

PARISH MATTERS



OCTOBER 2019

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

VILLAGE VIEWS & LOCAL NEWS



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LETTER FROM THE CLERGY TEAM

CS Lewis is well known to have been an Oxford scholar. You can't live where we live and not know that he lived close by. And the mention of his name brings to mind book titles such as: 'The Chronicles of Narnia', 'Screwtape Letters', 'Mere Christianity', 'The Problem of Pain', and 'Surprised by Joy'.

He was a friend of JRR Tolkien and their exploits together are well covered in films or in visits to exhibits in Oxford. We conveniently overlook the fact that he was also an academic at that other place (Cambridge) – hardly worth a mention!

I wonder if you knew that he also had links in Chicago. I had the opportunity to stay with the leading authority on CS Lewis, Jerry Root, who wrote 'The Quotable Lewis'. Jerry was very proud of their museum at Wheaton college which contained many belongings of CS Lewis which had been bequeathed to the college.

Despite the fact that the museum was closed at the time, I was allowed to see some of the exhibits there including the wardrobe. Of course, I'd read the book and, of course, I had heard that the story was inspired by an actual wardrobe in CS Lewis' study where he wrote the book, but I never expected to see the wardrobe 'in the flesh'.

Some wag had put a notice next to the wardrobe: 'Wheaton College takes no responsibility for anyone getting lost in this wardrobe'! How apt!

One Christmas, many years ago, I arranged for the school chapel where I was working to be transformed into Narnia. The porch was adorned with wardrobe doors, a rail of fur coats hung inside. There was fake

snow on the floor and a Narnia lamp post as you entered the chapel, and the pulpit was adorned as a roaring lion. I dressed as the grandfather for our Carol Service and we explored having a spiritual adventure together.

It was a memorable occasion as we looked at the themes of good and evil, a parallel spiritual world, a spiritual battle, the concepts of time, consequence and forgiveness, together with the mind-blowing consideration of resurrection.\

CS Lewis was so clever at weaving these theological themes into a story book for children. We owe him a debt of gratitude for being able to pen words about the complex in such an understandable way. I truly hope that we are able to imitate his ability in some small way across the benefice as we try to explain the limitless qualities of God in words we can all understand.

Meanwhile, in the spirit of thankfulness, we have Harvest time around the corner when we take time out to thank God for His provision once again, and also to thank our farming community who work so hard throughout the year and especially at this time. We prayed for God's blessing on their work at Rogation and now we see the fruit of all their efforts.

Harvest is nature's way of explaining something about the faithfulness and providence of God, how He is the Creator who sustains life throughout the world – without using words at all!

Steve

'I believe in Christianity as I believe that the Sun has risen, not only because I see it, but because by it I see everything else' CS Lewis.

CHURCH SERVICES OCT.

RAY VALLEY SERVICES October 2019

Draft 2

Church	Time	Leader	Service
Sunday October 6th	Trinity 16		Habakkuk 1.1-4; 2.1-4 2 Timothy 1.1-14 Luke 17.5-10
Ambrosden	10.30	Brian	Holy Communion – Brian Mountford
Merton	09.00	Steve	Holy Communion
Piddington	10.30	Steve	Family Service - Harvest
Islip	10.30	Lucy	Harvest Communion
Noke	17.00	Lucy	Family Service - Harvest
Charlton	10.30	Glenys	Family Service
Sunday October 13th	Trinity 17		2 Kings 5.1-3,7-15c 2 Timothy 2.8-15 Luke 17.11-19
Ambrosden	10.30	Steve	Family Service & Baptism
Merton	18.00	Cover	Harvest Service
Piddington	9.00	Steve	Holy Communion
Islip	10.30	Brian	Parish Communion – Brian Mountford
Woodeaton	9.15	Lucy	Harvest Festival
Charlton	18.00	Steve	Evening Prayer
Oddington	10.30	Lucy	Holy Communion
Sunday October 20th	Trinity 18		Genesis 32.22-31 2 Timothy 3.14 – 4.4 Luke 18.1-8
Ambrosden	10.30	Steve	Holy Communion 12.30 Baptism - Lisa
Merton	09.00	Lisa	Holy Communion
Piddington	18.00	Lucy	Evening Prayer
Islip	10.30	Lucy	Parish Communion & Baptism
Woodeaton	09.15	Steve	Holy Communion
Charlton	10.30	Lisa	Family Communion
Sunday October 27th	Last after Trinity		Jeremiah 14.7-10,19-end 2 Timothy 4.6-8,16-18 Luke 18.9-14
Ambrosden	10.30	Lisa	Morning Prayer & Baptism
Merton	10.30	Philip	Family Service
Piddington	9.00	Lisa	Holy Communion
Islip	10.30	Lucy	Family Service
Charlton	9.00	Steve	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

