

# PARISH MATTERS



MARCH 2018

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

*VILLAGE VIEWS & LOCAL NEWS*



# Trust Bicester Vets to care for *your* pets

## Why Choose Bicester Vets?

### Peace of mind for pet owners...

- Compassionate & Caring at all times
- Long opening hours for your convenience.
- 24 hour on-site nursing care as standard for all our hospitalised patients.
- 24 hour emergency service *provided by our vets at our practice.*
- 'A service that's second to none from North Oxfordshire's most established, independent, speciality small animal practice.'

Bicester Vets • Victoria Road • Bicester • OX26 6PJ



Follow us on twitter @bicestervets and Like us on facebook at [www.facebook.com/bicestervets](http://www.facebook.com/bicestervets)

**bicester vets**  
Compassion & Care

[www.bicestervets.co.uk](http://www.bicestervets.co.uk) • Call today on 01869 252077

### North Oxfordshire's finest one-stop shop for all things photographic ....

... in the centre of Bicester with **FREE PARKING**  
just a two-minute walk from the store

- Digital printing & enlargements, while-you-wait
- Large Format & Poster printing, while-you-wait
- Photobooks & Wall Art, Photo gifts, while-you-wait
- Canvas & Panel Printing, while-you-wait
- Film processing, 1-hour service available
- Digital archiving of slides, negs & prints
- Cine & Video Transfer to DVD service
- a huge selection of photo frames & albums
- Passport, Visa & ID photographs in 2 minutes
- a great range of cameras and accessories, of course
- ... and all the advice you'll need !

 **imagegex**  
The Image Experts

Order on-line and  
collect in-store at  
[www.imagegex.co.uk](http://www.imagegex.co.uk)

98 Sheep Street  
Bicester  
Oxfordshire  
OX26 6GG  
Tel: 01869 368183  
Fax: 08717 177955  
Open Mon-Sat, 9.00am-5.30pm

CULLMANN *hama* Kodak Express Lencar **Nikon** OLYMPUS PRAKTICA SIGMA

Tel: 01869 368183

# DNT

Electrical  
Building  
Services

**YOUR LOCAL ELECTRICAL & BUILDING  
CONTRACTORS**

**Electrical - Carpentry & Joinery  
General Building - Kitchen Fitting  
Bathroom Fitting**

**Mob: 07832424441**

**Office: 01869 241278**

[enquiries@dntelectricalbuildingservices.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@dntelectricalbuildingservices.co.uk)

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

**NICEIC**  
APPROVED  
CONTRACTOR

# CONTENTS

---

Letters from the Clergy Team	4
Church Services Feb	5
Clergy Contacts	6
Ambroden News	8
Arcott News	12
Blackthorn News	19
Merton News	25
Piddington News	27
Otmoor Garden Society	32
Bus Timetables	34
Otmoor Womans Institute	37
Advertising and Contacts	38

---

Welcome to the March edition of Parish Matters.

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

---

Having had three years serving in a parish in Napier, New Zealand, I take quite an interest in sport fixtures between the English teams and the Kiwis. But I never need to check the results – BBC news or Sky are completely unnecessary. The reason? Well, if the Kiwis win I will have a deluge of emails from my former parishioners and if we win there will be radio silence (I would never rub salt into their wounds!).

Communication is a wonderful thing when used properly. It can be so uplifting, encouraging, supportive and constructive. Problems can be resolved, solutions found, progress made and differences achieved. But of course, the opposite is also true. We've all been on the receiving end of negative comments, felt discouraged, unwanted, undervalued and undermined.

James, in the New Testament, compares the tongue to the bit in a horse's mouth or the rudder on a giant ship – both small in comparison to their surroundings but with a huge potential impact. Our tongues are the same; so influential.

Those uncomfortable moments when we hear people talking and we are sure it is about us. Or those moments when people are lowering their voices so that what they say can't be overheard. Why is it we always assume the worst? Probably because experience tells us it usually is.

Lent is a season of new resolve – a time for casting off bad habits and developing new habits; a time of restraint and improvement. We live in a society where Hot Cross Buns

are available all year round and where Easter Eggs were on the supermarket shelves before the end of December last year. We are blurring the edges of the seasons commercially – it is important that we don't blur the edges of our theology.

The birth of our Saviour at Christmas is a story of hope and anticipation that something spiritually significant was about to happen. Easter is the fulfilment of that hope and that promise – Jesus died on the cross to achieve our forgiveness.

And as we prepare ourselves for Easter, we have the season of Lent. A time for reflection and an opportunity for us to cut back on some of the clutter in our lives. If you like, it is opening our channels of communication so that God can speak to us.

The Good News word He has to share with us is even more important than the latest cricket or rugby result. Communication from God is never demeaning, insulting or derisive. God is our source of hope and life – He is Truth and Love personified. Surely worth listening to.

Perhaps this Lent we could put a restraint on our tongues and listen more attentively to the Word of God. Cutting out the negative comments and focussing on the positive comments has a wonderful potential for change – all the more so when embraced by many in a small community. Wouldn't it be extraordinary if we read a review of our villages in the press which described us as friendly centres of mutual encouragement?

Happy Lent,  
Steve

# CHURCH SERVICES MAR

Church	Time	Leader	Service
<b>Sunday March 4th</b>	<b>Lent 3</b>		<b>Exodus 20.1-17 1 Corinthians 1.18-25 John 2.13-22</b>
Ambrosden	10.30	Steve	Holy Communion
	18.30	Steve	The X-tra One
Merton	09.00	Steve	Holy Communion
Piddington	10.30	TBC	Family Service
Islip	10.30	Lucy	Parish Communion
Noke	17.00	Lucy	Taize Service
Charlton	10.30	Glenys	Family Service
<b>Sunday March 11th</b>	<b>Lent 4 Mothering</b>		<b>1 Samuel 1.20-end Colossians 3.12-17 John 19.25-27</b>
Ambrosden	10.30	Steve	Family Service
Piddington	09.00	Steve	Holy Communion
Islip	10.30	Lucy	Family Communion
Noke			No Service
Woodeaton	09.15	Lucy	Family Service
Charlton	10.30	TBC	Family Communion
	18.00	Steve	Evening Prayer
Oddington	10.30	Vicki	Family Communion
<b>Sunday March 18th</b>	<b>Lent 5</b>		<b>Jeremiah 31.31-34 Hebrews 5.5-10 John 12.20-33</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
Noke	09.15	Lucy	Holy Communion
Woodeaton			No Service
Charlton	10.30	Vicki	Family Communion
<b>Sunday March 25th</b>	<b>Palm Sunday</b>		<b>Isaiah 50.4-9a Philippians 2.5-11 Mark 11.1-11</b>
Ambrosden	10.30	Steve	Holy Communion
Merton	10.30	TBC	Family Service
Piddington	09.00	Steve	Holy Communion
Islip	10.30	Lucy	Family Service & SC
Noke	16.00	Lucy	Family Service
Charlton	10.00	TBC	Procession & Communion
Oddington	18.00	Steve	Evening Prayer
<b>Monday March 26th</b>	<b>Holy Week</b>		
Ambrosden	19.00	Lucy	Meditation
<b>Tuesday March 27th</b>			
Charlton	19.00	Steve	Meditation
<b>Wednesday March 28th</b>			
Islip	19.00	Steve	Meditation
<b>Thursday March 29th</b>	<b>Maundy Thursday</b>		
Ambrosden	19.30	TBC	Seder Meal
Charlton	19.30	Steve	The Lord's Supper
Islip	18.00	Lucy	Seder Meal – Terrace Room, Village Hall
<b>Friday March 30th</b>	<b>Good Friday</b>		
Piddington	10.00	Steve	Muswell Hill Pilgrimage
Oddington	10.00	Glenys	Family Service
Islip	13.30	Lucy	Good Friday Service

