

PARISH MATTERS



JUNE 2018

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

VILLAGE VIEWS & LOCAL NEWS



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Welcome to the June 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

Puzzles

Each November in Oddington church, joined by Charlton, we hold a Toy Service when families bring new or good second hand toys to be given to a local children's charity as Christmas presents for deprived children. To make it more interesting we have a different theme each year, and one year the theme was puzzles, which produced a lot of lovely books, jigsaws, games and other toys relating to that subject. I managed to find a large jigsaw of the head and face of Jesus which could be assembled onto a whiteboard. This was duly done and enjoyed by the all-age congregation. But at the end of this activity, one piece was missing. Can there be anything more annoying for lovers of jigsaws? This time, however, it was deliberate, illustrating the fact that in this life we can never know or understand everything about our faith. There will always be gaps. "Now we see through a glass darkly, but then face-to-face" (1 Corinthians 13: 12-13). That is why it is called faith.

Another Puzzle which this service brought to mind was a question often asked by children, "What did Jesus really look like?". Well, of course we don't know. The New Testament doesn't tell us. But the creator of that jigsaw had the right idea because his picture was not of the fair-complexioned European-looking Jesus as so often depicted by great artist, but of a swarthy, dark-haired, brown-eyed Jewish man of Middle Eastern appearance. One thing

we can be sure of though, is that although Jesus could show righteous anger when confronted by evil, his normal expression must have been kind and welcoming. Otherwise he would not have attracted the sick, the troubles, and above all the children, as we know he did. And it really doesn't matter that we don't know what he was like physically, because we do know who he was and who he is, we know what he did and what he said, and we know what he still does in the lives of all believers.

The important thing for us today is to hold fast to the Easter truth, that the risen Jesus who appeared to different people in different ways was recognised by the followers who saw him after the resurrection, and they knew him. Is he a key person in our lives - not just a puzzle, but a reality?

Glenys Edwards
(Licensed Lay Minister)

CHURCH SERVICES JUNE

RAY VALLEY SERVICES June 2018

Draft 2

Church	Time	Leader	Service
Sunday June 3rd	Trinity 1		1 Samuel 3.1-10(11-20) 2 Corinthians 4.5-12 Mark 2.29-3.6
Ambrosden	10.30	Steve	Holy Communion
	18.30	Steve	The Xtra One
Merton	09.00	Steve	Holy Communion
Piddington	10.30	Rosie	Family Service - Rosie Hayes
Islip	10.30	Lucy	Parish Communion
	18.00	Lucy	Choral Evensong
Woodeaton			No Service
Charlton	10.30	Glenys	Family Service
Sunday June 10th	Trinity 2		1 Samuel 8.4-11(12-15) 2 Corinthians 4.13-5.1 Mark 3.20-end
Ambrosden	10.30	TBC	Family Service
Piddington	09.00	Lucy	Holy Communion
Islip	10.30	Brian	Parish Communion – Brian Mountford
Noke			No Service
Woodeaton	09.15	TBC	Family Service
Charlton	09.00	TBC	Holy Communion
	18.00	Elizabeth	Evening Prayer – Elizabeth Taylor
Oddington	10.30	Lucy	Holy Communion
Sunday June 17th	Trinity 3		1 Samuel 15.34-16.13 2 Corinthians 5.6-17 Mark 4.26-34
Ambrosden	10.30	Lisa	Holy Communion
Merton	09.00	Lisa	Holy Communion
Piddington	18.00	Steve	Evening Prayer
Islip	10.30	Lucy	Parish Communion
Woodeaton	09.15	Lucy	Holy Communion
Charlton	10.30	Steve	Family Communion
Oddington			No Service
Sunday June 24th	Trinity 4		Isaiah 40.1-11 Galatians 3.23-end Luke 1.57-66,80
Ambrosden	10.30	Lay	Morning Prayer
Merton	10.30	Lucy	Family Service
Piddington	09.00	Steve	Holy Communion
Islip	10.30	Steve	Family Service & SC
Charlton	09.00	Lucy	Holy Communion
Oddington	18.00	Steve	Evening Prayer

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>	

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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

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(Beside Costcutter)

Wednesday to Saturday

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-
10.00pm



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ANDYAMP-AIR@TESCO.NET -

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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

Wendy Cheeseman

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

Lucinda Wing (Conservative)

lucinda.wing@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 Spar

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The annual Parish Meeting was well attended and featured speakers from the Village Hall, Play Group, Garrison, Allotments, Neighbourhood Watch and Bulb Planting. District Councillor Lucinda Wing and District and County Councillor Dan Sames also attended.

Chairman's annual report.

The meeting was an opportunity to give updates on the achievements, on-going issues and some of the more challenging areas that your Parish Council have been involved in during the last year.

