

# PARISH MATTERS



MARCH 2019

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

*VILLAGE VIEWS & LOCAL NEWS*



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Welcome to the March edition of Parish Matters.

**If you could offer a few hours a month, as a volunteer,  
to help sell more advertising space in Parish Matters  
please call Russell Thompson 07915 331443 or email [rthom91543@aol.com](mailto:rthom91543@aol.com)**

Parish Matters Committee

# LETTER FROM THE CLERGY TEAM

---

To live is to change

I'm sure there can be few people who don't look forward to the month of March with its promise of spring colour and longer, hopefully brighter and warmer, days. March marks the start of spring and in the church is always mostly occupied by our liturgical spring season known as Lent – a word which has its origins in the 'lengthening of days'. Although, surprisingly perhaps, lent as a season of abstinence seems to have kept its hold on the imagination of some in our secular culture (as if dry January or Veganuary wasn't enough), increasingly the practice amongst churchgoers is to see Lent as a season for spiritual growth by enlarging our understanding of God.

Faith and its practice should no more be a static matter than any other aspect of life. As Cardinal Newman famously said "To live is to change, and to be perfect is to have changed often." Similarly if the church is to stay alive, it too must be open to change.

In the Ray Valley benefice we are currently looking at making some changes to our service pattern and provision. This is partly out of necessity as the current pattern is unsustainable for the Ministry Team without an unreasonable level of regular additional voluntary support from either retired ministers or those licensed in neighbouring benefices, (who it has to be said find themselves often leading worship for very low numbers). It is also however in recognition of the fact that our current provision is heavily

weighted towards Communion services which some people find excluding or insufficiently flexible to offer the range of worship styles that are increasingly the norm across the Church of England.

So, over the next few weeks, we will be consulting congregations but we would also like to hear from those who don't currently worship because perhaps either the timing or the style of service is a barrier. If that applies to you, please do have a word in person or by email with any of the members of the Ministry Team – or look out for local opportunities for sharing your views. Anyone with an interest in such things will know that many churches now offer a varied diet of worship to suit changing and diverse tastes. We would very much like to expand the menu we can offer across the benefice which eight diverse parishes and buildings should enable us to do.

We welcome your views!

Rev Lucy Thirtle  
Associate Priest

# CHURCH SERVICES MAR

RAY VALLEY SERVICES MARCH 2019

Draft 2

Church	Time	Leader	Service
<b>Sunday March 3rd</b>	<b>Sunday before Lent</b>		<b>Exodus 34.29-end 2 Corinthians 3.12-4.2 Luke 9.28-36</b>
Ambrosden	10.30	Lisa	Holy Communion
	18.30	Steve	The X-tra One
Merton	09.00	Lisa	Holy Communion
Piddington	10.30	Steve	Family Service & Baptism
Islip	10.30	Lucy	Parish Communion
Noke	17.00	Lucy	Family Service
Charlton	10.30	Glenys	Family Service
<b>Wednesday March 6th</b>	<b>Ash Wednesday</b>		
Ambrosden	10.00	Lucy	Holy Communion
Charlton	19.30	Lisa	Ash Wednesday Service
Islip	19.30	Steve	Holy Communion
<b>Sunday March 10th</b>	<b>Lent 1</b>		<b>Deuteronomy 26.1-11 Romans 10.8-13 Luke 4.1-13</b>
Ambrosden	10.30	Steve	Family Service
Piddington	09.00	Steve	Holy Communion
Islip	10.30	Lucy	Parish Communion
Woodeaton	09.15	Lucy	Family Service
Charlton	09.00	Lisa	Family Communion
	18.00	Steve	Evening Prayer
Oddington	10.30	Lisa	Holy Communion
<b>Sunday March 17th</b>	<b>Lent 2</b>		<b>Genesis 15.1-12,17-18 Philippians 3.17-4.1 Luke 13.31-end</b>
Ambrosden	10.30	Lucy	Holy Communion
Merton	09.00	Lucy	Holy Communion
Piddington	18.00	Lisa	Evening Prayer
Islip	10.30	Steve	Parish Communion
Noke	09.15	Steve	Holy Communion
Charlton	10.30	Lisa	Family Communion
<b>Sunday March 24th</b>	<b>Lent 3</b>		<b>Isaiah 55.1-9 1 Corinthians 10.1-13 Luke 13.1-9</b>
Ambrosden	10.30	Lay	Morning Prayer
Merton	10.30	Cover	Family Service
Piddington	09.00	Lisa	Holy Communion
Islip	10.30	Lucy	Family Service
Charlton	09.00	Lucy	Holy communion
Oddington	18.00	Lisa	Evening Prayer
<b>Sunday March 31st</b>	<b>Lent 4 Mothering</b>		<b>Samuel 1.20-end 2 Corinthians 1.3-7 John 19.25-27</b>
Islip	10.00	All	United Benefice Café Church – Village Hall
Piddington	18.00	Steve	Holy Communion

# CLERGY CONTACTS

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## 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](http://www.bicestermethodist.org.uk)*

Roman Catholic: Fr John Batthula [jbatthula@googlemail.com](mailto:jbatthula@googlemail.com) 01869 253277

*Catholic services: Please consult the website: [www.immaculate-conception.org.uk](http://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

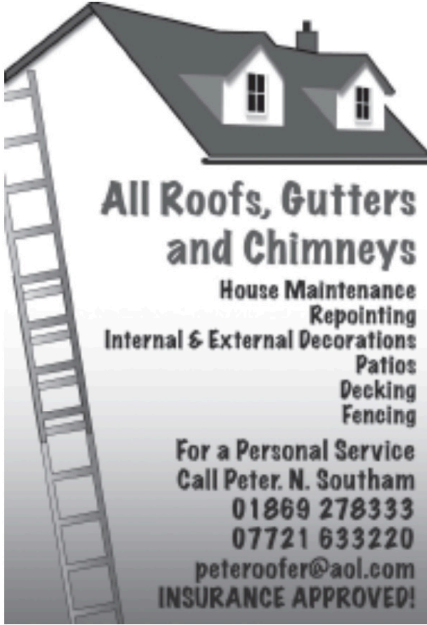
Ambrosden: Mrs Pam Newell (bells only) 01869 241667  
Organist (vacant)

