

TIDDINGTON WITH ALBURY & MILTON COMMON NEWSLETTER

www.tiddingtonoxon.co.uk

APRIL/MAY 2013

From the Editor

I hope you have all had a good Easter break. The drop-in coffee mornings are proving popular and hopefully there will be plenty of volunteers for the litter blitz on 13 April (see next page). All this and changes to the play area are thanks to the hard work of the Village 4 Plan Steering Committee and culminates in the launch event of the Plan on 17 April (see page 6). Do come and support. Other events coming up - a Barn Dance on 27 April (see page 12) and an Antique and Craft Fair on 12 May (see page 14).

Zena Knight

Thanks

Maureen and Tom Smith would like to thank family and friends and neighbours for their kindness since Tom's illness. A special thanks to Mick and Maisie Jaycock.

A Big Thank You!

I just wanted to thank everyone who came to my "leaving Tiddington" social back in February. It was so nice to see so many people and I hope I got the chance to speak to everyone there! It was also very kind of the Village Hall Committee to lay on such a lovely buffet and your cards and presents were very much appreciated. I know I will miss Tiddington life but I hope we will all be over to visit at some point during the year. Thank you again

Alan Stratton

Boggys Bonkers Bimble

As predicted Emma didn't collect the award for Combined Services Sportswoman, it went to the Gold Medal Olympian Heather Stanning but we had a brilliant day hosted by the RAF Club in Piccadilly and are very proud of her for all her achievements, being in the top three military sportswomen isn't half bad!!

You will probably remember that Em took part in the London Moonwalk last year along with some fantastic friends and family, for which they raised almost £5000 in memory of our beautiful Sam. This year, to honour her sister Em has decided to go one step further and do the Three Land Challenge, which is three 26.2 mile walks in London, Edinburgh and Iceland!! Tot and I will be joining her for the London walk but that's our limit. Now we know that there are a lot of demands on everyone for sponsorship money but if you spare just a couple of £'s to sponsor Em it would be really appreciated.

Her link for online donations is

http://www.walkthewalkfundraising.org/emma_boswell or see any of us for a sponsor form.

Love and best wishes

Jane and Tot x

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From the Parish Clerk

Highways matters - as mentioned in the last Newsletter, I reported to Oxfordshire Highways that the bus markings in the layby in front of the Village Hall have all but worn away. I am now informed that the markings cannot be replaced because there is no bus stop sign and am pursuing the matter with Highways.

We are still progressing the matter of the potholes in Albury Lane. We have monies from our County Councillor, David Turner's Locality Budget towards the cost, but resurfacing near the church is necessary and costly. We are investigating how to bridge the funding gap.

Due to the winter frosts, snows and rain there are other pothole issues to resolve and I am in contact with Oxfordshire Highways about these.

Vibrations continue to worry residents along Oxford Road and I have been asked to write yet again to Oxfordshire Highways about this issue.

May I ask you please to assist by reporting any highway matters which are of concern to you via the website?

The more they hear, the better the chance of some action being taken.

Tiddington with Albury Parish Council Members

Chair	Elaine Horne	279520
	Planning, highways and Milton Common	
Vice-Chair	Cherry Draper	339347
	Environment, conservation, recycling waste	
Councillor	Ken Field	339671
	Housing, planning, building & controls	
Councillor	Zena Knight	339340
	Planning, recreation, arts, grants	
Councillor	Brian Price	339977
	Health & safety	
Councillor	John Savell	338078
	Economic development, businesses	
Clerk	Ken Poyser	339216
	Rosewood, Ickford Road, Tiddington	
	Email: twaparishcouncil@googlemail.com	

Pelican crossing on A418 - I have written to SODC and have also contacted Thame Town Council to request that S106 monies be set aside from the proposed major housing development in Thame to fund a Pelican Crossing which would make it safer for children, the less able bodied and the elderly to cross the road. My rationale is that the housing development will inevitably increase road traffic. I await a response.

Tiddington 4 Village Plan - a reminder that Drop-in Coffee Mornings are on the second Wednesdays of each month at the Cricket Club 10.30-12.30pm.

The T4VP Final Report has been drawn up and an impressive document it is. Many thanks to Nigel Draper and the Committee for all the hard work that has gone into this. The document is to be approved and adopted at the April Parish Council meeting, when responsibilities for implementation will be allocated.

Please let the committee know if you have any issues for them.

Litter Blitz - a fair number of parishioners indicated on the T4VP questionnaire that they would wish to assist with cleaning up the Parish and there is to be a Litter Blitz on Saturday, 13 April with a team to be chosen from available volunteers. Meet at the Village Hall at 10.00am.

