

PARISH MATTERS



JUNE 2019

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

VILLAGE VIEWS & LOCAL NEWS



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Welcome to the June 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**

Parish Matters Committee

LETTER FROM THE CLERGY TEAM

Answered Prayer?

I have a friend who tells me that if she prays for a parking space one always appears. And another elderly friend, not a confident driver, informed me that if she gets into difficulties in traffic she asks God to take the wheel! In reply to my question 'And does he?' she answered 'Yes he always gets me out of trouble'. Well, she has not had an accident but I can't help thinking that both of these kinds of prayer are rather questionable. In our country, which sadly can no longer be called religious, most people, if they think about prayer at all, find it puzzling. For many it means only one thing: getting one's requests answered. Of course, when praying you do share your concerns and desires with God, however small, but believers always pray in the words of the Lord's Prayer 'Thy will be done'. If praying meant that one's prayers were always answered in exactly the desired way it would be more like magic.

But what if what is prayed for is good and worthy and the prayer is apparently still not answered? That gives rise to the danger that faith might be lost. I'm sure many people have left the church because of what they perceive as unanswered prayer.

During my long life one thing has become clear to me – God always hears our prayers and does answer them but frequently not in the way or time scale that we expect. When Christians pray they seek to understand more clearly God's will for them and to bring their will into line with his. Prayer does not mean manipulating God to do what he otherwise would not have done. It means opening ourselves to him, trusting in his loving concern for us and receiving from him the strength to carry us through the hard times we have prayed might

not come. Then we can say with the psalmist,

'Yea though I walk through the valley
of the shadow of death I will fear no
evil, for thou art with me'

However God knows that in our human frailty and weakness there will be times when even the most devout Christian feels unable to say this and in the midst of our fear he will understand, forgive and support us.

But of course life is not always sad. There are also the good and joyful times when it is wonderful to be able to turn to God and share with him in prayer our joy and gratitude.

Glenys Edwards (Licensed Lay Minister)

CHURCH SERVICES JUNE

RAY VALLEY SERVICES June 2019

Draft 3

Church	Time	Leader	Service
Sunday June 2nd	Easter 7		Acts 16.16-34 Revelation 22.12-14,16,17,20-end John 17.20-end
Ambrosden	10.30	Cover	Holy Communion
	18.30	Cover	The Xtra One
Merton	09.00	Lisa	Holy Communion
Piddington	10.30	Elizabeth	Family Service - Elizabeth Taylor
Islip	10.30	Brian	Parish Communion – Brian Mountford
Noke	17.00	Glenys	Family service
Charlton	10.30	Lisa	Family Service & Baptism
Sunday June 9th	Pentecost		Acts 2.1-21 Romans 8.14-17 John 14.8-17(27-27)
Ambrosden	10.30	Steve	Family Service
Piddington	09.00	Steve	Holy Communion
Islip	10.30	Lucy	Parish Communion - Baptism
Woodeaton	09.15	Cover	Family Service
Charlton	09.00	Lucy	Holy Communion
	18.00	Lisa	Evening Prayer
Oddington	10.30	Lisa	Holy Communion
Sunday June 16th	Trinity Sunday		Proverbs 8.1-4,22-31 Romans 5.1-5 John 16.12-15
Ambrosden	10.30	Steve	Holy Communion
Merton	09.00	Steve	Holy Communion
Piddington	18.00	Steve	Evening Prayer
Islip	10.30	Lucy	Parish Communion
Woodeaton	09.15	Lucy	Holy Communion
Charlton	10.30	Cover	Family Communion
Sunday June 23rd	Trinity 1		Isaiah 65.1-9 Galatians 3.23-end Luke 8.26-39
Ambrosden	10.30	Lay	Morning Prayer
Merton	10.30	Steve	Family Service
Piddington	09.00	Steve	Holy Communion
Islip	10.30	Lucy	Family Pets Service
Charlton	09.00	Lisa	Holy Communion
Oddington	18.00	Lisa	Evening Prayer
Sunday June 30th	Trinity 2		1 Kings 19.15-16,19-end Galatians 5.1,13-25 Luke 9.51-end
Noke	10.30	All	United Benefice Service

CLERGY CONTACTS

CLERGY

Church of England contacts:

Rev Steve Hayes (Rector Ray Valley Benefice)	01869 247813
Rev Lisa Holmes (Charlton and Oddington)	01865 331279
Rev Lucy Thirtle (Islip, Noke and Woodeaton)	01865 379470
Mrs Glenys Edwards (based in Oddington)	01865 331233
Lynne Lewis Benefice Administrator	01865 331225

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

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

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

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

CHURCHWARDENS

Ambrosden:

Angela Jones, 16, West Hawthorn Road, Ambrosden 01869 323960

Piddington: Margaret Hutchings, Kings Cottage, Lower End, Piddington 01844 238724

Merton: Lawrence Comiskey, 2 Church Close, Merton 01865 331429

Robert Kerr, Merton Croft, West End Lane, Merton 01865 331870

ORGANISTS & BELLS

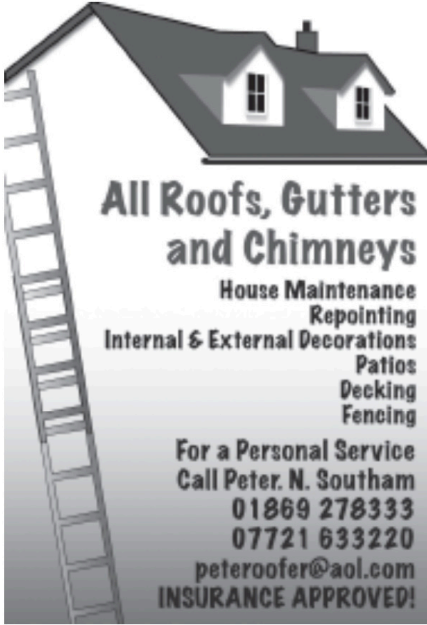
Ambrosden: Mrs Pam Newell (bells only) 01869 241667
Organist (vacant)

Piddington: Mrs Betty Newell 01844 237236

Mr Tony Pearce 01844 237688

Merton: Mr Russell Thompson 01869 246093

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AMBROSDEN NEWS

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

Parish website and facebook
www.ambrosden.info/parishcouncil

Ambrosden Parish Councillors:
Mark Longworth (Chair) – ambrosden@mlongworth.co.uk
Maureen Cossens (Vice Chair) – 01869 252722
Chris West
Philip Blazdell
Sue Posselwhite
Wendy Cheeseman
Vacant seat

