

PARISH MATTERS



SEPTEMBER 2018

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

VILLAGE VIEWS & LOCAL NEWS



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Welcome to the September 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

New beginnings

Whether the academic year directly affects our lives or not, September has for many of us the feel of a new start as the slower pace of the holiday season comes to an end and things which have taken a break pick up pace again. At least this year, all those going back to work or school can feel like we've had a proper summer and will not need to feel resentful at the prospect of the weather improving just as we all get stuck back in to our daily routines. Nevertheless although many have enjoyed the summer heatwave and all the dry weather, it has been a worrying time for many farmers and growers. As we turn to autumn and our thoughts turn to harvest this year, we are likely to discover that harvests have been adversely affected – and not just summer crops but things like the price of milk may increase owing to farmers having to buy feed rather than relying on lush grass normally available all year round. And this year we are aware of many other countries across Europe suffering similarly.

But more extreme weather events have been predicted by climate change scientists for many years and this is yet more evidence, alongside much else that we now know about eg the pollution of our oceans and earth by our plastic use, of the impact that our modern lifestyle is having on the planet which is our home.

It seems clear that environmental issues are becoming increasingly urgent and we must hope that the government will not allow the seemingly impossible resolution of the Brexit negotiations to deflect its attention from this vitally important area. But there are things we can all do and if September has a feel of a new beginning, why not take advantage of that to make some new commitments to living more sustainably, whether it's recycling more, consuming less, avoiding plastic use, considering our use of fossil fuels or lobbying government. We've only got one planet and it's the one our children and grandchildren will need so let's do what we can to preserve it in all its precious but vulnerable beauty and wonder.

Rev Lucy

CHURCH SERVICES SEPT.

RAY VALLEY SERVICES September 2018

Draft 1

Church	Time	Leader	Service
Sunday September 2nd	Trinity 14		Deuteronomy 4.1-2,6-9 James 1.17-end Mark 7.1-8,14,15,21-23
Ambrosden	10.30	Brian	Holy Communion – Brian Woodford
	18.30	Cover	The Xtra One
Merton	09.00	Cover	Holy Communion
Piddington	10.30	Cover	Family Service
Islip	10.30	Lucy	Parish Communion & Baptism
Noke	17.00	Lucy	Family Patronal Service & Baptism
Charlton	10.30	Glenys	Family Service
Sunday September 9th	Trinity 15		Isaiah 35.4-7a James 2.1-10,14-17 Mark 7.24-end
Ambrosden	10.30	Steve	Family Service & Baptism
Piddington	9.00	Steve	Holy Communion
Islip	10.30	Lucy	Parish Communion
Woodeaton	9.15	Claire	Family Service – Claire Creese
Charlton	09.00	Lucy	Holy Communion
	18.00	Steve	Evening Prayer
Oddington	10.30	Cover	Holy Communion
Sunday September 16th	Trinity 16		Isaiah 50.4-9a James 3.1-12 Mark 8.27-end
Ambrosden	10.30	Lisa	Holy Communion
Merton	09.00	Lisa	Holy Communion
Piddington	18.00	Steve	Evening Prayer
Islip	10.30	Lucy	Parish Communion
Noke	09.15	Lucy	Holy Communion
Charlton	10.30	Steve	Family Communion
Sunday September 23rd	Trinity 17		Jeremiah 11. 18-20 James 3.13-4.3,7-8a Mark 9.30-37
Ambrosden	10.30	Lay	Morning Prayer
Merton	10.30	Steve	Family Service
Piddington	9.00	Steve	Holy Communion
Islip	10.30	Lucy	Café Church at the Village Hall
Charlton	9.00	Lisa	Holy Communion
Oddington	18.00	Steve	Harvest Festival followed by supper
Monday September 24th			Numbers 11.4-6,10-16 James 5.13-end Mark 9.38-end
Charlton	10.00	Steve	School Harvest Festival
	19.00	Lisa	Harvest Festival
Sunday September 30th	Trinity 18		
Noke	10.30	All	United Benefice Service

CLERGY CONTACTS

CLERGY

Church of England contacts:

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

Methodist: Rev Steve Mann (Bicester Methodist Church) 01869 323030

Methodist services: Please consult the website: www.bicestermethodist.org.uk

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

Catholic services: Please consult the website: www.immaculate-conception.org.uk

CHURCHWARDENS

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

ORGANISTS & BELLS

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



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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

DOGS
The Parish Council continues to receive complaints about dog fouling.

We have recently installed a replacement bin in Park Rise and a new bin at the far end of Merton Road.

There is up to a fine of £1000 if you are caught dog fouling.

FLYTIPPING AND POTHOLES
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
Following from concerns raised by some residents about crime in the village, the Parish Council is still seeking volunteers for Neighbourhood Watch. We have a number of people who are interested in becoming co-ordinators, but require additional volunteers. Please contact the Parish Clerk.

ALLOTMENTS AT SPRINGFIELDS
The Parish Council has now received draft documents from Bloor Homes, unfortunately Bloor proposes to include within the transfer land that has been fenced off by residents of Springfields, and a strip of land that will require maintenance, but without any rights to access it. The land that has been fenced has been the subject of a legal dispute. The Parish Council have requested that the title plans are

amended to delete this additional land so that we can move forwards with the land transfer.

