

PARISH MATTERS



APRIL 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

bicester vets
Compassion & Care

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 !

 **image**x
The Image Experts

Order on-line and
collect in-store at
www.imagex.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

www.dntelectricalbuildingservices.co.uk

NICEIC
APPROVED
CONTRACTOR

CONTENTS

Letters from the Clergy Team	4
Church Services	5
Clergy Contacts	6
Ambroden News	8
Arcott News	13
Blackthorn News	19
Merton News	22
Piddington News	27
Otmoor Garden Society	32
Vet Report	33
Bus Timetables	34
Otmoor Womans Institute	37
Advertising and Contacts	38

Welcome to the April 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

Parish Matters Committee

LETTER FROM THE CLERGY TEAM

Did you notice how resilient the daffodils and snowdrops were earlier in the month? Stems bent right over; yet when the thaw came, they bounced back. St David would have been proud of them!

But the cold weather was a trial, wasn't it? And it wasn't just the relentless cold. There were burst pipes, frozen ground, black ice, people stranded in their homes and people without access to food or water.

As we watched it on the TV or read the news in our papers, we saw thousands of people put through hardship and misery. And our hearts went out to them. Somehow, what we were going through paled into insignificance, inconvenient though it was.

And yet, just like the battered flowers, we have straightened up again. Animals are nibbling on the grass, pipes have been fixed, paths cleared and stores replenished. We too can be resilient. And, of course, we have one big advantage over the bulbs that were flattened – we could help each other out. How heartening it was to see neighbours checking on each other, friends ringing each other up, 4-wheel drive owners fetching shopping or medicines for others living in the village. We rose to the occasion.

Indeed, in some ways, we are all the better for the experience (not that I'm asking for more snow!). Good things can come out of adversity. And if that isn't a cue for thinking about Easter, then I don't know what is.

Out of the bleakness of Good Friday came the wonder of Easter Sunday. Out of death came life. Jesus rose from the dead. Hallelujah!

It is the source of all our hope as a Christian Church. Not only does the resurrection prove

that Jesus was indeed the Son of God as He claimed, and that therefore His teaching has an authority we can't ignore, but it also inspires us with hope. If Jesus rose from the dead, then so can we. We are, to use His words, inheritors of the kingdom of God.

Easter means that we the opportunity to be forgiven of our sins, to be made righteous in the eyes of God and to be welcomed in to heaven for eternity. It means that death is not the end but the beginning of something new and exciting. Heaven is free from pain, free from illness, free from sin, free from tears. It is something to look forward to. In heaven we will see God in all His glory, His radiance and His majesty.

We may feel battered by life every now and then on earth. That is only understandable. But we have the promise of being straightened out, the hope of everlasting life and the wonder of seeing God face to face. Now that's something worth getting excited about.

One of the big complaints of the freeze and thaw and subsequent chaos with water supplies around the country was that of the lack of communication from various water boards. As Christians we have such good news to communicate: there is a solution, the problem is solved, there is life after death!

Jesus described Himself as the water of life inviting us to drink of Him and quench our thirst for ever. Good news worth sharing. I pray that you have a wonderful Easter and that the hope of the season continues to be uplifting for you. May we blossom and flourish in the light of the risen Christ.

Best wishes, Steve

CHURCH SERVICES APR

RAY VALLEY SERVICES APRIL 2018

Draft 1

Church	Time	Leader	Service
Sunday April 1st	Easter Day		Acts 10.34-43 1 Corinthians 15.1-11 John 20.1-18
Ambrosden	10.30	Lisa	Holy Communion
Merton	09.00	Lisa	Holy Communion
Piddington	10.30	Steve	Holy Communion
Islip	10.30	Lucy	Parish Communion
Noke	09.00	Lucy	Holy Communion
Charlton	10.30	Jane	Holy Communion – Jane Hemmings
Oddington	09.00	Steve	Holy Communion
Sunday April 8th	2nd of Easter		Acts 4.32-35 1 John 1.1-2.2 John 20.19-end
Ambrosden	10.30	Steve	Family Service
Piddington	09.00	Steve	Holy Communion
Islip	10.30	Lucy	Parish Communion
Charlton	09.00	Lucy	Holy Communion
	18.00	Steve	Evening Prayer
Oddington	10.30	TBC	Holy Communion
Sunday April 15th	3rd of Easter		Acts 3.12-19 1 John 3.1-7 Luke 24.36b-48
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	Family Service
Charlton	10.30	Steve	Family Communion
Sunday April 22nd	4th of Easter		Acts 4.5-12 1 John 3.16-end John 10.11-18
Ambrosden	10.30	Lay	Morning Prayer
Merton	10.30	Glenys	Family Service
Piddington	09.00	Steve	Holy Communion
Islip	10.30	Lucy	Café Church (coffee served from 10am)
Charlton	09.00	Brian	Holy Communion – Brian Mountford
Oddington	18.00	Steve	Evening Prayer
Sunday April 29th	5th of Easter		Acts 8.26-end 1 John 4.7-end John 15.1-8
Islip	10.30	All	United Benefice 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

Roman Catholic: Fr John Batthula jbatthula@googlemail.com 01869 253277

Catholic services: Please consult the website: 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>	

Why not join Ramblers?

Bicester & Kidlington Ramblers help local people enjoy walking and protect the places all love to walk. We organise regular walks to suit all abilities— a great way to get outside, make new friends and discover how walking boosts your health and happiness.

For more information contact Mary

goutur@tiscali.co.uk

BEST KEBABS

Ambrosden village car park
(Beside Costcutter)

Wednesday to Saturday

4.00pm
-
10.00pm



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



Robert L. Darvill & Son Plasterers.

