

# PARISH MATTERS



APRIL 2019

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

*VILLAGE VIEWS & LOCAL NEWS*



# Trust Bicester Vets to care for *your* pets

## Why Choose Bicester Vets?

### Peace of mind for pet owners...

- Compassionate & Caring at all times
- Long opening hours for your convenience.
- 24 hour on-site nursing care as standard for all our hospitalised patients.
- 24 hour emergency service *provided by our vets at our practice.*
- 'A service that's second to none from North Oxfordshire's most established, independent, speciality small animal practice.'

Bicester Vets • Victoria Road • Bicester • OX26 6PJ



Follow us on twitter @bicestervets and Like us on facebook at [www.facebook.com/bicestervets](http://www.facebook.com/bicestervets)

**bicester vets**  
Compassion & Care

[www.bicestervets.co.uk](http://www.bicestervets.co.uk) • Call today on 01869 252077

## D L HANCOCK LTD

Funeral Directors & Monumental Masons

Established 24 years and still independent

**WE ARE NOW BICESTER'S LONGEST ESTABLISHED  
INDEPENDENT FAMILY OWNED & RUN FUNERAL DIRECTORS**

A caring traditional **24 hour service**  
provided by Mr. Hancock and his team personally

Serving Bicester and all Surrounding Areas

Private Chapel Of Rest

Jaguar Fleet of Funeral Cars

Perfect Choice  
Funeral Plans



Member of  
The National Association  
of Funeral Directors



Tel: 01869 244200 (24 Hrs)  
Chapel House, 13 North Street,  
Bicester, OX26 6NA.

# DNT

## Electrical Building Services

**YOUR LOCAL ELECTRICAL & BUILDING  
CONTRACTORS**

**Electrical - Carpentry & Joinery  
General Building - Kitchen Fitting  
Bathroom Fitting**

**Mob: 07832424441**

**Office: 01869 241278**

[enquiries@dntelectricalbuildingservices.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@dntelectricalbuildingservices.co.uk)

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

**NICEIC**  
APPROVED  
CONTRACTOR

# CONTENTS

---

Letters from the Clergy Team	4
Church Services - April	5
Clergy Contacts	6
Ambrosden News	8
Arcott News	14
Blackthorn News	20
Merton News	24
Piddington News	29
Otmoor Garden Society	34
Vet Report	37
Otmoor Womans Institute	38
Advertising and Contacts	39

---

Welcome to the April 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 'Give up' or to 'Give back'

Here we are in the season of Lent again and the usual dilemma of what to give up is well under way?

We don't have to just give up things but we can give back too. Consider giving the money you save from giving up chocolate or cheese, or whatever your guilty pleasure may be, to charity?

A few years ago Matt and I tried to live Lent on the minimum wage, this proved to be really challenging. The radio gave you the figures of what you would have to spend on food each week and so we went shopping as normal and soon found that our allowance had gone in no time at all. On one occasion at the checkout we had exceeded the weekly allowance for food and we had to look through our shopping and decide what to put back, it was all a bit awkward and embarrassing. The money we saved during Lent on our shopping we donated to charity. It made us appreciate how difficult it is trying to survive on a small amount of money when you needed expensive items such as washing power. Something has to give.

This year for Lent I have decided to visit the foodbank for a shift or two. There I met some really wonderful people; both clients and helpers. There were several things that I learnt from my first visit that I would like to share with you: The most popular items that they run short of are long-life milk, tinned tomatoes and tins of rice pudding. Also, toiletries such as (shampoo, shower gel, deodorant).

Secondly, the donations tend to include a lot of repetitive items such as tinned tomatoes, tins of tuna, pasta, rice, baked beans and breakfast cereal. If you are reading this and have some great simple

recipes made from tinned goods please can you pass the recipes to me and I will forward them to the foodbank. Some of the clients at the foodbank were good at cooking but others found the random items a bit challenging rather like playing 'Ready, Steady, Cook'. The foodbank have taken the initiative to provide simple cooking lessons for their users but would like some new recipes please.

Some local churches and people are holding Lent and Easter lunches and giving the proceeds to the foodbank which is a fantastic idea because it is not just food that is needed to keep it afloat.

So, what are you giving back this Lent? Could you offer something extra at Easter? The foodbank are already collecting Easter eggs to give to those clients who have children who would normally miss out.

I hope you all have a wonderful Easter and, if you have a little extra capacity, make Easter a happy time for those who are not so fortunate. When I was a fundraiser I had on my desk the words from 2 Corinthians 9:7 'God loves a cheerful giver' and by making a donation to the Bicester foodbank or another charity we can enable others to be cheerful too.

If you read this and are struggling financially to put food in your cupboards please contact 01869-357181 and they will tell you who to contact to get assistance.

May God bless you all this Easter and feed you both bodily and spiritually.

Reverend Lisa Holmes

# CHURCH SERVICES APR

## RAY VALLEY SERVICES APRIL 2019

Draft 3

Church	Time	Leader	Service
<b>Sunday April 7th</b>	<b>Lent 5</b>		<b>Isaiah 43.16-21 Philippians 3.4b-14 John 12.1-8</b>
Ambrosden	10.30	Lisa	Holy Communion & Baptism
	18.30	Steve	Xtra One
Merton	09.00	Lisa	Holy Communion
Piddington	10.30	Steve	Family Service
Islip	10.30	Cover	Parish Communion
Noke	17.00	Lucy	Family Service
Charlton	10.30	Lucy	Family Service
<b>Sunday April 14th</b>	<b>Palm Sunday</b>		<b>Isaiah 50.4-9a Philippians 2.5-11 Luke 19.28-40</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	10.00	Lisa	Procession & Communion
Oddington to Charlton	10.00	Lisa	Join with Charlton
<b>Monday April 15<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Holy Week</b>		
Charlton	19.00	Lisa	Reflection
<b>Tuesday April 16<sup>th</sup></b>			
Ambrosden	19.00	Steve	Reflection
<b>Wednesday April 17<sup>th</sup></b>			
Islip	19.00	Lucy	Reflection
<b>Thursday April 18<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Maundy Thursday</b>		
Ambrosden	19.00	Steve	Seder Meal & Stripping of the Altar
Charlton	19.00	Lisa	Lord's Supper & Stripping of the Altar
Islip	19.00	Lucy	Holy Communion, Vigil & Stripping of the Altar
<b>Friday April 19<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Good Friday</b>		
Piddington	10.00	Steve	Muswell Hill Pilgrimage
Oddington	10.00	Lisa/Glenys	Family Service
Islip	14.00	Lucy	Good Friday Service – Process to Millennium Wood
<b>Sunday April 21st</b>	<b>Easter Day</b>		<b>Acts 10.14,22-32 1 Corinthians 15.19-26 John 20.1-18</b>
Ambrosden	10.30	Steve	Holy Communion
Merton	09.00	Steve	Holy Communion
Piddington	10.30	Cover	Holy Communion
Islip	10.30	Lucy	Holy Communion
Noke (joined by Woodeaton)	09.00	Lucy	Holy Communion
Charlton	10.30	Lisa	Holy Communion
Oddington	09.00	Lisa	Holy Communion
<b>Sunday April 28th</b>	<b>Easter 2</b>		<b>Acts 5.27-32 Revelation 1.4-8 John 20.19-end</b>
Ambrosden	10.30	Lay	Morning Prayer – Rob Slater to preach
Merton	10.30	Lisa	Family Service
Piddington	09.00	Steve	Holy Communion
Islip	10.30	Lucy	Family Service
Charlton	09.00	Lisa	Holy Communion
Oddington	18.00	Steve	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](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