This year we have also welcomed and new Parish Councillor, Wendy Cheeseman.

Budgets

Last year I mentioned that the Parish Council has suffered increasing costs, both in staffing and grass cutting over the year, there was a slight increase again this year to cover increased costs, the loss of the New Homes Bonus which the District Council now retains. The completion of the traffic calming in Merton Road was installed by Croudace, releases some Parish Council reserves for other highways projects.

Planning

Planning issues have again taken up a considerable amount of time for the Parish Council this year.

It is exciting to see the finished scheme at Springfield Farm, which has taken 5 years hard work from the Parish Council to ensure that great scheme is built: We are on the final legals to adopt the allotments, but this

has been a struggle and has been referred back to the enforcement team at the Planning Department.

Croudace Homes have now completed works for the development of 45 houses at Ambrosden Court, and we welcome all our new neighbours at Springfields Farm.

In January 2015 developers also made a presentation about a potential development of Blackthorn Hill Farm, at the edge of the village, a planning application has now been submitted and being considered by the District Council. The developer has offered to provide football pitches, allotments, woodland and play areas as part as their proposals. Despite support from the Parish Council and Parishioners the District Council's Planning Department refused this application. The developer has decided not to appeal.

In 2015, the original developer of Springfields Farm, Archstone, attended Parish Council to promote an extension to Springfields Farm of about 100 houses. An application for 85 houses was submitted a few months ago. The Parish and District Council have requested significant amendments, as part of the planning process. This application was approved by the District Council despite on-going objections from the Parish Council and development has now commenced.

Construction of the first two warehouses on the A41 opposite Ploughley Road, despite strong objections from the Parish Council, and a number of enforcement complaints remain outstanding. A planning application to increase the size and height of future warehouses has also been opposed by the Parish Council and goes to Planning Committee on 24th May, we would ask our District Councillors to object to this detrimental increase in height, and remain

frustrated that Bicester Town Council have not joined us in objecting to these proposals.

At Wretchwick Green, there are fundamental objections from the Environment Agency with regards to flooding which have stalled the application for 1500 houses and more warehouses, and application appears to have stalled.

Traffic Calming and Highways

The traffic calming scheme at the west end of Merton Road has now been installed by Croudace. This frees up Parish Council reserves for alternative Highway Works, such as replacing the railings on Ploughley Road, where new quotations have been requested.

Oxfordshire County Council have agreed to edge the cycleway from Ploughley Road to the A41 to widen this back to its original 1.8m providing the missing link from Arncoth to Bicester.

OCC are also considering a pilot scheme to allow local residents to fill pot holes, and we have been placed on a consultation list.

The installation of white lines along Ploughley Road from the A41 to the entrance to the village, has been a great success and no cars have left the carriageway since the lines have been painted.

Construction traffic

The construction traffic for network rail created considerable impact on the village roads, and in conjunction with Merton Parish Council, we are still seeking repairs to Merton Road this year. OCC advise that they have now received funds from Network Rail and we are lobbying for repairs to Merton Road.

Litter and Dog Waste

The April litter pick was a huge success and a

substantial amount of rubbish was collected, supported by the loan of equipment from CDC, who removed all the rubbish.

We are seeking volunteers for a repeat litter pick later in the year and a working group to clean the road signs around the village

We will shortly be installing 2 new dog waste bins in Merton Road, and will relocate one duplicated bin in Springfields.

Crime

A review of local crime was undertaken after becoming a concern to local residents. Crime has remained relatively static in a time of a rising population in the village, but the level of Violence and Sexual Offences are a concern.

The Parish Council is promoting the setting up of a Village Neighbourhood Watch Group, to complement the village Facebook Group.

The Parish is also engaging with support organisations to reduce crime levels.

Traffic Speeds

This remains a continual concern of the Parish.

The Parish will be commissioning new speed tests in 2018 to review the changes of speeds in Merton and Ploughley Roads, and will add additional surveys in Blackthorn Road and further along Ploughley Road adjacent Old Arncoth Road to review the impact of previous traffic calming methods.

Previous surveys have shown that the installation of Vehicle Activated Signs show the biggest decrease in traffic speeds, with the VAS on Merton Road showing the average speed of traffic entering the village dropped from 42mph in 2006 to 27mph in 2008. The installation of white gates and the removal of white lines from the road had a minimal effect on speeds. OCC have provided initial costings of £5000 to lower the speed limit to 20mph in the village, will also examine the installation of additional VAS, and request greater

police enforcement.

LITTER PICK

One of the Parishoner proposals raised at the Annual Parish meeting was to hold a street sign and road sign clean during the summer as most of the remaining litter is now obscured by plant growth.

The Parish Council will seek to obtain or borrow appropriate equipment to enable this. Please contact the Parish Clerk for more information.

