

# PARISH MATTERS



DECEMBER 2019  
JANUARY 2020

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

*VILLAGE VIEWS & LOCAL NEWS*



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*Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year*



# LETTER FROM THE CLERGY TEAM

---

December is upon us once again and with it the usual frenetic round of activity - Christmas events, carol singing, planning, food shopping and present wrapping. This year, one more thing to add into the mix is the General Election on 12th December, something that many might feel puts a certain dampener on the festive spirit. I can't help feeling sorry for all the brave souls who are standing for election (especially brave in the light of the widespread reports of intimidation and bullying of many outgoing MPs) trying to campaign when evenings are long and dark and people probably feel they have other things to do than listen to candidates trying to win their votes.

Nevertheless, most of us realise the particular significance of this election since it will surely determine what happens about Brexit, what action with regard to our rapidly heating planet will be taken, as well as deciding what other issues too long neglected will be prioritised. Yet, many will wonder whether any government will be able to end the paralysis at the heart of national life or conduct debate in less shrill terms. Many of us will be praying for an outcome that brings politics out of disrepute and our country out of the morass of stalemate. And if we don't know what to pray, I do commend a very thoughtful, theologically informed article our Bishop of Oxford has written about this on his blog at <https://blogs.oxford.anglican.org/how-to-pray-for-this-general-election/>

Christmas is often regarded as a time for putting

aside our differences as the Christmas Truce in the trenches in 1914 demonstrated. On this occasion, soldiers on each side were able to recognise the humanity of those against whom they were fighting and were able to allow that truth to trump other considerations for this short period. It reminds us too of the power that Christmas still has to bring out the best in people and to bring unlikely people together in recognition of something more important.

At the heart of Christmas is a story involving an event common to every human society – the wonder and the vulnerability of a newborn baby. Nothing else would have had the power to gather people from such different backgrounds as shepherds and wise men.

Whatever the election outcome, vulnerability is part and parcel of our human condition and in his parable of the Good Samaritan Jesus reminds us that when one human responds to another in human need, race, tribe or politics become unimportant.

May you be blessed by the hope and promise of the Christ child this Christmas.

Rev Lucy

# CHURCH SERVICES DEC.

RAY VALLEY SERVICES December 2019

Draft 2

Church	Time	Leader	Service
<b>Sunday December 1st</b>	<b>Advent 1</b>		<b>Isaiah 2.1-5 Romans 13.11-end Matthew 24.36-44</b>
Ambrosden	10.30	Lisa	Holy Communion
Merton	09.00	Lisa	Holy Communion
Piddington	10.30	Matt	Family Service
Islip	10.30	Lucy	Parish Communion
Noke	17.00	Glenys	Evening Service
Charlton	10.30	Steve	Family Service
<b>Friday December 6th</b>			
Islip	09.15	Lucy	School St Nicholas Service
<b>Sunday December 8th</b>	<b>Advent 2</b>		<b>Isaiah 11.1-10 Romans 15.4-13 Matthew 3.1-12</b>
Ambrosden	16.00	Steve	Christingle
Piddington	09.00	Steve	Holy Communion - Patronal
Islip	10.30	Steve	Parish Communion - Patronal
Woodeaton	09.15	Philip	Family Service - Philip Wilson
Charlton	17.00	Lisa	Christingle
Oddington	10.30	Lisa	Holy Communion
<b>Sunday December 15th</b>	<b>Advent 3</b>		<b>Isaiah 35.1-10 James 5.7-10 Matthew 11.2-11</b>
Ambrosden	18.00	Steve	Carol Service
Merton	16.00	Steve	Christingle
Piddington	18.00		Evening Prayer – Matt?
Islip	10.30	Lucy	Parish Communion
Woodeaton	09.15	Lucy	Holy Communion
Charlton	18.00	Lisa	Carol Service
Oddington	15.00	Lisa	Crib Service
<b>Monday December 16<sup>th</sup></b>			
Charlton	14.00		School Carol Service
<b>Tuesday December 17<sup>th</sup></b>			
Islip	14.00		School Nativity
<b>Wednesday December 18th</b>			
Charlton	18.30		School Carol Service
<b>Thursday December 19th</b>			
Oddington	16.00	Lisa/Lucy	A Quiet Christmas Service
<b>Sunday December 22<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>Advent 4</b>		<b>Isaiah 7.10-16 Romans 1.1-7 Matthew 1.18-end</b>
Ambrosden	10.30	Steve	Holy Communion
Piddington	18.00	Lucy	Carol Service
Islip	18.00	Steve	Carol Service
<b>Monday December 23<sup>rd</sup></b>			
Woodeaton	19.00	Lucy	Carol Service
<b>Tuesday December 24th</b>	<b>Christmas Eve</b>		<b>2 Samuel 7.1-5,8-11,16 Acts 13.6-26 Luke 1.67-79</b>
Ambrosden	16.00	Steve	Crib Service
	23.30	Steve	Midnight Communion
Merton	18.00	Steve	Carol Service
Piddington	22.00	Steve	Christmas Eve Communion
Islip	16.00	Lucy	Nativity Service
	23.30	Lucy	Midnight Communion
Noke	18.00	Lucy	Carol service

# CLERGY CONTACTS

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## CLERGY

Church of England contacts:

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

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

*Methodist services: Please consult the website: [www.bicestermethodist.org.uk](http://www.bicestermethodist.org.uk)*

Roman Catholic: Fr John Batthula [jbatthula@googlemail.com](mailto:jbatthula@googlemail.com) 01869 253277

*Catholic services: Please consult the website: [www.immaculate-conception.org.uk](http://www.immaculate-conception.org.uk)*

