

PARISH MATTERS



SEPTEMBER 2019

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

VILLAGE VIEWS & LOCAL NEWS



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LETTER FROM THE CLERGY TEAM

From Exile to Extinction?

During August David, William and I spent a week, as we always do, with a number of other families camping in the grounds of a Franciscan Friary in Dorset, having fun but also taking time to consider a theme that relates to our lives as Christians. This year the focus was what is surely the most urgent, critical issue of our generation for all of us, regardless of creed - climate change and the mass extinction of species. Many of us in these parishes will already be well informed on this subject. Others of us may for all kinds of reasons have not engaged with it although it is, thankfully, at long last beginning to get the high profile media attention it merits.

This is thanks in part to what we might call some prophetic voices of our time, among them the two very different figures of Greta Thunberg and Sir David Attenborough. As both point out, contrary to what some maintain, the overwhelming consensus among climate scientists is that human-caused climate change is happening and reaching dangerous levels. Just like the prophets of the Hebrew Scriptures (or Old Testament) such as Isaiah who warned God's people that the consequences of disregarding God's law would be exile from their land, we now hear voices of those warning the human family that we may well be authors of our own extinction if we do not recognise our complicity in the crisis and heed urgently the warnings to take action.

Although it is easy to feel overwhelmed and helpless, if not hopeless, about the future, fortunately all is not yet lost and we still have time, just, to take action. Since human beings are responsible for the emergency we find ourselves in, it is imperative that human beings should be driving the necessary action to avert the crisis.

Nevertheless, the Biblical lesson from all those years ago is that, alongside a human response, humility about our limitations and need of God's help was also necessary. So too it seems to me that alongside the action we will have to take, we must acknowledge our limitations before the overwhelming scale of the threat and hope and pray for some as yet unknown turn of events – be it technological discovery or unexpected development - which will come as an undeserved gift to the planet and call us back to humble recognition that we are subject to, and not masters of, the awesome mystery which gives and sustains life wherever it exists.

Rev Lucy Thirtle

CHURCH SERVICES SEPT

RAY VALLEY SERVICES September 2019

Draft 2

Church	Time	Leader	Service
Sunday September 1st	Trinity 11		Proverbs 25.6-7 Hebrews 13.1-8,15-16 Luke 14.1,7-14
Ambrosden	10.30	Steve	Holy Communion
Merton	09.00	Steve	Holy Communion
Piddington	10.30	Elizabeth	Family Service – Elizabeth Taylor
Islip	10.30	Lucy	Parish Communion
Noke	17.00	Lucy	Songs of Praise Service (tea served at 4pm)
Charlton	10.30	Lisa	Family Service
Sunday September 8th	Trinity 12		Deuteronomy 30.15-end Philemon 1-21 Luke 14.25-33
Ambrosden	10.30	Steve	Family Service & Baptism
Piddington	9.00	Lisa	Holy Communion
Islip	10.30	Lucy	Parish Communion
Woodeaton	9.15	Lucy	Family Service
Charlton	18.00	Steve	Evening Prayer
Oddington	10.30	Lisa	Holy Communion
Sunday September 15th	Trinity 13		Exodus 32.7-14 1 Timothy 1.12-17 Luke 15.1-10
Ambrosden	10.30	Lucy	Holy Communion
Merton	09.00	Lucy	Holy Communion
Piddington	18.00	Steve	Evening Prayer
Islip	10.30	Steve	Parish Communion
Noke	09.15	Steve	Holy Communion
Charlton	10.30	Brian	Family Communion – Brian Mountford
Sunday September 22nd	Trinity 14		Amos 8.4-7 1 Timothy 2.1-7 Luke 16.1-13
Ambrosden	10.30	Lay	Morning Prayer
Merton	10.30	Glenys	Family Service
Piddington	9.00	Cover	Holy Communion
Islip	10.30	Lucy	Harvest Festival Family Service
Charlton	9.00	Lisa	Holy Communion
Oddington	18.00	Lisa	Harvest Festival followed by supper
Monday September 23rd			
Charlton	10.00	Lisa	School Harvest Festival
	19.00	Lisa	Harvest Festival
Sunday September 29th	Trinity 15		Amos 6.1a,4-7 1 Timothy 6.6-19 Luke 16.19-end
Charlton	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

