

# Parish Matters

March 2020



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

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# Table Of Contents

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Table Of Contents.....	2
Clergy Reflection .....	3
Church Services for February .....	4
Clergy Contacts.....	5
Clergy.....	5
Churchwardens .....	5
Organist And Bells .....	5
Ambrosden News .....	6
Arcott News.....	10
Blackthorn News .....	14
Blackthorn Classic Car Show 2020.....	14
Blackthorn Parish Council.....	15
Volunteers Needed .....	16
Merton News.....	17
Piddington News .....	19
Vets Report.....	22
Otmoor Garden Society Feb. 2020 .....	23
Expressway Report .....	25
Otmoor Woman’s Institute .....	27
Notices .....	28
Useful Numbers.....	29
Advertising & Contacts .....	30
Cost of advertising (per monthly issue).....	30
The collection and editorial team.....	30

## **Note From The New Editor**

Reports of my death have been greatly exaggerated (the magazine’s, not mine).

As the new editor, my first thanks go to Lucy for her work in editing this for the last 3yrs – I’m beginning to realise what is involved! But change is afoot. It is now being created in Microsoft Word, which should make it easier to hand over in the future. In addition, there will be a .pdf file available online and in colour, and I hope parish councils and community web sites will link to it, hugely increasing the readership. Finally, check out the **Useful Numbers** page toward the back, so it’s worth keeping the magazine handy.

And a final thanks to the many volunteers who are keeping this worthwhile publication going.

*Martin Richardson*

# Clergy Reflection

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Lent is upon us once again with these days an increasing number of ideas and resources for observing the season. While some people will use it as a period of abstinence – going without chocolate, alcohol, meat or some other ‘luxury’, perhaps even social media - others take up something – some kind of spiritual discipline - exercise for the mind and spirit.

This year how about something a little different? As I write, I am struggling not to feel overwhelmed by the suffering in the world. In this country, it is the flooding and the thought of so many people who have not only lost possessions and livelihoods but also facing the exhausting prospect of being out of their house for months, a lengthy and unpleasant process of cleaning up. Further afield, many parts of East Africa are facing a destructive swarm of locusts capable of wiping out essential food crops. In Syria, the UN are warning of the biggest humanitarian horror story this century as the Syrian government forces close in on rebel held Idlib. Meanwhile none of us yet knows what the spread of the Coronavirus will mean for any of us and each of us will have our own personal examples of lives under trial whether it’s those grieving an untimely death, or coming to terms with a difficult diagnosis.

I suspect we all struggle to cope with the suffering of others and find our own ways of doing so, whether that’s trying to avoid listening or reading the news, or turning to ways of drowning out the thoughts with things that give pleasure. But for many of us, perhaps an increasing number, the suffering, our own or that of others is a source of mental health difficulties, depression, anxiety etc.

There is however another approach which was commonly used in OT times – and which is attracting renewed interest in spiritual fields today and that is the practice of lament.

Briefly, the idea of lament in Scripture involves facing up to and articulating the source of distress, expressing a sense of disorientation that difficult circumstances cause us – especially in verse or song. For people of faith this expression is addressed to God and fits into a framework which moves from the expression of distress to an articulation of hope in God’s providence.

If we are acquainted with the psalms we will probably already be familiar with the idea of lament as a certain number of the psalms are described as such eg Ps 142 but there are many others. If you would like to find out more, there are some useful YouTube videos you will find by searching for ‘psalms of lament’.

Meanwhile I am planning on leading a Monday evening session using a newly produced resource looking at lament as complaint, resistance, justice and innovation and spending time using words of lament in a time of devotion. These will take place at a venue to be decided – in Islip. Please contact Lucy or look for posters in the churches.

Finally, if nothing else, bring able to share with others our sense of distress goes some way to being able to face up to it.

May the season of Lent be a time of growth and new insight for us all.

*Rev Lucy*

# Church Services for February

## RAY VALLEY SERVICES MARCH 2020

Church	Time	Leader	Service
<b>Sunday March 1st</b>	<b>Lent 1</b>		<b>Genesis 2.15-17,3.1-7 Romans 5.12-19 Matthew 4.1-11</b>
Ambrosden	10.30	Lisa	Holy Communion
Merton	09.00	Lisa	Holy Communion
Piddington	10.30	Matt	Family Service – Matt Wood
Islip	10.30	Lucy	Parish Communion – Corpus Christi Choir
Noke	17.00	Lucy	Family Service
Charlton	10.30	Glenys	Family Service
<b>Sunday March 8th</b>	<b>Lent 2</b>		<b>Genesis 12.1-4a Romans 4.1-5,13-17 John 3.1-17</b>
Ambrosden	10.30	Steve	Family Service
Piddington	09.00	Steve	Holy Communion
Islip	10.30	Lucy	Parish Communion
Woodeaton	09.15	Lisa	Family Service
Charlton	18.00	Lucy	Choral Evensong – Sine Nomine
Oddington	10.30	Lisa	Holy Communion
<b>Sunday March 15th</b>	<b>Lent 3</b>		<b>Exodus 17.1-7 Romans 5.1-11 John 4.5-42</b>
Ambrosden	10.30	Lisa	Holy Communion
Merton	09.00	Lisa	Holy Communion
Islip	10.30	Steve	Parish Communion
Noke	09.15	Steve	Holy Communion
Charlton	10.30	Lucy	Family Communion
<b>Sunday March 22nd</b>	<b>Lent 4 Mothering</b>		<b>1 Samuel 1.20-end Colossians 3.12-17 John 19.25b-27</b>
Ambrosden	10.30	Steve	Morning Prayer
Merton	10.30	Cover	Family Service
Piddington	09.00	Steve	Holy Communion
Islip	10.30	Lucy	Family Service
Charlton	09.00	Lisa	Holy communion
Oddington	18.00	Lisa	Evening Prayer
<b>Sunday March 29th</b>	<b>Lent 5</b>		<b>Ezekiel 37.1-14 Romans 8.6-11 John 11.1-45</b>
Woodeaton	10.30	All	United Benefice Service
Islip	18.00	Lucy	Evening Prayer