Parish Clerk - Lynne Bustin
11 Otmoor View, Merton, Oxon
Ambrosden.parishclerk@gmail.com

District Councillors
Three District Councillors represent the ward of Ambrosden and Bicester South.
Dan Sames (Conservative)
Daniel.Sames@Cherwell-DC.gov.uk
Lucinda Wing (Conservative)
lucinda.wing@cherwell-dc.gov.uk
Nick Cotter
Mick.cotter@cherwell-dc.gov.uk

County Councillor
Dan Sames (Conservative)
dan.sames@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Facebook Community message boards
Ambrosden Community
Ambrosden and Caversfield Forces Wives

St. Mary's Church
www.ambrosdenchurch.org.uk/

Five Acres School
www.fiveacres.org.uk/

Ambrosden Village Pre School
8.20-11.20 Monday - Friday term time only
Jackie Floyd - 07759755179
ambrosdenvillagepreschool@hotmail.co.uk

Tiddlywinks Playgroup
8.30-11.30, 11:50-14:50.
Debra Cherry 01869256555
tiddlywinks_playgroup@msn.com

Ambrosden Doctors Surgery
01869 256336

Ambrosden4Children
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

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/>

ALLOTMENTS

The Parish Council received and signed transfer documents for the allotments in May. We now await the formal hand over. Thanks to Cllrs Lucinda Wing and Dan Sames for chasing this.

NEW PLAY AREA AT MARSH ROAD (AMBROSDEN COURT)

Croudace Homes will be installing a play area in Marsh Lane for smaller children. Works will commence in June. This play area formed part of the original planning requirements for this scheme to achieve planning permission and is for the use of the whole village, providing a much needed play area at this end of the village.

LABURNUM CLOSE PLAY AREA

After complaints about the state of this Play Area, Cllrs Dan Sames and Lucinda Wing has negotiated on behalf of the Parish Council for this play area to be refurbished.

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The well attended Annual Parish Meeting was held on Thursday 17th May, and members of the village heard from speakers from across the village.

The Parish Council Chairman's speech welcomed our new third District Councillor, Nick Cotter, and gave details and information on many of the issues affecting the village over the past year and proposed traffic calming.

Sadly Cllr Serinne Curtis has stepped down

from Parish Council duties, due to work commitments. We would like to thank her for her hard work for the community and lively interjections in debates.

Thanks was given to Cllr Wendy Cheeseman for the wonderful spring daffodil displays. Wendy is planning more bulb planting this year and we seek volunteers to assist with planting.

Budgets

Last year we mentioned that the Parish Council has suffered increasing costs, both in staffing and grass cutting over the year, there was a slight increase again this year to cover increased costs, and to allow for additional funding towards proposed traffic calming, increased maintenance costs and extended grass cutting and litter picking, and to create a seed fund for the allotments (pun intended).

Planning

Planning issues have again taken up a considerable amount of time for the Parish Council this year, with enforcement issues at Symmetry Park, a major application on Merton Road, which was refused and dozens of applications at Graven Hill. It remains a worry that at Graven Hill, the District Council continues to build prior to receiving planning permission: (104 apartments and 800sqm commercial floor space (18/01060/REM) has reached first floor level without planning permission being granted). Graven Hill has now been politically passed to Bicester Town Council, who have been asked to address this issue going forwards.

We will continue to liaise with and support our neighbouring Parish Councils in their planning issues such as the unsuitably located traveller's site at Piddington, and the Chicken Farm located in the flood plain at Arcott.

We are delighted to announce that at the weekend we signed the legal documents to adopt the allotments and community land at the Springfields Farm development. We must thank District Cllr Lucinda Wing for assisting the Parish Council. Springfield Farm is a pleasure to walk around and fits well into the village, and we hope more villagers have the opportunity to make use of the parks, sports common, community orchard and allotments.

District Cllr Lucinda Wing has also been instrumental in ensuring the enforcement team look at all other agreements and the long awaited children's play area at the Ambrosden Court development, which was part of the original planning requirements.

The Parish Council and Cllrs Wing and Sames, have also been heavily involved in enforcement issues, particularly at Symmetry Park which included site meetings with the site contractors. Unfortunately they have discovered that the Council failed to impose any working hour conditions on the developer. We have requested these are imposed on the final phases.

Cllr Sames has assisted the Parish Council in getting OCC Highways to add drainage clearance and road sweeping to their job list to at least tackle the earth that has blown onto the A41, and blocked the drains. The Parish Council has objected to the height of the final phase of the development and requested amendments to avoid light pollution. Now that all three of our District Councillors

are also Bicester Town Councillors, we hope for a better working relationship with Bicester Town Council, so that the opinions of the wider community can be voiced at BTC planning committee. Many residents of Ambrosden expressed frustration that the Town Council supported the recently constructed warehouse development.

Traffic Calming and Highways

Over the last year the Parish Council has had a number of meetings with OCC Highways, supported by County Cllr Sames, OCC Officers, the Headmaster of Five Acres School, and with input from the Garrison.

Merton Road has now been patched. White lining will soon be reinstated. In the next 12 months the road is also likely to be micro asphalted.

Along the A41 from Ploughley Road to Rodney House roundabout the cycleway has been edged to reinstate its original width, creating a continuous cycle way from Arcott to Bicester.

After undertaking 7 speed surveys on Merton Road, Ploughley Road, and Blackthorn Road, the Parish Council has developed initial proposals to address highways issues in the the village, which are now being developed and costed by OCC. The speed surveys show that while measures already undertaken have reduced speeds and accidents, there are still many issues, often witnessed during our inspections.

Proposals include:

- 7.5 ton weight limit on Ploughley Road
- 30 mph flashing school signs
- Road narrowing's and footpath widening on Merton Road
- Painted traffic islands on junction of Merton Road and Ploughley
- Chicanes in Ploughley Road
- White lining
- Relocation of bus stops outside Three Corners Garage
- Painted footways on Merton Road
- Widened and safer crossing between Springfield Farm and school.
- Better signage approaching school crossings.
- 30mph flashing VAS signs on Ploughley Road and potentially Blackthorn and Merton Roads.

The Parish Council is also monitoring progress of consultations in relation to the Oxford Cambridge Expressway, which some campaign groups predict may come close to Ambrosden. We will hold a public meeting when we have accurate information.

Litter and Dog Waste

The April litter pick was a huge success and a substantial amount of rubbish was collected, supported by the loan of equipment from CDC, who removed all the rubbish.

