

PARISH MATTERS



OCTOBER 2018

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

VILLAGE VIEWS & LOCAL NEWS



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Welcome to the October 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

A new journey, back to where it all started!

As many of you will know Matt and I have now moved to Charlton-on-Otmoor and I am very excited to still be with the Benefice, where for me the whole journey to faith started. It started in Charlton 26 years ago with a knock on the door from the deacon, Judith Mount. It doesn't seem that long ago I told her I would come to church once and if I didn't like it I would not come again. Well, who said God doesn't have a sense of humour!!! On the 2nd of October I will be licenced in that same church and living in the very house Judith lived in!

Over the years there have been frustrations and challenges but these feelings have been outnumbered by the blessing I have received from the wonderful people in our churches with whom I have worshiped and worked.

Since my ordination I have baptised babies that cry, babies who have slept through the whole event, twins, and I have even christened a father and daughter in the same service. What a joy! Baptism is such a wonderful occasion in which the child or adult is welcomed and received into the church and it is the start of a wonderful journey with God.

I have officiated at weddings which are such a blessing and I can't wait to see what everyone will be wearing and how imaginative they have been in their planning. I have had brides who have arrived by horse and carriage and in vintage motors - even one in an old fire engine. These days are joyous days and sometimes the weather plays ball and sometimes it does not, but that doesn't matter. It is a time of prayer and support for the couple as they start their

new journey together.

Funerals are always a real honour to officiate at, and you find that people have lead such interesting lives as the family share details about their loved one with the congregation. I have been surprised many a time by what I didn't know about somebody I thought I knew rather well. Yes, like the other two services, funerals are a journey, but not to the end of the road! For Jesus came to tell us about eternal life and gave his life so that we may receive it. So death is not the end from a Christian perspective but a new beginning.

I have been a chaplain in the local prisons and also with the Army - both of which I enjoyed even if they are both very different.

When you decide to 'climb on board with the Lord' you may appear to have gone around in a full circle, as I have, right back to the very place I started but it has never been dull and always a lot of fun.

I am looking forward to carrying on my journey within the Benefice I love and that I believe God has called me to. For with God ever increasing circles are possible.

I offer the same invite that Judith did all those years ago if you are not a regular church-goer: come along and see for yourself what a life in Christ is all about. I can guarantee you that life will never be the same. For it is never where you start but where you finish that is important. I am looking forward to God saying one day "You have reached your final destination"

Rev Lisa Holmes

CHURCH SERVICES OCT..

RAY VALLEY SERVICES October 2018

Draft 1

| Church | Time | Leader | Service |
|--------------------------------------|-------|---------------------|--|
| Friday October 5th | | | |
| Islip | 14.00 | Lucy | School Harvest Festival |
| Sunday October 7th | | | |
| | | Trinity 19 | Genesis 2.18-24 Hebrews 1.1-4;2.5-12 Mark 10.2-16 |
| Ambrosden | 10.30 | Brian | Holy Communion - Brian Mountford |
| | 18.30 | Steve | The Xtra One |
| Merton | 09.00 | Steve | Holy Communion |
| Piddington | 10.30 | Steve | Family Service - Harvest |
| Islip | 10.30 | Lucy | Harvest Communion |
| Noke | 17.00 | Lucy | Family Service - Harvest |
| Charlton | 10.30 | Lisa | Family Service |
| Sunday October 14th | | | |
| | | Trinity 20 | Amos 5.6-7,10-15 Hebrews 4.12-end Mark 10.17-31 |
| Ambrosden | 10.30 | Steve | Family Service - Harvest |
| Merton | 18.00 | Steve | Harvest Service |
| Piddington | 9.00 | Steve | Holy Communion |
| Islip | 10.30 | Lucy | Parish Communion |
| Woodeaton | 9.15 | Lucy | Harvest Festival |
| Charlton | 09.00 | Lisa | Holy Communion |
| | 18.00 | Cover | Evening Prayer |
| Oddington | 10.30 | Lisa | Holy Communion |
| Sunday October 21st | | | |
| | | Trinity 21 | Isaiah 53.4-end Hebrews 5.1-10 Mark 10.35-45 |
| Ambrosden | 10.30 | Lisa | Holy Communion |
| Merton | 09.00 | Lisa | Holy Communion |
| Piddington | 18.00 | Steve | Evening Prayer |
| Islip | 10.30 | Steve | Parish Communion |
| Woodeaton | 09.15 | Lucy | Holy Communion |
| Charlton | 10.30 | Lucy | Family Communion |
| Sunday October 28th | | | |
| | | Bible Sunday | Isaiah 55.1-11 2 Timothy 3.14- 4.5 John 5.36b-end |
| Ambrosden | 10.30 | Lay | Morning Prayer |
| Merton | 10.30 | Glenys | Family Service |
| Piddington | 9.00 | Lisa | Holy Communion |
| Islip | 10.30 | Lucy | Family Service & SC |
| Charlton | 9.00 | Steve | Holy Communion |
| Oddington | 18.00 | Steve | Evening Prayer |

*For churches with Harvest services feel free to use Harvest readings

CLERGY CONTACTS

CLERGY

Church of England contacts:

| | |
|--|--------------|
| Rev Steve Hayes (Rector Ray Valley Benefice) | 01869 247813 |
| Rev Lisa Holmes (Ambrosden, Merton and Piddington) | 01865 331279 |
| 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

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

CHILDRENS POSTER COMPETITION, BAG IT AND BIN IT

In conjunction with Five Acres School, the Parish Council will be launching a poster competition for all school children under the age of 12 who live in the village or go to Five Acres School, to create the best poster combatting dog waste around the village. The posters will be placed around the village, and the winners will also be able to name the dog waste bins. Here are a few ideas for starters - Richard The Third, and Doggy McDogFace. Remember, there is up to a fine of £1000 if you are caught dog fouling.

