

# PARISH MATTERS



JULY/AUGUST 2018

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

*VILLAGE VIEWS & LOCAL NEWS*



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Welcome to the July/August edition of Parish Matters.

If you have any questions about advertising, or if you wish to place an advert, please contact Russell Thompson on 01869 246093, or via e-mail, [rthom91543@aol.com](mailto:rthom91543@aol.com)

We hope you have an enjoyable summer

Parish Matters Committee

# LETTER FROM THE CLERGY TEAM

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In recent weeks, the cycle of readings in Church has featured passages which talk about the importance of the Sabbath.

As some will know – remembering the Sabbath and keeping it holy – is the 4th of the Ten Commandments. And yet, perhaps of all the commandments, it is one that many people seem to take little notice of today and consider to have little importance. Although Sabbath for the Jewish community is Saturday, the weekly day of rest became Sunday in the Christian tradition and some of us remember when Sundays had a very different feel although opinion will be divided between whether that was a good or a bad thing. Some people remember Sundays in earlier times as being really boring, while for others it was a day with valuable traditions that built up family life.

A watershed moment in this country for how we thought about Sunday was the change to the trading laws in 1994. It seems to me that, since then Sunday has gradually started to feel like any other day. Though we don't all take up the opportunity to go shopping, there is no longer the sense that there is something special about Sunday.

In a post-Christian culture, it is unrealistic and undesirable to turn the clock back and I'm not advocating for a return to the days when leisure opportunities were very limited but what I fear has also been lost is the recognition of human need for a regular day of rest. The rhythm and routine

of a designated day of rest for all was one of its advantages. And I wonder whether the increase in stress-related illness and mental health conditions may be linked to the absence of a day when we have licence to relax with others – even if realistically there were always some who had to work.

The reason for the importance of sabbath rest was not just for us physically to have a break but so that we would stop to take stock of the fact that life and existence is not finally dependent on us. In the Judaeo-Christian tradition, Sabbath reminds us that the world keeps turning, the sun continues to rise and set, the crops and plants and trees keep growing, without our efforts.

In other words the idea of Sabbath is to remind us of our limits. Though the rise in extreme sports shows it is increasingly popular to see how far we can push ourselves physically, we are not automatons and ancient wisdom suggests we need cycles of work, rest and play. But, if we have lost a shared weekly rhythm, at least an annual rhythm is still largely dictated by our seasons. July and August are holiday months for many – and hopefully offer some warmer weather helping us to take life at a more relaxed pace. I do hope that we will all have opportunities to slow down some time over the next couple of months and find some time to stop and stare to enjoy the beauty of our world and wonder at our place in the big scheme of existence.

# CHURCH SERVICES JULY

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## RAY VALLEY SERVICES July 2018

Draft 2

Church	Time	Leader	Service
<b>Sunday July 1st</b>	<b>Trinity 5</b>		<b>2 Samuel 1.1,17-end 2 Corinthians 8.7-end Mark 5.21-end</b>
Ambrosden	10.30	Steve	Holy Communion
	18.30	Steve	The Xtra One
Merton	09.00	Lucy	Holy Communion
Piddington	10.30	Cover	Family Service
Islip	10.30	Lucy	Parish Communion
Noke	17.00	Steve	Family Service
Oddington	10.30	Glenys	Sea Sunday Family Service
<b>Sunday July 8th</b>	<b>Trinity 6</b>		<b>2 Samuel 5.1-5,9-10 2 Corinthians 12.2-10 Mark 6.1-13</b>
Ambrosden	10.30	Steve	Family Service
Piddington	9.00	Steve	Holy Communion
Islip	10.30	Lucy	Parish Communion & Baptism
Woodeaton	9.15	Lucy	Family service
Charlton	9.00	Brian	Holy Communion – Brian Mountford
	18.00	Steve	Evening Prayer
Oddington	10.30	Cover	Holy Communion
<b>Sunday July 15th</b>	<b>Trinity 7</b>		<b>2 Samuel 6.1-5,12b-19 Ephesians 1.3-14 Mark 6.14-29</b>
Ambrosden	10.30	Lisa	Holy Communion
Merton	18.00	Lisa	Songs of Praise
Piddington	18.00	Steve	Evening Prayer
Islip	10.30	Lucy	Parish Communion
Noke	09.15	Lucy	Holy Communion
Charlton	10.30	Steve	Family Communion
<b>Sunday July 22nd</b>	<b>Trinity 8</b>		<b>Songs of Solomon 3.1-4 2 Corinthians 5.14-17 John 20.1-2,11-18</b>
Ambrosden	10.30	Lay	Morning Prayer
Merton	10.30	Steve	Family Service
Piddington	9.00	Brian	Holy Communion – Brian Wood
Islip	10.30	Lucy	Family Service & SC
Charlton	9.00	Steve	Holy Communion
Oddington	18.00	Lucy	Evening Prayer
<b>Sunday July 29th</b>	<b>Trinity 9</b>		<b>2 Samuel 11.1-15 Ephesians 3.14-end John 6.1-21</b>
Ambrosden	10.30	All	United Benefice Service

# CHURCH SERVICES AUGUST

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## RAY VALLEY SERVICES August 2018