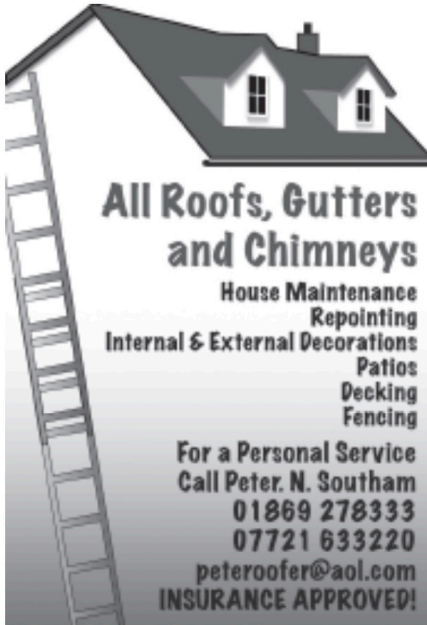
## CHURCHWARDENS

Ambrosden:

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  
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](mailto:ambrosdenchristmastreefestival@rayvalley.com)



# AMBROSDEN NEWS

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Ambrosden Parish Council meetings held in the St Marys Church on 3rd Thursday of each month, at 7.30pm

Parish website and facebook  
[www.ambrosdenpc.org.uk](http://www.ambrosdenpc.org.uk)

Ambrosden Parish Councillors:  
Mark Longworth (Chair) – [ambrosden@mlongworth.co.uk](mailto:ambrosden@mlongworth.co.uk)  
Maureen Cossens (Vice Chair) – 01869 252722  
Chris West  
Philip Blazdell  
Wendy Cheeseman  
Dawn Seaward  
One Vacancy

Parish Clerk - Lynne Bustin  
11 Otmoor View, Merton, Oxon  
[Ambrosden.pariahclerk@gmail.com](mailto:Ambrosden.pariahclerk@gmail.com)

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

County Councillor  
Dan Sames (Conservative)  
[dan.sames@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:dan.sames@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

Facebook Community message boards  
Ambrosden Community  
Ambrosden and Caversfield Forces Wives

St. Mary's Church  
[www.ambrosdenchurch.org.uk/](http://www.ambrosdenchurch.org.uk/)

Five Acres School  
[www.fiveacres.org.uk/](http://www.fiveacres.org.uk/)

Ambrosden Village Pre School  
8.20-11.20 Monday - Friday term time only  
Jackie Floyd - 07759755179  
[ambrosdenvillagepreschool@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:ambrosdenvillagepreschool@hotmail.co.uk)

Tiddlywinks Playgroup  
8.30-11.30, 11:50-14:50.  
Debra Cherry 01869256555  
[tiddlywinks\\_playgroup@msn.com](mailto:tiddlywinks_playgroup@msn.com)

Ambrosden Doctors Surgery  
01869 256336

Ambrosden4Children  
[Ambrosden4children@gmail.com](mailto:Ambrosden4children@gmail.com)  
Rosie Hayes 01869 247813

Parish and Village Hall Notice Boards  
Costcutter and Merton Road (outside village hall).

Community Notice Board  
Public board – Ploughley Road bus shelter

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/>

## AMBROSDEN PARISH COUNILLOR VACANCY

There is one vacancy for a Parish Councillor, please contact the Parish Clerk for more details.

We would like to thank Sue Posselwhite for her service on the Parish Council, her lively input into Parish Council meetings and assistance at Parish Council events will be missed.

## VACANCY FOR PARISH CLERK

The Parish Clerk is retiring from the role due to family commitments, if you are interested in taking on this part time, home based role please contact the clerk at Ambrosden. [parishclerk@gmail.com](mailto:parishclerk@gmail.com) for full details of what the job involves.

## TRAFFIC CALMING/ SPEEDING

The Parish Council co-ordinated a number of speed surveys in the village in February 2019, which highlighted speeding issues throughout Ploughley Road, and Blackthorn Roads. Over the last few months the Parish Council have had a series of meetings with the County Council to review road safety. This has now progressed to the design stage and the Parish Council is negotiating funding. With road build outs costing £7000 each and speed humps at £5000 each, major works will significantly exceed Parish Council reserves and budgets so the Parish Council is concentrating on the locations with the

greatest issues. You will notice survey work being undertaken around the village over the next few weeks.

## VILLAGE HALL RE-OPENS

The Village Hall floor which was collapsing has been replaced in part with a new concrete floor and the floor finish has been repaired. The Village Hall has reopened for bookings and events.

## VILLAGE HALL SEEKS NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS

If you are interested in becoming a member of the Village Hall Committee, please contact the Parish Clerk who will be able to forward your details to the remaining members of the Village Hall Committee.

## VILLAGE HALL ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the Village Hall Committee will be held at the Village Hall on Thursday 30th January at 7.30pm.

Residents of the village and anyone interested in becoming involved in helping run this village facility which is owned by the village, and run as a registered charity are encouraged to attend.