# 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 [jbaththula@gmail.com](mailto:jbaththula@gmail.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

## Organist And 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

# Ambrosden News

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

## **Parish website and facebook**

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

## **Ambrosden Parish Council**

[www.facebook.com/ambrosden.parishcouncil](http://www.facebook.com/ambrosden.parishcouncil)

## **Ambrosden Allotments** – Facebook...

Ambrosden Parish Council Allotments

## **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, Dawn Seaward,  
Tom Duff, Vickie Rose

## **Parish Clerk** – Gemma Jennings

11 Oak Lane, Ambrosden, Oxon, OX25 2SG  
[Ambrosden.parishclerk@gmail.com](mailto: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](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 -

Alcester Medical Group (Langford Surgery) -  
01869 248585

## **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 & 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/>

### **New Parish Clerk**

The Parish Council are delighted to welcome Gemma Jennings who lives in Ambrosden, as the new Parish Clerk. Gemma brings a wealth of experience in undertaking clerk and senior administrative roles in the education sector, to the position of Parish Clerk. Gemma has been working actively with the Parish Council for over a month and many of you will have met her at the Traffic Calming meeting, and at allotment inspections.

The Parish Council would like to thank Lynne Bustin for her work as clerk for the last few years: Lynne coordinated the Parish Council's appeal representations in relation to the Merton Road planning appeal by Gladman: Representations created by the Parish Council's consultants are now being utilised by the District Council as part of their case for a judicial review to challenge the approval.

### **New Parish Councillors**

The Parish Council co-opted two new Parish Councillors in the January meeting. Tom Duff, is an accountant who lives on Ploughley Road, and is also on the Allotment Users Committee. Tom is keen to assist in enhancing the financial processes of the Parish Council.

Vickie Rose, who is a resident of Springfields is a management accountant and is keen to improve the offerings of the Parish Council and to improve social engagement with the village through multi-channels. The Parish Council are delighted to welcome Tom and Vickie.

### **Traffic Calming/Speeding**

A public drop-in session hosted by the Parish Council, with representatives from the County Council was held on 13th February. This was attended by 18 residents and all 7 Parish Councillors.

Many useful comments were made on the proposals. The County Council will now review and amend these proposals, to address concerns about a potential traffic island on the junction of Merton and Ploughley Road and to develop additional proposals to slow vehicles exiting the village on Merton and Ploughley Roads.

The Parish Council has also had initial meetings with Arcott, Merton and Piddington Parish Council's to share knowledge and working together on highways. The Parish Council has also applied for joint funding to set up a speed watch programme and will be looking for volunteers to be trained later in the spring.

### **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 Bookings**

Andy & Lisa Campbell  
andyamp-air@tesco.net - 01869 321318

### **Priory Manor Residents Meeting**

The management company, HML, are holding a residents meeting in the Merton Village Hall on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March at 6pm.

Agenda items include:-

- Current finances
- Maintenance requirements
- Play area update
- Call for resident directors



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Email: [greencourt@btinternet.com](mailto:greencourt@btinternet.com)

[www.greencourtdogandcat.co.uk](http://www.greencourtdogandcat.co.uk)



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# Arcott News

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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 [arcott300@gmail.com](mailto:arcott300@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/arcott](http://www.parish-council.com/arcott) (also contains pages for the ACA) Parish council Facebook address is [www.facebook.com/arcottpc/](http://www.facebook.com/arcottpc/) Parish council email address is [arcottpc@gmail.com](mailto:arcottpc@gmail.com)

## **Woodpiece Road parking – phase 2**

The parish council has been advised that CDC has cancelled the phase 2 parking plan. CDC noted that in the car park off Buchanan Court there were 4 vehicles parked that are declared SORN, 3 of which are not taxed. CDC commented that its legal department had previously arranged for removal of 4 other abandoned vehicles. Both CDC and the Parish Council are disappointed that parking provision is being lost in this way. The estimated cost for the phase 2 parking addition is circa £55,000 and CDC is of the opinion that it cannot justify this expenditure for the gain that would be made.

## **Vehicle activated speed (VAS) sign**

The unit will be fitted opposite to the entrance of The Village Close on lamp column 23. The Parish Council has now finished making all of the necessary arrangements with SSEN and OCC. An unmetered energy supply account with EON and has been opened. The VAS unit has been ordered from Westcotec and the Parish Council is waiting to be advised of the installation date.

## **HS2**

Cllr Wilson recently attended a meeting where HS2 was on the agenda. It was mentioned that the Eiffage Kier facilities at H site will likely be expanded to include more technical accommodation (maybe / maybe not residential accommodation), class room area(s) and a canteen. It was also mentioned that the old coach park might be considered for the possible use as an overflow for H site and maybe for the storage of aggregate / equipment / materials etc. Subsequent to the meeting, the Parish Council has emailed Eiffage Kier and has asked for an accurate update as to the latest plans regarding vehicle sizes / movements and what activity levels are likely for how many hours of the day and days of the week ?