Tel: 01869 240924 • Mob: 07894 816225

Email: robert_darvill@live.co.uk
robertdarvillplastering.co.uk

AMBROSDEN NEWS

Ambrosden Parish Council meetings held in the Village Hall on the 3rd Thursday of each month. At 7.30 (May 7pm followed by Annual Parish Meeting at 8pm)

Parish website
www.ambrosden.info/parishcouncil

Ambrosden Parish Councillors:

Mark Longworth (Chair) – 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

District Councillors

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

David Anderson (Conservative)
david.anderson@cherwell-dc.gov.uk

Nick Cotter (Independent)

Nick.cotter@cherwell-dc.gov.uk

Dan Sames (Conservative)

da.sames@cherwell-dc.gov.uk

County Councillor
Dan Sames (Conservative)
dan.sames@oxfordshire.gov.uk
Facebook Community message boards
Ambrosden Community
Ambrosden and Caversfield Forces Wives

St. Mary's Church
www.ambrosdenchurch.org.uk/

Five Acres School
www.fiveacres.org.uk/

Children's Centre
www.oxonchildrenscentre.org

Ambrosden Village Pre School
8.20-11.20 Monday - Friday term time only
Jackie Floyd - 07759755179
ambrosdenvillagepreschool@hotmail.co.uk

Tiddlywinks Playgroup
8.30-11.30, 11:50-14:50.
Debra Cherry 01869256555
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 7th APRIL
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.parishclerk@gmail.com

ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
17TH MAY 7pm VILLAGE HALL
The Chairman and Vice Chairman of Parish
Council for 2018/19 will be elected at this
meeting,
There is one vacant seat on Parish Council.
If you would like to be co-opted to Parish
Council and have lived in the Parish for a
minimum of 12 months, please contact the
Parish Clerk.

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 17TH MAY
8pm VILLAGE HALL
The Annual Parish Meeting is your chance
to find out what has been happening in the
Parish of Ambrosden over the past 12 months
and what is planned for the future. Local
community groups such as the Garrison,
Scouts and Brownies will be invited to speak.
Please contact the Parish Clerk.

COUNCIL TAX
While council tax is going up, everyone in
Ambrosden will be paying less for the Parish
Precept than 2 years ago in 2016/17. There
was a reduction of 8.3% last year and an
increase of 4.4% this year.
This reflects increased grass cutting, litter
picking, extra dog waste bins/ collections,
increased support for community campaigns
against planning applications all against a 50%

reduction in County Council grants and the
loss of a few thousand pounds of New Homes
Bonus Grants from the District Council as it
now keeps it all.

The Parish Council has recently supported the
Scouts and the Brownies and grant aided last
year's summer party, which turned a profit.
The Parish Council is highly restricted in
what it can fund, but its here to help make the
community better where possible.

Plans for the next financial year include
working with the Garrison to sort out the
railings and to assist in community events,
railings replacement of the railings along the
school side of Ploughley Road, where they
have been removed without authorisation,
and on the school side of road, bollards in the
footway to stop cars driving along the footway
adjacent the school.

We now have a sports common in the village,
so we are looking for interested people who
may want to set up sports groups such as five
aside to use the common at Springfields. If
we get interest, we can unlock grants and
s106 funding to put a store building up, and
inflatable goal posts etc.

Allotments Paperwork is in the hands of
solicitors, but there is a hiccup on land
ownership as a householder has fenced off
some of the land included in the title.

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 2.5m taller than the warehouse that has just been constructed.

The Parish Council has appointed Highways Consultants to review the application and the impact of the development on the junction of

Ploughley Road and the A41.

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

ALLOTMENTS AT SPRINGFIELDS

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

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

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

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 Arcnott Scouts

Cubs - 5:30-6:45.

Arcnott 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)

St Mary's Church, Church Walk, OX25 2UJ
0930-1100 £2.50 entry (additional £1 for siblings) Refreshments included

Sweaty Mama, Village Hall 1pm

Contact Katie Seteha via Facebook

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

Kebab Van – Costcutter car park -evening

1st Ambrosden and Arcnott Scouts
Scouts - 7-9pm
Arcnott Village Hall

Saturday

Kebab Van – Costcutter car park -evening

For any errors or omissions please contact
Mark Longworth - ambrosden@mlongworth.
co.uk

VILLAGE HALL BOOKINGS
ANDY & LISA CAMPBELL - ANDYAMP-
AIR@TESCO.NET - 01869

**AMBROSDEN VILLAGE
HALL**

FOR BOOKINGS\

ANDY & LISA CAMPBELL -

ANDYAMP-AIR@TESCO.NET -

01869 321318



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
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

ARNCOTT NEWS

REPORT FROM ARNCOTT VHMC & ACA
MEETING 27th FEBRUARY & PARISH
COUNCIL MEETING 6th MARCH 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
Parish Matters Magazine – marionmoore20@btinternet.com

Your contacts for the Village Hall Management Committee are ;
John Cooper (Chairman) – 01869 323349 –
johncooper47@btinternet.com
Christine Dunkin (Village Hall hire) - 01869
249560 – 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 advised the parish council that the planning application is still subject to consultation by the various departments involved in this project. The application can be seen on the CDC website for residents to comment on if they wish. For anyone who is interested in having a look at the application documents and plans, the CDC website link is ; <https://www.publicaccess.cherwell.gov.uk/online-applications/> . Type Woodpiece Road Arncott into the search box then select Woodpiece Road option then view the documents. A disabled bay will be provided in site 3. As mentioned previously, CDC have also 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. CDC have agreed that the boundary lines between the parking areas and residents' property will be clearly demarcated.

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.

MURCOTT ROAD BUILD-OUT

No updates have been received from OCC

about this project so the parish council are hopeful that work will begin early into the new financial year (April onwards).

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

District Cllr Hughes advised the meeting that he had received correspondence from the new operators of the Moto Parc. The parish council requested him to ask the new operators to please keep the parish council informed about proposals / developments regarding the possible construction of noise attenuation bunds. As previously mentioned, the parish council will 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.