Ambrosden.parishclerk@gmail.com

1ST AMBROSDEN AND ARNCOTT SCOUT GROUP

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

Cubs for children aged 8-10 on Wednesdays

Scouts for children aged 10-14 on Fridays.

Scouting is for both boys and girls.

We 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.

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.

This application has been recommended for approval by the planning department. District Councillors Sames and Wing are objecting on behalf of the Parish Council.

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

Village Hall 0930-1100 £2.50 entry (additional £1 for siblings) Refreshments included

Email: Ambrosden4Children@gmail.com

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

Boxing for fitness class

6.45pm (45mins)

Ambrosden Village Hall

Contact Simon Charles via Facebook

Ambrosden Gaming club first three Mondays of the month every month Selection of table top wargames such as bolt action and warhammer.

Minimum age 18

Contact 07887 761154

<https://www.facebook.com/Ambrosden-Gaming-Club-539843919418164/>

Tuesday

Taekwondo – Village Hall

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

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

Aqua Splash Swimming lessons at Ambrosden's Garrison Pool.

Codfather – Fish and Chips, Kebabs

Next to Costcutter

4.15-9pm

Wednesday

Bingo – Village Hall

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

Bicester Bereavement Support Group - 1st and 3rd Tuesday 10am – 11.30am

Residents Lounge, Hanover Gardens, Manorsfield Road, OX26 6DG

Youth club – 12-17yrs - 7-9pm

Contact read Lynn Waite on 01869 256135

1st Ambrosden and Arncott Scouts

Cubs - 5:30-6:45.

Arncott Village Hall

Bicester Military Wives Choir - 7.30pm – 9.00pm

Silibaravi Families Centre, Ambrosden

Karen Rea

Bicester@militarywiveschoirs.org

Kebab Van – Costcutter car park -evening

Thursday

Thrift Shop – behind doctors

10.30-3.30

Ambrosden4Children STAY AND PLAY (Term time)

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

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 Arncott Scouts

Scouts - 7-9pm

Arncott Village Hall

Saturday

Kebab Van – Costcutter car park -evening

For any errors or omissions please contact

Mark Longworth - ambrosden@mlongworth.co.uk

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ARNCOTT NEWS

REPORT FROM ARNCOTT VHMC & ACA
MEETING 24th APRIL & PARISH
COUNCIL MEETING 1st MAY 2018

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 parish open meeting took place in the village hall on Tuesday May 1st. Attendees were 12 parishioners, the MOD Garrison adjutant, the secretary of the VHMC and representatives from the village community organisations and societies. Paul Wilson and Lee Savidge were re-elected as parish council chairman and vice-chairman respectively. The minutes of the open meeting and the chairman's report are available to see on the parish website.

Woodpiece Road parking

The parish council has been advised that the planning application for the phase one work is due to be considered by the CDC planning committee meeting on May 24th. It is worth mentioning that a recently discovered letter shows that on October 25th 1998, Mr Tony Lewis (Arncott PC Chairman at that time) wrote to CDC about the possible creation of off-road parking in Woodpiece Road. The possible solutions he put forward to CDC at that time were the same as those that are due to be implemented nearly twenty years later !!

Speedwatch

The parish council is planning to start this year's program towards the end of June. However, help is required from our community as volunteers are desperately needed to help out with this program.

As always, we would ask you to consider becoming a volunteer. 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

The parish council has had no success in getting OCC to give a definite construction start date for this project. OCC have suggested a possible start date in August this year.

Greenfields Communal Room

The parish council voted unanimously to object to the Sanctuary Homes planning application to convert the communal room into housing. The parish council consider the communal room to be a very important and vital resource to the residents of Greenfields.

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.

Community emergency response

A draft action plan has been compiled. For the action plan to work a response team needs to be created. A response team cannot be created without people within our community coming forward and volunteering to get involved. Again, we would ask you

to consider becoming a volunteer for this team. 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.

MOD / Garrison

Kevin Jessop, the Garrison Adjutant, confirmed that if there was a need to contact the garrison out of hours then this contact should be made through the Guardroom. He confirmed that the unit at St David's Barracks is likely to remain there until 2028 when it is hoped that it will then be replaced by another unit. To ensure the viability of the Bicester Garrison it is important that there is a critical mass of soldiers to keep their structure of support – medical centre, shop, recreational facilities etc. The MOD are currently looking at their land holding and it is possible that connections with the MOD base at Kinton will be strengthened to create an arc of engineering excellence between Kinton and Bicester. He confirmed that there had been a significant investment in the DEMS unit on A site and, as a result, the DEMS presence was likely to continue into the foreseeable future. Munitions will not be stored at Arncott because Kinton has the special structures needed for munitions storage.

