

# TIDDINGTON WITH ALBURY & MILTON COMMON NEWSLETTER

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

APRIL/MAY 2009

## From the Editor

We have a bumper issue this time - too many events to mention here so take a good look at all the posters dotted throughout the newsletter.

I've been sent lots of super snow pictures but only have room for half a page (page 23) to remind us of what we experienced earlier on. Please note that the deadline for articles for the next issue will be 15 May due to holidays. Happy Easter to you all.

Zena Knight

Milton Common NHW  
(West Side) and Sandy Lane



In February our NHW oil group had a delivery. In the following two nights one of our residents lost 500 litres. We do ask for a police patrol the night of the delivery, as this is when we have lost oil previously.

Please ensure oil tanks are locked or have a cage built round the tank.

Police are appealing for witnesses and urging horse owners to be vigilant after a pregnant horse was attacked in Coleshill. (Vale of White Horse area)

Between 6pm on 5 March and 8am on 6 March someone has used a sharp knife to cut near to the horse's stomach and behind her back legs. PC Louise Russell, investigating the incident, said: "This is a nasty, callous act where a horse

has been deliberately injured. Luckily the horse and the foal both survived the attack."

From National Dogwatch - stolen Labrador  
The yellow Labrador bitch puppy, stolen on 31 October 2008 at 14 weeks old, is still missing (Dogwatch 225). She is a lovely rich yellow colour. The owner has the DNA of her parents and carries a DNA kit for identification. The burglary was at her house near Abingdon. The door was kicked in and jewellery was stolen. The thieves used a white Astra van, and an old white Ford van parked by allotments at Eaton Village was used by the look out. A £2000 reward is offered. The owner is desperate for news. Contact 01865 864320.

In the last two months several working dogs have been stolen from farms, and country dwellings - luckily most have been found. Make sure your dogs are micro- chipped or tattooed.

If you are away from your property for long periods - tell myself or Debbie Devine.  
Happy Easter to all

Elaine Horne  
NHW Co-ordinator M/C and Sandy Lane  
01844 279520

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## From the Parish Clerk

**Vacancy on Parish Council** - Janet Willis attended her last Parish Council meeting at the beginning of March. To date no-one has come forward expressing an interest in filling the vacancy. If you are interested, please contact me or any Parish Councillor. Meetings are held on the first Monday evening of each month.

**Flooding and drainage problems around Tiddington** - I have recently spoken to David Baldwin of South Oxfordshire District Council, who informs me that Tiddington is the priority area for work to be carried out to culverts, drains, ditches, waterways etc.

During the next couple of weeks surveying work will be carried out to determine remedial action to be taken.

The programme of work will be undertaken during the period April - June.

We are not sure that work on Sandy Lane, where there are serious surface water problems, is on the schedule. David Baldwin is on leave at the time of writing, but I shall pursue this matter with him on his return.

**Potholes** - the roads around the village are not in a good state and we continue to complain about this and attempt to get something done about it. Sub-contractors are used for this work and repairs do not seem to last. I am

### Tiddington with Albury Parish Council Members

|            |  |        |
|------------|--|--------|
| Chair      | John Nowell-Smith                      | 339650 |
|            | Econ.development, businesses           |        |
| Vice Chair | Elaine Horne                           | 279520 |
|            | Planning, highways and Milton Common   |        |
| Councillor | Ken Field                              | 339671 |
|            | Housing, planning, building & controls |        |
| Councillor | Zena Knight                            | 339340 |
|            | Planning; recreation, arts, grants     |        |
| Councillor | Brian Price                            | 339977 |
|            | Health & safety                        |        |
| Councillor | Vacant                                 |        |
| Clerk      | Ken Poyser                             | 339216 |
|            | Rosewood, Ickford Road, Tiddington     |        |

endeavouring to alert the Highways Department to the need to do something as a matter of some urgency.

**Traffic vibration** - the resurfacing work done on the A418 some months ago has caused problems with traffic vibration to houses near to the road. This is distressing and worrying for house owners. Work has been promised to alleviate the problems, but nothing has yet been done. Apparently, the work has been delayed until the new financial year, which starts on 1 April. I am in contact with Malcolm Bowler, Senior Traffic Technician at Oxfordshire County Council, who has helpfully suggested that we give him a reminder!

Ken Poyser  
Parish Clerk

### Refuse and Recycling Collections

Collections will be on the Tuesday following the three Bank Holidays in April and May

## From your Chairman

I am happy to say that SODC has now agreed that the development at Station Yard can be called "Station Yard".

Quite a few people have complained about the design of the houses, but there is nothing we can do about it.

Litter in the village remains a big problem and the Parish Council will organise a litter blitz. In any event, please do not create litter yourselves and clear up any you find.

