

PARISH MATTERS



MAY 2018

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

VILLAGE VIEWS & LOCAL NEWS



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Welcome to the May 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

The Good Shepherd

By the time you read this I hope to have been on a local farm to assist with lambing. It is something I have always wanted to do and I hope it will lead towards a greater understanding of many of the biblical passages that use sheep or shepherds to explain God's love for us.

For example an extreme reading for today's modern shepherd would be John 10 Jesus said: "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep". A big ask many of us would think!

But..... when I read this passage afresh I could not help but think of the wonderful act of bravery shown by a gendarme Lt Col Arnaud Beltrame, who volunteered to take a hostage's place in the recent siege at a supermarket in Trèbes, Southern France. He is what I would call a true hero, a word that seems to be banded about all too lightly today. Yes, it could be argued he was doing his duty but, I think his actions go beyond duty and could only be carried out by someone who was totally selfless and full of compassion for those under his protection. It is not surprising that this was not the first time he showed bravery - in 2005 he received the Cross for Military Valour for peacekeeping work in Iraq and I hope not surprising to find out that he was a practising Roman Catholic.

Jesus faced death and being truly human as well as truly divine he lived amongst his sheep. He

knew all about their flaws and what was in their hearts and yet still he chose to be a sacrifice. Jesus, as we know, was not reacting in the heat of the moment for he knew the kind of death he was going to face for he had shared this with his disciples on many occasions. It was a challenge as his truly human side revealed, when he asked in the garden of Gethsemane "Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done." (Luke 22:42) As we hear in this prayer (which echoes the Lord's Prayer), he still desired to be obedient to his Father's will.

Whilst thankfully many of us never face the position Arnaud Beltrame found himself on that day, when we pray 'your will be done' do we mean it? Even if it means putting ourselves forward into positions of danger?

I am grateful to all of those who do. I think of the bomb disposal technicians whom I have worked with and of their selflessness in their everyday duties especially when on tour. I have also worked with missionaries who work in extremely hostile areas where their lives are in real danger for spreading the 'good news'. To all these people, I salute you and thank you for all you do. If everyone were as selfless as these people no doubt the world would be a better place to live.

Let us follow the 'Good Shepherd' and his example of obedience, compassion and prayer in seeking to do God's will and to work his purpose out in our lives.

Rev'd. Lisa Holmes

CHURCH SERVICES MAY

RAY VALLEY SERVICES MAY 2018

Draft 3

Church	Time	Leader	Service
Tuesday May 1st	May Day		
Charlton	10.00	Lucy	May Day Service
Sunday May 6th	6th of Easter		Acts 10.44-end 1 John 5.1-6 John 15.9-17
Ambrosden	10.30	Steve	Holy Communion
	18.30	Steve	The Xtra One
Merton	09.00	Steve	Holy Communion
Piddington	10.30	Christopher	Family Service - Christopher Young
Islip	10.30	Lucy	Parish Communion - Corpus Christie College Choir
Noke	16.00	Lucy	Lambing Service – Hill End Farm
Charlton	10.30	Glenys	Family Service - Rogation
Oddington			No Service
Thursday May 10th	Ascension		
Islip	19.00	Lucy	Holy Communion
Sunday May 13th	7th of Easter		Acts 1.15-17,21-end 1 John 5.9-13 John 17.6-19
Ambrosden	10.30	Glenys	Family Service
Piddington	09.00	Steve	Holy Communion
Islip	10.30	Steve	Parish Communion
Noke			No Service
Woodeaton	09.15	Rosie	Family Service – Rogation Walk - Rosie Hayes
Charlton	09.00	Lucy	Holy Communion
	18.00	Steve	Evening Prayer
Oddington	10.30	Lucy	Holy Communion
Sunday May 20th	Pentecost		Acts 2.1-21 Romans 8.22-27 John 15.26-27;16.4b-15
Ambrosden	10.30	Lisa	Holy Communion
Merton	09.00	Lisa	Holy Communion
Piddington	18.00	Steve	Evening Prayer
Islip	10.30	Lucy	Family Service & SC
Noke	09.15	Lucy	Holy Communion
Charlton	10.30	Steve	Family Communion
Sunday May 27th	Trinity		Isaiah 6.1-8 Romans 8.12-17 John 3.1-17
Ambrosden	10.30	Lay	Morning Prayer
Merton	10.30	Lisa	Rogation Family Service – Astley Bridge Farm
Piddington	09.00	Cover	Holy Communion
Islip	10.30	Steve	Parish Communion
Charlton	09.00	Steve	Holy Communion
Oddington	18.00	Steve	Evensong

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



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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

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

CRIME IN AMBROSDEN

Following concerns raised by Parishioners and a suggestion that CCTV should be installed in Ambrosden, the Parish Council held a public debate about this issue in the April Meeting. After a discussion about the expected crime rates and hotspots in the village, which many people stated had been based on what had been posted on social media, the true crime rates for the last 3 years were presented to the meeting. These showed that while reported crime fluctuates on a monthly basis, this was steady, and due to the number of new houses in the village, crime rates in relation to residents had fallen.