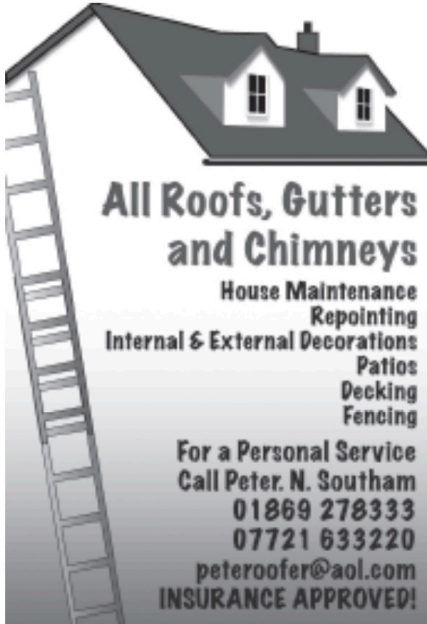
CHURCHWARDENS

Ambrosden:

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 St Marys Church on 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.

At the time of writing there were only four allotments still available. 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

AMBROSDEN COURT PLAY AREA

After enforcement action by the District Council, Croudace has installed a new children’s play area which is for use by the entire village.

PLANNING PERMISSION GRANTED AT APPEAL FOR 84 HOUSES IN MERTON ROAD

An further reserved matters application is expected in due course. The inspector found that there were no road safety issues in Merton Road, apart from requesting one telegraph pole obstructing the footway should be relocated.

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.

ARNCOTT NEWS

Please note that due to new page space restrictions in this magazine, news items will now be short form. For more detail about any item please email your question(s) to the council email address, look at the meeting minutes on the council website or contact the chairman.

PARISH COUNCIL - Parish council meetings take place in the village hall at 7:30pm on the first Tuesday of the month. Parishioners are welcome to attend. Current parish councillors are Paul Wilson (Chair) 01869 245514, Lee Savidge (Vice Chair) 01869 246565, Martin Byrne 01869 246532, Ade Doore 07850 979455, Linda Hooper 07803 592183, Russell Todd 07368 492525. The parish clerk is Mrs Anne Davies 01865 379645 - clerkatarncott@gmail.com The parish council website is www.parish-council.com/arncott (also contains pages for the ACA) The parish council Facebook address is www.facebook.com/arncottpc/ The parish council email address is arncottpc@gmail.com

COUNCILLOR RESIGNATION - Andy Poppitt has resigned from his seat on the parish council. Andy became a councillor in November 2017 and the parish council would like to say thank you to Andy for his help and involvement.

HS2 - Eiffage Kier (main contractor) has no current plans to use G site or the railway for aggregate distribution. A small part of H site is being used for early works activities. Discussions about the possible future use of A site will be investigated.

WOODPIECE ROAD PARKING – phase 2 - CDC has begun initial work for phase 2 and will hopefully update the parish council on a monthly basis as to what progress has been made.

GRANT MONEY FOR SPORTS & OUTDOOR GYM FACILITIES – CDC has given the go-ahead.