FLYTIPPING AND POTHOLE

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.

FIVE ACRES – CHICKENS

The new chick run has been installed in a new location at Five Acres school, the parents of the school are to be congratulated for their fund raising efforts and the Parish Council was delighted to make a modest donation to assist.

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, however this work is now being delayed until the proposals for the new classrooms at Five Acres are finalised.

HIGHWAYS

The Parish Council is awaiting a meeting with the County Council Highways Team, in relation to the proposals to replace the railings on the north side of Ploughley Road, the state of Merton Road, grit bins for Ambrosden Court and Springfields, speed surveys and to install a piece of missing footpath on Merton Road by the bus stop.

Due to the level of complaints about vehicles driving along the footway on Ploughley Road adjacent the school, it is proposed to install bollards in the footway, and residents will be encouraged to apply for dropped kerbs to achieve direct access to their properties where required.

It is an offence under Section 72 of the Highway Act to drive along the footway, and residents of Ploughley Road have previously received letters from the Community Police Officers about this issue.

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.

OXFORD TO CAMBRIDGE EXPRESS WAY

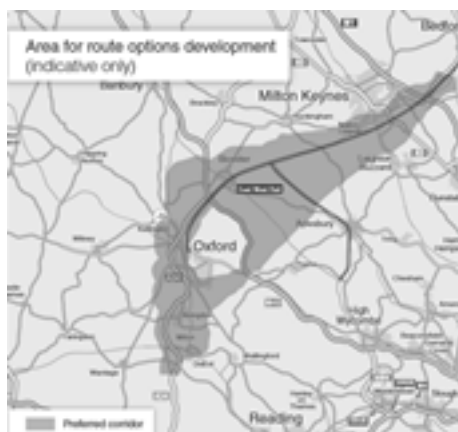
The proposals for the east west express way previously promoted as the Euro Route from Southampton to Felixstow in the early 1990's

have been revived, and Oxford to Milton Keynes is now the missing link in the route between the A43 and the A421 dual carriageway which starts at M1 J13.

While Otmoor has now been saved, the route options include the Ray Valley which could hugely impact on the environmentally sensitive Ray Valley and villages. All local Parish Councils will be meeting at the beginning of October to see how we can work together.

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

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 Arncott Scouts
Scouts - 7-9pm
Arncott Village Hall

Saturday
Kebab Van – Costcutter car park -evening
For any errors or omissions please contact
Mark Longworth - [ambrosden@mlongworth.
co.uk](mailto:ambrosden@mlongworth.co.uk)

AMBROSDEN VILLAGE HALL

FOR BOOKINGS

ANDY & LISA CAMPBELL -

ANDYAMP-AIR@TESCO.NET -

01869 321318

BEST KEBABS

Ambrosden village car park
(Beside Costcutter)

Wednesday to Saturday

4.00pm

-

10.00pm



Mime Performance

Islip Village Hall

Steve Murray



As seen in 18 nations in conferences, churches, schools, missions, theatres and prisons.

7 – 8.30 pm. **Friday, October 12th**

Adults £6 Children £4 Concessions £5
tickets at the door or can be ordered in advance at
tickets@rayvalleybenefice.com

Live family entertainment from an international mime artist. Suitable for Yr 6 upwards – Steve does not appear in a white-painted face and performs to contemporary music exploring a wide variety of topics. Thought-provoking and entertaining.

All welcome. Refreshments provided.

Brought to you by Ray Valley Benefice

JOULES SECONDS

IMPERFECT CATALOGUE RETURNS
AND SAMPLES

Five Acres Primary School

Key stage 1 hall

Thursday 18th October 6pm – 8pm

Tickets £5.00



For tickets or queries: please contact fiveacresptfa@gmail.com with name, address, phone number and number of tickets required and we will be in touch.



Come and join us!

Stay, Play & Learn Sessions 0-5 yrs

Ambrosden Village Hall (OX25 2LW) and St Mary's Church and Garden (OX25 2UJ)

9.30 – 11.00 am Mondays and Thursdays (term time)

£2.50 + £1.00 for extra sibling

Messy Play ... Make Friends ... Baby explore ... Rhyme time ... and much more!

Facebook: Ambrosden4Children

Are you free on a Monday/Thursday morning during term time 9.30 – 11.00 am?

Do you like to support your local community?

Do you like to socialise?

We would welcome volunteers on a rota to make drinks, serve our healthy snacks, and tidy up in the kitchen for our local group of young children and parents/carers.

Please contact Rosie on 01869 247813 for details.

ARNCOTT NEWS

REPORT FROM ARNCOTT VHMC & ACA
MEETING 28th AUGUST & PARISH
COUNCIL MEETING 4th SEPTEMBER
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. If you have any issues that you would like to raise, then please come to the meeting, contact a parish councillor or send an email to the parish clerk or the parish council email address.