The main types of crime were Violence and Sexual Offences at over 30%, followed by Vehicle Crime and Anti-Social behaviour.

The consensus of the meeting was that the Parish should seek to set up a revitalised Neighbourhood Watch, and that a number of people have come forwards to be committee members.

The Parish Council will also work to publicise support organisations to reduce domestic abuse.

Blackthorn Road, the A41 and The Horseshoe Walkway were all targeted.

A huge thank you to all involved.

The Parish Council are planning another litter pick in July subject to confirmation that Cherwell DC can provide equipment.

Please contact the Parish Clerk for more information.

Ambrosden.parishclerk@gmail.com

LITTER PICK – SATURDAY 7th APRIL

The litter pick held on Saturday 7th April was a great success, with over 50 sacks of rubbish, road signs, builder's rubbish and glass bottles.

Blackthorn Road, the A41 and The Horseshoe Walkway were all targeted.

A huge thank you to all involved.



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 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. 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 and are installing two new dog waste bins on Merton Road and relocating one from the Springfields Estate.

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.

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 received a report on this application from our own Highways Consultants which has been sent to the District Council and will be presented at the Annual Parish Meeting.

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

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.

Next to Costcutter
4.15-9pm

Wednesday

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

Codfather – Fish and Chips, Kebabs
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.Arnott 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 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](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 Arncott Scouts
Scouts - 7-9pm
Arnott 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)

The scented Narcissus planted by the Parish
Council along Church Walk are now in full
bloom. Do go along and see them

AMBROSDEN VILLAGE HALL

FOR BOOKINGS

ANDY & LISA CAMPBELL -

ANDYAMP-AIR@TESCO.NET -

01869 321318

The Bulletin Board

Ray Valley Benefice For May 2018

Tues 1 st	- 10am May Day Service, Charlton
Weds 2 nd	- 10am Holy Communion, Ambrosden
Fri 4 th	- 10.30 Tiny Tots, Fencott
Tues 8 th	- 9.30am Holy Communion, Islip
Thur 10 th	- 7pm Ascension Day Service, Islip
Weds 16 th	- 10am Holy Communion, Charlton
Fri 18 th	- 9.30am ABC for pre-schoolers, Islip
Thur 24 th	- 9.30 May Day Celebration, Dr South's, Islip

*Fellowship/Bible study 1st & 3rd Monday of every month at Ambrosden.



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ARNCOTT NEWS

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.

Annual open meeting

The annual open meeting of the parish council will be held in the village hall on Tuesday 1st May. The meeting will start at 7:00pm. All parishioners are welcome to attend should they so wish.

Woodpiece Road parking

The parish council has been advised that the planning application for the phase one car parking development will be presented to the CDC planning committee at its meeting in May. The application is available for public viewing 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. Documents can also be viewed in the library section on the parish council website. Please note that 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.

Speed survey and speedwatch

From January 10th to 17th inclusive, 24 hours a day, a vehicle speed survey was carried out within our village using electronic recording

devices. The devices recorded the time and speed of vehicles travelling in both directions through the village. A large amount of data was collected and an initial analysis of this data has been done. Many thanks to Cllr Doore and his wife, Tracy, for their work in doing the analysis. If you would like to see the raw data (MS Excel) and / or a more detailed analysis then contact the parish council. A brief summary of the analysis shows that over the 7 day period, 71.5% of vehicles were travelling at speeds up to 30mph, 21% were travelling at 31mph to 35mph, 5.8% were travelling at 36mph to 40mph, 1.6% were travelling at 41mph to 50mph and 0.1% were travelling above 50mph. Over the 7 day period the combined total figures from both devices show that there were 47,889 vehicle movements through the village – split roughly 50/50 for each direction. Within this number, 3,590 vehicle movements were recorded at 36mph or above. It would be good if some of these speeders could be identified so this is a good time to remind everyone that our speedwatch 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

Yet again, no updates have been received from OCC about when work will on this project will begin. The parish council was previously advised that work would start in this financial year so, hopefully, this spring / summer.

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.

Moto Parc

The schedule of events at the moto parc for this year can be found in the library section on the parish council website and also on the moto parc's own Facebook page. Please note all of the events that take place at the moto parc are subject to the terms and conditions of the planning agreement between the landowner / moto parc operator(s) and CDC.

The parish council does not have any control or authority over that agreement or what events take place. Please also be aware that, from time to time, scheduled events get cancelled and are re-arranged for another day that wasn't previously shown on the calendar as a scheduled day. If you have any questions / concerns regarding the moto parc then please contact CDC and / or the operators of the motor parc.

