months away.

What is this about? Is it a way of convincing ourselves that spring is nearly here? Is it that as one festival of indulgence is ending, we need to be reassured another one is fast approaching? Of course, what it is about is traders making money. But does selling early mean selling more? Presumably only if some of us, having been enticed by the prospect of being prepared, then forget we have been with the result that, when the time comes, buy some more!

Before Easter though, in the Christian calendar, comes the season of Lent, which starts this year on the memorable date of February 14th. Even though it is associated with Christian faith, I have noticed in the last few years, interestingly, that Lent seems almost more popular as a period of self-denial with non-worshippers than with committed Christians who these days are more enthusiastic about the idea of taking up - or giving more time to - things that will strengthen faith such as prayer, Bible study or some other activity. Of course, the two things are not mutually exclusive, and some will find that time for a new thing can only be found by renouncing e.g. a meal.

But increasingly we are aware it's not just food that we should be thinking of denying ourselves. The recent spotlight on the environmental catastrophe facing our oceans if not our inland waterways too has shown that there are other things we need to practise going without. Not using plastic bags, disposable cups and plastic containers, requires commitment - perhaps in the forethought required to ensure we take containers with us when we go out - and may require extra cost to buy things in recycled or other more environmentally friendly packaging or to buy goods with a Fairtrade label. Other kinds of self-denial may include going vegetarian or vegan or having 'buy nothing' days or weeks.

The purpose of Lent is to grow either in our love of God or in the practise of loving our neighbour. Why not use the remaining dark winter evenings to consider what efforts we can manage - not to improve ourselves but help the planet and those whose wellbeing is affected by the daily decisions we make?

And don't panic - I don't think there's any sign the world is facing a chocolate shortage - my bet is that there will still be plenty of eggs on the shelves even by the end of March.

Rev. Lucy Thirtle

# CHURCH SERVICES FEB

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Church	Time	Leader	Service
<b>Sunday February 4th</b>	<b>2 before Lent</b>		<b>Proverbs 8.1,22-31 Colossians 1.15-20 John 1.1-14</b>
Ambrosden	10.30	Steve	Holy Communion
	18.30	Steve	The X-tra One
Merton	09.00	Steve	Holy Communion
Piddington	10.30	Glenys	Family Service
Islip	10.30	Lucy	Parish Communion
Noke	17.00	Vicki	Family Service
Woodeaton			No Service
Charlton	10.30	Vicki	Family Service
Oddington			No Service
<b>Sunday February 11th</b>	<b>Next before Lent</b>		<b>2 Kings 2.1-12 2 Corinthians 4.3-6 Mark 9.2-9</b>
Ambrosden	10.30	Steve	Family Service
Piddington	09.00	Steve	Holy Communion
Islip	10.30	Vicki	Parish Communion
Noke			No Service
Woodeaton	09.15	Vicki	Family Service
Charlton	09.00	Lucy	Holy Communion
	18.00	Steve	Evensong
Oddington	10.30	Lucy	Holy Communion
<b>Wednesday February 14th</b>	<b>Ash Wednesday</b>		
Ambrosden	10.00	Steve	Holy Communion
Charlton	19.30	Glenys	Ash Wednesday Service
Islip	19.30	Lucy	Holy Communion
<b>Sunday February 18th</b>	<b>Lent 1</b>		<b>Genesis 9.8-17 1 Peter 3.18-end Mark 1.9-15</b>
Ambrosden	10.30	Lisa	Holy Communion
Merton	09.00	Lisa	Holy Communion
Piddington	18.00	Steve	Evening Prayer
Islip	10.30	Lucy	Parish Communion
Woodeaton	09.15	Lucy	Holy Communion
Noke			No Service
Charlton	10.30	Steve	Family Communion
Oddington			No Service
<b>Sunday February 25th</b>	<b>Lent 2</b>		<b>Genesis 17.1-7,15-16 Romans 4.13-end Mark 8.31-end</b>
Ambrosden	10.30	Steve	Holy Communion
Merton	10.30	Vicki	Family Service
Piddington	09.00	Steve	Holy Communion
Islip	10.30	Lucy	Family Service & SC
Noke			No Service
Woodeaton			No Service
Charlton	9.00	Vicki	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>	

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The graphic features a grey banner with the words "The Bulletin Board" in a bold, black, serif font. The banner is pinned to a white background with three pushpins: one at the top center, one at the bottom left, and one at the bottom right. The word "The" is written on a small white card that is pinned to the top center of the banner.

