

PARISH MATTERS



JULY/AUGUST 2019

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

VILLAGE VIEWS & LOCAL NEWS



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LETTER FROM THE CLERGY TEAM

There's never a dull moment being a Rector and you never really know what is around the corner. Our recent escapade with 50 000 bees at Piddington and all the associated media coverage was an unexpected flurry of activity (the bees are now out of quarantine and happily busying themselves in Lancashire), but has also provided a number of opportunities to chat to people as we have sold honey or chatted to people about TV and radio interviews.

We've had a season of Rogation services, remembering especially our farming community, and are about to embark on the fête and fair season. It's always good to meet people as they look for a bargain and support their local churches. Thank you to everyone who rolls up their sleeves and get stuck in on the dozens of stalls we will be running over the next few weeks, and thank you to everyone who supports them by coming along.

Of course, we also have weddings and baptisms on the horizon with all the family preparations they involve as arrangements become realities and vows are exchanged by brides and grooms or promises made by parents and godparents. Recently, we have also had to say farewell to many of our local residents and, whilst cherishing our memories of them, their absence leaves a large gap in our communities. Our thoughts and best wishes go to their families.

Summer holidays will be upon us soon. Children will need entertaining and there will be all sorts of arrangements made and trips organised. In amongst all that busyness don't forget the serenity of the local church with the possibility of a moment's quiet reflecting on the stained-glass windows or statues or

other art. It's good to 'be still and know that I am God' (Psalm 46:10) in the midst of our hectic lives.

Sadly, there has been an increase in the theft of lead from church roofs. Lead is stolen every day across the country and thieves are becoming quite aggressive. Currently we have no restoration projects on any of our churches so please be alert for anyone purporting to be completing work. Please don't approach possible thieves directly but report your suspicions. We will let the community know if we have work arranged on any of our roofs.

I'm hoping we may see some of you in the Rectory gardens at our picnic in the park when we have a brass band playing. Bring your own picnic and chair! Ice creams will be available and we're hoping for fine weather but have Ambrosden church as a back-up plan.

I'm sure our paths will cross as we visit various events over the next few weeks but in the meantime may you know the peace of God in your hearts and may you be aware of His presence and experience His love,

Steve Hayes

CHURCH SERVICES JULY

RAY VALLEY SERVICES July 2019

Draft 3

Church	Time	Leader	Service
Sunday July 7th	Trinity 3		Isaiah 66.10-14 Galatians 6.1-16 Luke 10.1-11,16-20
Ambrosden	10.30	Sarah	Holy Communion – Sarah Sewell
	18.30	Steve	The Xtra One
Merton	09.00	Lisa	Holy Communion
Piddington	10.30	Lucy	Family Service
Islip	10.30	Steve	Parish Communion
Noke	17.00	Lucy	Family Service
Oddington (joined by Charlton)	10.00	Lisa	Camino Family Service
Sunday July 14th	Trinity 4		Deuteronomy30.9-14 Colossians 1.1-14 Luke 10.25-37
Ambrosden	10.30	Steve	Family Service
Merton	18.00	Steve	Songs of Praise
Piddington	9.00	Steve	Holy Communion
Islip	10.30	Lucy	Parish Communion
Woodeaton	9.15	Lucy	Family service
Charlton	9.00	Lisa	Holy Communion
	18.00	Christopher	Evening Prayer – Christopher Young
Oddington	10.30	Lisa	Celtic Holy Communion
Sunday July 21st	Trinity 5		Genesis 18.1-10a Colossians 1.15-28 Luke 10.38-end
Ambrosden	10.30	Steve	Holy Communion
Merton	09.00	Steve	Holy Communion
Piddington	18.00	Lisa	Evening Prayer
Islip	10.30	Lucy	Parish Communion
Noke	09.15	Lucy	Holy Communion
Charlton	10.30	Lisa	Family Communion
Sunday July 28th	Trinity 6		Genesis 18.20-32 Colossians 2.6-19 Luke 11.1-13
Ambrosden	10.30	Lisa	Morning Prayer & Baptism
Merton	10.30	Steve	Family Service & Baptism
Piddington	9.00	Steve	Holy Communion
Islip	10.30	Lucy	Family Service
Charlton	9.00	Lucy	Holy Communion
Oddington	18.00	Lisa	Evening Prayer

CHURCH SERVICES AUG

RAY VALLEY SERVICES August 2019

Draft 2

Church	Time	Leader	Service
Sunday August 4th	Trinity 7		Ecclesiastes 1.2,12-14;2.18-23 Colossians 2.6-15 Luke 11.1-13
Ambrosden	10.30	C	Holy Communion
	18.30	Steve	The Xtra One
Merton	09.00	Steve	Holy Communion
Piddington	10.30	Elizabeth	Family Service - Elizabeth Taylor
Islip	10.30	Steve	Parish Communion
Noke	17.00	Steve	Family Service
Charlton	10.30	Lisa	Family Service
Sunday August 11th	Trinity 8		Genesis 15.1-6 Hebrews 11.1-3,8-16 Luke 12.32-40
Ambrosden	10.30	Steve	Family Service
Piddington	09.00	Steve	Holy Communion
Islip	10.30	Lucy	Parish Communion
Woodeaton	09.15	Lisa	Family Service
Charlton	09.00	Lucy	Holy Communion
	18.00	Steve	Evening Prayer
Oddington	10.30	Lisa	Holy Communion
Sunday August 18th	Trinity 9		Jeremiah 23.23-29 Hebrews 11.29- 12.2 Luke 12.49-56
Ambrosden	10.30	Steve	Holy Communion
Merton	09.00	Lisa	Holy Communion
Piddington	18.00	Glenys	Evening Prayer
Islip	10.30	Brian	Parish Communion – Brian Mountford
Woodeaton	09.15	Steve	Holy Communion
Charlton	10.30	Lisa	Family Communion
Sunday August 25th	Trinity 10		Isaiah 58.9b-end Hebrews 12.18-end Luke 13.10-17
Ambrosden	10.30	Lay	Morning Prayer
Merton	10.30	Lisa	Family Service
Piddington	9.00	Steve	Holy Communion
Islip	10.30	C	Family Service
Charlton	09.00	C	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