## **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**

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 – ID no. AR82 is on the building end wall in line with the car park entrance at what was The Tally Ho Hotel – now renamed BTC. 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, contact 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)

## **January 300 Club winners**

135 P. Deeley, 105 L. Mundy, 189 J. Lockett, 008 R. Walton, 175 J. Smith

If anyone is interested and would like to start or re-join the 300 Club, please contact Wendy Wilkins by email at [arncott300@gmail.com](mailto:arncott300@gmail.com).

## **Clubs at the village hall**

Note - club contact details are included only with written consent. If you wish for your club details to be included or your existing entry amended, then please email [arncottvhmc@gmail.com](mailto:arncottvhmc@gmail.com).

**Mon 11:00 am – 12:00 noon - Keep Fit for Mature Movers** – Standing & sitting exercise. Great fun. £4.50 - includes tea & biscuits.

**Mon 8:15pm – 9:15pm – Beacons of light meditation and deep relaxation.** Contact [charlotte.beckstein@gmail.com](mailto:charlotte.beckstein@gmail.com)

**Tues 9:30am – 1:30pm – Tumbletots.**  
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. Contact [1stambrosdenscouts@gmail.com](mailto:1stambrosdenscouts@gmail.com)

**Thu 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm - Dog Training** Contact [ockcairns@yahoo.com](mailto:ockcairns@yahoo.com)

**Fri 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm – Scouts** - School term only Contact [1stambrosdenscouts@gmail.com](mailto:1stambrosdenscouts@gmail.com).

**Sat 9:30am – 11:30am - Martial arts classes.**  
Contact 'phone number 0800 035 0415

### **Community events at the village hall**

**Sat 15th Feb 2020 – Charity event** - A really enjoyable evening was had by all of the 80 attendees at the Valentine's Day dinner held in the Village Hall. Many, many grateful thanks to Gwen, Fred and all of the good folks who helped out cooking and providing everyone with lovely food, wine, table waiting and clearing up.

Live music was provided by the excellent "Inter 60's" tribute band and the raffle raised £205 for charity. A very successful event.

**Indoor boot sale** – Will be held in the Village Hall on Sunday 22nd March from 9:30am to 12:30pm. £3 per table. £2 for a bacon or sausage sandwich and a cuppa. Contact

Christine Dunkin to book a table - 01869 249560 – email to christinedunkin1@gmail.com

### **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.

### **Help required**

Are you a bit of a handyman ? Have you got a bit of time that you could spare each month to help support the upkeep of the village hall ? Help really is needed to put the rubbish bins out for collection each week and for the small odd jobs that crop up from time to time. If you would like to get involved, then please contact Christine Dunkin – email to christinedunkin1@gmail.com



## **Ray Valley Benefice For March 2020**

- Wed 4<sup>th</sup> - 10am Holy Communion, Ambrosden  
- 10am Holy Communion, Charlton  
Fri 6<sup>th</sup> - 10.30 Tiny Tots, Fencott  
Mon 9<sup>th</sup> - 10am Coffee & Contemplation, Charlton  
Sat 14<sup>th</sup> - 2.30pm Stainer's Crucifixion from scratch, Islip \*  
Fri 20<sup>th</sup> - 9.30 ABC for pre-schoolers, Islip  
Mon 23<sup>rd</sup> - 10am Coffee & Contemplation, Charlton  
Sat 28<sup>th</sup> - 10.30am Second Hand Sale, Islip

\*See posters for full details



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

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## Blackthorn Village Hall.



Newly refurbished facilities.  
The ideal venue for:

- Parties, birthdays
- Meetings, conferences, training
- Clubs

*To hire, contact Sandie Stevenson:*

---

01896 321542  
[aastevenson@willowpond.co.uk](mailto:aastevenson@willowpond.co.uk)

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## Coles Books

22 Crown Walk, Pioneer Square, Bicester,  
Oxfordshire, OX26 6HY

Telephone: 01869 320779  
email: [shop@coles-books.co.uk](mailto:shop@coles-books.co.uk)  
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# Blackthorn News

## Blackthorn Classic Car Show 2020

Blackthorn Classic Car Show (BCCS) will take place once again in Blackthorn on **Sunday 6th September 2020**. This will be the 4th event, with the last show held in 2018. Previous events raised funds for village projects and for the past two events, a charitable donation to **The Hummingbird Centre** based in Launton.

Preceding shows included an extensive range of classic and some very old and significant vehicles including a Hispano-Suiza, first registered in 1919 and a motorbike that was landed on the D-Day beaches in 1944. An eclectic mix of vehicles including cars, commercial, military, tractors and motorbikes. The last event featured two special Porsche cars valued in excess of £1m and brought along for the day by our major sponsor, **ALLTRANSPORTSLTD**.

As before, there will be a wide range of excellent food and drinks available for all members of the family. Further details can be found at [www.blackthornclassiccarshow.co.uk](http://www.blackthornclassiccarshow.co.uk) where you can register your cherished old vehicle.

