

PARISH MATTERS



FEBRUARY 2019

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

VILLAGE VIEWS & LOCAL NEWS



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Happy New Year!

Welcome to the February 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

Happy New Year to you all. May 2019 be a year in which you experience peace and hope and a fresh encounter with God.

I am often asked how I fill my time. I thought it might be helpful to answer that question more fully. Everyone sees the tip of the iceberg with Sunday services but what's going on beneath the surface? Roughly speaking, it takes two or three times as long to prepare a service as it does to deliver it by the time a sermon is written and arrangements are made with everyone who is taking part. So, with 3 services a week, travelling to and fro and, very importantly, catching up with people after the service, that usually takes up about 10 hours a week. Because any church is not an island (!) there are many levels to the role of clergy. We operate at the local parish and benefice level, at the deanery level, at the diocesan level and, sometimes, at a national and international level.

So, here, we have 8 parishes in our benefice, and there are 5 such benefices within our deanery (Bicester & Islip deanery). There are 11 deaneries in our area of the diocese (Dorchester) and there are 4 areas (archdeaconries) within the diocese of Oxfordshire (Oxford, Buckingham, Dorchester and Reading). Oxford diocese is the largest of the 44 dioceses across the country and has just over 800 churches to maintain. As a result of this structure I have meetings so that I can liaise and organise things within the parishes (PCC meetings etc), within the benefice, within the deanery, and within the diocese. Personally, I am seldom involved at higher levels apart from

filling in opinion polls on some of the wider issues facing the church world-wide. In these meetings we look at the finances, share best practice, try to ensure that we are not duplicating each other too much and offer mutual care and support.

Within the benefice we have 4 schools and I am on the governing body of 2 of them which takes a considerable amount of time. Sometimes it is a case of just being there, other times leading assemblies or arranging services, other times making decisions at governor level, attending many meetings. I am a trustee on 4 trusts by virtue of being the rector. These take varying amounts of time depending on past trustees and the demand on the trusts. As with everything else, they take less time when everything is running smoothly!

Across the benefice we will usually have 6 or 7 weddings a year and 12-15 funerals with about a dozen baptisms. Lucy, Lisa and I lead those usually according to their geographical location. Between us, with the help of Glenys and visiting clergy and lay leaders, we provide about 30 services a month before taking in to account the extra services at Easter, Harvest and Christmas. Much of what we do is regular and structured, such as leading Sunday services, and much is reactive to a phone call announcing some unexpected news. Bible studies, courses, parish lunches, children's groups, prayer meetings or pastoral visits account for the rest of our time after we have been on training to ensure we are fulfilling all the legal requirements of our roles

Hopefully, there is time for personal development too. Between us we offer 9 working days a week of availability to parishioners outside Sunday services. And that's just the clergy! Without the help of an army of volunteers who sit on PCCs, fund raise, clean, help in services, tidy the graveyards or help out in numerous other ways, the church could not function as it does. So, thank you to

everyone who helps us. By the time we have paid for restoration and upkeep of the buildings and the cost of housing clergy we estimate it costs us £3 an hour per church to remain open. We are grateful to every individual and every trust offering their support.

Steve Hayes

CHURCH SERVICES FEB

RAY VALLEY SERVICES FEBRUARY 2019

Draft 3

Church	Time	Leader	Service
Sunday February 3rd	Presentation of Christ		Malachi 3.1-5 Hebrews 2.14-end Luke 2.22-40
Ambrosden	10.30	Steve	Holy Communion
	18.30	Steve	The X-tra One
Merton	09.00	Steve	Holy Communion
Piddington	10.30	Glenys	Family Service
Islip	10.30	Lucy	Parish Communion
Noke	17.00	Lucy	Taize Service
Charlton	10.30	Lisa	Family Service
Sunday February 10th	4 before Lent		Isaiah 6.1-8 (9-end) 1Corinthians 15.1-11 Luke 5.1-11
Ambrosden	10.30	Steve	Family Service
Piddington	09.00	Steve	Holy Communion
Islip	10.30	Lisa	Parish Communion
Woodeaton	09.15	Claire	Family Service - Claire Creese
Charlton	09.00	Lucy	Holy Communion
	18.00	Lisa	Evensong
Oddington	10.30	Lucy	Holy Communion
Sunday February 17th	3 before Lent		Jeremiah 17.5-10 1 Corinthians 15.12-20 Luke 6.17.26
Ambrosden	10.30	Lisa	Holy Communion
Merton	09.00	Lisa	Holy Communion
Piddington	18.00	Steve	Evening Prayer
Islip	10.30	Lucy	Parish Communion - Corpus Christi Choir
Woodeaton	09.15	Lucy	Holy Communion
Charlton	10.30	Steve	Family Communion
Sunday February 24th	2 before Lent		Genesis 2.4b-9, 15-end Revelation 4 Luke 8 22-25
Ambrosden	10.30	Lay	Morning Prayer
Merton	10.30	Steve	Family Service
Piddington	09.00	Steve	Holy Communion
Islip	10.30	Cover	Family Service & SC
Charlton	9.00	Lisa	Holy Communion
Oddington	18.00	Lisa	Evening Prayer

CLERGY CONTACTS

CLERGY

Church of England contacts:

Rev Steve Hayes (Rector Ray Valley Benefice)	01869 247813
Rev Lisa Holmes (Charlton and Oddington)	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:

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

(no ringable bells)



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AMBROSDEN NEWS

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

Parish website

www.ambrosden.info/parishcouncil

Ambrosden Parish Councillors:

Mark Longworth (Chair) – [ambrosden@](mailto: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)

Daniel.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

Army Welfare Service Community

Development Worker

Lynn Waite - 01869 256135

Recycling
Bottle banks, behind Spar

FLYTIPPING AND POTHOLES

Street lights, pot holes, fly tipping, hedges obstructing footways, and many other highways issues can be reported direct to the County and District Councils, via <http://fixmystreet.oxfordshire.gov.uk/>

CHILDRENS POSTER COMPITITION, BAG IT AND BIN IT

Congratulations to the winners of the Bag it and Bin it Poster competition. The winners were Nulamma Rai and Prayaan Tamang. The runners up were Ivy Driver and Georgina Reck.