We would also thank our District Councillors Nick Cotter and Dan Sames for attending.

We will shortly be installing a new dog bin on Merton Road, and will relocate one duplicated bin from Springfields to Ploughley Road.

Doctors Surgery

The reduction in hours of the Ambrosden Surgery, and its proposed relocation along with that of Langford Surgery potentially to Graven Hill, but more likely Kingsmere is a great concern to many residents of the village. Our new District Councillor, Nick Cotter has been

keeping the village up-to-date on this, and we hope to work with Cllr Cotter to campaign for the best outcome for residents of Ambrosden.

Play bus

The Parish Council provided £500 of funding to keep the play bus running in Ambrosden.

Chickens

The Parish Council was pleased to assist the parents of Five Acres School with funding towards a new chicken coop.

Other funding

The Parish Council has also provided funding to Ambrosden4Children, the Guides and Brownies to assist in their activities, also Five Acres School received funding that was match funded by Cllr Sames discretionary fund for play equipment. The PC planted a Remembrance Tree, which was blessed by Revd Steve Hayes, and made a donation towards the MOD Garden of Remembrance.

Crime

A review of local crime was undertaken after becoming a concern to local residents. Crime has remained relatively static in a time of a rising population in the village, but the level of Violence and Sexual Offences are a concern. The Parish Council has made donations to an Oxfordshire based Charity that is working with a number of victims of abuse within the village.

It is noticeable that the level of crime reporting appears to increase in holiday periods, and we would seek to support any initiatives to provide recreation and activities during school holiday periods, and could provide funding for anyone wanting to set up sporting groups on the new sports common at Springfields.

The Parish Council is promoting the setting up of a Village Neighbourhood Watch Group, to complement the village Facebook Group

The Parish is also engaging with support organisations to reduce crime levels.

Traffic Speeds

The Parish Council commissioned 7no 7 day long speed surveys, in differing locations.

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 done.

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 30mph for vehicles entering the village: The speed of vehicles leaving the village is too high at 35mph.

The 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 or 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.

Other Speakers

A full review of other speakers will appear in the next issue of Parish Matters.

AMBROSDEN DIARY

Turners Arms Public House- Ambrosden
Bicester Lions – 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month at 8pm - TurnerArms 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.

Due to problems with the Village Hall, the committee are not accepting bookings from new users at the moment.

Day and Time	Group or event	Information	Location
Mon-Fri 8.20- 11.20am	Ambrosden Village Preschool	Term Time Only Jackie Floyd 07759 755179 Ambrosdenvillagepreschool@hotmail.co.uk	Village Hall Annex
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	https://www.girlguiding.org.uk/get-involved	The Silibaravi Centre
First three Mondays of the month	Ambrosden Gaming Club	Selection of table top wargames such as bolt action and warhammer. Minimum age 18 Contact 07887 761154 https://www.facebook.com/Ambrosden- Gaming-Club-539843919418164/	Village Hall
Tuesday 6.30 – 7.30 pm	Yoga	Contact jadewells@live.co.uk to book	Village hall
1 st and 3 rd Tuesday 10am– 11.30am	Bicester Bereavement Support Group	Residents Lounge, Hanover Gardens, Manorsfield Road, OX26 6DG	
Wednesday 7.15pm	Bingo	Eyes down 8pm. - Contact: - 01869 244785	Village hall
Wednesday 7-9pm	Youth Club	12 – 17 years Contact read Lynn Waite on 01869 256135	Village Hall
Wednesday 5.30pm – 6.45pm	1st Ambrosden and Arncott Scouts Cubs	https://www.facebook.com/1stambrosden/	Arncott Village Hall
Wednesday 7.30pm – 9pm	Bicester Military Wives Choir	Karen Rea Bicester@militarywiveschoirs.org	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	Rainbows 5- 6pm Brownies 6.30 – 8pm	www.girlguiding.org.uk/interested	Village hall
Friday 7- 9pm	1st Ambrosden and Arncott Scouts	https://www.facebook.com/1stambrosden/	Arncott Village Hall
Wednesday Thursday, Friday and	Kebab Van	Mario 07384 269136	Costcutter car park

Calling All Potential Bell Ringers

Ambrosden church is looking for experienced bell ringers to practice ringing the bells on a regular basis, and for ringing on events like weddings.

So if you have rung before and even if you can take charge of the ringers, we would like to hear from you.

In the past we practiced one night a week and it would be so good to hear the bells ringing more often.

So if you are interested, please email Pam Newell on PamNewell@uwclub.net or call her on 01869 241667

In the late Autumn, the Parish Council is looking to have an exhibition of local history, mainly photographs of Ambrosden through the ages.

As well as approaching the County Record Office for old photographs of the school (now Village Hall), we are asking if any residents have any old photographs of the village.

Ambrosden has changed much over the years, arguably mostly in recent times. So photos from any decade would be welcome. House, buildings, shops, landscapes etc most welcome.

Please email wendy@plantalittlemagic.co.uk
Thank you.

ARNCOTT NEWS

REPORT FROM ARNCOTT VHMC & ACA
MEETING 30th APRIL & PARISH
COUNCIL MEETING 7th MAY 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> (also contains pages for the ACA)

Parish council Facebook : <https://www.facebook.com/arncottpc/>

Parish council email : arncottpc@gmail.com

Parish Matters Magazine : arncottvhmc@gmail.com

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

Open meeting

The annual parish open meeting took place

in the village hall on Tuesday May 7th.

Attendees were 7 parishioners, District Cllr Hughes, the MOD Garrison representative, the chairman of the VHMC and representatives from the village community organisations and societies. Paul Wilson and Lee Savidge were re-elected as parish council chairman and vice-chairman respectively. The minutes of the open meeting and the chairman's report are available to see on the parish website.

HS2

The parish council have not received any further information from OCC about this. Unfortunately, County Cllr Sames was unable to attend the meeting and provide an update.

Woodpiece Road

The parish council has still not be given any date from CDC as to when the phase two work will start. The parish council will contact CDC again and ask for an update.

Grant money for sports facilities

The parish council will look to progress the possible construction of a new building when the proposed plans and quotation have been received.

Play equipment

Cllrs Wilson and Savidge met with the area sales manager from HAGS on Tuesday May 2nd at the village hall play area. HAGS is a company that can supply and install play equipment. A positive conversation took place

and possible items of play equipment for the older children / teenagers were identified. Measurements have to be made around the football pitch to determine what play items can be fitted into the available space. It was also suggested that the existing village hall play area could have a few more items installed for the young children. This will be discussed further at the June parish council meeting.