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

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

CHURCHWARDENS

Ambrosden:

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

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

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

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

ORGANISTS & BELLS

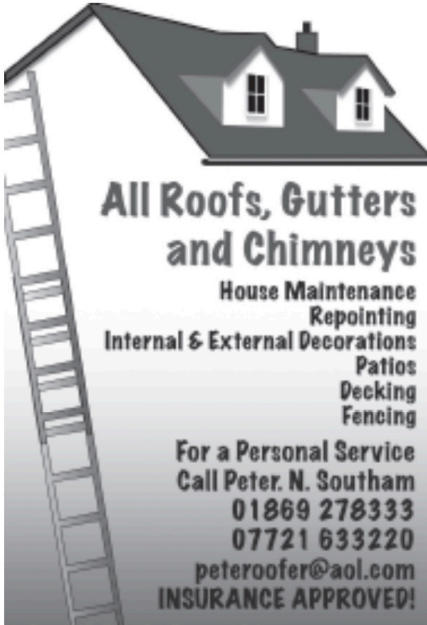
Ambrosden: Mrs Pam Newell (bells only) 01869 241667
Organist (vacant)

Piddington: Mrs Betty Newell 01844 237236

Mr Tony Pearce 01844 237688

Merton: Mr Russell Thompson 01869 246093

(no ringable bells)



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FEATURING

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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
Nick.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 Allotments are expected to be handed over to the Parish Council in June now that legal paperwork has been completed.

The Parish Clerk is contacting everyone on the waiting list first, to confirm the sizes of allotments that are required. Allotments will then be set out and become available in late summer.

Thanks to Cllrs Lucinda Wing and Dan Sames for chasing this.

AMBROSDEN VILLAGE PLAYSCHOOL

Ambrosden Village Preschool was started in 1974, during that time the dedicated staff have nurtured hundreds of the communities under fives in their years before “big” school.

Unfortunately with the passage of time it is becoming very difficult, to fund and replace equipment.

Has anyone any new ideas for fundraising? or could anyone help individually or in a group to provide assistance. The staff would be most appreciative. Thank you.

Please contact Jackie Floyd - 07759755179
ambrosdenvillagepreschool@hotmail.co.uk

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.

GLADMAN TO APPEAL PLANNING REFUSAL 84 HOUSES IN MERTON ROAD

Ambrosden Parish Council objected to this application on behalf of the many residents of the village who raised concerns about this application.

Gladman Developments Ltd has been involved in 197 appeals between 2012 and 2019, with a success rate of 48%.

The village needs your help to object to this application. You can do this by writing to the Planning Inspectorate.

Planning Inspectorate, ROOM 3/J, Temple Quay House, 2 The Square, Temple Quay, Bristol, BS1 6PN, quoting Appeal Reference: APP/C3105/W/19/3228169, or on line

<https://acp.planninginspectorate.gov.uk>

Please ensure that any further comments you may wish to make are received at the Planning Inspectorate by 24 June 2019 at the latest.

The Parish Council objected to the application for the following reasons.

1. Harm caused to an area of valued landscape, and on the setting of Ambrosden, and inaccuracies in Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment.
2. Flood Risk – Building on the site of a filled in historic lake.
3. Framework Travel Plan – inaccuracies in road and footpath widths and travel distances.
4. Traffic safety and road speeds, in Merton and Ploughley Roads, and the developers had not proposed any traffic calming or speed reduction. Recent surveys undertaken on behalf of the Parish Council

after this planning application was refused to assist with traffic calming designs, show speeds of.

35mph in Merton Road

34mph in Ploughley Road outside Spar

33mph in Ploughley Road outside the school.

45mph in Ploughley Road by Old Arcott Road

39mph in Blackthorn Road.

5. Lack of direct or safe pedestrian access into the village.

Cherwell District Council refused planning application 18/02056/OUT for the following reasons:

1 The development proposed, by reason of its scale and siting beyond the built up limits of the village, in the open countryside and taking into account the number of dwellings already permitted at Ambrosden as well as Cherwell District Council's ability to demonstrate an upto- date five housing land supply, is considered to be unnecessary, undesirable and unsustainable development that would lead to an over concentration of new housing development in Ambrosden, which would undermine the housing strategy and prejudice a more balanced distribution of rural housing growth planned

2 The development proposed, by reason of its siting beyond the built up area of the village to the south west of the village, excessive scale and poorly integrated relationship with existing built development, would cause local landscape harm and a significant amount of harm to the

character and appearance of the countryside, as well as cause considerable harm to the character and appearance of the area and would fail to reinforce local distinctiveness. It would also result in 'less than substantial' harm to the significance of the Grade II* listed Church of St Mary.