**The Bulletin Board**

**Ray Valley Benefice**

**For February 2018**

- |                       |                                       |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Fri 2nd               | - 10.30am Tiny Tots, Fencott          |
| Weds 7th              | - 10am Holy Communion, Ambrosden      |
| Sat 10 <sup>th</sup>  | - 7pm Quiz Night & Supper, Charlton   |
| Tues 13 <sup>th</sup> | - 9.30am Holy Communion, Islip        |
| Fri 16 <sup>th</sup>  | - 9.30am ABC for pre-schoolers, Islip |
| Weds 21 <sup>st</sup> | - 10am Holy Communion, Charlton       |

# 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

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

8.20-11.20 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

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

For further details please email or find us on  
facebook.  
ambrosdenscouts@gmail.com

Recycling  
Bottle banks, behind Doctors surgery

#### VIOLET TURNER MBE

Violet Turner MBE of Old Arncott Road, sadly passed away peacefully on 3rd January 2018 aged 92 years. Her family thank everyone for their condolences and thoughts.

#### LATE CHRISTMAS DINNER

The Village Hall committee organized a wonderful and well attended annual village dinner with entertainment on the 20th January 2018 at 7pm

We thank the Village Hall Committee for their hard work

#### 1ST AMBROSDEN AND ARNCOTT SCOUT GROUP

1st Ambrosden and Arncott Scout Group is your local scout group and based at Arncott Village Hall

Cubs for children aged 8-10 on Wednesdays

Scouts for children aged 10-14 on Fridays.

Scouting is for both boys and girls. We have space in scouts. But get your child's name on the list for cubs.

We are new group and have plans to expand with a view of opening a beaver section for 6-8 year olds. However to do this we need volunteers. We need Section Leaders, Section Assistants, Occasional Helpers, Fundraisers, committee members, Equipment Storer, The list is endless of how you can help. No experience of scouting is needed and free training is available.

**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.

The Parish Council is investigating why all the dog waste bins on the MOD estates have been sealed up.

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.

## RUBBISH

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.

## LITTER PICK

The Parish Council is seeking volunteers for a litter pick weekend in late March/ April.

Please contact  
Ambrosden.parishclerk@gmail.com

## 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/>

## 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.

Monday  
Ambrosden4Children STAY AND PLAY (Term time)  
Village Hall 0930-1100 £2.50 entry (additional £1 for siblings) Refreshments included  
Email: Ambrosden4Children@gmail.com

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

Boxing for fitness class  
6.45pm (45mins)  
Ambrosden Village Hall  
Contact Simon Charles 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/>

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

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## Tuesday

Taekwondo – Village Hall

Juniors age 7 years and over 6:30pm - 7:30pm.

Contact Adrian - (07979) 524923 - <http://www.buckstkdacademy.co.uk/>

Aqua Splash Swimming lessons at Ambrosden's Garrison Pool.

Codfather – Fish and Chips, Kebabs

Next to Costcutter

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

1st Ambrosden and Arncott Scouts

Cubs - 5:30-6:45.

Arncott 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

Ambrosden4Children STAY AND PLAY  
(Term time)

The Rectory, Church Walk, OX25 2UJ  
0930-1100 £2.50 entry (additional £1 for siblings) Refreshments included

Parish Council

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

Kebab Van – Costcutter car park -evening

## Friday

Rainbows – (age 5-7)

<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

1st Ambrosden and Arncott Scouts

Scouts - 7-9pm

Arncott Village Hall

## 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)

# ARNCOTT NEWS

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REPORT FROM ARNCOTT PARISH  
COUNCIL MEETING 10th  
JANUARY 2018 & UPDATE FROM VHMC  
/ ACA COMMITTEE

Arcott 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 Arcott 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  
Andy Poppitt 07921 436489  
Peter Barnard 01869 570569

Parish Clerk - Anne Davies 01865 379645 -  
clerkatarncott@gmail.com  
Parish website - <http://www.parish-council.com/arcott/>  
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.

New parish councillors

Andy Poppitt and Peter Barnard have been co-opted onto the parish council. Andy replaces Paul Genge who resigned at the end of October 2016 and Peter replaces Nicola Smith who resigned at the end of November 2017.

Woodpiece Road parking

CDC has confirmed to the parish council that the phase 1 construction will be submitted to the planning department very shortly for approval. A disabled parking bay will be included in site 3 as requested. Phase 2 will happen but this will be after phase 1. For the phase 2 work, the parish council has requested that a disabled parking bay also be included in the refurbishment of the existing Buchanan Court car park. Again, 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

Thank you to the people who have emailed into the parish council with ideas for what to do with this space. Suggestions so far include creating a communal garden, allotments / raised beds, skate board park. If anyone has more ideas then please let us know. Getting anything done here will depend on

CDC agreeing to the proposal(s) and also allocating a budget to get the work done so we will need to talk with our district councillor about what may be possible.

#### Speedwatch

The program will start again in the spring. We need help from our community to run this program so please think about becoming a volunteer and signing up. If you can help us then let us know by emailing the parish clerk, the parish email address or by contacting any parish councillor directly.