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

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

Parish website

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

Ambrosden Parish Councillors:

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

[mlongworth.co.uk](http://mlongworth.co.uk)

Maureen Cossens (Vice Chair) –

01869 252722

Chris West

Philip Blazdell

Serinne Mills Curtis

Sue Posselwhite

Wendy Cheeseman

Parish Clerk

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

District Councillors

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

David Anderson (Conservative)

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

Lucinda Wing (Conservative)

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

Dan Sames (Conservative)

[Daniel.Sames@Cherwell-DC.gov.uk](mailto:Daniel.Sames@Cherwell-DC.gov.uk)

County Councillor

Dan Sames (Conservative)

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

Facebook Community message boards

Ambrosden Community

Ambrosden and Caversfield Forces Wives

St. Mary's Church

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

Five Acres School

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

Ambrosden Village Pre School

8.20-11.20 Monday - Friday term time only

Jackie Floyd - 07759755179

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

Tiddlywinks Playgroup

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

Debra Cherry 01869256555

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

Ambrosden Doctors Surgery

01869 256336

Ambrosden4Children

[Ambrosden4children@gmail.com](mailto:Ambrosden4children@gmail.com)

Rosie Hayes 01869 247813

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/>

## VACANCY FOR PARISH CLERK

The Parish Clerk is retiring from the role due to family commitments, if you are interested in taking on this part time, home based role please contact the clerk at Ambrosden. parishclerk@gmail.com for full details of what the job involves.

## DOG WASTE

The Parish Council is aware that there has been an issue with overflowing dog waste bins, and is chasing the District Council to empty them.

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 is pleased that this application has been refused by the District Council. The applicants have advised they will be submitting a Planning Appeal and the Parish Council are considering what steps to take to oppose any proposals to develop this site.

## ALLOTMENTS

On the day of writing, the Parish Council has finally been provided with what appears to be an acceptable legal plan, excluding areas of land that have ownership disputes and those areas of land where the Parish Council was not being provided with access rights for

maintenance.

The Allotments have also been weeded, and treated with weed killer and await a fresh sign off from the District Council's Landscape Officer.

Once the land has been handed over, to the Parish Council, we will seek to move forwards with forming an allotments committee.

## SPEED SURVEYS

The Parish Council commissioned 6no 7 day long speed surveys, in differing locations in three places in Ploughley Road, one position in Blackthorn Road, and two locations in Merton Road. These surveys were undertaken in the 2 weeks before half term and the initial data was received on the day of writing this newsletter.

We will be analysing the data and comparing it to the Parish Council's resource of speed surveys dating from the 1970's, 1990's 2009, 2011, and 2012, to understand any trends. The details will be reported to the next Parish Council in March. The data appears to suggest, the chicane in Merton Road has dropped vehicle speeds by 5mph to the speed limit, and vehicle speeds on Merton Road and outside the school on Ploughley Road meet or at below the speed limit. The changes in speed limits on Ploughley Road, appear to have reduced speeds slightly outside Three Corners Garage, but the speeds are of concern along this stretch of road, so the Parish Council is requesting a 7th speed survey to be undertaken a little closer to the edge of the village, so that we can map the impact on the junction of Old Arcnott Road.

## MOD TRAINING EXCISE

The Parish Council would like to thank the Bicester Garrison Adjutant for his comments in relation to the recent training exercise at Arcnott.

“This Headquarters has been made aware that debris of Illumination/Parachutes, used as part of the training exercise at ‘C’ Site, was found in adjacent areas including a farmers field. It is unfortunate and any inconvenience is regretted.

You will understand security exercises form part of national defence strategy.

The issue has already been covered this with the MoD Police exercise commander and will form part of the ‘lessons learned’ post-exercise report.

Please extend apologies to individuals and the community for any inconvenience this may have caused them.”

#### LITTER PICK

Ambrosden Parish Council is hoping to organise the 2019 Village Litter Pick, enabled by the loan of equipment from the District Council in March or April. Watch the Village Facebook Group for more details.

#### ROAD REPAIRS

After a number of meetings between the Parish Council, Network Rail, Oxfordshire County Council, and with support from our District and County Councillor Dan Sames, work has commenced to repair the damage on Merton Road caused by rail construction traffic.

#### MERTON ROAD CLOSURE

Merton Road will be closed at the Level

Crossing for Road Works from 8am on Saturday 9th March with an expected re-opening at 6pm on Sunday 10th March.

The Diversion will be via Arncott, Fencott, Murcott, Charlton on Otmoor and Merton.

#### 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.

#### 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.

<b>Day and Time</b>	<b>Group or event</b>	<b>Information</b>	<b>Location</b>
Monday 9.30-11am	Ambrosden4 Children Stay and Play	£2.50 entry (additional £1 for siblings) Refreshments included <a href="mailto:Ambrosden4Children@gmail.com">Ambrosden4Children@gmail.com</a>	Village Hall
Monday 6.45pm	Boxing	Simon Charles on village FB group	Village Hall
Monday 6-8pm	Girl Guides	<a href="https://www.girlguiding.org.uk/get-involved">https://www.girlguiding.org.uk/get-involved</a>	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 <a href="https://www.facebook.com/Ambrosden-Gaming-Club-539843919418164/">https://www.facebook.com/Ambrosden-Gaming-Club-539843919418164/</a>	Village Hall
Tuesday 6.30 – 7.30 pm	Yoga	Contact <a href="mailto:jadewells@live.co.uk">jadewells@live.co.uk</a> to book	Village hall
1 <sup>st</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> 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 Arccott Scouts Cubs	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/1stambrosden/">https://www.facebook.com/1stambrosden/</a>	Arccott Village Hall

