

TIDDINGTON WITH ALBURY & MILTON COMMON NEWSLETTER

www.tiddingtonoxon.co.uk

APRIL/MAY 2014

From the Editor

Now that spring is well and truly on its way (hopefully) there are quite a few activities to look forward to during April and May.

The ever popular drop-in coffee mornings continue every second Wednesday of the month and on the other Wednesdays the Art and Craft Group.

Easter is a busy time for Church activities including a workshop for children to make an Easter garden (see p8). On the Sunday before Easter the Village Hall will have a children's Easter party (see p10).

See details of a May Day Dance, again in the Village Hall on 3 May on page 12.

All these various events are really catering for all ages! On 17 May the Friends of Great Milton School will have an English Country Fair (see p14).

Please see page 9 to read about two very adventurous girls who are variously going on distant expeditions to help communities in poor countries. They need to raise money to fund themselves so take a look at what they propose. Good luck girls!

Zena Knight



Thank you
Action for Children
(formerly National Children's Homes)

The total raised in the collection boxes (League of Light) this time was £353.86. Thank you to EVERYONE who kindly donated money. I will do my best to collect next March 2015 if time permits or the following year. Thank you once again for your generosity and kindness.

Yvonne Cartwright

Fitness & Yoga Classes

I have been running classes now for over 28 years, and I occasionally need to make changes in these sessions. I no longer run classes in Holton but there is a new class at the Neighbours Hall, Great Milton on Wednesdays at 6.00pm. This is in addition to the session that has been in place for over 28 years on Monday evenings at the Neighbours Hall. The class at Pine Lodge in Little Milton is running well on Monday mornings at 10:30am. The last session in Great Haseley will be on Thursday, 27 February 2014. These session will recommence for a summer course only basis and will be running through June/July/August. The classes are all very reasonably priced and are drop in sessions. If anyone prefers just to practise Yoga only then there is a session in Tiddington Village Hall on Thursdays at 10:30am. Everyone will be made most welcome and who knows you could actually enjoy yourselves and get fit and more flexible in the process!

Yvonne Cartwright,
Senior Fitness & Yoga Teacher
Tel no. 01844 279205

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LITTER BLITZ

**SATURDAY 5 April
10.30am
Tiddington
Village Hall**

**Please come to collect
a sack and picker,
choose an area to tidy
and help to give the village a
spring clean**

From the Parish Clerk

May Council meetings – normally held on the second Monday because of the Bank Holiday, this year it has unavoidably been moved to Tuesday, 13 May at 8.00pm. It will include the Annual Parish Meeting.

Highways matters - there are numerous concerns regarding blocked drains, surface water and potholes in the parish, which I am pursuing with County Highways.

As always report any highway matters which are of concern to you via the County Council website or to me if you do not have access to a computer.

Pelican crossing on A418 – our endeavours to obtain a crossing are still ongoing as are the efforts of our County Councillor, Anne Purse who is in contact with the County Area Steward.

The Council is also looking at the possibility of having vehicle activated signs erected at the approaches to the village along the A418, but the requisite survey/feasibility study has not yet been done.

Tiddington 4 Village Plan - we are looking at the possibility of the development of the old railway line as a footpath/cycleway and are in contact with various landowners, counselling their support. It would be a very expensive project, but we may be able to access some grant monies.

Tiddington with Albury Parish Council Members

Chair	Elaine Horne	279520
	Planning, highways & 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	

Litter Blitz - there will be a litter blitz on Saturday, 5 April – 10.30 at the Village Hall. Help clean up our parish (see poster opposite and article below).

Play equipment - the Parish Council has ordered a new see-saw for the children's play area. Please be wary of the equipment in the play area. Due to the very wet weather of late, there is a danger of slipping.

Bonfires – if you wish to light a bonfire during the day, can I ask you to respect your neighbours, especially if they have washing drying outside and windows open on a warm day. As a Parish Council we can refer the complaints we receive to SODC.

KEN POYSER

Clerk to the Parish Council

IT'S TIME TO WOMBLE!

At last it's stopped raining (hopefully the sun is still shining by the time you read this) and the grass is starting to grow so it is time to clear up the litter around the village.

When the questionnaire for the Village Plan was circulated a number of people said they would be willing to help and quite a few turned out for last year's litter blitz. Many thanks to them. Sadly, however, litter is a constant problem so the Parish Council is hoping that as many people as possible will come to

CLEAN UP THE VILLAGE

SATURDAY 5 APRIL

10.30 AM

MEET AT THE VILLAGE HALL

Sacks, litter pickers and high viz bibs will be available then.