3 The Ecological Appraisal, by virtue of the lack of a sufficient biodiversity impact assessment, fails to provide acceptable detail as to whether a net gain in biodiversity can be achieved on the site. Furthermore, the Ecological Appraisal has not provided sufficient surveys in relation to Great Crested Newts therefore it has not been demonstrated that the development would not cause unacceptable harm to protected species

PLAY BUS TO CLOSE

The trustees and staff would like to thank you for your support over the last 12 months; it has enabled the Play Bus to provide much needed support for many families.

Unfortunately it has not been possible to secure further funding to enable the project to continue. Therefore it has been necessary for the trustees to make the difficult decision to close the project.

The final session for families will be the 27th of June 2019.

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 was printed in the last newsletter.

Mark Longworth was re-elected as chairman for 2019-20 and Maureen Cossens was re-elected as vice chair

The Chairman updated room on highway matters, gave a planning update on the proposed chicken farm at Arncott, and Village improvements such as planters and grass cutting were discussed.

The Garrison gave an update on local activity and plans or retention of land potentially for a new barracks.

Update from Rev Steve Hayes on church activities and bees and Piddington.

District Cllr Cotter gave an update on GP surgery matters

District Cllr Wing gave an update on enforcement, electric charge points for cars and travel matters

District, and County Cllr Sames provided updates on planning, and County Council issues.

Village Hall update advising funding is being sought to repair the Village Hall Floor. Asbestos Surveys are negative

Parish Clerk spoke on allotments which will shortly be transferred to the Parish.

A Parish Councillor hopes to organise an old photo exhibition of the village. Please email

copies of any old photos of the village to the Parish Clerk.

Ambrosden.parishclerk@gmail.com

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.

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	Bicester	Residents Lounge, Hanover Gardens,	
Tuesday 10am– 11.30am	Bereavement Support Group	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

ARNCOTT NEWS

REPORT FROM ARNCOTT VHMC & ACA
MEETING 28th MAY & PARISH
COUNCIL MEETING 4th JUNE 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
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>

Parish Councillor resignation
Councillor Peter Barnard resigned from his position as a parish councillor at the

conclusion of the meeting. Peter and his wife, Sophia, will be leaving their Arncott home in mid - July and moving to their new home near to Great Yarmouth. Peter joined the parish council in January 2018 and also became a committee member on the AVHMC. Peter's involvement and contribution to both will definitely be missed. The parish council would like to say many thanks to Peter and to wish him and Sophia good luck for the future.

HS2

The parish council is still waiting to be updated as to whether or not the MOD base will be made available for trains to bring in, and store on site, hard core and aggregate for HS2. The parish council is also waiting for information as to whether the haul route for the HS2 aggregate lorries would include Palmer Avenue and the road through the village.

Woodpiece Road

No further information has been given to the parish council by CDC as to when the phase two work will start. All the parish council can do is keep asking the question.

Grant money for sports facilities

The proposed plans and quotation for the new building next to the village hall will have to be presented to CDC for its approval to continue. The parish council will also investigate the possibility of using some of the grant fund money to provide some items of outdoor gym equipment.

Play equipment

The football pitch is due to be marked out for the community football match scheduled to take place on Fete Day on Sunday July 21st. When the pitch has been marked, measurements can be taken around the pitch to determine what play items can be fitted into the available space. The existing village hall play area will have a few more play items installed for the young children.

Vehicle activated speed (VAS) signs

At time of writing, the chairman is due to meet with a consultant who does work for OCC highways. The meeting will take place on June 18th and the purpose of the meeting is to get advice from the consultant as to how and where suitable mountings can be provided / installed to fix the VAS units to.

Free range egg production unit off Palmer Avenue

The CDC application number for this proposal is 16/01706/F. The proposal is for the construction of a free range egg production unit 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. Please note that anyone submitting an objection needs to back up the objection with evidence and argument(s) as to why such a facility should not go ahead. It is not sufficient to just say "I don't want it built because I don't agree with it".

Speedwatch campaign

This hasn't happened so far this year and it's sad to report that not a single volunteer has come forward to help out. Contact any parish councillor for more information if this is something that you and your family / friends

could get involved with.

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.

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.

Illegal drug use

If you are aware of or see this happening anywhere in the village then please report it. You can phone the police, make the report anonymously by telephoning Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 or fill out an anonymous form online.

Litter louts

If you witness people leaving bottles / cans / litter in public spaces then please report it to CDC. Again, video / photographic evidence is useful. If the problem persists, CDC can assign an enforcement officer to get involved.

Anti-social behaviour

The parish council has no legal power(s) to deal with this. We can only reiterate previous advice – whenever possible, get witness statements, take photographs and / or record video of the behaviour and report it to the police.

Roads and streetlights

Please 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

Your contact for the Village Hall Management Committee is:

Wendy Wilkins (Chair) - arncott300club@gmail.com

Village Hall email address - arncottvhmc@gmail.com

[gmail.com](mailto:arncott300club@gmail.com)

Village Hall hire - Christine Dunkin - 01869 249560 – avhlettings@gmail.com

Your contact for the Arncott Community Association (ACA) is ;
Christine Dunkin (Chair ACA) - 01869 249560 – avhlettings@gmail.com
ACA email address ; – arncottca@gmail.com.