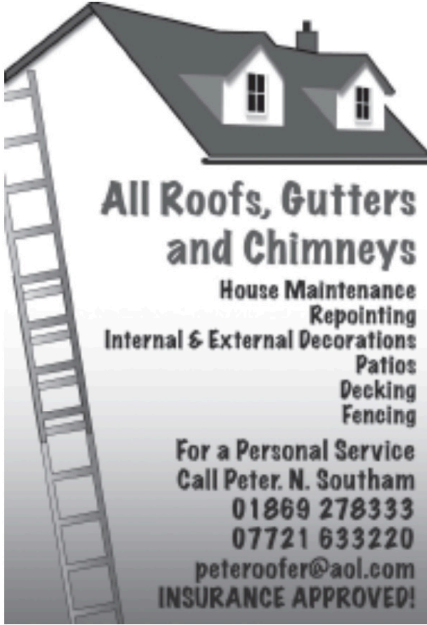
Ambrosden: Mrs Pam Newell (bells only) 01869 241667  
Organist (vacant)

Piddington: Mrs Betty Newell 01844 237236

Mr Tony Pearce 01844 237688

Merton: Mr Russell Thompson 01869 246093


*(no ringable bells)*



**All Roofs, Gutters  
and Chimneys**

House Maintenance  
Repointing  
Internal & External Decorations  
Pavios  
Decking  
Fencing

For a Personal Service  
Call Peter. N. Southam  
01869 278333  
07721 633220  
peteroofer@aol.com  
**INSURANCE APPROVED!**



**MHES**  
MIKE HEDGES ELECTRICAL SERVICES

For a free no obligation quotation call Mike on  
T: 01869 325360 M: 07855 410359  
E: mike@mhes.co.uk : www.mhes.co.uk

Registered  
Competent  
Person  
Electrical

**ELECSA**  
Part of the ECA Group  
Part P  
Approved Contractor



**Come back to bridge**

Friendly, daytime bridge at Bicester Bridge Club

If you haven't played bridge for a while, come to a Learn & Play session  
*Thursdays from 2.00 pm to 4.00 pm in central Bicester.*

*Or there's the refresher one-term course starting in January 2019.*

More details at: [www.bridgewebs.com/bicesterlearning](http://www.bridgewebs.com/bicesterlearning)  
Please call Ken Langdon on 07850 616069 to discuss possibilities



**Professional, friendly, reliable**

**DOG GROOMING**

for Ambrosden and surrounding area

**Contact Nicci to discuss your dog's needs**

[www.wagswashgrooming.co.uk](http://www.wagswashgrooming.co.uk)  
07712 521 900

**£5 off  
dogs first visit**  
(Full groom, Dashed  
or Handstrip only)

f Instagram Level 3 City & Guilds Qualified

# AMBROSDEN NEWS

---

Ambrosden Parish Council meetings held in the Village Hall at 7.30pm on 3rd Thursday of each month, apart from May when Parish Council 7-8pm and the Annual Parish Meeting starts at 8pm

Parish website

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

Ambrosden Parish Councillors:

Mark Longworth (Chair) –

[ambrosden@mlongworth.co.uk](mailto:ambrosden@mlongworth.co.uk)

Maureen Cossens (Vice Chair) –

01869 252722

Chris West

Philip Blazdell

Serinne Mills Curtis

Sue Posselwhite

Wendy Cheeseman

Parish Clerk

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

District Councillors

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

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)

Vacant seat

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/>

### ANNUAL PARISH MEETING – 8PM - 16TH MAY – VILLAGE HALL

The Annual Parish meeting, is your opportunity to hear from speakers from throughout the village community and Mod about events and community groups. This will include annual updates from the Parish Council, Garrison, Church, Village Hall Committee, Guides, Brownies, and Scouts, and hopefully updates on the allotments, and your opportunity to ask questions to the speakers. We look forward to welcoming everyone to the meeting.

### VILLAGE LITTER PICK

Thank you for the great turn out for the annual village litter pick. This year we concentrated on Blackthorn Road and The Horseshoe Walk. Litter picking equipment was provided by the District Council, who also collected the rubbish. Five Acres School kindly donated some cakes from their cake sale for refreshments.

### DOG WASTE

The Parish Council is relocating and purchasing additional dog waste bins for Merton and Ploughley Road due to a growing problem with people putting dog waste into the normal parish litter bins. A friendly reminder, that dog waste bags should only be put in the red bins marked dog waste, and rubbish should only be put in the rubbish bins. The Parish Council is now paying nearly £1500 per year for the emptying of dog waste

bins, which is a sizeable proportion of our budget, but we can constrain our costs if the correct bins are used.

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

The District Council's enforcement team remain on the case chasing Bloor Homes to complete legal paperwork to hand over the allotments. Thanks to Cllrs Lucinda Wing and Dan Sames for chasing this.

### SPEED SURVEYS SHOW REDUCTION IN SPEEDING

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 February 2019, and an additional speed survey has been undertaken in Ploughley Road at the Old Arncott Road junction in March as a result of an initial review of the speed data.

The good news is measures which the Parish Council have campaigned for are reducing the speed leaving and entering the village and in the centre of the village, speeds are below 30mph, but at speeds of drivers exiting the village are still too high and more needs to be

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

---

done, so the Parish is using the speed surveys to progress discussions with Oxfordshire County Council to install additional traffic calming measures.

Since 2006, the Parish Council has installed white gates, village signs, had lines added to the edge of the carriageway on Ploughley Road between Briar Furlong, and the A41, installed dragons teeth on all four approaches to the village, removed white lines from the centre of the roads within the villages, extended verge grass cutting to all 30/40mph zones, installed a 30mph flashing sign on Merton Road, required Croudace to install a chicane and road hump in Merton Road, and developers have paid to extend the 30mph zones in Blackthorn and Ploughley Roads, and install traffic islands and bends in the Road on Ploughley Road

Using the Parish Council's resource of speed surveys dating from the 1970's, 1990's 2009, 2011, and 2012, to understand any trends, this shows 85%tile speeds of.

Merton Road (at Old Arncott Road)  
2001 - 35mph, 2019 - 29mph

Merton Road at Home Farm Close  
Into Village 2001 speed 37mph – 2019 30mph  
Out of village 2001 speed 37 mph – 2019 35mph

Ploughley Road at West Hawthorn

Into Village

1976 – 38mph, 2011 – 34mph, 2019 - 33mph

Out of village

1976 – 38mph, 2011 – 31mph, 2019 - 34mph

Ploughley Road at traffic lights

South (towards Arncott)

2001 – 40mph, 2019 – 33mph

North (towards A41)

2001 – 40mph, 2019 – 30mph

Ploughley Road at Buttercup Way (Three Corners Garage)

South (towards Arncott)

1976 – 46mph, 2009 – 46mph, 2012 – 42 mph,

2019 – 43mph

North (towards A41)

1976 – 46mph, 2009 – 44mph, 2012 – 42 mph,

2019 – 35mph

Blackthorn Road at Springfields (2015 survey undertaken when road had a 40mph speed limit)

Westbound into Village

2015 – 47mph, 2019 – 35mph

East out of village

2015 – 49mph, 2019 – 39mph

Vehicle numbers

Ploughley Road

2011 – 2050 vehicles

2019 – 2652 vehicles

The data appears to suggest, the chicane in Merton Road has dropped vehicle speeds by

5mph to the speed limit for vehicles entering the village, but the speed of vehicles leaving the village is too high.

The vehicle speeds on Merton Road and outside the school on Ploughley Road meet or at below the speed limit, which may give an opportunity to apply for 20mph limits in these zones.

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 Arcott Road, where many pedestrians cross the road.

While the 30mph speed warning signs have an impact on speed as seen adjacent Briar Furlong, the speed survey results suggest VAS warning signs used without other measures such as a combination of chicanes, road humps used in Merton Road would not lower speeds to the desired levels.

The Parish Council will use these new speed surveys, and the substantial increase in traffic flow to work with the District and County Councils to develop a proposal for additional traffic calming measures.

#### MERTON ROAD REPAIRS

After three years campaigning by the Parish Council, OCC Highways Department have obtained compensation from Network Rail for the construction vehicle damage caused to Ploughley Road, and comprehensive repairs have been undertaken. We understand this will be white lined and topped later in the year.