LITTER PICK

On behalf of everyone in the village, many, many thanks to the good folks who spent the best part of a day in the middle of February clearing out all of the litter and rubbish in the scrubland area at the bottom end of the football pitch. Together they filled four hippo bags with all sorts of rubbish. Not just litter but things like bike parts and a car exhaust system. Many grateful thanks and very well

done to Naomi and Eleanor (surnames not known at time of writing), Stuart, Ellenis, Louie, Henry and Isabella Panter. Millie, Olivia and Max Butler. Jack Begley. Jarrett Good. Reece Uwen Palmer. A brilliant effort indeed. Very much appreciated. If you took part in this activity but are not mentioned here then please let the parish council know. The parish clerk was asked to contact CDC to ask for arrangements to be made for the remaining bags to be collected.

PLAYING FIELD DRAINAGE

During the above mentioned litter pick exercise, an open manhole full of rubbish was found inside of the scrubland area. As a result, Cllr Savidge has started making enquiries as to what drainage system it is connected to, where it goes and who is responsible for it. Cllr Savidge has also made contact with the MOD about the condition of an adjacent drainage ditch next to the MOD perimeter fence. He has been advised that the drainage ditch is on the MOD estate. The ditch has been inspected and the necessary work needed to be done to the ditch will be carried out. It is to be hoped that any blockages found can be cleared away and this then might possibly alleviate the water logging problem with the football pitch and surrounding green space.

GRANT MONEY FOR SPORTS FACILITIES

Cllr Barnard has been and still is exploring the options of the possible construction of a stand-alone changing room and storage room facility next to the village hall. He has spoken with CDC and will be making contact with some recommended architects.

GRANT MONEY FOR VILLAGE ART PROJECT

Following on from previous correspondence

with CDC community development, Cllrs Savidge and Wilson met with artist Will Glanfield on 15th February. He is an experienced artist who uses wood to create furniture, sculptures etc. and he was commissioned by CDC to do work on the Kingsmere project in Bicester. You can see the sort of things he makes by going to his website ; <http://www.willglanfield.co.uk> Discussion as to what could be created for our village led to the idea about possibly replacing the recently removed memorial bench at the playing field with a new set of curved benches and maybe a table. This work would fit within the available budget and would be an acceptable project for CDC to release the funding. Will also agreed that he would be able to hold a design workshop event in the village around July / August so that residents could learn about the design process and provide input of some ideas into what could be made. There would be 10 – 20 places available with priority being given to our village youngsters. Updates will be given closer to the time.

DOG POO

The parish council has, to date, received two of the three new dog poo bins. When the third bin has arrived, installation will be arranged. When the three new bins have been installed, there will be nine bins throughout the village so absolutely no reason for anyone to leave dog poo on our green spaces, pavements and garden paths etc.

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

At the February meeting it was agreed that the parish council would explore the use of CCTV in an effort to try and identify acts of anti-social behaviour. However, it's very pleasing to mention that reports into the parish council about anti-social behaviour during the last month seem to have been non-existent so, on behalf of us all, many thanks to all concerned for making the change – very much appreciated. Hopefully, this will continue to be the case. Research into the installation and use of CCTV has shown that it is likely to cost a substantial sum of money to install and also that it is not a simple process to implement because of the necessary legal requirements and obligations. It was agreed that, if thought really necessary, the possible use CCTV would be considered again later in this year.

YOUTH FACILITIES

As mentioned last month, the parish council is hopeful that something can be done to improve the facilities in the village for the youngsters. This topic will be discussed in more detail at the April meeting where thoughts, ideas and proposals will be considered and the possible funding options explored.

ROADS AND STREETLIGHTS

Cllr Savidge has emailed OCC highways department yet again in an effort to get an acknowledgement and agreement from them that the surface damage and potholes to roads within our village need to be properly repaired. Our roads were looked at by OCC highways personnel at the beginning of February but the

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

parish council has not yet been advised as to what, if any, remedial work will be done. Trying to get this work scheduled to be done is a struggle. OCC highways do not have the budget or capacity to fix all of Oxfordshire's roads so we don't know where we sit in the list of priorities that the highways department is working to. The non-working streetlights within the village have been reported but no dates yet as to when repairs will take place. As always, please report any road / pavement / street issues on the www.fixmystreet.com website. The more reports about the same thing, the better.

COMMUNITY EMERGENCY PLANNING

The Parish Council has now received the snow shovels and salt spreader machines to assist in clearing pavements and paths in the village should there be heavy snow. A number of village residents have put their names forward to help with the resilience program. Excellent news and many grateful thanks to Anne Holland for her initiative in starting to put the list together.

OTMOOR PARISHES LIAISON MEETING

Together with the chairpersons of our local parishes, Cllr Wilson attended this meeting which took place at Merton village hall on the evening of Tuesday 27th February. This meeting was initiated by Piddington parish council. Opinion is that a small parish council on its own doesn't carry too much weight with district and county councils. They are mainly interested in the towns and large parishes. It was felt that a collective of small parish councils (representing a large combined electorate) acting together might achieve a much better response when trying to get common issues / problems resolved by CDC / OCC. Items discussed included traffic / speed, public transport, communications, road maintenance, CDC local plan, fly tipping, funding, cycle routes, GDPR and better liaison

with OCC, BCC, CDC and AVDC. It was agreed that future meetings should be held – possibly at quarterly intervals. Overall, a very worthwhile meeting. Grateful thanks to Merton parish council for hosting the meeting.

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.

The committee commended the community initiative to clean up the litter from around the playing field, it is a positive step and a credit to all involved.

VHMC MEMBERS

The committee unanimously agreed to co-opt Kaye Forrest, Jo Chiddle and Josie Procter, and Paul Wilson and Peter Barnard have joined as the PC representatives.