ACA 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 28th May

164 – Mrs V Fitzgerald, 023 – J. Cox, 065 – Mrs N Street, 056 – S. Raffell, 128 - Mrs M. Gomarsall

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. You will be made most welcome by Charlotte.

Line dancing class for beginners – Thursday 10:00 am to 11:00 am - £5 per class

Tumble Tots – Tuesday 9:30 am to 1:30 pm.

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

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 10:00 am to 11:00 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.

Friendship Club lunch - Wednesday July 10th at 12:30pm in Arncott Village Hall - only £5 per ticket

Ham or cheese ploughman's with desert to follow plus entertainment from singer

JACQUELINE FAYE

Tickets on sale from June 20th – closing date July 5th.

Contact Christine on 01869 249560 or email her at avhlettings@gmail.com

Charity event - 15th Feb 2020 - Valentines charity dinner – details to follow.

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. 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.

21st September - Race Night

31st October - Halloween event

10th December - Carol Service

15th December - Childrens' Christmas party

11th Jan 2020 - Seniors' Christmas lunch

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.



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 9UJ
Tel: 01869 327 810

Email: greencourt@btinternet.com
www.greencourtdogandcat.co.uk



The Otmoor Villages Good Neighbour Scheme

A **Good Neighbour Scheme** puts volunteers in touch with people who may need a bit of help with:

- Shopping
- Collection of prescriptions
- Occasional local transport for doctors, hospital and 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. Which is where a "Good Neighbour" could step in.

Launching an Otmoor Service

Local residents want to launch a Good Neighbour scheme for the Otmoor villages:

- ✓ Fencott and Murcott
- ✓ Charlton on Otmoor
- ✓ Merton
- ✓ Oddington

Getting started – 3 steps to launching

1. Find "foundation" volunteers from each village to form a steering group. Could this be you?
2. Work out if there are enough users to make a Good Neighbour Scheme worthwhile.
3. Make sure there are enough potential volunteers to make it possible.

We'll be circulating a questionnaire both on paper and digitally over the next few weeks, but we'd really like to hear from you *now* if you could join the steering group.

Email us at good.neighbour.otmoor@gmail.com
Or text Lucy on 07970-803753.

BLACKTHORN NEWS

BLACKTHORN VILLAGE HALL

Events for Summer and Autumn:

- Thurs 4th Jul – Coffee Morning at 11 am
- Sat 20th Jul – Race Night. Join us for a night at the Races, starts at 8 pm and buffet will be provided
- Frid 26th Jul – Pub Night at 7.30 pm
- Thurs 1st Aug – Coffee Morning at 11 am
- Thurs 5th Sep – Coffee Morning at 11 am
- Sat 21st Sep – Oktoberfest – watch out for the flyers and DFB messages
- Frid 27th Sep – Pub Night at 7.30 pm
- Thurs 3rd Oct – Coffee Morning at 11 am
- Sat 5th Oct – Movie Night at 7.30 pm – film to be advertised closer to the date
- Frid 25th Oct – Pub Night at 7.30 pm
- Sat 26th Oct – Kid’s Halloween Party – details to follow

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

BLACKTHORN FACEBOOK PAGE

Keep up to date on events, fitness classes, social events, Neighbourhood Watch news and much more on the Blackthorn Village Facebook page. 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.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH UPDATE

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

Recent Neighbourhood Watch Alerts & Local reports

Burglaries: Thames Valley Police have launched a FREE Home Security Guide which has many hints, tips and ideas to improve your security and reduce the risk of Burglary. You can download it directly from the Thames Valley Alert web site or via the Blackthorn Facebook page.

Rural Crime: Thames Valley Police have reported increases in thefts from tractors in the Oxfordshire area and are asking all land owners and farmers to be vigilant and remove anything of value, especially mobile phones and Sat Navs from your vehicles.

Theft of Lead: There have been several reports by Thames Valley Police as well as local Facebook groups regarding the theft of lead from roof’s in the area.

Fake TalkTalk emails: Action Fraud has received over 100 reports in just 1 week in May about fake emails purporting to be from TalkTalk. The emails state tht the recipient’s

TalkTalk account is in credit and that they're owed a refund. The links in the emails lead to malicious websites. Don't click on the links or attachments in suspicious emails, and never respond to messages that ask for your personal or financial details.

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.

PARISH COUNCIL

Welcome to the Village

A huge welcome to our newest residents at Blackthorn Meadows. We hope to see you soon at our next village event.

Footpaths and Bridleways

Please ensure that if a footpath/bridleway crosses your land that the access to them remain open and unobstructed. It has been reported to the Parish Council that Bridleways have been padlocked preventing access and that Footpaths have been left to overgrow. The Parish Council will attempt to complete an audit of the footpaths and bridleways in the coming months to ensure that access is open to those that want to use them.

Dog Bins

Please ensure that bins are only used for collection while out walking your dogs – they should not be used to dispose of dog waste from gardens. Bins that overflow will not be emptied by Cherwell, nor will they collect bags of waste dumped at the side.

Oxfordshire Safe Towing Campaign

Are you sure you're legal to tow? Due to widespread misunderstanding of the law and weight classifications, thousands in the UK are illegally towing without the correct licence entitlement; racking up thousands in points

and fines. This post is written as part of Trailer Training UK's Safe Towing Campaign 2019, to educate road users of the towing laws.