Wednesday 7.30pm – 9pm	Bicester Military Wives Choir	Karen Rea <a href="mailto:Bicester@militarywiveschoirs.org">Bicester@militarywiveschoirs.org</a>	Silibaravi Families Centre
Thursday 10.30 – 3.30 pm	Thrift Shop		Opposite bottle banks
Thursday 9.30 – 11am	Ambrosden4 Children Stay and Play	£2.50 entry (additional £1 for siblings) Refreshments included <a href="mailto:Ambrosden4Children@gmail.com">Ambrosden4Children@gmail.com</a>	St Mary's Church, OX25 2UJ
Third Thurs of month 7.30pm	Ambrosden Parish council	Monthly meeting – check website for agendas and minutes	Village hall
Friday	Rainbows 5-6pm Brownies 6.30 – 8pm	<a href="http://www.girlguiding.org.uk/interested">www.girlguiding.org.uk/interested</a>	Village hall
Friday 7-9pm	1st Ambrosden and Arccott Scouts	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/1stambrosden/">https://www.facebook.com/1stambrosden/</a>	Arccott Village Hall
Wednesday Thursday, Friday Saturday	Kebab Van		Costcutter car park

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Are you free on a Monday/Thursday morning  
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Do you like to support your local community?

Do you like to socialise?

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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

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REPORT FROM ARNCOTT VHMC & ACA  
MEETING 29th JANUARY & PARISH  
COUNCIL MEETING 5th FEBRUARY 2019

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 (Chair) 01869 245514  
Lee Savidge (Vice Chair) 01869 246565  
Martin Byrne 01869 246532  
Ade Doore 07850 979455  
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/>

Parish council email : [arncottpc@gmail.com](mailto:arncottpc@gmail.com)

Parish Matters Magazine : [arncottvhmc@gmail.com](mailto:arncottvhmc@gmail.com)

Fix My Street : <http://www.fixmystreet.com>

Councillor resignation

Mrs Di Selby informed the parish council in January that she was moving out of the village

and would therefore be resigning from her position as a parish councillor. The parish council would like to take this opportunity to thank Di for her help and involvement with our parish council over the last three years and to wish her well in her new home.

Parish Matters Magazine

Our village news collector, Mrs Marion Moore, has informed us that she is no longer able carry on doing this role. On behalf of us all in the village, thank you Marion for many years of sterling service as the news collector for our parish. Please note that from now on, Arcott entries for inclusion in the magazine need to be emailed to [arncottvhmc@gmail.com](mailto:arncottvhmc@gmail.com) by 20th day of the month. Hand written entries can be catered for – please contact the parish council chairman.

OCC decision to cancel school bus service  
County Councillor Dan Sames informed the Parish Council that he had been unable to get OCC to reverse the decision to cancel the school bus between Arcott and Ambrosden. Suggestions made had not been accepted by OCC and he asked people to let him know if they had any other ideas.

HS2

Councillor Sames reported that there is a suggestion that the railway line to the MOD base be upgraded to allow for trains to take in hard core and aggregate for HS2 and store the materials at “G” site. The haul route for the HS2 lorries would include Palmer Avenue.

## Woodpiece Road

Thankfully, the phase 1 construction is now complete. CDC has informed the parish council that the phase 2 work will not be considered until April 2019 at the earliest. Councillor Sames agreed to enquire about the repairs needed to the corner of Woodpiece Road.

## Grant money for sports facilities

CDC have now confirmed that the proposals to erect a new building next to the village hall (to include a new changing room, shower and storage facilities) would comply with the terms of the S106 monies held by them on behalf of the parish. Cllr Barnard will obtain an updated quote for the work. Planning / building permission will need to be applied for and granted.

## Village Hall public address system

It was agreed at the January VHMC / ACA meeting to accept the quotation from DAT (Deaf Awareness Technology). The Parish Council also agreed to the project and asked the Village Hall Committee to recommend the system to be comprised in the first stage of the scheme. The system will include a loop amplifier arrangement for the benefit of people with hearing difficulties.

## Speeding

In another effort to get drivers to slow down when entering the village, the parish council is investigating the possibilities and costs of installing vehicle activated speed signs at the entrance / exit points on Ploughley Road at Lower Arcott and Murcott Road at Upper Arcott. The reviews posted up by various local authorities within the UK show that these visual devices have a positive effect in getting drivers to slow down. As always, we are appealing for volunteers to help in the running of a speedwatch campaign. The info collected from this activity 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 for more information.

## Dog Poo

This problem is not going away. Some selfish people are still not doing what they should do. To try and improve things, we need our community to be involved. 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.

## Defibrillator Units

Two public defibrillator units are within the village. 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.

## 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.

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

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## 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.

## Summer Aunt Sally league

The Plough pub in Arcott is looking for players to sign up for the summer Aunt Sally league competition starting in April. If you fancy playing Aunt Sally for your local then please call in at the pub and have a chat with Josh, K or D about signing up and fixture dates. You can also text / ring Josh on 07956 970839.

## 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.

## 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](http://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 in the village hall at 7:00pm except for December when no meeting will be held.

Your contacts for the Village Hall Management Committee are:

John Cooper (Chair AVHMC) – 01869 323349 – [johncooper47@btinternet.com](mailto:johncooper47@btinternet.com)

Christine Dunkin (Chair ACA and Village Hall hire) - 01869 249560 – [avhlettings@gmail.com](mailto:avhlettings@gmail.com)

Village hall email address - [arcottvhmc@gmail.com](mailto:arcottvhmc@gmail.com)

ACA – [arcottca@gmail.com](mailto:arcottca@gmail.com). Telephone - secretary 07716 812430



300 club – Wendy Wilkins - [arncott300club@gmail.com](mailto:arncott300club@gmail.com)

Facebook - [www.facebook.com/groups/arncottCA](http://www.facebook.com/groups/arncottCA)

View hall availability on the calendar page at <http://www.parish-council.com/arncott/>  
Updated monthly.