*BCCS Team*

## Blackthorn Village Hall

### 2020 Events Calendar

**Sat 14<sup>th</sup> March Film Night 7.00 pm**



**Sat 11<sup>th</sup> April Brunch and Kid's Easter Crafts 10.00 am**



**Fri 8<sup>th</sup> May VE Day Celebration 2 pm**



**Pub Night - 7.30 pm**



**11 am**

**Fri 28<sup>th</sup> Feb**

**Fri 27<sup>th</sup> Mar**

**Thu 5<sup>th</sup> Mar**

**Thu 2<sup>nd</sup> Apr**

**Fri 24<sup>th</sup> Apr**

**Fri 29<sup>th</sup> May**

**Thu 7<sup>th</sup> May**

**Thu 4<sup>th</sup> Jun**

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 Parish Council

### Parish Council Vacancy

Blackthorn Parish Council still have a vacancy. If you have lived in the Parish for a year or more and want to get involved with the local community then please contact our Clerk Tracey Charlesworth at BLACKTHORN PARISH COUNCIL Tel No: 01865 331 481 Email: clerkblackthorn@gmail.com or Jenny Lamont at jmlblackthornpc@gmail.com Thank you

### Water Levels

The Council has received many comments with regards to the high level of the water in the village brook and ditches and as we have seen the children's –play area floods. Last year the Council arranged for the Brook to be cleared as the Environment Agency could no longer undertake this work, and we will be looking at what other action we can take on the park ditches, however this alone is not enough we need everyone to keep their ditches clear of debris, so that they can provide their vital function of moving water through the village and out to the River Wray.

Please ensure that if you have trees/bushes overhanging the footpaths that the branches do not obscure street lighting and signs. Thank you

*Jenny Lamont*

Chairman Blackthorn Parish Council

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.



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# Volunteers Needed



Pact (Prison Advice and Care Trust) is a national charity that provides support to prisoners, people with convictions, and their families

through a range of services.

We are currently recruiting volunteers for our Family Services within HMP Bullingdon, as well as recruiting for our 1:1 mentoring projects within the Oxfordshire area, supporting those back into society.

The opportunity is highly rewarding for anyone who wishes to support families, including children, who have a loved one in prison.

We are looking to recruit people from the surrounding Oxford area, as our charity is growing rapidly and more service users and families are in need of our support than ever before. Our staff and volunteers meet and greet families as they arrive for a visit with practical and emotional support like refreshments, visitor information and play services for children. You will promote a relaxed atmosphere for children and families to feel confident, having mutual respect and consideration for others. Shifts are available to suit volunteer commitments.

Please contact Emily on 07967 298 663, or [emily.owen@prisonadvice.org.uk](mailto:emily.owen@prisonadvice.org.uk) for more information.

[www.prisonadvice.org.uk/get-involved](http://www.prisonadvice.org.uk/get-involved)



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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):  
cllrtonybrad@gmail.com

Jo Copping:  
jccoppingmerton@gmail.com

David Richardson:  
cllrdavid@penguinmail.co.uk

Lucy Katz:  
cllrlucykatzmertonpc@gmail.com

Steve Kelly:  
stevenkelly.mertonpc@gmail.com

Simon Ward:  
simonwmpc@gmail.com

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

## **Merton Woodland Volunteers**

We restarted on Sunday 5 January by reinvigorating the willow bower just inside the pedestrian gate, there's still a bit of scrub clearance to do, so will carry on with that when we meet again on 19 January. In the meantime, we have booked the Vale Volunteers to work on the next stretch of blackthorn along the eastern boundary, they are due out on Wednesday 15th January - extra volunteers are always welcome!

If you are interested in getting involved, but not sure what's expected of you, come along to one of the dates below and we'll happily tell you

more about the history and management of the wood.

Fortnightly Sunday dates:

19 January, 2 February, 16 February, 1 March -  
Start at 10.00 am  
Create scalloped edge to central ride, remove/  
pollard ash trees  
South west corner, remove/pollard weak oak &  
ash to create more light

## **FREE FILM SHOW IN MERTON VILLAGE HALL: THURSDAY 19 MARCH**

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, 19 March.

'Victoria and Abdul' is a 2017 biographical comedy-drama about the real-life relationship between Queen Victoria of the United Kingdom and her Indian Muslim servant Abdul Karim starring Judi Dench, Ali Fazal, Michael Gambon, Eddie Izzard, Tim Pigott-Smith and Adeel Akhtar.

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 final film for this 'season' – on 16 April – will be 'Bohemian Rhapsody' (2018).

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

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# Piddington News

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## **PIDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL (PPC)**

Next meeting: Tuesday 17 March at 7.30pm.  
Planning applications currently under review:  
19/02989/F

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.

## **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 are interested or have any questions. Being a councillor is a hugely rewarding role, putting you at the heart of our vibrant community.

## **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:

[www.piddingtonvillageoxfordshire.org.uk](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)

## **VILLAGE HOUSEKEEPING**

Whilst this very wet weather continues please be mindful of leaving any garden debris in the brook as this could cause flooding elsewhere in the village. The issue with the drains on Ludgershall Rd is ongoing and Oxfordshire County Council engineers have now been out to

investigate. Please ensure that any overgrown roadside vegetation is cut back in the village. There is very little that can be done about the churning up of verges. However, you can report details of oversized vehicles in the village to Trading Standards via the Parish Council. The Parish Council is still chasing OCC's Highways Department regarding the cutting back of vegetation along Widnell Lane and has reported the breaking up of Marsh Gibbon Rd. Quotes are being sought for the cutting back of the yew trees on the roadside boundary of the Church which have become overgrown.