Grant money for sports facilities

As mentioned last month, work is being done to look at the possibilities of providing additional changing room and storage facilities for the village hall. The parish council agreed that, when enough information has been obtained to move this forward, a separate working party will be formed to discuss the best options as to what should be created.

Grant money for village art project

The parish council has been in contact with timetable for the work. As mentioned last month, a design workshop will be arranged for up to 20 residents. This workshop will provide an insight into the design process for the project and give an opportunity to those residents to contribute ideas towards the final project design. Dates are to be confirmed but will be published once finalised. If you are interested in attending the workshop then please contact the parish council.

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

Disappointing to mention that a few instances of anti-social behaviour were reported last month. Please note that the parish council has no legal power(s) to deal with this. We can only reiterate previous advice – whenever possible, get witness statements, take photographs and / or record video of the behaviour and report it to the police.

Roads and streetlights

Cllr Savidge lodged a formal complaint with the OCC highways department regarding the state of our roads. OCC highways replied to the complaint and explained that they have neither the funding nor the resources required to repair

all of Oxfordshire's roads. OCC highways give first priority to roads that they consider pose the greatest safety concerns. Everything else comes after that. No date(s) have been given as to when our roads are likely to be repaired. With regard to the potholes / craters in the roads at the railway crossing along Murcott Road near to the St George's barracks turning and the railway crossing on the Thame Road near to the junction with Palmer Avenue, please note that the MOD, not OCC highways, are responsible for the upkeep of the short pieces of road that span the width of each crossing.

At time of writing, we are hopeful that these repairs will have been completed by the middle of April so all may be well again by the time you read this.

Facebook & parish website

Visit the Arncott parish council website and / or 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.

Lettings

Regular lettings continue to be the mainstay for the income needed to maintain the hall
Future Events

.
Bicester Military Wives Choir.
Appearing at Arncott Village Hall
Saturday 2nd of June 2018
Doors open 6.30pm show starts at 7pm
Tickets Adults £6 Children £3
Refreshments Available ,Raffle

Tickets available from Christine Bic 249560
email avhlettings@gmail.com

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

Proceeds to the refurbishment of the Village Hall .Projects and Improvements. The amount of money available for improvements has been established and we are now getting quotes for the various jobs that are to be carried out.

The Summer Fete will be on the afternoon of Sunday 15th July, everyone invited. Any suggestions and offers of help are most welcome, the next fete planning meeting will be in the village hall on Tuesday 8th May at 7.00 pm if you would like to come along.

Ska Martial Arts Tang Soo Doo.

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

Dance Fitness

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

Craft Club Every Thursday

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

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, at the village hall.

Arncott 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

205 G Newell

232 J Saunders

51 S McKechnie

33 C Caddock

173 M McRae

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

Material required for the parish magazine please. Please email it to marionmoore20@btinternet.com by 13th of the month

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BLACKTHORN NEWS

Our Easter event was really well attended, despite the weather's best attempts to put a dampener on things. Our next major event will be on 19th of May to celebrate the Royal Wedding and the FA cup – something for everyone including a great BBQ, a bar and all of the events on the big screen. More details to follow.

Forthcoming events:

Fri 27th Apr – Pub Night
Thu 10th May – Coffee Morning
Sat 19th May – Royal Wedding BBQ + FA Cup
Fri 25th May – Pub Night
Thu 7th Jun – Coffee Morning
Sat 23rd Jun – Film Night
Fri 29th Jun – Pub Night
Sat 14th Jul - 70s / 80s Disco Night
Fri 27th Jul – Pub Night

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

PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Councillors are:

Jenny Lamont (Chair)
Randal Rue (Vice Chair)
Sandie Stevenson
Richard Burden
Diane Procopiou
Rachel Lamont
Tracey Charlesworth (Clerk)

Meetings are usually on the first Thursday of the month. Correspondence should be through the clerk at clerkblackthornpc@gmail.com

Annual General Meeting

Reminder: The Parish Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held on 17th May 7:30pm at the Village Hall. As well as the usual project updates from around the village and District Council, we will also have representatives from the Environment Agency joining the meeting to talk about changes to the upkeep of Blackthorn brook.

We encourage all residents from the village to attend.

A41

Cllr David Hughes attended our recent parish council meeting on April 12th where we were able to address our ongoing concerns about the A41 congestion and accidents. He will be taking these back to the District Council for further investigation.

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.



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November 24th

No sale in December

REFRESHMENTS
FREE ADMISSION

Organiser: Graham Kirby 01865 371494
grahamkirby316@gmail.com

MERTON NEWS

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: cllr david@penguinmail.co.uk 01865 331640

Lucy Katz: cllr lucykatzmertonpc@gmail.com 07970 803753

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).