If you're not able to make Saturday morning but are willing to clear litter on your own at another time during that weekend contact Ken Poyser and he will be able to let you have some of the refuse sacks provided by the Council. All full sacks need to be left by the bins outside the Village Hall in Tiddington or on the grass at the top of Sandy Lane in Milton Common for collection by Biffa on Monday morning (7 April). Look forward to seeing you.

Cherry Draper

From the Parish Council Chair

The water pooling at the bottom of Sandy Lane did go eventually. We lost count of how many tankers of water were taken away.

Our County Councillor, Anne Purse is getting Mr Gordon Hunt from Highways to have a look at our drainage problems in the Parish. Let's hope we will see some results.

I hope by the time you receive this Newsletter that hedges on London Road, Milton Common will have been cut after pleading with the Council for 18 months to cut them.

Coming to the Play Area in Tiddington soon a new See-Saw.

You know by now that one of my pet hates, excuse the pun, is Dog Mess, especially in certain areas of the Parish – Albury Lane and Old London Rd, Milton Common. Please pick up your Dog's Mess – we supply dog bins in the Parish so use them. The fine for not picking up is £1000.

Elaine Horne
01844-279520

elaine@ace-training.me.uk

Art and Craft Group

Where is everybody? I am sure there must be plenty of talented artists and crafters in the village who would like to come and share with others and enjoy a chat and refreshments.



We are planning to meet after Easter from 30 April every Wednesday except the 2nd one in the month from 9.00am to 12.00noon for another ten sessions taking us up to the 23 July. Further details in the diary on the back page.

For a cost of £2.00 per session you will be able to make use of the excellent facilities of the hall and enjoy a cup of tea or coffee and biscuits.

Artists and crafters are welcome to bring their projects and share tips and ideas with other like-minded people. Also bring along any books, magazines or materials that you might share and swap with others.

For more information please do not hesitate to contact me: Zena Knight, 24 Albury View. Tel: 01844 339340

Easter and May Bank Holidays Rubbish and Recycling Dates

Normal day	Revised day
Monday 21 April	Tuesday 22 April
Monday 5 May	Tuesday 6 May
Monday 26 May	Tuesday 27 May

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.

SWAP SHOP Saturday, 12 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 for us to recycle

Refreshments available (small charge)

Run by Wheatley Community Action Group

www.wheatleycag.org

Reuse, recycle and keep stuff out of landfill!

**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 your District Councillor

New RingGo cashless car park payment system being trialled

The car parks team is trialling a new cashless parking system in two district council car parks in Wallingford. They launched the trial on Tuesday 18 February meaning that motorists can now pay to park by using RingGo, which allows them to pay via a smart phone app, by text message, telephone or on the RingGo website.

If you have any comments about the new system please email carparks@southandvale.gov.uk or call 01235 547665.

Achievements 2013

During 2013 the Councils have proven yet again that they are at the top of their league. Winners or finalists in a number of events, we are consistently proving that we are good at what we do and this is being recognised externally as well. And what's more, we also have two accreditations (Investors in People and Lexcel) which recognise our professionalism. All of these awards and accreditations are just one way to showcase and recognise the hard work of teams across the Councils and the high quality of service provided to residents in both districts. For a complete list of the awards and achievements, please visit [our webpage](#).

Landlords warned following prosecution

Landlords were this week reminded of their requirements in licensing Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs) after the Council successfully prosecuted a man from Goring who was running a property in Wantage without a license.

A House in Multiple Occupation (HMO) is a three or more storey house with five or more people, in more than one household who share facilities (kitchen, bathroom etc)

Landlords of HMOs must meet certain standards and obligations to ensure that the house is safe for tenants. If the house is unsafe, and not repaired or

maintained according to the regulations, hazards can be reported to the local council. The council is responsible for enforcing HMO standards and can make a landlord take action to correct any problems. Find out more about HMOs from [Shelter](#). You can also read the full [press notice](#) on our website

Council tax e-billing success

The Council, through its contractor, Capita has been chipping away at our council taxpayers to sign up for e-billing. Households have been targeted by email and SMS (text messages). We have had an excellent response and take-up rates at the end of February 2014 compared to February 2013 and the end of December 2012 are as follows:

	Vale	South	Totals
Dec 12	1,476	1,702	3,178
Feb 13	5,143	5,671	10,814
Feb 14	7,121	7,893	15,014

If those members who haven't already would like to sign up to this convenient, environmentally friendly, and cost-effective delivery method then please email Capita's secure email address at

sodc.counciltax@secure.capita.co.uk Please provide your council tax account number or your name and address when applying. Alternatively, ring **0345 302 2313** to give your details over the phone.