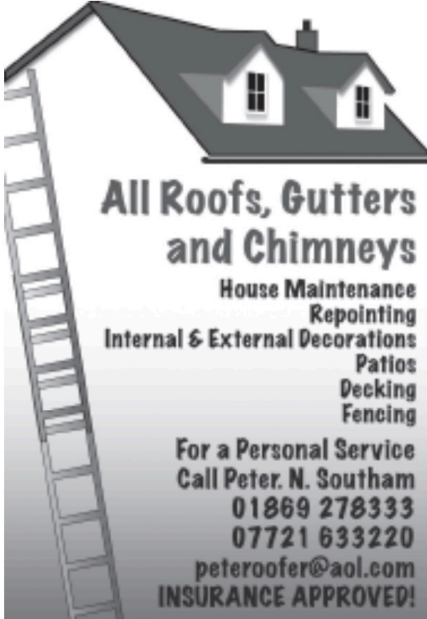
CHURCHWARDENS

Ambrosden:

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
Morwen Ashton	01844 238510
Merton: Mr Russell Thompson	01869 246093
<i>(no ringable bells)</i>	



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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
Dawn Seaward

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 village allotments opened at the start of August, there has been a lot of interest.

All residents of Ambrosden and Arncott who were on the allotments waiting list, were offered plots and their availability has been widely advertised throughout the community.

At the time of writing there were only three small plots left. Please do contact the parish clerk if you are interested in a plot or would like to go on the waiting list.

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.

At the end of May the Parish was informed that Gladman Developments Ltd have made a planning appeal and requested a public inquiry.

The Parish Council appointed Planning, Highways and Landscape consultants to make representations to the planning inspector.

The Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Parish Council along with a number of villagers attended the 4 day public inquiry speaking and were cross examined by barristers.

District Cllr Dan Sames also attended to support the village, speaking in great detail.

The Parish Council’s Landscape Consultant also attended and was part of detailed round table discussions, at the public inquiry.

The Parish Council were also invited to comment on potential planning conditions and legal agreements, should the appeal be allowed.

The result of the appeal is expected late September.

PLAY BUS TO CLOSE

The play bus service has sadly closed, the final session for families was held on the 27th of June 2019.

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

BLACKTHORN ROAD FOOTWAY

Work has started on installing a new footway along Blackthorn Road, from the junction of Ploughley Road to the new housing development in Blackthorn Road, Blackthorn.

VILLAGE HALL CLOSURE

The Village Hall, has been closed for repairs to the floor, it is hope that the hall will re-open in a few weeks. Public meetings and events may be held in different locations for a few weeks until the problems of the collapsed floor have been resolved.

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

The village hall is 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

Help Needed at St Mary's Church

On Sat 14th September

Could you offer a couple of hours of your time please?

The graveyard needs a makeover.

Anyone who could assist for an hour or two between 10am and 2pm, your help would be much appreciated as we tackle the ivy, cut down weeds, clear the drains and tidy up the graveyard. We have a small team who tackle the grounds but a concentrated effort would make all the difference. Please join us and bring your own tools.

There is cleaning to do inside the church as well.

Bacon sandwiches and coffee on offer!



Ray Valley Benefice For September 2019

- | | |
|----------------------|--|
| Sun 1 st | - 4pm Tea followed by Songs of Praise, Noke |
| Wed 4 th | - 10am Holy Communion, Ambrosden |
| Fri 6 th | - 10.30 Tiny Tots, Fencott |
| Sat 7 th | - 10-12 Piddington Pantry, Piddington |
| Mon 9 th | - 10am Coffee & Contemplation, Charlton |
| Tue 10 th | - 6pm Woodeaton Talks, Woodeaton |
| Sat 14 th | - All Day Ride and Stride, across the Benefice |
| | - Flower Festival, Oddington |
| | - 2-4pm Abseiling Teddies, Islip |
| Wed 18 th | - 10am Midweek Prayer, SMH, Charlton |
| Fri 20 th | - 9.30 ABC for pre-schoolers, Islip |
| Sun 22 nd | - 6pm Harvest Festival & Supper, Oddington |
| Mon 23 rd | - 10am Coffee & Contemplation, Charlton |

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

ARNCOTT NEWS

REPORT FROM ARNCOTT VHMC & ACA
MEETING 30th JULY & PARISH
COUNCIL MEETING 6th AUGUST 2019

Arcott parish council meetings usually take place in the village hall at 7:30pm on the 1st Tuesday of every month. All parishioners are welcome to attend. If you have any issues that you would like to raise then please come to the meeting, contact a Parish councillor or send an email to the parish clerk or the parish council email address.

Your current Arcott parish councillors are ;
Paul Wilson (Chair) - 01869 245514
Lee Savidge (Vice Chair) - 01869 246565
Martin Byrne - 01869 246532
Ade Doore - 07850 979455
Andy Poppitt - 07921 436489
Linda Hooper - 07803 592183
Russell Todd - 07368 492525

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 : arncottpc@gmail.com
com

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

Parish Councillor appointment
Following Peter Barnard's resignation from the

parish council at the end of June, the vacancy was advertised on all of the village notice boards. It's very pleasing to announce that Mr. Russell Todd volunteered to join the parish council as Peter's replacement. Russell was co-opted onto the parish council at the August meeting. Many thanks to Russell for offering to join up and help us out.