Both winners and runners up were awarded with book tokens and a matching amount of book tokens were also given to Five Acres School. Copies of the winning posters will be placed around the village in the coming weeks. Remember, there is up to a fine of £1000 if you are caught dog fouling.

MERTON ROAD PLANNING APPLICATION FOR 84 HOUSES

18/02056/OUT - Erection of up to 84 dwellings with public open space, landscaping and drainage, accessed from Merton Road

The Parish Council have objected to this application on the following grounds

- a) Visual Harm to a valued landscape
- b) Heritage harm
- c) Extending the village into the open countryside
- d) Traffic speeds, and lack of traffic calming
- e) Insufficient width of footways into the village
- f) Insufficient width of Merton Road
- g) Distance to community facilities
- h) Cumulative impact of development on the village

- i) Insufficient school capacity
- j) Insufficient broadband capacity
- k) Cumulative impact of traffic on A41 Ploughley Road Junction
- l) Impact on building on historic lake bed.
- m) Impact on adjacent flood plain
- n) Impact on adjacent historic lake

You can read the full objection by contacting the parish clerk. You can comment by emailing the planning officer until the application is determined. Email nathanael.stock@cherwell-dc.gov.uk.

ALLOTMENTS

Due to the failure of Bloor to fulfil their obligations, Cherwell District Council's planning enforcement and legal teams have become involved again, and we now have some movement.

We are advised that a joint site visit has been carried out. Bloor Homes have advised that they have appointed a landscaping contractor to attend the site to clear the allotments and to treat the bindweed that has been discovered. Once this process has been agreed by Cherwell District Council's Landscape Planning Officer the District Council we will agree with Bloor Homes a schedule of works, including the start date and will advise.

Once the site has been cleared, it will need a further treatment to ensure that it is ready for growing. It will then need to be checked by the Parish Council before handover is agreed.

FIVE ACRES SCHOOL

The proposal to replace the portacabins with two new permanent class rooms has now received planning permission. This will cause a small amount of disruption while being built, will significantly improve the quality of the school buildings, but will not increase the capacity of the school.

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

AMBROSDEN DIARY

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.

All events in Village Hall unless stated. It is likely that the village hall will need to be closed for a short period of time, so that the floor can be repaired. Please contact the organisers of each event to confirm the location.

Day and Time	Group or event	Information	Location
Monday 9.30-11am	Ambrosden4 Children Stay and Play	£2.50 entry (additional £1 for siblings) Refreshments included Email: Ambrosden4Children@gmail.com	Village Hall
Monday 6.45pm	Boxing	Simon Charles on village FB group	Village Hall
Monday 6- 8pm	Girl Guides	https://www.girlguiding.org.uk/get-involved	The Silibaravi Centre
First three Mondays of the month	Ambrosden Gaming Club	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/	Village Hall
Tuesday 6.30 – 7.30pm	Taekwondo	Juniors age 7 years and over Contact Adrian - (07979) 524923 - http://www.buckstkdacademy.co.uk/	Village Hall
Tuesday 6.30 – 7.30 pm	Yoga	Contact jadewells@live.co.uk to book	Village hall
1 st and 3 rd Tuesday 10am– 11.30am	Bicester Bereavement Support Group	Residents Lounge, Hanover Gardens, Manorsfield Road, OX26 6DG	

Wednesday 7.15pm	Bingo	Eyes down 8pm. - Contact: - 01869 244785	Village hall
Wednesday 7-9pm	Youth Club	12 – 17 years Contact read Lynn Waite on 01869 256135	Village Hall
Wednesday 5.30pm – 6.45pm	1st Ambrosden and Arncott Scouts Cubs		Arncott Village Hall
Wednesday 7.30pm – 9pm	Bicester Military Wives Choir	Karen Rea Bicester@militarywiveschoirs.org	Silibaravi Families Centre, Ambrosden
Thursday 10.30 – 3.30 pm	Thrift Shop		Opposite bottle banks
Thursday 9.30 – 11am	Ambrosden4Children STAY AND PLAY	£2.50 entry (additional £1 for siblings) Refreshments included	St Mary's Church, OX25 2UJ
Third Thurs of month 7.30pm	Ambrosden Parish council	Monthly meeting – check website for detail	Village hall
Friday	Rainbows 5-6pm Brownies 6.30 – 8pm	www.girlguiding.org.uk/interested	Village hall
Friday 7- 9pm	1st Ambrosden and Arncott Scouts		Arncott Village Hall
Thursday, Friday and Saturday	Kebab Van		Costcutter car park

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

VILLAGE HALL BOOKINGS
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ARNCOTT NEWS

ARNCOTT PARISH COUNCIL & VHMC / ACA COMMITTEE

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
OCC decision to cancel school bus service
County Councillor Dan Sames informed the parish council that a second survey of the walking route was carried out on Friday November 9th 2018 by an OCC assessor. This second survey considered the full length of the walking route from the entrance to Village Close to the school gate. The OCC assessor concluded that the full walking route is safe and informed the appropriate committee(s) at OCC of his decision. The parish council was advised that the assessment decision was made giving consideration to the guidelines contained in documents issued by Road Safety GB and OCC with regard to the safety status of school walking routes. As OCC consider the route to be safe, the decision to cancel the school bus service will not be changed.