**LITTERBLITZ 2020** will be held on Saturday 28 March. Any volunteers to meet at the village hall at 10.00am.

It is important to report **issues with roads and overgrown verges** along public highways around the village. The Parish Council can then follow up any reports that have not been followed through. Contact OCC:  
<https://www.fixmystreet.com/report/new>

**Full or damaged dog bins:** contact Cherwell District Council (CDC: 01295 227007) or the Parish Clerk.

**Fly-tipping:** use CDC's website ([www.cherwell.gov.uk/info/7/environment/374/fly-tipping](http://www.cherwell.gov.uk/info/7/environment/374/fly-tipping)). If you cannot access the internet contact the Parish Clerk with an accurate location.

## **CHILDREN'S FACILITIES IN THE VILLAGE**

The play area for younger children will be opened shortly. The Parish Council is keen to look at facilities for older children from age 8+ years and, together with Community First Oxfordshire, intends to hold a number of workshops this spring for parents and children. Before these take place we would like to

establish an appetite within the community to investigate our options. Do you have children in the village? Please contact Mario Terzino mario.terzino@btinternet.com.

### **ALLOTMENTS**

Allotments are still 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 still hoped that a water supply to the allotments will be installed shortly and hedges will be trimmed back from the roadside.

### **RURAL POLICING**

If you have experienced any problems locally or wish to raise any concerns, contact Ken Howard (ken.howard@piddingtonpc.com). The Bicester Police Rural Resilience Group will hold their next meeting in Piddington Village Hall (OX25 1PU) on Wednesday 22 April. The meeting starts at 7pm. Refreshments available from 6.30. This is the place to connect with your local Police and discuss matters that are of concern. The Police are happy to help, providing the item raised is a matter that Police would normally deal with. You can just attend as an observer if you prefer.

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

### **VILLAGE HALL NEWS**

The new play area is completed and will shortly be handed over to the village hall. There will be an opening ceremony on 4 April at 10.30 am. The ribbon will be cut by local TV and radio sports presenter Rob Bonnet. Local press, and possibly TV, will be there. Drinks and snacks will be available. The Easter Bunny has given the village hall some eggs to distribute in an egg hunt for children after the opening. Clues will be hidden around the hall, playground, etc., which children must solve to win an egg. Bring your children along to the opening so they will

be among the first to enjoy the play area and have the chance to win their first egg of the year.

There will be a **Tabletop Sale** at the hall on Saturday 21 March, 10am to 3.00pm. Tables cost £5. To book ring Kim on 07969 197634, or email on kim.elliott9@icloud.com. Refreshments available.

### **PIDDINGTON 200 CLUB**

Results for the draw that took place at the January Pop Up Pub: 1st 49 Kim Elliott £30; 2nd 137 Lynda Galloway £20; 3rd 20 Keith Innes £10; 3rd 87 Jackie Cooper-Smith £5. 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.

### **WONDERFUL VILLAGES PHOTO COMPETITION**

Allied Westminster's 'Wonderful Villages' photo competition ends on 15 March. We've had a real variety of activities in Piddington's village hall over the last few years - Apple Day, the Pantry, barn dances, quiz and pub nights and the village Christmas get-togethers, not to mention the various village groups, such as bowls club, craft club and exercise groups. If you have taken a great photo at a village event, why not enter it? The theme is: 'Village Life - a photo which characterises the value of community in your village', and the judges will be looking for photos that show a real community spirit. You could win £500 for yourself and £1000 for the village hall, so it's win-win. Literally. The link to the competition rules is a bit hard to spot on their website. You can find them here: <https://villagehallsurvey.com/rules-photo-competition-v1.pdf>

## BRILL 'ART ON THE HILL'

Piddington artists Karen Joy and Francesca Darby will be exhibiting at this year's show, which will be held on 28-29 March. Both artists are motivated by the countryside and will be showing paintings inspired by our local landscape.

## VILLAGE CALENDAR

All these events are organised by villagers who voluntarily give their time, skills and resources to help make Piddington a thriving, friendly community. Many of them raise much needed funds for various village causes, and they'll all be good fun and great opportunities to get together with your friends and neighbours. Please come along and support as many of them as you can.

**VH – Village Hall; C – Church**

28 March – **Litterblitz 2020**, volunteers meet at the village hall at 10.00 am (VH)

19 March – **Book Swap Coffee Morning**  
10.15–12 (VH)

21 March – **Tabletop Sale**, 10–3. Tables £5. To book contact kim.elliott9@icloud.com (VH)

27 March – **Pop-Up Pub**, from 7 (VH)

4 April – **Opening of new children's play area and Easter Egg Hunt**, from 10.30 am (VH)

1 May – **Pop-Up Pub**, from 7 (VH)

29 May – **Pop-Up Pub**, from 7 (VH)

10 April – **Good Friday walk up Muswell Hill**, begins at the church at 10am and ends with coffee and hot cross buns (C)

30 April – **Book Swap Coffee Morning**  
10.15–12 (VH)

28 May – **Book Swap Coffee Morning**  
10.15–12 (VH)

27 June – **Quiz night** with Rob Bonnet

4 July – **Piddington Bake Off**



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# Vets Report

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## The Pain of Pancreatitis

You probably know that any “...itis” is an inflammation. Hence pancreatitis is inflammation in the pancreas. Inflammation is a natural process where blood supply increases, tissues swell, cells can become leaky and pain receptors can send signals to the brain about the area. It’s what the body does to help combat disease and to start the healing process after injury. Sometimes, however, it is excessive and becomes a disease in itself.

Pancreatitis, in theory, can be set off by eating something rich or fatty but in practice seems to be a pretty random occurrence, or sometimes it will be triggered after another gastrointestinal upset such as a tummy bug.