Draft 1

Church	Time	Leader	Service
<b>Sunday August 5th</b>	<b>Trinity 10</b>		<b>Exodus 16.2-4,9-15 Ephesians 4.1-16 John 6.24-35</b>
Ambrosden	10.30		Holy Communion
	18.30		The Xtra One
Merton	09.00		Holy Communion
Piddington	10.30		Family Service
Islip	10.30		Parish Communion
Noke	17.00		Family Service
Charlton	10.30		Family Service
<b>Sunday August 12th</b>	<b>Trinity 11</b>		<b>1 Kings 19.4-8 Ephesians 4.25-5.2 John 6.35,41-51</b>
Ambrosden	10.30		Family Service
Piddington	09.00		Holy Communion
Islip	10.30		Parish Communion
Woodeaton	09.15		Family Service
Charlton	09.00		Holy Communion
	18.00		Evening Prayer
Oddington	10.30		Holy Communion
<b>Sunday August 19th</b>	<b>Trinity 12</b>		<b>Proverbs 9.1-6 Ephesians 5.15-20 John 6.51-58</b>
Ambrosden	10.30		Holy Communion
Merton	09.00		Holy Communion
Piddington	18.00		Evening Prayer
Islip	10.30		Parish Communion
Woodeaton	09.15		Holy Communion
Charlton	10.30		Family Communion
<b>Sunday August 26th</b>	<b>Trinity 13</b>		<b>Joshua 24.1-2a,14-18 Ephesians 6.10-20 John 6.56-69</b>
Ambrosden	10.30		Holy Communion
Merton	10.30		Family Service
Piddington	9.00		Holy Communion
Islip	10.30		Family Service & SC
Charlton	09.00		Holy Communion
Oddington	18.00		Evening Prayer

# CLERGY CONTACTS

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## CLERGY

Church of England contacts:

Rev Steve Hayes (Rector Ray Valley Benefice)	01869 247813
Rev Lisa Holmes (Ambrosden, Merton and Piddington)	01869 240435
Rev Lucy Thirtle (Islip, Noke and Woodeaton)	01865 379470
Mrs Glenys Edwards (based in Oddington)	01865 331233
Lynne Lewis Benefice Administrator	01865 331225

Methodist: Rev Steve Mann (Bicester Methodist Church) 01869 323030  
*Methodist services: Please consult the website: [www.bicestermethodist.org.uk](http://www.bicestermethodist.org.uk)*

Roman Catholic: Fr John Batthula [jbatthula@gmail.com](mailto:jbatthula@gmail.com) 01869 253277  
*Catholic services: Please consult the website: [www.immaculate-conception.org.uk](http://www.immaculate-conception.org.uk)*

## CHURCHWARDENS

Ambrosden: Matt Holmes, Holly Tree Cottage, Merton Road	01869 240435
Angela Jones, 16, West Hawthorn Road, Ambrosden	01869 323960
Piddington: Margaret Hutchings, Kings Cottage, Lower End, Piddington	01844 238724
Merton: Lawrence Comiskey, 2 Church Close, Merton	01865 331429
Robert Kerr, Merton Croft, West End Lane, Merton	01865 331870

## ORGANISTS & BELLS

Ambrosden: Mrs Pam Newell (bells only)	01869 241667
Organist (vacant)	
Piddington: Mrs Betty Newell	01844 237236
Mr Tony Pearce	01844 237688
Merton: Mr Russell Thompson	01869 246093
<i>(no ringable bells)</i>	

# AMBROSDEN NEWS

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Ambrosden Parish Council meetings held in the Village Hall on the 3rd Thursday of each month. At 7.30

Parish website

[www.ambrosden.info/parishcouncil](http://www.ambrosden.info/parishcouncil)

Ambrosden Parish Councillors:

Mark Longworth (Chair) – [ambrosden@mlongworth.co.uk](mailto:ambrosden@mlongworth.co.uk)

Maureen Cossens (Vice Chair) –  
01869 252722

Chris West

Philip Blazdell

Serinne Mills Curtis

Sue Posselwhite

Wendy Cheeseman

Parish Clerk

Lynne Bustin

11 Otmoor View, Merton, Oxon

[Ambrosden.parishclerk@gmail.com](mailto:Ambrosden.parishclerk@gmail.com)

District Councillors

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

David Anderson (Conservative)

[david.anderson@cherwell-dc.gov.uk](mailto:david.anderson@cherwell-dc.gov.uk)

Lucinda Wing (Conservative)

[lucinda.wing@cherwell-dc.gov.uk](mailto:lucinda.wing@cherwell-dc.gov.uk)

Dan Sames (Conservative)

[da.sames@cherwell-dc.gov.uk](mailto:da.sames@cherwell-dc.gov.uk)

County Councillor

Dan Sames (Conservative)

[dan.sames@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:dan.sames@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

Facebook Community message boards

Ambrosden Community

Ambrosden and Caversfield Forces Wives

St. Mary's Church

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

Five Acres School

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

Children's Centre

[www.oxonchildrenscentre.org](http://www.oxonchildrenscentre.org)

Ambrosden Village Pre School

8.20-11.20 Monday - Friday term time only

Jackie Floyd - 07759755179

[ambrosdenvillagepreschool@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:ambrosdenvillagepreschool@hotmail.co.uk)

Tiddlywinks Playgroup

8.30-11.30, 11:50-14:50.

Debra Cherry 01869256555

[tiddlywinks\\_playgroup@msn.com](mailto:tiddlywinks_playgroup@msn.com)

Ambrosden Doctors Surgery

01869 256336

Parish and Village Hall Notice Boards

Costcutter and Merton Road (outside village

hall. Community Notice Board

Public board – Ploughley Road bus shelter

Garrison Gym and Swimming Pool

Contact Garrison centre for latest updates on opening times and availability

Army Welfare Service Community

Development Worker



Lynn Waite - 01869 256135

Recycling

Bottle banks, behind Spar

### FLYTIPPING

The ongoing issues with fly tipping on the horse shoe walkway, have been featured in the Bicester Advertiser, and after lobbying have become the focus of concern by the District Council. We are advised by the District Council that they have a new scheme where CCTV is installed on fly tipping black spots.

If you have any information about fly tipping please contact the Parish Clerk or Cherwell District Council

Please contact the Parish Clerk for more information.

[Ambrosden.parishclerk@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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.

### 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/>

### NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

The Parish Council is seeking volunteers for Neighbourhood Watch. We have a number of people who are interested in becoming coordinators, but require additional volunteers. Please contact the Parish Clerk.