WAREHOUSES ON A41
This development is subject to a number of enforcement issues. The Parish Council have been monitoring the development and our District Councillors are requesting a meeting with the planning team to review.

WRETCHWICK GREEN
Wates and Redrow the developers of Wretchwick Green made a presentation to the Parish Council in August, to explain the latest changes to the proposals, including a significant reduction in the amount of commercial floor space. The Parish Council has noted a number of technical concerns including the removal of the newly installed bus stops on the A41. We have also requested a meeting with the planning department, but have not received a response.

PLAYBUS
The Parish Council have agreed to provide a grant to the play bus to enable it to continue visiting Ambrosden.

FIVE ACRES – CHICKENS
The Parish Council has agreed to provide a grant to the Five Acres School, to aid in the replacement of the school chicken coop after all the chickens died after someone broke into the school.

FIVE ACRES – PLAY AREAS
The Parish Council has agreed to provide a grant to the Five Acres School, assist in the replacement and repair of play areas to the nursery. This funding will also be matched from our County Councillor's annual fund.

SPEED SURVEYS
The Parish Council has now compiled the data from a number of speed surveys from 1973

onwards, and has requested that the County Council undertake a number of speed surveys on Blackthorn, Merton and Ploughley Roads, to enable us to analyse changes in traffic flows and speeds in the village over the last 40 years. A meeting has also been requested with Highways to review the existing traffic calming provision.

LITTER

A new litter bin with additional recycling has been ordered to be located near the village shop. The existing litter bin will be repositioned next to Park Rise to replace the damaged litter bin.

Ambrosden Diary

All events in Village Hall unless stated.

Turners Arms Public House- Ambrosden

Bicester Lions – 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month at 8pm - 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)
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)
Contact Simon Charles via Facebook

Girl Guides 6pm till 8 pm
The Silibaravi Centre, Ambrosden
<https://www.girlguiding.org.uk/get-involved/>

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

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.

Yoga 6.30-7.30pm
Contact jadewells@live.co.uk to book.

Wednesday
Bingo
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

Parish Council
Every Third Thursday – 7.30pm

Kebab Van – Costcutter car park -evening

Friday
Rainbows – (age 5-7) – 5-6 pm
[http://www.oxfordshiregirlguiding.org.uk/
index.php/rainbows](http://www.oxfordshiregirlguiding.org.uk/index.php/rainbows)
Brownies Ages 7-10yrs from , 6.30-8pm
www.girlguiding.org.uk/interested

Kebab Van – Costcutter car park -evening

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

Saturday

Kebab Van – Costcutter car park -evening

For any errors or omissions please contact
Mark Longworth - [ambrosden@mlongworth.
co.uk](mailto:ambrosden@mlongworth.co.uk)

AMBROSDEN VILLAGE HALL

FOR BOOKINGS

ANDY & LISA CAMPBELL -

ANDYAMP-AIR@TESCO.NET -

01869 321318

BEST KEBABS

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Wednesday to Saturday

4.00pm

-

10.00pm



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ARNCOTT NEWS

REPORT FROM ARNCOTT VHMC & ACA MEETING 31st JULY & PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 7th AUGUST 2018

Arcott 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 Arcott 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
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 council email address.

TRAFFIC REGULATION NOTICE
ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT, 1984
Notice is hereby given pursuant to Section 14(2) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act, 1984, that the Oxfordshire County Council

TEMPORARILY PROHIBITS THE USE OF
THE HIGHWAY
BY ALL MOTOR VEHICLES

LOCATION: Arcott, Ploughley Road
REASON: To facilitate Micro-Asphalt surfacing

DURATION: Starting on 06th October 2018
The anticipated completion date is 10th October 2018 (Traffic Regulation Notices cover a maximum of 5 consecutive days)

ACCESS: Limited access will be maintained for emergency service vehicles and for frontages within the closed section of road, subject to the progress of the works

SUGGESTED ALTERNATIVE ROUTE:
From Ploughley road to Un-named road to B4011 to Palmer Avenue to Ploughley road and vice-versa.

Woodpiece Road parking
As previously mentioned, the planning application for the phase one car park work

has been approved by the CDC planning committee. CDC are now discussing the financial considerations and doing work to ensure that the planning conditions are complied with. This, unfortunately, means that work is likely to commence sometime during the financial year 2019 / 2020.

Murcott Road Build-out

After just over 2 years from asking OCC to put this in place, construction finally started on August 6th. The build out should be finished by the time you read this.

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

As previously mentioned, the parish council has been exploring the possibility of removing the existing garage adjacent to the village hall and replacing it with a new and bigger building. This would provide for increased storage capacity and changing facilities.

Quotes have now been received for this new building. The Clerk will now send details to Cherwell District Council, and will also make enquiries about whether the parish council requires planning permission for the development.

Speedwatch

Due to the lack of volunteers, this program has been suspended until further notice. Despite asking several times for people to volunteer to help run this program it is disappointing to say that there has been little to no response. If you wish to help with this program then let us know by emailing the parish clerk, the parish email address or by contacting any parish councillor directly. If a sufficient number of people volunteer then the parish council will look to start the program again.