# CLERGY CONTACTS

---

## CLERGY

Church of England contacts:

Rev Steve Hayes (Rector Ray Valley Benefice)	01869 247813
Rev Lisa Holmes (Ambrosden, Merton and Piddington)	01869 240435
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>	



## The Bulletin Board

### Ray Valley Benefice For March 2018

- Fri 2nd - 10.30am Tiny Tots, Fencott  
Weds 7<sup>th</sup> - 10am Holy Communion, Ambrosden  
Sat 10<sup>th</sup> - 7.30pm Quiz Night, Village Hall, Islip  
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  
Sat 24<sup>th</sup> - 10-2pm Pantry Spring Market, Piddington  
Fri 30<sup>th</sup> - 10am Pilgrimage Hill Walk, Piddington

\*See church notice boards for Lent and Holy Week services

### IN – dependence

Are you (or is someone you know) finding household tasks more difficult? Do you need help to continue living in your home e.g. shopping, laundry, cooking, gardening?

Or would you simply like tea, cake and a chat? Either way, give me a ring.

Ann – 07920 487583  
£12 per hour – anytime 9am to 3pm

I'm a mature woman living locally, committed to helping others through personal, affordable support.  
Full DBS & references available



---

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

---

## Blackthorn Village Hall.



---

Newly refurbished facilities.  
The ideal venue for:

- Parties, birthdays
- Meetings, conferences, training
- Clubs

*To hire, contact Sandie Stevenson:*

---

01896 321542  
[aastevenson@willowpond.co.uk](mailto:aastevenson@willowpond.co.uk)

---

# AMBROSDEN NEWS

---

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

Recycling  
Bottle banks, behind Doctors surgery

LITTER PICK – SATURDAY 3RD MARCH  
Meet at the village hall 10.30.

The District Council is providing the loan of  
litter sticks and will collect rubbish collected.

Please contact  
Ambrosden.pariahclerk@gmail.com

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 Storers,  
The list is endless of how you can help. No  
experience of scouting is needed and free  
training is available.

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

DOGS

The Parish Council continues to receive  
complaints about dog fouling.

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.

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

Symmetry Park – Warehouses A41 opposite  
Ploughley Road

18/00091/F

An application for 14,200 sq m of warehouse  
space has been submitted to the District Council  
for a number of 18m high ware houses which  
are 3m taller than the warerhouse that has just  
been constructed.

The Parish Council is objecting to this  
application. You can comment on this  
application via the District Council's website  
or by emailing, [planning@cherwell-dc.gov.uk](mailto:planning@cherwell-dc.gov.uk)

ALLOTMENTS AT SPRINGFIELDS

The Parish Council has now received draft  
documents form Bloor Homes which are being  
reviewed by the Parish Council's solicitor.

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/>

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

Kebab Van – Costcutter car park -evening

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)

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

---

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)

## AMBROSDEN VILLAGE HALL

VILLAGE HALL BOOKINGS

ANDY & LISA CAMPBELL

[ANDYAMP-AIR@TESCO.NET](mailto:ANDYAMP-AIR@TESCO.NET) -

01869 321318

## BEST KEBABS

Ambrosden village car park  
(Beside Costcutter)

Wednesday to Saturday

4.00pm

-

10.00pm



# ARNCOTT NEWS

---

REPORT FROM ARNCOTT VHMC & ACA  
MEETING 30th JANUARY & PARISH  
COUNCIL MEETING 6th FEBRUARY 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  
Andy Poppitt 07921 436489  
Peter Barnard 01869 570569

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  
CDC have now officially applied for planning permission for the stage 1 construction of the parking development at Woodpiece Road. A disabled parking bay should be provided in site 3. When stage 1 has been completed CDC will start looking at phase 2. This will include a revamp of the Buchanan Court carpark and the inclusion of a disabled parking bay in that carpark. Please be aware 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

Our district councillor, David Hughes, has advised us that some of this land belongs to CDC and the remainder belongs to Sanctuary Housing. The parish council informed him about the suggestions and ideas put forward to date as to what local residents think about what might be done there. As mentioned last month, suggestions sent in so far are aimed towards the creation of a communal garden, allotments / raised beds, skateboard park. The parish council will ask District Cllr Hughes for advice and help on how these ideas can be pursued. Again, please send in your thoughts about what else you think could be done there.

Speedwatch

The program will be starting again soon and we

need help from our community to run this program. Please consider becoming a volunteer and signing up to help. 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.

### Speeding

The parish council has received the data collected by the OCC speed monitoring systems that were temporarily deployed in the village. There is a lot of data relating to the number of vehicles, speeds, times of day, which days / times are worse than others etc. The good news is that the vast majority of vehicles being driven through the village are travelling at speeds between 26mph and 36mph. It's unlikely that TVP will bother too much about speeds between 30mph and 36mph. However, a number of vehicles were recorded travelling above 36mph – some by a considerable margin. It is the information about this band of vehicles that will be passed onto TVP for their consideration. TVP will then hopefully be able to set up speed traps at the best times to catch those drivers. The parish council is looking into the possibility of having vehicle activated speed signs installed at each end of the village. Reports indicate that the visual warning from these signs has a positive effect on getting people to slow down.

### Murcott Road Build-out

Latest news is that OCC are proceeding to make arrangements for the contract to be issued and the construction of the build-out to take place. Hopefully the work will begin in April / May of this year.

### 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 parish council informed District Cllr Hughes that it would agree to support the operators of the moto parc with any application they may make to CDC for permission to construct noise attenuation bunds on the site. Cllr Hughes was asked look into the possibilities of getting CDC to grant permission for the construction of the bunds so that existing noise levels would be reduced. A resident expressed concern at the meeting that, should the bunds be constructed and the noise levels reduced, an application to hold additional events might then be submitted to CDC. Cllr Hughes was advised that the parish council would not agree to any possible future proposal(s) / applications for an increase in the number of events over and above those that currently take place.

### Grant money for sports facilities

The parish council has previously considered looking into extending the village hall to include improved shower / changing facilities and extra storage. However, Cllr Barnard suggested that the parish council should also consider looking at constructing a free standing changing room / hall facility adjacent to the village hall. Doing this may avoid the need for expensive investigations into the fabric of the village hall and the requirement / cost to move any drains currently in situ as to do so would require Thames Water approval.

Cllr Barnard agreed to make enquiries about finding a suitable architect who could look at the feasibility of this idea.

#### Grant money for village art project

The parish council was advised that the CDC community services officer has offered to come to the village to suggest some initial possibilities as to what might be done. Cllrs Savidge and Wilson will meet with the officer on 15th February for discussion.

#### Playing field bench seats

It is intended that all three bench seats at the Murcott Road end of the playing field will be replaced. It may be that the new bench seats will form part of the forthcoming art project. The plaque for Les Honour will be fixed to the new centre bench seat. The existing bench seat nearest to the village hall has the name of Fred Harvey engraved into it. The intention is to arrange for a memorial plaque to Fred to be fitted to the new bench seat. If anyone has any information about Fred then please send it in to the parish council email address asap.