The January event was cancelled due to adverse weather.

Dog fouling - there continue to be problems with fouling, particularly on the playing field. Please be considerate to others when walking dogs and take any mess home for safe disposal. We have obtained some additional signs, which have now been displayed in the hope of deterring fouling.

Date of April Parish Council meeting - this has been moved to Monday, 15 April because I cannot attend on the previous Monday.

KEN POYSER
Clerk to the Parish Council

Post Office

Tiddington Village Hall

Please support your local post office facilities in the Village Hall on Wednesdays from 1.30pm-3.00pm. Your postmaster from Great Milton is able to provide all the usual needs including top-up of mobile phones, etc.

From the Parish Council Chair

Our clerk has written to SODC requesting that provision be made from a potential S106 agreement regarding major housing development in Thame, for provision of a pelican crossing on the A418 in Tiddington. This is in view of additional traffic which will inevitably result from development, with resulting dangers for those crossing the road, particularly children. Your Parish Council is always looking for different avenues to pursue in raising money for the pelican crossing.

Our clerk has also written to Oxfordshire Highways regarding Sandy Lane. As a Parish Council we were amazed that after three days of road closure nothing had been done except for cleaning the surface of the road. None of the major road repairs had been done.

I look forward to seeing you at the launch of our Village Plan. See more about the event from Nigel Draper in his article following.

Elaine Horne

01844-279520

elaine@ace-training.me.uk

Thames Valley Police

Have Your Say Meeting

Sunday, 28 April, 2.00-3.00pm

Come to the Village Hall car park to meet Ken Cooney, your Police Community Support Officer and voice any concerns you may have.

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.

May Bank Holidays

Rubbish and Recycling Dates

Monday 6 May revised to Tuesday 7 May

Monday 27 May revised to Tuesday 28 May

NB Monday 15 April 2 bins of garden waste accepted

SWAP SHOP

SATURDAY, 13 APRIL

9.30AM – 11.00AM

MERRY BELLS, WHEATLEY

Bring useful old stuff that you no longer need; take away FREE stuff that is useful to you.

(NOT clothes or shoes)

If you are bringing stuff it needs to be in the hall by 10.15am*

You can now bring (small) electrical items

We have a notice board to advertise any items too big to carry easily.

Bringing is not compulsory – call in and see if there is something you want to take.

Recycling: You can also bring used printer cartridges (not Epson please) old mobile phones, plastic milk bottle tops, batteries* and foil milk bottle tops

Also Traidcraft Exchange now taking jewellery (incl broken pieces)

Refreshments available (small charge)

Action Group (www.wheatleycag.org)

Reuse, recycle and keep stuff out of landfill

*See website for other places to recycle these items.

Tiddington 4 Village Plan



The plan has now been completed and presented to the Parish Council, which is presently considering the recommendations and how best to implement them.

A summary of the plan, presenting all of its recommendations, is included as a special insert to this month's newsletter. A longer version of the plan is also being prepared and printed in smaller numbers, and copies may be obtained through me or the Parish Council clerk. Alternatively it can be accessed at www.tiddington4villageplan.co.uk

The plan will be presented and opened for discussion at a public meeting to be held in the Village Hall on Wednesday, 17 April, starting at 20.00. Refreshments, including a glass of wine, will be provided. Do please come along to hear what the Steering Group has recommended, and why, and to help consider how we can bring about the improvements the parish residents have requested.

As the plan has now been completed this will be the last report from the Steering Group, which now hands the baton back to the Parish Council. Thank you all for your interest and support over the last 20 months.

Nigel Draper
Secretary

Tiddington 4 Village Plan Steering Group
drapernigelf@yahoo.co.uk
01844 339 347

LITTER BLITZ **SATURDAY, 14 APRIL**

We have some volunteers to clean up the village but we could do with a few more. If you could help please meet at the Village Hall at 10 00am, where Ken Poyser will be handing out bags for collecting the litter and "litter pickers".

If you have kept pickers from previously litter sweeps could you please bring them along with you, or contact Ken Poyser so that he can collect them from you. About half a dozen seem to have gone missing since last time.

From your District Councillor

Drug and Alcohol Drop in Service - the South and Vale CSP work in partnership with the Oxfordshire Drug and Alcohol Action Team (DAAT) to maintain low levels of crime in South and Vale. The DAAT commissions drug and alcohol treatment and support services for young people, adults, families and carers throughout Oxfordshire.

The open access 'drop in' is every Friday in Didcot between 10:30 - 12:30pm.