#### A41 FOOTWAY EDGING

At the request of the Parish Council, OCC Highways have commenced cutting back the bushes overhanging the cycleway along the A41, and edging out the footway, to take it back to its original width.

#### 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.

Bike Night – Dates to be advised on Facebook

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 Ambrosden4Children@gmail.com	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 <del>table top</del> 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 6DQ.	
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 <del>Amscott</del> Scouts Cubs	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/1stambrosden/">https://www.facebook.com/1stambrosden/</a>	<del>Amscott</del> 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 Ambrosden4Children@gmail.com	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	<del>Rainbows</del> 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 <del>Amscott</del> Scouts	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/1stambrosden/">https://www.facebook.com/1stambrosden/</a>	<del>Amscott</del> Village Hall
Wednesday Thursday, Friday and Saturday	Kebab Van		Costcutter car park



*Skills for Life*

# The springboard to confidence for your child

The UK's Leading National Active Physical Play  
Programme for Children from 6 Months to School Age



## Tuesdays at Arccott Village Hall

For more information or to book a class, please contact:

**Julia Donnelly** Tumble Tots Aylesbury

07377 333 151 • [julia.donnelly@tumbletots.com](mailto:julia.donnelly@tumbletots.com)

[www.tumbletots.com/aylesbury](http://www.tumbletots.com/aylesbury)



# ARNCOTT NEWS

---

REPORT FROM ARNCOTT VHMC & ACA  
MEETING 28th FEBRUARY & PARISH  
COUNCIL MEETING 5th MARCH 2019

Arncott parish council meetings usually take place in the village hall at 7:30pm on the 1st Tuesday of every month. All parishioners are welcome to attend. 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 Arncott 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  
Linda Hooper 07803 592183

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 appointment  
As reported last month, Mrs Di Selby resigned from the parish council in January.

The vacant position was advertised and Mrs Linda Hooper kindly volunteered to stand for the position of councillor. The committee unanimously agreed to co-opt Linda onto the parish council.

## HS2

The parish council was advised last month that the railway line to the MOD base could 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. Surveyors have been seen on the MOD railway line so the clerk was asked to request an update from OCC on the HS2 project.

## Woodpiece Road

As reported last month, CDC will not be considering any of the work needed for the commencement of the phase 2 construction until April 2019 at the earliest. The parish council have not received any update as yet with regard to the repairs needed to the corner of Woodpiece Road.

## Grant money for sports facilities

The parish council is in the process of obtaining updated quotes for this work. When final details and costs are known, planning / building permission will be applied for.

## Children's play areas

The parish council have agreed to formerly adopt the two play areas in Village Close.

### Vehicle activated speed signs

As mentioned last month, the parish council is considering the installation of vehicle activated speed signs at the entrance / exit points on Ploughley Road at Lower Arccott and Murcott Road at Upper Arccott. Work is being done to determine the costs and best available option.

### Speedwatch campaign

This initiative will start up again in the Spring. As always, we are appealing for volunteers to help in the running of the program. If you can help then contact the parish clerk or any parish councillor for more information.

### Dog Poo

Don't forget - take photos / videos of anyone you see who does not pick up after his / her dog. Email them to the parish council and / or the CDC dog warden - Christopher Cundy – telephone number 01295 221633 – email [Christopher.Cundy@Cherwell-DC.gov.uk](mailto:Christopher.Cundy@Cherwell-DC.gov.uk).

### 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.

### 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 Arccott 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

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

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

---

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

The pothole on the level crossing near to C site entrance has been reported to the MOD. Road repairs are required in Woodpiece Road – especially the large pothole by the village shop. These will be reported to OCC. Please report any road / pavement / street light issues you see 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 - [arncottvhmc@gmail.com](mailto:arncottvhmc@gmail.com)

ACA – [arncottca@gmail.com](mailto:arncottca@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.

300 Club winners - Draw date Tuesday 26th February

200 – Mrs Jones, 266 - I Dombek, 131 - L. Dempsey, 280 - A. Burt, 260 - D. Seekings

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).

## 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 1:30 pm.

Cubs – Wednesday 5.30 pm to 7:00 pm. School term times only.

Dog Training - Thursday 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm.

Scouts – Friday 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm. School term times only.

Yoga with Mindfulness – Friday 9:30 am to 10:30 am. Mini courses of 4 sessions that blend exercises for the body with relaxation for the mind.



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

### Community events at the hall

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 – The ACA would like to thank the community volunteers whose efforts continue to be the backbone of all community activity within the parish. With their efforts the ACA will continue to seek ways to provide local events for local people.

ACA indoor boot sale - Monthly on the first Sunday 10:00am – 1:00pm. Staffing crisis – is there anyone that can offer their Sunday mornings from April to make the butties? The shopping and organising will all be done for you. All we need is someone to be there on the day.

May 2019 – Paintballing at Arcott Motor Park. Safety certificate issued and an event for 60 people approved. Arcott residents will go to the front of the ticket queue. Full details to follow shortly.

Halloween event – Details to follow but it will be based at the hall and will involve traditional Halloween type activities. The more volunteers we have – the bigger and more varied we can make it. So if you can offer just a little support either with ideas, time, making stuff or even just expressing a vague interest it would all be appreciated.

Arcott Easter Trail - 20th April - We will be laying a fun holiday Easter Trail through Upper Arcott on Saturday 20th April. It will be a gentle bumble of around an hour even to the smallest legs. We will have a series of checkpoints to reach, clues to follow, riddles to solve and answers to collect. Starting at the village hall where each entrant will be given an answer sheet to complete. The answers will be found at the checkpoints around the village. When the sheet is complete, come back to the village hall to receive your prize.

There will be a small charge of 50p for entry. There will be cream teas for £1.50 along with ice cream (20p) and chocolates (10p) for the children.

Help – Always a welcome bonus to us. We have the following jobs to do in order to run the day. If you feel you can help with any of them please contact the ACA committee :

- Setting up the checkpoints – Going round with pre-prepared sheets and placing them in easy to find designated locations.
- Clearing away the checkpoints – as above but picking stuff up.
- Sitting in the hall handing out the route cards.
- Sitting in the hall handing out the prizes.
- Selling raffle tickets.

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

---

Adult supervision – common sense prevails. There are no age restrictions to the day but we will expect adults to accompany all children under 11.

After party - there is the play park, the field to run round in and there will be a few things about to occupy the children. So if we have not worn them out with the trail there will be plenty of energy sapping opportunities.

Timings - first intrepid explorers will be released at 12:00 midday. You can turn up at any time between 12:00 midday and 1:45pm. Cream teas will be served from 12:30pm to 3:00pm. Raffle draw at 2.45pm. The hall will be open until 4:00pm. It is a huge help in organising the event if we know numbers beforehand, so we would be grateful to those who can let us know if they intend to go.

AVHMC - The Village Fete will be held on Sunday 21st July 2019 at the village hall and playing field. Something new for this year's fete. The Vikings are coming. There will be a living history display depicting life in the dark ages. We will also be having an inaugural Annual Village Football match to precede the fete. It is planned that this will become a feature of the village calendar. There will also be the most popular familiar events from past fetes. The fete is the largest gathering we have as a community and - as ever - what we can do depends entirely how many step forward to help. Everyone that can offer even a couple of hours to help between now and July can make a real difference. In particular people to help

promote the event to help increase the number of visitors. If you have any ideas or can offer to help in any way please contact the VHMC. Information correct at the time of printing. Contact the event organiser for further information.

## Projects and improvements

Village Hall public address system - Installation of an inductance loop, internal audio and external PA system. Arrangements will be made for the purchase and installation of the system.

Internet access in the Village Hall is being researched.

## Material for the parish magazine

If you wish to submit any Arcott related item for publishing in the Parish Matters magazine then please e-mail to [arcottvhmc@gmail.com](mailto:arcottvhmc@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.