Dog Poo

As always requested, if you see anyone not picking up after his / her dog then PLEASE take photos / videos of him / her and email it to the parish council and / or the CDC dog warden - Christopher Cundy – telephone number 01295 221633 – email Christopher.Cundy@Cherwell-DC.gov.uk. Pictures and / or video will support a prosecution attempt.

Woodpiece Road parking

The phase one construction work was started in early January. Enquiries will be made as to when work on phase two might start.

Defibrillator Units

Two public defibrillator units are within the One unit is fitted to the village hall outer wall facing Murcott Road – 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 – 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

Despite repeated requests, the parish council has yet to receive a reply from CDC as to whether or not the plan to site an additional building with changing facilities next to the village hall is an acceptable project for the use of some of the grant money. The parish council has asked District Councillor David Hughes to chase this up on our behalf.

Village Hall public address system

This is a joint project between the parish council and the VHMC. An approximate quotation has already been received from DAT (Deaf Awareness Technology). Work is now underway regarding the finalisation of the specifications and exact costs of what equipment should be installed. The system will include a loop amplifier arrangement for the benefit of people with hearing difficulties.

Speeding

Reports have been made of vehicles speeding up and down Mill Lane and around Woodpiece Road. This is in addition to some vehicles speeding when leaving / entering the village at Upper and Lower Arcott as they approach / go through the road build outs. The parish council has the equipment to carry out

vehicle speed surveys. As always, volunteers are required who are prepared to get involved with a speedwatch program and help to compile data regarding traffic movements and speeds within the village. The info collected can be passed onto the police. The police will then send warning letters to persistent offenders. If you can help then contact the parish clerk or any parish councillor. Due to GDPR regulations, the parish council will need your permission in writing for your contact details to be kept on record.

Moto Parc

The Moto Parc events calendar can be found in the library section on the parish council website and on the Moto Parc's Facebook page. Occasionally, scheduled events get cancelled and 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 play bus visits our village on Tuesdays between 1:00pm and 2:30pm and parks next to the village hall. Free play and support sessions / stay & play are available for children aged up to 5 years old along with parents and carers.

Community emergency response

An instruction guide for the use of the village hall emergency generator has been written. For the village hall to be used as an emergency accommodation facility, a community help group of volunteers is needed. If you can help with this initiative then please email the parish clerk or the parish council email address. Again, due to GDPR regulations, the parish council will need your permission in writing for your contact details to be kept on record.

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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

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

Please report 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

VHMC meetings take place on 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.

Projects and Improvements

Installation of a sound system – as mentioned above it has been agreed to proceed with a system provided by DAT. Funding options are to be explored, and we hope to have the system installed fairly early in the New Year.

Internet Access

Possible ways of getting internet access into the hall are being looked into.

Ska Martial Arts Tang Soo Doo.

New martial arts and fitness class at Arcott 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.

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.

Arcott Friendship Club

This club has been going for over 25 years and we feel now is the time to bring it up to date.

For the last 10 years we have been in the common room in Greenfields but we are now going to move to the village hall starting on the 13th of February. It's a wonderful way to get to know other people from the village. Would love to hear your ideas to bring some new life in to the club. I had a thought of doing a lunch club from time to time, watch a movie, learn some crafts the list is endless. I dont want to see this long standing club close so please do come along and bring a friend you will be made most welcome, once a month on the Wednesday starting at 1.45pm next get together the 13th of February. Our first meeting will be free to see what response we get it would normally be £2 which would include refreshments .Come along and give it ago
Thank You

News from the Village Hall Management Committee

Greetings and Welcome to the New Year. Lots to cover and not much space so I'll crack on. First – huge thanks to everyone. Individuals and organisations, that have supported the Village Hall in 2018. We cannot mention everyone but we are looking at ways to better thank you. Without your support the Village Hall would go the way of many other Community Halls and wither and die.

With the support of volunteers the hall continues to improve facilities with a refurbished bar and kitchen and the imminent installation of an inductance loop and high quality sound system. We are constantly looking for new projects so suggestions for improvements are welcome.

Bookings for clubs and activities remain busy with the local Cub and Scout groups; various fitness groups as well as dog training classes and sports events. The hall is also in regular use for private parties, weddings. Details are posted on the village notice boards or contact the

VHMC at arncottvhmc@gmail.com or visit the Parish Council web page <http://www.pariah-council.com/arncott>

In anticipation of

The annual village fete will take place on the 21st July 2019. Last year we brought in some new features. These were so well received that we are looking to bring in more this year. More details to follow – which will include requests for ideas and help.

Annual General Meeting will be in May. The village hall is managed by a charity trustee board and a new board is elected each year at the AGM. This year there will be board members standing down and replacing them is essential to keeping the Village Hall functioning.