#### Dog Poo

Sad to say that no real improvements with this problem. We can only repeat what we always say. If you see anyone not picking up after his / her dog then PLEASE take photos / videos of him / her and email it into the parish council and / or the CDC dog warden - Christopher Cundy – telephone number 01295 221633 – email [Christopher.Cundy@Cherwell-DC.gov.uk](mailto:Christopher.Cundy@Cherwell-DC.gov.uk). After listening to advice from dog walkers the parish council agreed to purchase another dog poo bin. This one is in addition to the two bins mentioned last month that are currently on order. It is planned to site these new bins in Mill Lane next to the entrance to Constables Croft, at the end of Green Lane next to the cut through into the playing field and on the grass area

next to the layby near the shop in Woodpiece Road. This done, there will be nine dog poo bins throughout our village. We would ask everyone to PLEASE USE THEM. Thank you.

#### 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 would seem that the recent bouts of anti-social behaviour that have taken place within the village can be attributed to boredom experienced by some of the younger members of our community.

Speaking on behalf of the youngsters, a village resident explained that a lot of the young people in the village are of the opinion that there are no facilities for them and nothing to entertain them in the evenings, weekends and holidays. He offered to engage with the youngsters and, with them, start to look into what they would like to see happen. Cllr Savidge explained to the meeting that the parish council has, on a number of occasions, asked for ideas of what could / should be done in the village to address this problem. It's recognised that there are plenty of play park facilities for younger children and the provision of facilities for older age groups needs to be considered. However, Cllr Savidge stressed the point that the parish

council needed both ideas and, more importantly, people who are genuinely prepared to provide support for any proposed new activity. District Cllr Hughes addressed the meeting and explained that CDC may have grant funding available to assist in making provision for youth activities. Representatives of the Scout group advised t

hat, if there was sufficient demand and adult support, they would look into starting up a group of Endeavour Scouts for the teenagers. They also mentioned that if the village was interested in developing a youth facility, they could possibly assist by applying to the Scouts National Organisation for additional funding. Cllr Barnard suggested the setting up of a youth council to give the young people in the village a voice whereby representatives of that youth council would meet with the parish council for discussions. Overall, this proved to be a very positive part of the meeting and the parish council are keen to help with any of these initiatives. The parish council would strongly advise anyone experiencing anti-social behaviour problems to telephone the police and report the issue. Remember that getting photos and / or video evidence of this sort of behaviour would be very useful. As mentioned last month, a neighbourhood watch scheme could be a good thing to get up and running. Make contact with the parish council if this is something that you would like to be a part of. It was agreed that the parish council would look into what the possibilities are of getting CCTV monitors installed and the legal considerations of doing so.

#### Oxford to Cambridge expressway

District Cllr Hughes was asked about proposals for the Oxford to Cambridge Expressway. He explained that there are currently three possible routes – one to the south of Oxford to Thame and Aylesbury, one to the east with

a junction with the M40 on Otmoor, and then running to Calvert and Winslow and one to the north of Bicester to the A4421 and then joining the Finmere bye-pass. Highways England are hoping to have a decision about the route by autumn 2018.

#### Roads and streetlights

Following on from last month's meeting, Cllr Savidge once again contacted Oxfordshire highways regarding our concerns about the potholes in Ploughley Road at Lower Arcott, around Woodpiece Road and on the corner junction at the bottom of Woodpiece Road and Buchanan Road. Possibly some progress has been made as Oxfordshire highways took a look at the stretch of road between the entrance to the village at Lower Arcott and the Palmer Avenue roundabout on 1st February. We have been advised that the observations have been passed onto the highways assessment team. Hopefully we might now get the potholes filled in or, if we're very lucky, get that piece of road in Lower Arcott resurfaced. As mentioned last month, OCC have advised 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. Don't forget that you can help by reporting any road / pavement / street issues on the [www.fixmystreet.com](http://www.fixmystreet.com) website. The more people who moan to OCC about these things, the better chance of getting problems resolved.

#### Community emergency planning

The parish council thanked Cllr Byrne for organising the installation of the necessary wiring and electrical sockets in the village hall that are needed for electricity to be supplied from the emergency generator. The Parish Council agreed to purchase 6 snow shovels and 2 salt spreader machines to assist in

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

---

clearing pavements and paths in the village should there be heavy snow. A number of residents attending the meeting agreed to volunteer to assist in the event of a power cut or other village emergency. If you can help out with this initiative then please get in contact with the parish council via email or telephone. We need to create a list for the parish council that gives details of the volunteers and the vulnerable people within the village.

## Facebook

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

## Village Hall / VHMC

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

## Health & safety

The latest inspection has identified a number of issues with the changing rooms, these are to be addressed with Bardwell FC

## Lettings

Lettings continue to be a valuable source of revenue for the hall, with 25 events in February.

## Projects and Improvements

The committee has agreed to look at refurbishing and updating the bar area, and putting new floor coverings into the toilets.

## Future Events

We are hoping to arrange a performance by the Military Wives Choir this Spring, date to be confirmed, please come along and enjoy an

evening of music and song and support your village hall.

## Arccott Summer Fete

The VHMC has decided to hold the fete earlier in the Summer this year, in order to reduce conflict with holidays, and also to avoid the August Bank Holiday weekend. We plan to arrange some traditional children's activities, Including Egg and Spoon and Sack races. We will need extra help to put on more entertainments, and if you have any suggestions or would like to get involved please contact John Cooper, Christine Dunkin, or any VHMC member.

## Ska Martial Arts Tang Soo Doo.

New martial arts and fitness class at Arccott 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 Arccott 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

## Scout group

The Scouts meet on Fridays, 7 to 9 pm, and the Cubs meet on Wednesdays, 5.15 to 6.45 pm, both in term times only.

## Arccott Friendship Club

The friendship club has being 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  
184 Mrs M Gomarshall  
99 Mrs T Spriggs  
42 Mr T webber  
170 Mrs L Mundy  
143 Ms R Mundy

Following the recent appeal for new members, and a door knocking exercise we now have a further 25 members.

If anyone else 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

## *Pet Pawfection - Your Local Independent Pet Care*



- Pet First Aid Trained & Pet Plan Insured – For a safe and secure experience
- Home Visits – To feed, Water, Fuss and toilet your furry friends
- Pet taxi – Stress-free taxi service for pets
- Dog Walking – Available Friday, Saturday & Sunday
  - References Available
  - Prices start from £5



Call Lucy now for a quote - 07557008481

Email - [lucy\\_aston13@msn.com](mailto:lucy_aston13@msn.com)

Facebook – PetPawfection Oxford

**ANTIQUE & COLLECTORS  
MARKET**

KIDLINGTON METHODIST CHURCH

In two halls at Oxford Road Kidlington OX5  
2BP

SATURDAYS 10.00am - 1.00pm  
2018

March 24th  
April 28th  
May 19th  
June 23rd  
July 28th  
August 18th  
September 29th  
October 27th  
November 24th  
No sale in December

REFRESHMENTS  
FREE ADMISSION

Organiser: Graham Kirby 01865 371494  
grahamkirby316@gmail.com



For a free no obligation quotation call Mike on  
T: 01869 325360 M: 07855 410359  
E: mike@mhes.co.uk : www.mhes.co.uk



**Shaun Guard  
TV AERIAL SERVICES**

- **Poor Reception Solved**  
*Aerials repaired & supplied*
- **TVs** - Hung on your wall and tuned
- **Extra TV Points** - For aerial and Sky (In HD!)
- **Sky TV** - Also Foreign Language TV

**Call Bicester  
01869 879111**

 OXFORD AERIALS

**G J PLUMBING**

A local friendly plumber est. for 15 years  
All plumbing maintenance

Plumbing, Bathroom & Shower Installation,  
Kitchen Fitting.  
NO JOB TOO SMALL

Gareth Jones is looking forward to your call  
Tel: 01869 242038 Mob: 07889 683926  
Email: gjplumbing@hotmail.com

**Acupuncture  
Chinese Medicine  
Massage**

**Lee Butler**

MSc, BSc (Hons), MRCHM, MBAcc

Malvern Cottage, Station Road,  
Blackthorn, Oxfordshire OX25 1TA.