John Nowell-Smith  
339650



**THAMES VALLEY  
POLICE**

**0845 8 505 505**

**The single number for non-emergency calls**

## From your District Councillor

You will have had your 2009/2010 Council Tax bills. They will have been higher than you had feared. In so far as SODC is concerned, we have kept the increase to the minimum possible to enable the services you are entitled to expect. Other increases from OCC and the Police Authority are beyond our control.

Many of you may also have received a leaflet dealing with refuse collection. The system is not ideal but the best we can manage.

John Nowell-Smith  
339650

## From your County Councillor

**Need a List of Reliable Tradesmen? - ask Trading Standards** - the County Council's Trading Standards department has compiled a list of tradesmen committed to providing a quality service to customers. All suppliers on the list are independently vetted by Trading Standards staff. The list contains such services as plumbers, decorators, electricians, gardeners, cleaners, builders, handymen etc. For more details on the "Buy With Confidence Scheme" telephone 0845 051 0845 or visit the website [www.buywithconfidence.gov.uk](http://www.buywithconfidence.gov.uk)

**County Council Thinks Again on the Effects of Pedestrianising Queen Street** - following many complaints about the proposal of terminating buses arriving from the eastern side of Oxford at the Plain in Oxford and then having to change on to another bus, I am very pleased to say that the County Council is examining other options. Whilst I support the proposed pedestrianisation of Queen Street, it must not be at the expense of making it even more difficult for us to access the City Centre.

**New Public Transport Guide** - the latest edition of the Public Transport Guide for Oxford City & Oxfordshire is now available. It takes the form of large double-sided coloured maps. They show all of the bus public transport routes in Oxfordshire together with the frequency of service on each route. Also included are details of train companies and places of interest. This guide is particularly useful for people with the new National Bus Pass, but also for general use. Copies can be obtained from Libraries, County Hall, SODC at Crowmarsh, Tourist Information Centres, or by telephoning "Traveline" on 0871 200 22 33 (who can also supply detailed timetable information for the routes you are interested in) or the website: [www.oxfordshire.gov.uk](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk) and click on roads & transport followed by public transport followed by timetables & maps where you will find lists of bus services in Oxfordshire. Alternatively email [ian.connick@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:ian.connick@oxfordshire.gov.uk).

**Temporary Road Closure (B4015)** - the road between Chiselhampton and the Golden Balls roundabout, which for many people is the route to Abingdon or Oxford, is programmed to be closed from 6 April for five days. This is for essential carriageway drainage works.

**Fiddler on the Roof** - the Oxfordshire Youth Music Theatre Group from the County Music Service will be performing the ever popular "Fiddler on the Roof" musical at the Oxford Playhouse from Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> to Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> April inclusive. Tickets are priced from £11.00 each. For details contact the Oxford Playhouse on 01865 305305.

Please feel free to contact me about County Council issues that concern you.

My contact details are as follows:

Address: David Turner, 50 Hardings,  
Chalgrove, Oxford, OX44 7TJ.

Home Telephone: 01865 891169

Email: [david.turner@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:david.turner@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

David Turner (19 March 2009)

### **Freedom of Information Act Publication Scheme**

Residents of the Parish can see the records of the Council held by the Parish Clerk or learn where they may be accessed. Records include minutes, financial information and responses to planning consultations.

Application can be made to the Clerk (Tel: 339216) and documents viewed by appointment.

Any copies required will be charged at 10p per page.

**Monthly Farmers' Markets**  
**Great Haseley Village Hall – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday**  
**Tetsworth Village Hall – 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday**

### **From the Vicar**

This month's letter has been written by James Watson. James is the Team Rector (my boss) and he often takes services in our parishes.

During April all of our churches have annual meetings. These provide an opportunity to express our thanks to everybody who works so hard to keep our churches open and such wonderful spaces for worship. The church electoral roll is also being renewed this year. Please keep an eye on the notice boards for details of each meeting.

I hope you all have a very happy Easter.  
With best wishes

Caroline

The Team Rector writes....

More people attend church services at Christmas than Easter. This may be because

carol services and crib services draw crowds for which there is no equivalent at Easter, but do these different levels of church attendance reflect anything about their relative importance? One thing we can say with certainty is that there would not have been a Church had not the apostles experienced the risen Christ at that first Easter. This event turned frightened and dejected men into people who could not keep themselves from preaching the Gospel to all the nations. So without the experience of Easter and the good news about the resurrection of the Saviour there would have been no point in telling anyone about his birth at Bethlehem.

On the other hand, the message of Christmas is also supremely important, for in God becoming man, Jesus has chosen to identify himself with those whom he is going to redeem and transform through his subsequent death and resurrection. So it is true to say that both are central to our faith even if it is the case that the event of Easter was what sparked it all off.

So Christmas and Easter are not separate events but part of the same process of salvation. As the early church fathers understood the work of Jesus, "that which he did not assume, he did not redeem". In other words, he took the form of a human in order to redeem humanity. All that Jesus did by means of his birth and resurrection constitute a single divine act of salvation.