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

Closure of Ploughley Road
OCC have advised the parish council that the Ploughley Road from Ambrosden to Lower Arcott / Palmer Avenue roundabout will be closed from October 6th to October 10th so that micro-asphalt surfacing work can be done to the road. The detour route advised to get to Ambrosden / Bicester is along Palmer Avenue, turn left onto the B4011 Thame Road, turn left into Ambrosden, drive past the bottom entrance to Five Acres School and turn right at the junction. Limited access will be maintained for emergency vehicles and for frontages within the closed section of the road subject to the progress of the works.

Woodpiece Road parking

No further updates have been received from CDC. As previously mentioned, the phase 1 work is likely to commence sometime during the financial year 2019 / 2020.

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 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

The parish council has written to CDC to ask if the grant money can be used to provide a new building next to the village hall and, if yes, would planning permission be required. The new building would provide additional storage and changing room facilities. The parish council is waiting for CDC to reply.

Speedwatch

If you wish to help with this program then please let us know by emailing the parish clerk or the parish email address. Due to the GDPR regulations, the parish council will need your permission in writing in order for your contact details to be kept on record.

Community emergency response

Again, the parish council would ask you to consider volunteering for this initiative. A team of people is needed for this to work. If this is something that you can do then please let us know by emailing the parish clerk or the parish email address. Again, due to GDPR regulations, the parish council will need your permission in writing in order for your contact details to be kept on record.

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. From time to time, scheduled events get cancelled and are re-arranged for another 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.

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.

Village Hall public address system

This project is ongoing and best options and costs are still being explored.

Seats

The seat in the corner of the village green next to Green lane has been repaired. Options to replace the two broken seats at the playing area are being explored.

Football field fencing

At this time, the installation of concrete bollards from the end of the village hall playground to the back fences of the gardens in Hopcraft Close looks to be a viable option. The parish council is currently awaiting for an additional quote for this work.

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.

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

Pot holes in Woodpiece Road were repaired at the beginning of September. Three non-working streetlights have been reported. Please help out by reporting any road / pavement / street light issues on www.fixmystreet.com. 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.

Hall Administration

Email addresses for the officers and committee are being moved over to an umbrella gmail address, arncottvhmc@gmail.com, to help improve the security of those currently using their personal email addresses for village hall business.

Future Events

A Dinner Dance in aid of SENSE, a children's charity, will be held on 20th October.

A Christmas Craft fair is planned for 17th November

The children's Christmas party will be held on 8th December

The Family Christmas Carol service will take place on 11th December.

The senior citizen's Christmas lunch will be on 5th January 2019

Projects and Improvements

Painting of the disabled toilet and the corridor between the kitchen and bar will be carried out shortly.

Installation of a sound system – funding options are being investigated, and Bicester Music and Lighting have been contacted and will be asked to quote

Gwen McEwan would like to thank all the

Sponsors who supported our Village Fete. Spencer with the Fruit and Veg, S & S Motors, Three Corners Garage, The Hair Lounge, Thomas from the Village Shop, John Cox Donation for the Burgers and everyone who donated items for the Tombola. Lastly a big thank you to all her helpers.

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.

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

Children's Christmas Party

This really fun and popular free event for the Children is at risk of having to be cancelled this year. Traditionally this has been organised by some mum's from the village with funding from the ACA. Unless there are four people who are willing to give some time to help organise this free event for the Children - no cost to you, just your time - even with funds from the ACA we just won't be able to make this happen.

PLEASE, if you feel you could help in making this happen for the Children drop me an email at arncotttreasurer@gmail.com or come along to the next ACA meeting at 6.30pm on Tuesday 23rd October in the village hall

300 Club Winners

250 P Munday

236 A Montrose

1 R Crawford

162 V Page

241 P Smith

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

CHARITY DINNER

ARNCOTT VILLAGE HALL SATURDAY

20th OCTOBER. 19.30 -LATE

£13.00 per person

Starter

Vegetable Soup or Prawn Cocktail or Pate with Redcurrant Jelly and Melba Toast

Main Course

Slow Roasted Pork with Bramble Apple Sauce or Chicken Breast wrapped in Pancetta with a rich Tomato Sauce or Poached Salmon with a Creamy Champagne Sauce

Pudding Course

Lemon Cheesecake or Poached Pears with Chocolate Sauce or Cheese selection and Biscuits

Wine available at £7.50 per bottle Red or White

Please return Cheques and menus by 10th October 2018 to Gwen McEwan

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BLACKTHORN NEWS

BLACKTHORN CLASSIC CAR SHOW 2018 Sunday 2nd September dawned bright and dry and soon the sun was shining down on the righteous, as the organisers and some 40 volunteers from Blackthorn assembled before 9am at the Showground, once again generously provided and prepared by the Cross Family, for the third Blackthorn Classic Car Show.

The high-calibre of classic vehicle entry was epitomised by the oldest registered vehicle at the Show, a 1915 Model T Ford Machine Gun Carriage. With exhibitors arriving with their cherished vehicles, some rare, some of great value and some much loved family runabouts in semi-retirement, at a steadily increasing rate, the Showground was almost filling up by 11.00 am when the gates opened to the public. By 1.00 pm a count of vehicles in the Showground indicated that there were some 370 vehicles on display, by far the biggest display yet seen.

This was very much a village affair, with Mr. Les Harris's Gavioli Fairground Organ creating a wonderful atmosphere as an estimated 1600 members of the public gazed at the displayed cars, tractors, motor cycles and military vehicles. Sponsor Alltransports Ltd had two racing Porsche's on display with a combined value approaching £2.5 million pounds. Major Motor Sports Ltd once again put on the adrenaline surging 'Real Rally Experience' and donated all profits to the BCCS. The Showground was kept pristine by the thoughtful use by our visitors of the many red bins kindly provided at no cost by Biffa plc.