Moto Parc

The calendar showing planned 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 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 – telephone 07377 988580.

Village art project

The planned date for the design workshop is Tuesday August 14th. The workshop can accommodate up to 20 residents. The 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. If you are interested in attending the workshop then please contact the parish council by email or, alternatively, speak to a parish councillor.

Oxford / Cambridge Expressway

The Government is proposing a new road, the Oxford to Cambridge Expressway, between the A34 south of Oxford and Milton Keynes. Three different route corridors are being considered for the road. One option is for a route across Otmoor. Highways England are expected to announce the chosen route sometime during the summer of this year. However, County Councillor Dan Sames understands that the Otmoor option will likely be the most expensive. You can read about this by visiting these two websites ; www.bbowt.org.uk/expressway and www.cpreoxon.org.uk/news/current-news/item/2648-public-inquiry-ox-cam-expressway.

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

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 received a reply to his formal complaint to OCC regarding the condition of our roads. He was advised that OCC will look at possibly carrying out repairs where potholes in the road are of a minimum depth of 40mm and potholes in the footways / pavements are a minimum depth of 20mm. County Councillor Dan Sames is also pushing OCC to get both the potholes repaired and the road markings renewed.

Facebook & parish website

Visit the Arcott parish council website and / or 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.

Future Events

The Bicester Military Wives Choir be will be appearing at Arcott Village Hall on Saturday 2nd June, doors open 6.30pm, show starts at 7.00pm. Refreshments will be available, and there will be a raffle. All proceeds will go towards the improvements being made to the village hall. Tickets are £6.00 each for adults, £3.00 for children, and are available from Christine, tel 01869 249560 or [avhlettings @ gmail .com](mailto:avhlettings@gmail.com).

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

The Summer Fete will be held on Sunday 15th July from 2.00 to 4.00pm, at the village hall and playing field. There is no charge for entry, and you will be able to meet and take your photo with Jade the Mermaid, play games, go on the kids rides, take part in the annual draw, have a drink from the bar, a cream tea, or a burger, see the MoD fire engine, and take your turn in the stocks. The next planning meeting will take place in Greenfields Common Room at 7.00pm on Tuesday 12th June, please come along if you are interested in helping or have any ideas for attractions.

Projects and Improvements

The new security shutters have been fitted to the kitchen and the bar. New sinks and a glass washing machine will be installed in the bar area shortly, followed by redecoration.

We will then be getting new floor covering for all 3 toilets, and new sanitary ware for the disabled toilet.

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 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 01869 249560.

300 Club winners

91 S Arrowsmith
14 Mrs C Raffel
8 Mrs R Walton
68 E Street
36 Mrs M Stilgoe

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

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



**The
Bulletin Board**

Ray Valley Benefice
For June 2018

- Sat 2nd - 11-4pm Summer Fair, Merton
Sun 3rd - 2-6pm Open Gardens, Islip
- 6pm Choral Evensong, Islip
Weds 6th - 10am Holy Communion, Ambrosden
Fri 8th - 10.30 Tiny Tots, Fencott
Sat 9th - 10-1pm Table Top Sale, Piddington
Tues 12th - 9.30am Holy Communion, Islip
Weds 13th - 7pm Evening of Talks, Woodeaton
Fri 15th - 9.30am ABC for pre-schoolers, Islip
Sat 16th - 6pm Open Garden, Lower Valley Farm, Noke
Weds 20th - 10am Holy Communion, Charlton
Sat 23rd - Wintershall Trip, departing Islip
- 4-7pm "A Summer Gathering", Oddington

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



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BLACKTHORN NEWS

BLACKTHORN VILLAGE HALL

As we head into the summer we've got plenty lined up for you at Blackthorn Village Hall:

Thu 7th Jun – Coffee Morning
Sat 23rd Jun – Film Night 'Darkest Hour'
Fri 29th Jun – Pub Night
Thu 5th July – Coffee Morning
Sat 14th Jul - 70s / 80s Disco Night
Fri 27th Jul – Pub Night
Thu 2nd Aug – Coffee Morning
Thu 6th Sept – Coffee Morning

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.

Blackthorn Park – Update

Over the past few months the park has suffered from an unprecedented amount of flooding and the continuous bad weather has meant that we have been unable to clearly assess the play equipment. Now the sunshine has finally come and the park and surrounding areas are beginning to dry out we will be conducting a full review to ensure that the prolonged submersion of the play structure has not caused any damage.

Reporting Faulty Streetlights etc

If you wish to report faulty streetlights, potholes or other items the council is responsible for then follow the link and click on the appropriate item at www.oxfordshire.gov.uk

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.