### **Clubs at the hall**

Ska Martial Arts Tang Song Doo / Tia Kwon Do – Mondays 6.45pm to 7:45pm. Contact Sean on 07740684164 or turn up on the night.

Tumble Tots – Tuesday 9.30 am to 2.30 pm.  
Cubs – Wednesday 5.30 pm to 7:00 pm. School term times only.

Dance Fitness – Wednesdays 7:00 pm to 8.00 pm. £2.00 per person.

Dog Training - Thursday 6.30 pm to 9:00 pm.  
Scouts – Friday 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm. School term times only.

Note – contact details for clubs are included only with written consent. If you wish your details to be included or wish to amend any entry for your club please email to [arncottvhmc@gmail.com](mailto:arncottvhmc@gmail.com)

### **Community events at the hall**

Charity Dinner in Arccott Village Hall  
Saturday March 30th - 7:30pm until late.  
Tickets £13 per person.

Gwen McEwan is organising this dinner in aid of Age Concern McMillan.

Cheques and menu choices to be given to Gwen by Monday March 18th.

Cheques to be made payable to Gwen McEwan.  
Contact Gwen on 01869 248309 - 14 Hopcraft Close, Upper Arccott, Nr. Bicester. OX25 1QL

Starter choice from ; Tomato and basil soup / Prawn cocktail / Pate with red currant jelly

and melba toast.

Main choice from ; Gammon steak Hawaiian / Chicken breast in pancetta with a rich tomato sauce /

Poached salmon with a creamy parsley sauce.

Sweet choice from ; Chocolate & cherry cheesecake with coffee ice cream / Brandy basket with fruit filling /

Cheese selection and biscuits.

Red wine @ £7.50 per bottle. White wine @ £7.50 per bottle.

Friendship club – Second Wednesday of each month 1.45pm – 3:45pm. 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. 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.

ACA Open Meetings – Quarterly - see the hall calendar for details.

### **Other community events**

Craft Club – Thursdays from 7pm to 9 pm in Greenfields Common Room. All welcome no matter what your craft or standard.

ACA - Monthly on the first Sunday - ACA indoor boot sale. Hot off the press - volunteer needed to make sure this one keeps going.  
April 2019 – Paintballing at Arccott Motor Park. Safety certificate issued and an event for 60 people approved. Arccott residents will go to the front of the ticket queue. Full details to follow shortly.

Halloween event – To be confirmed

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

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VHMC - The Village Fete will be held on Sunday 21st July 2019 at the village hall and playing field. Please contact any VHMC or ACA committee member if you would like to be involved in planning and organizing the fete, or helping on the day. Information correct at the time of printing. Contact the event organiser for further information.

## Projects and improvements

Installation of an inductance loop, internal audio and external PA system. Tender process complete. Now awaiting final funding confirmation.

Weather damage to the rear fire door has been repaired.

The notice board on the corner of Orchard Close is being refurbished.

Internet access in the Village Hall is being researched.

300 Club winners - Draw date Tuesday 29th January

258 ..... Mr P. Henry

165 ..... Mrs M. Wilson

237 ..... Mrs J. Naylor

149 ..... Mr G. Watson

024 ..... Mr C. Robinson

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

## Material for the parish magazine

If you wish to submit any Arncott related item for publishing in the Parish Matters magazine then please e-mail to [arncottvhmc@gmail.com](mailto:arncottvhmc@gmail.com) or in person to the parish council chairman. Entries submitted by the 20th of the month will be included in the following month's edition.



# BLACKTHORN NEWS

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## NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

### Recent Neighbourhood Watch Alerts

Crash for Cash – There were reports of 2 vehicles involved in a crash for cash scam at Rodney House roundabout on 7th February, unfortunately for the scammers, they picked an unmarked police car to pull the stunt on. There have been several reports on social media that this is becoming more common in Bicester and the surrounding villages.



Vehicle Keyless theft - Theft of 'keyless entry' vehicles is on the increase. Some thieves now have equipment that can fool the vehicle into thinking the key is close by and therefore open, and even start, the car without the need for the key. One criminal stands by the car with his 'receiver' whilst the other one stands closer to the house with his 'amplifier'. Tips from the police include:

- If possible, turn off the key to stop it transmitting the signal.
- Keep keys away from the front of the house in order to reduce the chance of the thief being able to receive and transmit the signal.
- Store keys in a 'Faraday' pack or metal box. (These block the signal being transmitted)

Please be alert and report any suspicious activity to 101. If you suspect a crime is in progress, report it to 999.

Thames Valley Neighbourhood Watch alerts are now added to the Blackthorn Facebook page.

## Blackthorn Facebook page

Did you know that Blackthorn Village has its very own Facebook page giving you information on the local activities & events as well as the latest news / Neighbourhood Watch alerts?

Next time you're on Facebook, simply search Blackthorn Village and add yourself. The group is intended for villagers' and only allows adverts for local events/companies.