Mandeep Mann, Shared Anti Social Behaviour Co-ordinator, 01491 823057

mandeep.mann@southandvale.gov.uk

Now Open - Community Investment Fund (Over £15,000) Grant Scheme - The Council's Community Investment Fund is now open for grant applications during 2013/14 and will close on 12 April 2013. A budget of £1,000,000 has been set aside to allocate to community projects during the year.

The fund will support capital expenditure, such as spending on buildings, extensions or equipment but not revenue expenditure. Any community-based organisation, including parish and town councils may apply.

Organisations can apply using the online application form which will be available at www.southoxon.gov.uk/grants

Further information can be obtained from Carole Cumming, Shared Grants Officer on 01491 823614 or email

carole.cumming@southandvale.gov.uk

Oxford City Sites and Housing Plan - on 18 February 2013 Oxford City Council adopted its Sites and Housing Plan. The plan allocates sites for development within the city and also sets out policies for residential development,

including for the delivery of affordable housing.

The adoption of the plan follows hearings held in September 2012 by an independent Inspector appointed by the Secretary of State. The adopted plan now has full weight in the determination of planning applications for housing in the city.

The plan is available to view on Oxford City Council's website via the following link: www.oxford.gov.uk/sitesandhousingadoption.

David Burson, Planning Policy Officer,
01491 823272

david.burson@southandvale.gov.uk

New Members of Youth Parliament Elected for 2013 - the results of the 2013 elections have been announced with 4,122 young people voting in South Oxfordshire and the Vale. 14 young people from 8 schools put themselves forward to be the next Member of the Youth Parliament to represent South Oxfordshire and the Vale. The winners are:

Michael Oatway Lord Williams School,
Member of the Youth Parliament

Hammod Munir St Birinus.

Deputy MYP

Zoe Adams Didcot Girls.

Ambassador

Karen Tolley, Young People's Co-ordinator,
01491 823041 / 01235 540402

karen.tolley@southandvale.gov.uk

Council Tax E-billing Success at South and Vale - to boost the number of Council taxpayers who receive their bill by email, Capita recently undertook an e-billing campaign to increase the take-up of this increasingly popular delivery method. Over the two authorities 45,000 households were targeted by email and SMS (text messages). We now have approximately 10 per cent of Council taxpayers at both authorities electing to have their bill emailed to them. From a recent survey undertaken by Cipfa these rates compare favourably with the highest in the

country. Members may also like to know that we only received 69 queries and seven complaints as a result of the exercise.

Finally, if those members who haven't already would like to sign up to this fast and convenient, environmentally friendly and cost effective delivery method then please email Capita's secure email address for South members sodc.counciltax@secure.capita.co.uk For Vale members at

vowh.counciltax@secure.capita.co.uk

Please provide your council tax account number or your name and address when applying. Alternatively, ring 0345 302 2313 (South members) or 0345 302 2315 (Vale members) to give your details over the phone.

For further information contact Paul Howden on 01235 540385

or email paul.howden@southandvale.gov.uk

South Oxfordshire Health Profile 2012 - the latest health profile for South Oxfordshire produced by the Department of Health for 2012 shows health outcomes in the district compared to the England average.

Some of the headline figures are:

- life expectancy is 3.4 years lower for men in the most deprived areas of South Oxfordshire compared to those in the least deprived
- over the last ten years all cause mortality rates have fallen
- early death rates from cancer, heart disease and stroke have fallen and are better than the England average
- 13.6 per cent of year 6 children are classified as obese, lower than the England average
- estimated levels of adult smoking, physical activity and obesity are better than the England average; as are rates of smoking related deaths, and hospital stays for alcohol related illness

- incidence of malignant melanoma is higher than average, as are road injuries and deaths

For more details www.oxfordshirepct.nhs.uk
 Sally Truman, Shared Policy and Partnerships
 Manager, 01491 823046/01235 540408
sally.truman@southandvale.gov.uk

Stephen Harrod
 Great Milton Ward
 01844 278068
Stephen.Harrod@southoxon.gov.uk

From your County Councillor

County Councillor Retires. I thought you should know that after twenty four years as an Oxfordshire County Councillor, with eight years of them as your Oxfordshire County Councillor, I will not be standing for re-election in May of this year. I made the decision four years ago after the last County Council elections that this would be my last term as a County Councillor and I have not changed my mind. I will be 69 years of age in July of this year and there are many things that I want to do and my wife Kathy and I want to do, which the time demands on a County Councillor do not permit. I would like to thank you all for the courtesy that you have shown to me over this period of time. It has been a great privilege and an enjoyable experience to be your County Councillor. I will continue doing my best for you all at OCC until 2 May when my current term of office ends. Thank you and best wishes.