The pancreas produces digestive enzymes which are normally secreted into the small intestine to aid digestion. The enzymes are very powerful and can cause major damage to the pancreas itself if they end up leaking into tissues where they don’t belong.

The signs of pancreatitis are variable but include abdominal pain, general malaise, vomiting and nausea with poor appetite. It is quite common to be presented at the Vets with a middle-aged cat who “doesn’t seem right”, is picky with food and vomiting every few days. This is a pretty non-specific set of symptoms and could relate to heart or lung disease, liver or intestinal disease, cancer somewhere in the body or even a urinary infection.

This is where it becomes important to drill down into the diagnostic dilemma to try to localise the area of concern and hopefully the disease itself. Blood & urine tests would be

the obvious starting point which may rule out some problems and point towards others. Ultrasound scans, x-rays and more specific tests may be required before a good degree of certainty can be reached.

Treatment for pancreatitis is often primarily supportive – meaning that IV fluids are given to help the circulation function more normal and replace electrolytes lost through vomiting, pain-killers to improve wellbeing and demeanour and anti-nausea medication to encourage a return to eating (the body needs nutrition to heal). Sometimes antibiotics or steroid anti-inflammatories can assist also.

Despite all this some animals refuse to eat so a feeding tube can be placed under a brief anaesthetic through the skin of the neck directly into the oesophagus so feeding can be done via syringe. Along with all this we must remember that these are living animals with emotions and feelings. Some pets will only eat once the owner comes in to visit them, some cats will only eat overnight and in the dark when they feel less threatened – this is where nursing care and experience can make a huge difference.

Thankfully, most pets recover from pancreatitis though some can take many days. I hope that your pets never succumb to it or any other serious disease and that the newly blossoming daffodils will herald brighter days ahead for you and your pets. Enjoy your pets.

*Jason Williams*

**Bicester Vets**

# Otmoor Garden Society Feb. 2020

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We had a very sociable start to our calendar with our AGM in January. The business was concluded swiftly, and we then enjoyed our traditional chilli supper with wine, followed by a fun gardening quiz.

The evening seemed a big success as far as committee were concerned, and we hope you all enjoyed it as much as we did.

The seven remaining members of the committee were re-elected, positions are: Kay Bott – Chair, Judith Rawlinson – Treasurer, Alison Paine – Secretary, Brian Eadle – Membership Secretary.

This year Sandie Stevenson and Maggi Davison will jointly organise the trips, and Jo Copping will continue the raffle, lead the workshop, and is looking into potential special events for 2021 which will be the 25th Anniversary year of OGS. A nicely shared workload, but always space for others to join us!

At time of writing, the Willow Workshop on March 15th, run by Norah Kennedy, has two free places in the morning and two free in the afternoon, or could be taken as two full day courses. Please contact Jo on [jcoppingmerton@gmail.com](mailto:jcoppingmerton@gmail.com) if you would like a place. If these places are still available at the beginning of March we will also open this up to non-members at a higher cost.

Our next speaker is on March 24th 8pm at Murcott, Philip Aubury's topic will be 'No Plot, No Problem'. This will cover how to grow great fruit, vegetables and salads without a vegetable garden.

Philip was director of Birmingham Botanical Gardens from 1987 until his retirement in 2007. He now spends most of his time giving talks and demonstrations to garden societies and the like.

He has spoken to us once before on water features and was incredibly knowledgeable, so we look forward to his return visit.

At the March meeting we will also be starting to take bookings for our first trip to Westwell Manor, near Burford, on Thursday June 4th meeting there by 2:30pm.

The garden covers 7 acres surrounding an old Cotswold manor house with knot garden, potager, shrub roses, herbaceous borders, topiary, earth works, moonlight garden, auricula ladder, rills and two water gardens.

This garden is hugely popular when it opens annually for the National Garden Scheme, so this is a chance to see and appreciate it without the ever-increasing crowds.

Following an introduction to Westwell and its history, we will have a guided tour which will last for approximately one hour, after which you are free to walk around and re-visit favourite spots at your leisure.

This is a private visit for OGS and we are limited to 35 people, so we will initially be booking only members, but will open up to non-members later, if space allows, so that you can bring your friends.

Finally, our annual plea, if anyone has spare 1 Litre or 2 Litre plant pots please donate them to a member of the committee. We are now potting-on in earnest for our plant sale, so what better way to recycle your plastic!

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



## Otmoor Garden Society Programme 2020

Date	Topic/Event	Speaker	Location
January 28th 7:30pm	AGM with supper and quiz		Murcott
February 25th	The Productive 'Cut your own Flowers' Garden	Chris Day	Charlton
March 15th (Sun)	Willow Workshop with Norah Kennedy (20 places – half day or full day)		
March 24th	No Plot, No Problem	Philip Aubury	Murcott
April 28th	Butterflies of Oxfordshire	Dr Marc Botham	Charlton
<b>May 16<sup>th</sup> (Sat)</b>	<b>PLANT SALE</b>	<b>11:00 – 13:00</b>	<b>Charlton</b>
May 26th	Umbel...ievable Umbels	Marina Christopher	Murcott
June 4th (Thurs) 2:30 pm	Local Garden Visit to Westwell Manor, Burford		
June 14th (Sun) 2:00pm	Garden Party at member's garden Islip		
June 23rd 7:30pm	Evening Wildflower Meadow Walk and Talk	Judy Webb	Pixey Mead & Wolvercote
July 10th (Fri) 2:30pm	Local Garden Visit to Garsington Manor		
July 18th (Sat)	Coach Trip : Behind the Scenes Tour of Rosy Hardy's Nursery, Spring Pond Garden, Bere Mill Garden		
September 18th (Fri)	Local Garden Visit to Worcester College Oxford (guided tour)		
September 22nd	The Golden Rules of Gardening	Adam Pasco	Murcott
October 27th	Raised Beds and No Dig Cultivation	Mick Poultney	Charlton
November 24 <sup>th</sup>	The Scented Garden	Annette Pursey	Murcott

Meetings are held on the fourth Tuesday of most months at 8:00 pm, alternating between Charlton on Otmoor and Murcott Village Halls.