**The  
Bulletin Board**

**Ray Valley Benefice  
For April 2019**

- |                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| Wed 3rd              | - 10am Holy Communion, Ambrosden  |
| Fri 5 <sup>th</sup>  | - 10.30 Tiny Tots, Fencott  |
| Mon 8 <sup>th</sup>  | - 10am Coffee & Contemplation, Charlton                                 |
| Mon 15 <sup>th</sup> | - 7pm Easter Reflection, Charlton                                       |
| Tue 16 <sup>th</sup> | - 7pm Easter Reflection, Ambrosden                                      |
| Wed 17 <sup>th</sup> | - 10-12 Coffee & Prayer, Charlton<br>- 7pm Easter Reflection, Islip     |
| Mon 22 <sup>nd</sup> | - 10am Coffee & Contemplation, Charlton                                 |
| Fri 26 <sup>th</sup> | - 10-12 Coffee Morning, Charlton<br>- 9.30 ABC for pre-schoolers, Islip |



CHIMNEY SWEEPING  
STOVE MAINTENANCE  
CLEANING PRODUCTS  
COWLS SUPPLIED  
AND FITTED  
RE-ROPING  
NEW GLASS

Mobile 07595 660 867 Landline 01869 323481  
[www.stuart-chimneysweep.co.uk](http://www.stuart-chimneysweep.co.uk)

# BLACKTHORN NEWS

---

## SPRING

Those of us fortunate enough to live in a rural location like Blackthorn or a neighbouring village will probably notice the end of winter and the arrival of spring before our urban neighbours.

Up pop the snow drops, closely following by crested iris, crocus and the early strains of daffodil, cherry blossom will soon appear in abundance while in woodlands and hedgerows we can see the bright yellow of the lesser celandine peering out.

We will soon see queen wasps and queen bumble bees darting and hovering, while the yellow of the male brimstone butterfly, one of the first to appear in spring, will be readily seen, although the pale green veined wings of the female, when stationary, will appear as a delicate leaf to all but the most observant.

Daylight hours lengthen and we start to hear robins, blackbirds and song thrushes warbling their amorous invitations during the dawn chorus and later in the day, we will see them pulling worms from our lawns, while on lakes and reservoirs the great crested grebes carry out their elegant courtship as each mimics the movements of the other. Moorhens and coots have already appeared on Weir Pond preparing their nests, while in the sky above we might be fortunate enough to watch red kites and more particularly buzzards wheeling and heeling as they sky dance.

While out walking around the village, we can smile as we watch new born lambs gambolling around under the ewes watchful eyes, for spring also brings out 'Charlie Fox' always ready for a

lamb dinner. Hens enjoying the longer, warmer days respond by starting to lay once again, after the meagre offerings of deep winter and cockerels are shouting out that winter is over to all that must listen.

We are living in tense and difficult times and it is worth reflecting for a moment or two on the reassuring predictability of the seasons and to enjoy nature's daily gifts.

The Blackthorn Codger

## NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Recent Neighbourhood Watch Alerts & Local reports

**Oil Theft:** Thieves forced a lock on an oil tank on Thame Road (discovered around 6th March) and caused damage to the tank in order to steal the oil.

**Vehicle Keyless theft -** Theft of 'keyless entry' vehicles continues to be on the increase and becoming more frequent in the Thames Valley Area. 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.

## BLACKTHORN VILLAGE HALL

- 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.

### Door Step Scams

Over the past 2 weeks, Oxfordshire Trading Standards has seen an increase in cold callers offering product and services such as roofing, gardening and selling mattresses door to door.

Their advice is 'If you're not sure, don't open the door'

1. Use a door chain to check who is calling.
2. Don't trade on the door step & never hand over money up-front or pay cash .
3. Ask a trusted friend or family member for advice on reputable traders.
4. Display a "No Cold Calling" sticker outside your door.
5. Always report any suspicious activity.

Please also keep an eye out for any neighbours who may be vulnerable to this type of scam.

If you are not a member of the Blackthorn Neighbourhood Watch scheme and would like to be added, please send an email with your name & address to Simon at:- [nhw.blackthorn@gmail.com](mailto:nhw.blackthorn@gmail.com)

### Discount on Home Insurance – Neighbourhood Watch members

The Co-Op are offering a 10% discount on their Home Insurance to home owners who are members of our Blackthorn Neighbourhood Watch scheme. Visit [coop.co.uk/home](http://coop.co.uk/home) or call 0800 781 1390 (Promo code NHW10)

### Blackthorn Village Hall Events Calendar:

- 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

### 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.

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

# TAKE A STAND AGAINST DOORSTEP SCAMS

**Protect Yourself From Doorstep Crime.  
If You're Not Sure Don't Open The Door.**

## Top 5 Tips To Take A Stand Against Door Step Scams

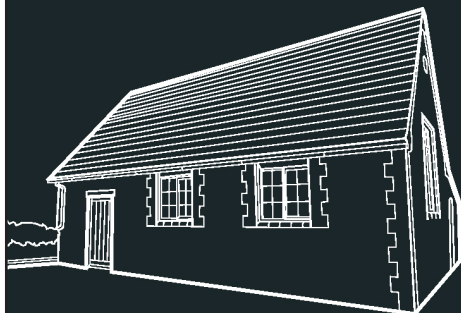
1. Use a door chain to check who's calling.
2. Don't trade on the door step.
3. Ask a trusted friend or family member for advice on reputable traders.
4. Display a "No Cold Calling" sticker outside your door.
5. Always report any suspicious activity.

Remember if you're not sure, get advice and always report a scam



For advice on scams call  
Citizens Advice Consumer Helpline: 03454 04 05 06

To report scams contact  
Action Fraud: 0300 123 2040



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

## Blackthorn Village Hall.



Newly refurbished facilities.  
The ideal venue for:

- Parties, birthdays
- Meetings, conferences, training
- Clubs

To hire, contact Sandie Stevenson:

01896 321542

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



oxonelectrical  
SERVICES LTD

Your No1 Local Electrician



- FREE Electrical Health Check
- Consumer Unit upgrades from £195
- Landlord Test Certificates from £89
- PAT Testing £1.50 per item
- Rewires from £999
- Shower & Cooker Installs from £40
- All Aspects Covered in Commercial, Industrial and Domestic Electrics
- One Off Electrical Repairs from £25 - call for more details
- Energy Saving Light Bulb Replacements Supply and Install from £10 per point.

**Your Local Electrician - Fully Qualified  
Fully Insured - Part P Registered**

For a Friendly, Trustworthy and  
Reliable Service. Call us today on:

t: 01869 325111 or

m: 07786 931 164

e: [info@oxonelectrical.co.uk](mailto:info@oxonelectrical.co.uk)

w: [www.oxonelectrical.co.uk](http://www.oxonelectrical.co.uk)

Please note all prices exclusive of VAT

follow us @

**Looking for a bargain?**

visit the

# Thrift Shop

behind the Costcutter Shop in Ambrosden

Open Thursdays, all year round

10:00 a.m - 3:00pm

**Clothing, Nursery Items, Books  
DVDs, Toys, Bric-a-Brac**

All profits to local charities

# BEST KEBABS

Ambrosden village car park  
(Beside Costcutter)

Wednesday to Saturday

4.00pm

-

10.00pm



## Bowen in Motion

Whole body therapy relieving pain, stress & tension



Muscle or joint pain? Back pain? Neck pain?  
Shoulder or arm pain?

Leg, knee or foot pain? Ankle pain?  
Headaches/Migraines?

Let Boweninmotion try to help and reduce your  
pain. Come and find out why so many clients are  
happy they found us

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

Phone 07956 892604

WESTMINSTER TO ISLIP

# Big Bike Ride!

Sunday 12th May 2019

**Be part of the ride this year!**

Big Bike Ride: 70 miles - Westminster Abbey to Islip

Halfway: 30 miles - Great Missenden to Islip

Nearly there: 15 miles - Thame to Islip

Tykes and Trikes: Around Islip - for young pedallers!