Save your life and stub it out. Oxfordshire County Council's Fire and Rescue Service are urging smokers to quit by reminding them that careless disposal of smoking materials remains the single biggest cause of house fires across the country. It is important that smokers understand how dangerous smoking in the home can be and follow the top tips below.

- **Smoke outside.** Avoid the danger of a fire starting inside your home by smoking outside only.
- **Put it out, right out!** Make sure your cigarette is fully extinguished.
- **Fit a smoke alarm and test it weekly.** A working smoke alarm can buy you valuable time to get out, stay out and call 999.
- **Never smoke in bed.** Take care when you're tired. It's very easy to fall asleep while your cigarette is still burning and set furniture alight.
- **Carry out your own Home Fire Risk Check.** You can do your own home fire risk check online at www.365alive.co.uk. It takes 10 minutes and you never know it could save your families lives.
- **Make an escape plan.** Sit down and make an escape plan with your family so that everyone knows what to do if there is a fire at home.

Victims of rogue traders targeted by fake Trading Standards Officers. Victims of rogue traders are being urged to be aware of con artists who claim to be Trading Standards Officers offering to secure compensation for the original crimes committed against them. Oxfordshire County Council's Trading Standards have been made aware of two instances of victims being re-targeted in a follow up scam and have issued advice to avoid them being swindled.

Youngsters elected to represent the County on the National stage. Political dreams of youngsters have been realised as the results of the County UK Youth Parliament elections were announced at Oxford's County Hall. The young people had put their election manifestos forward covering issues such as cheaper bus tickets for under eighteens; a drive to get more young people to exercise; university tuition fees and a campaign to encourage young people to eat more healthily. The following were elected to represent South Oxfordshire:

- Michael Oatway, aged 16, from Lord Williams' School in Thame is the constituency's MYP.
- Hammod Munir, aged 15, from St Birinus School in Didcot was selected as DMYP
- Zoe Adams, aged 14, from Didcot Girls' School was chosen to be the area's Ambassador.

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

David Turner
14 March 2013

Milton Common NHW (West Side) and Sandy Lane



Following a spate of catalytic converter thefts from vehicles, Police in the South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse area have instigated a new crime prevention initiative using forensic marking to put the brakes on this fast-growing trend of catalytic converter thefts.

With ongoing demand from the Far East for precious metals and parts containing them, thieves have targeted larger vehicles such as vans because it's easier to slide underneath them and steal the converters and also because the CATs are bigger and therefore contain more precious metal giving them a higher value. The scheme involves the use of SelectaDNA, which contains identifying microdots and a unique DNA code to mark the CATs, ensuring it will be very difficult for thieves to pass on stolen goods to scrap yard dealers.

Alison Smith, South and Vale LPA Crime Prevention and Reduction Adviser, said: "We have written to 1,000 vehicle owners highlighting the problem of catalytic converter thefts particularly in relation to Ford Galaxy

and Mercedes Sprinter vans which have been specifically targeted. We are inviting these owners to collect property marking kits from us in order to protect their vehicle parts from theft."

"Once an unmarked converter has been removed from a vehicle it's very difficult to link it back to that vehicle as there aren't any distinguishing features. However, if it has been marked using SelectaDNA it will have a unique forensic code on it which can be easily linked back to an individual vehicle and the registered owner. If a thief tries to sell on a marked catalytic converter, Police will not only be able to link the converter back to the car it came from, but will also be able to link the thief to the crime scene."

Catalytic converter marking kits are available to purchase from Abingdon, Thame, Henley, Wantage and Didcot Police Stations, at £5 per kit. The kit comes with warning stickers which vehicle owners are advised to use as a deterrent.

Sheds and outbuildings are still being targeted in our area - they have not appeared on the NHW Alert messages - so if you have a shed or outbuilding broken in to please report to the Police - otherwise our Parish crime statistics will not be right.

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

Tiddington NHW

This has been a difficult month for the village of Tiddington with a number of burglaries and theft. A caravan was stolen during the day from a property in Ickford Road; even though it was fitted with anti-theft devices. In addition, garages, sheds and houses on the main road have been broken into and property stolen.

We all need to be vigilant at all times of the day and night and report anything suspicious or unusual immediately by calling the police on 101.

Alternatively if you have information but wish to remain anonymous, please call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 or online @ crimestoppers-uk.org. No personal details are taken, information is not traced or recorded and you will not be required to go to court.

Due to the price of metals and particularly precious metals found in catalytic converters, there has been a spate of theft especially from larger vehicles, because it is easier to get underneath them. These thefts only take a few minutes to complete, so if you see anything suspicious regarding stationary vehicles or suspicious activity by individuals, don't hesitate in calling 101 immediately (see further details above).