### ALLOTMENTS AT SPRINGFIELDS

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

### WAREHOUSES ON A41

The latest application to increase the height of the warehouses was approved by the District Council.

### Ambrosden Diary

Turners Arms Public House- Ambrosden

Bicester Lions – 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month - Turners Arms- Merton Road  
Contact Facebook – Bicester Lions

Open from 7pm onwards on weekdays additionally a on Saturday it is also open lunchtime 12-3 and then from 7pm. On Sunday it is open from 12-4.30 and then from 7pm.

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

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

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

Ambrosden Gaming club first three Mondays  
of the month every month Selection of  
table top wargames such as bolt action and  
warhammer. Minimum age 18  
Contact 07887 761154  
[https://www.facebook.com/Ambrosden-  
Gaming-Club-539843919418164/](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/](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](http://www.oxfordshiregirlguiding.org.uk/index.php/rainbows)

Brownies Ages 7-10yrs from , 6.30-8pm  
[www.girlguiding.org.uk/interested](http://www.girlguiding.org.uk/interested)

Kebab Van – Costcutter car park -evening

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

Saturday

Kebab Van – Costcutter car park -evening

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

## AMBROSDEN VILLAGE HALL

FOR BOOKINGS

ANDY & LISA CAMPBELL -

ANDYAMP-AIR@TESCO.NET -

01869 321318

Thank you to everyone who supports the  
Ambrosden Thrift Shop (open every Thursday  
10:30-3:00). Thanks to your donations the  
Thrift Shop has been able to make several  
donations to local charities. So far in 2018  
donations include - £200 to the Sobell House  
Hospice (located by the Churchill Hospital),  
£200 to the Hummingbird Centre in Bicester  
supporting local people affected by cancer  
and £200 to Five Acres Primary School,  
Ambrosden.

## BEST KEBABS

Ambrosden village car park  
(Beside Costcutter)

Wednesday to Saturday

4.00pm

-

10.00pm





# The Bulletin Board

## Ray Valley Benefice For July 2018

- |                       |                                       |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Sun 1st               | - 10.30am Sea Sunday, Oddington       |
| Weds 4th              | - 10am Holy Communion, Ambrosden      |
| Fri 6 <sup>th</sup>   | - 10.30 Tiny Tots, Fencott            |
| Sat 7 <sup>th</sup>   | - 5pm Picnic in the Park, Ambrosden   |
|                       | - Noon Summer Fete, Islip             |
| Weds 18 <sup>th</sup> | - 10am Holy Communion, Charlton       |
| Fri 20 <sup>th</sup>  | - 9.30am ABC for pre-schoolers, Islip |

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

### G J PLUMBING

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Email: [gjplumbing@hotmail.com](mailto:gjplumbing@hotmail.com)



# MHES

MIKE HEDGES ELECTRICAL SERVICES

For a free no obligation quotation call Mike on  
T: 01869 325360 M: 07855 410359  
E: [mike@mhes.co.uk](mailto:mike@mhes.co.uk) : [www.mhes.co.uk](http://www.mhes.co.uk)



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lynne@lbaccounts.co.uk  
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**Email: tmhall1@hotmail.co.uk**

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



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Complimentary beer for men 18+

Contact: 01869 241866  
[www.thehairloungebicester.co.uk](http://www.thehairloungebicester.co.uk)

Merton Road, Ambrosden, Bicester, Oxfordshire OX25 2LS

# ARNCOTT NEWS

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REPORT FROM ARNCOTT VHMC & ACA  
MEETING 29th MAY & PARISH  
COUNCIL MEETING 5th JUNE 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 Council Website: <http://www.parish-council.com/arncott>  
Parish Council Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/arncottpc/>  
Fix My Street: <http://www.fixmystreet.com>  
Parish email: [arncottpc@gmail.com](mailto:arncottpc@gmail.com)  
Parish Matters Magazine: [marionmoore20@btinternet.com](mailto:marionmoore20@btinternet.com)

Your contacts for the Village Hall Management Committee are:  
John Cooper (Chairman) – 01869 323349 – [johncooper47@btinternet.com](mailto:johncooper47@btinternet.com)  
Christine Dunkin (Village Hall hire) - 01869 249560 – [avhlettings@gmail.com](mailto:avhlettings@gmail.com)

If you have any issues that you would like to raise, then please contact a parish councillor or send an email to the parish clerk or the parish council email address.

## Woodpiece Road parking

The planning application for the phase one car park work has been approved by the CDC planning committee. The parish council is now waiting to be advised as to when work will begin.

## 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 still not received any confirmation from OCC as to when this work will begin although the suggested date will be August 2018.

## Greenfields Communal Room

Good news. The parish council has been advised that the Sanctuary Housing Association has withdrawn the planning application for the conversion of the communal room into a two bedroomed

dwelling house. The correspondence from Sanctuary does suggest that they still may try to develop the communal room into a house in the future.

#### 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.

#### Grant money for sports facilities

Cllr Peter Barnard is going to be looking into the possibility of having an additional building adjacent to the village hall, replacing the existing garage with a view to increasing the storage and changing capacity and make more provision for youth activities.

#### 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. Yet once 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.

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 parish council has been advised that the proposed date for the design workshop is now likely be September 15th. The workshop can accommodate up to 20 villagers and will provide an insight into the design process for the project. There is also the possibility that those villagers could 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. If we don't get enough interest, the workshop will probably be cancelled, and the design will be left up to the artist, so if you would like any of your ideas incorporated into the design, please let us know that you want to attend the workshop on the 15th. We would like ideas from all age groups.

#### Village Hall public address system

It has been mentioned to both the parish council and the VHMC that people who suffer from a hearing impairment can often have difficulty in hearing the speaker(s) at parish and VHMC meetings and other functions that are held in the village hall. The parish council and the VHMC have therefore decided to investigate, and seek advice, as to what would be the most suitable options / costs for the installation of a public address system in the village hall. Peter Forrest of the VHMC has agreed to look into some

different systems, and also see if the system can accommodate external speakers for any outdoor activities on the playing field.