HS2

The parish council has received correspondence from a construction company involved with the HS2 project. The company is named Eiffage Kier and its representative has held discussions with the MOD and OCC regarding some early works and the set-up of a small construction compound within the MOD land. A meeting with a representative of the company took place on 14th August and he advised that the construction compound would be close to the fire station on Palmer Avenue and would consist of two small offices for administrative and planning work. The company representative has agreed to inform the parish council in writing as to what its intentions / plans are.

Woodpiece Road parking – phase 2

CDC has informed the parish council that an update about the phase 2 parking plan will be made available prior to the September parish council meeting.

Grant money for sports facilities

A reminder that this funding has not been / will not be paid to the parish council as a single sum of money. The funding is held by CDC

and is ring fenced for the sole purpose of providing improved sports facilities within the village. On July 25th, a meeting with the CDC leisure projects officer took place to discuss the proposed ideas for the construction of a new building containing a changing room / shower facility, a referee's room and a storage area. Discussions were also held with regard to getting some outdoor gym equipment installed on the playing field around the football pitch. The good news is that CDC has now advised the parish council that the proposals are an acceptable way of using the grant funding. A great deal of work now has to be done to get the necessary detailed plans, paperwork and quotes prepared to present to CDC for its approval before CDC will release the funds to pay for it all.

Play equipment

CDC has advised the parish council that additional and new outdoor play equipment / apparatus cannot be funded from the grant money that is available for sports facilities. CDC has concluded that outdoor play equipment does not fall into the "outdoor sports" category. Additional outdoor play equipment for the existing play area next to the village hall and new outdoor play equipment for the older age groups of children / teens may need to be funded from parish reserves if appropriate grant funding cannot be found.

Additional grant funding

At the beginning of August, CDC advised the parish council that additional grant funding is available for improvements to our village hall and also for the provision of indoor sports facilities. The parish council did not previously know that this funding was available. Again, the funding is held by CDC and is ring fenced for those purposes only. The parish council, the AVHMC and the ACA will have discussions to investigate how the

funding can be best used.

Vehicle activated speed (VAS) signs

A road marking and signage consultant who works with OCC has carried out an analysis of our village roads and signage and his report was considered at the meeting. OCC rules and regulations govern which VAS units can be used, how they can be used and where they can be mounted. VAS devices that indicate vehicle speed are not allowed to be mounted outside of the speed limit signs. The parish council has accepted the consultant's recommendations and will seek permission to mount a hard-wired VAS unit to the lamp post opposite the entrance to Village Close. The type of VAS unit will be very similar to the one in Ambrosden that faces traffic coming into that village from the A41. That type of device already has OCC approval. The intention is for the VAS unit to face traffic travelling into the village along the Murcott Road. Requests will also be made to OCC for some changes to the road signage and markings coming into the village at Lower Arcott. The consultant has advised that the road humps from the village entrance / exit at Lower Arcott to the Palmer Avenue roundabout should have the effect of slowing down traffic to acceptable speeds so a speed indicating VAS device should not be needed there. Additional road markings will be requested on Palmer Avenue near to the MOD fire engine station.

Free range egg production unit off Palmer Avenue

It is now well known that the recent planning application submitted to CDC by W Potters & Sons (Poultry) Ltd. has been withdrawn. A likely reason for the withdrawal could possibly be that the application would have been refused when presented to the CDC planning committee August meeting. There is the possibility that an amended / new

application and associated documentation for the construction of this unit will be submitted to CDC in the future.

Village hall hearing loop / audio system
Installation will take place on Wednesday 18th September. The parish council and AVHMC will now look into getting the cost of this project paid for from the newly discovered grant funding available for improvements to the village hall.

Green Lane / Village Green - replacement posts

The parish council agreed to the purchase of 34 new oak posts to replace the existing old posts. A contractor will be found to carry out the removal and disposal of the old posts followed by the installation of the new posts.

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.

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.

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

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

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

Your contact for the Arccott 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 – June

060 – Gemma Barrett, 192 – Shantie, 153 – Josie Proctor, 050 – Mr G Newall, 105 – Mrs L Mundy

300 Club winners _ July

149 – Mr G Watson, 270 Jacky Mummery, 003 – Eric Owen, 279 – Mr D Nixon, 202 – Mr C Robinson

If anyone is interested and would like to start or rejoin the 300 Club, please contact Wendy

Wilkins by email at Arncott300club@gmail.com.