Most misunderstood when it comes to towing laws, is the terminology. It is all done on the "MAM" (Maximum Authorized Mass) of the vehicle/ trailer. This is plated on your vehicle/ trailer. It is also known as "GVW" (Gross Vehicle Weight).

As the name suggests, the MAM is the maximum capacity of the vehicle/ trailer when fully laden. When looking at what you can/ can't tow, ALL that matters is the MAM. Many believe it is done on the "Kerbside Weight", "Unladen Weight" or "what's currently loaded", but this is all irrelevant. It is purely done on the MAM.

Drivers that passed their car driving test on/ after 01/01/1997, can only tow a trailer of up to 750kg MAM, unless the combined MAM of the car + trailer is no more than 3,500kg. If you wish to exceed this, you need to obtain your trailer (B+E) licence, or you are towing illegally. Drivers that passed before 1997 are unrestricted. To ask any specific questions on whether you're legal to tow, or learn how to get your trailer licence, you can call the Trailer Training UK towing advice line on – 0345 260 2508.

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.

BEST KEBABS

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-
10.00pm



www.blackthornvillagehall.org.uk

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- Parties, birthdays
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- Clubs

To hire, contact Sandie Stevenson:

01896 321542

aastevenson@willowpond.co.uk

MERTON NEWS

Merton Parish Council

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

Tony Bradley (Chair): c1ltonybrad@gmail.com

Jo Copping: jcoppingmerton@gmail.com

David Richardson: c1lrdavid@penguinmail.co.uk

Lucy Katz: c1lrlucykatzmertonpc@gmail.com

Steve Kelly: stevenkelly.mertonpc@gmail.com

Simon Ward: simonwmpc@gmail.com

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

Enjoy a picnic at the Woodland

Merton Wood now has 2 new picnic benches, down near the pond.

We hope that you'll make time to sit there, with or without a picnic, and enjoy the stillness, the birdsong and the wildlife all around you. Alternatively, bring a dog or a toddler, and enjoy more noisy delights as they run the energy out of their legs - while you rest yours.

We've not quite finished clearing the areas where

the benches are sited, but the benches are ready for use now. And feel free to do some weeding around them, if the urge takes you . . . !

With grateful thanks to the Merton Beer Festival for funding their construction, David Richardson for designing and building them, and Tony Hayward for transporting the completed benches to the woodland.

OXFORD CAMBRIDGE EXPRESSWAY

NO EXPRESSWAY GROUP

The last couple of months have been very busy with contacts having been made with a further 11 villages in Oxon and Bucks; members of the No Expressway Group speaking at 9 village and Annual Parish meetings and the “travelling pagoda” being taken to 4 events so far this summer. We were very pleased to have been able to talk at some length to Henley MP John Howell at the Otmoor Challenge.

We have also launched the first of our “Expressway Stories” on our website noexpressway.org and YouTube. These stories aim to show what is good and beautiful about the places in which we live and what we will lose if the Oxford-Cambridge expressway goes ahead. We want the generations to come to see these places as we have and not just as a video on a screen. This beautiful 5 minute film, “Expressway Stories – Otmoor”, features our Horton-cum-Studley artist Nick Mynheer talking about Otmoor, its influence on his work, the importance of open countryside and what could be lost if the expressway were to go ahead. Our next film is underway, so watch this space! A huge thank you to Elsie Barker for directing and editing this and to Nick Mynheer and Zac Shannon for taking part.

Our website, noexpressway.org is being updated and now has all our Updates, FAQs and events listed. We also have an excellent “How You Can Help” section with three clear steps, including a new section for making donations to help cover costs or our flyers, travelling pagoda, production

of Expressway Stories etc. More details will be added in the next few weeks. Many thanks to Cat Wood for all her work on this.

Coming next –

- The Arc Leaders Group has promised community “engagement” for Summer 2019 about the plan for business and housing development in all counties along the Oxford - Cambridge Arc

- Highways England will announce route options in Autumn 2019 and then start non-statutory consultation with the public for the first time.

Take part and have your voice heard. We will post details of each on our noexpressway.org website when they are known.

Please remember to write to your District/ County Councillors to remind them of their role as Highways England “Stakeholder”. They need to hear your views, so they can represent the community effectively.

Save the dates!

On 7th July the No Expressway Group invite you to ‘Walk the Moor’ again! Starting from Horton-cum-Studley Millennium Hall at 10.15am, with a lunch-break at The Crown in Charlton from 12.30-2pm and a child friendly route in the afternoon. Refreshments will be served in Horton-cum-Studley from 4pm.


The No Expressway Alliance is planning a picnic at Brill on 27th July. Everyone is invited!

The No Expressway Group “travelling pagoda” will be at Horton-cum-Studley

Market on the Green on 6th July, Brill Beer Festival on 25th August and Brill/British Legion Fete on 26th August.


Keep up with all the latest news, insight and events on our website noexpressway.org.

No Expressway signs for your garden? Campaign ideas? Questions? Please contact Olivia Field at noexpresswaygroup@gmail.com



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or mobile 07851 480755

Getting the spring back in your step – where to start?

The Community Information Network

Being stuck at home...maybe alone or bereaved...maybe long-term unwell...confused by a care or benefit systems which seem designed to baffle you...or just plain lonely.