What does Merton Parish Council get up to?

If you want to know what a Parish Council actually does, the minutes of every meeting are posted on the website at: www.mertonparishcouncil.co.uk. A hard copy is also posted to the Notice Board on the side of the Bus Stop.

However, the minutes are a bit on the dry side to be honest, so here's a brief summary of what we do:

1. Planning

If you're planning any kind of extension or new

build at your property, it comes before the Parish Council for consideration.

The Parish Council then either accepts or rejects your plans. Obviously there have to be good, legal grounds for a rejection – we can't just reject your plans because we don't like them.

The Parish Council's decision is not binding – the final decision is taken by Cherwell District Council, but the Parish Council's decision is a key factor in making their adjudication.

Many people choose to come along to the particular Parish Council meeting that is considering their particular plan – it often helps to explain plans in detail, rather than rely on architects' drawings – but you don't have to. We'll make sure you're informed of the decision either way.

2. Keeping a close eye on all the major infrastructure projects in the pipeline for Oxfordshire

You may have seen on the news / heard on the grapevine that huge developments are planned for Oxfordshire.

Sensitively planned, infrastructure improvements in Oxfordshire are to be welcomed – we are by far the “shabbiest” of the Home Counties with poor services, and “London prices on Birmingham pay”.

However, plans for new developments need to be sensitive to the people who already live here. We've already lived through:

- Rapid expansion of Bicester
- Huge new “sheds” disrupting the traffic flows from Ploughley Road onto the A41
- The railway line with all its disruption and damage

- The development in Ambrosden and Thames Water’s almost permanent encampment there, with huge disruption, damage and cost of driving round through Fencott, Murcott and Arncott.

- There are persistent rumours that a new A34 relief road will be going in “north of Arncott”. There was even a suggestion that the existing bridge just outside Merton would be used as a new junction onto the M40. The structure of that bridge is unsuited to major traffic flows, so we’re hoping this is just a bad idea that will come to nothing.

We are trying very hard to get information out of the Highways Agency, and out of OCC, both of whom flatly refuse to tell us anything, despite Freedom of Information requests. We’re engaging with Councillors from Cherwell District Council to try and get their help – they are willing to do what they can, but are hampered by the same refusal of the planning bodies to tell them anything.

We had a meeting with members from all the Otmoor Parish Councils this month in an attempt to create a united front to tackle any unwelcome development on what is an important wildlife habitat. You may not know that Otmoor gives a home to one of the largest starling populations in the country – perhaps 50,000 birds live here in the Summer months – which explains why we see such extraordinary aerial displays at migration times. Other species make their home on Otmoor. It is important that both human and animal lives are given proper protection from insensitive planning officials.

If you know anything / hear anything on the grapevine, please do let us know via clerkmertonpc@gmail.com

3. The Council “owns” and runs the Woodland (just outside Merton) on behalf of the village

The Woodland is a community asset belonging to the whole village.

It’s a bit of a hidden gem that some people don’t know about. It’s a largish site with a stream running through it. It’s carefully managed to encourage natural wildlife habitats, rambling paths, and bridleways for horse riders.

Dogs are welcomed in dedicated parts of the Woodland (although we are pretty rigorous about dog mess!)

It’s a fantastic spot for toddlers and young children to put on wellington boots and explore muddy puddles, and English nature species.

It’s just outside Merton on the Right Hand Side of the road to Ambrosden. It’s not very well signposted at the moment, but it’s the first gate / clump of trees you find as you leave the village.

4. Run the “Public Space” at the centre of the Village.

This means we make sure everyone can benefit from:

- The Village Hall, which can be used for one-off events or regular clubs. The Beer Festival is the biggest event, but we also host children’s parties, clubs and even wakes of local people.

If you’d like to book the Village Hall, please get in contact with Wendymeads@yahoo.co.uk or call on 01865 331766

- The children’s playground – very popular on Summer evenings with Merton’s younger residents

- The playing field where all kinds of activities take place from football, to flying drones, to dog walking (as long as you scoop the poop!) If you know a club who’d like to use / rent the playing field, please do put us in touch with them.

- The allotments. There are 10 allotments available for rental at very low cost, of which 2 are currently available. They are currently somewhat smaller than usual for allotments, so we’re considering increasing the sizes, or cutting new ones.

We'll only resize if current holders consent – we don't want to bump existing allotmenters off patches they've laboured hard to develop! If you'd like an allotment, please contact clerkmertonpc@gmail.com and we'll try and sort you out.

Current plans include:

- Moving the 30 signs on the way into the Village in an attempt to make the bends at the Ambrosden end less dangerous. Seeing a car in a ditch is a pretty common sight, and with horses and cyclists using the road frequently, a car flying round that blind corner is a serious accident waiting to happen.