IS THERE ANYONE IN THE VILLAGE WHO CAN PLEASE HELP US ???

The Village Hall Management Committee and the Arccott Community Association are seeking a secretary to take and distribute the minutes of their monthly meeting held on the last Tuesday of each month. Please give some thought as to whether you can help us with this. If yes then please contact Wendy Wilkins by email to arncott300@gmail.com

Clubs at the hall

Mindfulness Meditation and Deep Relaxation Classes on Monday night at 8.00pm to 9.00pm. You will be made most welcome by Charlotte. First class this month is Monday 9th September.

Tumble Tots – starts again on Tuesday 10th September - 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 10:00 am to 11:00 am. Mini courses of 4 sessions that blend exercises for the body with relaxation for the mind. Selina will make you very welcome.

Keep Fit for the Mature Movers Men and Women - Mondays 11:15 am to 12:15 pm. A great way to meet up with existing friends and make new ones. £4.50 and includes tea & biscuits

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.

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 – Arcnott Village Hall – Doors open at 7:00pm - Fun night out – not to be missed !!

Back by popular demand to raise funds for the Children's Christmas Party, Halloween Night, Family Christmas Carol Service, and Seniors Lunch. Bar and raffle. Tickets on sale £6.50 - available from Christine – Tel 01869 249560. Includes supper of pie, mash, peas and gravy. If you are a vegetarian please tell Christine when you purchase your ticket. Children from age 14 are allowed but will not be allowed to bet on the racers.

31st October - Halloween event

10th December - Carol Service

15th December - Childrens' Christmas party

11th Jan 2020 - Seniors' Christmas lunch

AVHMC - Village Fete

The Arcnott Village Fete was held on 21st July and raised over £1440 for Village Hall funds. The good weather and tremendous support made it one of the best fetes ever held in the village.

The event started off well with a very enjoyable charity football match between two teams playing for the re-instated Coker Cup in memory of an Arcnott resident who passed away when far too young some years ago. \

Many grateful thanks to both Peter Forrest for supplying the goal nets for the game and to Nick Smith for being able to get together over 30 players for the match. Teams were split into Reds and Blues with age ranges from 12 years old to a 50 year old goalkeeper. Nick was player / coach for the Blues and Mike Ford (ex Oxford Utd & Cardiff) was manager for the Reds. Final score was 8 – 6 to the Blues. Many thanks to everyone who was involved and helped out to make it happen and also to all the people that turned up early to watch the game. Massive thanks to the players who donated over £140 to play in the game. That money went to MacMillan Cancer support.

It seemed that everyone enjoyed the new events. Again, a huge thank you to Peter Forrest for his financial contribution and involvement in arranging for the wonderful display given by the

Cooper for many years of organising and contributing to the fete. Thanks go also to all the many sponsors of the Fete and the Raffle. The winner of the £100 first prize was ticket 1016 J Harmsworth.

Vikings (Ulfhrafnar). Many thanks are also due to the Elite Dance & Theatre Tuition dancers and many children's events, some of which were supplied by the Tumble Tots. Thank you all for making it such a special day. We hope these and the football will be part of the fete in years to come.

A date for your diaries: next year's fete is planned for Sunday 19th July 2020.

Material for the parish magazine
If you wish to submit any Arnclott related item for publishing in the Parish Matters magazine then please e-mail to arnclottpc@gmail.com or contact the parish council chairman. Entries submitted by the 20th of the month will be included in the following month's edition.

The committee would like to thank all the helpers who contributed before the day, on the day and afterwards and those who helped behind the scenes by baking, contributing plants and tombola prizes etc. Without these organisers and volunteers and your contributions these events would not be possible. We would like to give a special thank you to John and Tina



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BLACKTHORN NEWS

BLACKTHORN VILLAGE HALL

As summer draws to a close and we head into Autumn, we have plenty going on at the Village Hall:

- Thu 5th Sep Coffee Morning – 11 am
- Sat 21st Sep Oktoberfest – 7 pm
- Fri 27th Sep Pub Night – 7.30 pm
- Thu 3rd Oct Coffee Morning – 11 am
- Sat 5th Oct Early Oct film night – 7.30 pm (Bohemian Rhapsody)
- Fri 25th Oct Pub Night – 7.30 pm
- Sat 26th Oct Kid's Halloween Party – 10 am
- Thu 7th Nov Coffee Morning – 11 am
- Sat 9th Nov Quiz Night – 7 pm for 7.30 start

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.