## BLACKTHORN VILLAGE HALL

### Blackthorn Village Hall Events Calendar:

- Fri 22nd Feb – Pub Night – 7.30 pm
- Sat 23rd Feb – Quiz Night – 7 pm for 7.30 start
- Thu 7th Mar – Coffee Morning – 11 am
- Sat 16th Mar – St Patrick's Day Celebration – 7.30 pm
- Fri 29th Mar – Pub Night – 7.30 pm
- Thu 4th Apr – Coffee Morning – 11 am
- Sun 21st Apr – Easter Egg Hunt 11 am
- Fri 26th Apr – Pub Night – 7.30 pm
- Sun 5th May – Sunday Brunch 11 am

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](mailto:blackthornvillagehall@gmail.com)

If you would like to hire the Blackthorn Village Hall please phone Sandie on 01869 321542 or email Blackthorn Village Hall at [blackthornvillagehall@gmail.com](mailto:blackthornvillagehall@gmail.com)

## PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Council Members:

Chair – Cllr Jenny Lamont  
Vice Chair – Cllr Randal Rue  
Cllr Richard Burden  
Cllr Sandie Stevenson  
Cllr Rachel Lamont  
Clerk – Tracey Charlesworth

## OTHER

Many people will already be aware of the proposed Oxford to Cambridge Expressway. The Oxford to Cambridge Expressway is a proposed dual carriageway between the A34 near Oxford and the A14 near Cambridge. The proposal aims to establish this route by linking existing roads and building new ones.

In September 2018, Government announced the preferred corridor and the final route is expected to be announced next year. This will follow a public consultation.

Details of the project can be found:

<http://highwaysengland.co.uk/projects/oxford-to-cambridge-expressway/>



# Blackthorn Village Hall.



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01896 321542

[aastevenson@willowpond.co.uk](mailto:aastevenson@willowpond.co.uk)

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In aid of Dr South's CE Primary School,  
Islip and St Nicholas' Church, Islip



# MERTON NEWS

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Merton Parish Council

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

Tony Bradley (Chair): [ajrbradley@hotmail.com](mailto:ajrbradley@hotmail.com).

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

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

Lucy Katz: [cllr lucykatzmertonpc@gmail.com](mailto:cllr lucykatzmertonpc@gmail.com)

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

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

## Allotments

Having tracked down current and former allotment holders, the Council has re-zoned and marked out the allotments.

There are 3 allotments available, each just under 14m<sup>2</sup>, for the princely sum of £13.50 per annum. The plots are next to each other, so could also be taken as a double, or even a triple if your fingers are feeling very green.

There is a water tap in the allotment area.

The annual contract starts in April, so if you take one up now, you get a few weeks for free.

We're the first to admit, they're not in a "manicured" state. Several have lain fallow for quite a long time, and some serious work

digging over etc will be needed. But if you've a yen for some home-grown fruit and veg, then do please contact [cllr lucykatzmertonpc@gmail.com](mailto:cllr lucykatzmertonpc@gmail.com) or 07970-803753.

New Housing on the Merton Road in Ambrosden Ambrosden Parish Council have contacted us to let us know that there's a proposal to put up 80-odd new houses on the Merton Road, on the right hand side as you come out of Ambrosden. This is, of course, in addition to the development they've just finished on the other side of the road.

Ambrosden Parish Council has asked us to send an objection to the planners because of the increased traffic on the road.

The Parish Council very much agrees. The road past the Post Office and the Hairdresser is often impassable as it is, particularly when large lorries try and get through. An additional 40-odd cars coming and going through the pinch point will just make a bad situation worse. It will also increase traffic through Merton.

## Village Hall refurbishment

The Parish Council wants to carry out a refurbishment of the Village Hall. If you've been in there recently, you'll know that it's pretty shabby on the inside, and not a very welcoming place. If you've dared to enter the "storage area" you'll know that this is barely standing. Anything stored in there is neither clean nor dry as it's pretty much open to the elements.

neither clean nor dry as it's pretty much open to the elements.

The sporting facilities are not in a good condition, either. There are no toilets in the changing rooms, and anyone needing the toilet has to track round to the main hall. The referee's changing room (although "room" is a bit generous) is not in a good state.

On the plus side, the Hall is warm and dry – the windows and doors all fit, and the heating works. While it's not attractive, it is functional. It has good accessibility via the entrance ramp. The kitchen is fine. So we don't have to spend thousands getting it up to a legal or even usable minimum.

There are various funding pots available from quangos and charitable bodies which we can tap into to help pay for a refurbishment. The Fencott and Murcott Village Hall Committee have just carried out a major refurbishment and they received much of their £33,000 budget from these external sources – and we're not planning to spend as much as that.

If you have ideas as to any improvements for the Village Hall, either inside or out, please do let us know via [ellrlucykatzmertonpc@gmail.com](mailto:ellrlucykatzmertonpc@gmail.com), or on 07970-803753

### Oxford Cavaliers

Work continues getting to a deal with the Oxford Cavaliers. The plan is still to have the Cavaliers here by the start of their season in April.

### Come to the Parish Council

OK, it's not really a party. However, villagers are warmly welcome to attend meetings of the Parish Council. There's a space on the agenda at every meeting for members of the Public to come and address the meeting, with whatever concerns or ideas you may have. It's scheduled right at the beginning, so you don't have to hang

around for the less interesting procedural issues (although you're welcome to stay if you want to.)

I think a lot of people have no idea the Parish Council exists, nor what we do, or what we'd like to do. By the same token, it's hard for the Council to know what villagers are feeling if we don't hear from you. Please do join us at least for 20 minutes – we meet at the Village Hall at 7.30pm, usually on a Monday.

The next meeting is 18th March. We'd love to hear from you.

### Footpath Closure

As you may know, the footpath from Wendlebury to Merton has been closed for some time – and will remain closed. This is due to the badly damaged footbridge (where FPs 295/1 and 398/3 meet for map readers).

Pat Murphy met Beth Rutterford from Oxfordshire County Council to discuss this ongoing issue. Beth emphasised that replacement of this footbridge has the highest priority. However, in order to meet current standards it has to be designed and manufactured by consultants. It will therefore be quite costly (about £30,000) and therefore is unlikely to be authorised before the 2020/21 financial year.