- Introducing House Numbering through the Village. Many of our residents live in closes / small streets, and have “findable” addresses for DPD, Amazon etc etc etc. For those of us who live on the main road, with multiple houses starting with “Stone”, or people tucked away up tracks, getting deliveries is a permanent hassle. We're only investigating this at the moment and we will be canvassing people's opinions. Feel free to share your thoughts via clerkmertonpc@gmail.com or on 01865-331481.

- Making the Church clock run on time! As you know, the church is very ancient – the clock itself dates from the 19th century. It's our job to make it tell the right time, which is easier said than done. We're on the case, slightly at risk of injury to life and limb. Just don't tell Health and Safety!

If you can think of other ways to improve the Village, please do contact any of the councillors above.

6. Free film shows

These take place in the winter months when you're fed up of your own 4 walls! The films are good quality.

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. If you fancy a film and a chat, you're very welcome. 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).

7. Floodlighting the Church

You can get the church floodlights switched on for a small fee. Many residents have found this helpful in winter months when inviting non-residents into Merton because we have no street-lighting. People use it when they're planning a social event, to tell guests to “head for the Church”. Other people like to use it to celebrate or commemorate a special occasion or person.

If you'd like to do this, please contact clerkmertonpc@gmail.com.

8. Getting involved

- Members of the public, and your ideas and opinions, are always welcome at Parish Council Meetings. In fact, it's your legal right to do so.

- Volunteers are always welcome at the Woodland area – no skills are necessary, just a wish to get into the open air in the company of other Merton residents.

9. Merton News Collector

We're always on the lookout for news or even articles for publication in Parish Matters. If

you have anything to share with your fellow Merton residents, please can you send your copy to wendymeads@yahoo.co.uk by 13th of every month.

A large amount of litter was collected
Litter Pick Up Day

I wish to thank all those residents who so kindly came out on Saturday 17th March to participate in the litter pick up despite the snow, sleet and blast from the east!

especially along the road from the woodland to the village, liquor and other bottles and plastic food containers in particular.

The teas and coffee at the end was very welcome - thank you to Linda.



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PIDDINGTON CRAFT AND SOCIAL CLUB

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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 15th May 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: NONE.

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

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The 2018 meeting was held on Tuesday 24th April. Thank you to everyone who made the effort to attend. Being a Parish Councillor is a voluntary undertaking and village support is much appreciated. The aim of the last year and that for the year ahead is the continued referral by the Parish Council to the results of the CLP questionnaire, which is a clear directive from the residents of Piddington. The Council will focus on the professional maintenance of village assets and the improvement of facilities at the playing field and will endeavour to work with Oxfordshire County Council to improve road safety within the parish and the village where their power allows. Councillors will continue to participate in events at district and county level to ensure that a rural voice, however small, is heard. As one of the founding members of the Otmoor Group of Parishes, Piddington Parish Councillors have encouraged discussion between other rural parishes in the district, combining forces on key issues wherever possible. In her summary the Chair emphasised that the CLP action list can only be achieved by active community engagement and reiterated the important role played by volunteers.

WIDNELL PARK, PLAYING FIELD AND MEADOW

New fencing will be installed between the playing field and Widnell Park, securing the area around the pond. A pedestrian gate will also be added to the entrance to Widnell Park, making the area more accessible for buggies and wheelchair users as the main gate is permanently locked. The Parish Council is in the process of finalising quotes for a small community outside gym or fitness trail and applying for grants to provide funds for its purchase. The 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. The wet weather prevented grass cutting through most of April, but a maintenance programme is now in place which will continue through to the end of October.

ALLOTMENTS

A couple of plots have become available. The annual subscription will increase to £15 per year for a single plot to include affiliation to The National Allotment Society. Holders may have the opportunity to apply for more than one plot subject to availability. Please note that it has been agreed that all monies accrued from subscriptions will be allocated back to the Allotment Committee to be used for the betterment of the area. If you would like to apply for an allotment, please contact John Galloway: jmg.galloway@gmail.com

DOG POO

The Parish Council asks all dog owners to act responsibly if using the playing fields. Emergency poo bags have been provided and a cannister holding supplies has been positioned near the bin. However, these are not an alternative to buying your own! Cherwell's dog warden is now officially monitoring the area.

There have been reports of poo being left around the village. There is no excuse for this as there are two bins: one opposite the entrance to Ludgershall Road and the other at Vicarage Lane. Please use them! The Parish Council has agreed to install a third bin at Lower End.

SEVEN STARS PUBLIC HOUSE

The Parish Council has resubmitted an application for the public house to be listed as a village asset as the previous order is due to expire. The pub has been covered by a 'right to bid' order since it was closed. This cover gives the community the opportunity, and time, to raise funds to make a bid to buy the building in the event it is put up for sale. Despite repeated requests by the Parish Council the current owner is unwilling to confirm their plans for the site.