### Football field fencing

It is unfortunate that, from time to time, we have had vehicles driven onto the football pitch which has caused damage to the playing surface. This often happens when cars have parked up and then drive away across the field instead of reversing out. Therefore, the parish council is now considering getting a suitable fencing solution installed to help prevent this from happening, and to improve the aesthetics of the field.

### 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.bbowl.org.uk/expressway](http://www.bbowl.org.uk/expressway) and [www.cpreoxon.org.uk/news/current-news/item/2648-public-inquiry-ox-cam-expressway](http://www.cpreoxon.org.uk/news/current-news/item/2648-public-inquiry-ox-cam-expressway).

There was a meeting held at Charlton-on-Otmoor on Wednesday the 6th June to discuss the expressway. This was attended by a good number of people, including Cllr Dan Sames. Although there are rumours regarding the preferred route, currently, they are just rumours. However, we urge that everyone helps in getting the word out to protect our village and our local area, including Otmoor which is a valuable natural reserve, the loss of which would be awful. Please sign the

petition here <https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/217244> to ensure that this is brought up for discussion in parliament. There is a website (<https://saveotmoor.org/>) where you can find out more information.

### 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

The council has sent out one of its dragon lorries to repair some of the potholes in the village. While these repairs are welcome, and for some of them, quite a surprise, there are still a number that were missed or ignored. For example, some of the potholes in Lower Arcott were filled, whereas some were left. Cllr Savidge will be reporting these missed ones again. A pothole at the top of Mill Lane will be reported in due course. There are still a number of potholes in Woodpiece Road, so if you see any, please report them yourself at Fix My Street. This is how we report them and it is very easy to do.



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

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## 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 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. We will be selling raffle tickets and collecting donations for prizes for the raffle and the Tombola stall from the 1st of July, please be generous as all profits go towards keeping the village hall going as a vital part of the community.

We desperately need help with the selling and collections, and if anyone would like to help out on the day to organize some races for the younger children they will be most welcome, small prizes will be provided.

Please contact John Cooper on 01869 323349, or Christine Dunkin on 01869 249560 if you can help in any way.

### Projects and Improvements

The new flooring and disabled loo have been installed, and the refurbishment of the bar is complete.

### Ska Martial Arts Tang Soo Doo.

New martial arts and fitness class at Arncoth 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 Arncoth 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.

The friendship club has been going now for about 25 years and at one time there was about 40 members, but due to the sad loss of members and some moving away our numbers have dwindled. We meet in the Greenfields common room on the second Wednesday of each month at 1.45pm till 3.45pm. Our activities include plenty of tea/coffee drinking, along with cakes, sandwiches and a good old chat. We do a quiz, bingo and of course a raffle. Why not come along and meet up with old friends and make new ones. For more information ring Christine on 01869 249560.

### 300 Club winners

258 ..... P Henry

76 ..... Ms G Tysoe

234 ..... Mrs G Richards

207 ..... Mrs J Day

101 ..... Mrs J Cooke

If anyone is interested and would like to start or rejoin the 300 Club, please contact Wendy Wilkins by email at [Arncoth300club@gmail.com](mailto:Arncoth300club@gmail.com).

Material required for the parish magazine please. Please email it to [marionmoore20@btinternet.com](mailto:marionmoore20@btinternet.com) by 13th of the month


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# BLACKTHORN NEWS

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## BLACKTHORN VILLAGE HALL

May saw us all celebrating the Royal Wedding and what a fantastic day it was. A great time was had by all, especially the kids who enjoyed the amazing weather and free water pistols – as did some of the grownups. Over the next few months we've got plenty on, so please watch out for the usual invites on the village FB page and on the posters around the village.

Fri 29th Jun – Pub Night, 7.30pm

Thu 5th Jul – Coffee Morning, 11am

Sat 14th Jul - 70s / 80s Disco Night, 7.30pm

Fri 27th Jul – Pub Night, 7.30pm

Thu 2nd Aug – Coffee Morning, 11am

Thu 6th Sep Coffee Morning, 11am

If you would like to receive email updates and reminders of events being held in the village, please send an email to [blackthornvillagehall@gmail.com](mailto:blackthornvillagehall@gmail.com)

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](mailto:clerkblackthornpc@gmail.com)

Update on Upkeep of Village Watercourses  
The Environment Agency attended our recent Annual Parish Meeting on May 17th and confirmed to residents and the Parish Council that they were no longer able to maintain the water courses (Blackthorn Brook and River Ray) that run through our parish. They advised that local landowners had a responsibility to maintain their own watercourses. More information on this can be found at the following web address: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/owning-a-watercourse>

The Parish Council continues to appeal this decision and is working with both district and county councils on a more comprehensive flooding survey of the village.

## Keep Dogs on Leads

Following concerns after reported incidents of sheep being attacked in the local area we would kindly remind all residents to please keep their four legged friends on the lead when walking through any fields where sheep are grazing.

## Neighbourhood Watch

The AGM of our regional Neighbourhood Watch Association in Thames Valley was held near Reading on May 9th. Speakers included A Police Superintendent and the Detective Chief Inspector coordinating Thames Valley's response to serious and organised crime.

They emphasised the police service's continued support for neighbourhood watch members and pointed out the way in which such members can assist the police in addition to just looking out for suspicious activities in our streets and supporting our neighbours.