Community emergency response

Following on from the snowstorm and power cut in December of last year, many comments were made about the lack of a suitable action plan to deal with that type of situation. The parish council took those comments on board. As a result, the village hall is now capable of being used as an emergency building should there be a repeat of those weather conditions. A draft action plan has been compiled. However, for the action plan to work a suitable response team needs to be created. A response team cannot be created without a number of people within our community coming forward and volunteering to get involved. Again, it is disappointing to report that no-one seems to be interested in forming or becoming part of such an action group. 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.

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 date for the design workshop is 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 be cancelled and the design will be left up to the artist. If you would like any of your ideas to possibly be incorporated into the design then please let us know that you want to attend the workshop on September 15th. We would like ideas from all age groups.

Community Play Bus scheme

The community play bus visits our village on Tuesdays between 1:00pm and 2:30pm. The bus parks up next to the village hall and offers free play and support sessions / stay & play for children aged up to 5 years old along with parents and carers. The parish council has been informed that the scheme is popular with a number of our village residents. However, the operators of the scheme have appealed for financial help so that this community resource can keep operating. The parish council consider that this scheme is of much value to our community and has therefore decided to make a donation to the scheme of £500 towards the appeal fund.

Village Hall public address system

The parish council and the VHMC previously

decided that a suitable PA system should be installed in the village hall. Peter Forrest (VHMC secretary) has been and still is doing research into what would be the best option and what the costs would be.

Seats

The parish council will look at making arrangements to replace the two broken seats at the playing field and to repair the seat in the corner of the village green next to Green Lane.

Football field fencing

A method for stopping people driving vehicles onto the football pitch and causing damage to the playing surface will be implemented. A quotation of £6,667 + VAT was received by the parish council for the installation of additional fencing from the end of the village hall playground to the back fences of the gardens in Hopcraft Close. The parish council therefore decided to investigate what cheaper options are available. So far, the possibility of using concrete bollards (as used around the War Memorial Garden) looks to be a much cheaper alternative.

Oxford / Cambridge Expressway

The Government is proposing to construct 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 and www.cprexon.org.uk/news/current-news/item/2648-public-inquiry-ox-cam-expressway.

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

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, they are, currently, 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

It is pleasing to report that the road markings through the village have been renewed and some of the pot holes in Lower Arcott have been repaired. However, we are still waiting to be

advised as to when the pot holes in Woodpiece Road will be fixed. Non-working streetlights have been reported. Please do help us out by reporting any road / pavement / street light issues on Fix My Street. This is how we report them and it is very easy to do.

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.

Summer Fete

The fete was held at the hall and playing field on the afternoon of Sunday 15th July. We are pleased to report that the amount raised by the activities and the Annual Draw amounted to just over £1100, thanks to everyone who helped and came along. Less pleasing was the reception that some of our volunteers received when selling raffle tickets, we understand if you do not wish to buy but there is no need to be unpleasant to people who are giving up their time to raise funds to help keep the hall viable for the community.

Committee Members

The present committee has been in place for a number of years and there is a need for new members with new ideas. The committee and the ACA are both being restructured and this is good opportunity for younger residents to get involved and take the organisations forward.

Future Events

The ACA will be holding a Race Night in the Autumn, date to be confirmed.

Projects and Improvements

The current round is nearly complete, with redecoration of the disabled toilet due in September

Ska Martial Arts Tang Soo Doo.

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

Dance Fitness

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

Craft Club Every Thursday

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

Scout group

The Scouts meet on Fridays, 7.00 to 9.00 pm, and the Cubs meet on Wednesdays, 5.15 to 6.45 pm, both in term times only.

Arncott Friendship Club

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

300 Club winners

54 D Pay

264 A Rennison

167 B Eddie

166 A Hodgson

143 R Jones

If anyone is interested and would like to start

or rejoin the 300 Club, please contact Wendy Wilkins by email at Arncott300club@gmail.com.

Material required for the parish magazine please.

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

Arncott Community Association (ACA)

There will be an open meeting of the ACA on at 13th September at 1 30 pm in Arncott Village Hall. If you are interested in becoming a member of the committee, part of our team of volunteers or you just want to know what the ACA is then please come and join us.

The ACA is an organisation which has existed for 30 years serving the villages of Upper and Lower Arncott. It exists to raise funds for charitable activities within the two villages. Currently we have a small group who take great pleasure in delivering the popular Seniors and Childrens christmas parties. Both are funded with monies raised from within the community by the ACA.

If you ever had a conversation that started 'I wish they had a in the Village' then bring the idea to the meeting. It might be a youth activity; mother and toddler group, fundraising ideas or any other idea which brings benefit to the community.

If you cannot attend the meeting but wish to submit an idea for discussion then please e-mail me at arcottcatreasurer@gmail.com

Kaye Forrest

Arncott Community Association

Treasurer



The Bulletin Board

Ray Valley Benefice For September 2018

- | | |
|----------------------|---|
| Sat 1 st | - 10am The Pantry, Piddington |
| Wed 5 th | - 10am Holy Communion, Ambrosden |
| Fri 7 th | - 10.30am Tiny Tots, Fencot |
| Sat 8 th | - Ride & Stride, across the Benefice |
| Sat 15 th | - 10.30 Coffee Morning, Charlton |
| Wed 19 th | - 10am Holy Communion, Charlton |
| Fri 21 st | - 9.30am ABC for pre-schoolers, Islip |
| Sat 22 nd | - 7pm Curry & Quiz Night, Noke |
| Sun 23 rd | - 6pm Harvest Festival & Supper, Oddington
- 10 for 10.30 Café Church, Islip |
| Mon 24 th | - 10am school Harvest Festival, Charlton |

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



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BLACKTHORN NEWS

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

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 Vacancies

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. We have 2 open positions.