300 Club Winners and future 300 Club Event

November

Ball No. Name

199	Mr F Day
27	Mrs A Gonella
250	Mr P Mundy
186	Mr Glyn Luckett
235	Mr T Webber

December

Ball No. Name

216	Mr A Cox
186	Mr Glyn Luckett
205	Georgina Newell
149	Mr T Watson
90	Mr C Wells

FAMILY VALENTINES DISCO

Featuring the Chris King show !!!!!

We are holding a family Valentines disco on the 16th February in Arn cott village hall. This is a fundraising event for the Arn cott community association. This will help to raise funds towards future events and also helps to put on

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free events such as the senior's lunch and children Christmas party.

Place: Arncott village hall

Time: 6pm-9pm

Cost: £10 for a family of 4 2 adults and 2 children over 5.

We will also be selling refreshments at the event such as soft drinks, hot dogs, crisps and sweets.

You are welcome to bring your own alcoholic drinks.

If you would like tickets please contact Joni Auger on Facebook via messenger. Christine Dunkin by phone 01869249560 or Kaye-Marie Latimer Forrest by email arncottcatreasurer@gmail.com

This event is open to surrounding areas as well as Arncott. Tickets will be available from Friday

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

Material required for the parish magazine please.

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

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The Bulletin Board

Ray Valley Benefice For February 2019

- | | |
|----------------------|--|
| Fri 1st | - 10.30 Tiny Tots, Fencott |
| Sat 2 nd | - 7.30pm Safari Supper, Islip |
| Mon 4 th | - 10am Mindfulness Book Club, Charlton |
| Wed 6 th | - 10am Holy Communion, Ambrosden |
| Sat 9 th | - 7pm Quiz & Supper Night, Oddington |
| Fri 15th | - 9.30 ABC for pre-schoolers, Islip |
| Mon 18th | - 10am Mindfulness Book Club, Charlton |
| Wed 20 th | - 10am Coffee & Prayer, Charlton |

*Bible Study 2nd & 4th Monday of every month, Ambrosden church, 7pm.

BLACKTHORN NEWS

A Personal Note From Terence Shirley

•Fri 31st May

A big thankyou to all my close neighbours for their support over the last six and a half years. Without their help it would have been almost impossible for me to have cared for my wonderful wife, Stella Shirley who sadly passed away on the 4th November. A special thankyou to John and Susan Henderson, Chris and Lizzie Mobbs and Michael and Jean Cross for their long-term help.

Also, to my new neighbours David and Vivian Scott. Special thanks to my ex neighbours, Michael and Linda Rees who travelled from Gosport for the funeral. Many thanks to everyone who sent cards. I am pleased to have been able to keep Stella at home to the last. She had a very long illness and it is nice to know she is at last in peace, God Bless her. Terence

BLACKTHORN VILLAGE HALL

We start the New Year with our regular Coffee Mornings and Pub Nights.

Coffee Mornings:

- Thu 7th Feb
- Thu 7th Mar
- Thu 4th Apr
- Thu 2nd May

Pub Nights

- Fri 25th Jan
- Fri 22nd Feb
- Fri 29th Mar
- Fri 26th Apr

Our other events up to Easter include:

- Spring Quiz – Sat 23rd Feb
- St Patrick's and Karaoke Night – Sat 16th Mar
- Easter Sun 21st Apr

Further details on each event will appear in future Parish Matters, on the Village FB page and via email. 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

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.

Opportunity to audition for 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 two. Our meetings are informative & 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 & 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 dependant on how much time you have to give

This is an opportunity not only to learn what our Parish Council does but also to liaise with other local Parish Councils & bring that best practise to our team. So turn a no, no, no to a yes and join Blackthorn Parish Council.

Contact Tracey Charlesworth - Clerk to the PC clerkblackthornpc@gmail.com

or Jenny Lamont - jmlblackthornpc@gmail.com

The Church Lands Trust is seeking to appoint 4 new trustees in 2019. The Trust owns land and property in Blackthorn and Marsh Gibbon and uses the rental income to fund the maintenance and upkeep of the parish church for Ambrosden, Blackthorn and Arcott - St Mary's in Ambrosden. The Trust meets twice a year, and trustees must normally reside in one of the three villages.

The Trust can trace its origins back around 1000 years, making it one of the UK's oldest charitable foundations, Whilst not affiliated to any Christian denomination, the Trust's volunteer trustees regard it as important to keep this most historic building in the parish in a good state of repair and to maintain it as an important religious and community resource, and as the garrison church for many years to come.

Among other skills, the Trust is seeking potential trustees with experience in agricultural land matters or in any aspect of finance. If you'd like to find out more please contact the Trust's Chair, David Wood at dwconsultants@icloud.com or 07903 671703. “

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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: cllr david@penguinmail.co.uk

Lucy Katz: cllr lucykatzmertonpc@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.

Nottingham Knockers and other door-to-door salespeople

The Parish Council has received this advice about door-to-door sales people, known as “Nottingham Knockers” and asked us to pass it on to you. I have certainly fallen for this scam in my time – feeling sorry for someone just trying to get their life back on track. I knew I was probably being suckered, but felt guilty enough to just give in. I had no idea I was enabling a network of criminals.

The last piece of advice is the best – if no-one in an area responds to them, they won't bother coming back. So we're not just protecting ourselves, we're protecting each other.

Who are the Nottingham Knockers?

They are doorstep callers who target areas

offering small household products for sale. Callers may claim to be ex-convicts attempting to mend their ways, or on probation. However, they are not part of any recognised rehabilitation scheme.