The message of salvation is so important and relevant to us today because our lives, no matter how imperfect they may have become, can be radically transformed by God. God takes us as we are and redeems us, so whether we are feeling guilty, humiliated, degraded, betrayed, misunderstood, abused, broken, deserted, mocked, cheated, rejected, ridiculed or alone, all these and more the Son of God suffered for us and put them all to death by

dying for us on the cross. He rose again, freed from them all so that we might live in freedom from them too.

Though there tend to be more people in church at Christmas than Easter, the life-changing event of Easter gives us good reason to join with others to share the celebration of the great news of this day.

With my best wishes for a truly joyful Eastertide.

Rev. James Watson  
Team Rector  
Wheatley Team Ministry

| <b>Church Services</b>              | <b>St Helen's Church, Albury</b>               |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| <b>12 April Easter Day</b>          | 9.30am Holy Communion with Caroline King       |
| <b>19 April</b>                     | 9.30am Morning Prayer with John Nowell-Smith   |
| <b>26 April</b>                     | 9.30am Holy Communion with Caroline King       |
| <b>3 May</b>                        | 9.30am Morning Prayer with David Bendor-Samuel |
| <b>10 May</b>                       | 9.30am Holy Communion with Toddy Hoare         |
| <b>17 May</b>                       | 9.30am Morning Prayer                          |
| <b>24 May</b>                       | 9.30am Holy Communion                          |
| <b>31 May 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday</b> | 11.00am Cluster Service at Waterstock          |

|                             | <b>Palm Sunday, Holy Week and Easter Services</b>  |
|-----------------------------|--|
| <b>5 April Palm Sunday</b>  | 9.45am Cluster Service with Caroline King, Procession of Palms from Waterstock to Waterperry. Discantus will be joining us<br>6.00pm Team Confirmation at St Mary's, Wheatley  |
| <b>6 - 8 April</b>          | 8.00pm Compline at St Bartholomew's  |
| <b>9 April Maundy Thurs</b> | 7.30pm Joint service of Holy Communion at St Mary's, Wheatley  |
| <b>10 April Good Friday</b> | 9.30am Procession of Witness in Wheatley<br>12.00noon Service in Waterperry  |
| <b>11 April Holy Sat</b>    | 2.00pm Making the Easter Garden at St Helen's, Albury  |
| <b>12 April Easter Day</b>  | 8.00am Holy Communion with James Watson at Waterperry<br>9.30am Family Communion with Caroline King at Albury<br>9.30am Holy Communion with John Morrison at Waterstock<br>11.00am Holy Communion with Brenda Knight at Holton |

## **Waterstock & Tiddington W.I.**

John Fieldsend's talk on Kinder Transport was a very moving account of his experiences as one of those Polish children brought to England at the beginning of World War 2.

At our annual meeting in March, we welcomed Ruth Chapendama on to the committee and

Joan Wood continued as president for the coming year.

On 9 April, Rachel Myers will give us ideas for developing the "wow" factor in our gardens, just at the right time now that spring is in the air!

At our meeting on 14 May, we will discuss a resolution, which will be presented at the National AGM in June, on the need for

increased funding for research into the health of bees. There will also be some entertainment provided by the committee.

The Spring Group Meeting for five local WIs will be held on Thursday, 23 April at 7.30pm in Thame Town Hall. The speaker is to be Paul Mayhew-Archer, co-writer of the "Vicar of Dibley". It promises to be an interesting and entertaining evening for members. The institute competition is for a limerick beginning "There was a young lady, a vicar..." This will be the competition for our monthly meeting on 9 April.

Competitions for the new year from May will be a chosen item beginning with a letter of the alphabet and relating to the kitchen. May will be the letter "A".

Oxford Operatic Society invite us to take up their coach and ticket package for £18.00 to see "42<sup>nd</sup> Street" on Wednesday, 20 May at the New Theatre, Oxford. The coach will pick up at The Fox, Tiddington. If any non-members would like to join us, please let me or any member know by 9 April.

We look forward to seeing you on the second Thursday of the month for our regular meetings at 7.30pm in Tiddington Village Hall and new members are made very welcome.

Zena Knight  
Tel: 339340

### Yoga Sessions

#### Tiddington Village Hall

Thursday mornings, 10.30am

All classes are reasonably priced and suitable for everyone. They are based on drop-in sessions.

Yvonne Cartwright  
01844 279205

## Tiddington Village Hall

Every time I write my piece for the newsletter, I always take a look at what I wrote the year before and this time last year I didn't write anything! However, this time things are different with lots of things to tell you about. Firstly, the Kitchen is finished (at last, I hear you cry!) so we thought it would be nice to officially open it along with the refurbished toilets and new disabled facility. On **Sunday, 19 April** we are holding a **GRAND OPENING** afternoon from 3pm to 5pm in the hall. There will be tea and cakes and then at 4pm the official ribbon cutting ceremony with a glass of bubbly. Please come and join us at the hall - it would be great to see you and show you round.