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

Residents were asked in the last Parish Matters to advise the Parish Clerk or Chair if they would be interested in being part of a new Neighbourhood Watch. The CLP results highlighted that this was something the village would like to see reinstated. However, to date no one has made contact. Without volunteers this initiative cannot progress. If you are interested, please contact Anne Davies or Francesca Darby.

ROAD-CALMING MEASURES FOR THE VILLAGE

The Parish Council has agreed in principle

to install white gates at the entrances to the village subject to financing them through grant applications. A request has been made to our County Councillor's Community Fund. If the application is successful, the gates will be installed in the next couple of months.

Quotations have also been received for a portable Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS) which collates data on traffic flow and speed at certain points in the village. However, to make its purchase viable a working party of village volunteers will be needed to put a plan in place and work with the Parish Council and police to use the data collected. It would make sense to combine this working party with the Neighbourhood Watch. If you are interested in being part of these important programmes, please email the Clerk or Chair.

AN EMERGENCY PLAN FOR PIDDINGTON

The Parish Council is working with Piddington Village Hall Management Committee on the formulation of a village plan and a second application from the SSE Resilience Fund for more equipment. The village hall has now been officially designated the village hub in the event of an emergency. Volunteers will be needed to act as co-ordinators. If you are interested in being part of the team or have ideas or relevant experience 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

We may have seen the last of the snow, but bad weather can still affect the electricity supply. The SSE Priority Service is free and offered 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 and encourages registration. Contact the SSE Careline team directly on 0800 622838 or email careline@sse.com for more information.

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

FIX MY STREET

It is easy to report any issues regarding the roads around the county by using the 'Fix my street' website: fixmystreet.oxfordshire.gov.uk

UNDER-16s FOOTBALL

Do you have kids who would be interested in being part of a weekend club to be held at the playing fields? Please tell Mario ASAP before it becomes too late to organise training and equipment.

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.

OXFORD TO CAMBRIDGE EXPRESSWAY

The Parish Council has been advised that Cherwell District Council has officially written to Highways England rejecting any routes that cross the Otmoor Nature Reserve. The RSPB has also said that the expressway would pose a serious threat to the Reserve and its wetlands. Route B would cross Otmoor and it is believed could come very close to the village. A campaign group, the 'Expressway Action Group', has been set up by Oxfordshire residents to protest against the damage that the route could have on the area's green belt.

NETWORK RAIL EMBANKMENT WORK

The Parish Council has been advised that work will not begin until spring 2019 and will continue to work with Network Rail to minimise disruption to the village.

PIDDINGTON 200 CLUB MARCH WINNERS

Drawn at the village hall Pop-Up Pub on Friday 30th March 2018.

1st. 152. Isobel Dodson

2nd. 095. Angela Loft

3rd. 093. Diane Jones

4th. 105. Boris Sampson

The current club year ends in May. Collection for the 2018/2019 year June to May will begin the second week in May. Tickets are available for future draws. If anyone who doesn't have a 200 Club number would like to join and be in for a chance to win one or more of 48 prizes throughout the year and help your village hall, please ring Yvonne on 01844 238707 or text

07845.

PVHMC AGM

Notice of the Piddington Village Hall Management Committee AGM, 7.30 pm, Tuesday 8th May. All are welcome to come along, have a glass of wine and hear what the committee have been up to in the past year and plans for the future.

VILLAGE HALL EVENTS

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

16th June - Ladies Pamper Evening. Tickets £5 to include a glass of bubbly, from Kim Elliott or Sam Mylam. Enjoy an evening of pure self indulgence and some retail therapy!

Watch this space for village hall events. As well as the regular Pop-Up Pubs on the last Friday of every month, 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 – for all things relating to The Pantry

@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.

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www.piddingtonvillageoxfordshire.org.uk/booking-calendar



SATURDAY 12th MAY



Otmoor Garden Society's Plant Sale

at Charlton-on-Otmoor
Community Hall
Doors open 11.00-1.00pm

Whether you are just looking to fill a small corner or want to bring new interest into the garden you will find something here.

To keep you refreshed while you shop there will be the usual teas, coffees and cakes.



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 MAY

I have heard a rumour that spring is on its way next week! Well whatever the weather decides, the birds and the plants have already decided it is here. Nesting is underway and so is growth, the world is about to turn green again – thank goodness.

Our March speaker, Paul Green, arrived with a lorry load of plants and only left with half of them! We were delighted with his talk and he was delighted with his sales, so we will look to book him again at a different time of year when he will no doubt have different plants of interest.

Luckily the rain held off for our tour of Merton Wood. It was lovely to see the volunteer work going on here with nest boxes for the birds, blackthorn maintenance for the brown hairstreak butterflies who lay their eggs on new growth, plans for wildflowers for pollinators and hazel and willow coppicing with production of fences and obelisks using the local materials. It is a very nice walk around the site, and is open to the public, so you can still take advantage of it if you missed our visit.