Diets were being happily disregarded as 'The Piston Head Bar' almost ran out of draught

beer and cider toward the end of the day and the massive selection of cakes, prepared by Blackthorn villagers and friends, were steadily consumed helped down by copious cups of tea and coffee. The carefully selected food concessions were never busier.

Our Celebrity Guest, the wise and witty comedian Fred MacAulay fresh from a successful month at the Edinburgh Festival, threw himself into helping on the day from serving bar in the Piston Head, to choosing the vehicle he would most like to take home, to making a very amusing address following his presentation of prizes, not to mention engaging with many enthusiasts and visitors during the day.

The Organising Team would like to thank all advertisers and sponsors, exhibitors, trade and craft stands, members of the public and last, but not least, the 40 enthusiastic and hard-working Blackthorn volunteers who helped set up, run and clear down after the Show. The proceeds, which this year approached £10,000, will go to Blackthorn community projects and The Hummingbird Cancer Therapy and Support Centre in Launton.

BLACKTHORN VILLAGE HALL

As we head into Autumn and the Christmas season we've got plenty of things to keep you entertained at the Village Hall. Full details for each event will be posted on the Village FB page. 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

Oxford to Cambridge Expressway Update

The government announced their preferred option for the route of the new Oxford to Cambridge Expressway on September 12th - Option B. We would like to assure residents that the Parish Council are working closely with Cherwell District and Oxfordshire County councils and we will share any information we receive. If residents would like more information on Option B then please view the business case that was published yesterday. A link to this is below.

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/739893/strategic-outline-business-case.pdf

Parish Council Vacancies

Opportunity to audition in Blackthorn's very own Vicar of Dibley – The Parish Council – Blackthorn Parish Council has a vacancy for a volunteer to join the team....

While the BBC Vicar of Dibley frequently presents a hilarious picture of Parish Councillors – it is not the whole story. Over years the Parish Council together with other voluntary groups have delivered for the village projects such as the play area and broadband to name but 2.

Our meetings are informative and topics range from discussions on our new pond project to the latest privacy legislation.

Our team is small and while we have Cllrs who have portfolios such as planning, traffic calming, drainage and ditches, grass-cutting, website development, GDPR, with more team members we could do more.

The Council meets once a month on a Thursday evening at the hall, though our Cllrs work on projects throughout the month – but how much time you give is dependent on how much time you have to give.

This is an opportunity is not only to learn what our Parish Council does but also to liaise with other local parish Councils and bring that best practice to our team.

So, turn a no, no, no into a Yes and join Blackthorn Parish Council.

Contact Tracey Charlesworth – Clerk to the PC clerkblackthornpc@gmail.com or Jenny Lamont – jmlblackthornpc@gmail.com Chair Parish Council

Trees of Remembrance

As part of the nation's commemoration of the Centenary of the Armistice of WW1, we will be holding our very own tree planting ceremony to honour those who fell during the war within our Parish. More details and date for the ceremony to follow.

Oxfordshire County Council is partnering with The Woodland Trust for a project of lasting remembrance. The Woodland Trust have donated young native species tree saplings and the county council is offering a commemorative plaque to go alongside these to all town and parish councils in Oxfordshire.

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 Village Hall

Autumn and Christmas Season

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 28th Sep

Fri 26th Oct

Thu 4th Oct

Fri 30th Nov

Fri 21st Dec

Thu 1st Nov

Thu 6th Dec

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between 10 - 11

MERTON NEWS

Merton Parish Council

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

Tony Bradley (Chair): ajrbradley@hotmail.com.

Jo Copping: jcoppingmerton@gmail.com

David Richardson: cllrdavid@penguinmail.co.uk

Lucy Katz: cllrlucykatzmertonpc@gmail.com

Steve Kelly: stevenkelly.mertonpc@gmail.com

Parish Council Clerk - Mrs Charlesworth:
clerkmertonpc@gmail.com

The Parish Council meetings schedule has now been changed to once every two months – next one is on Monday 19th November 2018 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

The World's biggest Coffee Morning is coming to Merton

- Saturday 6th October
- Village Hall, 11am – 2pm

We're delighted to tell you that Merton is taking part in the Macmillan Coffee Morning on Saturday 6th October.

We'll be joining coffee-morning addicts across the country in meeting up, eating cakes, and raising money for this essential charity.

We'd love it if you can bring a cake – home-made or bought, all are welcome. You can drop these off from 10am at the Hall.

We'd also be grateful if you could donate raffle prizes – we're approaching our incredibly supportive local businesses, but would love

prizes from you, too. Anything funny, useful or interesting would be very welcome. Raffle prizes can also be dropped off from 10am.

Oh, and if we don't manage to eat all the cakes during the event, we'll raffle the remaining goodies, so you may find yourself taking a cake home again.

News from the Woodland Group – What does the Fortnightly Working Party actually do?

Volunteers have been working hard to improve the Woodland, both as habitats for wildlife, and as a lovely sanctuary for families, walkers and riders to enjoy.

Green hay has been put down in the meadow, which is full of meadow flower seeds. By next Spring / Summer this whole section should be jostling with native species, both beautiful to look at, and valuable as a habitat for native wildlife species.