One startling statistic is that 80% of police work in the Thames Valley is now involved with vulnerability and safeguarding. Sounds weird?... it isn't. As well as the obvious sexual abuse of children or telephone and doorstep scams targeted at older people, this enormous proportion of police work also includes:

- protecting the 10 to 12-year-old children recruited in "county lines" drug networks which have now reached every town in the Thames Valley
- cracking the gangs which practise modern slavery in local car washes and nail bars
- uncovering the coercion and violence inflicted on vulnerable people to maintain what the police officers called the "golden thread" which links the majority of serious and organised crime - drugs

So, as well as looking out for our neighbours, particularly vulnerable ones, neighbourhood watch members can help the police immeasurably by reporting suspicious activities which might indicate the presence of a criminal network exploiting gullible people in our area. You can find out more about regional NHW at <http://www.tvnhwa.org.uk>

There was also a lot of advice on home safety and security. I'll be circulating the Lower Road NHW members about this. However, if people in other roads have questions about NHW by all means contact me on 321380 or [dwconsultants@icloud.com](mailto:dwconsultants@icloud.com)

David Wood

If you would like to be a neighbourhood watch volunteer for Station Road, contact email Rachel Lamont at [rlblackthornpc@gmail.com](mailto:rlblackthornpc@gmail.com)

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

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# MERTON NEWS

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Merton Parish Council

If you wish to contact a councillor, please use the following information:

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

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

Jo Copping: [jcoppingmerton@gmail.com](mailto:jcoppingmerton@gmail.com) 01865 331204

David Richardson: [cllr david@penguinmail.co.uk](mailto:cllr david@penguinmail.co.uk) 01865 331640

Lucy Katz: [cllr lucy katz merton pc@gmail.com](mailto:cllr lucy katz merton pc@gmail.com) 07970 803753

Steve Kelly: [stevenkelly.mertonpc@gmail.com](mailto:stevenkelly.mertonpc@gmail.com) 07875 488143

Parish Council Clerk - Mrs Charlesworth: [clerkmertonpc@gmail.com](mailto:clerkmertonpc@gmail.com) 01865 331481

Parish Council meetings are held on the 3rd Monday of the month at the village hall from 7.30pm. (Subject to any last minute cancellations).

Parish Council Elections

We've just had Parish Council Elections. I know, blink and you've missed them. In fact, all the Council posts were uncontested, so your councillors continue as above. Simon Ward is also due to become a Co-Opted Councillor at the next PC meeting.

Members of the village are always welcome to attend Council meetings – the dates are posted on the village website – and we'd love to hear from anyone who'd like their say on village matters. If you want to contact the PC, please

do so via Lucy Katz's email (above)

East West Expressway

I'm sure you'll have seen all the "Save Otmoor" signs on the roads all around the village and local area.

From being just whispers and rumours, the threatened route for the East West Expressway has turned into a cause of real concern for the Otmoor villages, including Merton. It's not just the main Expressway, but also potential plans for additional new roads to support the Expressway. Several Freedom of Information Requests have been sent to the Highways Agency asking them for details of their plans – including one sent by the Merton Parish Council. All of these have been turned down.

Given the lack of specific plans, it's hard to know what to do for the best.

However, several bodies are planning responses, and these campaigns have contacted Merton Parish Council. Please find the details below:

1. Berks, Bucks and Oxon Wildlife Trust (BBOWT) which is an organisation which campaigns for wildlife and habitat preservation.

The Wildlife issue could be a very important card to play.

Why?

When the M40 route was originally being planned, the route was due to cut across Otmoor. It was a wildlife campaigning group which managed to prove that Otmoor was an important

habitat for an endangered butterfly, and the motorway was routed away from Otmoor Times have changed, but if this worked last time Otmoor was under threat, it might work again. One of the Merton Parish Councillors is a member and regular volunteer of BBOWT, and will act as the liaison between BBOWT and Merton Parish Council.

Another related organisation which the Council will be liaising with is the RSPB Otmoor Reserve.

Otmoor provides an essential habitat to a population of approximately 50,000 starlings – one of the largest flocks in the UK. If you want to see / hear the celebrated “murmuration” of starlings, come to any back garden in Merton and you’ll experience an extraordinary natural event. This habitat needs protecting – just like the residents of Merton.

2. Oddington Parish Council contacted the Merton PC because they are concerned that a separate potential road might run between Islip and the new railway line, as a relief road to the A34. This will not get the campaigning attention that the main Expressway will attract, and will affect Merton, Oddington and Charlton in particular.

Improving the Sports facilities for the village We’re at the very early stages of considering how the large open field outside the Village Hall could better serve the needs of the village.

At the minute, it’s simply a very large flat area covered in grass – an area which costs a lot of money to mow, and which doesn’t get as much use as it might. We don’t have the summer beer festival any more, so perhaps we don’t need such a large flat space in the same way as we did.

We have the children’s play area, which gets good usage, and people walk and run with their dogs there too. There are allotments, and there is space to make more of them, if people were

interested.

The Parish Council wouldn’t want to stop people using the field in the way you already are. However, we think it might be a good idea to think about developing the space further – thinking about how the village could benefit in additional ways.

The PC has ideas which we’re just beginning to research, and which we’ll share with you once we’ve got a better idea of what we think is possible / desirable. But, obviously, we’d like to hear from all Merton residents – how would you like to improve village facilities? Please contact [cllrucykatzmertonpc@gmail.com](mailto:cllrucykatzmertonpc@gmail.com) if you’ve got ideas to share.

Free film shows

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

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

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](mailto:clerkmertonpc@gmail.com).

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](mailto:wendymeads@yahoo.co.uk) by 13th of every month.



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## Blackthorn Village Hall.