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

Update on Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS)

The Parish Council is pleased to advise that both VAS speed warning signs are now fully operational in the village. After the winter months we had several operational issues that have now been resolved. In July we were able

to procure the correct equipment and software necessary to obtain data from the signs and Cllr Rue will be collecting the data ready for analysis in the coming months.

New Parish Council Website Coming Soon
To ensure the Parish Council complies with all new GDPR regulations imposed in May of this year we are currently in the process of setting up a new Parish Council website and email addresses for all of the councillors and clerk.

Our thanks go to Lee Butler who helped us set up and has been helping to maintain the current site to date.

Blackthorn Classic Car Show

The third Blackthorn Classic Car Show will be held in the centre of Blackthorn on Sunday 2nd September 2018. With registrations expected to exceed 250 classic vehicles including cars, lorries, bikes, tractors and military vehicles, we are confident that there will something for all classic vehicle enthusiasts.

But the BCCS is not just for ‘petrolheads’. There is far more besides with attractions and activities to appeal to all the family. Once again we have the amazing ‘Real Rally Experience’ kindly provided by Major Motor Sport, the ‘Piston Head’ licensed bar, the ever popular Blackthorn home baked cake and tea stall, childrens attractions, Mr Les Harris’s wonderful restored Gavioli fairground organ, an eclectic choice of trade and craft stands and a wide selection of food concessions.

This year we are delighted to welcome Fred MacAulay, star of comedy on national radio a

and TV, as our Celebrity Guest. Fred will spend much of the day at the Show and will award the show prizes.

There will be a clearly signed free off-road public car park and designated disabled parking. Prices have not been increased and remain at £5 for adults and £10 for a family ticket (2 adults and 2 children).

We are urgently seeking volunteers to help set up on Saturday 1st September and to help at the event on Sunday. If you are able to spare a couple of hours please drop John Henderson a line at j_henderson@btinternet.com. If you would like to consider sponsoring a vehicle prize or a barrel of beer with a colour advert

in the program please email leenewlands@me.com

Proceeds will be divided between The Hummingbird Cancer Support and Therapy Centre in Launton and local community projects.

For full and ongoing information visit www.blackthornclassiccarshow.co.uk and see us on our facebook page; Blackthorn Classic Car show.

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.

Blackthorn Parish Council

Clerk to the Council: Tracey Charlesworth

North End House
Blackbull Lane
Fencott
Kidlington
OX5 2RD.

Email: clerkblackthornpc@gmail.com

01865 331481

NOTICE OF VACANCY IN OFFICE OF PARISH COUNCILLOR

PARISH OF BLACKTHORN

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to section 87(2) of the Local Government Act 1972, that **Diane Procopiou** has ceased to be a member of Blackthorn Parish Council, and that a vacancy now exists in the office of Councillor for the said Parish Council.

In accordance with the Local Elections Rules an election to fill the vacancy shall be held if, within 14 days after the date of this notice (**i.e. no later than 16 August 2018**), a request for an election to fill the said vacancy is made in writing to the **Returning Officer, Cherwell District Council, Bodicote House, Bodicote, Banbury OX15 4AA** by **TEN electors** for the said Parish.

In the event that no such request is received by **16 August 2018** the vacancy will be filled by co-option.

Yvonne Rees
Returning Officer

Dated: 30 July 2018.

Note: In computing the fourteen days Saturdays, Sundays, day of Christmas break, of the Easter break or of a bank holiday or day appointed for public thanksgiving or mourning are disregarded.



2018 at Blackthorn Village Hall

EVENTS

Sat 15th Sep - October Fest

Sat 27th Oct - Kid's Halloween Party

Sat 20th Oct - Film Night

Sat 17th Nov - Quiz Night

Sun 2nd Dec - Christmas Carols

🍷 *Pub Night - 7.30 pm* 🍷

☕ *Coffee Morning*

11 am

Fri 29th Jun

Fri 27th Jul

Thu 5th Jul

Thu 2nd Aug

Fri 28th Sep

Fri 26th Oct

Thu 6th Sep

Thu 4th Oct

Fri 30th Nov

Fri 21st Dec

Thu 1st Nov

Thu 6th Dec

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

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

The Parish Council meetings schedule has now been changed to once every two months – next one is on Monday 17th September 2018 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

FREE FILM SHOW IN MERTON VILLAGE HALL: THURSDAY 20 SEPTEMBER

The first in our 2018/19 ‘season’ of FREE films – open to ALL residents of Merton and neighbouring villages – will be shown in the Village Hall at 7.30 pm on Thursday, 20 September.

Mamma Mia! is a 2008 musical romantic comedy based on the songs of pop group ABBA, starring Meryl Streep, Pierce Brosnan, Colin Firth, Stellan Skarsgård and Julie Walters.