However, she encouraged us to put pressure on OCC, through our County Councillor, to increase the possibility of this particular project being brought forward should resources become available unexpectedly.

They also discussed the issue of the ditches cut across the footpath in the big field between the Village Hall and the bridge. The path effectively becomes impassable several times a year when the ditches fill up with water – the badly eroded 'causeways' often can't be located under the muddy water.



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Beth regarded the problem of the ditches as being much less significant than that of the bridge because it was 'seasonal', but said she would look into finding a potential solution.

Beth also encouraged Merton to avail itself of Cherwell's apparently under-utilized Community Infrastructure Capital Grant (which runs for 3 years from 2018 to fund replacement of wooden stiles with metal 'kissing gates', maintenance of the children's play area, etc.

Beth also drew attention to the Ramblers Association Bicester-based 'Blitz and Klean' group of volunteers.

Beth has volunteered to attend a Parish Council meeting.

Free Film Show in Merton Village Hall:  
Thursday 21 March

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 7.30 pm on Thursday, 21 March.

Eddie the Eagle is a 2016 biographical sports comedy-drama about a British skier who, in 1988, became the first competitor to represent Great Britain in Olympic ski jumping since 1928.

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 final film of the current 'season' will be Churchill (2017) on 18 April.

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

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



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## The Bulletin Board

### Ray Valley Benefice For March 2019

- |                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| Mon 4 <sup>th</sup>  | - 10am Thought for the Day, coffee, Charlton                           |
| Wed 6 <sup>th</sup>  | - 10am Holy Communion, Ambrosden                                       |
| Fri 8 <sup>th</sup>  | - 10.30 Tiny Tots, Fencott   |
| Fri 15 <sup>th</sup> | - 9.30 ABC for pre-schoolers, Islip                                    |
| Sat 16 <sup>th</sup> | - 10-12 Coffee & Bring & Buy, Piddington                               |
| Mon 18 <sup>th</sup> | - 10am Thought for the Day, coffee, Charlton                           |
| Wed 20 <sup>th</sup> | - 10am Coffee & Prayer, SMH, Charlton<br>(St Mary's House)             |
| Sat 23 <sup>rd</sup> | - 5pm The Shotover Singers, Noke                                       |
| Sat 30 <sup>th</sup> | - 10-12 Piddington Pantry, Piddington                                  |
| Sun 31 <sup>st</sup> | - 10am Mothering Sunday Café church, Islip<br>(NB - Clocks go forward) |

\*Bible Study 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of every month, Ambrosden church, 7.30 pm

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# PIDDINGTON NEWS

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## PIDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 19th March at 7.30pm. If you have any concerns or questions the Parish Council is always keen to hear from you, details below. The first 30 minutes of our meetings are an opportunity for villagers to address the council. Agendas and minutes from the meetings are available to view on the village website and the two Parish Council noticeboards: [www.piddingtonvillageoxfordshire.org.uk/meetings.html](http://www.piddingtonvillageoxfordshire.org.uk/meetings.html)

Planning applications for the parish will be listed here in future and can be viewed in full on the Cherwell District Council planning portal. There are no planning applications under review at the time of writing.

Anne Davis

Tel: 01865 379645

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

Councillors:

Francesca Darby (Chair)

Tel: 01844 238294

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

Pam Feltbower (Vice Chair)

Tel: 01844 237523

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

Andrew Coleman

Tel: 01844 237582

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

Lynda Galloway

Tel: 01844 237584

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

Ken Howard

Tel: 01869 320950

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

Mike Nixon

Tel: 01844 239209

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

Mario Terzino

Tel: 01844 238154

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

**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.

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

Proofs have now been submitted. The Parish Council has been working on its submission with the lawyer through February and the final document will be shortly uploaded to the village website. The dates for the Inquiry are Tuesday 26th – 29th March, concluding on Tuesday 2nd April. If you can take time to attend any of the sessions the Parish Council urges you to do so.

This would show support not only for those councillors having to give evidence but for Piddington's stance throughout this process. Parking is limited at Bodicote House, where the Inquiry will be held. Depending on numbers PPC would like to organise car shares or a minibus if felt necessary. If you are thinking of attending could you contact Anne Davies and let her know the date.

Costs for legal services have now been incurred. The Parish Council thanks all of you who have already made a monetary contribution. However, further funds are still needed. If you are in a position to help, or even increase your donation, no matter the amount, please contact the Parish Clerk for banking details or to send a cheque. If sending an email, please head it 'Legal Costs'. Anne Davies: piddington.parish.clerk@googlegmail.com or 01865 379645.

#### WIDNELL PARK, PLAYING FIELD AND MEADOW

Grass cutting will start shortly and the Parish Council expects the park to be well used by villagers this year! The Fitness Trail equipment has been ordered and should 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. More on this hopefully in next month's Parish Matters!

#### ALLOTMENTS

It's that time of year. A couple of plots are still 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. Enquiries regarding the sponsorship of the supply of water to the site are ongoing.

#### LITTERBLITZ 2019

Will be held on Saturday 23rd March. Please come and help get the village ready for spring.

All volunteers to meet at the village hall @ 10.30am. If you are unable to attend on the day but would like to do your bit contact Francesca (francesca.darby@btinternet.com).

#### VILLAGE HOUSEKEEPING

To report a full or damaged dogbin contact Cherwell DC 01295 227007 or contact the Parish Clerk. A new dog bin for Shady Lane will be installed shortly.

The two remaining faulty street lights on Thame Road have been reported and a request has also been made for the sweeping of village kerbs and clearing of any blocked drains.

To report local fly-tipping contact the Parish Clerk with an accurate location.

#### RURAL POLICING

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](http://www.ruralcrimereportingline.uk).