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# The Pantry

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# PIDDINGTON NEWS

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## PIDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 17th July at 7.30pm. If you have any concerns or questions the Parish Council is always keen to hear from you, details below. The first 30 minutes of our meetings are an opportunity for villagers to address the council. Agendas and minutes from the meetings are available to view on the village website and the two Parish Council noticeboards: [www.piddingtonvillageoxfordshire.org.uk/meetings.html](http://www.piddingtonvillageoxfordshire.org.uk/meetings.html)

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 under reviewed are: 18/00950/F, 18/00920/F, 18/00921/LB, 18/00665/LB

Parish Clerk:

Anne Davis

Tel: 01865 379645

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

Councillors:

Francesca Darby (Chair)

Tel: 01844 238294

Email: [francesca.darby@piddingtonpc.com](mailto:francesca.darby@piddingtonpc.com)

Pam Feltbower (Vice Chair)

Tel: 01844 237523

Email: [pam.feltbower@piddingtonpc.com](mailto:pam.feltbower@piddingtonpc.com)

Andrew Coleman

Tel: 01844 237582

Email: [andrew.coleman@piddingtonpc.com](mailto:andrew.coleman@piddingtonpc.com)

Lynda Galloway

Tel: 01844 237584

Email: [lynda.galloway@piddingtonpc.com](mailto:lynda.galloway@piddingtonpc.com)

Ken Howard

Tel: 01869 320950

Email: [ken.howard@piddingtonpc.com](mailto:ken.howard@piddingtonpc.com)

Mike Nixon

Tel: 01844 239209

Email: [michael.nixon@piddingtonpc.com](mailto:michael.nixon@piddingtonpc.com)

Mario Terzino

Tel: 01844 238154

Email: [mario.terzino@piddingtonpc.com](mailto:mario.terzino@piddingtonpc.com)

## NEW VILLAGE EMAIL

Piddington News & Events. To register for regular updates of what is going on in the village, and important issues affecting our locality, go to the home page of the website: <http://www.piddingtonvillageoxfordshire.org.uk/>. You will receive a welcome email once you have registered. If this does not appear in your inbox within 5 minutes, please check your spam folder and add us to your 'Safe Senders' list.

## WIDNELL PARK, PLAYING FIELD AND MEADOW

The meadow area will be cut towards the end of July. The Parish Council is now waiting to see if the 'Fitness for All' Green Gym/Fitness Trail has been successful in obtaining a grant from Calor. Thank you to everyone who took the time to vote.

## ODD JOB PERSON

The Parish Council is looking for someone to

work on items of maintenance for the village on an 'as and when needed' basis. If you can help or can recommend someone please contact the Parish Clerk. This would be a paid position based on an hourly rate.

### ALLOTMENTS

A couple of plots have become available. The annual subscription £15 per year for a single plot to include affiliation to The National Allotment Society. 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](mailto: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

Oxfordshire County Council has been advised of overgrown verges along Widnell Lane and at the junction at the top of the hill with B4011. It is easy to report any issues regarding the roads around the county by using the 'Fix My Street' website: [www.fixmystreet.oxfordshire.gov.uk](http://www.fixmystreet.oxfordshire.gov.uk). If you do not use the internet, please contact the Parish Clerk regarding problems within our parish.

### PARISH LIAISON MEETINGS

Oxfordshire County Council is 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 corridor will be published towards the end of July. Piddington and our neighbours could be potentially affected by either route B or C. One million new houses will be built along the agreed route, of which 300,000 are allocated to Oxfordshire. A government petition has

been set up by the #saveotmoor group, <https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/217244>. Momentum is also growing for a 'no road' option. There is a petition for this as well, <https://www.change.org/p/the-secretary-of-state-for-transport-chris-grayling-mp-cancel-the-oxford-to-cambridge-expressway>. The Parish Council will advise as soon as the decision is made.

### SEVEN STARS PUBLIC HOUSE

The Parish Council has been successful in its application to continue to have the pub listed as an 'Asset of Community Value'. Whilst this doesn't remedy the problem of an empty building, it continues to link the pub with the community.

### RURAL POLICING

The Bicester Rural Resilience Group met on 13th June at Ardley Village Hall. Concerns involved speeding in the Caversfield/Stoke Lyne area and pickpocketing in Bicester. Meetings are regular and are currently chaired by Ken Howard. The next meeting will be held on 5th September (Piddington Village Hall). Everyone is welcome to attend. If you have any issues you wish discussed, particularly those affecting the village, please contact Ken. Police alerts have now been included in the village email updates.

You can now contact the police directly if you

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

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if you have any concerns or wish to report suspicious behaviour or vehicles. Email [BicesterRuralNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk](mailto:BicesterRuralNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk)

## NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

A number of villagers have expressed an interest in being part of a Neighbourhood Watch for their road/locality. However, the Parish Council is looking for someone in the village to act as a principal co-ordinator for the programme. The role requires you to act as liaison between the police, the Parish Council, scheme members and the village. 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 still 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. In the meantime, a Vehicle Activated Sign will be operational in the village soon. It will be rotated between the four entrances and will flash vehicle speeds as well as collect data which can be shared with the police.

## EMERGENCY PLAN

We now have 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](http://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](mailto: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](http://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.

## PIDDINGTON VILLAGE HALL GRANT AWARD

Piddington Village Hall Committee are pleased to announce that they have been awarded a £10,000 grant from WREN towards the cost of refurbishing the kitchen and bar area. (WREN is a company registered to fund projects which are eligible under the Landfill Communities Fund.) It is expected that the work will be completed this year.

## PIDDINGTON 200 CLUB MAY WINNERS

Drawn at the village hall Pop-Up Pub on Friday

1st £30 167 Lucy Clark  
2nd £20 013 Erasmus Tort  
3rd £10 170 Ann Cumming  
4th £5 134 Freddie Loft.

## VILLAGE HALL EVENTS

As well as the regular Pop-Up Pubs on the last Friday of every month, future events include:

30th June – Ladies Pamper/Shopping Evening, 7-10pm. Tickets £5 to include a glass of bubbly, from Kim Elliott (07969 197634) or Sam Mylam (07968 854098). Enjoy an evening of pure self indulgence and some retail therapy!