The parish council now has great deal of work to do to arrange for the new additional facilities.

ADDITIONAL & NEW PLAY EQUIPMENT –

The parish council is currently investigating the best options, price and supplier(s) for the provision of additional and new play equipment.

ADDITIONAL GRANT FUNDING – This funding will be applied for and used over time for any improvements to the village hall and for any suitable indoor sports activities within the hall.

VEHICLE ACTIVATED SPEED (VAS) SIGNS

AND ROAD MARKINGS – The consultant who advises OCC about road signage and markings is helping the parish council with this project.

FREE RANGE EGG PRODUCTION UNIT OFF

PALMER AVENUE – The planning application was withdrawn. It remains to be seen if a new application will be submitted.

GREEN LANE / VILLAGE GREEN -

REPLACEMENT POSTS – Discussions have taken place with a suitable contractor. The council is now awaiting for a quote.

DOG POO - 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 - Arncott has two public defibrillator units. One unit is at the village hall on the wall facing Murcott Road – ID no. AR84. The other unit is at The Tally Ho Hotel on the building end wall in line with the car park entrance – ID no. AR82. Telephone the ambulance service on 999 to gain access. Tell the call desk operator the ID

number on the cabinet door.

MOTO PARC - 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 report it to the police, make the report anonymously by telephoning Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 or fill out an anonymous form online.

Litter louts - Please report this to CDC. Video / photographic evidence is useful. If the problem persists, CDC can assign an enforcement officer to get involved.

ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR - Get witness statements, take photographs and / or record video of the behaviour and report it to the police. The parish council has no legal power(s) to deal with this.

Roads and streetlights - Report any road / pavement / street light issues you see to OCC on via the Fix My Street website - www.fixmystreet.com.

Village Hall / AVHMC / ACA - AVHMC contact Wendy Wilkins (Chair) - arncott300@gmail.com , For Village Hall hire - Christine Dunkin 01869 249560 – avhlettings@gmail.com, Village Hall email address is arncottvhmc@gmail.com . ACA contact is Christine Dunkin (Chair) 01869 249560 – avhlettings@gmail.com . ACA email address is arncottca@gmail.com. ACA 300 club is Wendy Wilkins – arncott300@gmail.com . ACA Facebook address is [www.facebook.com / groups/arncottCA](http://www.facebook.com/groups/arncottCA)

AUGUST 300 CLUB WINNERS 173 Mrs. M. McRae, 143 Rachel Jones, 87 Mrs. K. Hobbs, 50 Mr. G. Newell, 21 Mrs. M. Moore. If anyone is interested and would like to start or rejoin the 300 Club, please contact Wendy Wilkins by email at arncott300@gmail.com.

CLUBS AND COMMUNITY EVENTS AT THE HALL - 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.

Monday 11:15 am - 12:15 pm - Keep Fit for Mature Movers - £4.50- includes tea & biscuits

Monday 8:15pm – 9:15pm – Beacons of light meditation and deep relaxation – contact charlenehowlett50g@btinternet.com

Tuesday 9:30am – 1:30pm – Tumbletots - contact juliatumbletots@outlook.com

2nd Wednesday each month – 1:45pm – 3:45pm – Over 50's friendship club. £2 – includes tea, coffee and cake raffle ticket. Bingo, quiz and board games. Contact Christine Dunkin on 01869 249560 – Email to christinedunkin1@gmail.com

Wednesday 5.15 pm - 6:45 pm – Cubs - School term only – contact 1stambrosdenscouts@gmail.com

Thursday 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm - Dog Training – contact ockcairns@yahoo.com

Friday 10:00 am - 11:00 am – Yoga – contact sasse@mindbodydynamics.co.uk

Friday 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm – Scouts - School term only - contact 1stambrosdenscouts@gmail.com

COMMUNITY EVENTS AT THE VILLAGE HALL

Wednesday 9th October - Macmillan Coffee Morning - Hosted by the Friendship Club Please support this wonderful Charity. Thursday 31st October - Halloween Night - Doors open at 6.30 pm - Hot Dogs, Soup, Soft Drinks Prize for the best boy & girl costume. More Info on Arccott Village Facebook. Sponsored by The Arccott Community Association.