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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4.00pm
-
10.00pm



www.blackthornvillagehall.org.uk

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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): clltonybrad@gmail.com

Jo Copping: jcoppingmerton@gmail.com

David Richardson: cllrdavid@penguinmail.co.uk

Lucy Katz: cllrlucykatzmertonpc@gmail.com

Steve Kelly: stevenkelly.mertonpc@gmail.com

Simon Ward: simonwmpc@gmail.com

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

FREE FILM SHOW IN MERTON VILLAGE HALL: THURSDAY 19 SEPTEMBER

The first in our 2019/20 'season' of FREE films – open to ALL residents of Merton and neighbouring villages – will be shown in the Village Hall at 7.30 pm on Thursday, 19 September.

Bohemian Rhapsody is a 2018 biographical drama about Freddie Mercury, the lead singer of the British rock band Queen.

As usual, there'll be (free!) tea/coffee and biscuits afterwards. And if you fancy a glass of beer or wine during the film, please feel free to bring your own!

The provisional programme of films for the rest of the 'season' is as follows:

17 October Viceroy's House (2017),
21 November The Age of Stupid (2009),
19 December Mamma Mia! Here We Go Again (2018),
16 January Finding Your Feet (2017),
20 February The Childrens' Act (2017),
19 March Victoria and Abdul (2017)
16 April Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri (2017).

Please send suggestions of suitable future films to patmurphy153@btinternet.com (or 01865 331643).

OXFORD CAMBRIDGE EXPRESSWAY

NO EXPRESSWAY GROUP

The summer has been incredibly busy for the No Expressway Group (NEG), with 10 village fetes and 4 village meetings. Brill and Marsh Gibbon meetings attracted close to 300 people each. NEG is also working closely with other local groups, sharing information, resources and skills, for a stronger campaign.

Our environment is a national asset. The proposed expressway and major development along the “Arc” are significant for all. Our next critical step for the NEG campaign, which has been gaining traction locally, is to try to influence decision makers in Westminster.

To take this big step, NEG needs to raise funds to pay for running the campaign, political consultants and planning experts. A very enjoyable and successful Mexican themed fundraising dinner was held in the gardens of Grove House, Beckley on 1st August. Huge thanks go to José Ramón and Mantina López-Portillo for holding such a wonderful event. You are also able to donate to the campaign on NEG’s website, noexpressway.org. Or, could you host a fundraising event?

NEG met with Highways England’s (HE) Matt Stafford, Project Director for Ox-Cam Expressway project & members of his team on 30th July. Key points from the meeting:

1. Highways England confirmed that anyone or group can register as a stakeholder, simply email OxfordtoCambridgeExpressway@

highwaysengland.co.uk. This means HE will send any new information it is sharing, directly to you; e.g. when HE announces timing and details of the consultation process later this year. It’s also a great way of demonstrating how interested our communities, groups and individuals are. We urge you all to register as stakeholders!

2. Highways England confirmed it has asked some stakeholders to sign NDAs so it could discuss if possible routes are “viable and buildable”. This revelation is in stark contrast to HE’s refusal even to confirm their existence in response to NEG’s Freedom of Information request, despite this having been in the media. Oxon County Council, South Oxon DC, Vale of White Horse DC and Milton Keynes Council have all signed NDAs. Bucks County Council and Aylesbury Vale DC refused.

HE said it asks Local Authorities to sign NDAs to be “responsible” about any impact on land values.

HE has not asked environmental experts, such as RSPB and BBOWT, to sign NDAs, nor has it spoken with them in confidence about potential routes. Matt Stafford said that submissions provided by BBOWT/RSPB early last year gave enough information to HE, so that no further follow up was required whilst developing route options. The RSPB told NEG that it has had no contact from HE since it made its initial submission regarding preference of corridor in April 2018.

NEG's questions are - what about anything new discovered since last year, or consideration of wildlife corridors and living landscapes? Can HE assess that on its own? Why not contact the experts?

3. HE confirmed its announcement of 6/7 route options, currently scheduled for Autumn 2019, will start a 10 week consultation period.

HE said the project is on track, but exact dates of this are not yet known, due to government reshuffle.


HE expects us all to provide feedback on routes based on our local knowledge, information on wildlife and heritage sites. You will be able to say your preference is "no expressway" by filling in "is there anything else we should know" box, there won't be a specific 'No expressway' tick box. Further information will be shared on our website.

Actions


- Email to register as a project stakeholder OxfordtoCambridgeExpressway@highwaysengland.co.uk
- Like and follow us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/pg/noexpresswaygroup/>
- Follow us on Twitter [@no_expressway](https://twitter.com/no_expressway)
- Please donate to our campaign here <https://donorbox.org/donate-to-no-expressway-group>

For all the latest news, updates and details of upcoming events visit noexpressway.org. No Expressway signs for your garden? Campaign ideas?