Vehicle activated speed (VAS) signs

Work on this project is being done as and when the parish council resource is available.

Speedwatch campaign

Due to a complete lack of support from anyone within the community, this campaign is a non-starter. If you want to get involved with this then contact any parish councillor for more information.

Free range egg production unit off Palmer Avenue

The parish council received notification from CDC of a planning application for the construction of a free range egg production unit off Palmer Avenue near to the junction with the B4011 Thame Road. The application seeks to construct a site capable of containing 60,000 chickens. The parish council has objected to the application. If you wish to comment on the application then please do so in writing to CDC. The application number is 16/01706/F

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.

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.

Village Hall public address system

The audio system will be installed but there is still some work to do before that happens.

Fete Day football match

The parish council accepted a quotation to have the goalposts re-installed. A purchase order will be issued for the work to be done and the goals will be in place before fete day.

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

Summer Aunt Sally league

The Plough pub in Arncoth 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 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

With regard to the pothole on the level crossing near to C site entrance, Cllr Hooper has been chasing this up with the MOD. The parish council is hopeful that repairs to the road will get done sooner rather than later. Potholes need to be fixed in Woodpiece Road. This has been reported to OCC via the www.fixmystreet.com website. OCC have not yet advised the parish council as to when this work will be done. Please don't forget to report any road / pavement / street light issues you see on www.fixmystreet.com. This is how we report them and it is very easy to do.

Village Hall / VHMC / ACA

The AGM's for the above were held as follows:-

ACA - 14th May

Village Hall Trustees - 28th May

Village Hall Management Committee – 28th May

These dates were all after the cut-off for receipt of material for publication in the June issue of Parish Matters, therefore short reports will be included in the July issue.

However all three organisations are in desperate need of new members. Without an increase in the number of people giving up a small amount of time it is extremely likely that they will cease to exist in the near future,

meaning that the major village events, including the Summer fete, the children's Christmas party, and the Senior's Christmas lunch will also have to be reviewed. The fete raises significant funds to help keep the hall viable at no cost to the community, and through the 300 Club the ACA raises the money to allow the Christmas parties to be free to residents.

Please consider if YOU can help.

Village hall email address - arncottvhmc@gmail.com

Christine Dunkin (Chair ACA and Village Hall hire) - 01869 249560 – avhlettings@gmail.com
ACA – arncottca@gmail.com.

300 club – Wendy Wilkins – arncott300club@gmail.com

Facebook - 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 March

178 – Mrs P Watson
260 – Mr D Seekings
232 – Miss J Saunders
096 – Mrs A Snowden
005 Mrs J. Collins

If anyone is interested and would like to start or rejoin the 300 Club, please contact Wendy Wilkins by email at 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. Mindfulness Meditation and Deep Relaxation Classes on Monday night at 8.30pm to 9.30pm

and Thursday morning at 10:00am to 11:00am. You will be made most welcome by Charlotte. Tumble Tots – Tuesday 9:30 am to 1:30 pm. Cubs – Wednesday 5.15 pm to 6:45 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.

Keep Fit for the Mature Movers Men and Women - Mondays 11:00 am to 12:00 noon. Includes tea & biscuits. £4.50

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

Community events at the hall

Friendship club – Second Wednesday of each month 1.45pm – 3:45pm. A relaxing opportunity to socialise with your friends and neighbours. £2.00 includes Tea / Coffee and Cake raffle ticket .We have board games and do a quiz and for the last half hour a few games of bingo .So don't be at home along come along you will be made most welcome. 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 6:30pm to 9:00 pm in Greenfields Common Room. All welcome no matter what your craft or standard. Please come along and show us what crafts you can do - we would be very interested to meet you and you will be most welcome.

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

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.

May 31st 2019 – Paintballing at Arncott Motor Park. Safety certificate issued and an event for 60 people approved. Arncott residents will go to the front of the ticket queue. Full details to follow shortly.

October 31st - Halloween event – Details to follow.

AVHMC - 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.

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 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.



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www.greencourtdogandcat.co.uk





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More details at: www.bridgewebs.com/bicesterlearning

Please call David Tarsky on 07867126188

BLACKTHORN NEWS

VILLAGE DEFIBRILLATOR

Following the request last month for volunteers to be call ahead contacts for South Central Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust, Stephen and Janet Watson volunteered. Many thanks for their help and the information has been passed onto South Central.

BLACKTHORN VILLAGE HALL

Our first Sunday Brunch was well received, so we will probably make it a regular event throughout the year. In June we've got our Summer Solstice BBQ on Sat 22nd, so keep your eyes peeled for more details. Other regular events include:

Pub Night's

- Fri 31st May
- Fri 28th Jun
- Fri 26th Jul

Coffee Mornings

- Thu 6th Jun
- Thu 4th Jul
- Thu 1st Aug

Further details on each event will appear in future Parish Matters, on the Village FB page and via email. If you would like to receive email updates and reminders of events being held in the village, please send an email to blackthornvillagehall@gmail.com

If you 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

Update from Parish Council AGM

Oxford- Cambridge Expressway

Both the District Councilors (David Hughes) and the County Councilor (Ian Corkin) attended the AGM, which was held on the 9th May 2019. Thank you to everyone that attended. One of the topics of conversation was the Expressway. No routes within the 2 identified corridors have been published yet, however Ian believes that any decision will be evidenced based on the potential for further developments. Both Councilors have offered to keep the Parish Council updated.

Play Park

David Hughes advised that the planning officer Bob Duxbury is on the point of retiring and we are therefore planning on discussing car parking ideas for the park with his successor. Ian Corkin advised that there was the possibility of obtaining grant funding for such a project and we are also investigating that. We continue to have rubbish problems at the park and again are investigating how best to solve them. The Play area has been re-barked and the council will continue to monitor this.

Weir Pond Restoration

We have investigated de-silting the pond, however, the cost is prohibitive and the council is therefore exploring other ways to keep the water free flowing through the village to mitigate the risk of flooding. A key part in this are the householders that have ditches across their property – keeping these cleared is a vital first step. A walkthrough inspection showed that some are blocked and even some road culverts are too.

A41 Safety

It would seem our concerns regarding the A41 have been heard and funding is being made available for plans to look at how these concerns can be mitigated – more on this as we receive it.