That's a mix of experiences which is not just miserable, it's bad for your health too. It can be a particular problem in rural Oxfordshire such as in our group of villages on Otmoor.

Being active, engaging with other people, or learning something new can really improve your mental health and wellbeing. We all recognise the value of getting involved in the world around us – but sometimes it's hard to know how to find what you want.

The good news is that there's a lot out there to help you live as independently, healthily – and happily - as you can.

So how do you find out what's out there?

There are many different bodies across Oxfordshire all offering a dizzying range of opportunities. It can be hard to find the right thing for you. To make it easy to find what you want, all these groups have been gathered into one point of contact called the Community Information Network.

Here's what you can find at the Network – support and information ranging from

- Help in finding out what benefits and support services exist to help you, through to
- A very wide range of activities and hobbies open to you. These are mostly free of charge or are at very low cost.

Activities currently include:

- Trips out for cream teas or pub lunches
- Exercise sessions from classes through to “walk and talk” groups
- IT classes and IT drop-in sessions
- Cinema clubs, and social afternoons
- Bereavement support and friendly “neighbours”
- Opportunities to volunteer yourself
- And importantly, help with transport to get to your chosen

activity

If you contact them, you can ask them for one or all of the following:

- 1 Information on everything that's available across the county
2. Advice on how to get through to the next level of support or care if you need it
3. Conversations by phone or email
4. Face-to-face visits in your own home

They can be contacted

By phone on: 01235-849434

By email on: network@ageukoxfordshire.org.uk

The service is free of charge.

(The Network is paid for by a grant from Oxfordshire County Council – so, in effect, you've already paid for it through your Council Tax. It's not accepting charity, it's simply using a service which you've invested in yourself.)

Who can contact the Community Information Network?

- You can make contact yourself directly by phone or by email.
- If you are worried about someone else, you can make contact on their behalf, as long as you have their permission to do so.

The CIN welcomes contact from relatives, friends, carers, and neighbours and happily works alongside anyone who cares.

- Your GP can contact the CIN on your behalf, with your permission.

Many GP surgeries are now recruiting specialists in their practices to point people in the right direction. You should certainly talk to your GP if you find it hard to contact the Network directly yourself.

If you would like to meet new people, try something new, or simply have something good to look forward to, give the Community Information Network a try. It might make all the difference.

ALL STEAMED UP?

Has your double-glazing steamed up INSIDE?

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PIDDINGTON NEWS

PIDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Our next TWO meetings will be held on Tuesday 16th July and 20th August 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: NONE

Anne Davies (Clerk)

Tel: 01865 379645

Email: piddington.parish.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.

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

The Appeal hearing for the above will begin on 29th July, and is expected to last for 4 or 5 days. You will remember that the Inquiry was delayed due to the late inclusion of the military, who have themselves now submitted proofs to the Inspectorate. They will be attending the Inquiry and giving evidence.

At its meeting on 18th June the Parish Council undertook a full review of its position.

Under the direction of our barrister we have submitted a comprehensive and persuasive set of proofs. Furthermore, we have put pressure on the District Council to strengthen its case and most notably ensured the military are fully engaged in the process. At this point in time we could not have hoped for a better set of circumstances.

To date, parishioners have donated, or raised, nearly £12,000 towards these legal costs. This was an amazing response from the community and has been instrumental in achieving what we have to date. This has been bolstered by a contribution of over £6000 by the Parish Council.

We have now reached a fork in the road. The cost for legal representation at the Inquiry is estimated to be a further £8000. The Parish Council has apportioned as much money as it can from its reserves and is unable to underwrite any further costs without jeopardising the daily running of the Parish.

Therefore, a last call has gone out to the village. However, in the absence of any further financial help it was agreed that as the military are now fully engaged it would not be unreasonable for the Parish Council to take a step back. This does not mean we have lost our voice at the Inquiry. Our proofs have been submitted and will be considered by the Inspector in his decision making. The Parish Council does not believe this will weaken our case but reflects very much on how hard we as a community have had to work to get this far. We will continue to liaise with both the District Council and the MoD throughout.

At the time of writing the Parish Council is in the process of sending out a leaflet along with a village email and is waiting to see if this target could be reached. An update will be enclosed

with Parish Matters. In the meantime, the Parish Council would again like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has been involved in the Appeal process to date.

If you would like to discuss the situation further please contact the Parish Clerk (piddington.pariah.clerk@googlemail.com) or Parish Chair, Francesca Darby (francesca.darby@piddingtonpc.com).

THE PIDDINGTON FITNESS TRAIL AT THE PLAYING FIELD

The 'Fitness for All' village event was held on Sunday 16th June. Thanks to the Proludic team who ran the morning, showing all those attending how to make best use of the equipment. To get the most out of the Trail, users are encouraged to download the Proludic Sport App, which is available for Apple and Android at iTunes and Google Play.

GRASS CUTTING

Grass cutting at the playing field has been affected by the unseasonal weather and because the contractor employed by the Parish Council to cut the grass at the playing field is in the process of renewing machinery. It is expected that cuts in July will be back to normal and that the meadow will be cut and baled in late July/ August.

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. This is a very

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

generous and exciting development, which should improve maintenance at the site in future years. It is hoped the supply will be connected over the summer.

VILLAGE HOUSEKEEPING

Full or damaged dog bins: contact Cherwell District Council (01295 227007) or the Parish Clerk. The Parish Council has now found someone to work for them on DIY issues in the village. It is hoped the new dog bin for Shady Lane will be installed shortly.