For further information contact, please contact Paul Howden.

Stephen Harrod
Great Milton Ward
01844 278068

Stephen.Harrod@southoxon.gov.uk

South Oxfordshire District Council Notice of Community Governance Review – draft proposals

Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007

Local Government (Parishes and Parish Councils) (England) Regulations 2008

Section 79 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 allows the Council to undertake a community governance review (CGR) of the whole or part of its area. Council agreed to undertake a CGR in July 2013. It published terms of reference in November 2013 and undertook an initial consultation until 31 January 2014. Council agreed draft proposals for consultation at its meeting on 20 February 2014.

South Oxfordshire District Council is now undertaking the second consultation period of the review process on its draft proposals and residents and interested organisations are therefore asked to give their views on the proposals. Council agreed to extend the consultation period until 31 May 2014 to allow more time for respondents and give more time to analyse the responses and make final recommendations, which will come to Council at its meeting in July.

Copies of the proposals can be obtained by contacting Jeanette Cox on 01235 540303 or viewed at the Council's Offices, Benson Lane, Crowmarsh Gifford OX10 8ED during normal office hours, or on the Council's website at:

<http://www.southoxon.gov.uk/services-and-advice/local-democracy/town-and-parish-councils/local-government-and-public-involvement>

If you wish to submit any comments you may e-mail your submission to cgr@southandvale.gov.uk

Alternatively please send hard copy written representation to:

CGR
South Oxfordshire District Council
Legal and Democratic Services
Benson Lane
Crowmarsh Gifford
Wallingford OX10 8ED.

The deadline for submissions is 31 May 2014.

David Buckle
Chief Executive

Milton Common NHW (West Side) and Sandy Lane

Theft of handbags from vehicles – South Oxon and Vale area. Thames Valley Police are advising people not to leave handbags or other valuables in their vehicles when parked up and left unattended. In the last week vehicles have been broken into whilst left parked up at beauty spot car parks; locations include White Horse Hill, Ashbury and along the Ridgeway. Offender(s) smashed windows to gain entry in order to steal property.

The charity **Think Jessica** (www.thinkjessica.com) provides a lot of useful advice about scams. Their 12-page booklet, '[Scam mail is blackmail](#)', is particularly useful and covers: lottery and prize draw scams, clairvoyant scams, catalogue scams, courier scams,



bank / building society scams and more. You can order a **free hard copy** of this booklet by writing to:

Think_Jessica

POBox_4442

Chesterfield-S449AS

(Please-enclose a 2nd-class stamp)

or by emailing advice@thinkjessica.com.

Thames Valley Police is appealing for information on two suspicious vehicles.

Vehicle 1: White Ford Transit drop side flatbed lorry – Part Reg: PO51***

Vehicle 2: Black Mitsubishi L200 Warrior – Part Reg: RA06***

Two male suspects were seen with the vehicles. They are described as white males, one aged 30/40 years of medium build and the second younger of slimmer build. The vehicles were seen following burglaries/thefts in the Wantage and Harwell areas. Police would like to receive information or sightings on either vehicle, and speak with the owner/s so they may be able to eliminate them from their enquiries.

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



1. Property Marking Event

Between 10am - 3pm on Saturday, 29 March 2014 officers from the Princes Risborough Neighbourhood Police Team will be at Widmer Feeds Country Store, Pink Road, Lacey Green to security mark your horse tack. There is no need to book, just turn up with your tack on the day and they will mark it for you free of charge. For more information about the property marking then please get in touch with the PRNPT, via the non emergency and general enquiry number 101 or send an email to:

princesrisboroughnhpt2@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk

If you missed this event, there will be another one soon.

Between 1st and 2nd February forced entry was gained to outbuildings in Reading Road, Harwell. Horse medication and red diesel was stolen. Between 2nd

and 3rd February five stables were entered and searched in Upton, near Didcot. Nothing was stolen; it is believed offender(s) may have been looking for animal medication. Between 4th and 5th February a horse shelter was stolen from a field in Upton. All the above incidents occurred overnight.