7th July – Vinyl Night, from 7pm. We'll play vinyl singles all night, with a live jukebox. Bid to have your favourite disc played, or bid more to stop us playing it. Bar with Piddington cider and apple juice. Tickets £6 to include jumbo hotdog and brownie. All proceeds to raise funds for Apple Day music. Email [lyndagalloway@outlook.com](mailto:lyndagalloway@outlook.com) or phone 07806 487961.

28th September – Ukulele Night!

## ARTS & CRAFTS EXHIBITION

The Arts & Crafts Exhibition will take place on Saturday 4th August in St Nicholas Church from 10.00am to 2.00pm.

The exhibition was very successful last year and a showcase for many local creative skills. We hope to make it even better this year.

Last year's exhibition included paintings, drawings, sewing, sculpture to name a few, but it would be good to include others such as pottery, photography and woodwork.

Please do consider joining in and if you would like to display and/or sell your work please contact Margaret 01844 238724 or Maggie 01844 237688.

## THE PANTRY

The market returns after the summer on SATURDAY 1st SEPTEMBER with not only a great selection of stalls but also an art exhibition, with up to 13 artists showing their work. If you

are interested in taking a stall, please contact Ken ([kenhowardc10@gmail.com](mailto:kenhowardc10@gmail.com)) or to volunteer on the day contact Maggie ([margaret.pearce2424@gmail.com](mailto:margaret.pearce2424@gmail.com)).

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](mailto:sandra.paisley@hotmail.co.uk). All proceeds to go to the upkeep of the playground.

## CHILDREN'S PLAY AREA

A group of parents have agreed to take over the running of the children's play area behind the village hall. The annual inspection will be held in July, which will enable them to work from an official report. Please support them in their endeavours to improve the area for the youngsters in the village. If you would like to get involved, contact Olivia ([olivia\\_329@hotmail.com](mailto:olivia_329@hotmail.com)).

## A PIDDINGTON AFTER-SCHOOL CLUB KEEPING IN TOUCH

Village emails:

Register on the Piddington website

Piddington village website:

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

Piddington village Facebook page:

[www.facebook.com/piddingtonoxfordshire](http://www.facebook.com/piddingtonoxfordshire)

Piddington Swap Shop Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/447881082064329/>

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[www.piddingtonvillageoxfordshire.org.uk/booking-calendar](http://www.piddingtonvillageoxfordshire.org.uk/booking-calendar)

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.



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# OTMOOR GARDEN SOCIETY

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Our speaker in May was Dr Peter Semple who spoke to us on the differences in climate between Scotland and Oxfordshire and how he copes with gardening in the north. He took us on a photographic tour of his garden and some of the plants he grows in it. His fee was donated to Horatio's garden, which is a lovely charity set up in memory of the young boy who was killed by a polar bear when on a school trip. The charity is developing gardens, designed by the likes of Cleve West and Tom Stuart-Smith, at spinal injury hospitals so that the patients and their visitors can have a pleasant and relaxing environment to spend time in. It very much demonstrates the healing power of gardens. The third garden is due to be opened at Stoke Mandeville later this summer, and the fourth and fifth gardens are already being planned. It seemed a very fitting charity for the garden society to be able to support on Peter's behalf.

The coach trip to The Savill Garden in June was apparently very enjoyable. It was reported to me as 'Really lovely. Beautifully laid out, well tended, not crowded, not too big, different areas of interest, plenty of seating to sit and admire, and a nice restful atmosphere. All in all a great day out.' The weather was also very kind, so what more can you ask for. Alastair has put photographs up on our Facebook page for anyone who would like to take a look.

As I said last month, July is going to be busy. We have had very good uptake on the Pettifer's evening visit on 3rd, and the Photography Workshop on 14th is now sold out (unless we

have any drop-outs). However, we have no restriction on numbers for the Garden Party on Saturday 21st July, all members very welcome! Details will be sent by e-mail shortly, but we start at 2:30pm and will be serving drinks and 'afternoon tea' in the garden. Fingers crossed for sunshine, Sandie might never get rid of us!

August is a holiday for the garden society, no events planned. Quite sad really, although it does give the committee a well-earned break from organising! We won't be entirely idle, we will be planning the programme for 2019, getting speakers and outings into place. So if you have any suggestions of topics you would like covered, or places you would like to go, do please e-mail us, your input is always welcomed.

Happy Gardening,

Judith Rawlinson

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

[www.otmoorgardensociety.org.uk](http://www.otmoorgardensociety.org.uk) or find us on Facebook



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# BUS TIMETABLES

## Oxford - Islip - Ambrosden

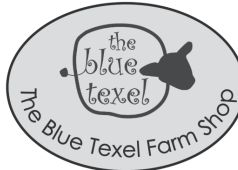
Oxford St Giles (Stop C5)	16:10	17:10	18:10
Gosford, o/s Kings Arms PH	16:30	17:30	18:30
Islip, opp The Red Lion PH	16:35	17:35	18:35
Oddington, opp Glebe Barn Bus Shelter	16:40	17:40	18:40
Charlton-on-Otmoor, opp Bus Garage	16:45	17:45	18:45
Merton, o/s The Plough Inn PH	16:50	17:50	18:50
Ambrosden,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

Oxfordshire County Council would like to thank our volunteers and all volunteers across Oxfordshire for the difference they make every day!

Volunteering in Oxfordshire is thriving with one voluntary organisation for every 289 people in the county and around 4,500 voluntary and community organisations across Oxfordshire – that’s significantly higher than the national average.

Oxfordshire County Council has approximately 3000 volunteers who do an amazing job in their communities - delivering books to people who can’t get to libraries, teaching children how to code, organising activities for adults with disabilities, and much, much more!



The council also works with the voluntary sector to deliver local services and support thriving communities across Oxfordshire. This includes funding Oxfordshire Volunteers - a dedicated volunteering website for Oxfordshire.