Parish Council Committee

The Parish Council at its AGM elected a Chair for the year – Cllr Jenny Lamont – and a Vice Chair – Cllr Randal Rue

The Council also voted to remain a non-political voluntary body.

Jenny Lamont

Chair Blackthorn 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

If you have any news or other items you would like included please email John Henderson at j_henderson@btinternet.com by the 10th of each month.



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01896 321542

aastevenson@willowpond.co.uk

St Swithuns Summer Fair

Saturday June 22nd 2019

11pm - 4pm

Cocktails + Barbecue



Plants, Raffle, Accessories, Tombola,
Cakes + Bakes, Bric-a-brac, and more.
Childrens painting competition and
Adults flower arranging competition.



Primary School

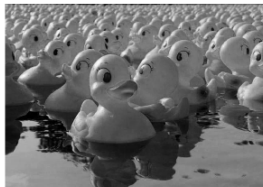


Charlton on Otmoor School Association

Duck Race 2019

Sunday 9th June at 3pm

The Nut Tree Inn, Murcott



Family Fun Stalls
Licensed Bar Barbecue

£1.00 per Duck

Available to purchase in advance from:
The School Office 01865 331239
or via email: charltonschoolassociation@gmail.com

MERTON NEWS

Merton Parish Council

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

Tony Bradley (Chair): clltonybrad@gmail.com

Jo Copping: jcoppingmerton@gmail.com

David Richardson: clldravid@penguinmail.co.uk

Lucy Katz: cllrucykatzmertonpc@gmail.com

Steve Kelly: stevenkelly.mertonpc@gmail.com

Simon Ward: simonwmpc@gmail.com

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

The Otmoor Villages Good Neighbour Scheme

A Good Neighbour scheme puts volunteers in touch with people who may need support for small, everyday tasks, or who may like someone to drop in on them now and again.

People often need a bit of help with:

- Shopping
- Collection of prescriptions
- Occasional local transport for doctors, hospital etc
- Occasional local transport for trips

- Help with pets
- Form filling
- Someone to chat to over tea or coffee

People don't always want to be asking friends and family for help – everybody has such busy lives these days. And transport from the villages if you don't have a car is patchy at best.

That's where a "Good Neighbour" could step in.

Launching an Otmoor Service

A group of local residents are looking into launching a scheme like this for the Otmoor villages.

We're taking 3 steps:

1. Finding "foundation" volunteers. We're already talking to some of the Parish Councils, and the Ray Valley Benefice. But we're very interested in talking to any individual or group who might like to play a role. If you'd like to play a "foundation" role in getting the scheme off the ground, please do contact us.
2. Identifying if this is something people would value and use. Is there a need out there for a Good Neighbour Scheme?
3. Making sure there are enough people who would be prepared to volunteer to make the scheme possible. Please be reassured, we won't "badger" volunteers. People can give only as much time as they can spare.

To help us work out whether there is a pool of “clients”, and of volunteers, we’ll be circulating a questionnaire both on paper and digitally over the next few weeks, so please do take the time to fill one in. You’ll find one:

- On paper via the churches
- On paper in Parish Matters magazine
- Via Parish / village Facebook pages and websites (with permission from Parish Councils)

If you’d like to speak to someone now, you can email on good.neighbour.otmoor@gmail.com or text Lucy Katz on 07970-803753.

The Cavaliers at Merton

To everyone’s delight, the Cavaliers have got off to an absolutely storming start in Merton.

The numbers of children coming along to the Tuesday training session has grown very rapidly – there’s now in excess of 60 kids turning up each week. Approximately half of these are coming over to Merton from the team’s previous home stadium and base. But the other half are children from around Otmoor - which is fantastic. There’s also an ad hoc game of tag rugby that takes place at the far end of the field while the kids are training, which is open to all - from unfit parents, through to keen 8 year olds.

The senior team trains on Wednesday nights, and 25 big hairy blokes can be seen giving it all they’ve got. (Actually, they’re not big and hairy, and if you’d like to come and join, you’ll be very welcome, whatever your level of fitness.)

Parking was understandably the issue that was of most concern to Merton residents. Experience so far shows that the parking systems we have in place, combined with the readiness of the participants to park responsibly, mean that

there hasn’t been a problem. As I write this, we haven’t yet had a competitive match Saturday, so I hope this upbeat message will still hold true by the time you’re reading it!

All in all, the presence of the Cavaliers in our village looks like it’s making a really great contribution to village life, and to the health and fitness of local children in particular. It’s also helping stabilise the Parish Council finances, which is welcome, although it was never the main reason for inviting the Cavs here.

Just to remind you of the dates of the upcoming competitive matches, they’re taking place on Saturdays:

- 1st June against Cheltenham Rugby League
- 15th June against Reading Raiders
- 22nd June against Bath Rugby League
- 20th July against Swindon Saint George

OXFORD CAMBRIDGE EXPRESSWAY

NO EXPRESSWAY GROUP

Advocates of the expressway are pushing for it to enable “**transformational development**” of the counties along the arc. We have completed further analysis of Highways England’s Corridor Assessment Report (CAR) to understand the model for “**aspirational growth potential estimates of workers and jobs**”. We’ve discovered that:

- Highways England have modelled these “aspirational growth” estimates **at key locations** along potential expressway routes for both sides of the preferred Corridor B.
- These key locations are **expressway junctions** and areas within 4kms of them.
- **Assumptions** have been made to estimate “aspirational growth” including:
 - the “spare vehicle capacity” at each expressway junction, above forecasts for traffic from existing sources and already planned growth. This is turned into an estimate of the number of new dwellings that could be built near the junction, giving an estimate of **number of workers available locally**
 - a separate model was used to predict the number of **jobs potentially available**
 - Aspirational growth estimates are **in addition to** new housing in all existing local plans; i.e. additional houses the expressway could enable
 - The **aspirational growth is very substantial** for both B1 and B3 options but **greater for B3**, mainly because B3 goes through more open countryside, presently with fewer dwellings and cars. Thus, there is more “spare capacity” at each expressway junction, allowing more aspirational growth

Reminder - B1 follows a route West and North of Oxford city; **B3** comes South and East of Oxford city


- **Aspirational growth estimates for corridor B3 suggest** > 50,000 new jobs and workers for an “East of Oxford” junction AND > 80,000 new jobs and workers for an “East of Oakley” junction

- **These are huge estimates**, the “East of Oakley” worker population, for example, is equivalent to a total population of 150,000 people, about the size of Oxford City in 2017 (154,600).