The police have been successful in solving a number of crimes in villages around Oxfordshire and most recently charged an individual with burglary in Garsington and recovered two stolen caravans from Middle Ground which will be returned to their owners in Milton Keynes and Lutterworth.

Thank you for contributing to make ours a safe village.

Chris Williams
NHW Co-ordinator
07710 620820
meteorltd@btinternet.com

From your MP, John Howell



A look back at recent key issues in Westminster and the Constituency

This month I'd like to draw your attention to three particular pieces of legislation which I know from my post bag are of interest to many across the constituency.

The Children and Families Bill seeks to reform legislation relating to the adoption and children in care, to aspects of the family justice system, to children and young people with special educational needs, to the Office of the Children's Commissioner for England, to

statutory rights to leave and pay for parents and adopters, to time off work for ante-natal care and to the right to request flexible working. It had its second reading on 25 February and was approved to go to Committee where it will undergo detailed scrutiny. The second reading gave the opportunity for debate on key issues and concerns. I had the opportunity to raise concerns that constituents had brought to me on special educational needs especially relating to the provision for the post 16 age group and also the links between educational and health providers.

The Financial Services (Banking Reform) Bill had its second reading on 11 March. The Bill builds on the recommendations of the Independent Commission on Banking (the Vickers Commission) and on those made by the Parliamentary Commission on Banking Standards. It seeks to make further provision about banking and other financial services, including provision about the Financial Services Compensation Scheme; to make provision for the amounts owed in respect of certain deposits to be treated as a preferential debt on insolvency; and to make provision about the accounts of the Bank of England and its wholly owned subsidiaries. It makes provision to separate the banking activities on which households and small and medium-sized enterprises depend, from wholesale or investment banking activities which may involve a greater degree of risk and expose an entity undertaking them to financial problems arising elsewhere in the global financial system.

The Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2012-13 The Bill has passed through all stages of the parliamentary process and has been given Royal Assent and is now law. This was a Private Members Bill that had wide cross-party support as well as the backing of the metal recycling industry's trade association (BMRA), energy and network organisations, the Church of England and War Memorials Trust. The Bill proposed a whole-scale reform of the £5.6bn scrap metal industry, which is the principal

outlet for stolen metal. The problem of metal theft has caused problems for the transport, energy and telecommunications infrastructure as well as desecration of churches, war memorials and crematoriums. Now that the Bill has become law a number of measures will be introduced that will make it difficult to buy and sell stolen metal.

A word about Early Day Motions

Early day motions (EDMs) are generally used to publicise the views of individual MPs or to draw attention to specific events or campaigns. Due to the volume of EDMs put down they take a great deal of staff time and thus are costly to administer. However as no EDMs ever get to be debated they are widely recognised as being a waste of parliamentary resources and are often referred to as 'parliamentary graffiti'. I am often asked to sign EDMs and when asked to do so I have advised people that as a Parliamentary Private Secretary I am subject to the 'Ministerial Code' which requires me to exercise particular discretion in association with particular groups advocating special policies and to follow its strictures with regard to Ministerial Collective Responsibility. As such along with my PPS colleagues, and for the reasons already given, I do not sign EDMs. This does not mean that I am unable to fully represent the concerns of constituents. There are more effective mechanisms of drawing attention to issues of concern such as parliamentary petitions, parliamentary questions, Westminster Hall Debates and Adjournment debates. Indeed I often put down questions on specific issues and only this month have encouraged one local group to prepare a petition for me to present in the House. When there is a critical local issue that needs parliamentary attention I am always happy to discuss the best way forward in the particular circumstances.

For more information, my website is regularly updated and offers information on my work both in Westminster and in the constituency. The address is www.johnhowellmp.com In

addition, if you would like to subscribe to my free e-newsletter please email me at: john.howell@oxfordshireconservatives.com

You can also follow me on twitter @johnhowellmp

*Printed and promoted by John Howell MP
House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA*

St. Helen's Church News

We are praying for Anne Edwards and her family following her sudden illness last week.

Anne has kept us all afloat with services for the past two months and we continue to enjoy visiting clergy who kindly come to help us.

The interregnum is moving a little towards advertising the post of house for duty vicar for our four parishes. I am not hopeful that there will be an appointment before the autumn.

We are planning a pudding and wine evening on Friday, 7 June in Brian and Dawn Price's house in aid of the Church.

We have booked the Oxford Welsh Choir to come and sing in the church for us on Saturday, 26 October. This was a great success when we heard them a couple of years ago and we are repeating the event by popular request.

We are hoping to hold a garden event during the summer but the disastrous weather has so far held us back from any firm commitment for place or date.

We apologise for the appalling state of the road leading to the Church. We are struggling to find funds to mend it as the Council does not rate it as a public road.