HEALTH & SAFETY

Simon Bradley, Manager of the MoD Fire and Rescue Station in Palmer Avenue, has kindly agreed to carry out a Fire Safety Assessment on the village hall.

LETTINGS

Regular lettings continue at a good level, with 28 bookings for March.

PROJECTS AND IMPROVEMENTS

We are investigating the funds that are available, with the intention of improving the security of the bar and kitchen, renovating the bar area and

installing a glass washing machine, and quotes are being obtained for new flooring in the toilets and bar.

FUTURE EVENTS

Fun Quiz night and raffle – Friday 13th April. Village Hall, Doors 7.30 for 8.00 start

Dedicated to the fond memory of Dionne Arrowsmith. In aid of Oracle charity for head and neck cancer.

Teams of up to 6.

Supper included, it is useful to know numbers if possible, bring your own drinks.

Call Mandy 07919982420 or Stuart 07546102065 for more information.

£7.50 per person to play and supper.

Military Wives choir will be coming on 2nd June. Details to follow shortly.

The Summer Fete will be on 15th July, planning has commenced, and any help and ideas will be most welcome.

Ska Martial Arts Tang Soo Doo.

New martial arts and fitness class at Arcnott 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 Arcnott 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, 7.00 to 9.00 pm, and the Cubs meet on Wednesdays, 5.15 to 6.45 pm, both in term times only.

Arcnott 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.

Arcnott Community Association

The committee welcomed Mrs Kaye Forrest, who has volunteered to take over as Treasurer for the ACA. It should be remembered that the ACA funds the Children's and Seniors Christmas parties with the money raised by the 300 Club, and it was vital that a good replacement be found for Mrs Marion Moore, the long-serving treasurer. Kaye and Marion will be liaising with a view to a full handover of responsibilities shortly. Many grateful thanks to Marion for all the work she has done on behalf of our community over a long period, we hope that she will continue on the committee.

300 Club winners

193 Mrs A Grater

237 Mrs J Naylor

206 Mrs K Daly

256 Mrs S Smith

138 Mrs H Grimes

If anyone is interested and would like to start or rejoin the 300 Club, please contact Wendy Wilkins by email at Arcnott300club@gmail.com.

JIM MAY

I am very sad to report the death of Jim May, after a short illness. Jim was well known in the village and a generous supporter of our fund raising activities. He was until recently the treasurer of the VHMC, and had been a parish councillor, a governor of Five Acres school, and past-president of Bicester Probus Club. Our deep sympathy goes to his family.

COFFEE MORNING/LUNCH IN MEMORY OF MR PHILLIP WALTON

Thank you so much to everyone who came and supported the recent coffee morning/lunch in memory of Mr Phillip Walton, to raise money for Parkinson's U.K.

It was a heart warming turnout. There was so much kindness and support shown in so many ways. Donations of cakes, raffle prizes and sharing of a good time was a very fitting way to remember my Dad.

Dad lived in Arncoth most of his 86 years. He was known for being a kind, gentle and

lovely man, foremost an excellent woodworker but could turn his hand to almost anything. He helped anyone in need with a willing heart. He did many things for the village, the old pump on the village green was restored by him a number of years ago.

As a Husband, Dad, Gramps and friend he was loyal, loving, caring and totally dependable.

We were so pleased to raise £720.00 for Parkinson's in his memory, he had the disease for the last ten years of life but refused to let it beat him. A fitting tribute therefore to him and one which we as a family plan to become an annual event.

Rosemarie, Mandy, Simon, Howard, Verity and Oliver

Material required for the parish magazine please.

Please email it to marionmoore20@btinternet.com by 13th of the month



**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

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: 07839 683926
Email: gjplumbing@hotmail.com

Tina Hall

Dog Grooming Services



For Small to Medium sized breeds

**Bathing
Clipping
Scissoring
Nail Trimming
Hand stripping**

**Qualified
Insured**

Based in Arncoth, near Bicester
Transportation available for surrounding Villages

Mobile: 07596 520729
Email: tmhall1@hotmail.co.uk

BLACKTHORN NEWS

BLACKTHORN VILLAGE HALL

Events leading up to Easter are below:

Fri 30th Mar – Pub Night, 7.30 pm

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

Pub Nights are the last Friday in each month.

We continue to encourage new people to join the Village Hall committee. If this is something you would like to be involved with, helping to bring events to our community by planning and running events, please contact us at blackthornvillagehall@gmail.com or come along to one of our meetings. We meet on the 1st Monday of every month at 8 pm at the Village Hall.

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 at clerkblackthornpc@gmail.com

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.

Neighbourhood Watch

We now have volunteers in Station Road and Lower Road and interest in Thame Road. We are looking for people to volunteer in Weir Lane. As soon as we have enough volunteers we'll be asking local PSCO Louise Beaumont and Clare Percival - West Oxon & Cherwell NHW Representative to come and speak to everyone about what's involved and how to make our scheme successful.

A Huge Thank You!

After a successful letter campaign from the Parish Council, we would like to thank the Environment Agency for coming out in the terrible February weather and clearing Blackthorn Brook.

Weir Pond Regeneration

We have had some great ideas coming from local residents regarding the pond regeneration. We will be drawing up plans ready to present at May's AGM.

OTHER

Internet Café

Last year, we ran an Internet Café session targeted at helping those who are not getting the most from their superfast internet connection. Unfortunately, due to a technical problem the session was not the success we hoped for.

The technical problem has been resolved and I am pleased to say we intend to run another event on Monday 16th April at the village hall.

If you are having difficulties in doing the things you want to do on the internet, come along.

If you are not sure how to do something, come along.

If you are nervous about buying goods or services over the internet, come along.

If you have heard about something you would like to do, but don't know where to start, come along.

If you just want to ask questions about something you are interested in, come along.

It would be helpful if you would let us know if you plan to attend by sending an email to either address below. However, this should not be a hindrance to you attending, just turn up.