#### Speed monitoring

OCC have now installed speed monitoring systems within the village. The number of vehicles using the roads and their speeds will be recorded 24/7 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. In the near future the parish council will consider the possible installation of vehicle activated signs that flash up vehicle speed on approaching the village. It seems that these types of signs have a positive effect in making drivers slow down.

#### Murcott Road Build-out

The good news is that this project was approved by OCC's cabinet member for the environment at the end of November last year. Funding for the construction of the build-out will come from £13,000 of developer funds. OCC's estimate for a start date for construction is April / May of this year (hopefully - fingers crossed – again !!).

#### 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

The new operators of the Arncott Motocross site attended the parish council meeting in December to introduce themselves and to understand residents' issues with the site. It was explained to them that noise was a major concern. The new operators said that they would like to achieve a working relationship with the residents of the village and have already had discussions CDC about the construction of a noise attenuation bund. Unfortunately, CDC have so far indicated it would not give planning consent for this to be done. The parish council agreed that any measures that could be taken to reduce the noise would be acceptable and it was agreed to raise this issue with our district councillor and ask for his help in persuading CDC to allow the bund to be constructed.

#### Grant money for village art project

At the December meeting, the parish clerk was asked to write to the CDC community services officer to try and find out about any information / progress. Nothing had been received by the time of this January's meeting so the parish clerk will write to the community services officer yet again. Ideally, a dedicated meeting can be set up with the community services officer to decide for definite what can be done.

## Dog Poo

This problem still exists and seems to be getting worse. Residents are still finding piles of dog poo left on their drives and garden paths. Dog poo is still being left behind on roadside verges, pavements and on the green spaces around the village. The CDC dog warden is still visiting the village in the hope of catching the dog owners responsible for this outrageous behaviour. The parish council is asking for everyone in our village to be on the lookout for these dog owners. If you see anyone not picking up after his / her dog then PLEASE take photos / videos of him / her. This can be used as evidence to support a prosecution. The CDC dog warden's name is Christopher Cundy and his telephone number is 01295 221633. The parish council has agreed to get another two dog bins installed in the village. It is planned to site one near the bottom of Mill Lane and the other at the end of Green Lane next to the cut through into the playing field. We need to get CDC agreement regarding the new sites. There will be eight bins available throughout the village. CDC will charge us around £1,100 per year to empty all of these bins so PLEASE USE THEM !!

## 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 louts

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.

## Anti-social behaviour

It's disappointing to report that instances of anti-social behaviour have risen over the last couple of months. Most of this unwanted behaviour takes place in the late evening / night. In addition to what was reported in the last issue of this magazine, residents have since reported that wheelie bins have been turned over and eggs have been thrown at a house. A lady living in Mill Lane found a teenage girl prowling around in her garden at night and youths were seen taking outside Christmas decorations from a resident's front garden. Bags of dog poo have been thrown into the gardens of residents living in the houses along Buchanan Road between the top of Mill Lane and Patrick Haugh Road. These offences have been reported to the police and we hope that the village will see a more frequent police presence as a result. Yet again, the parish council would ask for everyone to be vigilant and be on the lookout. Once again, photos / videos of these idiots can be used as evidence. The parish council is of the opinion that getting a neighbourhood watch scheme up and running would be a good thing to do. For that to happen we need our community to sign up and take part. Please consider getting involved with this scheme. If you want to help then please email the parish council or contact any parish councillor.

## Roads and streetlights

OCC have advised the parish council that the worn out white road lines / markings in the village will not be repainted until sometime into the new financial year (April onwards) as there is no funding available for it to be done before then. OCC are also telling us that the potholes in the road in Lower Arcott are still not deep enough to warrant remedial work. The parish council will again ask OCC to reconsider this decision and get the pot holes repaired. You can help us

by reporting these pot holes on the [www.fixmystreet.com](http://www.fixmystreet.com) website. The more people who moan to OCC about it the better chance of repairs happening.

#### Community emergency planning

The heavy snowfall and power cut that our village experienced on December 10th last year highlighted the lack of a community emergency plan and the need for such a plan to be created. This is now being done. For this plan to work a community emergency volunteer group needs to be formed to help us out. A database needs to be created that gives the parish council the names and numbers of the volunteers and a list of the people in the village who are most at risk. We would ask everyone to seriously consider becoming involved with this. If you want to become part of this group then please get in contact with the parish council via email or telephone.

#### Parish precept 2018 / 2019

Our precept for this current financial year is £15,000. The parish council will ask CDC for a precept increase of £500 for the coming financial year to give us £15,500. This will cost a band D property £1.55p extra per year. In total, the projected parish income is £18,865 and the projected expenditure is £18,635. If you want to see a detailed breakdown of income / expenditure then please email the parish clerk and ask her for the details.