For any errors or omissions please contact Mark Longworth - [ambrosden@mlongworth.co.uk](mailto:ambrosden@mlongworth.co.uk)

VILLAGE HALL BOOKINGS  
ANDY & LISA CAMPBELL - ANDYAMP-AIR@TESCO.NET - 01869 321318

# ARNCOTT NEWS

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Due to page space restrictions in this magazine, news items are in short form. For more information / detail about any parish council item please attend a parish council meeting, email your question(s) to the parish council email address or contact the parish council chairperson. For more information / detail about any Village Hall / VHMC / ACA item please contact the VHMC chairperson at [arncott300@gmail.com](mailto:arncott300@gmail.com)

**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) 01869245514, Lee Savidge (Vice Chair) 01869246565, Martin Byrne 01869246532, Ade Doore 07850979455, Linda Hooper 07803592183, Russell Todd 07368492525. Parish clerk is Mrs A. Davies 01865379645 - [clerkatarncott@gmail.com](mailto:clerkatarncott@gmail.com) Parish council website is [www.parish-council.com/arncott](http://www.parish-council.com/arncott) (also contains pages for the ACA) Parish council Facebook address is [www.facebook.com/arncottpc/](http://www.facebook.com/arncottpc/) Parish council email address is [arncottpc@gmail.com](mailto:arncottpc@gmail.com)

**HS2** – The parish council has been advised that site H is being used for an office location for doing early works and this will continue for the foreseeable future. Regarding site A, some environmental surveys have been carried out with a view to developing the scope in preparation for a planning application. Extent and details not yet fixed. The parish council will ask to be kept up to date with developments.

**Woodpiece Road parking – phase 2** – CDC has already authorised this work to be done. The parish council has contacted CDC and asked for an update

as to when the work will be done. CDC cannot give dates at this time. No dates have been given.

Outdoor gym eqp, new / additional play eqp & new changing room / showers – These projects are very involved. Work is ongoing and will be ongoing for some time to come.

**Vehicle activated speed (VAS)** signs and road markings – The parish council has been advised that OCC have given permission for a VAS unit to be fitted onto and hard wired into the street lamp post near to the new road build-out along Murcott Road and virtually opposite the entrance to Village Close. An unmetered electrical connection agreement needs to be arranged with Southern Electric Power Distribution. When this has been done OCC will install an electrical isolator to the lamp post and the VAS unit will be ordered and fitted. The parish council has asked for additional safety markings to be painted onto the village roads.

**Green Lane / Village Green** - replacement posts – The parish council has accepted a contractor's quotation for the necessary work to be done. The old posts have been removed. An order for new oak posts has been placed. The delivery date is to be advised. When weather and ground conditions are favourable, the new posts will be installed and the ground area will be levelled out as best as can be achieved.

**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](mailto:Christopher.Cundy@Cherwell-DC.gov.uk).

**Defibrillator Units** - Arccott 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 and fly tipping - 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 photos and / or record video of the behaviour and report it to 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](http://www.fixmystreet.com).

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

**October 300 Club winners** 13 Mrs J. Harper, 196 Mr P. Mundy, 233 Mrs. S. Barnard, 69 Mr. A. Obourne, 161 M. Coombs. If anyone is interested and would like to start or rejoin the 300 Club, please contact Wendy Wilkins by email at [arncott300@](mailto:arncott300@)

[gmail.com](mailto:).

### **Clubs at the village 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](mailto:arncottvhmc@gmail.com).

Mon 11:00 am - 12:00 noon - Keep Fit for Mature Movers - £4.50- includes tea & biscuits. Last class for 2019 is 9th December. Classes will begin again in 2020 on 6th January.

Mon 8:15pm – 9:15pm – Beacons of light meditation and deep relaxation. Last class for 2019 is 16th December. Classes will begin again in 2020 on 6th January. Contact [beaconsflighthealing@gmail.com](mailto:beaconsflighthealing@gmail.com)

Tues 9:30am – 1:30pm – Tumbletots. Last class for 2019 is 17th December. Classes will begin again in 2020 on 7th January. Contact [juliatumbletots@outlook.com](mailto:juliatumbletots@outlook.com)

2nd Wed 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](mailto:christinedunkin1@gmail.com)

Wed 5.15 pm - 6:45 pm – Cubs - School term only. Last meeting for 2019 is 18th December. Meetings will begin again in new school term in January. Contact [1stambrosdenscouts@gmail.com](mailto:1stambrosdenscouts@gmail.com)

Thu 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm - Dog Training Last class for 2019 is 12th December. Classes will begin again in 2020 on 9th January. Contact [ockcairns@yahoo.com](mailto:ockcairns@yahoo.com)

Sat 11th Jan 2020 – Senior's Christmas lunch Please note that the enclosed booking form needs to be returned by 15th December.

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

Fri 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm – Scouts - School term only Last meeting for 2019 is 13th December. Meetings will begin again in new school term in January. Contact 1stambrosdenscouts @gmail.com. Contact 1stambrosdenscouts @gmail.com

Sat 18th Jan 2020 – New martial arts classes. See advert in this magazine issue for details. Community events at the village hall

Tue 10th Dec – Christmas Carol service Starts at 7:00pm.

Sun 15th Dec – Childrens Christmas party Please note that this is now fully booked.

Sat 11th Jan 2020 – Senior's Christmas lunch Please note that the enclosed booking form needs to be returned by 15th December.

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

## Other community events

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



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www.greencourtdogandcat.co.uk



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**MATT FIDDES**  
MARTIAL ARTS