Tel: 01869 253552 Mob: 07833 605156  
info@thevillageclinic.co.uk

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

# BLACKTHORN NEWS

---

## BLACKTHORN CLASSIC CAR SHOW

The Blackthorn Classic Car Show is Back!

Yes, after a break of one year the Blackthorn Classic Car Show will return on Sunday 2nd September 2018 to its usual Showground in the centre of Blackthorn Village (courtesy of Michael and Jean Cross).

In 2016 this exciting event featured a massive display of over 300 quality classic cars, motorbikes, military vehicles and tractors, 'The Piston Head' licensed bar with beers from the barrel, numerous exciting and unusual trade stands, varied childrens entertainment, an engine from our local fire brigade, a police patrol car with working 'blues and twos', a beautiful restored Gavioli Fairground Organ, and a wide choice of catering facilities including the immensely popular Blackthorn Village Cake and Tea stall.

In 2018 we aim to make the Blackthorn Classic Car Show a mecca for classic vehicle owners and enthusiasts as well as a wonderful day out for the whole family, with many of our past attractions together with some new ones!

As in the past we need volunteers to help set up, run the event and clear away over the weekend of the 1st/2nd September. Any help from just a few hours to both days would be much appreciated. Would any potential volunteers drop an email to John Henderson ([j\\_henderson@btinternet.com](mailto:j_henderson@btinternet.com)) or [blackthornclassiccarshow@gmail.com](mailto:blackthornclassiccarshow@gmail.com), we hope you can help.

All profits from the event will go towards a nominated local charity and local projects. More details on this will appear on the BCCS website and Facebook page shortly.

Make a point of visiting our website [www.blackthornclassiccarshow.co.uk](http://www.blackthornclassiccarshow.co.uk) and our Facebook page 'Blackthorn Classic Car Show' to keep abreast of full information and developments on arrangements for the day, how to register your classic vehicle or how to book your trade stand.

## BLACKTHORN VILLAGE HALL

January got off to a flying start with the return of our popular Coffee Mornings (1st Thu of the month at 11 am), a great film night and first Pub Night of 2018. Events leading up to Easter are below:

Fri 23rd Feb – Pub Night, 7.30 pm

Thu 1st Mar – Coffee Morning, 11 am

Sat 3rd Mar – Quiz Night, 7 pm

Fri 30th Mar – Pub Night, 7.30 pm

Sun 1st Apr – Easter Egg Hunt, details to follow

We're always looking for new people to join the committee, so if you'd like to get involved in planning and running events at the Village Hall please contact us at [blackthornvillagehall@gmail.com](mailto:blackthornvillagehall@gmail.com) or come along to one of our meetings. We meet on the 1st Mon of every month at 8 pm at the Village Hall.

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

## 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.

People are welcome to turn up at the hall on any of the dates, there is no need to book. If you'd like further information or confirmation the date hasn't changed, contact Sally Harris at [mimahcat@hotmail.com](mailto:mimahcat@hotmail.com) or contact via Crafty Natters Blackthorn on Facebook or call 07747614002.

Dates for 2018

March 11, April 15, May 13, June 10

July 15, August 12, Sept 16

October 14, November 11, December 9

Everyone is welcome.

## 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 at [clerkblackthornpc@gmail.com](mailto:clerkblackthornpc@gmail.com)

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

What Most Owners Need to Know About the Dangerous Dogs Act

Following a recent incident in Blackthorn Christopher Cundy, Dog Warden – Environmental Services Cherwell District Council has asked us to remind residents of the following:

When most people hear about the Dangerous Dogs Act. they think about banned fighting breeds. This is only one part of the law. All dog owners are responsible for their dog's behaviour in public and a dog does not need to bite someone for a criminal offence to have been committed. The fear or apprehension of a bite or injury can be enough if the dog is not under proper control in public.

Penalties, depending on the seriousness of the offences, can range from six months to fourteen years in prison and in the most serious cases there is no limit to the fine that can be imposed by a court. In many cases the dog can be euthanized and the owner can receive a ban on owning dogs.

When exercising your dog off lead please follow this advice:

- Train your dog to be recalled in any situation and practice your recalls on a regular basis.
- Whilst on walks ensure that you can see your dog and know what it is doing at all times.
- Only walk as many dogs as you can effectively see and control.
- Use a short lead suitable to the breed when walking your dog in confined areas, along roads or around livestock.
- Do not assume that since your dog is nice that all other dogs or walkers want or are willing to meet it.
- When you take your dog to meet new dogs or people please ask for permission first and follow other dog owner's advice regarding their animals.
- If your dog is attacked do not pick it up or try to grab the other dog to stop the attack. This can result in you receiving a bite and you will

not be in a position to help your pet. Releasing the leash to allow your dog to escape in most instances is the best advice.

- If an incident happens please either share contact details with the dog owner involved or make arrangements to meet later to exchange details and then report it to the council as soon as practicable.

### Footpaths & Bridleways

As we move from winter to spring we will inevitably see an increase in outdoor pursuits around the village in particular walking and riding. The Parish Council would like to remind landowners of their responsibility in ensuring that all footpaths and bridleways are well maintained, that there is free and unrestricted access and that all stiles and signage is in good working order. We would also like to appoint a Footpath Warden to update the Parish Council independently of any issues with the surrounding paths and bridleways in our Parish. We are looking for a keen walker or rider that frequents these already to volunteer. Please contact Tracey Charlesworth (clerkblackthornpc@gmail.com)

### Oxford to Cambridge Expressway

Following the article in last month's Parish Matters we would like to draw residents attention to an updated report available on the project which will be posted on the Blackthorn Parish Council website.

### Weir Pond Regeneration

Following the article last month many villagers have expressed an interest in the proposed Weir Pond project. The parish council has no firm plans at the moment, so we would welcome additional ideas from parishioners.

Ideas already received:

- Keep most of the existing Reed beds for ecological diversity but clear some to enhance the water quality

- Remove some of the Silt as its already nearly a metre deep at the bottom of the pond - again this will improve water quality
- Starting at the three submerge springs and create a free flowing channel in front of the wooden seat to the start of Blackthorn Brook
- Replace the existing weir with a proper sluice gate. Remove some fallen and rotten timbers from the North Shore
- Rediscover the ancient brick roadway under the pond

Objectives for undertaking a project would be:

- General maintenance
- Improved water quality
- Improvement of this amenity for parishioners creating a habitat for diverse pond life and attraction of wildlife
- Establish a more regular flow from the springs to Blackthorn Brook keeping this strategic waterway clear
- Allow free flow with fresh spring water except during risk of local flood when the sluice gate might be closed.

We will be consulting with environmental experts on any changes to the pond.

As soon as we have consulted with the experts we will provide more information to the Parish in time for the May Annual General Meeting (AGM).

### Parish Council Vacancy

The opportunity to join the council is open and if you would like to volunteer please contact Tracey Charlesworth (clerkblackthornpc@gmail.com) and register your interest.

The Council is a group of volunteers so if you are passionate about the community you live in – come along and make a difference.