The countdown is on to our annual PLANT SALE on Saturday 12th May at Charlton, doors open at 11am until 1pm. This is our big fundraising event of the year that makes all our activities possible so please do join us. It will be a chance to re-stock your perennial borders after a difficult winter of wet and snow, or fill up your vegetable beds ready for tasty summer harvests. Put simply, great plants at great prices. The Merton Wood team will be selling

their hazel and willow structures, and coffee and cake will be on sale by Jenny, Joy and Judy – so I think we should call it The Three J's Café!

Normally we are all so exhausted after the plant sale that we don't have a speaker in May, but this year we have an extra treat for you. Tuesday 22nd May at Murcott, Peter Semple will give a talk entitled 'Gardening in the North – Lessons for the Banana Belt!'. I think he is alluding to the fact that he lives in Scotland and we live in the tropical south, but you would be forgiven for thinking it hasn't felt that tropical lately with the beast from the east etc.. Peter is a retired doctor and alpine specialist who is invited down each year to the pre-Chelsea flower show build-up, and as he is a friend of our very own John Reid (retired doctor and whiskey specialist!) a few strings have been pulled.

Finally don't forget to book your place on 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 at the plant sale, or contact Brian to reserve your place. You can also optionally book a cream tea. Sandie as always is very keen on the refreshments, but needs 19 friends to join her to make booking an option, so you can make her happy and therefore enjoy jam and cream with a clear conscience! Yum.

Happy Gardening,
Judith Rawlinson

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

www.otmoorgardensociety.org.uk

VET REPORT

Alabama Rot – Should You Be Worried?

Most people have by now heard about the condition being called Alabama rot which has been seen occasionally in dogs in the UK over the past 5-6 years. The technical name is Cutaneous and Renal Glomerular Vasculopathy (CRGV) which means a blood vessel disorder of the skin and kidney.

This condition, which seems more prevalent over the Autumn & Winter, causes ulcers on the skin most commonly the feet & legs but occasionally the face or tongue. It is important to remember that there are many causes of sores on the skin & CRGV is very rare.

Some dogs then go on to develop kidney disease some days after the skin lesions appear. Your Vet will be able to detect this on blood tests. Again, there are other causes of kidney disease which are more common than CRGV. If a dog with CRGV develops renal failure (this is when the kidneys become too sick to do their job), then there is a risk they won't recover despite hospitalisation and intensive management.

Despite lots of research in the past few years, no cause has been discovered. Thus, there is no vaccine to prevent it or specific treatment against it. In fact it can only be absolutely diagnosed with post mortem sample testing, though Vets can have a high level of suspicion from the characteristic skin lesions and from

blood test results.

So, should dog owners be worried? I think it is better to be educated about the symptoms and vigilant in case something develops. Remember, despite the scare stories on social media, this is an extremely rare disease with only 150 cases in 5 yrs in the whole of the UK. Compared to heart failure, cancer or kidney failure due to other causes, the risk of Alabama rot in your dog is almost zero. However, it is important to know what to look for and to get advice from your Vet should you be at all concerned about your pet.

We've done a blog post on our website bicestervets.co.uk with some more detail if you're interested. If you're worried about your own dog then the best idea is to get it checked with your Vet.

Enjoy your pets

Jason Williams

Bicester Vets

BUS TIMETABLES

Oxford - Islip - Ambrosden

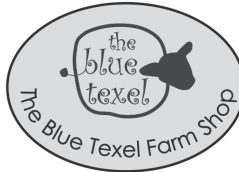
Oxford St Giles (Stop C5)	16:10	17:10	18:10
Gosford, o/s Kings Arms PH	16:30	17:30	18:30
Islip, opp The Red Lion PH	16:35	17:35	18:35
Oddington, opp Glebe Barn Bus Shelter	16:40	17:40	18:40
Charlton-on-Otmoor, opp Bus Garage	16:45	17:45	18:45
Merton, o/s The Plough Inn PH	16:50	17:50	18:50
Ambrosden,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



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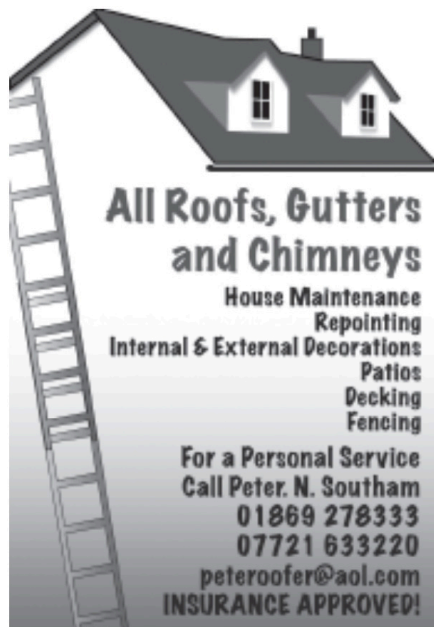
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OTMOOR WOMANS INSTITUTE