Moo Nowell-Smith,
Churchwarden
The Old Rectory, Albury, Thame,
Oxfordshire OX9 2LP
01844 339650
[moo @ nowell-smith.com](mailto:moo@nowell-smith.com)

Church Services	St Helen's Church, Albury
7 April	9.30am Holy Communion with Rev Julian Dunn
14 April	9.30am Holy Communion BCP with Rev Canon David Owen
21 April	9.30am Holy Communion with Rev Canon D C Knight
28 April	9.30am Holy Communion with Rev Tom Farrell
5 May	9.30am Matins BCP with David Bendor-Samuel
12 May	9.30am Holy Communion
19 May	9.30am Morning Prayer
26 May	9.30am Holy Communion

Waterstock & Tiddington W.I.



We were fortunate that David Barber was able to come to our March meeting to talk about Swan Upping. We probably all know about the ceremonial but we learnt about the early history and also all the excellent health and conservation work they do for swans.

In February Pippa Purnell inspired us all with her beautiful designs and watercolour illustrations of gardens she had planned during her career. We just need better weather to get us all motivated!

On 11 April we will be learning about "Wicked Women" with Graham Sutherland - sounds intriguing! The competition will be for a garden on a tea tray. The winning entry will go forward to represent our Institute at the Group Meeting on 25 April. Holton Village Hall is the venue and the speaker is Linsey Evans talking on Garden Design.

On 9 May we shall discuss the one resolution which will go forward to the National AGM in June. The subject is the decline of our high streets and town centres. We will also welcome local resident, Elaine Horne, to tell us of her experiences as welfare officer for the Royal Air Force Association (RAFA). We shall begin a new series of competitions where the subject

will be Fruit or vegetables. The one for May will begin with the letter "A".

In March, following the speaker and refreshments we had our Annual Meeting and Joan Wood was re-elected as President for the coming year. On 26 March the County will be having their Annual Council Meeting with Mark Stacey of "Flog it!" fame as their guest speaker.

Finally on behalf of the Institute I would like to thank everyone who generously supported our Quiz Evening back in February. We have a welcome sum to provide towards a hearing loop system in the Village Hall.

Visitors and new members are always very welcome to join us on the second Thursday of the month at 7.30pm in Tiddington Village Hall.

Zena Knight

Tel: 01844 339340

Email: zenaknight42@btinternet.com

Tiddington Village Hall

Following the departure of Alan from the village, I (Tot Boswell) have been elected as the new Village Hall Committee Chairman, with Graham Bristow taking the role of Vice Chairman.

We have also had some additions to the committee, bringing our numbers to 13!

Committee is as follows:

Tot Boswell - Chairman

Graham Bristow - Vice Chairman

Rob McKinney - Treasurer

Brian Price - Bookings Administrator

Debbie Chaplain - Secretary

General Committee: Mont Adams, Peter Bernstrom, Jane Boswell, Bev Bristow, Ken Field, Pauline Field, Fergus Kendall, Julie Smith
A Chairman is only as good as the committee behind him and I am lucky to have a great committee who I am really looking forward to working with.

The bar refurbishment is almost complete and is looking fantastic, many thanks to all who have helped to make this possible, in particular Ken and Mont, who have put in many hours of hard work. Thanks also to Rob for coordinating the refurbishment and taking over the management of the bar.

We are hosting a Barn Dance on Saturday, 27 April, with music - and calling, by Bodger's Wood, a fantastic band from Chinnor. This will be a great fun night, so come along and have a go, or just watch the rest of us!! Tickets are £8 available from myself on 338146. Please feel free to bring something to eat along with you but please no drink as the bar will be open. Unfortunately we have been forced to review the cost of hiring the Village Hall due to the rising costs of maintenance. These are the first price increases since 2008. Party rates are now £110 for village residents, £180 for others, daytime fundraising events £7.50 and children's parties £30 - a full list of hiring charges is displayed on the notice board in the Hall.

All enquiries regarding hiring of the Hall and/or any equipment i.e. tables, chairs etc should be directed to Brian Price on 339977.

Bar bookings to be made with Rob McKinney.

Date for the diary - the Annual Village Fete will be held this year on Sunday, 14 July. Further details will be in the next newsletter.

See you at the Barn Dance!

Tot Boswell, Chairman, 338146



With the ground under water yet again, we can only hope it dries out for the start of our new season on 20 April, with a home friendly against Great Brickhill, followed by Deddington at home in the National Village Knock Out.

Our new Captains this season are: 1st XI Darren Riden, 2nd XI Jon Talbot, 3rd XI Martin Blackburn, Sunday XI Matt Johnston. They will look forward to welcoming you at any of the matches.