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

### Metal Thefts and Roofing and Tarmac Scams

There have been a number of instances of metal theft and roofing and tarmac scams in the village recently. Roofing and tarmac scammers knock on your door and point out a problem with your roof or your driveway and put pressure on you to agree to have the work done, there and then, on the spot, without you knowing anything about them.

There may or may not be anything wrong with your roof, but they will try to convince you that there is and that they can fix it. They may offer a very attractive price. Their aim is to get you to agree to the work being done without having a chance to think about getting alternative quotes, or whether the work is even necessary.

The scammers might get up on the roof and do nothing, or once up their 'find' some other, much larger problem that needs dealing with, urgently. They will try to extract as much money out of you as possible.

Scams involving tarmac are similar – again they knock on your door, out of the blue, and say they have some tarmac left over from another job and so can tarmac your drive for a very good price, often being able to do the job that very day. The work is likely to be of very poor quality, with no proper preparation or drainage. More importantly, having quoted a

price that you think is for the whole drive, they demand a significantly higher sum saying that the price given was the price per square metre! The best piece of advice is to go inside and close the door, and phone the police. Also, phone trading standards and make a note of the registration number of the van. Their number is 03454 04 05 06 or email them via the Oxfordshire County Council website [www.oxfordshire.gov.uk](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk)

If they start to get very aggressive, dial 999.

To reiterate a point: **DO NOT BUY HOME IMPROVEMENTS FROM A STRANGER AT YOUR DOOR.**

### Neighbourhood Watch

Following the spate of metal thefts and roofing and tarmac scams in the village, the Parish Council are looking to establish a village-wide Neighbourhood Watch Scheme - we currently only have the provision on Lower Road. We are looking for volunteers in Thame Road, Station Road and Weir Lane. Schemes are not difficult or time consuming to set up and run and can be geared towards the specific needs of the members and the neighbourhood. A meeting will be organised shortly but, in the meantime, for more information or to volunteer, email Rachel Lamont at [rlblackthornpc@gmail.com](mailto:rlblackthornpc@gmail.com).

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.



CHIMNEY SWEEPING  
STOVE MAINTENANCE  
CLEANING PRODUCTS  
COWLS SUPPLIED  
AND FITTED  
RE-ROPING  
NEW GLASS

Mobile 07595 660 867 Landline 01869 323481  
[www.stuart-chimneysweep.co.uk](http://www.stuart-chimneysweep.co.uk)

*GreenCourt*  
BOARDING KENNELS & CATTERY

Opening Hours:  
Mon - Sat 8am - 4.30pm  
Sun & Bank hol 8am - 12 noon

GreenCourt Kennels & Cattery  
Clue Hill Farm  
Near Brill  
Buckinghamshire  
HP18 9UZ  
Tel: 01869 327 810

Email: [greencourt@btinternet.com](mailto:greencourt@btinternet.com)

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



## ALL STEAMED UP?

*Has your double-glazing  
steamed up INSIDE?*

*You do not need to buy  
new windows. We will replace  
the glass cheaply. Other  
repairs undertaken.*

OXFORD - BICESTER - BANBURY

## ACORN WINDOWS

0800 542 6212 /  
01869 321899

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

## LB Accounts

Local, friendly, reliable help with your  
book keeping & accounts

Sole traders, Partnerships &  
Limited Companies  
VAT and CIS, business plans and budgets

Self-Assessment & Partnership Tax Returns,  
Corporation Tax returns

Practical help for new businesses on all  
aspects of accounts & book keeping

Contact Lynne Bustin  
07843 729038

lynne@lbaccounts.co.uk  
www.lbaccounts.co.uk



The Hair Lounge  
**BARBER SHOP**  
*Evening*

3pm - 8pm every Thursday  
Complimentary beer for men 18+

Contact: 01869 241866  
www.thehairloungebicester.co.uk  
Merton Road, Ambrosden, Bicester, Oxfordshire OX25 2LS

## G D BITMEAD

### MOTOR VEHICLE BODY AND PAINT

Three Corners Garage, Ambrosden OX25 2LU

All car body repairs undertaken  
*Scratches, Dents, Scuffs, Paint defects*  
*Machine Polishing, Chassis Welding*  
*Fabrication & Restoration*

Call in for a free estimate

Tel: 01869 601028 Mob: 07981 215730



# MERTON NEWS

---

## 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:

Tony Bradley (Chair): [ajrbradley@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:ajrbradley@hotmail.co.uk) 01865 331604

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

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

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

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 March

The next in our 2017/18 'season' of free film shows in the Village Hall will be at 7.30 pm on Thursday 15 March. 'Suffragette' is a 2015 British historical period drama about women's suffrage in the United Kingdom, starring Carey Mulligan, Helena Bonham Carter, Brendan Gleeson, Anne-Marie Duff, Ben Whishaw, and Meryl Streep.

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

Our final film – at least until next autumn (all being well!) – is scheduled for Thursday 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).



# **THE PANTRY**

**Piddington Market & Coffee Shop**  
[piddingtonpantry.wordpress.com](http://piddingtonpantry.wordpress.com)

# **SPRING MARKET**

**Saturday 24 March**

**10 am to 2 pm**

**Piddington Village Hall, Oxon OX25 1PU**

**LOCAL PRODUCE**

**LOCAL CRAFTS**

**LOCALLY GROWN PLANTS**

**HOMEMADE CAKES**

**BEER STALL**

**COFFEE SHOP**

**FREE ENTRY**

**... it's about our community**

# PIDDINGTON NEWS

---

## PIDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 20th March 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

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.

The application went to the CDC Planning Committee for decision on Thursday 15th February and was refused by 15 of the 17 councillors attending (2 abstained). The Parish Council addressed the meeting, as did our ward councillors. Thank you to everyone who took the time to write to councillors. The strength of village sentiment did not go unnoticed. The Parish Council will be evaluating the decision notice in anticipation of an appeal. However, the hope is that more suitable and sustainable locations for gypsy/traveller settlements will become available through the publication of Part 2 of the Local Plan.

## PIDDINGTON CLP

The team can now focus on its publication later this year. It should be stressed that a number of projects are already being implemented in light of the questionnaire results from last year.

## LITTERBLITZ AND VILLAGE SPRING CLEAN 2018

Litterblitz 2018 will be held on SATURDAY 10th MARCH at 10.00am, meeting in the village hall carpark. Please come and support this worthwhile event and get the village shipshape for spring. This year we will also be tackling dirty road signs within the village, so bring your rubber gloves! If you can't attend on the day but want to help, please contact Francesca.

## WIDNELL PARK, PLAYING FIELD AND MEADOW

The daffodils are out, and the hedges are filling out. Grass-cutting will start at the beginning of April (and will be cut twice a month until November). The verges and woodland area will be trimmed once a month. The Parish Council are looking at making the gates safer for parents with young children and dog walkers and are hoping to start work on clearing around the pond this spring if enough volunteers can be encouraged to help.

Grants are also being researched to provide funds for the purchase of a small community outside gym. The Parish Council are keen to hear any other ideas villagers might have for improving the amenities provided by the park. Please contact either Mario or Francesca.

## ST NICHOLAS CHURCH

The churchyard will also be cut and tidied in the beginning of April, except for the primroses.

## DOG POO

With spring on its way, it is increasingly important for dog owners to be more responsible when using the playing fields. Emergency poo bags have been provided and 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 not to forget to pick up after their four-legged friends.

There have been a number of reports of poo being left along the Arncott Road and in the village. There is no excuse for this as 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! The Parish Council are also investigating a bin for Lower End.