It's important you bring your internet device with you, laptop, tablet, smart phone or whatever.

Email leebutleracu@gmail.com or J_henderson@btinternet.com

If you have any news or other items you would like included please email John Henderson at j_henderson@btinternet.com by the 10th of each month.



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



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

The Bulletin Board

Ray Valley Benefice For April 2018

- | | |
|-----------------------|--|
| Weds 4th | - 10am Holy Communion, Ambrosden |
| Tues 10 th | - 9.30am Holy Communion, Islip |
| Fri 13 th | - 10-3 Spring Fayre, Fencott |
| Weds 18 th | - 10am Holy Communion, Charlton |
| Fri 20 th | - 9.30am ABC for pre-schoolers, Islip |
| Sat 21 st | - 10-1 Table Top Sale, Piddington |
| Sun 22 nd | - 10am Café Church, Islip Village Hall |

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 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 01865 331604

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

Pat Murphy: cllrpatmurphymertonpc@btinternet.com 01865 331643.

Jo Copping: jcoppingmerton@gmail.com 01865 331204

David Richardson: cllrdavid@penguinmail.co.uk 01865 331640

Lucy Katz: cllrlucykatzmertonpc@gmail.com 07970 803653

Steve Kelly: StevenKelly.MertonPC@gmail.com 07875 488143

Parish Council Clerk - Mrs Charlesworth: 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 Wendy Meads on 01865 331766 or by email at wendymeads@yahoo.co.uk

FREE FILM SHOW IN MERTON VILLAGE HALL: THURSDAY 19 APRIL

The last of our 2017/18 'season' of free film shows in the Village Hall will be at 7.30 pm on Thursday, 19 April. 'A United Kingdom' is a 2016 British biographical romantic drama based on the true-life romance starting in 1940s London between Sir Seretse Khama, heir to the throne of Bechuanaland (David Oyelowo), and his wife Ruth Williams Khama (Rosamund Pike).

As usual, there'll be (free!) tea/coffee and biscuits afterwards. These films are open to all residents of Merton and we would be delighted to welcome folk from neighbouring villages. Hopefully, there will be a 2018/19 'season' of films starting in September. Watch this space!

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

Merton's Longest-Serving Councillor Retires

Just over 80 years ago, a family by the name of Leaver moved into Merton with their very young son, Ron. Over the intervening years, the village has seen enormous changes, in its size and character, its facilities, and its residents. One thing that hasn't changed, however, is the presence of Ron. Known to almost everyone as Titch, he grew up here, then got married and brought up his own family in the village.

Throughout his life in Merton, Titch has had a profound and hugely positive influence on the community. As a young man, he initially served as the representative for Merton on the Ploughley Rural District Council, and then moved on to become a councillor with Merton Parish Council when it was formed in 1961.

At the annual parish meeting in 1963, there was a vote that a new village hall should be built. Titch set up the Pioneer Committee to take the proposal forward, and a temporary hall was initially constructed. He then became one of the founding members of the Sports Field Committee which was formed in 1964, and negotiations began the following year to buy the land that forms part of the current playing field.

In 1967, Titch was elected Chairman of Merton Parish Council, and he continued in that role until 1980. During his chairmanship, he presided over the purchase of an additional 2½ acres to extend the playing field in 1972, the construction of the current village hall in 1974, and its extension in 1979.

In addition, Titch was involved in negotiations to obtain the land on which the bungalows in The Orchard were built, to provide affordable housing for the community. He also negotiated the purchase of Merton Wood from Thames Water, for the sum of £1.

After standing down as Chairman, Titch later served as Clerk to the Parish Council for a further 8 years, from 1983 to 1991. Over the years, in addition to his coaching of young footballers in the village, he also served on various other village bodies including the Pioneer Committee, the Sports Field Committee, the Sports Pavilion Committee and the Village Hall Committee.

To this day, Titch also prints Parish Matters and distributes it around the village. And quite apart from his work with the Parish Council, he has regularly gone out of his way to help people in the village, for example by driving them to hospital appointments when they couldn't get there by themselves.

In total, Titch served for around 28 years on the Parish Council, of which some 13 were spent as Chairman. It was therefore with great regret that we received Titch's letter of resignation at our meeting of 19th February this year.

Few people possess such selfless generosity, and there must be few villages blessed with someone so dedicated to the welfare and development of their community as Merton has been. We shall all greatly miss Titch's commitment, knowledge and wise council. On behalf of the entire village, we therefore wish to thank Titch for all that he has done over the years. We should perhaps also thank Freda for lending her husband to the village so often and for so long! Our very best wishes for the future to both of them.

Merton Parish Council

Nest Boxes in Merton Wood

This year, National Nest Box Week ran from 14th – 21st February. As a result, the Woodland Group spent Sunday 18th February installing nesting boxes throughout the wood. On the day, 11 volunteers turned out to carry out the work. In total, 34 boxes of varying types were put up, including two roosting boxes for bats. As a result, we hope to see an even greater number of wild birds in the woodland during the spring and summer months.



Grateful thanks go to everyone who took part – and especially to Chris Bottrell who must have been running a production-line in his workshop (a total of 30 boxes), and to Janine Decock who donated 4 boxes to the project.

ANTIQUE & COLLECTORS MARKET

KIDLINGTON METHODIST CHURCH

In two halls at Oxford Road Kidlington OX5
2BP

SATURDAYS 10.00am - 1.00pm
2018

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



MHES
MIKE HEDGES ELECTRICAL SERVICES

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



ELECSA
Part of the ICA Group
Part P
Approved Contractor

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**

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



**To book your place
please call
07969 233525**

**BOXING FOR FITNESS
AMBROSDEN VILLAGE HALL
6.45PM MONDAYS**




**To book your place
please call
07969 233525**

**CIRCUIT TRAINING
ARNCOTT VILLAGE HALL
8.30PM MONDAYS**




oxonelectrical
SERVICES LTD

Your No1 Local Electrician

- **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
w: www.oxonelectrical.co.uk

Please note: all prices exclusive of VAT

follow us @  







**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 NEWS

PIDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 17th April 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

Planning applications for the parish will be listed here in future and can be viewed in full on the Cherwell District Council planning portal. Planning applications currently being reviewed are: 18/00358/CLUE, 18/00337/F and 18/00211/F.