Our Youth coaching starts on 23/24 April and we look forward to welcoming our youngsters back, many of whom have been attending winter coaching sessions and are making great progress. Our coaching team goes from strength to strength, with Matt Weeks obtaining his UKCC1 and Alan Maule and Will Goodman, their UKCC2.5. We have 18 qualified coaches working to deliver quality sessions to our young boys and girls. Our youth cricket continues to be supported by Stephen Bowley, thank you, it makes a lot of difference!!

We were saddened to learn that John Bull felt it was time to step aside as our President. We have been very lucky in having the Bull family as fantastic supporters of our Club over the last 22 years, helping us achieve many goals. Enjoy your retirement John and we look forward to welcoming you in the Club as our new Life Member.

At our recent AGM, we were pleased to vote Nick Edmonson in as our new President and we are sure you will all give him your full support.

Phil Manning continues as Chairman, and continues to have great enthusiasm and plans in keeping the Club moving forward on and off the field, supported by his trusty committee.

Memberships and 100 Club are now due, reminders will be out shortly. You can pay at the Club, by bank transfer or set up a direct debit. Full details in our letters.

Thank you to our Crib and Darts teams for their support over the winter. Not always easy turning out on a freezing cold night.

We now look towards the new Aunt Sally season and hope they have as much success this year.

New members are always welcome and we very much look forward to seeing you over the summer months.

www.tiddingtoncricketclub.org

Twitter @Tiddsmoke

Facebook: TiddingtonCricket club

Lesley Pykett
07762 572558

the charity for
your community



Can I cancel that Gym subscription?

Gyms often play on people's new year resolve to be more active and offer enticing deals, but you can find yourself tied into a long-term contract without realising unless you study the small print very carefully before signing up for anything.

Your contract will normally have details about when and how you can cancel and what the charges will be. Usually you will still have to pay fees for the lifetime of the contract (or some sort of cancellation fee) if you decide to cancel early even if your circumstances have changed.

If you do decide to cancel your gym membership make sure you do it in writing and keep a copy of the letter. It may also be sensible to send the letter recorded delivery so you have proof of when you sent it and can

find out whether the gym has received it or not.

There are some instances when you can cancel a gym contract early without a penalty or even get a refund. This could apply if the contract terms specifically allow for you to cancel in certain circumstances, such as at the end of an introductory rate. You can also cancel early without a penalty or charge if your contract terms are deemed to be unfair. Your contract could be seen as unfair if it is automatically renewed without your permission or the terms are unclear. It is also easier to cancel a gym contract without having to pay a penalty or even get a refund if it sets a minimum contract term that is more than one year.

For more information on your consumer rights or for general advice go to the Citizens Advice website www.adviceguide.org.uk.

CAB adviceline 08 444 111 444 or
0300 3300 650(mobile)

Your local CAB is in Market Square, Thame

Thame & District Citizens Advice Bureau
Market House, North St, Thame OX9 3HH

Opening Hours

Monday, Thursday, Friday 9.30 – 4.00
Tuesday, Wednesday 9.30 – 1.00

Advice line: 08444 111 444

Or 0300 3300 650 (mobile)

Appointments: 01844 217186

Website: www.adviceguide.org.uk

General information: www.thamecab.org

A session is held at the offices of the United Reformed Church, Crown Square, Wheatley on Monday mornings by appointment from 10.00am-1.00pm

Wheatley Library

Self Service has arrived at Wheatley Library. You can now issue and discharge your own books. Some of you will have already used this system in other libraries you have visited, but a few of you may have concerns about this

change. I would like to reassure you that staff are available if you want help. This does mean that we are no longer stamping dates in the books. You can get a printout of the books you have and the dates they are due back from the machine.

There is a Storytime for children aged 4 to 8 on Wednesday, 10 April at 11.00am. Everyone is welcome but children must be accompanied by an adult. Please contact us by phone or in person to book a place.

On the same day, in the afternoon, we have the Lively Library Club, when the author Hazel Bleay will be talking about her book "Memories of Bygone Oxford Shops". Any of you who remember Capes of St Ebbes, Badcocks in Queen Street, Elliston and Cavell in George Street or the Cadena Café, should enjoy this talk. It starts at 2.00pm and is free. Tea and coffee will be available.

There is so much going on during term time for the under fives that we have decided to trial having Rhymetimes during April and May in the school holidays only. Dates are 4 and 11 April and 30 May, all at 2.30pm. Rhymes and songs with our instruments and new farm puppets.