**Winter**  
is coming

**LAUNCHING IN ARNCOTT VILLAGE HALL**  
**SATURDAY 18 JANUARY 2020**

**MIGHTY MATTS**  
FOR 3 - 6 YEAR OLDS

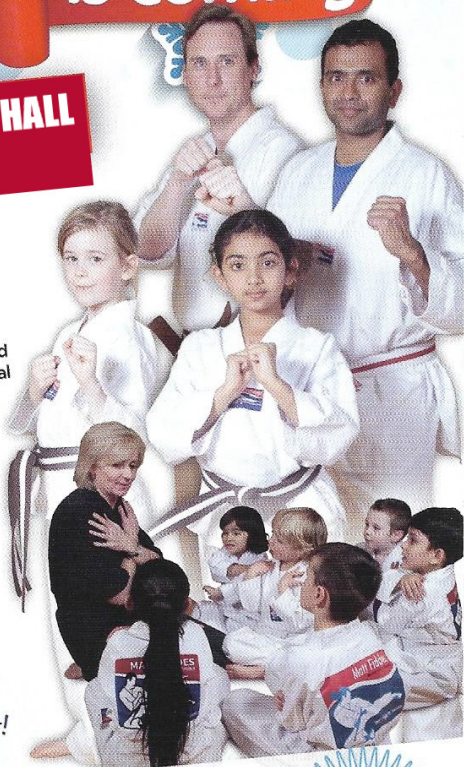
**AWARD WINNING CLASSES**

The Mighty Matts programme is specially designed to introduce young children, aged from 3 to 6, to the fun and skill building lessons that come from Martial Arts. Our goal is to nurture these young people in a safe environment and allow their characters and abilities to thrive.

**FAMILY CLASSES**  
FOR AGES 7 PLUS

There is nothing more rewarding than being able to train with your children and other family members. We have found from experience that family members always train longer together and get the additional benefit of close family bonding.

*Families that kick together, stick together!*



**CONTACT US NOW TO BOOK IN**  
**FOR YOUR FREE TASTER LESSON!**

**0800 0350 415**

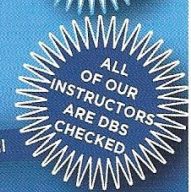
text: 07722 704 504 or email: [mfsgroup@mattfiddes.com](mailto:mfsgroup@mattfiddes.com)

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[mattfiddesofficial](https://instagram.com/mattfiddesofficial)



# BLACKTHORN NEWS

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## Baby News

Congratulations to Oliver and Victoria Cross on the birth of their first child. Alice was born on November 15th weighing 6lb 6oz. Granny and Grandad and the rest of the family are all delighted.

## The Common Cold

It's that time of year when all around you, people are coughing and sniffing. In traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) it is thought that the cold enters through the back of the neck. The theory is that wind batters down the body's defences and the cold slips in through the gap created. So, scarves and hats are very much encouraged through the winter months.

Spotting the very early signs of a cold are essential if you want to be able to do something about it. If you are feeling slightly chilly, or get that tickle on the roof of your mouth, this is the time to act.

Creating a sweat is the best first defence. The traditional hot toddy works a treat for this and best taken last thing before going to. I like to do this alongside a teaspoon of the herb pelargonium sidoides - one of a few herbs with some research supporting its effectiveness. Once taken, slip on a thermal top and have an early night.

My hot toddy:

1 shot of whisky

1 teaspoon of honey

2 shots of Rochester ginger drink

Top up with hot water and sip.

Lee Butler

## Road Safety

For some time, the A41 junction at the end of Lower Road has been a safety concern for many villagers. Exiting Lower Road could be difficult as traffic heading west cuts into the exit area to get around traffic turning right towards Launton. There is a collision risk as villagers pulling up to the line could be struck by a fast-moving car coming from the right. Oxfordshire roads department has been examining ways to improve the junction and has recently added painted hatching. The purpose is to discourage west bound traffic from cutting in and potentially colliding with traffic waiting to exit from Lower Road. This has been a dangerous junction for many years, with multiple collisions and in the last two years a fatality. Hopefully this change will improve safety.

## Blackthorn Village Hall

On Sunday 1st December, we will be switching the Christmas tree lights on. There will be mulled wine and other festive treats available for everyone. We usually have lots of children of all ages and they have been some of the best singers when we come to sing Christmas Carols. All are welcome and we hope to see you there.

There will be a Coffee Morning on Thursday 5th December and will include mince pies and shortbread.

Our final Pub Night will be Friday 20th December and we hope to see you there.

If you would like to receive email updates and reminders of events being held in the village, please send an email to [blackthornvillagehall@gmail.com](mailto:blackthornvillagehall@gmail.com)

Blackthorn Village Hall is available for hire and should you want to know about booking and the facilities please phone Sandie Stevenson on 01869 321542 or email Blackthorn Village Hall at [blackthornvillagehall@gmail.com](mailto:blackthornvillagehall@gmail.com)

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

*Christmas Lights and Carols*  
*at*  
*Blackthorn Village Hall*

*Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> Decembet at 4 pm*

*Mulled wine, mince pies and  
other festive treats  
will be on sale*

*This year we'll  
also be serving  
Hot Dogs!*

*Guess the  
number of sweets*

*Guess the weight*





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

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# The Bulletin Board

## Ray Valley Benefice For December 2019

- |                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| Wed 4 <sup>th</sup>  | - 10am Holy Communion, Ambrosden           |
| Fri 6 <sup>th</sup>  | - 10.30 Tiny Tots, Fencott                 |
| Sat 7 <sup>th</sup>  | - 10-2pm Piddington Pantry, Piddington     |
|                      | - 6.30pm Curry & Carols, Charlton          |
| Mon 9 <sup>th</sup>  | - 10am Coffee & Contemplation, Charlton    |
| Sat 14 <sup>th</sup> | - 2-4pm Christmas Bazaar, Charlton         |
| Thu 19 <sup>th</sup> | - 4pm A Quiet Christmas Service, Oddington |
| Fri 20 <sup>th</sup> | - 9.30 ABC for pre-schoolers, Islip        |

\*Bible Study 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday only in December @  
Ambrosden Church 7.30pm