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Tuesday 24th April at 7.30pm. It is an opportunity for villagers and councillors to discuss issues affecting our community, review the last year and look forward to the year ahead. District and county councillors have been invited along with our community policing officer and a representative from Network Rail, who will be addressing the work that will be taking place shortly. All are welcome.

Parish Clerk:

Anne Davis

Tel: 01865 379645

Email: piddington.parish.clerk@googlemail.com

Councillors:

Francesca Darby (Chair)

Tel: 01844 238294

Email: francesca.darby@piddingtonpc.com

Pam Feltbower (Vice Chair)

Tel: 01844 237523

Email: pam.feltbower@piddingtonpc.com

Andrew Coleman

Tel: 01844 237582

Email: andrew.coleman@piddingtonpc.com

Lynda Galloway

Tel: 01844 237584

Email: lynda.galloway@piddingtonpc.com

Ken Howard

Tel: 01869 320950

Email: ken.howard@piddingtonpc.com

Mike Nixon

Tel: 01844 239209

Email: michael.nixon@piddingtonpc.com

Mario Terzino

Tel: 01844 238154

Email: mario.terzino@piddingtonpc.com

LITTERBLITZ AND VILLAGE SPRING CLEAN 2018

Thanks to everyone who came on the day and those who worked independently. A vast pile of rubbish was collected from our ditches and verges and a number of village signs also got a spring clean! The team were able to cover the village and all four roads leading into it. The aim is to repeat this exercise in the late summer, once the verges have been cut.

WIDNELL PARK, PLAYING FIELD AND MEADOW

The pedestrian gate to the playing field now has

a proper latch and new fencing will soon be installed along the side of the pond, to secure the area for parents and dog owners. The Parish Council is hoping to improve the pedestrian access at the entrance to Widnell Park, which will make it more accessible for buggies and wheelchair users. It is also researching grants to provide funds for the purchase of a small community outside gym or fitness trail. The Parish Council is keen to hear any other ideas villagers might have for improving the amenities provided in this area. Please contact either Mario or Francesca. Grass cutting will begin this month.

DOG POO

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

There have been a number of reports of poo being left around 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 is also investigating a dog poo bin for Lower End.

RURAL POLICING

The Bicester Rural Resilience Group investigates policing issues for Bicester and the rural villages surrounding it. Meetings are regular and are currently chaired by Ken Howard. The next meeting will be held on 13th June (Ardley Village Hall) and 5th September (Piddington Village Hall). Everyone is welcome

to attend. If you have any issues you wish discussed, please contact Ken.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

The CLP results highlighted that this was something the village would like to see reinstated. The Parish Council is now looking for volunteers to make this happen and coordinate with the relevant organisations. If you are interested, please contact Anne Davies or Francesca Darby. Neighbourhood Watch progress will be discussed at the next Parish Council meeting and at the Annual Parish Meeting.

THE OTMOOR GROUP

Recently set up, The Otmoor Group is a regular meeting of parish councillors within the Otmoor and Launton constituency whose voices are not always heard. The first meeting was recently held at Merton Village Hall. The group agreed that there are a number of issues shared by rural communities and intend to bring these to the attention at district and county levels. The main intention is for parishes to work together and lend each other their support. The next meeting will be held in June.

ROAD-CALMING MEASURES FOR THE VILLAGE

The Parish Council now has costs for the purchase and installation of white gates for the village and has applied for a match-funded grant from our county councillor. If the application is successful, the gates will be installed in the next couple of months.

Quotations have also been received for portable Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS) which can monitor traffic flow and speed at certain points in the village. The Parish Council is investigating available grants for the purchase of a unit.

AN EMERGENCY PLAN FOR PIDDINGTON

A set of licensed 2-way radios which will be

held by village co-ordinators has now been purchased and investigations are also underway to purchase two portable generators. The village hall has also been designated the emergency hub for the village.

The Parish Council is working with Piddington Village Hall Management Committee on a second application for funds for more equipment, which will be made this year. 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 Terzino or Mike Nixon.

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

SSE PRIORITY SERVICE

This is an invaluable service and free to everyone in Piddington. It is offered by Scottish and Southern Electricity (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 supports 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

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, 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

UNDER-16s FOOTBALL

The Parish Council is 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 has 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 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. All proceeds to go to the upkeep of the playground.

T94 BICESTER MARKET SERVICE

There is a request bus service from Piddington on Friday mornings to Bicester, returning early afternoon. Bus passes are not accepted on this route.

TABLE TOP SALE & COFFEE MORNING

Saturday 21st April at St Nicholas Church Piddington 10.00 am to 1.00 pm £5. a table
To book a table contact Margaret 01844238724 or Maggie 01844237688

PIDDINGTON 200 CLUB FEBRUARY WINNERS

Drawn at the village hall Pop-Up Pub on Friday 23rd February 2018.

080 Jack Godkin
081 Martin Keenan
179 Ken Howard
029 Mark Elliott

Tickets available for future draws. Ring Yvonne on 01844 238707 or text 07845 930720 to take part.

VILLAGE HALL EVENTS

1st June – Film Night at village hall. 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

If you'd like regular email updates on village matters and events please contact Francesca to be added to the list: francesca.darby@piddingtonpc.com.