How does the scam work?

According to police, a bag of household products is supplied by someone who hires them (originally from Nottingham - hence the name), but now they are recruited from anywhere.

The lads are supplied with a full bag of household products and charged a minimal sum for the contents – round about £35. They can keep whatever they make above this amount.

Usually they are deposited in an area from a van and given a list of streets to work. An hour or so later they are picked up and dropped off in another location. They often work from 9am to 9pm.

They will knock on a door, offering cleaning items which they know are cheap and of very poor quality (the householder often knows they are rubbish but is left to feel they are helping someone out). Many people will purchase items and pay them something, just to get rid of them. There have been cases of elderly residents handing over large sums as knockers can be very persistent and confrontational.

The sellers may indicate they are on a “rehabilitation course” arranged by probation services or other organisations trying to find people work. This is not the case and often they are known criminals.

Probation services do not run such schemes.

They must have a Pedlar's Licence to sell at your door. To get round this they may show a card which claims to be a licence or work permit. The more common one has a title something like "WORK CREATION HAWKER" often followed by "Making myself a better person". This is phoney, and they are breaking the law simply by using anything like this.

The price for whatever has been purchased usually comes to a round figure - usually £10. The householder disappears to get this - this is when the scam begins, according to police. When the note is handed over, the lad examines the condition and how long it took the person to get it (and may have time to look around inside). If your note is crumpled, they accept it and move on. If it is crisp flat and new - they are much more interested and may engage the person in more conversation, to obtain details about them.

As they leave, they will often smell the note. If it is slightly musty - it could be an indication that there is more stored in the property. The addresses of elderly/vulnerable/ trusting people are all noted, and the list handed to their hirer with a small amount of cash handed over for each one.

The lists are purchased by all sorts of people including "cheap tarmac" layers, tree workers, roofers, dodgy builders etc., and can be shared amongst the criminal community. If there is a later break-in, the hirer expects a further cut of the proceeds. Once on a list, your address could be sold on and on. Hence the repeat nature of these persistent callers.

Please warn your neighbours, particularly elderly or vulnerable ones, not to open the door to strangers or buy or sell on the doorstep. Unfortunately, the elderly are often targeted for these scams and any suspicious activity should

be reported to Thames Valley Police on 101 (or 999 if you see them in your community).

Remember, if cold callers don't get any sales in our area, they are less likely to return.

What's it like, living in Oxfordshire as an older citizen? Have your say in making it better
The Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group is the body which plans, buys and oversees health services on our behalf.

They're carrying out a consultation on making sure Oxfordshire's population of older people are getting the most out of life in all aspects of health. It's called the Older People's Strategy for Consultation: Living Longer, Living Better.

You can contribute your ideas by:

1. Completing an online questionnaire using the link <http://bit.ly/OPStrat>
2. Request a hard copy of the questionnaire to fill out by hand by calling 01865-334638. The return address is Freepost Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group so won't cost you anything to respond
3. Send an email with "Draft Older People's strategy" as the subject to Josephine.wilkes@nhs.net

The trouble with all these consultations is that they always tend to hear from the same people within an echo chamber. If you've got strong opinions or good ideas, but don't live in the echo chamber, it would be really valuable to share them.

The consultation is open from 7th December 2018 to 1st February 2019

FREE film show in Merton Village Hall:
Thursday 21 February

The next in our 'season' of FREE films – open to ALL residents of Merton and neighbouring villages – will be shown in the Village Hall at

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

.30 pm on Thursday, 21 February.

The Darkest Hour is a 2017 biographical drama about Winston Churchill's early days as Prime Minister, starring Gary Oldman as Churchill and also Kristin Scott Thomas, Lily James, Ben Mendelsohn, Stephen Dillane and Ronald Pickup.

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: 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).

Discussions with Oxford Cavaliers – keeping you updated

As you know we held a village consultation meeting regarding a pitch sharing arrangement with the Oxford Cavaliers Rugby Club. The meeting was well-attended, and gave a generally positive welcome to the proposal, although caveats remain.

The Parish Council met up with representatives from the Club following on from the Village meeting, with the goal of planning for next steps, and beginning to tie down specifics. This process is going to take some time – but I just wanted to assure villagers that we're acting in accordance with your wishes and are pursuing the tie-up. We'll publish a more detailed outline, once we have specifics in place.

Working at the Woodland

Just to remind everyone that you're warmly welcome to join the group of Mertonites who run / manage our Woodland. There's a working party which meets at the woodland at 10am every other Sunday – so 20th January, 3rd and 17th February, 3rd March and so on. The most important current task is the coppicing of the Hazel which is a skill dating back many centuries. It's also very good exercise, and a great way to meet fellow villagers.

Absolutely no skills are necessary – although if you own a pair of loppers, please do bring them along.

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PIDDINGTON NEWS

PIDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Happy New Year from Piddington Parish Council. It's likely to be a challenging one! Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 19th February 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. There are no planning applications under review at the time of writing.

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 EMAILS

Piddington News & Events. To receive 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 and register: <http://www.piddingtonvillageoxfordshire.org.uk/>. You will receive a welcome email. If this does not appear in your inbox within 5 minutes, please check your spam folder and add us to your 'Safe Senders' list.

PRECEPT INCREASE

The Parish Council at its meeting in January agreed to increase the precept by 5%. This represents an extra £2.52 per annum for Band D properties. It is expected that this sum will support the Parish Council in defraying unexpected expenses from the Planning Appeal in March 2019.