The CAR emphasises that its aspirational figures are maximum possible values at each location. The total numbers of expressway-enabled houses involved across the Arc are far fewer than the total number of new houses proposed by the National Infrastructure Commission, which means that many more additional houses will be built in regions other than those directly affected by the expressway.


Save the dates! On 7th July the No Expressway Group is repeating last year’s very successful ‘Walk the Moor’ event, a family stroll around the seven Otmoor villages. The No Expressway Alliance is planning a picnic at Brill on 27th July. **Everyone is invited!**

If you would like a copy of our “aspirational growth” paper, have any campaign ideas, questions or would like to get involved, please contact Olivia Field, **noexpresswaygroup@gmail.com**.



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Ray Valley Benefice For June 2019

Wed 5th	- 10am Holy Communion, Ambrosden
Fri 7 th	- 10.30 Tiny Tots, Fencott
Sat 8 th	- All Day, Otmoor Challenge, Charlton
Mon 10 th	-10am Coffee & Contemplation, Charlton
Fri 21 st	- 9.30 ABC for pre-schoolers, Islip
Sat 22 nd	- 11-4pm Summer Fair, Merton
Sun 23 rd	- 3pm Greatest Hits Choir, Piddington V. Hall
Mon 24th	- 10am Coffee & Contemplation, Charlton
Wed 26 th	- 10am Midweek Prayer, Charlton

*Bible Study 2nd & 4th Monday every month @
Ambrosden church 7.30pm

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PIDDINGTON NEWS

PIDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 18th June at 7.30pm. If you have any concerns or questions the Parish Council is always keen to hear from you, details below. The first 30 minutes of our meetings are an opportunity for villagers to address the council. Agendas and minutes from the meetings are available to view on the village website and the two Parish Council noticeboards: www.piddingtonvillageoxfordshire.org.uk/meetings.html

Planning applications for the parish will be listed here in future and can be viewed in full on the Cherwell District Council planning portal. Planning applications currently under review are: 19/00644/F and 19/00591/F.

Anne Davies

Tel: 01865 379645

Email: piddington.pariah.clerk@googlemail.com

Councillors:

Francesca Darby (Chair)

Tel: 01844 238294

Email: francesca.darby@piddingtonpc.com

Mike Nixon (Vice Chair)

Tel: 01844 239209

Email: michael.nixon@piddingtonpc.com

Andrew Coleman

Tel: 01844 237582

Email: andrew.coleman@piddingtonpc.com

Pam Feltbower (Vice Chair)

Tel: 01844 237523

Email: pam.feltbower@piddingtonpc.com

Lynda Galloway

Tel: 01844 237584

Email: lynda.galloway@piddingtonpc.com

Ken Howard

Tel: 01869 320950

Email: ken.howard@piddingtonpc.com

Mario Terzino

Tel: 01844 238154

Email: mario.terzino@piddingtonpc.com

VILLAGE EMAILS

Piddington News & Events. To receive regular updates of what is going on in the village, and important issues affecting our locality, go to the home page of the village website and register: <http://www.piddingtonvillageoxfordshire.org.uk/>. You will receive a welcome email. If this does not appear in your inbox within 5 minutes, please check your spam folder and add us to your 'Safe Senders' list.

ANNUAL PARISH OPEN MEETING

The meeting was held on Tuesday 21st May and included addresses from our County and District councillors, Dan Sames and David Hughes, Kevin Jessop from the Bicester Garrison and members of the No Expressway Group. The Chair, Francesca Darby, was keen to point out that although the year had its challenges there had been many successes including the installation of the VAS system (electronic speed sign), money raised from our

County Councillor's fund towards the white gates and the Fitness Trail at the playing field. Maintenance of village assets remained a priority alongside looking for grants and further funding for other projects. She praised the work undertaken by volunteers over the last year and thanked Hazel Coleman for all her work maintaining village social media and the website. Kevin Jessop spoke about the likelihood of development of MoD land holding locally and what that could mean. The No Expressway Group made an in-depth presentation of the work they have undertaken over the last year on the published reports about the Ox-Cam Expressway and the housing this would bring. Those attending were encouraged to engage with the process before it was too late and ask questions of their local representatives. Francesca will stay on as Chair for another year with Mike Nixon as Vice-Chair. She, Pam Feltbower and Andrew Coleman will be standing down at the next elections in 2020 when it is hoped others will step forward and join the Parish Council.

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

The Appeal Inquiry has been delayed until Monday 29th July and is expected to continue for a week. This is due to the involvement of the MoD. The Parish Council will continue to inform through the village email and noticeboards. Contributions are still being received towards legal costs, which have reached approximately £15,000 including the Parish Council. The MoD proofs are due to be submitted on 24th May. Further updates will be made through the village email.

If you have not yet made a donation and would like to do so, or would like to increase your donation, please contact the Parish Clerk, Anne Davies, for the Parish Council's bank details.

THE PIDDINGTON FITNESS TRAIL AT THE PLAYING FIELD

It's great to see that the Fitness Trail equipment is already in use. To get the most out of the Trail users are encouraged to download the Proludic Sport App, which is available for Apple and Android. An official opening event is planned for Sunday 16th June at 10.30am, when a member of the Proludic team will take those attending around the Trail equipment and explain how the app is used. Everyone is invited; however, the equipment is not suitable for children under 14. If you intend to take part, please make sure you are wearing trainers and suitable clothing. It should be a fun event.

ALLOTMENTS

If you would like to apply for an allotment, please contact John Galloway: jmg.galloway@gmail.com. John is keen to encourage regular meetings of the allotment holders and invites those renting an allotment to come along to the monthly Pop-Up Pubs. For more information contact John directly. The Parish Council has accepted an offer of sponsorship to pay for the installation of a water supply to the allotments, which also includes payment of the water usage for the first year. The Allotment Committee is now investigating the logistics. This is a very generous and exciting development, which should improve maintenance at the site in future years.

VILLAGE HOUSEKEEPING

Full or damaged dog bins: contact Cherwell District Council (01295 227007) or the Parish Clerk. The Parish Council is still looking for someone to work for them on DIY issues in the village. When this has been done a new dog bin for Shady Lane will be installed.

Fly-tipping: use Cherwell's website (<https://www.cherwell.gov.uk/info/7/environment/374/fly-tipping>) as it will help to have a number of reports to speed up the process. If you cannot access the internet contact the Parish Clerk with an accurate location.

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

ODD-JOB PERSON

The Parish Council is still looking for someone to work on a contract basis on certain maintenance jobs in the village. Can you help? Please contact the Parish Clerk.