Other ways to keep in touch:

Piddington village website:
www.piddingtonvillageoxfordshire.org.uk

The Pantry blog:
piddingtonpantry.wordpress.com

Piddington village Facebook page:
www.facebook.com/piddingtonoxfordshire

Piddington Swap Shop Facebook page:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/447881082064329/>

Twitter:
[@pidding_pantry](https://twitter.com/pidding_pantry) – for all things relating to The Pantry

[@Piddingtonoxon](https://twitter.com/Piddingtonoxon) – for general items of interest

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



Piddington Village Hall

To hire please call
07922 040550

email: PiddingtonVillageHall@gmail.com

**WEDDINGS PARTIES
CLUBS MEETINGS
KEEP FIT CLASSES**

To check availability go to
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^{UK}
Healthcare



For further information or to arrange an informal visit contact:
anton.abramkin@careuk.com
or to view these vacancies go to: 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 APR

Back in February Hazel Roberts gave us a vegetable talk with a different twist, how to avoid ending up with gluts of produce and ideas for different things to do with the produce to avoid boredom. It was a mixture of gardening, cooking and preserving, and led to an entertaining talk where everyone hopefully came away with some new ideas.

Coming up next on our programme, on Sunday 8th April we will have our first local visit of the year which will be a tour of Merton Wood. We will meet there from 9:30am for a 10am start. There will be a 45 minute walk (with stops for talks so nothing too arduous), guided by members of the Merton Wood group who will talk us through the development of the wood and show us what they are doing in various areas. After that we will have the chance to try our hands at a hazel weaving session to make small obelisks. Please wear suitable outdoor clothing and bring secateurs, also optionally a folding chair and a flask! Do come along for a chance to find out what is happening on your doorstep.

Our next speaker is at Charlton on Tuesday 24th April when Jon Uglow will be talking on Planting Design. Jon was head of garden design at Nicholson's but now works privately as a designer and speaker, allowing him time to devote to the African charity he founded, Rafiki Thabo Foundation. So, if you have, and I quote, 'no idea about composition and seasonality, and end up with a garden full of 1001 amazing individuals that all clamour for attention and create a border that for 2 months

of the year looks like a psychedelic fruit salad, and the rest of the time is propped up with bedders', then this is the talk for you! Does this sound familiar? It certainly made me smile, sometimes we know the rules but just have trouble sticking to them! Anyway join us for tips on swapping your psychedelic fruit salad for a coherent beautiful border that looks good all year round.

Looking further ahead, we are now taking bookings for our summer coach trip to The Savill Garden in Windsor Great Park on Saturday 9th June. You can book at any of our meetings or contact Brian to reserve your place. More details will be sent to members by e-mail shortly, non-members welcome at higher cost.

Now to this year's OGS competition with the chance to win the coveted OGS cup! Your challenge is to grow a Geranium (or pelargonium if you would like to be precise) from a tiny seedling. I have just taken delivery of these, and believe me the appropriate word is TINY! Each member should collect a seedling and grow it on in whatever way they see fit to try to achieve the best plant by the time we judge later in the year. Family memberships receive two seedlings so you can have your own internal competition! Please collect these asap (i.e. before I have killed the lot) if you have not already done so. And don't let me hear anybody say this garden society isn't exciting – phaw!

Happy Gardening,
Judith Rawlinson

VET REPORT

The Heart of the Matter

I saw many lovely pets this morning during consulting but one 12 yr old cat caused us a bit of concern. She was having a routine check up on our Healthy Pets Plan and we spotted that she had dental disease. This was starting to cause her gums to recede, a sign of progressive gingivitis, which can often lead to erosion of the enamel and tooth root problems. A routine scale and polish under general anaesthesia should stop this in its tracks.

However, I also detected a heart murmur, which is an abnormal whooshing sound heard as the heart beats. This was a new finding which is often a sign of heart disease. This in turn could make the anaesthetic riskier and so we had a dilemma. With any anaesthetic we must make a risk assessment but with only part of the information this is very difficult to do. Fortunately, we have Rachel Marsden, who is a Vet with a special interest in Cardiology. Rachel completed extra studies after her veterinary degree and has continued to gain experience and knowledge in this field over the past 20 years. I was able to admit the cat for Rachel to perform echocardiography (a heart scan) which showed that the heart had some mild changes in muscle thickness which was the cause of the murmur. The heart was beating normally and showed no signs of being under any stress. Most importantly, there was no evidence of impending heart failure. So, within a few hours we detected a potential



problem, performed some advanced imaging tests and were able to show that the heart abnormality wouldn't create any increased risk for our anaesthetic. This was a great relief to her owner who is pleased to be able to go ahead with the dental procedure to improve her cat's oral health.

Whilst we can never totally remove the risk of an anaesthetic, the advances in veterinary medicine in my lifetime have meant that these procedures are extremely low risk. Knowing in advance of any extra risk factors like heart disease means that we can plan appropriately and minimise that extra risk. Luckily for this little old cat we have shown that her heart abnormality is only mild and won't affect her anaesthetic risk at all.

Enjoy your pets

Jason Williams
Bicester Vets

BUS TIMETABLES

Oxford - Islip - Ambrosden

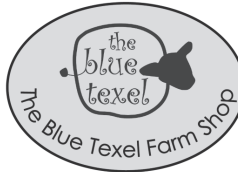
Oxford St Giles (Stop C5)	16:10	17:10	18:10
Gosford, o/s Kings Arms PH	16:30	17:30	18:30
Islip, opp The Red Lion PH	16:35	17:35	18:35
Oddington, opp Glebe Barn Bus Shelter	16:40	17:40	18:40
Charlton-on-Otmoor, opp Bus Garage	16:45	17:45	18:45
Merton, o/s The Plough Inn PH	16:50	17:50	18:50
Ambrosden,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



House 2 Home Removals Ltd

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

01869 360050 & 01869 350985

Email: info@h2hremovals.co.uk
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