As usual, there’ll be (free!) tea/coffee and biscuits afterwards. And if you fancy a glass of beer or wine during the film, please feel free to bring your own!

The provisional programme of films for the rest of the ‘season’ is as follows: 18 October I Daniel Blake (2016), 15 November Dunkirk (2017), 20 December The Lunchbox (2013), 17 January The Railway Man (2013), 21 February The Darkest Hour (2017), 21 March Eddie The Eagle (2016) and 18 April Churchill (2017).

Please send suggestions of suitable future films to 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 Lawrence on telephone number 01865 331429

Merton News Collector

Merton Village Hall Bookings

If you would like to book the Merton Village hall for any special events, please contact Wendy Meads either by email wendymeads@yahoo.co.uk or telephone 01865 331766.

Why not join Ramblers?

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

For more information contact Mary

goutur@tiscali.co.uk



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SELF-STORAGE



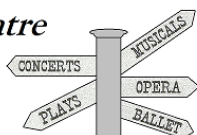
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Email: gjplumbing@hotmail.com

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September 29th

October 27th

November 24th

No sale in December

REFRESHMENTS
FREE ADMISSION

Organiser: Graham Kirby 01865 371494
grahamkirby316@gmail.com



Ukulele Night!

With Ukolade

Friday **28** September

Bar opens at 6.30 pm, music begins at 7.30 pm

Piddington Village Hall, Ludgershall Rd,
Piddington, Oxfordshire OX25 1PU

Tickets £5.00

From:

Kim 07969 197634; kim.elliott9@icloud.com

Chris specman53@yahoo.com

Andrew 01844 237582; andrew@ajcoleman.plus.com

Ken 01869 320950; kenhowardc10@gmail.com

or

any member of the Village Hall Committee

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PIDDINGTON NEWS

PIDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 18th September 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 under reviewed are: 18/01314/F and 18/01230/F

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

VILLAGE EMAIL UPDATES

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

Sadly, Piddington was not successful in obtaining a grant from Calor towards the cost of the Trim Trail for the playing field. However, applications have now been submitted with WREN and Tesco's Bags of Help. Fingers crossed... There are now two half size goals at the playing field which will stay on site until the weather turns. OCC have agreed to install two road safety signs at the entrances to the playing field and Widnell Park to help calm driving along this stretch of road. And finally, a replacement bin for Widnell Park has been

purchased and will be installed shortly.

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. This would be a paid position based on an hourly rate. If you are interested or can recommend someone please contact the Parish Clerk.

AUTUMN LITTERBLITZ

Saturday 8th September @ 10.30 from the village hall carpark. Please give up an hour of your day to help tidy the village and clear verges. The more volunteers that come the easier the task and the more we can get done!

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. If you would like to apply for an allotment, please contact John Galloway: jmg.galloway@gmail.com

DOG POO BINS

Cherwell DC are responsible for the emptying of bins which should be happening on a weekly basis during the summer. However, if you notice that bins are overly full you can contact Cherwell directly and the bin should be emptied within 24 hours. To report a full or damaged bin use Cherwell's website link <https://www.cherwell.gov.uk/info/193/dogs/396/dog-bins>, call 01295 227007 or contact the parish clerk.

Can dogwalkers please deal with dog poo along the Arncott Road (en route to the playing field) and Marsh Gibbon Road rather than leave it on the roadside or in the verges.

OXFORD – CAMBRIDGE EXPRESSWAY

Details of the preferred corridor have been delayed and are expected to be announced in September. Piddington and its neighbours could

be affected by either route B or C. It is expected that 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 a decision has been made.

SEVEN STARS PUBLIC HOUSE

Thanks to all of you who wrote to voice your concerns regarding the review of the ACV on the pub. All views have been submitted to Cherwell for their consideration.

RURAL POLICING

The Bicester Rural Resilience Group meeting to be held in Piddington on 5th September has been cancelled due to the refurbishment of the kitchen. However, you can contact the police directly if you have any concerns or wish to report suspicious behaviour or vehicles (email BicesterRuralNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk).

The NFU and Crimestoppers have also launched a new rural crime reporting line as part of the NFU's ongoing work to tackle the serious issues surrounding criminal behaviour on farms and in the wider countryside. Contact 0800 7830137 or visit www.ruralcrimereportingline.uk.

ROAD-CALMING MEASURES FOR THE VILLAGE

The Parish Council has been successful in obtaining a grant towards the purchase of white gates from our County Councillor's Community Fund. Requests for funding the difference have also been made to our district councillor. The Vehicle Activated Sign should now be operational. It will be sited on the

Arcott Road for the time being whilst new brackets are being made when it will then rotate between the four entrances and Widnell Park. The sign sends warning messages to drivers and collects data on speeds in and out of the village.

EMERGENCY PLAN AND SSE RESILIENCE FUND

The emergency planning team have agreed to the purchase of two generators, using the grant money from SSE, which will be stored at the village hall. One to be used to power the hall in the event of a serious power outage and the other available to move to locations around the village should it be needed. 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

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 200 CLUB JUNE/JULY WINNERS

Drawn at Village Hall Pop-Up Pub on Friday 29 June.