#### Facebook

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

Village Hall / VHMC/ACA

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

#### Children's Christmas Party

We would like to thank everyone who helped to make the Arncoft children's Christmas party a great success; this includes everyone from the village who donated money, selection boxes, wrapping paper. A Big thank you to the 300 Club members and collectors, Arncoft Moto Park who donated £100 and Thomas at one stop who donated money too, all which helped buy presents, food, decorations etc.

And of course thank you for all Christine's help and Paige the fairy and Dave the Santa.

Once again a big thank you to everyone for helping to make it a big success and hope to make it just as good next year

From Jenny, Vicky and Catherine

#### Seniors Christmas Lunch

This was held on Saturday 6th January and attended by 60 seniors, friends and relatives. It was a very successful event, with many people saying how much they enjoyed it. Background music and vocals were provided by Jacqueline Faye, setting the perfect tone for a relaxed meal, with many joining in and dancing afterwards. Special thanks to Christine Dunkin, Tricia Bowen and Marion Moore, for organising, shopping and cooking prior to the day, and also to Pat Murray, Christeen Lavery, Jo Chiddle, Wendy Wilkins, Tina Cooper, Kelly Kennedy and Sally Smith for all their help with the preparations, cooking, serving, waiting on table, clearing away, and washing up, it would not have happened without you all. Also thanks to the Scouts for putting out the tables and chairs on the Friday evening, and those who helped put them away afterwards.

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

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The Committee would like to take this opportunity and Thank whoever sent in a cash donation for the Senior Citizens Christmas Lunch. It was an extremely kind gesture.

A reminder to everyone that both the Senior's lunch and the Kid's party are funded by the profits made by the Arncott 300 Club, this is the only source of income for Arncott Community Assopciation, which pays for these community events. This is now seriously underfunded, and the ACA has had to use some of its slender reserves to help pay for the parties this time around. If you wish to see these parties continue would you please consider joining or rejoining the 300 Club, and if you really want to help please contact Wendy Wilkins at Arncott300club@gmail.com about becoming a collector. The position of ACA Treasurer will also become vacant shortly, without a new treasurer and more members there is a very good chance that both the parties will not be held in future. The new treasurer will become part of the Village Hall and ACA management group, and help in keeping our community activities going, without this team the village hall, which is a vital community asset, would have to close and there will be nowhere in the village to hold events. Please give this serious consideration if you or a friend or relative has attended any of the events held in the hall, or hired it for your own party.

## 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 5th February please. Contact Gwen McEwan on 01869 248309 - 14 Hopcraft Close, Arncott, OX25 1QL.

## CHARITY DINNER DANCE

Name(s).....

Menu Selection.....

Wine - red or white: .....



### 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.

### Craft Club Every Thursday

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

### Arncott Friendship Club

The friendship club has been going now for about 25 years and at one time there was about 40 members, but due to the sad loss of members and some moving away our numbers have dwindled. We meet in the Greenfields common room on the second Wednesday of each month at 1.45pm till 3.45pm. Our activities include plenty of tea/ coffee drinking, along with cakes, sandwiches and a good old chat. We do a quiz,

bingo and of course a raffle. Why not come along and meet up with old friends and make new ones. For more information ring Christine on 01869249560.

### 300 Club winners for December

3 E. Owen  
78 J. Willis  
172 Mrs L. Mundy  
177 Mrs T. Cooper  
22 K. Crawford

If anyone is interested and would like to start or rejoin the 300 Club, please contact Wendy Wilkins by email at [Arncott300club@gmail.com](mailto:Arncott300club@gmail.com).

Material required for the parish magazine please.

Please email it to [marionmoore20@btinternet.com](mailto:marionmoore20@btinternet.com) by 13th of the month

# MERTON VILLAGE HALL

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[www.thevillageclinic.co.uk](http://www.thevillageclinic.co.uk)

# BLACKTHORN NEWS

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## BLACKTHORN VILLAGE HALL

Coffee Morning

Thu 11th Jan

Thu 1st Feb

Thu 1st Mar

Thu 5th Apr

## Forthcoming Events

Movie Night on Sat 20th Jan – showing ‘Their Finest’

Quiz Night on Sat 3rd Mar (with Fish n Chip supper)

Easter Egg Hunt on Sun 1st Apr

Pub Nights open at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

Fri 26th Jan

Fri 23rd Feb

Fri 30th Mar (Good Friday)

Fri 27th Apr

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](mailto:clerkblackthornpc@gmail.com)

Recent Items from Parish Council Meeting the council wants pass on:

As we move into 2018 the Parish Council would like ideas from the residents for projects we can support and fund that will be of benefit for the whole village. Already on the cards for 2018 is a new parking area for the village park and revamp of Weir Pond. Please email [rlblackthornpc@gmail.com](mailto:rlblackthornpc@gmail.com) with suggestions. - The Parish Council would like to draw attention to the Oxford to Cambridge Expressway plans.