Volunteers are needed to help paint the new shed that will house emergency equipment at the village hall. Dates to be confirmed – please check the noticeboards and village emails.

RURAL POLICING

The next meeting of the Police Liaison/ Resilience Committee will be held at Chesterton village hall on 19th June. All welcome to attend. If you have experienced any problems locally or wish to raise any concerns, please contact Ken Howard (ken.howard@piddingtonpc.com).

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.

EMERGENCY PLANNING & SSE PRIORITY SERVICE

The shed to house the new emergency generator will be installed once work at the village hall has been completed.

The SSE Priority Service is free and offered to people who may have special needs, particularly in the event of a power outage.

These might be health issues, mobility problems or having young children. The Parish Council fully supports this initiative and encourages registration. Contact the SSE Careline team directly on 0800 622838 or email careline@sse.com for more information.

PIDDINGTON'S INFORMATION CENTRE

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

VILLAGE HALL NEWS

The village hall management team's AGM took place on 14th May, with 7 members and 11 villagers attending. After a brief account of changes over the years since the hall was built by Piddington Social Club in the 1950s, villagers were brought up to date with all the work that has been done since the last AGM. Two major projects have been completed: the installation of a new kitchen and the building of a storeroom at the rear of the hall, which will be used to house tables, chairs, indoor bowls equipment, the table tennis table etc. Both projects were cited as priorities when villagers were consulted in the Community Led Plan. The cost of the work was around £41,000 but the bulk of the cost came from grants obtained from Wren (operators of the Calvert incinerator), Cherwell District Council, Viridor (who operate the Ardley Incinerator) and The Pantry. Several other important maintenance tasks have been completed and the exterior of

the hall is currently being painted. There will be an opportunity to view the storeroom at the Pop-Up Pubs on 28th June and 26th July. The next project is improving the heating system, which is scheduled for late autumn. The village hall team now have responsibility for the construction of the new playground, which is likely to happen in 2020.

The village hall management team for 2019/20 are: Chairman - Leslie Oldman; Secretary - Ken Howard; Treasurer – Chris Weavers; Events organisers - Kim Elliott & Sam Mylam; Maintenance & PR – Bob Dixon; Cider & Playground – Mario Terzino; Bar Manager – Sandra Paisley.

Concerns raised at the AGM are that Pop-Up Pub attendance is declining, as is 200 Club membership, and those in attendance were asked for ideas. It was suggested that the village hall management team is not good at letting villagers know about all the activity that goes on at the hall. Bob Dixon agreed to address this issue and publicise village hall news more widely. In the meantime, come along to one of the events coming up this month (see Village Diary below).

PIDDINGTON 200 CLUB

Winners of the April draw that took place at the Pop-Up Pub on 26 April.

- 1st. £30. 037. Andrew Coleman
- 2nd. £20. 136. Rosemary Cox
- 3rd. £10. 161. John Green
- 4th. £5. 152. Isobel Dobson

Please note that the 200 Club year ends with the May draw. In the 2018/19 year 150 numbers were sold totalling £1,800 with prize money distributed of £780. Over the last ten years just over £11,000 has been raised that has helped to fund major projects at the village hall including those described above. Numbers can be purchased either by ringing 01844

238707 or completing an entry form that can be downloaded from the village hall website: www.piddingtonvillageoxfordshire.org.uk/200-club

BEES AT ST NICHOLAS CHURCH

Wild bees have colonised the roof of the church for many years, with some finding their way into the church through minute holes and unable to get out. The holes would be sealed, only for them to find other holes and cracks. However, in the hot summer of 2018 the bees became extremely active and would find their way in, frequently buzzing along to hymn singing on Sundays and joining in with the rector's sermon! Naturally, people were becoming concerned about their presence and it was obvious from staining on the ceiling and walls and honey dripping through that damage caused could become a huge problem for the church structure. Expert advice was that the hive had probably become very large and heavy and we should have it removed before further damage was caused.

We didn't want to harm the bees, just have them safely removed, but due to the site's inaccessibility, it was difficult to find an organisation willing to help. After much searching, we were given details of the Tree Bee Society of Great Britain, a small non-profit-making company dedicated to the conservation and preservation of pollinating bees. Their work includes the safe removal of bees. After visiting us last autumn they agreed to remove our bees, which they did between 29th April and 1st May 2019.

The work was lengthy, slow and difficult, as they carefully took off part of the ancient roof to locate the hive. The hive they removed measured approximately two metres by one metre. Five litres of honey was found and ninety litres of honeycomb wax. The honey is dirty, and so inedible, but the wax will be used for a range of products, including hand cream,

produced and sold by the Tree Bee Society. The bees have been taken to the Society's headquarters in West Lancashire to be rehomed on their ten-acre site.

The church roof has now been carefully repaired and internal repairs will also be carried out. Naturally, all this work comes at a considerable cost. St Nicholas Church would be grateful for any donations towards the cost. The Greatest Hits Choir concert on 23 June will in part be fundraising for this, so please come and support it.

There was wide interest in the work, with Piddington featuring in local and national media. A short account of the bees at St Nicholas Church, including links to various media clips and some great photos, is now on the village website: www.piddingtonvillageoxfordshire.org.uk/news.html. An information display is also in the church.

GREATEST HITS CHOIR CONCERT

On 23 June, 3-4.30pm, in the village hall, £8 includes tea and homemade cake. The Greatest Hits Choir have been singing together and raising money for local charities for 10 years. The choir doesn't charge a fee, so all the proceeds of this concert will be divided between St Nicholas Church and the village hall. Come and help the choir celebrate 10 harmonious (well, we try!) years with songs spanning several decades – and maybe join in with ones you know. And if the singing isn't enough of a draw, there'll be plenty of homemade cakes – it's what Piddington's social life runs on! Tickets from Ken, Maggie, Margaret, Kim and Andrew. Details on the poster.

THE PANTRY

We're looking for someone to help book and liaise with stallholders at our regular markets. If you're interested – however vaguely – and would like to know more, please email Hazel

(hazel@piddingtonvillageoxfordshire.org.uk).

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.