- | | | |
|------|------|-------------------|
| 1st. | 072. | Ian Phillips |
| 2nd. | 128. | Cynthia Cook |
| 3rd. | 191. | Samantha Phillips |
| 4th. | 165 | Peter Maynard |

Drawn at Village Hall Pop-Up Pub on 3 August 2018.

- | | | |
|------|------|---------------|
| 1st. | 097. | Herbie Owen |
| 2nd. | 130. | Tony Tomlin |
| 3rd | 182. | Mike McKenzie |
| 4th. | 018. | Joyce Bayliss |

The subs for year 2018/2019 have been collected. There are a few we were not able to get, but notes were left. If you are among these and you would like to carry on, please ring 01844 238707 or put your payment in my letter box or the safe locked postbox at the village hall. If we don't hear from you, your number will be returned to the Spares. Thank you. Yvonne Weavers.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

All at the village hall apart from the Picnic.

1st September – The Pantry Autumn Market & Art Exhibition 10-2pm

16th September – ‘Picnic in the Park’ & fun dog show 12-3pm at the playing field

28th September – Ukulele Night! Doors & bar open 6.30pm; music from 7.30pm

6th October – Apple Day and Harvest Supper

26th October – Halloween Pop-Up Pub – fancy dress optional

1st December – The Pantry Christmas Market 10-2pm

14th December – Village Christmas drinks

VILLAGE HALL REFURBISHMENT

The village hall kitchen is being dismantled on Sunday 2nd September, in preparation for the refurbishment. The work is due to start on 3rd September and expected to take 4 weeks to complete. During this period, kitchen crockery, utensils and equipment will be boxed up for storage. A table with kettle etc. will be left out for regular users of the hall.

CHILDREN’S PLAY AREA

A group of parents have now taken over responsibility for the play area behind the village hall, and the current climbing frame is expected to be removed in September. The group would like to hear from villagers regarding the type of equipment they would like to see installed (the maximum age being 6-8 years). Olivia Barrett has started to work on a plan for grant submissions and would like to hear from all those parents and grandparents who have used, or continue to use, the facility. Also, it would be very helpful, if you have the time, to put a few comments in writing about why you think the playground matters and what it means to you and the village. These sorts of comments can be included in any grant applications we may make, and can help increase the chances of a successful bid. You can either write to Olivia, at 21 Ludgershall Road, or email her on

olivia_329@hotmail.com.

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. You may recall that the Easter market was filmed by Tiz Ashton for a college project. She’s done a remarkable job. View it on The Pantry blog via the following link: <https://bit.ly/2w4bt7A> or in the Piddington on Film playlist (see below).

NEW PILATES CLASS

Starts on Thursday 13th September, 6.45-7.45pm, £6.50/class. The first is a paid taster for people to try, then future classes to be block booked. Either contact Kim Elliott in advance (07969 197634; kim.elliott9@icloud.com) or turn up on the evening.

‘PICNIC IN THE PARK’

On Sunday 16th September from 12 to 3pm at the playing field there will be a picnic, fun dog show and kickabout football between adults & kids. Portaloo will be available. £1 per entry for the fun dog show which is going towards the Playground. We want all dog owners and their dogs to attend!

UKULELE NIGHT!

They’re back! Ukolade will be doing their stuff again on 28th September in the village hall. Doors & bar open 6.30pm; music from 7.30pm. Tickets £5, available from Kim 07969 197634; kim.elliott9@icloud.com; Chris specman53@yahoo.com; Andrew 01844 237582; andrew@ajcoleman.plus.com; Ken 01869 320950; kenhowardc10@gmail.com or any village hall committee member.

PIDDINGTON ON FILM

Two videos have been added to this YouTube playlist: last year’s Barn Dance and Ukulele

Night! Relive the excitement here: <https://bit.ly/2B2M3wW>

IN SEARCH OF ASTER 'PIDDINGTON PURPLE'

Matt Killick grew up in Brill and is interested in conserving old varieties of plants. One of these is a Michaelmas Daisy, Aster Novae-Angliae 'Piddington Purple' which is local to this area. Whilst he has no photographs a local nursery plant catalogue from 1997 describes the plant as a semi-double flower of rich purple, growing to 4ft. Can you help him with his search? Please contact Matt directly on his email matt.killick@gmail.com.

KEEPING IN TOUCH

Village emails:

Register on the Piddington website

Piddington village website:

www.piddingtonvillageoxfordshire.org.uk

Piddington village Facebook page:

www.facebook.com/piddingtonoxfordshire

Piddington Swap Shop Facebook page:

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

Twitter:

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

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

The Pantry blog:

piddingtonpantry.wordpress.com

Piddington Craft and Social Club is starting again on Wednesday October 3rd. We meet each week in the village hall from 10.30-12.30 to share our arts/craft ideas and would welcome new people this term. Just pop in and see what we do or look on our village website for photos www.piddingtonvillageoxfordshire.org.uk/information-centre.html
Cost £4 includes coffee.
Contact Maggie Pearce 01844237688 for more information.