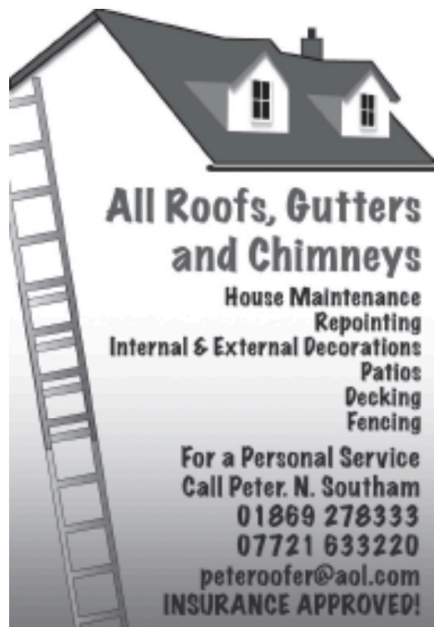


Councillor Mark Gray, Oxfordshire County Council’s Cabinet Member for Local Communities, said: “Volunteering is clearly something that goes to the very core of who we are in Oxfordshire and we should definitely be proud of it and sing it from the rooftops. “The message should go out loud and clear – thank you to Oxfordshire’s volunteers, you do us proud.”

Miriam Chappell from the OCVA (Oxfordshire Community and Voluntary Action) added: “Volunteering is of great benefit to our communities, but what often goes unsaid is the benefit it also has for the individual. Volunteering can be a way to make friends, do something different, and add a fresh routine to your life. “Volunteering offers you the chance to gain new skills – whether you’re hoping to improve your confidence, develop an interest, or even change career. The wellbeing benefits of volunteering, from increased self-esteem to improved social connections, cannot be overstated.”

There are volunteering opportunities to suit everyone - from volunteering for the National Trust, to whipping up your favourite bakes to sell, to driving people to appointments, to helping teach digital skills at your local library!

Get involved - visit [OxonVolunteers.org](http://OxonVolunteers.org)



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# OTMOOR WOMANS INSTITUTE

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June saw members of Otmoor WI enjoying their annual Garden Meeting, hosted this year by Sandie. The business of the evening included details for upcoming trips to Beenham Wolves and Bletchley Park and local events. Heather, who had attended the WI AGM, this year held in Cardiff, gave her report of the day. Setting the scene vividly. The resolution on mental health was carried with a large majority.

The fine evening allowed members to explore the nooks and crannies of the garden, admiring the plants and seeking out the birds and beasties lurking between the them for their quiz sheets.

The competition for the evening was a decorated sun hat. To continue the "Ascot" theme the committee provided refreshments to include fizz and strawberries all of which were enjoyed by members. The winner of the decorated sun hat competition was Mary Hatwell with Pauline 2nd and Rosemary 3rd. The July meeting will be at 7.45 on July 10th at Charlton Community Hall where the speaker will be a talk by Jeremy Holmes entitled Rags to Riches – The Story of Andrew Carnegie.

## Dates for the Diary

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

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

Every Wednesday during August the WI will be holding a Pop-up Cafe in Charlton Community Hall from 10 – 12 with profits going to the Playground Appeal.

August 14th – How I cast away 120 Inspirational People (CCH) 7.45

There is no craft meeting in August

September 11th – Musings from the Amateur Stage (CCH) 7.45

September 20th - Coffee, Craft and Cake (MVH) 7.30

For further details of any of the above please contact Virginia on 01865 331521

# ADVERTISING & CONTACTS

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## COST OF ADVERTISING (PER MONTH)

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

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

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

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

## THE COLLECTION AND EDITORIAL TEAM

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

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

### Village News Collectors:

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

Piddington Chris Howard 01844 237928 [chris.howard38@btinternet.com](mailto:chris.howard38@btinternet.com)

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

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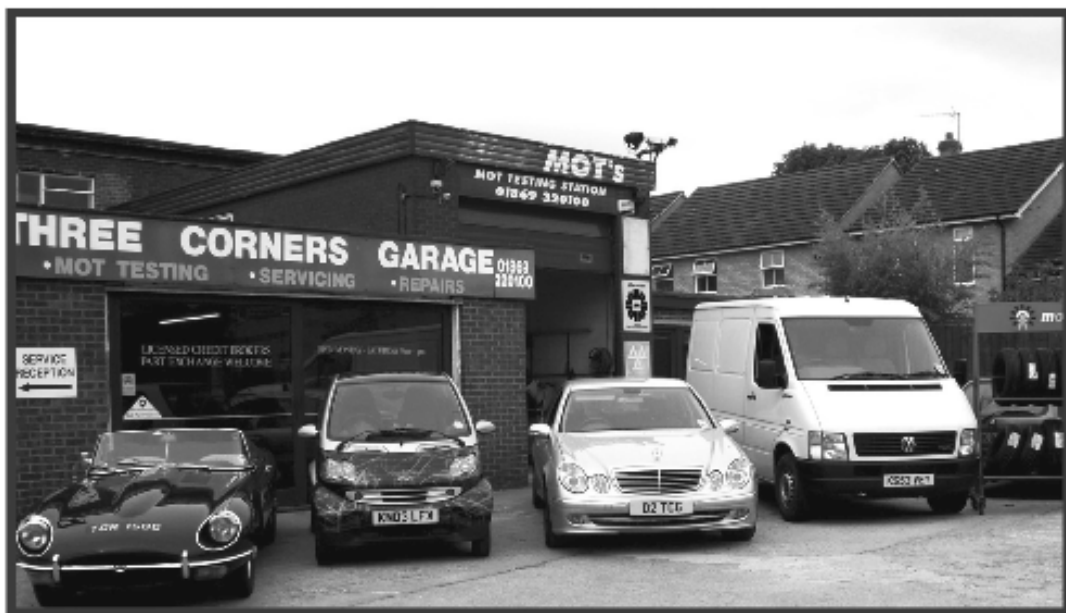


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