As recently announced by the Chancellor in his budget speech, the government has plans for a million new homes alongside the new expressway route. From the stage 3 report (see link below) the Parish Council believes that 3 of the 4 proposed routes could affect Blackthorn Parish.

For details of the proposal and current status see the stage 3 report by following the link below. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/oxford-to-cambridge-expressway-strategic-study-stage-3-report>

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)

Thanks to Parish Council and Village Hall Committee for their Christmas gift to retired villagers. This has been a long-standing Christmas gift and is appreciated by many who receive it.

If you have any news or other items you would like included please email John Henderson at [j\\_henderson@btinternet.com](mailto:j_henderson@btinternet.com) by the 10th of each month.

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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:

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

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

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

Tony Bradley: [ajrbradley@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:ajrbradley@hotmail.co.uk) 01865 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 15 FEBRUARY

The next in our 2017/18 'season' of free film shows in the Village Hall will be at 7.30 pm on Thursday, 15 February. 'Manchester by the Sea' is a 2016 American drama about a man who becomes sole guardian of his teenage nephew after his brother's death. It stars Casey Affleck, Michelle Williams, Kyle Chandler and Lucas Hedges.

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

Further film shows are scheduled for the following Thursdays: 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/>.



# Merton Wood: a Thank-You to Thames Water

In autumn 2016, Merton Community Woodland Group was formed, to maintain and improve Merton Wood as both a local amenity and a wildlife haven. One aim was to create a “wilderness footpath” through the cricket-bat willows at the far end of the wood, with a crossing over the ditch that leads from the pond into the field drains.

After consulting wildlife specialists, we decided that the best approach would be to dam rather than bridge the ditch. This would achieve two things – to create a walkway over the ditch, and to raise the water level in the pond, improving its habitat value for amphibians. Raising the outflow through the dam would also prevent fish from swimming upstream and preying on the amphibian larvae.

As the cost of the work greatly exceeded the resources of the volunteer group, it was suggested that Thames Water might be willing to help, in compensation for the disruption caused by their water main replacement in Ambrosden. To our delight, they quickly agreed, and the dam was built on 4th and 5th December 2017. As can be seen in the photos below, the work was done to a high standard, and at no cost to the village, the Parish Council or the Woodland Group.

We’d therefore like to record our grateful thanks to Thames Water for all their help in enhancing Merton Wood, for the benefit of both the local community and the local wildlife. So please do take a walk around the wood and see what’s been done. And if you’d like to get involved with the Woodland Group, we meet every second Sunday at around 9:30am (next meeting 4th February). For details, contact Fred Foxon (01865 331678), Chris Bottrell (01865 331405) or Jo Copping (01865 331204).

Merton Community Woodland Group

January 2018



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# PIDDINGTON NEWS

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## PIDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 20th February 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)

### Parish Clerk:

Anne Davis

Tel: 01865 379645

Email: [piddington.parish.clerk@googlemail.com](mailto:piddington.parish.clerk@googlemail.com)

### 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

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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 believe that the planning officer's recommendation will be published around the 7/8th February and that the application will be discussed by the Cherwell Planning Committee at their meeting on Thursday 15th February. The Parish Council intend to address the meeting and will be sending a condensed objection factsheet to members of the Planning Committee in advance. More information will be forthcoming closer to the time for those wishing to attend. Please email Francesca if you want to be added to the village email.

## PRECEPTS 2017/2018

The Parish Council have agreed to increase the Precept for the year ahead by 3% in line with inflation. This means that the payment made by a Band D property will rise by £1.38 per year.

## PIDDINGTON CLP

The Christmas break and ongoing work on the planning application submission for a gypsy/traveller site on Widnell Lane has meant that there will be a delay in the publication of the plan. Much of the work has been completed and many of the projects highlighted by the questionnaire results already in work. The team hope to be able to re-focus in the new year.

## DOG POO

The Parish Council are providing emergency poo bags at the playing fields. A cannister holding supplies will be positioned near the bin. These are obviously not an alternative to buying your own! Cherwell's dog warden is now officially monitoring the playing field and the Parish Council ask that dog walkers act responsibly and pick up after their four-legged friends. There have been a number of reports of poo being left along the Arcott Road. This road has increasing foot traffic so please take the time to pick up.

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!

## RURAL POLICING

The next meeting of the Community Resilience Group will be held on 21st February. If you have any concerns or issues you would like raised, please contact Ken Howard.