A week later we are welcoming **The Daniel Smith Blues Band** to the hall for an evening of great live music. If you haven't already booked your tickets please call me at my office on 278534 or email me ([Stratton@gmx.com](mailto:Stratton@gmx.com)). Tickets are selling fast and if it is anything like the last live music night we had in January, then I know you won't be disappointed.

Looking ahead to July (and without wanting to wish the year away) please make a note in your diaries for the Tiddington Village Hall **Summer Ball 2009**. On **Saturday, 18 July** the hall will be hosting a Grand Ball in aid of hall funds. We plan to have a buffet, live music and a comedian! Tickets will go on sale in May and we welcome your support.

### Forthcoming outings

Those of you who came to the last Village Hall Christmas Dinner will remember me putting out a brief questionnaire about ideas for forthcoming trips I am hoping to organise this year. Response was excellent and I have put together some ideas which I would like to see if there is any interest in.

**The Mill Theatre Restaurant at Sonning  
"The Odd Couple", Sunday, 26 July 2009,  
Matinee Performance**

Those who don't already know, this is a lovely theatre restaurant in Sonning near Reading. The idea is that the coach will leave Tiddington at about 11.30am. When we get there we will have Sunday lunch from 12.30pm and the show begins at 2.15pm. The coach will then leave say 30 minutes after the show finishes.

Price: £59.00 incl ticket, Sunday lunch, return coach and VAT @ 15%.

**Jools Holland & His Rhythm & Blues Band -  
Picnic in the grounds of Kew Gardens,  
Saturday, 11 July 2009**

A perfect venue for a summer's evening in the fabulous grounds of Kew Gardens. The coach will leave Tiddington at about 5.30pm. The gates open at 6.30pm and the support act is on at 7.30pm with Jools on at 8.50pm. The idea is that you take your own picnic, rug, drinks, etc. The concert ends with a fireworks display at 10.15pm. The coach will then leave as soon as everyone is on board.

Price: £59.00 incl ticket, return coach travel and VAT @ 15%

**A trip to London to visit The Royal Mews &  
The Buckingham Palace State Rooms followed  
by afternoon Matinee - September 2009**

I've got this idea for a trip to London on a Saturday in September. The coach would leave from Tiddington fairly early to be outside Buckingham Palace for the first entry of the day. Once you've had a tour of the Mews and the Palace there will be time for lunch (maybe bring your own picnic). Then in the afternoon a West End show, possibly Wicked, Billy Elliot, Oliver! or perhaps The Jersey Boys.

Not quite sure of the price yet but around £85.00 all in.

What I need now is confirmation of numbers. Some of you may have already replied by email but I would appreciate receiving any requests again.. If you think you might be interested then please let me know by calling me on

278534 or even better email me [alan@medialane.co.uk](mailto:alan@medialane.co.uk).

Looking forward to hearing from you.

Finally I would like to mention some changes to the committee line-up. Firstly, Mike Robinson has decided to step down. I would personally like to thank him for his wonderful support over these past few years and especially his fantastic help with getting the refurbishments completed on budget! We also welcome two new members to the committee, Graham Bristow and Julie Smith, who I know will both bring new ideas and enthusiasm.

Alan Stratton, Chairman  
01844 339430/278534



Tiddington Cricket Club has had a very busy and fruitful winter season. Our opening hours have been extended and this has proved popular as members enjoy quiz nights, darts, dominoes, crib and indoor aunt sally, as well as sport on the large screen. We are at present open 6 nights a week and look forward to welcoming new members to join us with the cricket and aunt sally season not far away.

The cricket has been continuing strongly through the winter months with 5 coaches working to their level 2 coaching award and shortly 3 to achieve their level 1. To assist them improve their coaching skills they have been running a winter academy for promising youngsters using the sports hall at Ickford School. In addition, we have had matches against Thame under 11's which have been thoroughly enjoyable. Two of our under 11 girls have also been selected for winter coaching with Oxfordshire Girls, one being local lass,

Lucy Gladdy, who looks to have styled herself on Shane Warne! Well done Lucy.

Our next event at the club is our annual **Race Night on 4 April**. Tickets are £2.50 from committee or behind the bar. Horses and jockeys are available to purchase before the night, just pop into the club.

The club has two new captains this season. Nick Pykett will captain the 1<sup>st</sup> XI and Sunday league and Paul Gladdy will captain our 3<sup>rd</sup> XI. Alan Maule will hope to build on the success that our 2<sup>nd</sup> XI had last year. Our first cricket match is the new Cherwell Cup, on Saturday, 18 April which is the 2<sup>nd</sup> XI at home to Bledlow Ridge with the 1<sup>st</sup> XI away to Cropredy and we have been drawn away to Horspath in the Village Knock Out on Sunday, 3 May. We look forward to seeing you at our games.