Tuesday 10th December – Christmas Carol service. Sunday 15th December – Children's Christmas party. Saturday 11th January 2020 – Senior's Christmas lunch. Saturday 15th February 2020 – Charity event - Valentines dinner – details to follow.

OTHER COMMUNITY EVENTS

Thursdays - 6:30pm - 9:00 pm – Craft Club 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.

Material for the parish magazine - To submit any Arccott related item for publishing in this magazine then e-mail to arncottpc@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.

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Islip Village Hall
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Janenoke.dixon26@gmail.com Tel: 01865 372 056

With thanks to the Wilsons of Noke for hosting the first 12+ years
of this fabulous village event, allowing it to mature like a fine
chutney into the memorable occasion it is now.
This year with more elbow room and central heating!

A fundraiser in aid of St Giles Church, Noke

**Ambrosden
Christmas Tree Festival
6th - 8th December 2019**



Put the date in your diary now!

**If you would like more information, or would like to
sponsor a tree please e-mail:**

ambrosdenchristmastreefestival@rayvalley.com

BLACKTHORN NEWS

Blackthorn Village Hall

Autumn Events Calendar

Sat 21st Sep – Oktoberfest 7 pm til late

Fri 4th Oct – Film Night (Bohemian Rhapsody) 7 pm

Sat 26th Oct – Kids Halloween Party 10 am

 *Pub Night - 7.30 pm* 

Fri 27th Sep

Fri 25th Oct

Fri 29th Nov

Fri 20th Dec

 *Coffee Morning* 11 am

Thu 3rd Oct

Thu 7th Nov

Thu 5th Dec

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

Autumn Beckons!

From The Blackthorn Codger

April is the traditional time to spring clean the house, throw open the windows, turn off the central heating and prepare for summer as the days grow longer!

Conversely September is the month light late evenings shorten and we start clearing the debris from our summer flower beds, digging over our summer vegetable beds, transplanting any perennials, pruning ornamental shrubs and

trees, cutting back hedges especially our natural Saxon hedges with all the 'aitches' hawthorn, hazel, holly, hornbeam and squeeze in that final cut of the lawn, or two, as we so often seem to get that final spurt of growth resulting in that unkempt tufty look.

September is also the month when we should finally start to take some of those maintenance repairs seriously, the slipped tile or slate on an outbuilding or house roof, the cracked or broken pane in a shed or summer house window, taking a tiny fraction of an inch off a sticking or sagging door, sealing that leaking gutter and making sure that fences are secure enough to withstand the inevitable winds.

September is also the month when much of our fruit will be ripe for the picking; apples, pears, damsons, quinces. Time to dust off the apple racks, carefully inspect apples and pears and carefully wrap the perfect ones in newspaper and store them in the cool through the winter, ready to be enjoyed right through to spring. It is time to bring out the demi-johns, buy litres of cheap gin or vodka and make those wonderful winter country drinks like damson or quince gin and vodka. As autumn progresses, we will be able to add sloe gin or sloe vodka to that delightful cocktail list.

As nature's bounty starts to run scarce for our native birds it is time to check that the bird table is secure, or if you don't have one, now is the time when perhaps you might consider erecting one. Wild birds are a joy to watch as they feed and they will more than pay you back in Spring by eating all those bugs, slugs and snails from your vegetable and flower beds.

The Blackthorn Codger

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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aastevenson@willowpond.co.uk

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4.00pm
-
10.00pm



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E: mike@mhes.co.uk : www.mhes.co.uk



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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: cllr david@penguinmail.co.uk

Lucy Katz: cllr lucykatzmertonpc@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 17 OCTOBER

The next presentation 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, 17 October.