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 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

The bad weather in December, including a number of hours without electricity showed that communication within the village is of utmost importance. Poor mobile phone signals and increasing numbers of households turning to internet telephones has meant that the loss of electricity makes communication difficult. It has therefore been agreed that the Resilience Fund grant obtained from SSE will be used to purchase a set of licensed 2-way radios

which will be held by village co-ordinators. Investigations are also underway to purchase a portable generator for the village. It has been agreed that the village hall will be designated the emergency hub for the village.

Discussions are now underway regarding the purchase of a snow plough and portable gritters through another application for funding from SSE. If you are interested in being part of the team organising the Emergency Plan for the village, please contact Mario Testino or Mike Nixon (above).

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)

## GRIT BINS

There are a number of grit bins around the village (usually green or yellow in colour) containing salt to be used by villagers on our roads and footpaths. A map will be published shortly showing each location. Residents are encouraged to make use of the salt in the event of more bad weather to improve the safety of road intersections close to their properties. The council will not grit country roads or villages. Please check that your nearest bin is full. To organise refills, contact the Parish Clerk (above)

## SSE PRIORITY SERVICE

This is an invaluable service and free. It is 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

#### 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)

#### 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 (above). The Parish Council have agreed to investigate funding opportunities

to gauge the level of interest before moving

forward so please get in touch. with Sport England for equipment. Mario needs

#### 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.

#### THE PANTRY CHRISTMAS MARKET

Huge thanks to everyone involved in making The Pantry's 5th anniversary the biggest and the busiest so far. Since the first market, The Pantry has raised over £10,000 for Piddington projects, and has become a firm part of village life, well-regarded by customers and stallholders alike. This year, The Pantry will hold markets on the following dates: 24 March, 1 September and 1 December. New volunteers are always welcome, especially for setting up the day before and taking down at the end. Read more at The Pantry blog: [piddingtonpantry.wordpress.com](http://piddingtonpantry.wordpress.com).

#### PIDDINGTON 200 CLUB WINNERS NOVEMBER 2017

1st 151 W. Sear  
2nd 042 L. Podmore  
3rd 028 D. Sear  
4th 018 J. Bayliss

Drawn at the Pop-Up Pub on 24th November.  
Verified by Sandra Paisley.

DECEMBER 2017

1st 020 K. Innes

2nd 191 S. Phillips

3rd 095 A. Loft

4th 128 C. Cook

Drawn at the Pop-Up Pub on 15th December.

Verified by Ken Howard.

There are some spare numbers available. The price for the remaining months of the 200 Club year (Feb – May) is £4.00 but will revert to £12.00 for a full year thereafter. If you'd like to buy a number, please ring 01844 238707. Good luck.

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

24th March – The Pantry Spring Market at the village hall, 10-2pm. There are some exciting new stalls as well as your favourites and, don't forget, it's the weekend before Easter, so stock up on goodies and gifts! We'll be setting up the market the day before (23rd) and really need volunteers to help with this and also to help take it all down afterwards. We'd be very grateful for people to turn up at the end of the market – around 2pm – to give us a hand. Thanks in advance!

23rd February – Pop-Up Pub at the village hall, doors open 7pm.

### VILLAGE UPDATES

Email updates on village matters and events please contact Francesca to be added to the list ([francesca.darby@piddingtonpc.com](mailto: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/>

Twitter:

@pidding\_pantry – for all things relating to The Pantry

@Piddingtonoxon – for general items of interest




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# VETS REPORT

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## Through the Keyhole

As vets, we have long been recommending routine neutering of pets for various reasons. For cats it is often an easier decision as entire Tom cats tend to roam around, get in fights and they will commonly urinate in their territory to mark it as their own. Their lifestyle means that entire Toms have a proven shorter lifespan than castrated Toms.

Spaying bitches has some proven benefits also. Apart from stopping seasons, which can be messy and difficult to manage, there is a medical benefit in reducing the risk of mammary tumours significantly and of course it prevents unwanted pregnancies. Like anything there are potential down sides which must be weighed against the benefits. Spayed bitches are more susceptible to weight gain, they can occasionally get coat changes and there is a small increase in the incidence of urinary incontinence.

Bitch spay surgery is commonly performed and traditionally the ovaries & uterus are removed by way of a standard surgical approach through the abdominal wall - the technical term is an ovariohysterectomy. In recent years there has been a move towards just removing the ovaries (an ovariectomy), which gives the same results

and could be a bit faster to do.

The high-tech progression is to perform an ovariectomy using laparoscopy (“Keyhole”) surgery. This enables the operation to be



performed through a number of very small holes with the benefit of less post-op discomfort, a quicker recovery and quicker return to normal exercise. We have recently started to perform the surgery at our practice and the results have been excellent. Due to the equipment involved it does cost a bit more than a standard spay and it is only available for medium and large dogs due to the size of the instruments.

We have a lot of information on our website at [bicester vets.co.uk](http://bicester vets.co.uk) If you are interested in this Keyhole option for your bitch then please give us a call at the practice on 01869 252077.