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# MERTON NEWS

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Merton Parish Council

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

Tony Bradley (Chair): [clltonybrad@gmail.com](mailto:clltonybrad@gmail.com)  
Jo Copping: [jcoppingmerton@gmail.com](mailto:jcoppingmerton@gmail.com)  
David Richardson: [cllrddavid@penguinmail.co.uk](mailto:cllrddavid@penguinmail.co.uk)  
Lucy Katz: [cllrlycukatzmertonpc@gmail.com](mailto:cllrlycukatzmertonpc@gmail.com)  
Steve Kelly: [stevenkelly.mertonpc@gmail.com](mailto:stevenkelly.mertonpc@gmail.com)  
Simon Ward: [simonwmpc@gmail.com](mailto:simonwmpc@gmail.com)  
Parish Council Clerk - Mrs Charlesworth:  
[clerkmertonpc@gmail.com](mailto:clerkmertonpc@gmail.com)

## **The Merton Traffic Calming Group Update**

First an apology - due to a series of unfortunate events and personal circumstances the Traffic Calming Group has had a much slower start than we all hoped for.

However, things are beginning to move forward now.

There are three key areas we are focussed on as a Group at the moment, that we are hoping to drive forward in the next two or three months.

### Speed Indicator Devices (or SID for short)

This is quite exciting!

The Group has to date secured a total of £6,000 of funding specifically to install a Speed Indicator Device at each end of the village.

We have some challenges around siting and possibly powering the units, although battery or solar powered units are available, but we are optimistic these can be overcome.

The data collection options are particularly

interesting, if we can afford them (or raise additional funds), as they would in effect create a traffic survey, the output of which could drive further potential initiatives in the future, such as a 20mph speed limit.

### The Siting Of The 30mph Restriction Signs

Fred Foxon, who is Chair of the group, has unearthed regulations that we are hoping will strengthen our case to have both signs repositioned to give the village greater protection from cars as they enter the village and then choose to slow down after the sign, as opposed to before it. This is particularly pertinent at the Islip end, where the off-side sign is hidden behind a tree.

### Speed Awareness Signage

We have secured a set of six speed awareness signs (three designs in sets of two). To be honest, their exact whereabouts is unclear at the moment but we should have them in the village in the next week or two.

We are aware that the use and positioning of these signs may require some consensus from villagers. I would suggest that once we have taken ownership of the signs, we publicise the next meeting on Facebook and anyone who has any thoughts about this would be welcome to come along and air their views.

We will post pictures of the signs here once we have them, so everyone can see exactly what we are talking about.

There are several other projects that we are pushing forward at the moment, and we will update everyone on those if and when they begin to come to fruition.

In the meantime, our apologies again for the tardiness of getting the Group up and productive, as well as for the absence of updates - they will be more regular from now on, we promise!!

All The Best

The Merton Traffic Calming Group

### **Having your say at Merton Parish Council**

We have meetings every month, to which any Merton resident is warmly invited. There's always a place on the agenda for "Public Participation" when you can come along and raise any village-related issue that's on your mind.

Typical issues involve the use of the Village Hall, Fields, and Woodland; planning decisions and traffic management – but it's your right to raise anything of concern to you.

- Meetings take place every 3rd Monday in the month (except August).
- Start-time is 7.30pm and we discuss the public issues as early as we can
- The agenda is published in advance on the Noticeboard at the bus-stop and on the Parish Council website

If you need to contact the council you can reach us on 01865 331481 or via [clerkmertonpc@gmail.com](mailto:clerkmertonpc@gmail.com)

### **FREE FILM SHOWS IN MERTON VILLAGE HALL: THURSDAY 19 DECEMBER/16 JANUARY**

The next couple of presentations 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 the following Thursdays: 19 December and 16 January.

On 19 December we'll have 'Mamma Mia! Here We Go Again', a 2018 jukebox musical romantic comedy starring Pierce Brosnan, Cher, Colin Firth, Stellan Skarsgård, Meryl Streep and Julie Walters.

The film on 16 January will be 'Finding Your

Feet', a 2017 romantic comedy starring Imelda Staunton, Timothy Spall, Celia Imrie, Joanna Lumley, and David Hayman.

As usual, on both evenings 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:

- 20th February 'The Childrens' Act' (2017),
- 19th March 'Victoria and Abdul' (2017) and
- 16th April 'Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri' (2017).

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

### **Update on the Village Hall**

We're very happy to let you know that the Village Hall has had a much-needed dose of tender, loving care.

Here's what we've been up to on your behalf:

- The roof and guttering have been cleared out and fixed.
- The interior has been re-painted and looks really fresh.
- We're investing in new curtains / blinds for the windows, and new flooring.
- The broken store-room door is being replaced
- The emergency lighting has been fixed

We're still looking at a longer term solution for making the Hall fit for the next couple of decades – but it's being properly looked after and maintained for the time being.

### **Allotment vacancies**

There are 4 allotments which are still vacant. They vary between 2.2m2 and 2.9m2 and cost from £13.50 to £17.00 per year. 2 plots can be combined into one larger one. There's a water tap. Please contact the Clerk on 01865-331481 if you're interested.

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# PIDDINGTON NEWS

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## PIDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL (PPC)

Next meeting: Tuesday 17 December at 7.30pm.

Planning applications currently under review: NONE

Clerk: Anne Davies, Tel: 01865 379645, Email: [piddington.parish.clerk@gmail.com](mailto:piddington.parish.clerk@gmail.com)

Councillors: Francesca Darby (Chair), Tel: 01844 238294, Email: [francesca.darby@piddingtonpc.com](mailto:francesca.darby@piddingtonpc.com); Mike Nixon (Vice Chair), Andrew Coleman; Pam Feltbower; Lynda Galloway; Ken Howard; Mario Terzino.