If you want to become part of Horsecatch and receive the e-mails, please e-mail me on elaine@ace-training.me.uk.

Elaine Horne
01844 279520

From your MP, John Howell



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

There are a number of issues in the Constituency at the moment relating to moving around. With Whitchurch Bridge closed for repairs and access to Sonning Bridge closed due to flood damage to the road, there are problems with river crossing. This has raised the issue of the construction of a third bridge over the Thames.

The work on Whitchurch Bridge has been severely delayed due to the closure of the river by the Environment Agency on safety grounds. With the river flowing at high speed, due to the recent rainfall, it has been impossible for contractors to work. The delay is causing understandable concern to residents and businesses on both sides of the bridge. Together with Alok Sharma MP, I met with the key players to push for a firm plan of action and progress as soon as possible. They have now indicated that they envisage the bridge being re-opened in September.

At the same time the closure of the Playhatch Road has meant that access to Sonning from the Henley side has been impossible. I have met with residents and business owners there to help resolve practical issues in the short term. I am also supporting the County Council bid for government funding to enable permanent repair of the road to be brought forward without detrimental effect of funding of other road schemes.

With these problems the call for a third bridge over the Thames has arisen again. At a meeting called jointly by Rob Wilson MP and me, key players from both sides of the river agreed to share data to get a proper understanding of the need and traffic flows.

The road network on this side of the river would need significant improvement if an additional bridge were to be built. The implications of this need to be fully understood and considered in any proposal that Reading might bring forward.

In Parliament issues of personal care and security have been on the agenda. The Care Bill completed its passage through the House of Commons and is now with their Lordships. Key provisions of this Bill seek to reform the law relating to care and support for adults and carers, to make provision about safeguarding adults from abuse or neglect, and to make provision about care standards.

The issue of NHS England's proposals for a database of patient records has caused concern for some people. I believe this is largely due to the way in which it has been explained. As a result implementation has been delayed until the autumn to allow more time to build understanding of the benefits of using the information, what safeguards are in place, and how people can opt out if they choose. I support this delay and also support the initiative. The programme, which will consolidate NHS patient records in a secure environment called the Health and Social Care Information Centre (HSCIC), will bring real benefits to patients. One of the main aims of the new system is to allow the NHS to make better use of the routine information collected when you visit your doctor. It is important that the NHS can use this information to get a complete picture of what is happening across health and social care and to plan services according to what works best. Patient information is already used extensively by the NHS but I believe that making better use of this information will help to improve the quality of care and enable more thorough research.

However, I want to assure you that the HSCIC is committed, and legally bound, to the very highest standards of privacy and confidentiality to ensure that confidential information is protected at all times. Access to information is strictly controlled and only the minimum amount of information required will be used. In most cases, researchers can carry out their studies using information that does not identify a patient. Only researchers who have obtained a patient's permission or who have been granted special approval are allowed to access identifiable data.

On matters of security the monitoring work of the Intelligence services has attracted some attention.

With the increasing use and speed of electronic communications the need for the security services to be able to access data in specific cases is clear where matters of national security are concerned. However it is important for everyone to know that in order to intercept any individuals communications in the UK a warrant signed personally by a Secretary of State is required. It is not a casual process of listening to anyone and everyone. The intelligence agencies work in accordance with a strict legal and policy framework which ensures that their activities are authorised, necessary and proportionate.

Further details of the proposed legislation and the work of Parliament are available on the parliament website at www.parliament.uk. As always I am interested to hear views on the proposals before the House.

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 e mail me at: john.howell@oxfordshireconservatives.com. You can also follow me on twitter @johnhowellmp or on Facebook www.facebook.com/john.howellmp

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St. Helen's Church

From the Vicar

An important lesson to learn from the final days of Holy Week is that if there is Good Friday, it is inevitably followed by Easter Sunday. The two are inseparable. Good Friday cannot be considered "good" without Easter Sunday and Easter cannot be fully celebrated without Good Friday. We cannot always experience joy without having known sorrow; victory cannot be tasted sweet unless we are aware of the bitterness of defeat.

We appreciate good times more if we have experienced bad times.

Easter blossoms out of Good Friday; beautiful flowers grow in dirt, a delicious omelette begins with broken eggs.

Most of the good things we enjoy in life come through hard work; most of our successes come from apparent failures.