'Viceroy's House' is 2017 historical drama about the end of British rule in India starring Hugh Bonneville, Gillian Anderson, Manish Dayal, Huma Qureshi, and Michael Gambon.

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: 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) and 16 April 'Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri' (2017).

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

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OXFORD CAMBRIDGE EXPRESSWAY

NO EXPRESSWAY GROUP

The No Expressway Group (NEG) continues to be busy with more orders for “Under Threat” signs, four village and town meetings and two travelling pagoda events. Winslow Town Meeting was particularly successful, attracting over 250 people, generating more requests for presentations and contacts with more skilled people along the Arc who can help our campaign.

PLEASE JOIN US, ALL WELCOME!

NEG will be holding a meeting on **Tuesday 22nd October, 7.30pm**, Horton-cum-Studley Millennium Hall to update you on the latest news in preparation for upcoming route options announcement and the first Ox-Cam Expressway public consultation.

Have you registered for updates on noexpressway.org yet?

Have your say! Register now for updates on noexpressway.org to get the latest news and Consultation details.

Have you registered as a Highways England Stakeholder yet?

Unfortunately, Highways England (HE) gave us incorrect information about the stakeholder sign up process for individuals. Having spoken with HE directly again, we can clarify that **Individuals currently need to register using this process -**

- Register your email address and set a password here <https://service.govdelivery.com/accounts/UKHIGHWAY/subscriber/new>

- In the long list of options to subscribe to updates about:

- o Expand “Road Projects” option
- o Expand “East of England road projects” sub-option
- o Select “Oxford to Cambridge expressway” (towards bottom of the road projects list), scroll down and **Submit**

Please contact us if you have any problems. We’ve been told that **ALL group and individual stakeholders**, will receive the same consultation information at the same time.

Update on NDAs. HE has finally provided us with a list of the eight parties it asked to sign NDAs for the expressway project, so it could discuss route options. Those that signed are England’s Economic Heartland (EEH), HS2, Oxfordshire County Council, South Oxfordshire District Council (DC), Vale of White Horse DC, Milton Keynes Council. Buckinghamshire County Council and Aylesbury Vale DC refused to sign. **Why** didn’t HE want Cherwell DC’s input? Corridor B1/B3 goes through Cherwell. **Why** do businesses involved in Local Enterprise Partnerships (part of EEH) get to see and feedback on route options, when the general public doesn’t so far?

General election & HE Consultation are opportunities to have your say. There are more signs that politicians are questioning the Ox-Cam Expressway. Several Councils have already voted to oppose the proposed

Expressway, including Oxford City Council, South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse DCs. Aylesbury Vale DC will debate and vote on an expressway motion on 18th September. Cambridge MP Daniel Zeichner has written to the Secretary of State for Transport, Grant Shapps MP, to ask for the proposed expressway to be scrapped and East West Rail be electrified.

When a general election is called, we have a fantastic opportunity to ask candidates their (and their party's) position on the Ox-Cam expressway and one million homes along the Arc. How can they justify 100% increase in Oxon's population by 2050 when the national average growth forecast is 16% in the same period?

When the HE consultation on route options is announced, everyone should be involved and contribute. This is our first opportunity to have our say! Get the latest news and updates on noexpressway.org.

Actions

- Sign up to receive our email Updates noexpressway.org/#newsletter
- Register as a project stakeholder (as above)
- Follow us on: Facebook facebook.com/pg/noexpresswaygroup/ and 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

PIDDINGTON NEWS

PIDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL - Next meeting: Tuesday 15th October at 7.30pm. Planning applications currently under review are: NONE

Clerk: Anne Davies, 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), Andrew Coleman; Pam Feltbower; Lynda Galloway; Ken Howard; Mario Terzino.