Traditional country crafts are used to manage the Woodland – volunteers have become expert at weaving willow and coppicing hazel to make hedges. If you'd like to learn how to do either of these yourself, the Volunteers would be happy to show you.

Taming the Blackthorn hedges. Blackthorn has been used for thousands of years for making hedges – principally because it has really vicious thorns.

To manage the blackthorn hedge which has grown and fallen across the ride, the Woodland

Woodland Volunteers have called in the Vale Conservation Volunteers. These hardy types have power tools and chain saws to enable them to lay a new hedge. Once this is done, the ride will be passable again, and we'll have created a new breeding habitat for the local, rare Brown Hare butterfly.

Picnic benches. People love using the Woodland in the Spring and Summer for picnics. We're planning 2 large new picnic benches – make sure you use them once they're installed. (Please do make sure you take your rubbish home with you...most people are very respectful, and thank you to you, but a few leave litter, which is horrible.)

New volunteers. The Woodland Volunteers could always use more people to help maintain and develop this beautiful, tranquil area. Whether you are an experienced gardener, or would just like to meet people and learn new skills, the Volunteers would love to talk to you. If you're interested, please email cllrucykatzmertonpc@gmail.com

Horse Riders, Cyclists and the Ambrosden Straight

Anyone who lives in Merton is used to the sight of the horses riding between the stables and the Woodland. (Very) many cyclists also pass through the village.

By the same token, anyone who lives in Merton is used to the very high speeds that many people reach when driving down the Ambrosden Straight. The problems arise on the sharp bends just as you come into Merton. It's simply impossible to see if there are horses (or bikes) either coming into, or out of the village. Even if a car has braked to slow down for the corner, they're not driving at a speed at which it is safe to overtake horses – it is recommended that 10-15mph is a safe maximum. It's also quite a narrow section of road, and, if horses are there,

the only way to avoid them is by swerving out into the path of oncoming traffic.

The Ambrosden Straight is a lovely, long, straight piece of road, with very satisfying bumps. It's all too easy (and pleasurable) to go for it – particularly if you've been stuck in Bicester's endless traffic jams. But the Merton right hand turn really is dangerous, both for horses and bikes – and for any car driver who causes an accident.

Keep yourself, horses and cyclists safe by slowing right down in time for the sharp corner.

Oxford – Cambridge Expressway: Hot off the press (at time of publication)

The chosen route of the corridor has been announced as Route B. However, the specifics of the route have yet to be clarified. However, Transport minister Jesse Norman said: “The preferred route rules out construction in the area of the Otmoor nature reserve, demonstrating the Government's “desire to protect the natural environment”

This sounds as if they will not be bulldozing the route right across Otmoor itself.

The risk to area as a whole remains grave, however, and we need to keep on applying what pressure we can, via our elected political representatives, and other campaigning bodies.

Further to this, can I recommend a Guardian article from 22nd August written by George Monbiot. He highlights the huge changes the Expressway will make, without any meaningful discussion or consultation. If you'd like to read it, the link is:

www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2018/aug/22/project-britain-debate-oxford-cambridge-expressway

Or if you type George Monbiot Oxford Cambridge Expressway into your search engine, you'll find it there.

FREE FILM SHOW IN MERTON VILLAGE HALL: THURSDAY 18 OCTOBER

The next in our 'season' of FREE films – open to ALL residents of Merton and neighbouring villages – will be shown in the Merton Village Hall at 7.30 pm on Thursday, 18 October.

I Daniel Blake is a 2016 drama directed by Ken Loach. It stars Dave Johns as Daniel Blake, who is denied employment and support allowance despite his doctor finding him unfit to work.

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:

- 15th November Dunkirk (2017),
- 20th December The Lunchbox (2013),
- 17th January The Railway Man (2013),
- 21st February The Darkest Hour (2017),
- 21st March Eddie The Eagle (2016)
- 18th April Churchill (2017).

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

Flu Vaccination Announcement

The Islip Medical Practice is hoping to keep everyone well this winter, so we're offering the seasonal Flu vaccine to anyone who is eligible. If you fall into any of the "high priority" categories outlined below, the Surgery would like to encourage you to make an appointment as soon as possible.

High priority people include anyone who is:

1. Aged over 65
2. Aged under 65 in a clinical risk group (such as asthma, cancer patients)
3. Carers
4. Healthcare workers

Flu vaccination clinics are being held on Saturday 15th September and Saturday 3rd November from 9.30 until 12.00.

There are also other week day dates available in October if you can't make one of these dates. Please telephone the Surgery on 01865 371666 as soon as possible to make your appointment. (Appointments for flu vaccinations are not available via the on-line appointment service).

If you are eligible for the jab but don't want to take the offer up, we'd be grateful if you could let the Surgery know. This will help us by save time in issuing reminders, and stop us bothering you unnecessarily.

Hope to see you soon
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PIDDINGTON NEWS

PIDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 16th October 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: 18/01500/F and appeal APP/C3105/W/18/3209349

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

APPEAL AGAINST PLANNING APPLICATION 17/01962/F GYPSY/TRAVELLER SITE ON WIDNELL LANE

An appeal against the decision made by Cherwell's planning committee to refuse the above application has been received. Piddington Parish Council intend to work closely with the Cherwell team and will attend the inquiry. Councillors agreed that the village will need legal representation and a fighting fund has once again been set up for donations towards these costs which are likely to be in excess of £10,000. Can you help? If so, please contact our clerk Anne Davies directly. (piddington.parish.clerk@googlemail.com). All donations will remain anonymous. The parish council will also announce the date for a village meeting once discussions have been held between themselves and Cherwell.