## APPLE DAY 2018

Apple Day and Harvest Festival dinner will be held on Saturday 6th October. This is a fun village event for all the family and friends. Don't forget, there is still some of the 2016 vintage cider left and available to buy at the Pop-Up Pub and Pantry Market. The 2017 vintage is fermenting nicely and will be with us later in the year.

## RURAL POLICING

The Community Resilience Group met on 21st February and concerns raised by residents were discussed. Patrols are aware of an increase in the evidence of drug use at the playing fields (usually at weekends) and have been asked to be mindful of this when in the area.

This winter stay vigilant when defrosting your cars whilst in your driveways. 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 grant obtained from SSE has been used for the purchase of a set of licensed 2-way radios which will be held by village co-ordinators. Investigations are also underway to purchase two portable generators for the village and hand gritters. The village hall has been designated the emergency hub for the village.

A second application for funds will be made this year for more equipment. If you are interested in being part of the team organising the Emergency Plan for the village, or have ideas that you think might help, please contact Mario Testino or Mike Nixon.

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 in the event of bad weather. Residents are encouraged to make use of the salt to improve the safety of road intersections close to their properties. Oxfordshire County Council will not grit country roads or villages. Please check that your nearest bin is full. To organise refills, contact the Parish Clerk.

#### 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.

#### OCC TRAFFIC REGULATION NOTICE

Road closure B4011, Piddington, to facilitate carriageway resurfacing. Starting Wednesday 25th April. Anticipated completion Thursday

26th April. Limited access will be maintained for emergency service vehicles and for frontages within the closed section of road, subject to the progress of works. Suggested alternative route: The Foresters, B4011, Bicester Road, Aylesbury Road, A41.

#### WEIGHT RESTRICTION LIMITS

You can report any breaches by contacting Oxfordshire County Trading Standards via their website, [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

PPC 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.

## EASTER IN PIDDINGTON

We will start our Easter celebrations with the Good Friday Pilgrimage to the site at the top of Muswell Hill where Ralph the Hermit started his church in the twelfth century. The walk starts from St Nicholas Church at 10.00 am and returns at about mid-day. All are welcome to join the walk. We cannot guarantee good weather but can promise good company and coffee and hot cross buns in the church at the end of the walk.

The church will be decorated for Easter on Saturday 31st March. If anybody wishes to donate flowers please bring them on the Saturday morning.

The service on Easter Day will be a Family Communion Service starting at 10.30 am.

## CONDOLENCES

Piddington has lost two of its long-standing residents in the past few weeks.

Margaret Tapper of Brown's Piece, Lower End, passed away peacefully on 3rd December 2017 after a debilitating illness.

Mike Read of Ludgershall Road left us on 27th January 2018 after a long fight with leukaemia. Sincere condolences to the families of both people.

Marjorie and family wish to thank everybody for their messages of sympathy and support following Mike's passing.

## PIDDINGTON 200 CLUB JANUARY WINNERS

Drawn at the village hall Pop-Up Pub on Friday 26th January 2018.

1st. 062 Caitlin Oram.

2nd. 164. Matt Barrett.

3rd. 048. Michael Phillips.

4th. 009. Bob Dixon.

The next draw will be made at the February Pop-Up Pub.

Tickets for sale. Ring Yvonne on 01844238707 or text 07845930720. Four draws in current year Feb to May 2018 – £4.00. Then £12.00 for the year June 2018 until May 2019.

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

23rd March – Pop-Up Pub

24th March – The Pantry Spring Market at the village hall, 10-2pm. It's the weekend before Easter, so stock up on goodies and gifts!

1st June – Film Night. Film to be confirmed, ice cream and bar.

Watch this space for village hall events. As well as the monthly Pop-Up Pubs, our plans include: Pamper Evening, Ukulele Evening, Table Top Sale.

## 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

PIDDINGTON CRAFT AND SOCIAL  
CLUB

We meet each Wednesday morning from 10 30  
till 12 30 in the village hall.  
The cost is £4 which includes coffee and some  
materials.

Just pop in anytime to have a chat or call  
Maggie  
01844237688



Piddington  
**Village Hall**

To hire please call  
**07922 040550**

email: [PiddingtonVillageHall@gmail.com](mailto:PiddingtonVillageHall@gmail.com)

**WEDDINGS PARTIES  
CLUBS MEETINGS  
KEEP FIT CLASSES**

To check availability go to  
[www.piddingtonvillageoxfordshire.org.uk/booking-calendar](http://www.piddingtonvillageoxfordshire.org.uk/booking-calendar)

**I am free to do my  
best work**

I am Care UK.

**HMP Bullingdon are recruiting.**

**Have you ever thought about working  
in prison healthcare?**

We have opportunities on a full-time,  
part-time or bank basis to work in a multi-  
disciplinary team providing primary care  
services.

We are looking for:

- mental health nurses
- primary care nurses
- pharmacy technicians

**care**<sup>UK</sup>  
Healthcare



**For further information or to  
arrange an informal visit  
contact:**  
[anton.abramkin@careuk.com](mailto:anton.abramkin@careuk.com)  
**or to view these vacancies  
go to:** [careukhealthcare.com/healthcare-jobs](http://careukhealthcare.com/healthcare-jobs)

**e m d** UK  
exercise move dance

**Mature Movers Exercise Class  
in Piddington Village Hall**

Seated exercises designed to increase  
circulation, improve co-ordination,  
mobilise your joints and  
stimulate the brain

Monday afternoons from 2 to 3

£4 per session

To book your place or  
for more information contact

Maggie Pearce on 01844 237688  
(Registered Keep Fit Association Tutor)

The class is supported by Age UK

# OTMOOR GARDEN SOCIETY MAR

---

It seems that word has spread that our AGM is actually a fun evening and not the type of evening that its name suggests. We were very pleased to see so many of our newer members there this year, as well as many of our long-standing ones. The business end was rounded up in about 20 minutes flat, and after that I trust you all enjoyed the delicious chilli supper and the garden quiz that followed. The committee normally set one round of the quiz each, although this year some did more and some less. I would like to thank Brian for his quiz round of 'Leaves' which consisted of several shrivelled green things that none of us quite recognised! I know this was due to the fact that he had to do his round early before a short period of incapacitation, so I suppose we should appreciate his dedication! My round was a picture round of garden celebrities, the first of which was a picture of Monty Don with his two dogs and a caption saying 'name the dogs'. It seems some people at first thought this caption applied to all the pictures, and I apologise to those who thought they had to name Capability Brown's dog! Maybe drink less wine next year! You can probably tell from this it was an entertaining evening.

The committee all stood for re-election, which also tells you we are having a much better time than we ought to be. Some interest has been shown in joining us, but if anyone else would like to try out our next committee meeting with a view to joining then please let us know.

Our programme of speakers got underway at the end of February, and next we have Paul Green with a talk entitled Sensory Sensations which is

at Murcott on 27th March. Paul runs Green's Leaves nursery in Gloucestershire, which specializes in rare and unusual plants from around the world that are suitable for growing in the UK. He normally sells these through specialist plant hunters' fairs, and was spotted by one of our members at Waterperry. His talk will cover the ideas behind sensory gardens and picking plants with extra interest. He will be bringing a wide range of sensory plants with him, and his talk will be practical and hands-on (i.e. plant driven, no slides). There will be opportunities to buy plants at the end of the evening, which we know you all like!

On Sunday 8th April we will have our first local visit of the year which will be a tour of Merton Wood. Starting time 9:30 am, no further details at the moment, so I hope to get this into the next magazine, and details will of course be circulated to members by e-mail. Save the date!