In her talk at the April meeting of Otmoor WI Gilly Pusey made it clear that the process from fleece to knitted garment is not a speedy one. First the fleece must be selected from the range of British breeds she uses, each with their own characteristics. Different parts of the fleece have different uses and the washing process may take many days. Once prepared the fleece can be spun into threads of the required thickness and is then combined to produce a 2-ply thread for extra strength. Some wools, such as that from the Jacobs sheep, are used in their natural colours but others are dyed and for this Gilly uses natural dyes.

She uses leaves, petals, roots and bark – even insects – to produce a range of colours with yellow being the easiest colour to make and green the hardest. Some materials require the use of a mordant to release the dye colour but these, too, are natural not chemical substances. Leaving the wool in the dye for longer strengthens the colour. Some materials require overnight soaking to release their dyes, but it is possible to do the whole process in a day with others. Besides knitted items in an array of colours, including some dolls with hair made from the naturally curly Wensleydale sheep fleece, Gilly had a display of silk scarves dyed with her natural colours. She answered many questions as she talked and afterwards members were able to examine her display of raw materials and finished products.

Following some tasty refreshments prepared by Betty and Janet and a chance to sign up

for trips and vote in this month's competition for sheep in any medium, the business of the evening was discussed including details of upcoming events, such as the Group Meeting in May, and planned trips, including one to Bletchley Park in July. The competition was won by Sandie with Marilyn 2nd. The next Coffee, Craft and Cake meeting on April 19th will be on beading. At the May meeting, on May 8th, the Resolution for the WI AGM will be discussed and voted on.

Dates for the diary

May 8th (CCH) 7.45pm Resolutions
May 17th (MVH) 7.30pm Coffee, Craft and Cake
May 24th (CCH) 7.30pm Group Meeting – The Story of the Windsor Chair
June 12th Garden Meeting at 7.30pm
June 21st (MVH) 7.30pm Coffee, Craft and Cake
July 10th (CCH) 7.45pm Rags to Riches – The story of Andrew Carnegie
July 19th (MVH) 7.30pm Coffee, Craft and Cake.
NB Coffee, Craft and Cake sessions are open to all. These are held at Murcott Village Hall at 7.30 on the third Thursday of the month except in August and December.
For further details of any of the above please contact Virginia (01865 331521)

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.

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

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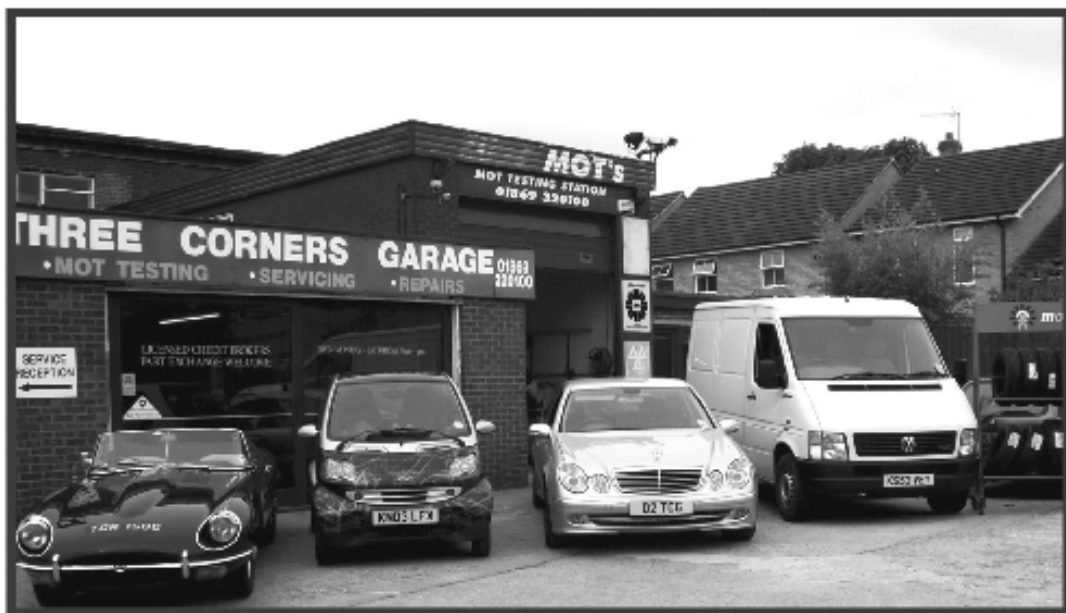


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