In the meantime villagers can show support by writing to the inspector directly confirming their original concerns. An online appeals service is available for comments that can be

found through the Appeals Casework Portal (<https://acp.planninginspectorate.gov.uk>). Alternatively, you can write to the Planning Inspectorate, 3/26 Temple Quay House, 2 The Square, Temple Quay, Bristol, BS1 6PN quoting the appeal reference number APP/C3105/W/18/3209349. Submissions must be received by 16th October at the latest.

OXFORD – CAMBRIDGE EXPRESSWAY

The government has now announced their chosen corridor for the expressway which is Corridor B. The area in question is huge and a number of routes will now be considered particularly whether the road should go west or south of Oxford and west or east of Bicester. A booklet has been published by Highways England which can be found on their website (<http://assets.highwaysengland.co.uk/roads/road-projects/Oxford+to+Cambridge+expressway/Oxford+to+Cambridge+Expressway+Corridor+overview+booklet.pdf>).

It has been confirmed that the Otmoor nature reserve will not be considered. It is the parish council's understanding that Highways England will now start a 12-month program of 'on the ground' studies of potential routes (and from this the accommodation of 300,000 more homes in Oxfordshire) which they will take into a Public Consultation in late 2019. A meeting will be held at the Community Hall in Charlton on Otmoor School on 3rd October for all parish councils likely to be affected by the decision which PPC will be attending. Momentum is also growing for a 'no road' option. Please see the No Expressway Alliance website for more information <http://www.noexpresswayalliance.org/>.

SEVEN STARS PUBLIC HOUSE

PPC have been advised that the appeal against the ACV on the pub was not successful and that it will remain on the building for the next 5 years. It was concluded that there was

sufficient evidence to suggest that the pub has had and would have an important part to play in village life had it remained open. The owner of the property has the right to appeal the decision.

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 village 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

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.

ODD JOB PERSON

The Parish Council is keen to find 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

Many thanks to those of you who took the time to help with giving the village an autumn clean up. Unfortunately, there were not enough volunteers to tackle the kerbs but a number of bags of rubbish were collected including fly-tipping along Marsh Gibbon Road.

ALLOTMENTS

Plots are still available. The annual subscription £15 per year for a single plot to include affiliation to The National Allotment Society. The parish council are again investigating the viability of bringing water to the site. 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.

RURAL POLICING

The next Bicester Rural Resilience Group meeting to be held in Piddington on 23rd October at the village hall in Piddington. Everyone welcome, particularly if you have any local issues you would like to raise. You can also 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 Vehicle Activated Sign on the Arncott Road has been running for a month and data has been collected for vehicle movements in and out of the village (incoming vehicles 2019 and outgoing 1814). Most vehicles are entering and leaving the village at less than 30mph (78% and 70% respectively). However, 9 vehicles were detected entering the village and 23 vehicles exited doing speeds of 45-65+mph with one exiting at 79mph!! It is early days and the team are likely to revise some of the measuring parameters as they get to know the system better. The VAS will be moved to an alternative site later in the month.

SSE PRIORITY SERVICE

The SSE Priority Service is free and offered to people who may have special needs, particularly in the event of a power outage. These might be health issues, mobility problems or having young children. The Parish Council fully supports this initiative and encourages registration. Contact the SSE Careline team directly on 0800 622838 or email careline@sse.com for more information.

PIDDINGTON'S INFORMATION CENTRE

A range of useful information can be found on the village website, including phone numbers and email addresses: www.piddingtonvillageoxfordshire.org.uk/information-centre.html

T94 BICESTER MARKET SERVICE

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

PIDDINGTON 200 CLUB AUGUST WINNERS

Drawn at Village Hall Pop-Up Pub on 25 August 2018.

- | | | |
|------|------|----------------|
| 1st. | 069. | David Cook |
| 2nd. | 190. | Lyn Webster |
| 3rd | 074. | John Whitehead |
| 4th. | 079. | Enid Porch |

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

All at the village hall. For details see village noticeboards.

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

PIDNIC IN THE PARK

Thanks to everyone who came along to our very first Pidnic – it was a lovely day. We raised £293 towards the renovation of the children's playground behind the village hall and had over 50 dog show entries! Everyone enjoyed it and the kids and men had a lovely footie game! Next year will be bigger and better! If you are interested in getting involved with raising funds for the Children's Play Area, please contact Olivia (olivia_329@hotmail.com). The old playground has now been dismantled due to safety concerns.

ST NICHOLAS CHURCH

The Harvest Festival Service will take place on Sunday 7th October at 10.30 am followed by refreshments - all very welcome.

We will be collecting groceries for the Bicester Food Bank. If you would like to donate for the

harvest festival or help with the displays please come along on Friday 5th October during the morning.

HARVEST COFFEE MORNING

The Coffee morning will be held on Saturday 13th October 10.00 am - 12.00. There will also be produce and plants for sale. All welcome.

THE PANTRY

Our Autumn market was one of the busiest yet and raised over £600 which will go towards funding village causes. The Art exhibition was a huge asset and it was great to see so many villagers enjoying themselves on a lovely sunny Autumn morning. Thanks again to all our wonderful volunteers. The team are now busy planning the Christmas market which will be held on Saturday 1st December.

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.