Our youth programme starts with a registration evening on Wednesday, 1 April at 7:30pm. Our training will start on Tuesday, 21 April for primary age children and girls, Wednesday, 22 April for secondary age children. Priority will be given to members from last season and it may be necessary to have a waiting list as numbers are governed by space and coach ratio.

We have a strong 100 club, it costs £15 per year and there are monthly draws. Winners are:

January : £25 Nick Edmondson, £20 Don Brooks, £15 Dave Nash.

February: £25 Bill & Sue Surman, £20 Nick Pykett, £15 John Richardson.

March: £25 Dick Brownsill, £20 Carol Bonney, £15 Phil Manning.

If you would like to join, see Tracey Smith or Rowland Maule. There is more chance of a return on your money than the banks!!!! The more members the higher the payout.

Membership subscriptions are due on 1 April and the rate for this year is £15 single and

£20 family. Our membership secretary, Tracey Smith, will be pleased to accept renewals and new memberships.

The club is now WiFi connected, please ask at the bar for details.

We look forward to welcoming you during the coming season.

Lesley Pykett  
07762 572558

## News of a "local" success Emma Boswell

When the Royal Navy's newest and most powerful ship sets sail for the next time, on board will be Emma Boswell of Tiddington. Petty Officer Emma "Doc" Boswell will be among the crew of HMS Daring, which left the Glasgow dock where it was built back in January and arrived in Portsmouth in early February.

The 7,000-tonne, 500ft-long destroyer can reach speeds of more than 29 knots and cost around £650m to build. It is the first of six new battleships commissioned from BAE Systems.

Emma, who grew up in Tiddington and went to Wheatley Park School, has been to the Falklands, Mediterranean and the Caribbean with the Navy and will be the senior medical attendant on board.

Emma said "It is a great opportunity for me to be involved with the next generation of warships for the Royal Navy.

The logistical requirements of looking after 191 sailors and keeping them fit and well are immense, but I'm really looking forward to the challenge that this will bring."

*Taken from Oxford Journal 5-11 February*

## **Wheatley & Chalgrove Neighbourhood Policing update**

### **Wheatley issues**

Firstly, let me welcome PCSO Dawn Hunt to our area. Dawn is currently undergoing training at the Welcome break services near Wheatley as part of her duty time will be spent there but in a couple of months she will be working at both the Welcome Break services and out and about in the Wheatley area. I am sure Dawn will make a welcome addition to the team.

Recently, incidents of distraction burglary and car theft have increased in the Wheatley area.

As far as theft of motor vehicles is concerned we are advising all vehicle owners to ensure that their vehicle is locked and secure at all times when unattended. We advise that you leave nothing of any value in the vehicle but if it must remain in the vehicle then ensure it is out of sight. Older style hatchbacks seem to be being targeted so additional security such as steering locks etc would be a good idea.

As far as distraction burglaries go we are advising all residents to be extra vigilant when answering the door to an unknown or unexpected caller. When dealing with someone you don't know always ask for identification (even if they are in uniform, such as police). All reputable organisations issue ID cards and legitimate callers (including police) will not mind showing identification. If in doubt, do not let caller in, take their id indoors, ask them to wait, close the door and ring the organisation using a telephone number from directory enquiries or similar (not the number on the id!). If you are still not convinced then call the police on 0845 8 505 505.

### **Robbery update**

After a large publicity campaign, a man believed to be responsible for the robbery at the Londis store on Wheatley High Street was arrested in Oxford early in February. So far he has been charged with 5 robberies and investigations are continuing into the other

robberies that occurred around the same time period across the area.

### **Community engagement**

The rollout of the new Countrywatch has been completed for the Wheatley area, however if you have a farm or agricultural premise in the Wheatley area and would be interested in signing up for this free service or want further info then please contact PCSO Ken Cooney on 0845 8 505 505.

The Neighbourhood Action Group consultation for the Wheatley area is now complete. Our grateful thanks go out to all the volunteers who assisted us in completing questionnaires and the results of the consultation will soon be made public.

### **Operations**

Recently local officers carried out an operation regarding the selling of knives to under 18's. This operation was carried out around Thame and Wheatley with the co-operation of Oxfordshire Trading Standards. One of the shops on our area failed the test and sold a knife to an under 18. They face a possible fine of £5000. As a reminder:

It is illegal to sell to anyone under the age of 18:

- Any knife, knife blade or razor blade
- Axe
- Any other item with a blade or sharp point and which is made or adapted for causing injury.

Local officers also carried out a drugs operation around Thame and Wheatley where public houses were visited with officers and a drugs dog. If the drugs dog indicated that a person may have had contact with an illegal substance then the person was searched and dealt with as appropriate.

Operations such as the ones above and those connected with alcohol sales will be a frequent occurrence in the area.