Questions? Contact Olivia Field noexpresswaygroup@gmail.com



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PIDDINGTON NEWS

PIDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday 17th September 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 – message from
Parish Council Chair, Francesca Darby

The Appeal Inquiry has now concluded, having recommenced on Monday 29th July. It included three and a half days of evidence and cross-examination, a four-hour site visit and an afternoon for closing statements.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank my fellow councillors for their diligence and professionalism throughout the process (and for ensuring the Parish was represented throughout the five days of the Inquiry). This was noted by the Inspector. The process, which started some

two and a half years ago, has been hard work and I think we would all agree a somewhat bruising experience!

The Parish and District Council barristers conducted themselves well throughout, were vigorous in cross-examination and put forward a compelling argument for refusal. The MoD were represented and put together a thorough tour of their facilities at the Piddington Training Ground. The Appellant's barrister submitted a last-minute request for costs from both the District and Parish Councils, which did not go down well with the Inspector. However, our respective barristers think it is highly unlikely this will be given.

The Inspector had hoped for an additional site visit of the training facilities at St George's Barracks in September, but this has not been possible to organise. The Parish Council have now received confirmation that the final decision should be published by the end of October.

There is still a need for help with meeting legal costs. Having been through the Appeal week I can assure anyone questioning this expense that it was absolutely necessary the Parish was professionally represented. If you can help in any way please contact the Parish Clerk: piddington.parish.clerk@googlemail.com.

If you would like to read closing statements, please contact the Parish Clerk who can arrange for these to be emailed to you. Nothing more remains to be said other than again to thank everyone who has been involved in the preparation for this Appeal, along with the two planning applications that proceeded it, particularly Pam Feltbower, who gave evidence, and Andrew Coleman, who was instrumental in the organisation of the Parish's case.

We will of course announce the decision as soon as it is published, and I would encourage all parishioners to sign up for village emails.

WIDNELL PARK & PLAYING FIELD

It is great that the playing field has been so busy this summer. However, it has come to the attention of the Parish Council that not everyone is picking up after their four-legged friends. There is no excuse for this kind of selfish behaviour as there are now two bins on site, and poo-bags provided. Remember – there's no such thing as a dog poo fairy!

There have also been a couple of incidents of minor vandalism, details of which have been passed on to the police. As a consequence, Widnell Park has been included in their rounds.

ALLOTMENTS

A couple of allotments are now available. To apply for one, 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.

It is hoped that a water supply to the site will be installed shortly. Water will be kept in a trough and topped up automatically. This has been made possible by a generous donation to the Parish Council. A new 12ft gate has now been installed thanks to the Village Hall. This will allow vehicle access on to the site if required.

VILLAGE HOUSEKEEPING

Autumn Litterblitz: now the verges have been cut its time to give the village and roadsides a tidy. Volunteers need to meet up on Saturday 14th September at 10am at the village hall for the organised clear up, although villagers are encouraged to do their bit as they are out and about. If you would like to borrow any equipment contact Francesca Darby.

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. The new dog bin up by Shady Lane

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has been installed, which means there are now three dog bins in the village. However, somebody is still not picking up whilst walking their dog down Thame Road, actually leaving mess within a metre of the dog bin! Please be a responsible dog-owner. The Parish Council has agreed to supply poo bags at all three bins.

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 date for the next meeting is Wednesday 4th September. 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.

SSE PRIORITY SERVICE

The SSE Priority Service is free and offered to people who may have special needs, particularly in the event of a power outage. These might be health issues, mobility problems or having young children. The Parish Council

fully supports this initiative and encourages registration. Contact the SSE Careline team directly on 0800 622838 or email careline@sse.com for more information.

NETWORK RAIL, PIDDINGTON ROAD CLOSURES

The Parish Council has been advised that between 30th September and 5th October, and again from 7th October to 12th October, Lower End, Marsh Gibbon Road, plus Bicester Road from the A41 will close at night from 2200 hrs to 0530 hrs. This is due to essential works being undertaken by Murphy's on behalf of Network Rail who will be adding or widening passing places ready for the delivery of materials in connection to the Blackthorn - Piddington embankment work.

The Bicester Road from the A41 going towards Ludgershall as far as the railway bridge will have 7 new passing places added whilst Lower End and Marsh Gibbon Road will either widen or add new places. No work will be undertaken in the village itself. Only one road at a time will be closed during the widening period.

Murphy's have advised that when the main work on the embankment begins 1000 tons of gravel per day will be delivered to various sites by vehicles. The Parish Council has been assured that no deliveries will be made via the village and that every precaution will be taken to ensure works traffic use the designated routes. However, in the event of an emergency, such as the closure of A41, access via the

village may be required. The Parish Council is being informed on a regular basis by Murphy's on proposed construction site movements and has asked for clear signage to be installed informing delivery drivers that the village is out of bounds.