MATURE MOVERS IN PIDDINGTON VILLAGE HALL

Monday afternoons from 2 to 3. The cost is £4 per session. To book your place or for more information contact Maggie Pearce on 01844 237688

These are mostly seated exercises designed to help increase circulation, improve co-ordination, mobile your joints and stimulate the brain. Included are exercises, which are very beneficial in helping reduce tension and promoting relaxation, plus a standing exercise using a chair for support to help improve your

balance. The music is uplifting and will give you a general feeling of well being.

The class is supported by Age UK

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Sophie, Martin and Charlie on the birth of Emily Ruby Keenan, born on 4th September and weighing 7lb 12oz. We wish them all love and happiness.

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 – for all things relating to The Pantry

@Piddingtonoxon – for general items of interest

The Pantry blog:

piddingtonpantry.wordpress.com

THE PANTRY
Piddington Market & Coffee Shop
piddingtonpantry.wordpress.com

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OTMOOR GARDEN SOCIETY

It's official, the summer of 2018 was as hot as 1976, and I think we gardeners can vouch for that. There were days when it was too hot to garden – disaster!

At the end of my last report we were just off for our evening visit to Pettifers near Banbury. We had a very sociable evening in a lovely garden. Several of the borders are planted in the style of the New Perennial Movement, or Prairie Planting as it is also called. Mixtures of grasses and late-flowering perennials were catching the light beautifully as the sun set.

I received one complaint, that there were no vegetables in the garden. I know the solution to that one, next time I will take a bag of carrots with me!

Shortly after that we had the Garden Photography Workshop. This concentrated on composition of photograph. We were all sent off to take one photograph and then Clive explained to the whole group the points that could be learnt from it, we then went back and took the photo again, hopefully better (although some were a bit dubious)! There was a lot to learn, and like many things it all comes down to practice, practice, practice. It was a fun day, and the format worked well with lunch for both groups together in the middle, so next year we plan to run a Willow Weaving Workshop along the same lines.

The Garden Party at Sandie Stevenson's lovely garden in Blackthorn was a fabulous afternoon, with of course a fab hostess. It had the perfect

combination – Sunshine and Pimms! It has to be said there was some confusion over the initial drinks order, when the chairman e-mailed to say Tescos were selling Pimps cheaply and should we get three for the party!! Thankfully that was all cleared up without any problems. Life would be duller without typos!

At our September meeting we will find out who has grown the best geranium from those rather unpromising tiny seedlings delivered back in April. I have to say it wont be me, mine has been composted! I will try to have camera at the ready, and try to remember my composition, so maybe a picture next time could be entertaining.

So, coming up we have on 23rd October, at Charlton, Philip Aubury talking to us about Garden Ponds and Water Features. Philip is the retired Director of Birmingham Botanical Gardens. He was formerly a lecturer at Birmingham city parks training school and a divisional parks manager. He has many years experience of talks and demonstrations to gardening clubs, so hopefully this should be a good evening. We hope to see many of you there.

Happy Gardening,
Judith Rawlinson

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

www.otmoorgardensociety.org.uk or find us on Facebook

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BUS TIMETABLES

Oxford - Islip - Ambrosden

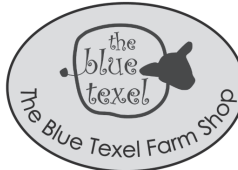
| | | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|
| Oxford St Giles (Stop C5) | 16:10 | 17:10 | 18:10 |
| Gosford, o/s Kings Arms PH | 16:30 | 17:30 | 18:30 |
| Islip, opp The Red Lion PH | 16:35 | 17:35 | 18:35 |
| Oddington, opp Glebe Barn Bus Shelter | 16:40 | 17:40 | 18:40 |
| 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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VET'S REPORT

The Changing Face of Bicester Vets

When I first joined the vet practice in 1995 it was a 5 vet mixed practice meaning that, in the style of James Herriot, we dealt with all domestic animals. This included sheep & cattle including some thriving dairy farms. We visited equines ranging from Shetland ponies to high performance hunters. And of course, we dealt with what is termed small animals; dogs, cats, rabbits, gerbils and anything else small enough to bring in to the practice.

Over time the style of farming changed with the times. More and more the land was used for arable crops and the small dairy herds sold their "quota" of milk production allowance to larger dairies seeking to expand their businesses. Along with this, the developments in veterinary medicine and the expectations of owners increased at a pace. Television shows like "Vets in Practice" and now "The Supervet" have opened the doors and shown behind the scenes at busy practices and have given Veterinary practice a generally positive exposure to the public. So, in the mid noughties the time came for Bicester Vets to narrow their focus onto what was becoming the major part of our workload – Small Animals. The decision to stop seeing farm animals & horses was difficult but made good sense. We knew that there were other



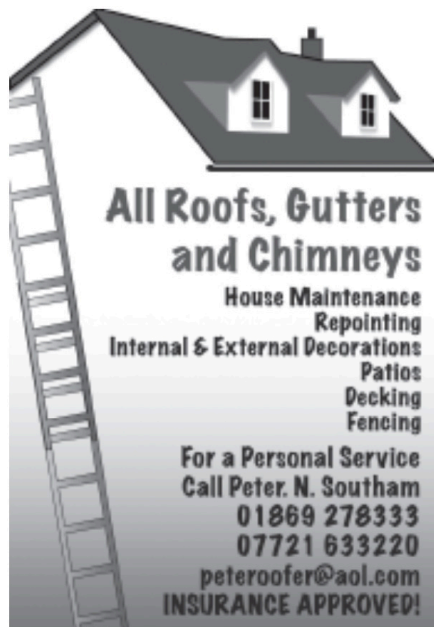
more specialised practices who would quickly take on that work & so, Bicester Vets became a specialist small animal practice.