Bicester: 01869 350 985 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



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

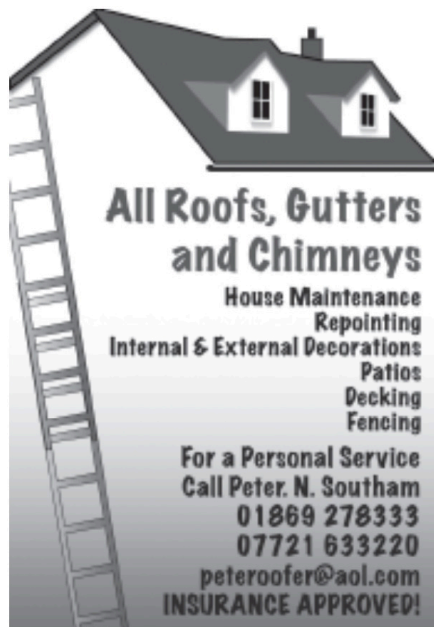
Stump Grinding

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

March saw the Annual Meeting of Otmoor WI held in Charlton Community Hall. Virginia reported on the success of the recent community lunch and that 174 hats for Innocent smoothies had been sent to the appeal in aid of Age UK. Members voted for a choice of arrangements for the Christmas meeting and were presented with the programme of meetings for the coming year. Virginia welcomed three new members to the committee, Ali, Landi and Charmaine.

The treasurer's report was presented by Heather which was approved and Ann read the report on the activities of Otmoor WI This had included outings to London, the Witney Blanket Hall and Burford Garden Centre and a Denman Designer day attended by many members in October.

Virginia summed up our year by talking about the many activities to raise money for the Denman Appeal, from the monthly raffle to the final event, the Coffee Morning held earlier this month. Collections had also been made for the Food Bank and for the Women's Refuge in Oxford. She reminded members that a ballot for the Denman Bursary for the year would be held at the end of the meeting and all members were encouraged to take part. The craft group continues to meet and another group, looking at recording personal memories for their families, has been set up this year. The Competition Cup for the most points in the monthly competitions was won by Mary Hatwell who was presented with the

cup and a voucher. Virginia was re-elected President for the coming year.

Members then had the opportunity to sign up for the bursary, make purchases from the sales table and enjoy refreshments provided by the committee. Quiz sheets were distributed and caused some scratching of heads and lively discussion. Heather and Frances proved most knowledgeable about flags whilst Beryl and Ann solved more of the Dingbats than other members. Sophie won the Denman Bursary and will be able to take along another member of the WI when she attends her chosen course. The raffle for Denman was drawn and Members were reminded of upcoming events including craft on 15th March and 19th April at Murcott Village Hall at 7.30. The next meeting of Otmoor WI is at 7.45 on April 10th in CCH when the speaker, Gilly Pusey, will be talking on Hand Spinning and Natural Dyeing.

Dates for the Diary

April 10th (CCH) 7.45 Hand Spinning and Natural Dyeing – Gilly Pusey
April 19th (MVH) 7.30 Coffee, Craft and Cake
May 8th (CCH) 7.45 Resolutions
May 17th (MVH) 7.30 Coffee, Craft and Cake
June 11th Garden Meeting
June 21st (MVH) Coffee, Craft and Cake
For further details please contact Virginia (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.

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

Advertising: Russell Thompson rthom91543@aol.com 01869 246093

Village News Collectors:

Ambrosden Wendy Cheeseman wendy@plantalittlemagic.co.uk

Arcott Marion Moore 01869 253600 marionmoore20@btinternet.com

Blackthorn John Henderson j_henderson@btinternet.com

Merton Wendy Meads wendymeads@yahoo.co.uk

Piddington Chris Howard 01844 237928 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 Email: 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



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

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

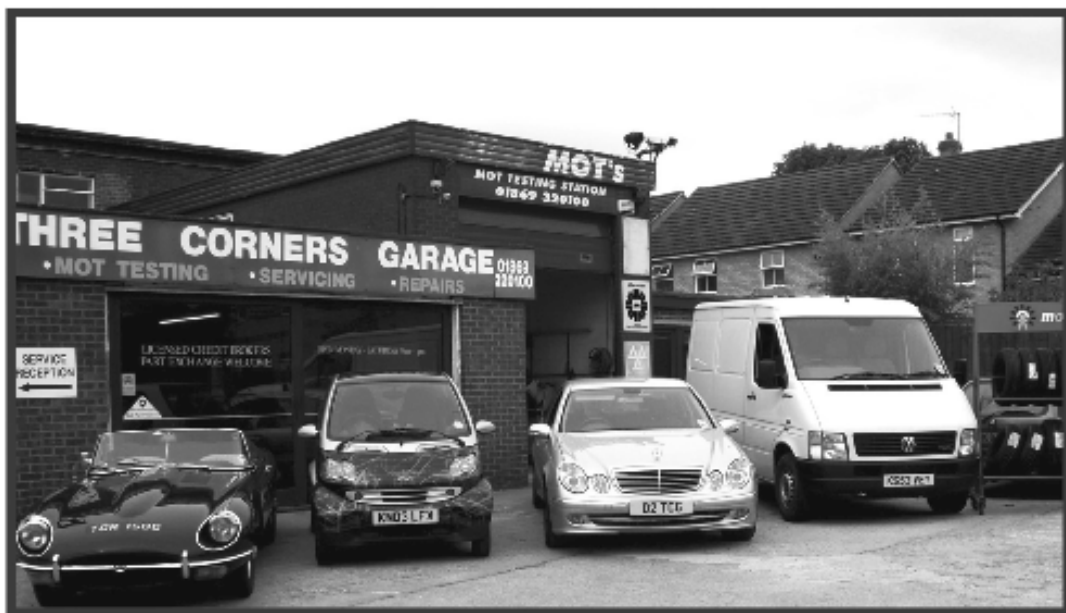


THREE CORNERS GARAGE
Ambrosden
est. 1951



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