In the event that village access is required an email notification will be sent with advance warning where possible.

OX-CAM EXPRESSWAY

The Parish Council wrote 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. There has been no feedback to date. The Parish Council has contacted Highways England and requested they be listed as a stakeholder for consultation purposes. Regular updates from the No Expressway Group are now being sent out via the village email. Please sign up for village emails for more information.

HS2

The Parish Council understands that Eiffage Kier have been in discussion with the MoD landowners, Defence Infrastructure Organisation, regarding the use of local land for offices, logistics and materials storage. They have already moved in to 'H' site, making use of its facilities for office use and the potential use of the old Home Office area at 'A' site is now under consideration. It is likely material deliveries will be made directly to the construction sites but works traffic cannot be ruled out and will be via the A41 and B4011. It will not need to pass through any villages. Planning applications will be submitted in the next couple of months. The project will be in place for at least 3 years whilst HS2 is being constructed locally. A Community Liaison Officer for Eiffage Kier is now in contact with all local Parish Councils and any updates will be sent out on village emails and through Parish Matters.

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 has won a grant of £10,000 from the National Lottery Community Fund towards the installation of a new 'energy efficient' heating system. A second grant has been applied for from the Trust for Oxfordshire's Environment and a decision is expected in October. The new heating system, which will cost around £17,000, will be based on air-sourced heat pumps which will also cool the hall in the summer. Heat loss will be improved by the recently installed interior double doors which form a new entrance lobby

The outside of the hall was painted during the summer and decorating has continued with the Gents Toilet being the latest area to be painted. The interior of the main hall will be decorated after the new heating is up and running.

A new entry system on the doors into the hall has been given the go ahead and will be installed shortly.

PIDDINGTON BAKE OFF

Thank you to everyone who took part – baking, helping, judging and cleaning up – in the Piddington Bake Off on 29th June. You have raised £393 towards the play area for the village hall. It was a lovely village occasion - very well supported despite the sudden appearance of summer on the day! After much deliberation the results were: Under 16: Leon Swadling; Biscuits: Kay Coleman; Cake: Helen Williams; Traybake/Scones: Beverley Hopkins; Sweet Pastry: Eleanor Thomas; Savoury Pastry: John Galloway; Bread: Kim Elliott; Rogue: Vanessa Burchell.

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PIDDINGTON 200 CLUB

Here are the results for the draws that took place at the Pop-Up Pub on 28 June and 26 July 2019.

June

- 1st. 157. G. Thomas.
- 2nd. 019. J. Rixon.
- 3rd. 005. P. Mott.
- 4th. 125. G. Brown.

July

- 1st. 065. M. Bonnet.
- 2nd. 060. B. Bridgman.
- 3rd. 096. C. Taylor.
- 4th. 087. J. Cooper-Smith.

Every draw has a first prize of £30, a second prize of £20, a third prize of £10 and a fourth prize of £5. Last year 150 numbers were sold, totalling £1,800 with prize money distributed of £780. The balance helps to keep your Village Hall in top condition. For more information or to join, please phone: 01844 238707, or download an application form from the village website (www.piddingtonvillageoxfordshire.org.uk/200-club) and drop it into the post-box outside the Village Hall.

THE PANTRY AUTUMN MARKET CANCELLED

Unfortunately, personal circumstances in our small team has meant that the market due to be held on 7th September has had to be cancelled. We took the decision with a heavy heart because The Pantry has been an important part of village life for several years, but we simply don't have enough folk to organise it when key

people are unavailable. We hope to hold the Christmas Market on 7th December, but really need help with the organisation. We're looking in particular for someone to help book and liaise with stallholders and someone to organise the volunteers. If you're interested, 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.

Harvest Festival Weekend at St. Nicholas Church

The church will be decorated for Harvest Festival on Friday 4th October. All welcome to help during the morning or bring donations for harvest.

Harvest Coffee Morning

The coffee morning will be held on Saturday 5th October 10 am – 12.00.

There will be produce and plants for sale. All welcome.