VILLAGE DIARY

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

15 June – Pamper Evening (VH)

23 June - Greatest Hits Choir Concert, 3-4.30 (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)

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)

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

Village emails:

Register on the Piddington website

Piddington village website:

www.piddingtonvillageoxfordshire.org.uk

Piddington village Facebook page:

www.facebook.com/piddingtonoxfordshire

Piddington Swap Shop Facebook page:

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

Twitter:

@pidding_pantry – for all things relating to The Pantry

@Piddingtonoxon – for general items of interest

The Pantry blog:

piddingtonpantry.wordpress.com

The Greatest Hits Choir

Present their

10TH ANNIVERSARY

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Margaret: 01844 238724
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OTMOOR GARDEN SOCIETY

Our April talk topic of Savagery and Sex in the garden was certainly something a bit different. Roger Umpleby said he had put this on his talk list just to see if anyone would dare pick it – so we did not disappoint him! The photography was spectacular as were some of the revelations. You were perhaps already aware that slugs are hermaphrodite (having both male and female sex organs), so after mating both slugs can go away and lay their eggs, that's quite clever. But the vine weevil goes one stage further. Did you know that the female vine weevil does it all by herself, and that male vine weevils do not exist. So you could search all your life for a male vine weevil (if you were so inclined!) and never find one. Now that's what I call really clever. Ladies, let's hear it for the female vine weevil, Girl Power!

At time of writing it is two days since our Plant Sale, and I am pleased to report that it was a fantastic event again. Winners all round, our shoppers for the great plants they got at very cheap prices, and our society for the funds it raised to be able to put together another full programme of events in 2020. A big thank you to everybody involved, in whatever part you played. Same time next year!

Back to this year, we have plenty coming up. On Saturday 8th June we have the second of our local trips, this time to Thenford Arboretum near Banbury. This is the home of Michael Heseltine who bought the property with his wife in 1976 and has developed the

gardens and arboretum since that time. The grounds cover around 70 acres with many different trees and shrubs, as well as extensive herbaceous borders and more formal gardens near the house. To book please contact Alison on ali@hinksey.plus.com

At Murcott on Tuesday 25th June, our final speaker before the summer break, Andrew Mikolajski will be advising on "Plants for Shade". Talk title probably self-explanatory! I think you all know Andrew by now, a very good speaker, always entertaining. Get ready for a re-run of his favourite Grrrrr-i-T !!

Finally before we take our summer break, we have our coach trip on Sunday 7th July to Loseley Park and RHS Wisley. Should be a great day out to two inspiring gardens. For bookings please contact Alison as above.

Happy Gardening,
Judith Rawlinson

For more details, or to join, contact Brian Eadle on 01865 331472
www.otmoorgardensociety.org.uk or find us on Facebook

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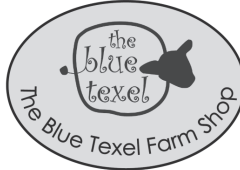
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OTMOOR WOMANS INSTITUTE

The May meeting of Otmoor WI offered an opportunity for members to discuss the Resolutions to be debated at the WI AGM in June. After the regular business had been completed, including feedback on the recent Group Meeting and the success of the pop-up café and litter picking activities in the villages, Virginia gave members background information on the first of the Resolutions regarding Smear Tests before opening up the floor for discussions. Many observations were made before a vote was taken for the AGM. Sandie introduced the second Resolution on the need for support for bus services in rural areas. This resulted in much discussion and suggestions before the vote was taken. Virginia then talked about a recent talk at Denman she had attended on treatment of cataracts. Members then enjoyed delicious refreshments organised by Joy, Judy and Jenny whilst completing some quiz sheets on eyes. Identifying animal eyes and looking for eye-related words and phrases from clues lead to much discussion and head-scratching but working in teams helped. The competition for a toy from my childhood was won by Glenys with Margaret and Judy joint second and Ann Williams third. The next coffee, craft and cake session is glass painting on May 16th at 7.45 in Murcott Village Hall. Our June monthly meeting is the Members' Garden Meeting and starts at 7.30. The next meeting at Charlton Community Hall is on July 9th when Susan Drage will be sharing with us "Recycling with a Difference."

Dates for the Diary

Tuesday June 11th WI Garden Meeting at 7.30pm

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

Tuesday July 9th Susan Drage – "Recycling with a Difference" (CCH) 7.45pm

Thursday July 18th Coffee, Craft and Cake (MVH) 7.45pm

Tuesday August 13th Janine Kilroe – "A Photographer's Tale" (CCH) 7.45pm

There is no Coffee, Craft and Cake session in August.

For further details of any of the above please contact Virginia Lawrence on 01865331521

ADVERTISING & CONTACTS

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

THE COLLECTION AND EDITORIAL TEAM

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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.

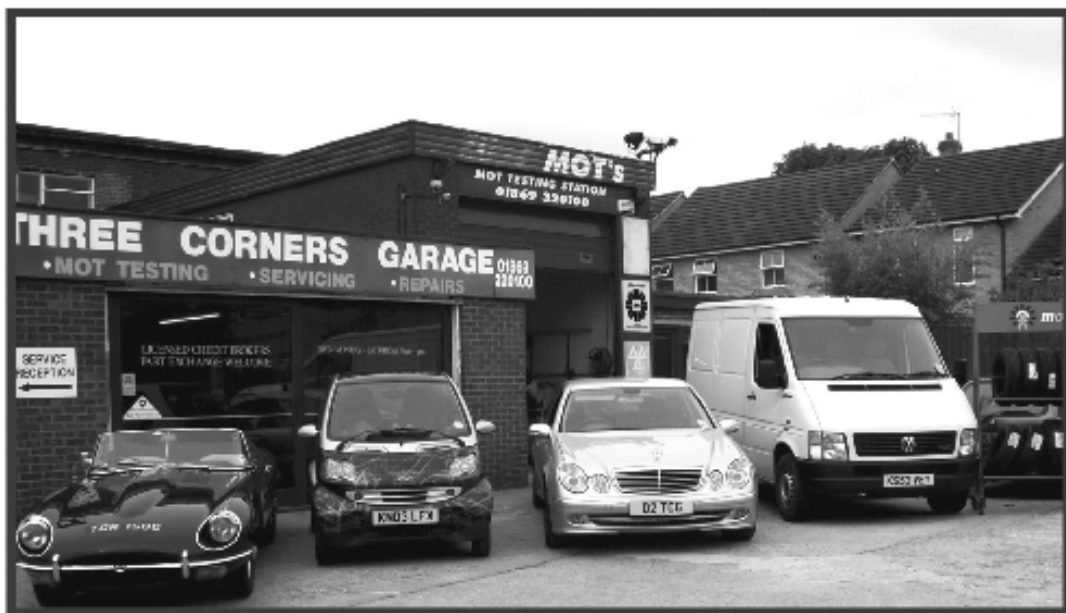


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