**Perfect for all ages and abilities**

Register today at

[www.islipbigbikeride.com](http://www.islipbigbikeride.com)



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



# MERTON NEWS

---

Merton Parish Council

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

Tony Bradley (Chair): [clltonybrad@gmail.com](mailto:clltonybrad@gmail.com)

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

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

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

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

Simon Ward: [simonwmpc@gmail.com](mailto:simonwmpc@gmail.com)

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

## **When you come right down to it, what's the Parish Council FOR?**

The PC is going through a period of reflection and self-examination. Why, we ask ourselves, is there a Parish Council at all?

Since the last AGM, councillors have arrived at the following set of priorities. We want to serve the needs of the Village effectively, with a particular focus on:

- The lack of a community heart
- Exploiting and protecting community assets
- Targeting the Precept (income) at what's important
- Improving communication by inviting your opinions, and by explaining our decisions

## **Lack of community heart**

We currently don't have much in place that functions as a "heart" for the village. The loss of the pub has had an ongoing negative effect.

The Beer Festival has now come to a close.

There are some things in place which provide a focal point including the Church, and the Film Nights. The first MacMillan Coffee Morning was a great success. These have a role to play in building community spirit.

Is there a role for the Parish Council in organising a major village event specifically designed to replace the Beer Festival. We've tossed around ideas including an Oktoberfest. What do you think?

## **Oxford Cavaliers and village heart**

This is where we hope the Cavaliers will have an important role to play within the village.

They are paying us a fee to rent the Field and Hall, and this will play an important role in digging us out of a financial hole. But we don't see the finances as the major impact of hosting the Cavs within our village.

We're really hoping many of us will want to get involved as spectators with tournaments and matches held on Saturdays over the summer. There are currently 5 Saturday sessions planned.

After the matches there will be a get-together, with food and drink being sold. BBQs will be held whenever possible, and all of us invited along. It'll be something like a pop-up pub, hopefully in the sunshine!

Of course, we also hope that children and



teenagers from the village will want to join their youth teams which train on Tuesday nights during their season (April – August). The village has pretty much nothing to offer to our younger residents – I really hope that some of them at least might give Rugby a whirl. Remember, it's girls as well as boys!

For those of us who still have concerns about hosting the Cavaliers in Merton, we're paying particular attention to solving potential problems including:

- Traffic and Parking
- Anti-social behaviour
- Alcohol consumption (with a focus on prohibiting under-age drinking)
- Light and noise pollution

The pitch has been sited so that it sits as far away as possible from the houses that overlook the field, and from the Hall itself. This should reduce or remove the risks of:

- Noise and light pollution
- Balls entering gardens
- Balls breaking windows

It's also sited as far away as possible from the Children's Play Area. Even during match days, children should be perfectly safe to play in there, and they will certainly be permitted to do so.

The old football goal-posts have been removed, but have been replaced with Rugby posts.

It's important to state that the Fields will be completely available to us all, as they are now, except when the pitch is in use. Dog owners are asked to be extra scrupulous in scooping the poop – but we ask that anyway, so no change there...

### Limited duration

We're looking at the Cavs are coming for one year only at this stage, on a kind of trial and error basis for both sides. If the benefits of having

them here don't materialise, or if any problems can't be overcome, we'll call it a day.

### **Community Assets**

It's definitely is the role of the Parish Council to seek ways to improve our shared facilities – which means the Hall and Field, and the Woodland.

As I mentioned in the last Parish Matters, we need to refurbish the Village Hall.

We've fixed broken roof tiles, which should tackle the damp patches inside. Now we're planning to give the interior a good lick of paint.

In terms of major developments, we have no choice but to tackle the storage area to the back of the Hall – it's wide open to the elements, and the chairs and tables stored there might as well be kept outdoors.

In addition to rebuilding this storage area, do you have any ideas about changes you'd like to see made to the Hall. At least a couple of villagers want to knock it down and replace it with an oak-framed building – which would be lovely but probably cost-prohibitive. Does the Hall meet your needs? Do you use it? Would you use it more if it could be improved?

The Woodland continues to be a valuable asset for the Village for people who enjoy walking / riding there. We're grateful to the doughty band of volunteers who maintain it, often through wind and rain.

However, the Council doesn't actually know:

- How many people actually use the Woodland?
- Do you even know what it has to offer?
- What do you use it for when you do go?
- Is there anything else you'd like to see there that would make you use it more?
- Would you like to join the volunteer group, but don't know how to?

### **Improved Communications**

The Parish Council has historically not been great at communicating. We've tried to fix this via:

- Publishing a detailed article in Parish Matters every month
- Posting on the village Facebook page
- Developing a new website, with some decent content
- Distributing questionnaires and leaflets highlighting particular issues

### **Traffic Calming Group**

Thank you to so many of you who filled in and returned the questionnaire we circulated asking your opinions on speeding and other problems with traffic through our village. And thank you, also, for turning up to the meeting held at the Hall on 13th March - 41 people (and 1 dog) turned out which was great. 52 questionnaires were received.

There are 138 dwellings in the Village, so over a third of you felt strongly enough to give up your time to respond – which indicates that this is indeed an issue people care about.

The upshot of the meeting was to set up a campaigning group to address the problems with speeding and weight of traffic. This was the approach adopted by Islip Parish Council in their successful campaign to get the speed limit through their village dropped to 20mph.

I'll keep you posted on further developments via Parish Matters and the Parish Council website.

It's worth noting that the issue of speeding was raised by a village resident who came to the last Parish Council meeting with his concerns. A lot of the work of the Parish Council is about risk assessments and setting the church clock, but we can also act as a mouthpiece for the village as a whole. If there are other issues you think the Parish Council could help address, please do attend a meeting, or simply contact one of your councillors.

### **Expressway and Relief Road**

This probably represents the greatest threat to our health, wealth and well-being. And there's currently nothing we can do about it. Various councillors have attended various events / groups and the truth is that, until they actually publish a proposed route, we're boxing with ghosts. All we know is that the Expressway won't affect Otmoor, but what that means for villages which border it is anyone's guess.

Freedom of Information requests have been submitted regarding the routes under consideration, but they've been turned down for reasons I don't pretend to understand.

We will keep you posted when we hear something concrete. We will fight any proposal that has a negative impact on the life of the village. But, for the time being, we're in limbo.

Come and tell us what you think – The Parish Council AGM is coming up!!

So, I've outlined our thoughts and ideas. They're offered in good faith by volunteers with

no axe to grind except wanting to improve the quality of village life.

If you have different ideas and opinions, please

Come and tell us what you think – The Parish Council AGM is coming up!!

So, I've outlined our thoughts and ideas. They're offered in good faith by volunteers with no axe to grind except wanting to improve the quality of village life.

If you have different ideas and opinions, please do come and air them at the Annual General Meeting of the Parish Council on 20th May, in the Village Hall at 7.30pm.

You certainly don't have to stay for the whole thing, but if you want your voice to be heard, with both positives and negatives, the AGM is a good venue for sharing them.

## NOKE PLANT SALE

Fragrant & Interesting



Bank Holiday Monday 6<sup>th</sup> May, 10am-Noon  
Playing Field, Lower Village



Refreshments

Easy PARKING on field

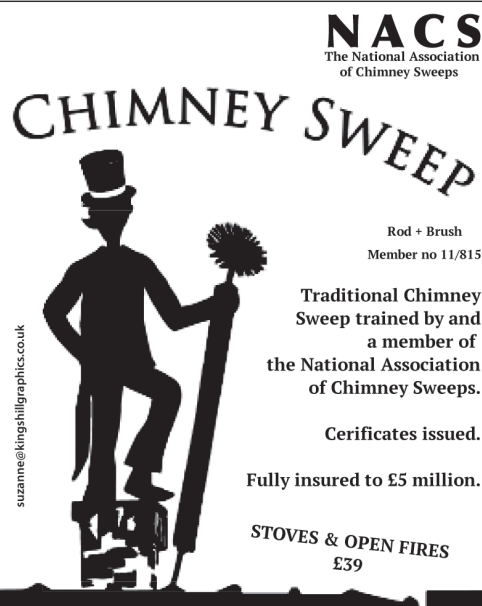
Funds raised in aid of St Giles roof repairs



**Acupuncture  
Chinese Medicine  
Massage**

**Lee Butler**  
MSc, BSc (Hons), MRCHM, MBAcC

Malvern Cottage, Station Road,  
Blackthorn, Oxfordshire OX25 1TA.  
Tel: 01869 253552 Mob: 07833 605156  
info@thevillageclinic.co.uk  
[www.thevillageclinic.co.uk](http://www.thevillageclinic.co.uk)



**NACS**  
The National Association  
of Chimney Sweeps

# CHIMNEY SWEEP

Rod + Brush  
Member no 11/815

Traditional Chimney  
Sweep trained by and  
a member of  
the National Association  
of Chimney Sweeps.