To join contact [ali@hinksey.plus.com](mailto:ali@hinksey.plus.com) or phone Brian Eadle on 01865 331 472

Non Members welcome to attend meetings for a charge of £3

# Expressway Report

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## **NO EXPRESSWAY**

[noexpressway.org](http://noexpressway.org)

### **Taking our petition to No. 10!**

We've joined forces with Antony Melville of RainForest Saver, and originator of the change.org anti-expressway petition, to deliver both ours and his petitions to Downing Street on 26th February. We will walk from Old Palace Yard, opposite the Houses of Parliament, to Downing Street. If you've not already done so, please add your name to our petition at [noexpressway.org/petition-signup](http://noexpressway.org/petition-signup).

### **Next stop Westminster!**

On February 26th NEG will also hold a drop-in event for MPs and Peers to come and find out more about the destruction that the Oxford to Cambridge Expressway and target of one million houses would cause to our environment, wildlife, health and communities. This event is co-sponsored by Layla Moran (Lib Dem, Oxford West & Abingdon), Greg Smith (Conservative, Buckingham) and Daniel Zeichner (Labour, Cambridge). We are delighted to have cross-party and cross-Arc support.

### **Status of the Ox-Cam Expressway**

During the pre-election purdah period, Grant Shapps, Transport Secretary, announced a 'priority review' of the Ox-Cam expressway. There has been no news about any review of the Expressway. Responding to parliamentary questions, George Freeman, (now) ex-Transport Minister said "We will provide an update on whether the project should continue in due course." Iain Stewart MP (MK South) unofficially announced the Expressway is

cancelled at a small meeting in Woburn Sands on 7th February, but at PMQs on 12th February the PM refused confirm this, responding to Daniel Zeichner MP as follows "I must ask the Honourable Gentleman to wait to contain his impatience until the Budget and he will learn more about the National Infrastructure Plan." At time of writing, the budge content and date are not confirmed. Our campaign must keep up the pressure. Nothing is cancelled yet!

### **One million houses**

During the election campaign Grant Shapps stated that the Local Authorities across the Arc had told him that 'they can still build those (one million) houses and that they don't need a road blasting through the countryside to do that'. NEG submitted Freedom of Information requests on this subject to 28 Local Authorities and the Department for Transport (DfT). The DfT and 21 of the 28 Local Authorities have responded to this request indicating that they have no record of any discussion or consultation having taken place regarding the housing target. NEG is disappointed that a Government Minister is quite so 'economical with the truth'. Does this mean housing targets will be driven by Central Government regardless of any consultation with Local Authorities or local communities?

### **NEG activities**

We continue to raise awareness with events in Bedfordshire and Buckinghamshire and more roadside signs put up in February. See all the information and our news feed [noexpressway.org](http://noexpressway.org).

## Actions

**Sign** our STOP the Ox-Cam Expressway petition  
[noexpressway.org/petition-signup](http://noexpressway.org/petition-signup)

**Email** Grant Shapps, ask him to meet with NEG -  
wording & email address [noexpressway.org](mailto:noexpressway.org)

**Sign up** to receive our email Updates  
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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)

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## BEST KEBABS & BURGERS

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# Otmoor Woman's Institute

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The February meeting of Otmoor WI began with the business of the evening which included final arrangements for the upcoming community lunch and the pop-up café. Looking further ahead there will be a litter-pick and members were reminded that in April we will be hosting a Group Meeting with Julie Summers, the author, talking about her latest book, Dressed for War.

Virginia then talked about her role as Denman Ambassador for Oxfordshire. She outlined how the WI movement had funded a National College and how Denman in Oxfordshire came to be chosen. Still owned and funded by the members the College offers a range of courses on cookery, crafts and lifestyle attended by people from all over the country. We are fortunate to have this opportunity right on our doorstep.

As an ambassador, Virginia organises day events and designer days where visiting groups choose their own courses. She shows people around the College and organises a weekend of courses with a range of options from crafts and cookery to guided visits, all tutored by experienced experts. Several other activities come within her role, which is voluntary, including helping with a twice-yearly sale of craft materials donated largely by members. She works with Denman staff and individual WIs ensuring everyone gets the best from their Denman experience.

Delicious refreshments prepared and served by Rosemary, Pauline and Kaye were enjoyed as the Denman brochure was studied for future courses. Members were able to purchase cards

and preserves in aid of Denman College and make their choices from the entries to the competition for a rhyme for a Valentine Card. At the end of the meeting there were joint winners for first place from Mary and Jenny Bates, Anne Baker second and Virginia third. Members were reminded that the next meeting, on Tuesday 10th March at 7.45pm, will be our Annual Meeting where the election for committee and president will take place followed by a talk on Staying Independent and Living at Home.