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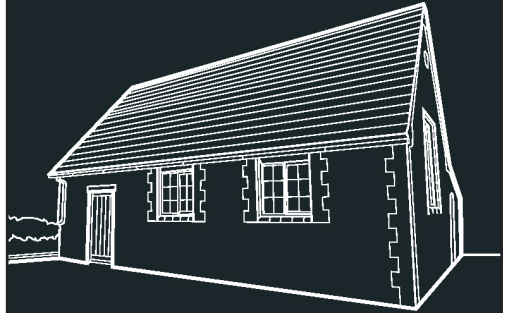
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IN – dependence

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

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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.

5. Improving Merton

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.

Hopefully, there will be a 2018/19 ‘season’ of films starting in September.

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.

PROPOSED OXFORD CAMBRIDGE EXPRESS WAY

SAVE OTMOOR – NO EXPRESS WAY HERE

The Parish Council

are holding a meeting to discuss the proposed Express way between Oxford and Cambridge along with the local County Councillor Dan Sames.

All Welcome

Wednesday 6th June 2018, 7pm-9pm
Community Hall, Fencott Road,
Charlton On Otmoor.



CHARLTON ON OTMOOR
PARISH COUNCIL
clerk@coopc.co.uk





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PIDDINGTON NEWS

PIDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 19th June 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

GDPR & NEW VILLAGE EMAIL

As of 25th May, new legislation came into force regarding the collection and protection of personal details. To this end a new village email system, managed by MailChimp, has been set up. Those of you already receiving village emails have been informed and given the opportunity of 'opting in' to the new system. The old system ceased to exist on this date. The village email is an opportunity to convey information to residents as it happens and has been an invaluable tool in the past. Updates include information from Piddington Parish Council (including police alerts), the Village Hall Committee and the Church. Further details on signing up can be found on the village website.

WIDNELL PARK, PLAYING FIELD AND MEADOW

New fencing has been installed between the playing field and Widnell Park, securing the area around the pond. A pedestrian gate was also 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 has applied for a £5000 grant from the Calor Gas Community Fund towards the purchase of a Green Gym/Fitness Trail at the playing fields. It offers rural off-grid communities the chance to win funding for projects that will improve local life. There is an opportunity for 10 projects to become finalists via a public vote. This can be done by registering on the website. The Piddington project is called 'Fitness for All'. Voting began on 25th May and ends on 29th June. Please take the time to vote, share it on social media and tell your friends about it. The hope is that if successful this will be the beginning of more investment in sports and play equipment for the village. Details can be found on the village website or www.calor.co.uk/communityfund.

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.

Recent reports indicate that things are much improved.

VERGES

Now that vegetation is growing along verges visibility may be impaired when driving. It is easy to report any issues regarding the roads around the county by using the 'Fix My Street' website: fixmystreet.oxfordshire.gov.uk. If you do not use the internet please contact the Parish Clerk regarding problems within our parish. Reports have been made of grass cuttings being left on the verges within the village. Please use your brown bins for any garden waste.

PARISH LIAISON MEETING

Oxfordshire County Council are holding a number of Parish Liaison meetings this summer. The first will be held in Banbury on 18th July and will be attended by the Parish Council. If you have any issues you wish to have raised at this event, please contact our Parish Clerk.

OXFORD – CAMBRIDGE EXPRESSWAY

Details of the preferred route will be published in July. The Parish Council will be attending a meeting to be held at Charlton on Otmoor on 8th June, a summary of which will be sent out to the village and put on the noticeboards. Route B crosses the Otmoor Nature Reserve and is likely to come close to the village. Cherwell District Council has officially written to Highways England rejecting any routes that cross the Otmoor Nature Reserve. 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.

SEVEN STARS PUBLIC HOUSE

The Parish Council are still waiting to hear whether the resubmission of their application to continue to list the pub as an 'Asset of Community Value' has been successful.

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

RURAL POLICING

The Bicester Rural Resilience Group investigates policing issues for Bicester and the rural villages surrounding it. Recent issues include the Nottingham Knockers scam and thefts from garden sheds. Please be vigilant. Meetings are regular and are currently chaired by Ken Howard. The next meetings 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. Police alerts have now been included in the village email updates

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

The Parish Council is looking for someone in the village to act as a principal co-ordinator, who will act as the key contact point for the scheme. The role requires you to act as liaison between the police, the Parish Council, scheme members and the village, as well as non-member residents when necessary. If you are interested in this position or in being part of a Neighbourhood Watch scheme, please contact the Parish Clerk.

ROAD-CALMING MEASURES FOR THE VILLAGE

The Parish Council is waiting to hear if it has been successful in obtaining a grant towards the purchase of white gates from our County Councillor's Community Fund. Volunteers have come forward to work with the Parish Council on setting up a Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS) for the village and,

as a consequence, the Council has agreed to purchase one. As well as, we hope, acting as a deterrent to speeding in the village, the device will collect data on traffic flow and speeding at certain points in the village, which can be analysed and passed on to the police as evidence.