APPEAL REFERENCE APP/
C3105/W/18/3209349 GYPSY/TRAVELLER
SITE ON WIDNELL LANE

Members of the Parish Council have met with Richard Langham of Landmark Chambers in Piddington to discuss the Appeal. He was taken

around the parish and also met with the military at the Garrison. Costs for his services are now being incurred. Those of you who pledged money will have been contacted by the clerk with the bank details of the Parish Council. At the end of last year, we received £8500 in pledges. However, further funds are still needed. If you are in a position to help, no matter the amount, please contact the Parish Clerk. If sending an email, please head it 'Legal Costs'. Anne Davies: piddington.parish.clerk@googlemail.com or 01865 379645.

WIDNELL PARK, PLAYING FIELD AND MEADOW

The Parish Council is pleased to confirm that it has been granted funding from Viridor for £7486 towards the cost of a Fitness Trail for the playing field. This, together with a £500 contribution from The Pantry, means we will be able to proceed with the scheme, which will be first of its kind in the area. It is hoped that the equipment will be in place by Easter. The Parish Council will be working closely with the supplier, Proludic, to provide initial training for anyone interested at an opening event party!

The problem of some dog owners from the village not picking up after their pets continues, and seems to have become worse with the dark evenings. Please be a responsible owner and pick up. If you have forgotten to bring your own poo bags, you will find a small supply beside the dog poo bin. Not only is it an offence to allow dog fouling at the park and playing field but it is inconsiderate and irresponsible. Some individuals have been sent a warning letter and further infringements will result in their details being passed on to the dog warden.

CHILDREN'S PLAY AREA

The playground fund-raising team are now in the midst of applying for grants for replacement equipment. If you would like more information on the scheme or wish to help with funding or make a donation, please contact Olivia (email olivia_329@hotmail.com).

ALLOTMENTS

A couple of plots are available. The annual subscription is £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. The Parish Council has made enquiries regarding the supply of water to the site, including help with funding, and are hoping to finalise details at the next PPC meeting.

VILLAGE HOUSEKEEPING

Cherwell DC are responsible for the emptying of bins. If you notice that a bin is overfull you can contact Cherwell directly and it 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. At the time of writing The Parish Council is still awaiting the delivery of a new dog bin, which will be installed in Lower End, close to Shady Lane.

The Parish Council is aware that a number of lights are out in the village and first reported the problems in October to Oxfordshire County Council. Our Councillor has now been advised and asked to deal with the matter. A request has also been made for the sweeping of village kerbs and clearing of any blocked drains.

The Parish Council has been approached by the building company Murphys, whose team have been working at the railway embankment, offering help with any large manual jobs needing to be undertaken in the village. It has been agreed that on their return in spring they will clear the Children's Play Area of its bark and old fencing and remove the concrete blocks at the entrance to Widnell Park where the new pedestrian gate was installed. The Parish Council and St Nicholas Church would also like to thank the guys at Murphys for their kind

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

donation of food and festive goodies for the food bank, which were distributed around the village prior to Christmas.

THE PANTRY

The Pantry committee have agreed to set aside the sum of £500 towards the funding of each of the following village schemes: The Fitness Trail at the playing field, The Children's Play Area refurbishment and the new Village Hall extension. In total the market will have either pledged or donated some £8000 towards village causes since it started. The Spring Market will be held on Saturday 30th March. Please support it in any way you can.

OXFORD – CAMBRIDGE EXPRESSWAY

Highways England have produced a booklet 'Oxford to Cambridge Expressway: The Preferred Corridor' (<https://highwaysengland.co.uk/projects/oxford-to-cambridge-expressway/>). It is expected that one million new houses will be built along the agreed route, of which 300,000 are allocated to Oxfordshire. A public consultation is likely to take place in Autumn 2019, with the announcement of the preferred route in 2020 and construction starting in 2025. Meetings are being held locally, which Parish Councillors will endeavour to attend, and updates will be sent via the village email.

RURAL POLICING

Next meeting 20th February 7pm at Fringford Village Hall. If you have any concerns or would like to attend, contact Ken Howard (email: ken.howard@piddingtonpc.com).

Contact the police directly if you have any concerns or wish to report suspicious behaviour or vehicles in the village (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. Phone 0800 7830137 or visit www.ruralcrimereportingline.uk.

Piddington Craft and Social Club

We meet each Wednesday morning in Piddington Village Hall from 10.30- 12.30. The cost is £4 which includes coffee and some materials.

The club is a very friendly place to come and share ideas.

Look on the village website to see what we have done so far.

Ring Chris or Maggie on 01844237688 for more information or just pop in any Wednesday.

Coffee Morning & Bring & buy Sale

Every one welcome on Saturday 16th February 10 - 12 at at St Nichohas Church Piddington. All offers of help and donations greatly appreciated.

All proceeds to St Nichohas Church maintemance for 2019

ROAD-CALMING MEASURES FOR THE VILLAGE

The Parish Council has applied to Cherwell DC for funding for the purchase of white gates for

the village entrances. The vehicle-activated sign on Arncott Road has been recalibrated and is proving a great success. Finding suitable posts elsewhere in the village has been problematic and new posts will have to be purchased to accommodate the sign. The aim is to move the sign every few weeks, however, until suitable posts can be provided it will remain on Arncott Road. If you are interested in being part of the village road safety group, please contact Ian Darby: isdarby@btinternet.com.

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.