Certificates issued.

Fully insured to £5 million.

**STOVES & OPEN FIRES**  
£39

**Contact Andrew Peace, West Combs  
Banbury Rd, OX26 2HL Bicester,  
on telephone no. 01869 369592  
or mobile 07851 480755**

## ALL STEAMED UP?

*Has your double-glazing  
steamed up INSIDE?*

*You do not need to buy  
new windows. We will replace  
the glass cheaply. Other  
repairs undertaken.*

OXFORD - BICESTER - BANBURY

### ACORN WINDOWS

0800 542 6212 /

01869 321899

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

## Simon Nash

Heating - Plumbing  
Servicing

Installation and Maintenance  
Domestic Oil & Gas  
Servicing

GAS SAFE &  
OFTEC Registered

Tel: 07483 864571  
email: [simonnashserv@aol.com](mailto:simonnashserv@aol.com)

## G D BITMEAD

### MOTOR VEHICLE BODY AND PAINT

Three Corners Garage, Ambrosden OX25 2LU

All car body repairs undertaken  
*Scratches, Dents, Scuffs, Paint defects*  
*Machine Polishing, Chassis Welding*  
*Fabrication & Restoration*

Call in for a free estimate

Tel: 01869 601028 Mob: 07981 215730

# PIDDINGTON NEWS

---

## PIDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 16th April 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)

## 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.

## ANNUAL PARISH 'OPEN' MEETING

This will be held on Tuesday 21st May at 8pm, after the Parish Council Annual meeting. Everyone welcome. The evening is an opportunity to support councillors in the work they do for the parish, discuss village matters and interests and, importantly, look forward. Refreshments will be available at the end of the meeting.

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

The Appeal Inquiry started 26th March with a revised timetable lasting for 7 days, subject to the involvement of the MoD. At the time of writing it was not known whether this would be an extension of the existing timetable or an adjournment to a later date for days 5 – 7. The Parish Council will continue to advise through the village email and noticeboards.

The inclusion of an extra two days has meant that legal costs have increased. The Parish Council is very grateful to 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@googlemail.com](mailto:piddington.parish.clerk@googlemail.com) or 01865 379645.

The Parish Council and the Village Hall Committee have also joined forces to help raise funds in a fun-filled evening of 70s and 80s music. 'Legally Ska'd' on Saturday 13th April will include music from Skandemonium and woodfired pizzas available from The Pizza Boys. Tickets are £8 each with children under 13 going free. They can be purchased from Lynda Galloway (07806 487961) or at village events, including The Pantry.

## WIDNELL PARK, PLAYING FIELD AND MEADOW

Grass cutting will start at the end of March. The Fitness Trail equipment will be installed the week of 8th April and will take just over a week to complete. Please be aware that areas under construction will be roped off. The Parish Council will be working closely with the supplier, Proludic, to provide initial training for anyone interested at an opening event party.

The Parish Council has also agreed to purchase two new football nets.

There have been reports of some minor vandalism of parish property. The Parish Council asks that anyone using the field and park do so with respect for the hard work that has gone into providing the facilities for the enjoyment of villagers.

## 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](mailto:jmg.galloway@gmail.com).

The Parish Council has accepted an offer of sponsorship to pay for the installation of a water supply to the allotments, which will include payment of the water usage for the first year. This is a very generous and exciting development, which should hopefully improve maintenance at the site in future years.

## LITTERBLITZ 2019

On Saturday 23 March. Thanks to everyone who turned up for our annual village spring clean.

## VILLAGE HOUSEKEEPING

To report a full or damaged dog bin contact Cherwell DC 01295 227007 or the Parish Clerk. A new dog bin for Shady Lane will be installed shortly. Faulty street lights have been reported and a request has also been made for the sweeping of village kerbs and clearing of any blocked drains.

There have been a number of reports of grass cuttings being left on the verge on Lower End. Such behaviour is a form of fly-tipping and makes the entrance to the village look messy. Grass cuttings can easily be composted or failing that placed in the brown bins. Extra bins can be purchased from Cherwell at a nominal

cost.

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

#### RURAL POLICING

The latest police and village liaison meeting was held on 20th February. As a consequence of this meeting the police will be focusing on parking issues at Fringford, shed break-ins at Bucknell and unauthorised use of roads by large vehicles in Blackthorn and Launton. The next meeting will be held at Chesterton village hall on 12th June. All welcome to attend or if you have any issues you wish to have raised please contact Ken Howard ([ken.howard@piddingtonpc.com](mailto: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](mailto: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).

#### LOCAL GP SERVICES CONSULTATION

There will be a public meeting held at the John Paul II centre (Webb Court, Causeway, Bicester OX26 6AW) on Tuesday 14th May to discuss the future siting of a new GP surgery complex in Bicester. More information to follow.

#### EMERGENCY PLANNING & SSE PRIORITY SERVICE

A new shed has been delivered to house the new emergency generator for the village hall. It should be installed in early April.

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

#### PIDDINGTON'S INFORMATION CENTRE

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

#### T94 BICESTER MARKET SERVICE

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

#### PLAY AREA

Would you like to win an Easter chocolate hamper from Hotel Chocolat? Olivia is running another raffle to win this fabulous prize until 19th April. £1 a ticket. Please email [Olivia\\_329@hotmail.com](mailto:Olivia_329@hotmail.com) to purchase. All the money raised will go towards the play area at the village hall.

## BICESTER ART WEEK

Piddingtonians Karen Joy and Francesca Darby will be exhibiting work at the OYAP Centre, St Edburg's Church at Bicester Artweeks (part of Oxfordshire Artweeks). Opening night Friday 24th May until Monday 27th May. Please come over for a coffee and cake and say hello.

## EASTER IN PIDDINGTON

We will start our Easter celebrations with the Good Friday Pilgrimage to the site at the top of Muswell Hill where Ralph the Hermit started his church in the twelfth century. The walk starts from St Nicholas Church at 10.00 am and returns at about mid-day. All are welcome to join the walk. We cannot guarantee good weather but can promise good company and coffee and hot cross buns in the church at the end of the walk.

The church will be decorated for Easter on Saturday 20th April. If anybody wishes to donate flowers please bring them on the Saturday morning.

There will be a Family Communion Service on Easter Sunday at 10.30 am.

## VILLAGE DIARY

\* Dates to be confirmed C - Church; VH - Village Hall

13 April – Legally Ska'd - Live music from 70s and 80s, woodfired pizzas (VH)

18 April – Book Swap Coffee morning, 10.15 – 11.45 (VH)

19 April – Good Friday walk up Muswell Hill 10 – 12.00 (C)

21 April – Easter Sunday service at 10.30 (C)

26 April – Pop-Up Pub (VH)

30 May – Book Swap Coffee morning, 10.15 – 11.45 (VH)

31 May – Pop-Up Pub (VH)

15 June – Pamper Evening (VH)

23 June - Greatest Hits Choir Concert, 3-5 (VH)

27 June – Book Swap Coffee morning, 10.15 – 11.45 (VH)

28 June – Pop-Up Pub (VH)

29 June - The Great Piddington Bake Off (VH)

25 July – Book Swap Coffee morning, 10.15 – 11.45 (VH)

26 July – Pop-Up Pub (VH)

July/August – Bingo night\* (VH)

17 August - Arts & Crafts Exhibition, 10-2 (C)

22 August – Book Swap Coffee morning, 10.15 – 11.45 (VH)

30 August – Pop-Up Pub (VH)

7 September - The Pantry Autumn Market, 10-2 (VH)

21 September - Apple Day (VH)

27 September – Pop-Up Pub (VH)

4 October - Decorating the church for Harvest Festival (C)

5 October - Harvest coffee morning, 10-12 (C)

6 October - Harvest Festival, 10.30 (C)

18 October - Sports Talk with Rob Bonnet (VH)

25 October – Pop-Up Pub (VH)

29 November – Ukulele Night! (VH)

30 November - Wreath Making, 10-12 (C)

7 December - The Pantry Christmas Market, 10-2 (VH)

13 or 14 December – Village Christmas drinks (VH)

## PIDDINGTON 200 CLUB WINNERS

The Piddington 200 Club February draw took place at the PVH meeting on Tuesday 13th March 2019.