EMERGENCY PLAN

We now have a number of emergency co-ordinators within the village who will work with the Parish Council and Village Hall Committee towards a plan and grant applications.

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

SSE PRIORITY SERVICE

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

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.

PVHMC AGM

A limited number of residents came to the Piddington Village Hall Management Committee AGM on Tuesday evening. The main topics of discussion were the kitchen refurbishment and the future of the children's play area behind the hall.

Kitchen Refurbishment - The committee were asked if any information regarding the details of the final design could be shown. A mock-up of the proposed design was later circulated in the village email update. PVHMC held a consultation last year. The kitchen will be wider than the existing design and will hold a fridge/freezer. The units will be contemporary and easy to clean and the work is expected to cost around £13,000 excluding VAT (to include furniture, flooring, sinks and fittings, electrical equipment, accessories, electric work and painting). PVHMC has submitted two grant requests to WREN and Viridor. It has also received a £3000 contribution from The Pantry. It is hoped that if successful work can start this summer.

Children's Play Area - Over the years this has been a well used facility for young children, parents and grandparents. However, PVHMC now fears it will not pass its annual safety inspection in July. The CLP suggestions also indicated that many villagers found the equipment outdated compared to other play areas. However, although it is on the village hall site the play area has previously been run and funded by villagers (PVHMC pays for the insurance). The area now needs a new group of volunteers to take over this responsibility otherwise there is a very good chance this facility will be lost. There are still plenty of people making use of it and it is hoped

that someone can take up this responsibility and work with PVHMC to inject new life into what has been a much loved amenity. Please speak to Rosemary Cox (01844 237583) or Chris Weavers (specman53@yahoo.com) if you are prepared to help.

PIDDINGTON 200 CLUB APRIL WINNERS
Drawn at the village hall Pop-Up Pub on Friday 27th April 2018.

1st.	152.	D. Hewitt
2nd.	095.	T. Coggins
3rd.	093.	P. Feltbower
4th.	105.	J. Read

Collection for the 2018/2019 200 Club year, June to May, has begun. 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.

ST NICHOLAS CHURCH

Table Top Sale & Coffee Morning Saturday 9th Jne 10,00 am – 1.00 pm £5 a table.

To book a table contact Margaret 01844238724 or Maggie 237688.

A great opportunity to declutter and find bargains!

Rota

A new flower rota is now displayed in the Church porch. You are very welcomed to add your name to the rota and you may wish to put flowers in the church in memory of a lived one on a special date. For further information contact Margaret on 01844 238724.

Arts & Crafts

Further events include an Arts & Crafts exhibition on 4h August Further details next month but if all villagers with creative skills

would consider exhibiting this could be an even better event than last year – and it's free to exhibit!

VILLAGE HALL EVENTS

As well as the regular Pop-Up Pubs on the last Friday of every month, future events include: 16th June – Film Night at village hall. Film to be confirmed, ice cream and bar.

30th June – Ladies Pamper/Shopping 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!

28th September – Ukulele Night!

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.

VILLAGE UPDATES

If you'd like regular email updates on village matters and events please contact Francesca for more information: 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:

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

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



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Piddington Craft and Social Club is not meeting during the summer months. We will commence again on Wednesday 3rd October in the village hall from 10 30-12 30.

Contact Maggie on 01844237688 for further information.

OTMOOR GARDEN SOCIETY JUNE

Every now and then you are quietly gardening away, musing over the state of the weeds, when someone comes along with a rocket and launches you into the 21st Century! So it seems Otmoor Garden Society has been catapulted onto Facebook, social media here we come, no time to stand still and let the grass grow! Throw off your dinosaur suits and take a look at our new page on Facebook @otmoorgardensociety, and check out our new look website at the same time. Alastair Craig, our unwavering IT support, has done a huge amount of work getting this all up and running and now has 15 followers, so follow the page to make Alastair happy and thank him for all his efforts (you do not need your own Facebook account to view the page).

In April we had a very interesting talk from Jon Uglow, who spoke about Planting Design. How to create a border with long-interest using a variety of plants to fulfil different roles, concentrating on shapes rather than colour, and visualizing the border in black and white to determine whether it is really working and is not just a series of dumplings! His mix of slides and drawing board was popular. He donated his fee to his charity Rafiki-Thabo, and it was nice to hear that the money we gave will go towards educating girls in Africa.

I am writing two days after the Plant Sale, and am very pleased to report that the event this year was Phenomenal (capital P)! A lot of hard work had gone into it, so thank you to everybody who supported us and made it such a big success.

In addition to the success of the sale itself we also took several new memberships, and our list of members has now exceeded our 100 target. So many garden societies are struggling these days, and it is lovely to know that ours is getting stronger year on year. We must be doing something right!