## NEW PARISH COUNCILLORS NEEDED FOR 2020:

Four members of the current council will be standing down in May 2020 and we are now looking for replacements. Please contact the Parish Clerk or Chair, Francesca Darby, if you wish to put your name forward or have any questions.

## VILLAGE INFORMATION

Piddington News & Events: For regular updates of what is going on, and important issues affecting our locality, go to the home page of the village website and register: <http://www.piddingtonvillageoxfordshire.org.uk>. The website Information Centre contains a range of useful information, including phone numbers and email addresses: [www.piddingtonvillageoxfordshire.org.uk/information-centre.html](http://www.piddingtonvillageoxfordshire.org.uk/information-centre.html)

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

The Parish Council has received notification that the Inspector has upheld the Appeal and has given consent for the above planning application on Widnell Lane for six pitches. Whilst accepting local concerns he felt many of these could be addressed and that ultimately the need for pitches in the District was paramount. PPC

is now liaising with the owners of the site. The request for costs against the District and Parish Councils was turned down by the Inspector.

## COMMUNITY-LED PLAN FOR PIDDINGTON

The CLP, including a 2019 review, has been completed and will be distributed around the village to every household. Since the CLP process started in 2015 some £150k of funding has been successfully applied for by village organisations with the help of the information of the plan and the questionnaire results. Although the CLP steering group has disbanded, the good work continues. Thanks to everyone who has been involved.

## FLOODING IN THE VILLAGE

The recent very wet weather has led to flooding in and around the village. PPC is looking for any photos or video evidence. Please email Francesca Darby (above)

## BUS SERVICE TO LORD WILLIAM'S SCHOOL

PPC understands that some children in the village have been unsuccessful in obtaining places on the Bucks County Council bus which runs from Piddington to the school. This is a paid-for service. PPC is working with Oxfordshire County Council on trying to find a solution. If you wish your children to make use of a paid-for service, contact Mario Terzino so that numbers can be quantified. The service costs £1000 per year. Mario's email is [mario.terzino@piddingtonpc.com](mailto:mario.terzino@piddingtonpc.com).

## ALLOTMENTS

Allotments are still available. For more information and to apply, please contact John Galloway: [jmg.galloway@gmail.com](mailto: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 and hedges will be trimmed back from the roadside.\

### VILLAGE HOUSEKEEPING

Please ensure to cut back any roadside vegetation on your property that is overhanging the road. The problems with drain subsidence on Thame Rd and Ludgershall Rd and faulty streetlights have been reported to Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) and are being chased by PPC. PPC has also agreed to add a step at the dog bin on Vicarage Lane. The step to the noticeboard on Thame Rd has been repaired. The bus shelter will also be cleaned, and an internal bench added.

Full or damaged dog bins: contact Cherwell District Council (CDC: 01295 227007) or the Parish Clerk. PPC has repaired the dog bin on Shady Lane.

Fly-tipping: use CDC'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 next meeting is on 22 January, at Ardley. If you have experienced any problems locally or wish to raise any concerns, contact Ken Howard ([ken.howard@piddingtonpc.com](mailto:ken.howard@piddingtonpc.com)).

To report suspicious behaviour or vehicles in the village, email [BicesterRuralNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk](mailto:BicesterRuralNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk).

### NETWORK RAIL

Work will continue along the embankment until such time as surrounding land begins to flood.

### VILLAGE HALL NEWS

The new heating system has been installed and seems to be working well. The old overhead radiant heaters will not be taken down until the new system has proved its ability to cope with extremely cold temperatures. The front doors to the hall have also recently been replaced. Work started on the new play area in mid-November and will be completed before Christmas.

Friday 13 December could prove lucky for those who

come to the Christmas drinks at the hall, as they will not have to pay for drinks for the first part of the evening. The event starts at 7.00.

The hall will be closed for redecoration from after Pilates on Friday 3 January up to and including Sunday 12 January. Unfortunately, all bookings have had to be cancelled during this period.

### PIDDINGTON 200 CLUB

Results for the draw that took place at the Pop-Up Pub on 1 November 2019: 1st £30 Morwen Ashton 108; 2nd £20 Judith Stockil 36; 3rd £10 Meg Bell 10; 4th £5 Nick Wallington 39. 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](http://www.piddingtonvillageoxfordshire.org.uk/200-club)) and drop it into the post-box outside the Village Hall.

### THE PANTRY – END OF AN ERA

On Saturday 7 December, 10–2, The Pantry will hold its farewell Christmas Market. Please support it and make it the best one yet!

The Pantry team has decided that the time has come to hang up their aprons. It is fitting that the community market finishes as it began – with a Christmas celebration. Over the last 7 years the group has held 25 markets, which have raised over £12,000, of which £8,875 has so far been donated or committed to village causes.

We would like to thank all our fantastic volunteers and stallholders who have supported the markets. As much as The Pantry was formed to raise funds for the village, each market was also about fun and friendship.

After Christmas, the balance of fund money will be held in trust by the group, ready to be donated to suitable new village projects as they come to its attention.

### CHRISTMAS AT ST NICHOLAS' CHURCH

The church will be decorated for Christmas on Saturday 14 December. If you wish to donate foliage or come along and help you will be most welcome.

Christmas Services are as follows: Sunday 22 December – Carol Service at 6.00pm

Christmas Eve – Holy Communion at 10.00pm



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# VET'S REPORT

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## A Major Lumpectomy

Lewis is a very big, very strong & very “enthusiastic” visitor to Bicester Vets. At 40kg he’s probably a bit overweight, even for a tall male Labrador, but nonetheless he is fit and strong and in good health. He is even a regular blood donor; which is a great service he does for his fellow canines (not that he actually has a choice) – but he seems very happy to give his blood with the same enthusiasm with which he approaches everything in life!