VILLAGE INFORMATION - 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>. the village website Information Centre contains a range of useful information, including phone numbers and email addresses: www.piddingtonvillageoxfordshire.org.uk/information-centre.html

APPEAL REFERENCE APP/C3105/W/18/3209349 GYPSY/TRAVELLER SITE ON WIDNELL LANE
Unfortunately, a second site visit by the Inspector could not be organised. His decision is due to be published by the end of October.

WIDNELL PARK & PLAYING FIELD - There have 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. The gate into the playing fields from Arncoth Rd has come loose from its post. The Parish Council will get this repaired.

CHILDREN'S PLAY AREA - Viridor Credits have agreed to allocate a grant of £31,241 towards the renovation of the play area behind the village hall.

This, along with a £19,526 grant from Cherwell District Council and donations from the Parish Council, The Pantry and the kind folk who organise the Bike Night in Ludgershall, means that work can now begin. Many thanks to Mario Terzino for his perseverance and organisational skills, the Village Hall Committee for their support and to Olivia Barrett and Morwen Ashton for their village fundraising efforts over the last year. Updates will be posted via the village email.

ALLOTMENTS -A couple of allotments are now available. For more information and to apply, please contact John Galloway: jmg.galloway@gmail.com. Regular meetings of allotment holders are held at the monthly Pop-Up Pubs. It is hoped that a water supply to the allotments will be installed shortly.

VILLAGE HOUSEKEEPING - Autumn Litterblitz: thanks to everyone who took part. Ten bags of rubbish were retrieved from around the village. Full or damaged dog bins: contact Cherwell District Council (01295 227007) or the Parish Clerk. The new dog bin by Shady Lane means there are now three dog bins in the village. 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>). If you cannot access the internet contact the Parish Clerk with an accurate location.

RURAL POLICING - The date for the next meeting is 2nd October, Heyford Community Centre. If you have experienced any problems locally or wish to raise any concerns, contact Ken Howard (ken.howard@piddingtonpc.com).

To report suspicious behaviour or vehicles in the village, email BicesterRuralNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk.

NETWORK RAIL, PIDDINGTON ROAD CLOSURES - Between 30th September and 5th October, and again from 7th October to 12th October, Lower End, Marsh Gibbon Rd, plus Bicester Rd 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. No work will be undertaken in the village itself.

OX-CAM EXPRESSWAY - The Parish Council wrote to its District Councillors to put pressure on Cherwell District Council 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 been listed as a stakeholder for consultation purpose.

HS2 - Eiffage Kier (working on HS2) has been in discussion with the MoD about using its local land for offices, logistics and materials storage. It has already moved offices into 'H' site, and the potential use of the old Home Office area at 'A' site is under consideration. A Community Liaison Officer for Eiffage Kier is in contact with all local Parish Councils. Updates will be sent out on village emails and through Parish Matters.

VILLAGE HALL NEWS - The new entry system is now active. The new key code entry pad is situated to left of the doors. Regular hall users have been issued with a 4-digit code unique to them. The old system has been decommissioned and no longer works. A new set of oak veneered doors will be fitted in the autumn.

The new heating system should be installed during the week beginning 11th November. The hall will be closed to users that week, and possibly part of the following week. The new system 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 interior of the main hall will be decorated after the new heating is up and running.

PIDDINGTON 200 CLUB - Results for the draw that took place at the Pop-Up Pub on 30 August 2019: 1st

(£30) 199 A Roberts; 2nd (£20) 087 J. Cooper-Smith; 3rd (£10) 119 M. Tomlin; 4th (£5) 010 R. Stockil. 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.

ST NICHOLAS CHURCH HARVEST FESTIVAL WEEKEND - Friday 4th October – Decorating the church for Harvest. To join in or contribute to the decorations come along in the morning.

Saturday 5th October – Coffee morning and produce stall 10 – 12.00.

Sunday 6th October – Harvest Festival Service 10.30am. All produce collected will go to the Bicester Food Bank. All welcome.