Our next event is on 26th June at Murcott, when Thomas Stone will be advising us on 'Plants for Small Gardens'. I am sure he will remember that whatever size your garden is the sky is the same height! No need to miniaturise everything. Thomas has an impressive practical gardening CV, having been raised at Mottisfont in Hampshire he spent his childhood working in the grounds of Mottisfont Abbey where his father was head gardener. He later worked at the Sir Harold Hillier Gardens and Arboretum where he increased his knowledge before becoming head gardener to a private estate in Sussex. This year we have extended our search area in order to keep our programme fresh, and Thomas will be travelling up from the Hampshire area, so do come along to make his journey worthwhile.

July is going to be exciting! Lots of different things coming up on our programme.

DO NOT MISS our local visit to Pettifers garden, near Banbury, on the evening of Tuesday 3rd July. We will be car sharing and meeting there by 7:15pm prompt. This one and a half acre privately owned garden is only open by appointment so you can not just pop in yourself!

Development began in 1984 with design help from Diany Binney, the then owner of Kiftsgate. Over the years it has developed into what has been described as 'one of the most exciting and delightful gardens in the country'. It also boasts stunning views over the surrounding Oxfordshire countryside. Please book your place now.

On Saturday 14th July we have our Garden Photography Workshop with Clive Bournell. Only 20 places available so this is mostly booked up already, but if you are keen then let me know and we may be able to slot you in. Clive is very amenable (think Bill Oddie with a camera)! Details will be e-mailed shortly, but it is likely to be a half-day workshop with a morning and afternoon session each for 10 people, and an optional joint group lunch in the middle, because it is nice to be sociable!

Finally on Saturday 21st July we have our Garden Party which this year will be at Sandie Stevenson's garden in Blackthorn starting at 2:30pm. Details later. Well give me a break, it is only May and I have Plant Sale jet-lag!

August in comparison looks very dull, so make your own entertainment!

Happy Gardening,
Judith Rawlinson

For more details, or to join, contact Brian Eadle on 01865 331472
www.otmoorgardensociety.org.uk or find us on Facebook



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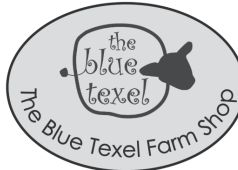
Oxford St Giles (Stop C5)	16:10	17:10	18:10
Gosford, o/s Kings Arms PH	16:30	17:30	18:30
Islip, opp The Red Lion PH	16:35	17:35	18:35
Oddington, opp Glebe Barn Bus Shelter	16:40	17:40	18:40
Charlton-on-Otmoor, opp Bus Garage	16:45	17:45	18:45
Merton, o/s The Plough Inn PH	16:50	17:50	18:50
Ambrosden,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

Travelling Pets

It is quite common these days for owners to take their dog with them on European holidays. We have a number of clients with homes in France or Spain, so why wouldn't you take your beloved pet with you?

Dogs, cats & even ferrets can legally be taken to Europe and back again on the Pet Travel Scheme which has been in place for many years now. My dog Bella has accompanied us on 2 European trips which have been great fun and all the better for having her along.

However, there are a few things to consider before taking a pet on holiday. Initially pets must be microchipped, have a rabies vaccination and Passport; then must wait 3 weeks before leaving the UK. When you are returning all dogs will require a tapeworm medication to be administered by a Vet and recorded in the passport within a specific time frame (not required for cats or ferrets).

Other considerations include:

Does your pet enjoy travelling – long car trips to the south of France could be very stressful for a pet who hates car journeys. Some pets would definitely be happier in a boarding kennels or with a house sitter.

In the UK we are very fortunate to be free from many parasites which are present in some areas of the mainland but these are big considerations if your pet joins you.

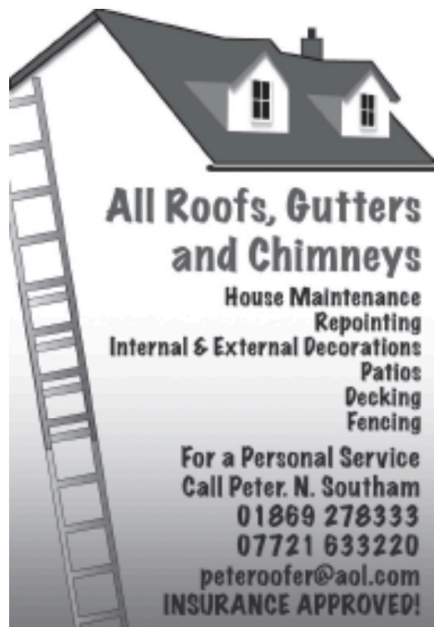
For example there is a parasite called Leishmania which can be carried by Sandflies in Southern Europe. If your pet is bitten & contracts the parasite then it will be with them for life, potentially causing debilitating and life-threatening disease. Another parasite called Babesia can be contracted from ticks and causes anaemia by making the body attack its own red blood cells!