As Labradors age they often develop soft, fatty lumps (lipomas) which usually aren’t a problem for the dog.

However, some of these lumps can grow to a very large size in which case they can become cumbersome for the dog to carry around and sometimes they can inhibit the movement of a leg. In these cases, it is usually sensible to remove the lump.

Lewis has suffered from a number of these lumps, many of which were small and inconsequential whilst others have become very large and problematic. Today Lewis came in for the removal of 2 fatty lumps. The larger of the two was the size of a bread & butter plate in diameter. We had been monitoring its growth over the past 6 months and could feel that it seemed to be growing underneath his shoulder blade (scapula) which gave us cause for concern.

Lewis had a routine blood test in the morning to check that his blood count and organ functions were ok before anaesthetising him ready for surgery. As the surgery progressed it became apparent that the lipoma was located underneath some of his chest muscles and was tightly attached to his rib cage. It extended back towards his last rib and forward underneath the scapula as predicted. Luckily the lump was well defined and separated from most tissues

easily. There were some firm attachments to the ribs but once these were resected the huge fatty lump was removed. The lump must have weighed over a kilo and covered both my hands when holding it.

Once a mass like this is removed from between tissues it leaves a cavity which we call “dead space”.

We want the tissues to heal themselves back together so that the space disappears but this isn’t always this straightforward. Dead space, especially near a moving leg, has a tendency to get fluid build-up called a seroma which will slow the healing process. To reduce this risk, I placed a

number of flat latex “drains” which are intended to create a track for fluid to escape from the cavity to the outside thus allowing the healing to continue.

Lewis was full of beans when he was collected this evening. He was wearing a medical pet shirt which is like a tight pet T-shirt. This will create some gentle pressure on the area as well as preventing Lewis from licking or chewing the wound & drains. All going well he’ll be back next week for the drains to be pulled out (just in a consultation). Then we’ll check him again a week later and hopefully that will be

the end of this episode.

This is not the first time Lewis has had a large lipoma removed and unfortunately, due to his predisposition, it may not be the last. I always look forward to seeing Lewis and his owner at the surgery; they both have a great approach to life and are always in good spirits. Here’s hoping his wounds heal uneventfully and that his lipomas stay at bay for a long time!

Enjoy your Pets  
Jason Williams  
Bicester Vets





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The list is endless! Please call for some friendly advice!

**\*\*\*IMPORTANT \*\*\*** Time is Running out for Windows 7 No longer supported by Microsoft from January 2020 – Windows 10 upgrade is an absolutely essential task for the safety of your PC! It will become more vulnerable to security risks and viruses because you will no longer receive software updates. Call us to secure your Windows 10 upgrade - we can personalise the install making it look and feel the same as your Windows 7 desktop - and all in the comfort of your home!

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# OTMOOR GARDEN SOCIETY

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At our October meeting we had another colourful show of plants for autumn and winter interest from Peter Richardson. He gave an entertaining and high-speed talk with plants whizzing left and right for identification, which was somewhat difficult when you hadn't had time to focus on them! He shared responsibility for pronunciation of long Latin names with the audience, which caused a few laughs, and he certainly would win our prizes, if we had them, for cramming the highest number of plants into one hanging basket, and getting the most amount of compost on the hall floor! Whatever you thought of him he's a charismatic and entertaining gentleman who has a super nursery at Preston Bissett which is well worth a visit.

One more speaker this year, plus our OGS competition, plus mince pies, but all will have been and gone by the time you read this.

Our 2020 programme is now available though, with memberships available to renew from the November meeting onwards. If you missed the meeting you can contact our membership secretary, Brian Eadle, who we have on a long-term contract that still has 25 years to run!

We hope all our members have enjoyed the gardening year with us. We have had a variety of speakers covering a range of topics from savagery and sex in the garden to the history and legacy of the ladies of Waterperry. We've learnt about the plight of our native orchids and discovered what to grow in shade. Then been treated to some super plants in our autumn season. We've run our first willow workshop and visited a variety of gardens including Ablington, Thenford and Wisley. We've socialised at our garden

party and shopped at the Malvern autumn show. Plus of course we had another highly successful plant sale in May which helps to fund it all.

So that's it for this year, but an important date for your diaries in the New Year, Tuesday 28th January at the earlier time of 7:30pm at Murcott, our AGM with supper, wine and Quiz. We hope to see lots of you there, it's a fun evening.

In the meantime enjoy the festive season, and if you are planning some gardening I hear Bog Plants are trending!

Happy Gardening,  
Judith Rawlinson

For more details, or to join, contact Brian Eadle on 01865 331472  
[www.otmoorgardensociety.org.uk](http://www.otmoorgardensociety.org.uk) or find us on Facebook

# OXFORD CAMBRIDGE EXPRESSWAY

NO EXPRESSWAY GROUP

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*The No Expressway Group (NEG) has launched the brand new 'STOP the Ox-Cam Expressway' NEG Petition on the NEG website [noexpressway.org/petition-signup](http://noexpressway.org/petition-signup).*

**What? Another petition?** Some previous petitions have been locally focused or have been closed early on Parliament's petition website due to the election and will not be reopened or debated.