DIARY DATES

15 March – Film Night

30 March – The Pantry Spring Market, 10-2

The March Pop-Up Pub will not be on the last Friday of the month due to setting up The Pantry, but the date will be advertised around the village beforehand.

PIDDINGTON 200 CLUB WINNERS

Drawn at Village Hall on 30th November 2018.

- 1st. 019. J. Rixon
- 2nd. 034. T. Coggins
- 3rd. 180. K. Elliott
- 4th. 017. J. Bayliss

Drawn at Village Hall Christmas Drinks Party on 14th December 2018.

- 1st. 033. C. Coggins
- 2nd. 160. S. Innes
- 3rd. 070 L. Woodhouse
- 4th. 137. L. Galloway

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



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OTMOOR GARDEN SOCIETY

A new year means a new start and a time for looking forward, so I don't think you will want to hear too much about last November's speaker. In a nut shell: John Ellis, Growing and showing vegetables, very good talk, thank you to him!

There is a lot to look forward to in our new 2019 programme which is hopefully printed alongside. We've got five new speakers this year and three reliable repeats. One highlight to watch out for is Rosy Hardy who many of you will have seen on the television winning numerous gold medals at the Chelsea flower show and elsewhere. Her award winning nursery often launches exciting new perennials, so September should be a feast of flowers for us with this plant-driven talk. Amongst the trips we have some new gardens for you, and some old favourites. Ablington Manor, a private garden only open by appointment, looks exciting, as does Loseley Park which is a Gertrude Jekyll designed walled garden open only for a short season each year. Wisley and the Malvern Autumn Show are always popular, and Thenford Arboretum is back by popular demand after, I believe, one previous visit several years ago.

Of course the main date for your diary is the Plant Sale on Saturday 11th May – sharpen your elbows and get ready to shop!

First on our speaker list this year is Rob Jacobs who has given us two good talks in the past. This will be on 26th February at Charlton, when Rob will speak on 'The History and Legacy of

the Ladies Horticultural School at Waterperry'. So he has already won the contest (if there was one) for the longest talk title and given us a few challenges in fitting it onto our A5 programme! Rob began his horticultural career as a Waterperry Apprentice, later specialising in the growing of herbaceous and alpine plants. Over the past 20 years he has trained in the care, design and maintenance of Waterperry's famous herbaceous border, and was pivotal in developing the more recent grass borders which provide interest into winter. Rob is now the Horticultural Manager at Waterperry. Hopefully a good start to our new gardening year.

Happy Gardening, and may you and your garden flourish in 2019!

Judith Rawlinson

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

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

WANTED:

1, 1.5 AND 2 LITRE PLANT POTS

SIZE IS APPROX. 4 - 6 INCH

(NEEDED EARLY FEBRUARY)

**PLEASE DONATE TO ANY GARDEN
SOCIETY COMMITTEE MEMBER**

Otmoor Garden Society Programme 2019

Date	Topic/Event	Speaker	Location
January 22 nd 7:30pm	AGM with supper and quiz		Murcott
February 26th	The History and Legacy of the Ladies Horticultural School at Waterperry	Rob Jacobs	Charlton
March 26th	The Cottage Garden	Kathy Brown	Murcott
April 14 th (Sun)	Willow Workshop with Norah Kennedy (20 places, members only)		
April 23rd	X-rated invertebrates – Sex and Savagery in the Garden	Roger Umpleby	Charlton
May 11th	PLANT SALE	11:00 – 13:00	Charlton
May 17 th (Fri) 2:30pm	Visit to Ablington Manor (own transport)		
May 28th	Growing Native Orchids in the Garden	Dr Wilson Wall	Murcott
June 8 th (Sat) 2:00 pm	Visit to Thenford Arboretum - Heseltine's garden (own transport)		
June 16 th (Sun) 2:00pm	Garden Party at member's garden Fencott		
June 25th	Plants for Shade	Andrew Mikolajski	Murcott
July 7 th (Sun)	Coach trip to Loseley Park Gardens and Wisley		
September 24th	Autumn Flowering Perennials	Rosy Hardy	Murcott
September 28 th (Sat)	Coach trip to Malvern Autumn Show		
October 22nd	Winter Pots and Hanging Baskets	Peter Richardson	Charlton
November 26th	The Garden Design Process	Jonathan Ford	Murcott

Meetings are held on the fourth Tuesday of most months at 8:00 pm, alternating between Charlton on Otmoor and Murcott Village Halls. To join contact ali@hinksey.plus.com or phone Brian Eadle on 01865 331472. Non Members welcome to attend meetings for a charge of £2.

BUS TIMETABLES

Oxford - Islip - Ambrosden

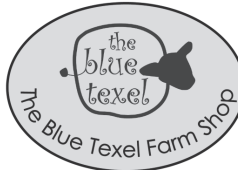
Oxford St Giles (Stop C5)	16:10	17:10	18:10
Gosford, o/s Kings Arms PH	16:30	17:30	18:30
Islip, opp The Red Lion PH	16:35	17:35	18:35
Oddington, opp Glebe Barn Bus Shelter	16:40	17:40	18:40
Charlton-on-Otmoor, opp Bus Garage	16:45	17:45	18:45
Merton, o/s The Plough Inn PH	16:50	17:50	18:50
Ambrosden, adj Birch Road	16:55	17:55	18:55