I'm glad to say the days are gradually getting longer which brightens most gardeners' spirits. The snowdrops are in flower and looking gorgeous, so hopefully you have finished tidying all your borders to show the emerging spring bulbs off to their best. That means of course that the new growing season has started, so order your seeds, chit your potatoes and get ready for the fun to begin. Spring is on its way!

Happy Gardening,  
Judith Rawlinson

*For more details, or to join, contact Brian Eadle on 01865 331472*

*[www.otmoorgardensociety.org.uk](http://www.otmoorgardensociety.org.uk)*

---



# Bicester Computer Centre

Your local computer shop!

est. 1999

Providing helpful, professional and Friendly advice

## Products available Include

Bullguard Anti-Virus,  
AMD Processors,  
Cables & Leads,  
Recordable Media,  
Networking Adaptors,  
Network Hardware and  
DVD & DVD RW

## Services available Include

Troubleshooting,  
Diagnosis and Disaster,  
Recovery programs,  
Network Consulting, IT  
Support, Upgrades,  
Internet Services and  
Security.

For full range of products  
And services, visit the store:

50 Bucknell Road

Bicester

Ox262dg

Contact us on:

01869 600123

077964 86508

[info@bicestercomputercentre.co.uk](mailto:info@bicestercomputercentre.co.uk)

## Tina Hall

### Dog Grooming Services



For Small to Medium sized breeds

**Bathing**  
**Clipping**  
**Scissoring**  
**Nail Trimming**  
**Hand stripping**

**Qualified**  
**Insured**

**Based in Arnclott, near Bicester**

**Transportation available for surrounding Villages**

**Mobile: 07596 520729**

**Email: [tmhall1@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:tmhall1@hotmail.co.uk)**



## oxonelectrical SERVICES LTD

### Your No1 Local Electrician

Domestic  
Services



Testing &  
Inspection



- **FREE** Electrical Health Check
- **Consumer Unit** upgrades from £195
- **Landlord Test Certificates** from £89
- **PAT Testing** £1.50 per Item
- **Rewires** from £999
- **Shower & Cooker Installs** from £40
- **All Aspects Covered** in Commercial, Industrial and Domestic Electrics
- **One Off Electrical Repairs** from £25 - call for more details
- Energy Saving Light Bulb Replacements Supply and Install from £10 per point

**Your Local Electrician - Fully Qualified  
Fully Insured - Part P Registered**

For a Friendly, Trustworthy and  
Reliable Service. Call us today on:

t: **01869 325111** or

m: **07786 931 164**

e: [info@oxonelectrical.co.uk](mailto:info@oxonelectrical.co.uk)

w: [www.oxonelectrical.co.uk](http://www.oxonelectrical.co.uk)

Please note all prices exclusive of VAT

follow us @  



**Robert L. Darvill & Son Plasterers.**

Tel: 01869 240924 • Mob: 07894 816225

Email: [robert\\_darvill@live.co.uk](mailto:robert_darvill@live.co.uk)

[robertdarvillplastering.co.uk](http://robertdarvillplastering.co.uk)

# BUS TIMETABLES

## Oxford - Islip - Ambrosden

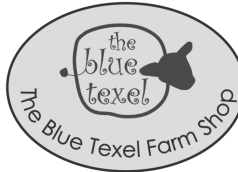
Oxford St Giles (Stop C5)	16:10	17:10	18:10
Gosford, o/s Kings Arms PH	16:30	17:30	18:30
Islip, opp The Red Lion PH	16:35	17:35	18:35
Oddington, opp Glebe Barn Bus Shelter	16:40	17:40	18:40
Charlton-on-Otmoor, opp Bus Garage	16:45	17:45	18:45
Merton, o/s The Plough Inn PH	16:50	17:50	18:50
Ambrosden,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



Find us on:  
**facebook®**



THE BLUE TEXEL FARM SHOP AND BUTCHERS

1 STATION ROAD, LAUNTON, OX26 5DS

01869 252619 [www.thebluetexel.co.uk](http://www.thebluetexel.co.uk) email: [info@thebluetexel.co.uk](mailto:info@thebluetexel.co.uk)

A full traditional butchers counter offering our home reared Outdoor Pork and Lamb, locally produced British Beef, award winning Sausages & Burgers, our own Home Cured Bacon and Hams and locally sourced Poultry and Game. Our new refurbished Farm Shop stocks a tempting range of food to compliment the butchery, together with Artisan Breads and Seasonal Vegetables. We have extended our opening hours and are now open Tuesday to Sunday.

**VISIT US NOW AND TRY SOMETHING LOCAL**



**Keith Bird**



## Plumbing and heating

Plumbing – heating – bathrooms

All work carried out to a high standard

All work fully guaranteed and insured

Tel: **01296 655499** Mob: **07516480860**

Email: [k.bird944@btinternet.com](mailto:k.bird944@btinternet.com)



## House 2 Home Removals Ltd

*Local, National & International Removals,  
Packing Services & Self-storage facility*

**01869 360050 & 01869 350985**

Email: [info@h2hremovals.co.uk](mailto:info@h2hremovals.co.uk)  
[www.h2hremovals.co.uk](http://www.h2hremovals.co.uk)

**Call for a  
Free Quote**

## house 2 home SELF-STORAGE



- Personal, retail & business storage
- Open 7 days a week
- CCTV and parking
- Packaging supplies shop



[www.h2hselfstorage.co.uk](http://www.h2hselfstorage.co.uk)

Bicester: 01869 350 985 [info@h2hselfstorage.co.uk](mailto:info@h2hselfstorage.co.uk)



Starting your own business?

Or need help with your existing business?

Do you need an accountant/tax adviser?

*Clear, down to earth financial advice for all personal and corporate accountancy requirements.*

Call for a free half hour consultation

T: 01296 738668 M: 07812 026346

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



Chartered  
Accountant  
& Business  
Advisor

**AJR  
& Co**

## ARBOCARE

### TREE SURGERY LTD

Qualified and Experienced  
Arborists

Established over 25years

Contractors to the National Trust

Crown reductions \* Thinning

Felling \* Hedge Trimming

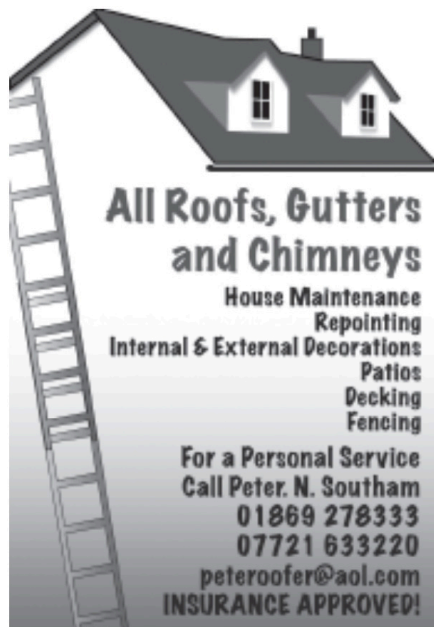
Stump Grinding

Decay Detection & Tree Reports

**Free Phone: 0808 1555815**

**Mb: 07778811136**

**WWW.ARBOCARE.CO.UK**



**All Roofs, Gutters  
and Chimneys**

House Maintenance  
Repointing  
Internal & External Decorations  
Patios  
Decking  
Fencing

For a Personal Service  
Call Peter. N. Southam  
01869 278333  
07721 633220  
peterofoer@aol.com  
**INSURANCE APPROVED!**

**NACS**  
The National Association  
of Chimney Sweeps

**CHIMNEY SWEEP**

Rod + Brush  
Member no 11/815

Traditional Chimney  
Sweep trained by and  
a member of  
the National Association  
of Chimney Sweeps.