Many thanks
Maggie



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OTMOOR GARDEN SOCIETY

I have been wondering what sort of weather is perfect for gardeners? Certainly not the heat and drought we are experiencing at the moment. Our delphiniums have drooped, our french beans have frazzled, our lupins have lolloped and our salad leaves have shrivelled. I have been considering my rain dance, but then again once it starts raining it never stops, and anyway it really isn't a pretty sight! So in answer to my own question, I think 20-21 deg C in the day, sunshine with a light breeze, and cooling rain overnight – perfect – but we aren't a fussy lot!

Our June speaker, Thomas Stone, gave advice on Plants for Small Gardens. Lots of scribbling going on during his talk, people taking notes! I am assuming from this you found it an informative evening.

It was a lovely evening for our visit to Pettifers, a private garden near Banbury. Planted in the style of the new perennial movement, a la Piet Oudolf, there were some unusual plants and great combinations. The light was also good for photography. It turned out to be one of our member's 70th birthday, so nice to drink a toast to him, and a very sociable evening all round.

Perhaps we should have had our Photography Workshop before we visited Pettifers. Wow – Clive Bournell had so much information to fill our minds with for composing better pictures and taking better garden photographs. A lot to take in, and a lot to go away and practice with. Surprisingly we took very few pictures on the day, and most of those taken were for

teaching tools, showing different effects of the position of the sun, or the height of the camera. A thought provoking day indeed. Position yourself and the camera in the correct place and the results can be magical.

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.

We return on 25th September when Chris Day will be proving there is 'A Bulb for every Season'. We have had several talks from Chris in the past, he is from Buckingham nurseries and is always a reliable speaker. His talk will explore the whole world of bulbs, including planting, displaying, associating with other plants, and growing them in your gardens. The talk is prop driven with plenty of practical stuff as well.

Just to give you prior warning, this meeting will also see the judging of the geranium competition for this year's OGS cup. Do remember to bring your entries along, which I just know will be looking fabulous by then, and hopefully we will get Chris to judge it for us. Mine is looking rather wobbly and still has no sign of a flower, so it's all to play for... I'm off to talk to it now

Happy Gardening and enjoy the rest of the summer,
 Judith Rawlinson
 For more details, or to join, contact Brian Eadle
 on 01865 331472
 www.otmoorgardensociety.org.uk or find us on
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BUS TIMETABLES

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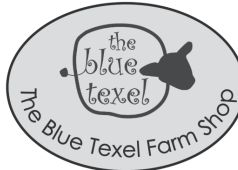
Oxford St Giles (Stop C5)	16:10	17:10	18:10
Gosford, o/s Kings Arms PH	16:30	17:30	18:30
Islip, opp The Red Lion PH	16:35	17:35	18:35
Oddington, opp Glebe Barn Bus Shelter	16:40	17:40	18:40
Charlton-on-Otmoor, opp Bus Garage	16:45	17:45	18:45
Merton, o/s The Plough Inn PH	16:50	17:50	18:50
Ambrosden,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

Ear Trouble

It never ceases to amaze me the dedication of pet owners to their beloved companions. Just this week I've been dealing with a 75kg St Bernard called Chi (pronounced Kai) who has suffered from bad ears for some time. His ears had got so bad that he was constantly shaking his head. They were infected with a nasty bacteria and were so sore he wouldn't allow his owners to medicate them. We had tried everything we could to treat the ears and there seemed to be little hope of relieving his distress.

In these cases, a last resort is to perform a radical surgery to remove the ear canals totally which takes away all the infected tissue. This type of operation is time consuming, expensive and not without risks; but the result can be life changing for both the dog & their owners.

The next issue is anaesthetising a dog which weighs nearly as much as I do, then transporting the sleeping dog from the prep table to the operating table and back to the kennel afterwards. You know you've earned a small beverage after you've done that sort of lifting, with a few hours of operating in between.

So, in this case we performed the radical surgery on the worst ear a few months ago. After an up & down recovery, things have now healed fully and the infection has finally been cleared up. So

this week I operated on his second ear. After the big ordeal Chi had already been through, you might expect him to be a bit anxious but not this big fella. He looked so excited to see me in the morning that he nearly knocked me over and couldn't wait to greet everyone out the back in the hospital. His enthusiasm and good nature seem to add to the pressure to get the surgery just right so as to give him the quality of life he deserves.

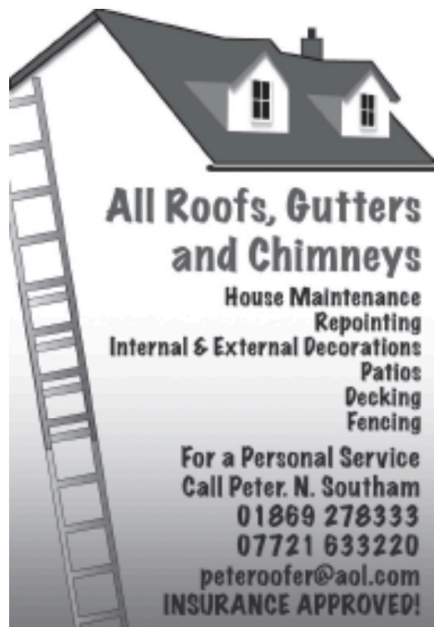


I'm glad to say that the operation went well and, after one night in hospital to ensure he was as comfortable as possible post-op, Chi has gone home. So now we wait to see

how things go - there is a high risk of wound infection and delayed healing due to the nature of the surgical site, but I know his owners are dedicated to getting him right so we're full of optimism.