*This new petition aims to bring together in one place all opponents of the expressway and of the associated over inflated housing targets and destruction of our environment across the whole Arc. As it is NEG's petition it's not subject to the vagaries and restrictions of those on the Parliamentary site and we'll be able to keep you up to date with its progress. Whatever other petitions you may have signed, **please sign this new one now** and ask all your friends and family to as well! We need to get so many signatures the Government daren't ignore it. Thank you!*

**The NEG Election Challenge!** *NEG is challenging every parliamentary candidate along the Arc to support our campaign, demanding that the new government scraps the Ox-Cam Expressway and inappropriate housing targets (3-6 times ONS national average growth rates by 2050), and instead invests in public transport systems such as a fully electrified East-West Rail. Build the railway. Stop the expressway!*  
To see the challenge letter and which

candidates are campaign Supporters and which are not, visit [noexpressway.org/our-supporters](http://noexpressway.org/our-supporters). Thank you to all who came to our launch event at Brill Windmill!



**In the news** (full details on [noexpressway.org](http://noexpressway.org)):\

**Highways England** – have delayed consultation on route options further due to the general election.

**Cherwell District Council** – Has missed an opportunity for substantive debate on the Ox-Cam Expressway, by voting to approve Cllr Wood's motion to review the impact on local plans of route options once known, and until then "maintain an open mind" about the expressway. Wherever it goes, the expressway will cause tremendous environmental damage. *Is CDC happy to see such damage if it's not in CDC?*

***Oxon County Council votes to oppose the Ox-Cam Expressway*** – Having passed a motion to make Oxon carbon neutral by 2030, OCC

voted to oppose the expressway, with 35 in favour, 11 against with 8 abstentions. Cllr Hudspeth, Leader of OCC, also wants to “wait until we see exactly what the details are.” Cllr Constance said claims that the road would encourage creation of dormitory towns for London commuters were unfounded. **BUT**, the Expressway and housing aspirations of one million new homes along the arc (confirmed in July by MP Robert Jenrick), will cause destruction wherever they are. And the NIC commissioned 5th Studio report shows housing targets include 240,000 homes for London overspill.

***Bidwells (property consultants) launch alarming ‘Radical Regeneration Manifesto’*** with Perkins & Will (global architects) and Blackstock (property PR consultancy). They want to “think big about UK regeneration” across the country, starting with the Ox-Cam Arc. They are lobbying for special planning and compulsory purchase powers to speed up planning. ***They want to “get the politicians out of the planning process.”*** Yes, our democratically elected officials, who don’t always get things right, but are answerable to us! How does this sit with the democratic process and community involvement?

***Actions***

- Sign our STOP the Ox-Cam Expressway petition [noexpressway.org/petition-signup](http://noexpressway.org/petition-signup)
- Sign up to receive our email Updates [noexpressway.org/#newsletter](http://noexpressway.org/#newsletter)
- Follow us on: Facebook [facebook.com/noexpresswaygroup/](https://facebook.com/noexpresswaygroup/) and Twitter [@no\\_expressway](https://twitter.com/no_expressway)
- Please donate to our campaign at [donorbox.org/donate-to-no-expressway-group](http://donorbox.org/donate-to-no-expressway-group)

**For all the latest news**, updates and details of upcoming events visit [noexpressway.org](http://noexpressway.org). No Expressway signs for your garden? Campaign ideas? Questions? Contact Olivia Field [noexpresswaygroup@gmail.com](mailto:noexpresswaygroup@gmail.com)



# OTMOOR WOMANS INSTITUTE

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“Edward and Mrs Simpson” was the title of the talk given to members of Otmoor WI at their November meeting. Starting from the early life of Mrs Simpson, Richard Anderson, our speaker, helped to bring the story to life, presenting surprising and often shocking details which helped explain just how the events were considered a constitutional crisis. He talked about the many myths that have grown up around their story and how there could have been a very different outcome for the country. His lively and informative presentation left much food for thought.

A break for delicious refreshments prepared by Lynn, Sue and Helena enabled discussion to continue and members had the opportunity to make their choices for the Christmas meal which will be enjoyed at our next meeting. The competition for the most outlandish pair of shoes or boots drew some interesting entries and members voted on their favourites before the meeting resumed to discuss business.

Virginia thanked members for the contributions brought along for the food bank and reported on the latest Pop-up café held during the half term holiday. Final arrangements were made for upcoming events and members were also given more details of meetings in the New Year.

Finally, the results for the competition were announced with Christeen in first place, Virginia second and Ann Lucas 3rd. The

next meeting will be the Members Christmas meal on Tuesday 10th December at Murcott Village Hall and at the earlier time of 7.30pm.

## Dates for the diary

Tuesday 10th December – Members Christmas meal 7.30pm (MVH)

There is no craft meeting in December.

Tuesday 14th January – Room 101 (CCH)

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

Tuesday 11th February – Denman Ambassador four years on, Virginia Lawrence 7.45pm (CCH)

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

For further details please contact Virginia on 01865331521

# ADVERTISING & CONTACTS

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## COST OF ADVERTISING (PER MONTH)

Ad. Size	Black & White	Width (mm)	Height (mm)
1/4 page	£15.00	66.25	97
1/2 page	£30.00	136.5	97
Full Page	£60.00	136.5	198

Measurements are in mm - no bleed. All adverts should be submitted as a press-quality PDF. Any bitmap images or photographs used within the artwork must have a minimum resolution of 280 dpi. If you don't have artwork ready we'd be happy to design it for you. For a specially discounted price and a personalised quote please contact us. To advertise in this publication please contact ParishMattersOxfordshire@gmail.com.

**SPECIAL OFFER!** Pay for 2 issues, and get 1 free! Pay for 4 issues and get 2 free! Pay for 7 issues, and your advert will run for an entire year!

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

## THE COLLECTION AND EDITORIAL TEAM

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Piddington Hazel Coleman hazel@piddingtonvillageoxfordshire.org.uk.

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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