#### ROAD-CALMING

The vehicle-activated sign on Arncott Road has been purposely turned off over the last few weeks but has still been collecting data. The purpose of this is to see if speeds coming into the village have increased without the signs prompting to slow down. This information will be used by the Parish Council to decide whether a second system would be useful and with funding applications. If you are interested in being part of the village road safety group, please contact Ian Darby: isdarby@btinternet.com.

#### BOOK SWAP COFFEE MORNINGS

New for 2019. Come over to the village hall for a mid-morning coffee break and a natter with your neighbours. Bring a book or two to swap or chat about. Refreshments FREE. First coffee morning to be held on Thursday 21st March 10.15 – 11.45am. These informal mornings will be held every month (see below).

#### EMERGENCY PLANNING & SSE PRIORITY SERVICE

A new shed has been ordered to house the new emergency generator for the village hall and will be installed shortly.

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

#### VILLAGE HALL REFURBISHMENT

The refurbishment continues at the village hall with a new storage extension to the back of the building. Work starts at the end of March. This will mean bulky furniture and equipment will be permanently stored away, allowing for more space in the hall itself.

#### PIDDINGTON'S INFORMATION CENTRE

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

[piddingtonvillageoxfordshire.org.uk/information-centre.html](http://www.piddingtonvillageoxfordshire.org.uk/information-centre.html)

#### T94 BICESTER MARKET SERVICE

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

#### St Nicholas Church

There will be a Coffee Morning and Bring & Buy Sale on Saturday 16th March 10 – 12 in the church. All offers of help and donations greatly appreciated.

Please note the following dates and support the repair and renovation of the church.

Greatest Hits Choir Concert 23rd June 3.00 – 5.00 in the Village Hall

Arts & Craft Exhibition 17th August 10.00 – 2.00 in the Church

Harvest Weekend in the Church

Harvest Decorating 4th October

Harvest Coffee Morning 5th October 10 – 12

Harvest Festival 6th October 10.30 am

Wreath Making Workshop 30th November 10-12 in the church.

## VILLAGE HALL EVENTS

\* Dates to be confirmed

15 March – Film Night

21 March – Book Swap Coffee morning, 10.15 – 11.45

23 March – Litterblitz 2019, 10.30 (village hall car park)

March – Pop-Up Pub\* (not on last Friday of the month due to setting up The Pantry)

30 March – The Pantry Spring Market, 10-2

18 April – Book Swap Coffee morning, 10.15 – 11.45

30 May – Book Swap Coffee morning, 10.15 – 11.45

15 June – Pamper Evening

23 June – Greatest Hits Choir Concert, 3-5

27 June – Book Swap Coffee morning, 10.15 – 11.45

July/August – Bingo night\*

25 July – Book Swap Coffee morning, 10.15 – 11.45

The Great Piddington Bake Off\* (before school summer holidays)

22 August – Book Swap Coffee morning, 10.15 – 11.45

7 September – The Pantry Autumn Market, 10-2

29 November – Ukulele Night!

7 December – The Pantry Christmas Market, 10-2

13 or 14 December – Village Christmas drinks Barn Dance\*

## PIDDINGTON 200 CLUB WINNERS

Drawn at the Pop-Up Pub on Friday 25th January

1st	89 Graham Carey	£30
2nd	136 Rosemary Cox	£20
3rd	41 Trish Abbott	£10
4th	48 Michael Phillips	£5

## KEEPING IN TOUCH

Village emails:

Register on the Piddington website

Piddington village website:

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

Piddington village Facebook page:

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

Piddington Swap Shop Facebook page:

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

Twitter:

@pidding\_pantry – for all things relating to The

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@Piddingtonoxon – for general items of interest

The Pantry blog:

[piddingtonpantry.wordpress.com](http://piddingtonpantry.wordpress.com)



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## THE PANTRY

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## SPRING MARKET

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# OTMOOR GARDEN SOCIETY

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It seems to me that as soon as we utter the words 'Annual General Meeting', someone somewhere turns on the snow machine and includes a dollop of freezing fog. Luckily gardeners are a hardy lot (H4 to H6, might draw the line at H7) and won't be kept from their chilli and quiz by a little bit of the white stuff, and so we had a good turn out.

The Islipians, Piddingtonians and others are to be commended for battling the elements to get to Murcott!

I hope for all it was a fun evening. The committee were all re-elected, including the two dinosaurs Brontosaurus Brian and Tyrannosaurus Reid, who luckily for me seem quite happy with their new titles! Alastair Craig won the Treasurer's Award, now referred to as the Pink Pig Award (which describes the award, not the treasurer), for his work in dragging us onto Facebook this year. Sandie's chilli and Alison's coleslaw were then enjoyed by all, accompanied by baked potatoes and washed down with a little wine. After which we rounded off the evening with a gardening quiz run expertly by Kay. 'Annual General Meeting' does imply a degree of formality, but you can probably tell from this we don't tend to conform to expectation!

On 26th March at Murcott we will be welcoming a new speaker, Kathy Brown, whose talk will be 'The Cottage Garden'. This talk will be based on her own 4.5 acre garden, at Stevington Manor House near Bedford, which she has developed with her husband over the last 30 years. The garden has featured on Gardener's World and appeared in many magazines such as Homes and Gardens and the RHS Garden Journal. Kathy has a particular interest in edible flowers which

I am sure will feature in the cottage garden theme. We may well follow this up with a visit to her garden in 2020. The tea room comes highly recommended, no doubt the edible flowers feature there too! Kathy will be bringing cards and books for sale at her talk.

If you are taking part in our Willow Workshop on Sunday 14th April please make sure you have paid your money to Jo. If you had put your name down but no longer want your place then let Jo know so that she can reallocate it to someone on the reserve list. Also if you have any ideas for workshops you would like us to run in future years then please let one of the committee know and we will see what we can do.