1st. 121. Tace Mylam.

2nd. 104. Sandra Carey.

3rd. 145. Meg Bell.

4th. 027. Deborah Swift.

Yvonne Weavers has managed the 200 Club since July 2015 but is now stepping down as from the last draw of the current year end, May.



## 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

Pantry

@Piddingtonoxon – for general items of interest

The Pantry blog:

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

## Coles Books

22 Crown Walk, Pioneer Square, Bicester,  
Oxfordshire, OX26 6HY

Telephone: 01869 320779

email: [shop@coles-books.co.uk](mailto:shop@coles-books.co.uk)

web: [coles-books.co.uk](http://coles-books.co.uk)

# COLES



# BOOKS

Specialists in Signed Editions

1000s of books in stock for every taste and budget

Ordering Service for every book currently in print in the UK

Experienced and knowledgeable Booksellers

Vinyl Records, Cards, Giftwrap & Stationery

Coles Gift Tokens available

Monday to Saturday  
9am to 5.30pm

## Piddington Village Hall



To hire please call  
07922 040550

email: [PiddingtonVillageHall@gmail.com](mailto:PiddingtonVillageHall@gmail.com)

**WEDDINGS PARTIES  
CLUBS MEETINGS  
KEEP FIT CLASSES**

To check availability go to  
[www.piddingtonvillageoxfordshire.org.uk/booking-calendar](http://www.piddingtonvillageoxfordshire.org.uk/booking-calendar)

## GreenCourt

BOARDING KENNELS & CATTERY



Opening Hours:  
Mon - Sat 8am - 4.30pm  
Sun & Bank hol 8am - 12 noon

GreenCourt Kennels & Cattery  
Clue Hill Farm  
Near Brill  
Buckinghamshire  
HP18 9UZ  
Tel: 01869 327 810

Email: [greencourt@btinternet.com](mailto:greencourt@btinternet.com)  
[www.greencourtdogandcat.co.uk](http://www.greencourtdogandcat.co.uk)



# OTMOOR GARDEN SOCIETY

---

Rob Jacobs kicked off our programme of speakers this year. How fascinating to hear about the history of the ladies of Waterperry. How did Miss Havergal ever have the money and courage to start what she did back then? Rob took us through right to the present day, and it is good to hear the garden is still moving forwards with changes all the time, including a new rose garden currently at the planning stage. What a shame that they can no longer produce their own plants for the nursery though. Such high maintenance and not enough labour. Rob is such an enthusiastic speaker that he carried us with him through all the stages of his talk. A great start to our calendar.

Our Willow Workshop on Sunday 14th April is now fully booked, but at our March meeting onwards we will be starting to take bookings for our three summer trips, so plenty of other opportunities to enjoy:

Friday May 17th we have an afternoon visit to Ablington Manor, a private garden near Bibury in the Cotswolds. This garden has featured in Country Life Magazine and looks lovely. I think this will be a new garden to most of us, so somewhere completely different to explore. Transport will be car sharing.

Saturday June 8th another afternoon visit, this time to Thenford Arboretum, near Banbury, home of Michael and Anne Heseltine. A 2 acre walled garden surrounded by 70 acres of arboretum. Plenty to see here including herbaceous borders, water gardens, alpine garden, sculpture garden and rose garden. Sounds like walking shoes a

good idea! Transport will again be car sharing.

Sunday July 7th a full day coach trip to Loseley Park Gardens and RHS Wisley, both in Surrey. Loseley has a 2.5 acre walled garden originally designed by Gertrude Jekyll, divided into rooms each with its own style. These include a rose garden, flower garden, white garden, herb garden and organic vegetable garden. We have booked a guided tour with the head gardener and assistant. After spending the morning here we will move onto RHS Wisley, which needs no introduction, and is sure to keep you busy for the rest of the day.

Stuck for choice? Simple, just book for all three! Non-members welcome but at extra cost, please see contacts below.

Returning to our programme of speakers, our next meeting is on Tuesday April 23rd at Charlton. Roger Umpleby's talk is entitled "X-rated Invertebrates – Savagery and Sex in the garden". At this point I'm thinking his garden sounds much more exciting than mine! Roger is a professional entomologist and horticulturalist with many years experience of consultancy and research with government and industry. Part-time advisor to the RHS and occasional lecturer at Pershore College. A keen gardener and a passionate plant and nature lover who enjoys sharing his love and respect for the natural world with anyone prepared to listen. So we're talking insects here, with exceptional close-up photography. This will be something a bit different, and you may never view your garden in

the same way again once you know what is going on out there right under your nose!

Finally an early reminder – Plant Sale, Saturday May 11th – just saying! More next time.

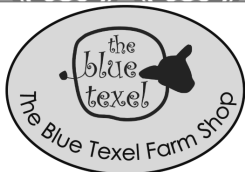
Happy Gardening,

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



Find us on:  
**facebook**



THE BLUE TEXEL FARM SHOP AND BUTCHERS

1 STATION ROAD, LAUNTON, OX26 5DS

01869 252619 [www.thebluetexel.co.uk](http://www.thebluetexel.co.uk) email: [info@thebluetexel.co.uk](mailto:info@thebluetexel.co.uk)

A full traditional butchers counter offering our home reared Outdoor Pork and Lamb, locally produced British Beef, award winning Sausages & Burgers, our own Home Cured Bacon and Hams and locally sourced Poultry and Game. Our new refurbished Farm Shop stocks a tempting range of food to compliment the butchery, together with Artisan Breads and Seasonal Vegetables. We have extended our opening hours and are now open Tuesday to Sunday.

**VISIT US NOW AND TRY SOMETHING LOCAL**

# Bowen for Paws

Canine Bowen Technique



A soft tissue, light touch remedial therapy. Offering dogs a gentle, non invasive & effective hands on technique that aims to promote healing, pain relief & body / energy rebalancing.

*Common Conditions seen in  
Pet, Working or Competition dogs.  
Allergies & Skin Conditions - Arthritis  
Muscular Sprains & Strains - Back Problems  
Lameness & other Gait Problems - Hip &  
Elbow Dysplasia - Sciatica - Aggression &  
Other Behavioural Problems Stress & Anxiety  
Disorders - Dogs that pull on the lead*

**Call Beth: 07909 771940**  
**www.bowenforpaws.co.uk**

# Paterson

health & social care

Do you or a loved one need  
care at home?

Life-altering illness can be extremely  
difficult to deal with, but staying in your own  
home can take away some of that strain



Contact us today to see how we can help

**01869 325530**

[www.paterson-healthcare.co.uk](http://www.paterson-healthcare.co.uk)

## ARBOCARE

### TREE SURGERY LTD

Qualified and Experienced  
Arborists

Established over 25years

Contractors to the National Trust

Crown reductions \* Thinning

Felling \* Hedge Trimming

Stump Grinding

Decay Detection & Tree Reports

**Free Phone: 0808 1555815**

**Mb: 07778811136**

**WWW.ARBOCARE.CO.UK**



Starting your own business?

Or need help with your existing business?

Do you need an accountant/tax adviser?

Clear, down to earth financial advice for all personal and  
corporate accountancy requirements.