OUR SPORTING LIVES – A CHURCH FUNDRAISING EVENT - An Evening of Sporting Fun with Rob Bonnet, Sports Presenter, & Ian Phillips, Formula 1 insider, Friday 18th October, 7.30 pm, at Piddington Village Hall. Tickets £8 (under 14s free) available from Ken Howard 01869 320950 or Margaret Hutchings 01844 238724. Pay bar open from 6.15 pm.

VILLAGE DIARY

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

- 4-6 October - Church Harvest Festival Weekend (C)
- 17 October – Book Swap Coffee Morning (VH)
- 18 October – Our Sporting Lives with Rob Bonnet & Ian Phillips (VH)
- 1 November - Halloween disco at 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 December - Village Christmas drinks (VH)



ST NICHOLAS CHURCH

HARVEST FESTIVAL **WEEKEND**

5th and 6th OCTOBER

FRIDAY 4th OCTOBER

We shall be decorating the church for Harvest on Friday 4th October. If you would like to join in or contribute to the decorations come along in the morning.

SATURDAY 5th OCTOBER

Coffee morning and produce stall 10 – 12.00

SUNDAY 6th OCTOBER

Harvest Festival Service 10.30am. All produce collected will go to the Bicester Food Bank

ALL WELCOME



OUR SPORTING LIVES

A CHURCH FUNDRAISING EVENT
AN EVENING OF SPORTING FUN

ON FRIDAY 18TH OCTOBER 2019

AT 7.30 P.M.

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& Ian Phillips – From Pit Lane to

Piddington

VET'S REPORT

The Other Tom Jones

This month I have a story about Tom Jones – not the one you're thinking of but a black & white feline version with a heart of gold who sadly succumbed to cancer recently at the age of 18 yrs.

Tom was an occasional visitor to Bicester Vets. He had been adopted from a farm where he had lived the first half of his life but readily adapted to life indoors. Initially Tom started coming over for meals before heading back to the farm. Eventually, he decided that the easy, indoors life suited him better, so he moved himself in!

Tom was very easy going and got on well with the dog and the other cats. He was especially friendly with "Baby" and they enjoyed lying together grooming each other. His days, like many cats, were spent eating and sleeping. He would sometimes sit patiently waiting for his owner to get up out of the sofa so he could jump into the recently vacated warm spot.

Tom was a pretty healthy cat. We saw him for occasional dentistry and in later life a respiratory issue which didn't cause him any ongoing concerns. However, in June this year he suddenly was unable to use his left back leg properly and was struggling to walk at all. An x-ray showed that Tom had a tumour growing in the bone below his left knee. This may have been growing for many weeks without affecting him particularly. As the tumour grew it gradually

weakened the bone until suddenly it fractured through the weakness.

At 18 yrs old, the difficult decision was made to end his pain by euthanasing Tom. Thanks to pain killers, he was comfortable and in good spirits when the time came. Tom went to sleep peacefully with his owner by his side.

This type of tumour is called an osteosarcoma. It is rare in cats and more often is seen in a toe where amputation can be curative. We felt that Tom wasn't able to manage with amputation of his whole back leg primarily due to his age. If he were younger & fitter this would certainly have been an option.

We fondly remember Tom as the slightly battered farm cat who "upgraded" his lifestyle and made the most of his new situation. He was a gentle cat with a lovely manner and he is sorely missed by his owner.

Enjoy your pets
Jason Williams
Bicester Vets





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OTMOOR GARDEN SOCIETY

September sees the re-start of the garden society programme after our summer break. In fact the committee have had a busy summer planning the programme for 2020, so the wheels never really stop turning. On the committee we make decisions about what we think you want – which tends to be based on what we want ourselves! Coach trips have been slower to book up this year, but local trips really popular, so we respond to that by going back to one coach trip and increasing locals, but do please tell us whether we are getting it right. All input gratefully received.