Ambrosden - Islip - Oxford

Ambrosden, opp Birch Road	07:00	07:45
Merton, opp The Plough Inn PH	07:05	07:50
Charlton-on-Otmoor, o/s Bus Garage	07:10	07:55
Oddington, o/s Glebe Barn Bus Shelter	07:15	08:00
Islip, o/s The Red Lion PH	07:20	08:05
Gosford, opp Kings Arms PH	07:25	08:10
Oxford St Giles (Stop C5)	07:40	08:25



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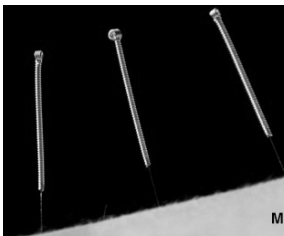
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The January meeting began with a round-up of recent events and news of future plans, including a Bowling trip to Bicester and another Community Lunch. This year marks the centenary of the Oxfordshire Federation of the WI and members are being challenged to do 100 miles during the year. Some have chosen to undertake sponsored events in aid of charities offering members a chance to offer sponsorship or practical assistance.

Biff Raven-Hill, the speaker for the evening was introduced, and proved to be very entertaining. Her talk entitled the Wartime Housewife might well have heralded an evening of recent history. She began with an account of her Grandmother's experiences of coping with rationing and other difficulties on the home front during World War II. However, this proved just an introduction as she went on to reveal how subsequent generations had been thankful for such knowledge in dealing with post-war shortages and family difficulties. Brought up largely by her Grandmother, due to her mother's illness, Biff learned to make do and mend and make the most of every situation. Cooking, growing vegetables, keeping chickens and making her own clothes or adapting existing ones were all part of her upbringing and stood her in good stead in later life. Realising that many did not have this knowledge to fall back on she started a blog, the Wartime Housewife, where she posted practical articles, recipes, hints and tips and she soon accumulated thousands of followers.

The Blog in turn led to writing a book which has also proved very popular.

To illustrate her talk a collection of artefacts were laid out which had already prompted many exclamations of "I had one of those," or "Whatever was that used for?" Biff ended her talk with a quiz based on these objects. Small prizes were distributed to the highest scorers and it was a great way to round off a very entertaining hour.

Refreshments served by Rosemary and Kay were enjoyed as the many topics raised continued to bring back memories or prompt yet more questions. Members had been asked to bring items kept from World War II for the competition of the month. A wide range of items had been brought along from recipe books and ration books to military and ARP items. First prize went to Christeen Lavery with Mary Hatwell 2nd and Alison Paine and Beryl Lambert joint third.

Members were reminded that the next meeting, on Tuesday 12th February, will see Angela Collins with her Puppet Tale as our speaker.

Dates for the Diary

February 6th – Pastimes 2-4.00 (MVH)
February 12th – A Puppet Tale with Angela Collins 7.45 (CCH)
February 21st – Coffee, Craft and Cake 7.30 (MVH)
March 6th – Pastimes 2-4.00 (MVH)
March 12th – Annual Meeting 7.45 (CCH)
March 21st – Coffee, Craft and Cake 7.30 (MVH)

For further details please contact Virginia Lawrence on 01865331521

ADVERTISING & CONTACTS

COST OF ADVERTISING (PER MONTH)

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

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

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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

Merton Lucy Katz cllrucykatzmertonpc@gmail.com

Piddington Chris Howard 01844 237928 chris.howard38@btinternet.com

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

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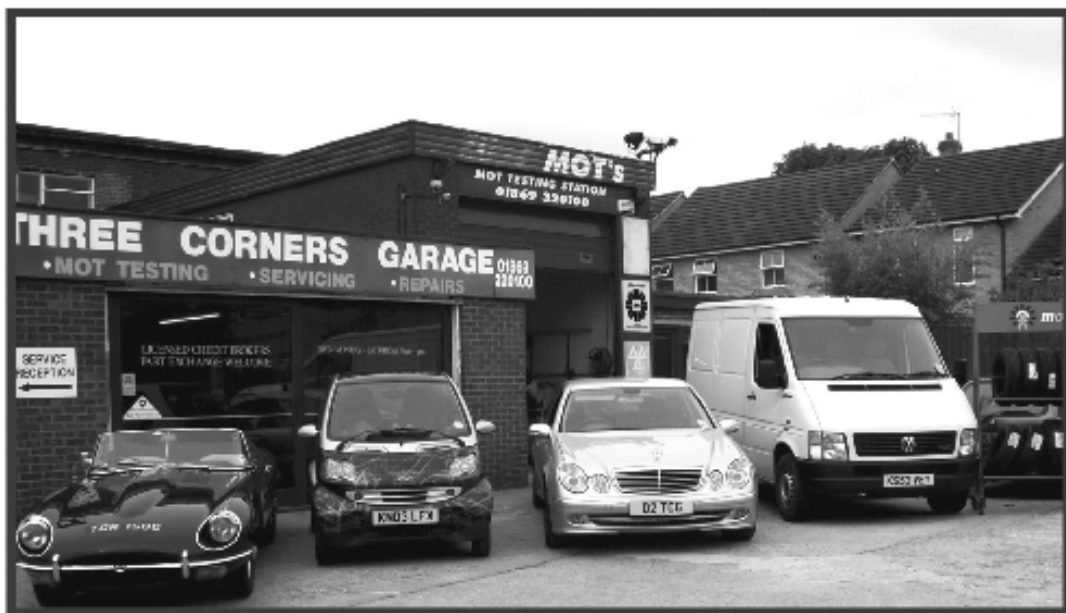


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