Enjoy your pets

Jason Williams  
Bicester Vets

# OTMOOR GARDEN SOCIETY FEB

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If you can remember back to 2017 (pre- the Christmas alcohol) our November speaker, Avril Hughes, gave us a lovely finale to our programme with a talk on The Brighter Side of Winter. She detailed plenty of plants in their splendour during the winter months to get you out in your gardens. If your garden is anywhere near as nice as Avril's then you are hopefully now enjoying the colourful stems of dogwoods and the wonderful scent of winter box, with the promise of snowdrops coming through. It was a popular and inspiring talk. Avril's garden (Hollyhocks, North Street, Islip) will be open under the NGS on Sunday 18th February 1:30 – 5pm.

At this meeting we also judged the 2017 Garden Photography competition. Each member was allowed two entries and everyone at the meeting was given a vote. I can now announce that the winner is ..... Rosemary Craig, and the runner-up is ..... Rosemary Craig! Now that's just showing off. Rosemary declined an interview as she was too busy polishing her cup, but hopefully her winning pictures are printed alongside this article. We had two runners-up who took joint third place, Alastair Craig and David Rawlinson.

It was a nice little competition and gives me something pretty to print in the magazines, which is more than can be said for a potato in a tub!

So at this point I can say Happy New Year, and we can look ahead to the 2018 programme which is also hopefully printed here. We have eight speakers this year covering a variety

of topics. Our coach trip goes to The Savill Garden in Windsor Great Park, and we have some interesting local visits which always seem to be popular. Don't miss the evening visit to Pettifers in July. This garden is only open by appointment, so you can't just turn up on your own. It is near Banbury and looks spectacular. You may have seen it on Gardener's World last year. Also in July there are limited places available for the Garden Photography Workshop, so if you are interested but haven't put your name down for this yet then please let me know.

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. Please take your money to Brian or pay at any of our upcoming meetings.

And whatever you do, don't miss our popular Plant Sale on 12th May.

Our first speaker this year in on February 27th at Charlton-on-Otmoor. Hazel Roberts' topic is Growing Food not Gluts. This will no doubt strike a note with many of our fruit and veg growers who have experienced drowning in a mountain of tomatoes or runner beans! Her talk will explore ways to avoid growing too much fruit or veg in the first place, and interesting ways to use what you have grown to avoid boredom and food waste.

Hazel has been growing fruit and vegetables since 1996 on her two allotments. She has written several books on the subject as well as blogging about it, and runs a business called Jam Moo Kow in Milton Keynes, selling her homemade preserves, organising events and



running courses in preserve making. Some of her preserves will be available to buy on the night.

So plenty coming up and hope you can join us.

Happy Gardening,  
Judith Rawlinson

<b>Otmoor Garden Society Programme 2018</b>			
<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic/Event</b>	<b>Speaker</b>	<b>Location</b>
February 27th	Growing Food not Gluts	Hazel Roberts	Charlton
March 27th	Sensory Sensations	Paul Green	Murcott
April 8th	Merton Wood Tour 9:30 am		
April 24th	Planting Design	Jon Uglow	Charlton
<b>May 12th</b>	<b>PLANT SALE</b>	<b>11:00 – 13:00</b>	<b>Charlton</b>
May 22nd	Gardening in the North – Lessons for the Banana Belt!	Peter Semple	Murcott
June 9th	Coach trip to The Savill Garden, Windsor Great Park		
June 26 <sup>th</sup>	Plants for Small Gardens	Thomas Stone	Murcott
July 3rd	Evening visit to Pettifers garden 7:15 pm		
July 14th	Garden Photography Workshop with Clive Boursnell		
July 21st	Member's Garden Visit – Sandie Stevenson, Blackthorn 2:30pm		
September 25th	A Bulb for All Seasons	Chris Day	Murcott
October 23rd	Garden Ponds and Water Features	Phillip Aubrey	Charlton
November 27th	Growing and Showing Vegetables	Marcus Powell	Murcott

Meetings are held on the fourth Tuesday of most months at 8:00 pm, alternating between Charlton on Otmoor and Murcott Village Halls. To join contact [ali@hinksey.plus.com](mailto:ali@hinksey.plus.com) or phone Brian Eadle on 01865 331472. Non Members welcome to attend meetings for a charge of £2.