Harvest Festival Service

The Harvest Festival Service will take place on Sunday 6th October at 10.30 am followed by refreshments. We will be collecting groceries for the Bicester Food Bank. All Welcome

VILLAGE DIARY

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

19 September – Book Swap Coffee Morning (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)

17 October – Book Swap Coffee Morning (VH)

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)

KEEPING IN TOUCH

Village emails:

Register on the Piddington website

Piddington village website:

www.piddingtonvillageoxfordshire.org.uk

Piddington village Facebook page:

www.facebook.com/piddingtonoxfordshire

Piddington Swap Shop Facebook page:

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

Twitter:

@pidding_pantry – for all things relating to The Pantry

@Piddingtonoxon – for general items of interest

The Pantry blog:

piddingtonpantry.wordpress.com



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OTMOOR GARDEN SOCIETY

August seems to me a bit wet most years to be defined as “summer”, but at least it is watering the garden. The grass has stayed green this year, unlike the dried-up crusts of last year’s summer, for which I guess we should be grateful. With no two years the same, we gardeners have to cope with whatever is thrown at us. Is this climate change or just a feature of being British?

In September we return to our programme of speakers, and our first will be spectacular whether it rains or shines.

Tuesday September 24th at Murcott, we have Rosy Hardy from Hardy’s Cottage Garden Plants, talking on Autumn Flowering Perennials. She will be bringing lots of spectacular plants with her and all will be for sale at the end of the talk.

Hardy’s Cottage Garden Plants was started by Rosy and her husband Rob in 1988. Since then it has grown from strength to strength, attracting many loyal customers and winning hundreds of awards.

It is now recognised as one of the UK’s leading independent nurseries for herbaceous perennials. Still very much a family-run nursery, it offers an unrivalled selection of 1,200 varieties of herbaceous perennials, from proven garden favourites to the more unusual and noteworthy. These are all grown outside in peat free compost, at their 13 acre site in the Hampshire village of Freefolk.

Rosy is the holder of 24 Chelsea Gold Medals for her exhibits in the floral marquee, and regularly introduces new plants to the market, also having won Chelsea plant of the year for some of her new introductions.

If you are a perennials geek like me you will not want to miss this. Get there early for a front row seat, but no stampedes at the end once the sell-off

starts! If you are not a member then you are welcome along as a visitor at a small cost.

There is still just about time to book a place on our second coach trip of the year on Saturday September 28th to the Malvern Autumn Flower Show. You can find out more about this year’s show at www.malvernautumn.co.uk. I am not sure that the early bird tickets will still be available, but please speak to Brian if you are interested and he will have the latest status.

To book contact Brian Eadle on 331472 or theeadles@hotmail.com.

This trip seems a little undersubscribed this year, so we are considering next year offering three local trips and only one coach trip, as the locals have been so popular. As a committee we try to provide you with what you want, but please contact us at any time if you have suggestions or would like something different.

We have three good speakers coming up for our autumn programme, and when we conclude in November we will be judging this year’s competition “A Photograph taken at an Otmoor Garden Society event”. Malvern will be your last chance to take one, so don’t forget your cameras. The photograph doesn’t have to have our members on it, but could be more entertaining if it does. The composition is entirely up to you!

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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The speaker for the August meeting, Janine Kilroe, took us on a journey through developments in photography over the past thirty years using her own experiences as illustration. From her College days, when taking studio portraits of celebrities as assignments meant carting around extensive heavy equipment, to her use of photography to create works of art, and, most recently piloting a drone camera for a new viewpoint on the world. Her assignments had taken her to tennis venues for sports action shots and to many countries across the world, where her favoured subjects were people and stunning sunsets. Through her lens we witnessed colourful scenes from India and the beach made famous through the Poldark series. Whilst there are many benefits to using digital photography, she showed that traditional methods still had their place in the art.

A break for delicious refreshments prepared by Angie and Ann Lucas, afforded members a chance to examine the selection of photos on display and study Maureen's Canadian Challenge Scrapbook and to vote for favourites amongst the many images brought along to fit the theme of "the photo I would most hate to lose." The meeting resumed with the business of the evening, reports from recent events including the trips to Belflair Chocolates and Aston Pottery, and finally a short resume by Maureen of her cycling challenge in Canada which had raised over £1000 for Helen and Douglas House. The range of photos offered for the competition spread the votes over many entries with Mary Hatwell and Anne Baker

sharing the winning slot with two further entries in second and three in third.

For the next meeting, Tuesday September 10th at 7.45, there is a change to the programme. Carol MacKay, the Oxfordshire Community Resilience and Emergencies Officer, will be talking about her role in coordinating services in major incidents. This is an Open Meeting and is sure to be of interest to a wide audience so please feel free to join us for the evening.

Dates for the Diary

Tuesday September 10th Oxfordshire Community Resilience and Emergencies – Carol MacKay (CCH) 7.45pm Open Meeting

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

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

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

Tuesday November 12th Edward and Mrs Simpson – Richard Anderson

Thursday November 21st Coffee, Craft and Cake (MVH) 7.45pm

Tuesday December 10th Members Christmas Meal 7.30pm

There is no craft meeting in December.

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 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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