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.

RURAL POLICING

The last meeting of the Police Liaison/Resilience Committee was held at Chesterton village hall on 19th June. The date for the next meeting will be announced shortly. 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 shortly now that a contractor has been appointed.

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.

THAMES WATER

There will be road disruption in the centre of the village until mid-August whilst Thames Water upgrade pipework. If you have any concerns, contact Thames Water Customer Services 0800 316 9800 quoting reference BB285969.

NETWORK RAIL

Re-commencement of work on the railway embankment between Blackthorn and Ludgershall will start this summer subject to final sign-off from Cherwell District Council. The project is expected to last for two years. The Parish Council has been given assurances that heavy goods vehicles will not be travelling through the village except in the event of an emergency when notification will be given in advance.

OX-CAM EXPRESSWAY

The Parish Council has written to its District Councillors to put pressure on Cherwell DC to hold a meeting on the subject in the same way that recent events have been held in Oxford and Brill. Notification will be sent via village email with an update on whether this idea makes progress.

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

If you haven't already see the difference the new storeroom makes to the village hall, why not take the opportunity to view it at the Pop-Up Pubs on 26th July and 30 August, or come along to one of the upcoming events (see Village Diary below). The next project on the list is the installation of inner doors and the improvement of 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.

PIDDINGTON 200 CLUB

Here are the results for the May 2019 draw that took place at the Pop-Up Pub on Friday 31 May.

- 1st. 068. R. Hepworth.
- 2nd. 100. A. Roberts.
- 3rd. 031. J. Bell.
- 4th. 028. D. Sear.

This concludes the 200 Club membership year from June 2018/May 2019.

Collection of fees for the new year from June 2019/May 2020 has taken place and the first draw will be at the end June at the next Pop-Up Pub.

Many thanks to the collectors, Jan Woodhouse, Vanessa Burchell and myself (Yvonne Weavers).

Numbers can be purchased during the year 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

THE PANTRY AUTUMN MARKET & ART EXHIBITION

Two great events in one! As last year's double event was so popular, we've decided to do it again. So on 7 September, when you come to The Pantry Autumn Market in the village hall between 10 and 2, you can also enjoy a fantastic Art Exhibition and Sale of Work featuring several local artists.

Would you like to get more involved with our successful village market? 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
- 27 June - Book Swap Coffee morning, 10.15 – 11.45 (VH) CANCELLED
- 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)

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

7 September - The Pantry Autumn Market & Art Exhibition, 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)

The Pantry

@Piddingtonoxon – for general items of interest

The Pantry blog:

piddingtonpantry.wordpress.com

KEEPING IN TOUCH

Village emails:

Register on the Piddington website

Piddington village website:

www.piddingtonvillageoxfordshire.org.uk

Piddington village Facebook page:

www.facebook.com/piddingtonoxfordshire

Piddington Swap Shop Facebook page:

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

Twitter:

@pidding_pantry – for all things relating to



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The Pantry

Piddington Market & Coffee Shop

piddingtonpantry.wordpress.com

Autumn Market & Art Exhibition

Saturday 7 September

10 am to 2 pm

Piddington Village Hall, Oxon OX25 1PU

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OTMOOR GARDEN SOCIETY

This time of year is “Trip Season” in the garden society, supposedly to take advantage of the glorious summer weather (hmm!). Sunshine or no sunshine, we have had two thoroughly enjoyable local trips already which were both thankfully without rain.

Ablington Manor was an immaculate garden with great attention to detail. Even the gravel drive had been raked for our visit! There were magnificent cloud pruned topiary in an individual style, superb vistas and beautiful borders. The so-called New Gazebo next to the river Coln appealed to all of us as a weekend retreat! Our visit caught the last of the many tulips, but perhaps another visit at a later time of year to see the roses in flower would be something for the future. Tea and cakes were enjoyed in the walled garden to end our private visit on a lovely social note.

Thenford Gardens and Arboretum made another memorable afternoon out. The Walled Garden is full of interest and the Rill is spectacular. There is so much to this garden in terms of different planting areas and styles. Sculpture abounds, as do hedges which must take a phenomenal time to clip. Lord Heseltine was circulating in the garden with his two dogs, and was happy to answer questions, whilst Rupert Heseltine was happy to help with the tea and cake service. A very warm welcome with no airs and graces here.

Between the trips, our May speaker was Wilson Wall, from Bewdley Orchids, who

talked about our Native Orchids. What a fascinating insight into the struggle these plants have to grow. The seed is so small that it must find a fungus in the soil to give it enough energy to develop. After that it grows very slowly and at two years is only the size of a couple of tiny blades of grass. The populations are so separated that there can be a tendency towards inbreeding, so what Wilson and his team do is collect donated seed from various sites across the country, mix it all up, grow it on and return the plants to the different sites, thus increasing the gene pool. They are also aiming to try to join up the isolated populations. Sounds like a big task but a very worthwhile one. Wilson and his colleague have a book coming out later this year, so look out for that if it is your area of interest, details will no doubt be found on Bewdley Orchids website.

Now is the time to be booking for our coach trips. Members and Non-members welcome, it is just that the latter pay more!