I'm pretty confident that you will be happy with the rest of this year's programme. Rosy Hardy in September will have been and gone, and hopefully you did not miss it. As will the final trip, to Malvern, which did end up with a good number of takers after a slow start. We still have two more good speakers to come though before ... that thing that happens at the end of every year, which you either love or hate, and which I am not going to mention! So, on 22nd October at Charlton we have a welcome return from Peter Richardson who will be demonstrating ideas for "Winter Pots and Baskets". Peter is the charismatic owner of Preston Bissett Nurseries, once met never forgotten! This is a family run nursery in Buckinghamshire, well-stocked and well worth a visit. It is also one of the nurseries with which the garden society have negotiated a 10% discount on plants, even better reason to visit. Peter will no doubt be bringing a wide selection of plants from the nursery, and we have timed this for October as it is just when your summer containers will be coming to an end and you will be wondering what to put in them next for a display to carry you through the winter months.

This is a good point for me to mention that the

garden society have made a donation to Fencott and Murcott Village Hall of a new border, at the front to the left as you enter. It is designed for low maintenance, year-round interest and as much scent throughout the year as possible, which might catch your attention even if the plants themselves don't. The majority of the plants have been sourced from Preston Bissett Nurseries, and we thank Peter for a good deal and free delivery! OGS volunteers will have been planting this up at the end of September; give it a year or two and it should make a nice entrance to the village hall.

Finally I must just say that John Reid, a long-term member of our committee, will be standing down at our AGM in January as he is moving on to pastures new. We wish him well in his new home in Kidlington, and hope that we will continue to see him at our meetings, as they just would not be the same without him complaining that the speaker has started too late and gone on too long! It is a long-standing tradition that whoever lives in "Maryland", Black Bull Lane, Fencott is a member of OGS committee. The society was started by Mac almost 24 years ago and he was then succeeded by John. So a very warm welcome to our new Fencott neighbours and we look forward to you joining us soon!!!

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

The September meeting of Otmoor WI was an Open Meeting and Virginia welcomed several guests for the evening including members of Stanton St John WI. Our speaker, Carol MacKay, is the Oxfordshire Community Resilience and Emergencies Officer and she introduced us to the wide-ranging nature of her role. She and her team have to plan for major emergencies such as flooding and fire, have evacuation plans in place for large venues such as the Kassam Stadium and music festivals, and liaise with the emergency services and other local agencies including voluntary organisations such as the RSPCA, Age UK and of course, the WI.

Carol showed pictures of events which had involved her team. A jack-knifed lorry in a snowy village, fire in flats at Osney Mead and the safe disposal of ordnance were amongst examples shown. The team meets regularly for planning and undertakes training with other agencies to prepare for events that we all hope will never happen. Although Oxfordshire based, the team can be called upon to assist at major events such as those in London and Manchester in recent years.

Finally, Carol took us through the goodie bag she had provided for each person. These included advice on who to contact in various scenarios and ways we can all make things easier for the emergency services by having details to hand.

A break for delicious refreshments prepared by Kay, Judith, Rosemary and Pauline

followed, and offered an opportunity to ask further questions and discuss the contents of the bags before the business of the evening. This included a report on the success of the pop-up café during August which had again raised money for the Playground Project and arrangements for upcoming events. At the next meeting, on Tuesday 8th October, we will be welcoming Kevin Little talking about his life as a fishmonger in a talk entitled Fishy Tales and Eccentric Customers.

Dates for the Diary

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

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

Tuesday November 12th Richard Anderson – Edward and Mrs Simpson (CCH) 7.45pm

Wednesday November 27th Coffee, Craft and Cake (MVH) 7.45pm

Tuesday December 10th Members Christmas Party (MVH) 7.30pm

There is no Coffee, Craft and Cake meeting during December.

For further details please contact Virginia on 01865331521

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THE COLLECTION AND EDITORIAL TEAM

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Blackthorn John Henderson j_henderson@btinternet.com

Merton Lucy Katz clrlucykatzmertonpc@gmail.com

Piddington Hazel Coleman h.k.e.coleman@gmail.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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