### **Police surgeries**

Local officers carried out a surgery at Tiddington during February. No serious issues were raised but there was a good turnout and a

number of issues were discussed. Officers will monitor any issues that were raised and deal with appropriately.

If anyone would like any crime reduction advice then please call us on 0845 8 505 505 and ask to speak to your local crime reduction adviser. This is also the number for contacting your local neighbourhood team.

Ken Cooney  
0845 8 505 505

### **M40 Chilterns Environmental Group March 2009 Report**

#### **Junction 7 Bridgeworks**

Most local residents are possibly relieved that the extensive major disturbance during the M40 Junction 7 Bridgeworks is no longer a threat. However, in view of the harsh weather conditions in the early months of 2009 to which the bridges have been exposed this winter, we have asked for categoric reassurance that the bridge over Junction 7 of the M40 is safe and sound now and for the foreseeable future. We are concerned over what had been an urgent safety matter requiring major reconstruction of the bridge, being significantly downgraded to normal maintenance activity only.

On Saturday, 14 March we met with John Howell, MP, who will write to Lord Adonis on several points raised by the M40 CEG including our safety concerns of the Junction 7 Bridge, seeking reassurance that the safety of the bridge is not being compromised for reasons of cost.

#### **Milton Common Noise Barriers**

The M40 CEG has now received a copy of the Hyder Report that looks at cost estimates in great detail for the provision of noise barriers at Milton Common. This report was ordered by Tom Harris, ex Minister of Transport, following a meeting with the Highways Agency and M40 CEG at his good offices, when he instructed the HA to prepare comparable cost

estimates. It followed that the Highways Agency instructed their consultants Hyder Consulting (UK) Limited to prepare a report that took over 9 months to submit at a cost estimated to be over £50,000.

The report provides estimated costs to install effective noise barriers both with and without traffic management in place whilst the bridgeworks are undertaken. It "recommends" in its conclusion that the existing 1020 metre long timber noise barrier west of Junction 7 is replaced by a new 4 metre high reflective noise barrier. A new timber noise barrier is also recommended for properties located east of Junction 7. This would be 2.0 metres high and approximately 880 metres in length. They state that these barriers would offer a "moderate" reduction in noise levels. Our opinion, however, is that it will not have a considerable noise reduction for those living close to the motorway.

Currently we are negotiating via John Howell to be granted a meeting between our own consultant and Hyder to discuss and explore the technical assumptions and cost differences in the reports.

Tony Giddy,  
M40 CEG Representative, Milton Common  
E-mail: TonyGiddy@aol.com

### **Wheatley Library**

Spring has arrived and we have lots of events planned for our customers.

On 14 May we have a Family History Event. This is for all of you who are interested in tracing your family tree. We will have lots of resources available and people to help you. We will be running some taster sessions to show you how to find your family history on the Internet. The event will run from 10.00am until 4.00pm and refreshments will be available.

There will be something to interest everyone, not just our customers. The local Archives and Oxfordshire Family History Society have kindly agreed to support the event and will also be here to help you.

Debbie Tucker from SODC is going to run some taster sessions on using the Internet for our customers aged 50+. These are not training sessions as such, but she will be showing you what the Internet can do for you and hopefully take some of the mystery away. If you are interested ask in the library, as places will be limited. This is on Tuesday, 12 May.

We are also holding Storytimes on Tuesday, 14 April and on Tuesday, 26 May. These events are for children aged 4 to 9. Again, please ask at the library as places will be limited.

All the staff at Wheatley wish you a happy Easter and look forward to seeing you in the library.

Anne Spruce  
Library Manager  
01865 875267

| <b>Wheatley Library</b> |                                    |
|-------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <b>Monday</b>           | Closed                             |
| <b>Tuesday</b>          | 2.00pm - 7.00pm                    |
| <b>Wednesday</b>        | 9.30am - 1.00pm<br>2.00pm - 5.00pm |
| <b>Thursday</b>         | 2.00pm - 5.00pm                    |
| <b>Friday</b>           | 9.30am - 1.00pm<br>2.00pm - 6.00pm |
| <b>Saturday</b>         | 9.30am - 1.00pm                    |

The Merry Bells, High Street, Wheatley  
Tel: 01865 875267  
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## **Thame and District Citizens Advice Bureau**

**Citizens Advice report a three-fold increase in people seeking advice on employment issues**

Figures released by Thame & District Citizens Advice Bureau reveal a three-fold increase in the number of local people seeking help with redundancies and job seekers allowance.

Undoubtedly a number of local companies are struggling financially and rarely a day goes by without another company announcing job cuts. Redundancy is normally the last resort and most employers will consider short term working as a preferred option. If you are affected it's imperative to know your rights and be able to access free advice.

It's particularly important to recognise that you can only be made redundant if your job disappears or your employer reduces its workforce. When an employer chooses who to make redundant, they should not discriminate against anyone because of their age, gender, race, disability, sexual orientation, religion or belief.