Anne Spruce
Library Manager

Opening Hours

Monday	Closed
Tuesday	2.00pm - 7.00pm
Wednesday	9.30am - 1.00pm 2.00pm - 5.00pm
Thursday	2.00pm - 5.00pm
Friday	9.30am - 1.00pm 2.00pm - 6.00pm
Saturday	9.30am - 1.00pm

The Merry Bells, High Street, Wheatley
Tel: 01865 875267

Email: wheatley.library@oxfordshire.gov.uk

The Great Milton Community Pub

Here in Great Milton we have embarked on an exciting venture to purchase our last remaining pub, The Bull, for the community. The great news is that we have successfully raised

sufficient pledges from local residents that we were in a position to put in a decent bid for the purchase and that the bid was accepted.

We intend to purchase the land and building from Greene King and install our own tenant to run the pub as a traditional village pub, just as it has been for all the years it has been part of this village. As things stand, we will take over the pub on 30 April 2013.

The Great Milton Community Pub Limited (GMCPL) will be structured as an Industrial & Provident Society for the Benefit of the Community. Under this set up, no one person can invest more than £20,000 and each investor (member of the society) has one equal vote in the shareholder (member) meetings, regardless of the amount invested.

As far as investors go, we have passed the hundred mark but we are keen to attract more investors to ensure the financial viability of the enterprise. As residents of the surrounding villages we would welcome your participation in this venture and invite enquiries from anyone interested in buying into the proposition. You can get in touch via our email at buygmbull@gmail.com

The day to day running of the pub will be entirely in the hands of the tenant, who will need to make sure it succeeds as a village pub, as described above, so that he can pay the rent to the GMCPL. Once a year there will be a members meeting where the management committee is elected and the members have an opportunity to air their views on the way the pub is being run

We hope we have put together a team that represents as much of the community as possible and are really looking forward to making this work as a long term investment in our village and surrounding community, for the benefit of everyone who lives in the area. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to get in touch with one of the team and we will be happy to help.

Here's to a great new venture!

Steve Harrod, Chairman

Great Haseley and District Horticultural Society

We are at the spring equinox and yet we seem to have very little sign of spring as yet. The winter has been very long and I still have Snowdrops flowering with, as yet very few Daffodils even showing colour. Two years ago I wrote that plant growth was rapid and the soil very nearly covered. Reviewing the garden yesterday very little is in active growth, but our Apricot 'Goldcot' has opened its first flowers and I look forward to the fruit. Last year was its first year and in late summer we held the ceremonial eating of the one and only fruit which survived to ripening; it was delicious and bore no resemblance to shop-bought fruit.

As yet there is also very little weed growth other than ivy-leaved speedwell and various frighteningly large nettles and dandelions which managed to survive last summer by hiding amongst ornamentals. I tend to deal with the latter by spraying the centre with Glyphosate weed-killer, but it is still too cold as plants must be growing well for best results. The former are annual weeds and are the first of those to appear in the spring and are an indicator of how well the weeding has been carried out in the previous few years. Judging by the numbers germinating in my front garden, this was not very well at all. There is a lot of truth in the old saying of one year's seed leads to seven year's weeds! As the season progresses you tend to find different weed seedlings as their peak germination period varies; it does help very much to be able to recognise the seed leaves of the common weeds and when to expect their germination. Those that are most difficult to prevent seeding are the later annual weeds such as sow thistle which has an amazing ability to hide amongst ornamentals. I have a book with lots of photos, but as always, it is best to have

them demonstrated in the garden. Any gardener who has been around for a while will be happy to demonstrate. I have plenty of examples if anyone wants to come and look!

I have already identified quite a number of spaces resulting from death and am deciding what to plant. I am trying to opt for shrubs which are more easy care. This year I also fully intend to reduce the number of pots. The alternating wet and intense cold this winter have badly damaged quite a number. I suspect the biggest culprit of the plant loss in the garden is the very wet weather. Even surprisingly tender plants will come through winter if it is dry, but waterlogged soils kill and some plants simply do not reappear. While, in theory, I know it is best to buy plants from a reputable nursery, I love going to plant sales and getting spare plants from friends and acquaintances, but beware the pitfalls of that approach. If there is a large number of a particular plant at a sale, then it may be a prolific self-seeder or highly invasive. I have some of each category in my garden and I bitterly regret some of them. The other main disadvantage is the possible introduction of pernicious weeds such as ground elder and bindweed so it is good to isolate these plants in their pots for a few weeks before planting out and don't get me started on the pests that can be introduced!

Please contact me for further details of membership which costs only £5 per family per year.

Thank you to those members who have already paid their subscription for 2013 and may I remind other members that your subscription is now due and will be gratefully received.

Liz Moyses
Membership secretary
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01844 279875