Call for a free half hour consultation

T: 01296 738668 M: 07812 026346

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



Chartered  
Accountant  
& Business  
Advisor

**AJR  
&Co**

# VET REPORT

---

## Vaccination of Pets

Protective vaccination in pets (as well as in people) seems to cause debate and controversy from time to time. Some concerns are reasonable; whilst others are unscientific and unhelpful. Our friend Dr Google can provide useful information, as well as unhelpful misinformation; so take care when browsing online for “facts”. The MMR vaccination scares of the past, which were based on what has been proven to be flawed scientific information, has led to measles outbreaks which have put many lives at risk.

In pets, we advocate vaccinating regularly to maintain immunity. In dogs, there are some conditions that we vaccinate for less often than others. This is based on what we know about duration of immunity for the majority of the canine population. The other benefit from vaccination booster visits is a full health check which is a very important part of preventative healthcare.

Many people ask what is covered by the vaccine? The answer is quite extensive, so I’ll give some information about 3 commonly vaccinated conditions in pets.

Feline herpesvirus & calicivirus – these 2 viruses can cause the symptoms which are commonly known as “cat flu” even though neither is actually an influenza virus. Unprotected cats can develop sneezing, a snotty nose and sore throat, conjunctivitis and sometimes ulcers on the cornea, which in severe cases can cause rupture of the eyeball. Some cats will get ulceration on the tongue also. Along with all this they feel very unwell, have a high temperature, don’t want to eat and will soon become dehydrated. Once you’ve seen a 6 week old kitten fighting for

its life with cat flu you’ll never want to see it again! Myxomatosis in rabbits – this is a terrible disease caused by a virus which is endemic in the wild rabbit population in the UK. It can be caught by direct contact with affected rabbits but also can be transmitted on insects such as flies. Unprotected rabbits develop swelling of the lips, nose, eyelids and genitals. A creamy discharge is often present from the eyes & nose and the rabbit is systemically very unwell and can easily die from not eating and dehydration. Often rabbits are euthanased with this condition though, with intensive nursing & treatment, some will survive.

Parvoviral infection in dogs – this is another very serious viral infection seen most commonly in puppies and young dogs. The most obvious signs are severe vomiting and watery, bloody diarrhoea. This rapidly causes dehydration, shock and often death. The virus also affects the dog systemically and can even cause heart disease in very young puppies if the mother hasn’t passed on any immunity ie if the bitch hasn’t been vaccinated. Treatment is intensive, costly and often unsuccessful.

There are many other conditions covered by vaccination and I’ll write about some others next month. Vaccination is a modern invention which has led to a huge reduction in certain conditions. It isn’t totally without the risk of side effects but in most cases the benefits far outweigh any risks, but this is a discussion to have with your vet – not with someone on an internet forum who isn’t aware of all the facts.

Enjoy your pets  
Jason Williams  
Bicester Vets

# OTMOOR WOMANS INSTITUTE

---

March saw the Annual Meeting of Otmoor WI held in Charlton Community Hall. Virginia welcomed Emma Wyke who talked about the Playground Project which WI has supported through the Pop-up Café this year. Members were presented with the programme for the coming year. Virginia thanked Ali, Landi and Charmaine for their contribution serving on the committee and welcomed Anne Baker, Ann Macey and Frances Cameron to the committee.

The treasurer's report was presented by Heather and Marilyn reported on the activities of Otmoor WI in the past year, including outings to Bletchley Park, the London Postal Museum and Beenham Wolves.

Virginia summed up our year as one of involvement. She talked about the many activities members had undertaken alongside community projects, the community lunches, pop-up cafes and continued support for Bicester Food Bank. Sophie, who won the Denman Bursary last year, showed members the mosaics she had produced on her Denman Course. The craft group continues to enjoy new crafts and old favourites, recording lives group, recording personal memories for their families, continues to thrive and, during the winter months, a pastimes afternoon enjoyed games and puzzles.

Following a ballot Virginia was elected to serve as President for a further year. Quiz sheets were distributed which lead to some lively discussion. Christeen, Margaret and Ann

Williams proved most successful identifying parts of the body included in popular sayings. Members then enjoyed refreshments provided by the committee and a chance to sign up for events. Anne Baker won the Denman Bursary. She will be able to take along another member of the WI when she attends her chosen course. Members were reminded of upcoming events including the Oxfordshire Federation Centenary Meeting on 26th March. The next meeting of Otmoor WI is at 7.45 on April 9th in CCH when the speaker, Helen Plumb, will be giving her talk, "Glorious Coloured Gemstones."

## Dates for the Diary

### April

Tuesday April 9th Glorious Coloured Gemstones - Helen Plumb (CCH) 7.45pm

Wednesday April 10th Pop-up Café (CCH) 10am-12noon

Wednesday April 17th Pop-up Café (CCH) 10am-12noon

Thursday April 11th Coffee, Craft and Cake (MVH) 7.45pm

### May

Tuesday 14th May Resolutions (CCH) 7.45pm

Thursday 16th May Coffee, Craft and Cake (MVH) 7.45pm

### June

Tuesday 11th June Garden Meeting

Thursday 20th June Coffee, Craft and Cake (MVH) 7.45pm

# 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.

**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

Advertising Russell Thompson rthom91543@aol.com 01869 246093

### Village News Collectors:

Ambrosden Wendy Cheeseman wendy@plantalittlemagic.co.uk

Arcott arcottvhmc@gmail.com

Blackthorn John Henderson j\_henderson@btinternet.com

Merton Lucy Katz clrlucykatzmertonpc@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.

---

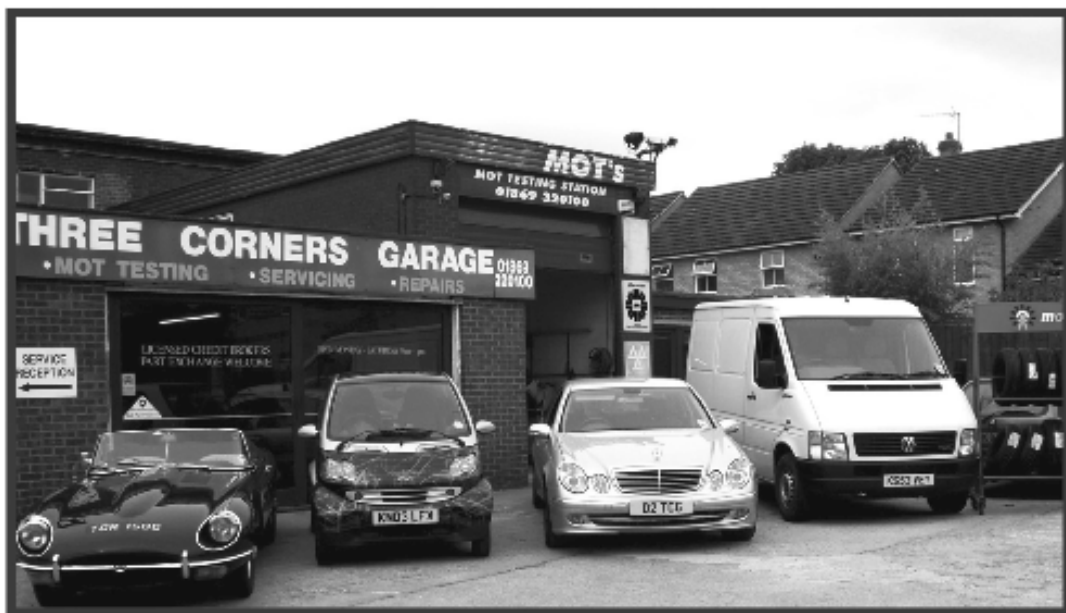


**THREE CORNERS GARAGE**  
Ambrosden  
est. 1951



**M.O.T your car with us  
and we'll text you the following year  
to remind you it's due again**

Wide selection of premium and economy tyres in stock.



For any of the above services, please contact Steve or Dave  
on:

**01869 320100 or 01869 360584**