The CAB has also noted a doubling of enquiries from home owners with financial problems. If you are struggling to pay bills as a result of redundancy it's vitally important to speak to your lenders straight away.

For free confidential advice on redundancy rights and entitlements click on [www.adviceguide.org.uk](http://www.adviceguide.org.uk) or telephone Thame Citizens Advice Bureau: 01844 217186.

*Thame Citizens Advice is looking to appoint a new chair of trustees due to the illness of the current incumbent. To find out more, call Mary Stiles on 01844 213851.*

| <b>Thame &amp; District Citizens Advice Bureau<br/>Opening Hours</b> |                    |   |
|--|--------------------|---|
| <b>Monday, Tuesday, Friday</b>                                       | <b>9.30 – 4.00</b> | <b>Open door</b>                            |
| <b>Wednesday</b>   | <b>9.30 – 1.00</b> | <b>Specialist debt clinic (appointment)</b> |
| <b>Thursday</b>  | <b>9.30 – 1.00</b> | <b>Telephone advice</b>                     |

**Advice line: 01844 214827**  
**Appointments line: 01844 217186**  
**A Drop-in session is held at the offices of the United Reformed Church, Crown Square, Wheatley on Monday mornings from 10.00am**

**GREAT HASELEY AND DISTRICT  
HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY  
GARDEN VISITS**

**Wednesday, 27 May**

*Dripwell House and Gower House, Guilsborough, Northants*

Dripwell House has a 3-acre mature garden set on a terraced slope, well known for unusual shrubs, azaleas and rhododendrons. Gower House has a small plantsman's garden on the site of the old vegetable garden.

*Coton Manor Garden, Guilsborough, Northants*

A ten-acre garden laid out in 1925 as a series of smaller gardens on different levels including huge borders full of unusual plant varieties, a water garden, a new rose garden, innovative planting in terrace pots, a herb garden and a newly established wild flower meadow. There is a nursery with plants propagated from the garden.

Meet: 10.30 at Dripwell House

Transport: own cars – directions with confirmation

Lunch: café serving light lunches in the stable yard of Coton Manor from 12.00 when the gardens open or bring a picnic

Cost: For all three gardens, £10.00 members, £15.00 non-members.

**Thursday, 25 June**

*The Old Rectory, Duntisbourne Rous, Gloucestershire*

This is the home of garden writer and designer Mary Keen who will give us a personal tour. There are collections of galanthus, hellebores, auriculas and many half-hardies. The garden is designed to make the most of its beautiful setting and to create a peaceful atmosphere with many different areas of changing levels.

*Througham Court, Stroud*

An extraordinary contemporary garden created by Christine Facer combining the best of old tradition with stimulating new modern design. Near the house there are courtyards, huge borders, wide terraces, herb beds and topiary which is in complete contrast to the contemporary garden with its bamboo maze, slate starburst black pool and six stone balls in the cosmic evolution garden representing planets.

Meet: 10.30 at Daglingworth House

2.30 at Througham Court

Transport: own cars – directions sent with confirmation

Lunch: we suggest The Bell at Sapperton or bring a picnic

Cost: For the two gardens to include tea and home-made cakes at Througham, £20.00 members, £25.00 non-members.

Please contact Di Cawdron on 01844 278270 or [di@cawdron.net](mailto:di@cawdron.net) for further information or to make a booking.

**GREAT HASELEY AND DISTRICT  
HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY**

**Tasks for April in the garden.**

Prune Forsythia and winter flowering Jasmine after flowering. You can also sever rooted

cuttings of both these shrubs, pot up and give to a friend. Hard prune Buddleia Davidii and Hydrangea Paniculata and trim lavenders to shape, taking care not to cut into the old wood. If not already done, feed and mulch Roses, use manure if available. Stake perennials and put twigs around herbaceous plants such as Geraniums, Michaelmas daisies, Heleniums, Rudbeckias and Bergamots to stop them flopping. You can lift and divide any of these plants, potting up healthy outer sections. In the vegetable garden, plant out potatoes if not already done, (Good Friday is the traditional day) and continue planting carrots and salad crops. Pull rhubarb stems for use in the kitchen and cut off the flowers as soon as they appear. Herbs such as Dill, Fennel, Coriander and Parsley can be sown. Also sow Brassicas and leeks in the nursery bed prepared last month. Watch out for Aphids and take action, and keep hoeing and weeding.



*“Hold a Fish and Chip Supper to help spinal cord injured people live full and independent lives.”*

**Great British Fish and Chip Supper – Friday  
15<sup>th</sup> May 2009**

Want to do something different? Want to raise money where you live or work? Want to eat Fish and Chips, while raising money for charity? Hold a fish and chip supper on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2009 whilst raising awareness of spinal cord injury and supporting SIA's information and support services.