Jesus went through Good Friday to Easter to reveal to us that there is no defeat. We are Easter people and we celebrate it with joy again.

Please take time to read the poem below, wonderful words that remind us that we all are valued, nothing is wasted.

Poem by Canon T.R Milford, once Chancellor of Lincoln Cathedral.

Lines Found on a workshop floor

We are the paint that was left on the palette,
After the painter had found the true shade;
We are the pieces knocked off by the mallet,
Till the form hid in stone was displayed.

We are the words that the poet discarded,
Seeking the one word to finish his line;
We are the people that no one regarded,
We stayed in shadow that others might shine.

Count us not wasted who thus were expended!
We pay the cost of creation's employ;
We, in God's purpose no less comprehended,
Dying in him have our share of his joy.

Wishing you all a very happy Easter.

Michael Grantham
The Vicarage
Buryhook Corner
Holton, Oxford
OX331PY
Michael_grantham@o2.co.uk

St. Helen's Church News

We have enjoyed weekly services since Christmas and are pleased to have a very good attendance for the Family Service now held on the third Sunday of every month.

By the time you read this we will have held a second family service when the parishes of Holton, Waterperry and Waterstock gathered at Albury for a Mothering Sunday service.

We shall hold a children's workshop on Easter Saturday, 19 April at 10.00am in the Church to make the Easter garden. Do come and help us if you are free. Our Easter service will be taken by Canon John Morrison at 9.30am as usual.

An early note for your diaries is the pudding evening at Mr. and Mrs. Price's on Friday, 20 June from 6.30. The Harvest service and Supper will be on 28

September and the Christmas coffee morning on 29 November. We are also planning to commemorate WWI with an event in the Church in August/September. Kit Arnold from Waterperry has written a play for the occasion. If anyone would like to take part, acting or production, please get in touch now.

Moo Nowell-Smith,
Churchwarden
The Old Rectory, Albury, Thame,
Oxfordshire OX9 2LP
01844 339650
moo @ nowell-smith.com

Church Services	St Helen's Church, Albury
6 April	9.30am Matins BCP with Reverend Serena Hutton
13 April	9.30am Holy Communion BCP with Reverend Michael Grantham
20 April	9.30am Easter Family Service with Canon John Morrison
27 April	9.30am Holy Communion Common Worship with Reverend Michael Grantham
4 May	9.30am Matins BCP
11 May	9.30am Holy Communion BCP with Reverend Michael Grantham
18 May	9.30am Family Service
25 May	9.30am Holy Communion Common Worship with Reverend Tom Farrell

Great Milton Methodist Church Easter Service

On Easter Sunday this year we will be holding a service with a difference. It will include a Family Service with a very special Dressing of the Cross.
EASTER DAY – Sunday 20 April, 11.00am
During the service we will be serving delicious cakes or hot cross buns, tea and coffee. Everyone will receive a warm welcome.

Yvonne Cartwright
01844 279205

Becca Climbs Kilimanjaro

Our daughter Becca Brooks has set herself a huge personal challenge to climb Mount Kilimanjaro in September 2014 for the Charity 'Dig Deep', a charity committed to helping communities in Africa improve their access to renewable energy, sanitation and, most importantly, water.

Many of you will know Becca, who has lived in Tiddington all her life, and is a kind and caring individual who likes to help others less fortunate than herself. If all goes to plan, Becca will reach the summit of Mount Kilimanjaro on her 21st Birthday, a rather untraditional way of celebrating her big day!

In order to undertake this expedition Becca has to fundraise £3000.00 for the Dig Deep Charity, which is an enormous task, and any donations no matter how small would be very much appreciated.

If you would like to donate to this very worthwhile cause donations may be made directly to the MyDonate website at;

<https://mydonate.bt.com/fundraisers/beccabrookskili>

Alternatively donations may be made in person at 22 Ickford Road, Tiddington, 01844 338829

Many thanks and Best Wishes to you all

Jane & Les Brooks

World Challenge Mozambique and Swaziland 2015

I am a year 10 student at Aylesbury High School and am lucky enough to be planning with 17 other girls from my school a World Challenge educational expedition to Mozambique and Swaziland in the summer 2015. This is not an average school trip and certainly not a holiday. It is a challenging expedition that will involve trekking and working in the local community bringing aid and improving the quality of lives.