The next few weeks may be tricky as Chi's wounds heal & the last of the infection settles down. I trust all will be well and know that his owners will be extremely grateful for what we have done regardless of the outcome. I look forward to seeing Chi again soon and will ensure I am prepared for his 75kg bulk running at me to say hello!

Enjoy your pets
Jason Williams
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OTMOOR WOMANS INSTITUTE

Freelance writer and author, Sylvia Vetta was the speaker at the August meeting of Otmoor WI. For many years a contributor to the Oxford Times Limited Edition magazine, she spoke of her Oxford Castaways whose stories originally appeared in the journal. Sylvia was one of those who helped set up the Jam Factory antiques centre in Oxford and initially wrote on antiques before turning her attention to objects held dear by others. Unlike on the BBC Desert Island her castaways were asked to choose an object they would love to have with them on the island of Oxtopia, the fictional island for the series. The objects and the stories behind them were as varied as the people she interviewed. At first the emphasis was on the objects themselves but after interviewing Bill Heine from BBC Oxford, the lives of the castaways themselves came to dominate. Other castaways included Colin Dexter, creator of Inspector Morse and Sir Roger Bannister and his wife, Moira, herself a notable artist.

Members were then asked to consider two objects to take for themselves to Oxtopia, one practical and the other inspirational. After lively discussion the lists were read out and there was little duplication in the choice of practical items. The inspirational lists showed a creative influence with materials to create art and music prominent. As recorded music was banned musical instruments seemed a good choice.

Sylvia answered many questions and discussions continued as refreshments provided by Alison, Lynn and Sue were

enjoyed. Members had the chance to vote on the competition for a luxury item to take to the island, with a pack of cards chosen by Ann Lucas proving to be the most popular choice with several others tied in second and third places.

The business of the evening included an update on the Pop-up café being run in Charlton Community Hall during August, a report on the first year of the Recording Life group and reminders of upcoming WI and community events including the Annual Produce Show.

The speaker at the next meeting on September 11th will be Mike Brook with a talk entitled "Musings from the Amateur Stage." Coffee, Craft and Cake resumes after its summer break on September 20th.

Dates for the diary

CCH = Charlton Community Hall

MVH – Murcott Village Hall

September 11th – Musings From the Amateur Stage Mike Brook (CCH)

September 20th – Coffee, Craft and Cake (MVH)

October 9th – Graphology Sandra Grayson (CCH)

October 18th – Coffee, Craft and Cake (MVH)

November 13th – Fishy Tales and Eccentric Customers Kevin Little

November 15th – Coffee, Craft and Cake

For further details or any queries contact Virginia on 01865 331 521

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Advertising: Russell Thompson rthom91543@aol.com 01869 246093

Village News Collectors:

Ambrosden Wendy Cheeseman wendy@plantalittlemagic.co.uk

Arcott Marion Moore 01869 253600 marionmoore20@btinternet.com

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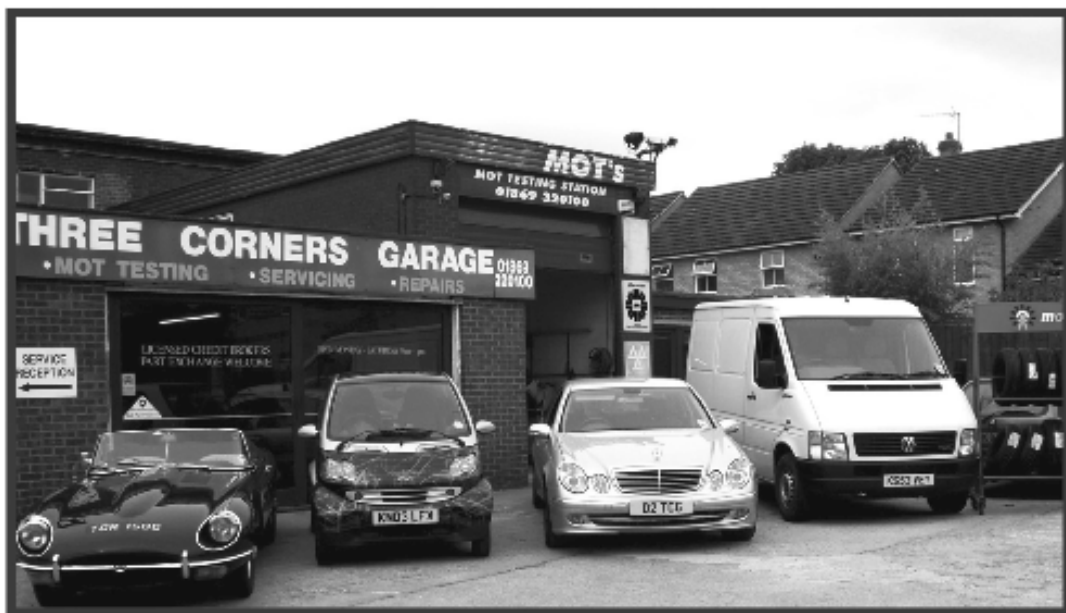


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