Cerificates issued.

Fully insured to £5 million.

**STOVES & OPEN FIRES  
£39**

**Contact Andrew Peace, West Combs  
Banbury Rd, OX26 2HL Bicester,  
on telephone no. 01869 369592  
or mobile 07851 480755**

suzanne@kingsthilgraphics.co.uk



**Drain Doctor**  
PLUMBING

**01869 879 805**  
oxford@draindoctor.co.uk

**TRADING  
STANDARD  
MEMBER**

**AD**

DrainDoctorOxford.co.uk

**WE'RE AN EXPERT:**


- All Drainage
- CCTV Surveys
- Emergency Plumbing
- Designed, Installed & Repaired
- Drain Lining & Installation
- Soakaways & Cess Pits

**WE'RE PROFESSIONAL:**

- No Call Out Charge
- Fixed Prices
- Work Guaranteed
- Fix It Right First Time

Discover the Beauty of Books.  
Discover your local  
Independent Bookstore.

**COLE'S**



**BOOKS**

4 Crown Walk, Bicester, OX26 6HY  
Tel: 01869 320779

**www.coles-books.co.uk**

# OTMOOR WOMANS INSTITUTE

---

As Otmoor WI come to end of their fortieth birthday year a talk entitled “40 Years in Bomb Disposal and still ten fingers” seemed an apt title. Ian Jones MBE took members on a journey through his career in the army and afterwards in the bomb disposal service of the Metropolitan Police. They heard of his experiences serving in Northern Ireland and later on the streets of London. Speed, it seems, is not always of the essence – unless dealing with a time bomb. It is also important to gather information from the scene following an explosion. His service has involved dealing with the aftermath of wars past and present alongside acts of terrorism. He stressed how being tasked to an incident he rarely knew what to expect on arrival and often when dealing with these situations it was dark humour that helped people through the experience. His talk was supported with artefacts, images and short films and afterwards he answered many questions from the audience.

The raffle for Denman was drawn before refreshments prepared by Michelle and Christeen were served and members took the opportunity to chat further on the topic, examine the exhibits and talk about his books.

Members were reminded that next month will be the Annual Meeting for Otmoor WI and there was an opportunity to nominate committee members. The competition for a flower in any medium was won by Mary

Hatwell with Janet, Sue and Ann runners up. Craft this month will be zentangle patterns.

## DATES FOR THE DIARY

March 13th Annual Meeting 7.45 CCH

March 15th Coffee, Craft and Cake 7.30  
MVH

April 10th Hand Spinning and Natural  
Dyeing 7.45 CCH

April 19th Coffee, Craft and Cake 7.30  
MVH

For further details please contact Virginia  
Lawrence on 01865331521

# ADVERTISING & CONTACTS

---

## COST OF ADVERTISING (PER MONTH)

Ad. Size	Black & White	Width (mm)	Height (mm)
1/4 page	£15.00	66.25	97
1/2 page	£30.00	136.5	97
Full Page	£60.00	136.5	198

Measurements are in mm - no bleed. All adverts should be submitted as a press-quality PDF. Any bitmap images or photographs used within the artwork must have a minimum resolution of 280 dpi. If you don't have artwork ready we'd be happy to design it for you. For a specially discounted price and a personalised quote please contact us. To advertise in this publication please contact [ParishMattersOxfordshire@gmail.com](mailto:ParishMattersOxfordshire@gmail.com).

**SPECIAL OFFER!** Pay for 2 issues, and get 1 free! Pay for 4 issues and get 2 free! Pay for 7 issues, and your advert will run for an entire year!

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.

---

## Pegtop Farm Dexter Beef

Local British Beef reared in the fields around Woodeaton

Low food miles

Matured for a minimum of 21 days

Exceptional flavour and tenderness

Buy directly from the farm

Competitive prices

Half a cow or half a kilo – it's your choice!

Call in or telephone 01865 351957

Website: [www.pegtopfarm.co.uk](http://www.pegtopfarm.co.uk) Email: [beef@pegtopfarm.co.uk](mailto:beef@pegtopfarm.co.uk)

Facebook: Pegtop Farm Dexter Beef



## D L HANCOCK LTD

Funeral Directors & Monumental Masons

Established 21 years and still independent

### BICESTER'S ONLY INDEPENDENT FAMILY FUNERAL DIRECTOR

A caring traditional **24 hour service**  
provided by Mr. Hancock and his team personally

~~~~~  
Serving Bicester and all Surrounding Areas

~~~~~  
Private Chapel Of Rest

~~~~~  
Jaguar Fleet of Funeral Cars

~~~~~  
Perfect Choice  
Funeral Plans



Member of  
The National Association  
of Funeral Directors



D L HANCOCK LTD



Tel: 01869 244200 (24 Hrs)  
Chapel House, 13 North Street,  
Bicester, OX26 6NA.

## Looking for a bargain?

visit the

## Thrift Shop

behind the Costcutter Shop in Ambrosden

Open Thursdays, all year round

10:00 a.m - 3:00pm

Clothing, Nursery Items, Books  
DVDs, Toys, Bric-a-Brac

All profits to local charities

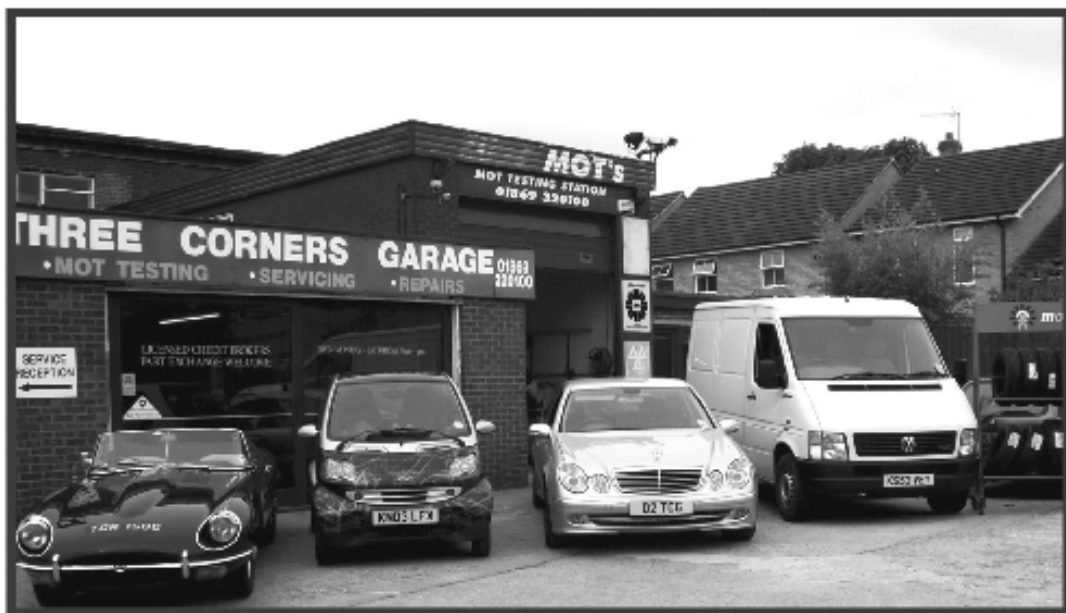


**THREE CORNERS GARAGE**  
Ambrosden  
est. 1951



**M.O.T your car with us**  
and we'll text you the following year  
to remind you it's due again

Wide selection of premium and economy tyres in stock.



For any of the above services, please contact Steve or Dave  
on:

**01869 320100 or 01869 360584**