Rumour has it that Spring is just around the corner. The longer day length starts new growth off all over the garden, and it's traditionally the start of the indoor seed-sowing season. Tomatoes, peppers, chillis and sweet peas are some of the first. So dust off your electric propagators and away we go for another productive gardening year ahead. This year I'm trying red, purple and orange tomatoes. That should make the salads even more interesting. I guess, like our AGM, tomatoes don't have to conform to expectation!

Happy Gardening,  
Judith Rawlinson

For more details, or to join, contact Brian Eadle on 01865 331472  
[www.otmoorgardensociety.org.uk](http://www.otmoorgardensociety.org.uk) or find us on Facebook

# BUS TIMETABLES

## Oxford - Islip - Ambrosden

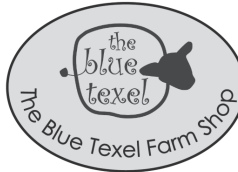
Oxford St Giles (Stop C5)	16:10	17:10	18:10
Gosford, o/s Kings Arms PH	16:30	17:30	18:30
Islip, opp The Red Lion PH	16:35	17:35	18:35
Oddington, opp Glebe Barn Bus Shelter	16:40	17:40	18:40
Charlton-on-Otmoor, opp Bus Garage	16:45	17:45	18:45
Merton, o/s The Plough Inn PH	16:50	17:50	18:50
Ambrosden,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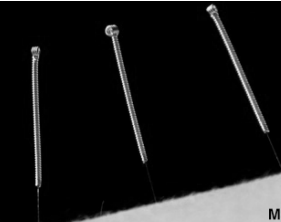
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[www.thevillageclinic.co.uk](http://www.thevillageclinic.co.uk)

# OTMOOR WOMANS INSTITUTE

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The February meeting of Otmoor WI opened with the business of the evening. A wide range of events are being offered this year as Oxfordshire Federation of WIs celebrates its centenary. This includes the AGM in March where speakers will be Emma Bridgwater and Helen Sharman and locally arranged events such as a summer visit to the Aston Pottery. Photographs taken by members during the past year to reflect the many activities of our WI have been used to create scrapbook pages for a national competition. Members were asked to make their choices for the book which is to be submitted soon. Arrangements for the upcoming community lunch and half term pop-up café were made and members were reminded of dates for other monthly meetings such as Recording Lives and Coffee, Craft and Cake.

Unfortunately, our speaker's car broke down en route and she was unable to get to us. A break for delicious refreshments provided by Frances, Elaine and Sheila offered an opportunity to browse the book sale, sign up for forthcoming events, make scrapbook page choices and vote for the competition which was for a prop for a puppet show. To round off the evening Ann Williams led a discussion about the May Day celebrations in Charlton on Otmoor, past and present, to give members a taste of the recording lives group sessions. After a few initial questions the conversation soon flowed. The competition was won by Anne Baker with Sandie second and Alison in third place.

The March meeting of Otmoor WI on Tuesday March 12th is the annual meeting where the committee and president will be chosen and the programme for the coming year presented.

## Dates for the diary

6th March – Pastimes 1.30 (MVH)

12th March – Otmoor WI Annual Meeting 7.45 (CCH)

21st March – Coffee, Craft and Cake 7.30 (MVH)

9th April – Glorious Coloured Gemstones with Helen Plumb 7.45 (CCH)

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

# ADVERTISING & CONTACTS

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## COST OF ADVERTISING (PER MONTH)

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

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

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

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

## THE COLLECTION AND EDITORIAL TEAM

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

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

### Village News Collectors:

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Blackthorn John Henderson [j\\_henderson@btinternet.com](mailto:j_henderson@btinternet.com)

Merton Lucy Katz [cllrucykatzmertonpc@gmail.com](mailto:cllrucykatzmertonpc@gmail.com)

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

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

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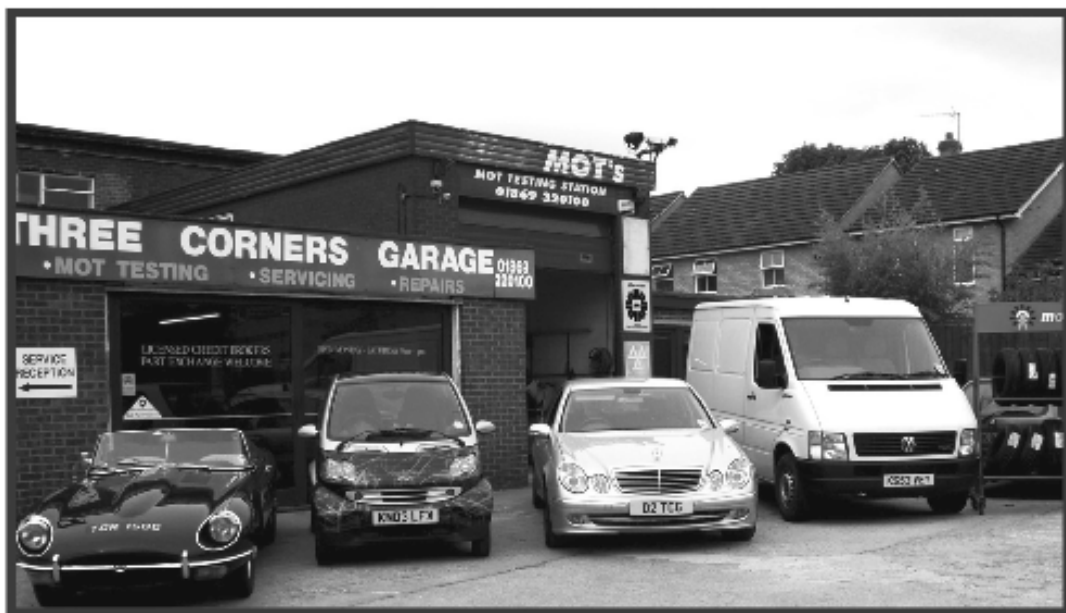


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