The first is on Sunday July 7th to Loseley Park Gardens in the morning followed by RHS Wisley in the afternoon. The Walled Garden at Loseley was originally

designed by Gertrude Jekyll. It covers 2.5 acres and is divided into a rose garden, flower garden, white garden, herb garden and organic vegetable garden. Just outside the walls is the wildflower meadow, a haven of calm and tranquility. We will be taking a guided tour

with the head gardener, but there will also be time to wander at leisure.

Many of you will have been to Wisley, but you wont have seen the new Welcome area which officially opened on 10th June. It includes a big new shop and plant centre, and as a special for RHS Affiliated Groups each visitor will be given a £5 voucher to spend in here. I don't think that will be too difficult! This is a fabulous garden, and we will fill the afternoon here before heading back on our coach.

The second is on Saturday September 28th to Malvern Autumn Flower Show. This might sound quite a long way off, but we don't have many meetings over the summer so it is as well to get booking now. Malvern is

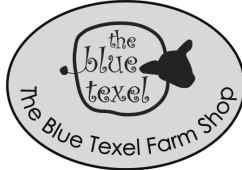
always a popular outing and is therefore one that we repeat every few years. You can find out more about this year's show at www.malvernautumn.co.uk, mainly because I am running out of space in this magazine!

To book either coach trip please contact Alison on ali@hinksey.plus.com , or you can ring Brian on 331472.

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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OTMOOR WOMANS INSTITUTE

June saw members of Otmoor WI enjoying their annual Garden Meeting, hosted this year by Virginia. The business of the evening included details for the upcoming trip to Belfair Chocolates in Brackley, the Group outing to Aston Potteries, part of our celebrations of 100 years of Oxfordshire WI Federation, and local events. The report on the WI AGM was not yet available but members were told that both Resolutions debated at the meeting had been passed.

Sadly, the weather did not allow members to explore the gardens on this occasion, but this just offered a greater opportunity to share in the refreshments provided by the committee, including the now obligatory strawberries and cream, to complete some challenging quizzes and generally enjoy each other's company.

The competition for the evening was for the most unusual item found in your garage or shed. Usually the competition is judged anonymously but on this occasion several people were called upon to identify their contribution. A glue bucket for melting solid glue, a piece from a pump and painted sign were amongst the items on display for members to judge. The winner of the competition was Mary Hatwell with Sheila Cooper and Anne Baker joint 2nd and Ann Williams 3rd.

The July meeting will be at 7.45 on 9th July at Charlton Community Hall where the speaker

will be Susan Drage giving a talk entitled Recycling with a Difference.

Dates for the Diary

Every Wednesday during August the WI will be holding a Pop-up Cafe in Charlton Community Hall from 10 – 12 with profits going to the Playground Appeal.

August 13th A Photographer's Tale Janine Kilroe (CCH) 7.45

There is no craft meeting in August

September 10th Emergency Planning in Oxfordshire Carol MacKay (CCH) 7.45 Open Meeting

September 19th Coffee, Craft and Cake (MVH) 7.45

October 8th Fishy Tales and Eccentric Customers Kevin Little (CCH) 7.45

October 17th Coffee, Craft and Cake (MVH) 7.45

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

ADVERTISING & CONTACTS

COST OF ADVERTISING (PER MONTH)

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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

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 cllrucykatzmertonpc@gmail.com

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

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

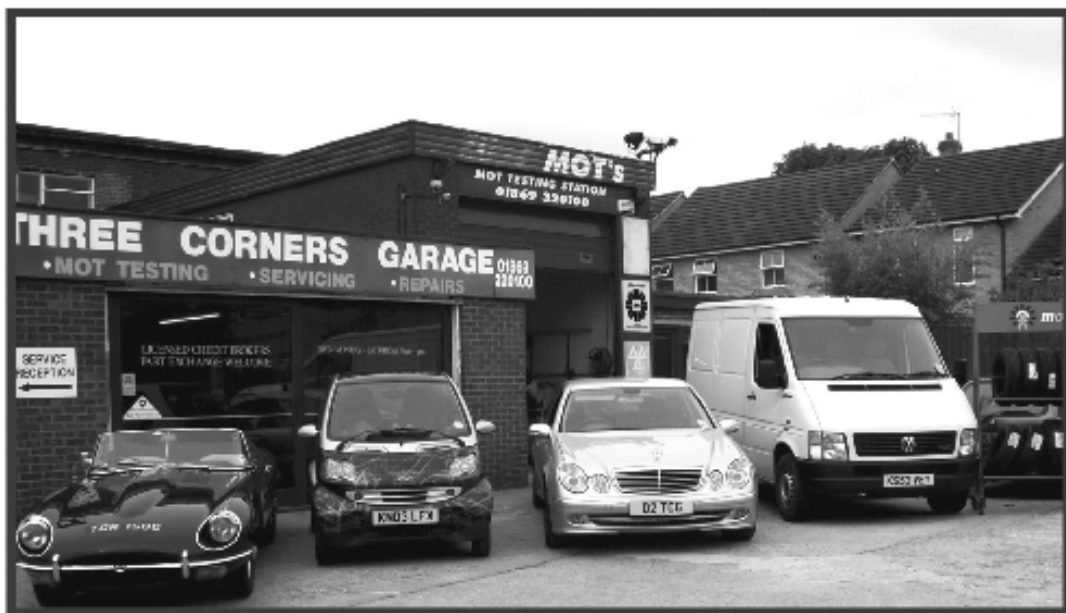


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