You can hold a fish and chip supper in your own home, at work or hold a larger supper at your local community centre.

SIA will provide a fundraising pack containing hints and tips, recipes, invitations and donation envelopes. By inviting 7 friends and asking them to donate an additional £5.00 means you will raise at least £35.00 from your supper but we will also give you additional fundraising ideas to raise even more money for SIA.

In 2009 SIA will celebrate its 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and being that Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2009 is Spinal Cord Injury awareness day and what a better way to raise funds than eating Fish and Chips and raising money for SIA.

The money raised from the suppers will help the Spinal Injuries Association offer support to individuals who become paralysed and their families, from the moment a spinal injury occurs, and for the rest of their lives by providing services and publications which enable and encourage paralysed people to lead independent lives.

Every year in the UK over 1,000 people experience a spinal cord injury and there are an estimated 40,000 spinal cord injured people in the UK alone.

Donor Development Officer, Elizabeth Wright, says, "The Fish and Chip Supper is a wonderful opportunity for a great evening with friends and family. We are also encouraging people who work to hold a Fish and Chip Lunch in their work places to raise even more funds. You may be even a local community group wanting to run a fun evening with your group.

2009 is the first year that SIA are running the suppers but we already envisage this to be one of our top fundraising initiatives in the SIA calendar over the coming years. Be a part of something special and make a real difference to help spinal cord injured people gain access to the information and support they need to enable them to live full and independent lives."

For more information or request a fundraising pack call Elizabeth Wright on 0845 678 6633 xtn 229 or email [fishandchips@spinal.co.uk](mailto:fishandchips@spinal.co.uk) or visit [www.spinal.co.uk](http://www.spinal.co.uk)

## Newington Nurseries

### Shrubs for Screening

Do you need to screen an unsightly building or other structure such as a wall or fence? Would you like more privacy in your garden? Or do you just want a natural and living fence? Broad leaf evergreens can provide the answer. They can be used to great effect in concealing an eyesore from view or creating private areas in a garden that is overlooked.

Some evergreen shrubs can offer the perfect solution particularly if you don't want to end up with a screen that

will shade either your, or your neighbour's, garden or grow to immense proportions. They'll also provide year-round interest - colour, flowers and berries - as well as give sanctuary to wildlife. Natural screens are fairly maintenance-free so will save you time and money.

*Photinia x fraseri* "Red Robin" is one such example. This easy and highly attractive shrub is good as either an informal or formal hedge, growing quite quickly and reaching the desired height within three to five years. Its maximum height is around 4 to 5 metres but regular clipping (only a couple of times a year) will keep the height in check if you want a screen of just 3 metres or so. In fact, light pruning just two or three times annually will encourage production of the beautiful red shoots which provide much needed colour during dreary winter months. Clusters of tiny white flowers will appear during the spring and these are followed by small red, maturing to black, berries. *Photinia x fraseri* "Red Robin" suits most soils and tolerates sun or light shade. It enjoys a little shelter from the wind so planting against an unattractive building or other structure that you would like to hide is ideal.

Another excellent screening plant is *Elaeagnus x ebbingei*. This lovely evergreen plant is tolerant of exposed and windy areas. It's a tough shrub, will quickly grow to its maximum height of around 3 to 4 metres and can be planted to create either a boundary hedge or a screen against an unsightly object. The foliage is a glossy, deep green colour but if you want a plant that provides an overall lighter effect, then try *E. x ebbingei* "Limelight". It's as fast growing as the species but the green foliage is splashed with bright yellow and green. Both shrubs produce gorgeous white, highly fragrant, trumpet-shaped flowers in autumn and these are followed by edible berries. You can enjoy the wonderful aroma of the flowers if the shrub is planted against a wall or fence that you have to walk past on a regular basis.

Or why not think of using *Viburnum tinus*? This plant is fairly fast growing, reaching its maximum height of around 3 metres within three to five years. It is highly valued for its many clusters of white flowers produced in late autumn and lasting throughout the winter months. Come the spring, the flowers will have turned into metallic-blue berries. It makes a good informal hedge or screen and tolerates most soils as well as deep shade although light shade or sun are the ideal growing conditions. *Viburnum tinus* "Eve Price" is similar to the species but has a slightly smaller habit, smaller glossy green leaves and produces very pale pink flower buds which open to small white blooms.

So you can very easily hide unattractive "blots on the landscape" by planting some broad leaf evergreens. If you like, you can plant the above shrubs in groups of three or five to ensure that you have flowers and berries for the best part of the year. Plant care is easy; light clipping to maintain shape is all that is required during spring and summer. Water well during the first year of planting, apply some organic feed and the plants will romp away, giving you both privacy and a beautiful outlook in no time at all.

Newington Nurseries, Newington, Nr Stadhampton, Oxon, OX10 7AW Tel 01865 400533

[www.newington-nurseries.co.uk](http://www.newington-nurseries.co.uk)