# BUS TIMETABLES

## Oxford - Islip - Ambrosden

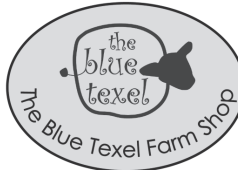
Oxford St Giles (Stop C5)	16:10	17:10	18:10
Gosford, o/s Kings Arms PH	16:30	17:30	18:30
Islip, opp The Red Lion PH	16:35	17:35	18:35
Oddington, opp Glebe Barn Bus Shelter	16:40	17:40	18:40
Charlton-on-Otmoor, opp Bus Garage	16:45	17:45	18:45
Merton, o/s The Plough Inn PH	16:50	17:50	18:50
Ambrosden, 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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2018

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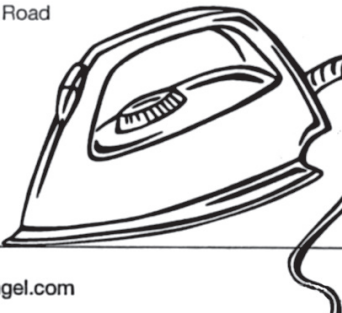
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# OTMOOR WOMANS INSTITUTE

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Following on from a successful Christmas Party in December which went ahead despite the snow members of Otmoor WI enjoyed a social evening for their January meeting. Virginia opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and especially a number of visitors and new members. After the business of the evening there was a chance to chat and support the raffle and sales table in aid of the Denman Fund whilst enjoying the refreshments prepared by Ali and Landi before the main event, a contest of Would I Lie to You? between a team of members and one made up of committee members. With a range of tales stretching imaginations to the limit and provoking much laughter it was the committee team that came out victors by 4 points to 2.

The competition for a favourite tin resulted in equal points for several members in the challenge for the Competition Cup. The

raffle for Denman was drawn and members were reminded of the Coffee, Craft and Cake session on January 18th. The February meeting sees Ian Jones MBE giving a talk entitled "40 Years in Bomb Disposal and still 10 fingers!"

## Dates for the diary

February 13th (CCH) 7.45 40 Years in Bomb Disposal and still 10 fingers – Ian Jones MBE

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

March 13th (CCH) 7.45 Annual Meeting

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

For further details contact Virginia  
(01865331521)

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Ads received before the 13th of the month will be included in the next month's edition. Adverts received after this date will be included in the following edition.

## THE COLLECTION AND EDITORIAL TEAM

Editor: Lucy Gordon [parishmattersoxfordshire@gmail.com](mailto:parishmattersoxfordshire@gmail.com)

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

### Village News Collectors:

Ambrosden Wendy Cheeseman [wendy@plantalittlemagic.co.uk](mailto:wendy@plantalittlemagic.co.uk)

Arcott Marion Moore 01869 253600 [marionmoore20@btinternet.com](mailto:marionmoore20@btinternet.com)

Blackthorn John Henderson [j\\_henderson@btinternet.com](mailto:j_henderson@btinternet.com)

Merton Wendy Meads [wendymeads@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:wendymeads@yahoo.co.uk)

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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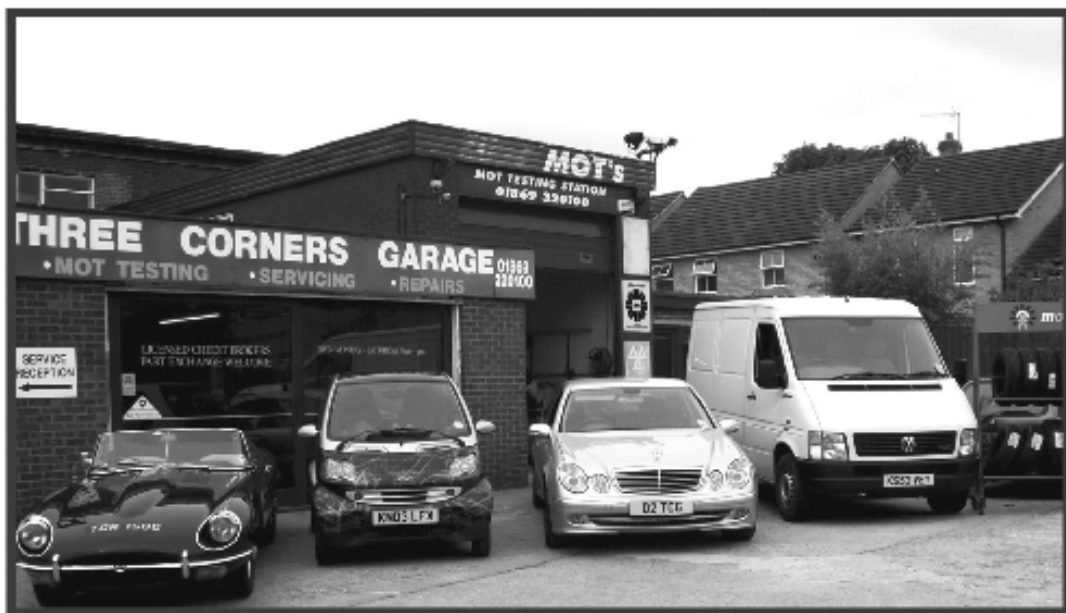


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