## **Dates for the Diary**

### **Tuesday 10th March**

Otmoor WI Annual Meeting (CCH) 7.45pm

### **Thursday 19th March**

Coffee, Craft and Cake (MVH) 7.45pm - Crochet

### **Tuesday 14th April**

(CCH) 7.45pm

### **Thursday 16th April**

Coffee, Craft and Cake (MVH) 7.45pm

### **Wednesday 22nd April**

Group Meeting – Julie Summers – 7.30pm

### **Tuesday 12th May**

Resolutions(CCH) 7.45pm

### **Thursday 15th May**

Coffee, Craft and Cake(MVH) 7.45pm

For further details of any of the above please contact Virginia 01865 331 521

# Notices

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## Household Waste Closures

During March and April, your Household Waste Recycling Centre will be closing for two days to carry out a deep clean and essential maintenance.

### Closing dates:

Alkerton (Banbury)

Tues 3rd & Wed 4th March 2020

Ardley (Bicester)

Tues 17th & Wed 18th March 2020

Dix Pit (Stanton Harcourt)

Tues 24th & Wed 25th March 2020

Drayton (Abingdon)

Tues 28th & Wed 29th April 2020

Oakley Wood (Wallingford)

Tues 31st March & Wed 1st April 2020

Redbridge (Oxford)

Tues 10th & Wed 11th March 2020

Stanford (Faringdon)

Tues 21st & Wed 22nd April 2020

Full details can be found at [www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/wasteclosure](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/wasteclosure) including details of your nearest site during closures.

For those residents with van or trailer permits, please note these can be used at any of our centres.

## Coronavirus

Based on the scientific advice of SAGE, the UK Chief Medical Officers are advising anyone who has travelled to the UK from mainland China, Thailand, Japan, Republic of Korea, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Singapore, Malaysia or Macau in the last 14 days and is experiencing cough or fever or shortness of breath, to stay indoors and call NHS 111, even if symptoms are mild.

Coronavirus is a type of virus. As a group, coronaviruses are common across the world. Typical symptoms of coronavirus include fever and a cough that may progress to a severe pneumonia, causing shortness of breath and breathing difficulties.

Generally, coronavirus can cause more severe symptoms in people with weakened immune systems, older people, and those with long-term conditions like diabetes, cancer and chronic lung disease.

Novel coronavirus (COVID-19) is a new strain of coronavirus first identified in Wuhan City, China.

Based on current evidence, COVID-19 presents with flu-like symptoms including a fever, a cough, or difficulty breathing. The current evidence is that most cases appear to be mild.

The virus can remain live on surfaces for up to 72 hours, so the advice is to sneeze into a disposable handkerchief bin it immediately then wash hands often with soap and water or use a sanitiser gel, and certainly before bringing them into contact with open areas of the body like the mouth.

# Useful Numbers

- Police/Ambulance/Fire** for a genuine emergency.....999
- Universal emergency** number .....112  
This operates exactly the same as 999 and it will work on a mobile phone anywhere in the world, alerting local services. Also good in a place of poor signal
- Police non-emergency** .....101
- Medical non-emergency**.....111
- Electricity** (power-cut) .....105 or 0800 3163 105  
Scottish & Southern Electricity Networks .....0800 072 7282  
<https://www.ssen.co.uk/powertrack/>
- Gas** leak or loss of supply .....0800 111 999
- Southern Water** emergency .....0330 303 0368
- Langford Doctor's Surgery**.....01869 248 585
- Ambrosden Doctor's surgery**.....01869 256 336
- Jardine's Pharmacy**.....01869 323008

And here are some more useful numbers –Sudoku

## Impossibly Difficult

			9				3	
2				4			8	
	3	8					7	1
		2			5	3		
								4
	7			6	8	1		
9				5				
	6			9				
7								3

## Easy

	1	8	7					
					6	4	9	
			8					3
1			9					
	7						3	
2	3			4		5	8	
9		6	3			7		
				2				5

# Advertising & Contacts

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## Cost of advertising (per monthly issue)

Ad Size	Cost Per Issue	Width (mm)	Height (mm)
1/8 Page landscape	£ 7.50	45	65
1/4 Page portrait	£ 15.00	65	97
1/2 Page landscape	£ 30.00	128	97
Full Page	£ 60.00	128	170

These sizes are approximate, and adverts can be supplied in either portrait or landscape.

When supplying artwork, please supply in full colour and larger than these measurements and in the best resolution possible.

All adverts should be submitted as a press-quality PDF or JPG and in colour. Any bitmap images must have a minimum resolution of 600 dpi. If you don't have artwork ready, please contact us and we can usually create something free of charge. Even though this will be printed in black and white, the magazine will be available online in colour.

### To advertise in this publication please contact; -

Russell Thompson.....Email;-rthom91543@aol.com.....Tel.:-01869 246093



#### SPECIAL OFFER

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Adverts received before the 13th of the month will be included in the next month's edition.

Adverts received after this date will be included in the following edition.

## The collection and editorial team

Editor:..... Martin Richardson ..... parishmattersoxfordshire@gmail.com

Advertising: .... Russell Thompson..... rthom91543@aol.com.....01869 246093

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Blackthorn: .... John Henderson..... j\_henderson@btinternet.com

Merton: ..... Lucy Katz..... clrlucykatzmertonPC@Gmail.com

Piddington: .... Hazel Coleman..... hazel@piddingtonvillageoxfordshire.org.uk

All items for the next magazine and all adverts should ideally be given to the village collectors by the 15th of the month preceding publication, and to the editor by the 20th.



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