Prevention is provided by using repellent insecticides and avoiding areas known to have these conditions – the local Vet practice should be a good source of this local knowledge. Your Vet in the UK can also give advice on potential parasites and preventative measures for different areas.

Travelling with your pet can be a great experience but get some advice from your Vet in plenty of time before you head off.

Best wishes
Jason Williams
Bicester Vets



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OTMOOR WOMANS INSTITUTE

The May meeting of Otmoor WI offered members the opportunity to debate the Resolution for the AGM in Cardiff next month. Following discussion of business matters, Nicky introduced the Resolution, on giving mental health equal status with physical health and ways to remove the stigma surrounding mental health, giving background information regarding current and proposed measures to approach this important issue. Both the work of the NHS and that of charitable bodies was featured along with ways in which individuals could contribute. The debate was then opened to members and a lively discussion took place covering a range of mental issues before the vote was taken.

Discussion continued during social time whilst enjoying with delicious refreshments provided by Beryl, Mary and Margaret. Members took the opportunity to sign up for visits to Beenham Wolves in June, Bletchley Park in July and the Postal Museum in November. Other upcoming events include the May craft meeting on making rag rugs and the WI Group Meeting which Otmoor is hosting when the speaker will be telling the story of the Windsor Chair. Members cast their votes for the competition entries for an inspirational book and were able to see the necklaces made at the last craft meeting and view some old photographs of Charlton-on-Otmoor provided by Joy.

The meeting ended when Virginia announced

the results of the competition which saw Ann Williams in first place with Ali second with a number of members tied in third place. She reminded everyone that the next meeting is our Garden Meeting on June 12th starting at 7.30. The June craft meeting is on June 21st at Murcott Village Hall. These craft meetings are held monthly on the third Thursday except August and December and are open to non-members. Starting at 7.30 the cost is just £1 per meeting and includes refreshments.

Dates for the Diary

June 12th WI Garden Meeting 7.30

June 21st Coffee, craft and Cake 7.30 (MVH)
Non-members welcome £1 per session

July 10th Rags to Riches – The Story of
Andrew Carnegie (CCH) 7.45

July 19th Coffee, Craft and Cake – (MVH)
7.30 All welcome

For further details on any of the above please
contact Virginia on 01865331521

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

THE COLLECTION AND EDITORIAL TEAM

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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.

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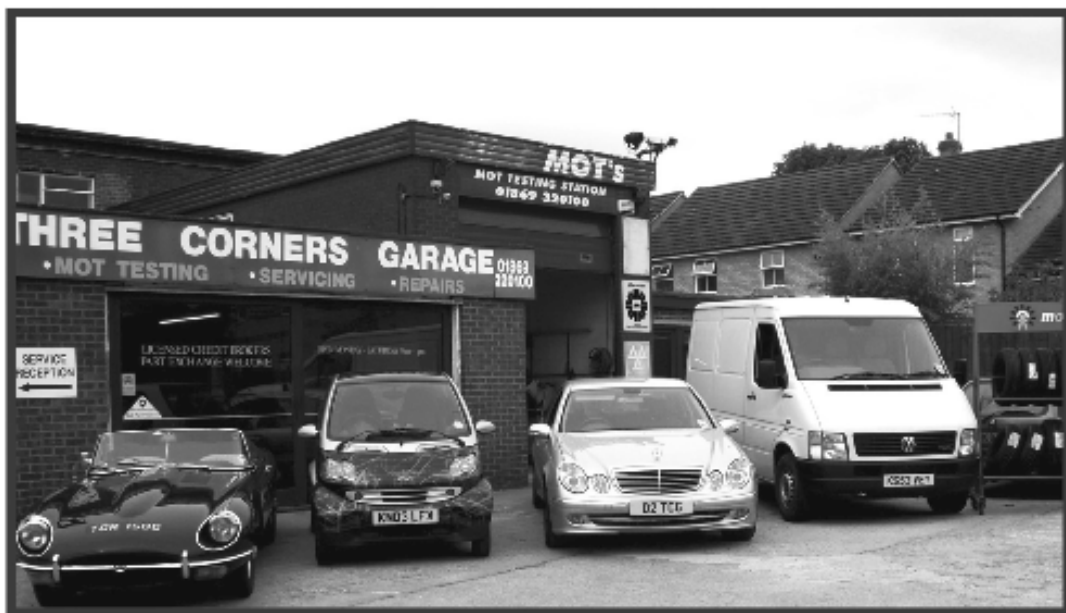


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