This has enabled us to offer a far better service to our clients and their pets. We now have 11 Vets operating out of our original site which is now an RCVS Accredited Small Animal Hospital.

We still provide our own after hours cover with a nurse on site overnight to care for inpatients and a Vet on call 24/7. We continue to invest in equipment and training and now offer keyhole surgery for bitch spays, laser therapy for injuries and sore joints, as well as ultrasound imaging and rapid turnaround blood testing in house. We are about to start using our 2 brand new consulting rooms which will give us some valuable extra space to alleviate waiting times and improve the client experience at Bicester Vets.

So, much has changed over the past 23 years and Bicester Vets now remains the only Independently owned vets in town. I've learned that old Vets need to keep pace with change and continue to learn. One thing that hasn't changed, however, is the roller-coaster of emotions which is a part of everyday life at the vets and perhaps that is what makes this job so special.

Enjoy your pets
Jason Williams
Bicester Vets



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OTMOOR WOMANS INSTITUTE

Otmoor WI September Meeting

Mike Brook's talk entitled "Musings from the Amateur Stage" at the September meeting of Otmoor WI promised to be entertaining. It certainly didn't disappoint. Members were treated to anecdotes related to familiar plays, tales of mishaps on the amateur stage, especially those involving props, and all interspersed with speeches and sketches from those of Alan Bennett to Peter Cook and Rowan Atkinson. A lively question and answer session rounded things off. A break for delicious refreshments prepared by Joy, Jenny and Judy, with a chance to sign up to forthcoming outings and events and vote in the competition for favourite theatre programme, was followed by the business of the evening. Particular attention was drawn to the October meeting when Sandra Grayson will be talking about Graphology. This is an open meeting and open to non-members. Craft and Cake sessions (detailed in diary dates) and the new Pastimes group, meeting at Murcott Village Hall from 1.30-4.00pm, first meeting Wednesday 3rd October, also welcome non-members. Come along for an afternoon of jigsaws, board games and other activities along with tea/coffee and cake. The competition was won by Helena with Sandie and Judy joint 2nd and Nicky 3rd. Next meeting Graphology with Sandra Grayson, 7.45 9th October CCH.

DATES FOR THE DIARY

October 3rd (MVH) 1.30-4.00 – Pastimes Group – All welcome
October 9th (CCH) 7.45 - Graphology - Sarah Grayson – Open Meeting. All welcome
October 18th (MVH) 7.30 – Coffee, Craft and Cake – Lino Printing
November 7th (MVH) 1.30-4.00 – Pastime Group – All Welcome
November 13th (CCH) 7.45 – Fishy Tales and Eccentric Customers – Kevin Little
November 15th (MVH) 7.30 – Christmas decorations
NB Craft and Pastimes groups £1 a session
For further details contact Virginia on 01865331521

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| 1/2 page | £30.00 | 136.5 | 97 |
| Full Page | £60.00 | 136.5 | 198 |

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

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

THE COLLECTION AND EDITORIAL TEAM

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Blackthorn John Henderson j_henderson@btinternet.com

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

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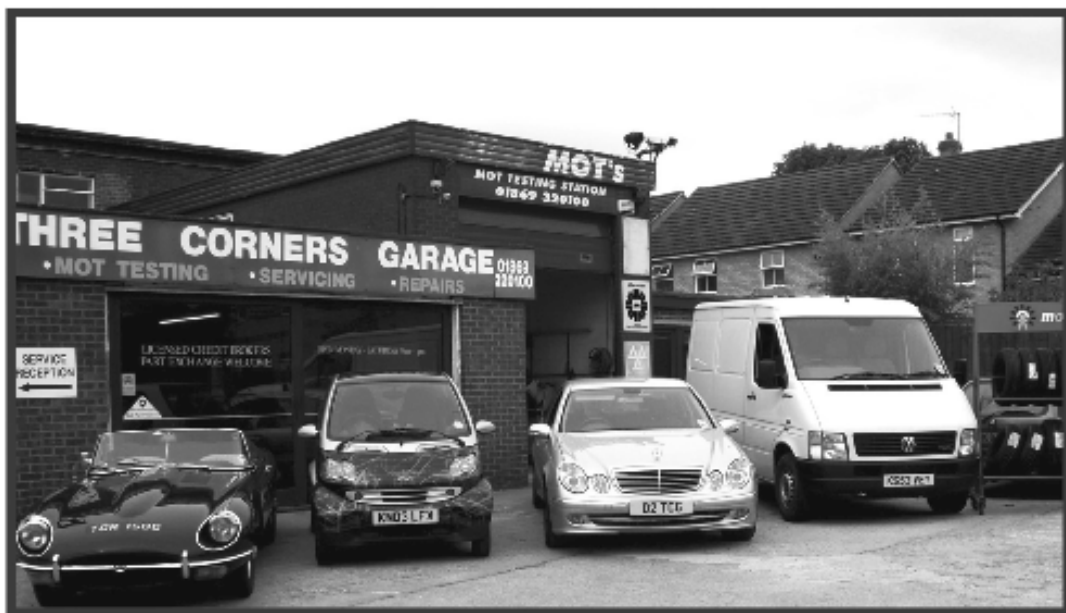


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