However another part of the challenge starts now with fundraising, as we are expected to raise the cost of the expedition ourselves. To start my fundraising efforts off I am offering a selection of summer plants at competitive prices. The hanging baskets cost £10 and will be filled to the brim with a colourful variety of summer plants. Also available are two great value hanging basket refill packs which contain 3 individually pot-grown plants usually costing £2 each. However refill packs are just £4!! That means you get the third plant free! A full list of the available plants including bedding, tomato and strawberry plants is available on the order form – if you would like to see this and take advantage of these great offers, please ring or email and I will forward a copy of the form to you.

I am hoping to submit the order by 06/04/14 so would like to receive completed order forms and remittance at the address below before then but please do get in touch for further details. We will confirm the date and arrangements for local collection nearer the time. Please make cheques payable to Miss Danielle Baker. Also do you enjoy homemade cakes but don't have time to bake yourself? I love baking, have some time and would love to help. Please give me a ring or email – details below.

If you are able to help by buying cakes or plants or if you perhaps need a babysitter, I would be very grateful and all the money I raise will go towards this trip.

Many thanks and I look forward to keeping you updated over the coming months.

Dani Baker
56 London Road, Milton Common OX9 2JL
01844 278056
dani.baker56@googlemail.com

Waterstock & Tiddington W.I.

At our February meeting, Liz Woolley told of the leisure and entertainment experienced in Oxford during the Victorian and Edwardian eras. Illustrated with photos of the buildings in the city, it was interesting to see some that had disappeared after redevelopment or others that now had different uses.

Our Annual Meeting in March saw a change of officers. Joan Wood stood down and I have taken over as President. I would like to thank Joan for all her work in that position over a number of years.



Following Treasurer's and Secretary's reports we looked forward to a new year in which we will celebrate 90 years since the Institute's formation on 14 October 1924. After the formal part of the meeting, Yvonne Cartwright entertained us with ways of keeping mind, body and soul fit and healthy. No practical yoga this time but we shall all walk a little taller!

On 10 April, we will be treated to Beatnik Beatles with Simeon Courtie. He and his family toured the world in a campervan, singing as a group in the Beatles style. It should be an interesting talk.

The competition is rather different from our usual – a puppet made from a sock and on a display stand, and the winner will go forward to the Group Meeting.

At the Group Meeting at Sydenham on 24 April, we will be entertained by Paul Dumas, a ventriloquist. Sign up to attend at our April meeting if you have not already done so.

8 May sees our meeting at which we will discuss the one Resolution which will be put to the National Annual General Meeting in June. This resolution urges ways be found of encouraging more to register as organ donors. As we only have one resolution to discuss, we will have some entertainment afterwards. Our competition is for a fruit or vegetable beginning with the letter "J".

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.

For a subscription of £34.70, members receive a County Newsletter 11 times a year and the National "WI Life" magazine 8 times a year. There are also many outings and events to choose from at a reduced rate.

Zena Knight
Tel: 01844 339340
Email: zenaknight42@btinternet.com

Tiddington Village Hall

To match the improvement in the weather, the Village Hall has had a makeover! The inside of the Village Hall has been decorated, new heaters installed in the bar area, new fans in the main hall and we will soon have new heaters in the main hall once they have been sourced. We owe a huge thank you to Ken Field and Monty Adams for all their hard work in refurbishing the hall – it looks fantastic, as I'm sure you will all agree once you have seen it.

We also have to thank Richard Ilbery for giving so generously of his time and machinery to trim back the brambles etc. from the side of the car park – a job which would have taken an awful lot of man hours to do.

We have a couple of events coming up in the near future, firstly the Children's Easter Party (11 years and under) – this is to take place in the Hall on Sunday 13th April 2-4pm. There is no charge for the party but we do need to know numbers, so please call Jane on 01844 338146 or Bev on 01844 339765 by Sunday, 6 April.

On Saturday, 3 May we are having a May Day Dance (for the grown ups, with music to suit all tastes) 8pm onwards. Tickets are £5 each – please call the numbers above to book.

Another date for your diaries is Sunday, 20 July when we will be holding the Annual Fete. Further details of this will follow in the next newsletter.

Looking forward to seeing you all at one or more of our functions and making the most of our fabulous Hall.

Kind regards

Tot Boswell
Tiddington Village Hall Committee
01844 338146



The sun is shining, the grass is cut, what more could we want! It surely can't last!!

Our first few fixtures are:

Saturday, 19 April - Great Brickhill (H)

Sunday, 20 April - Milfields (H)

Saturday, 26 April- 1st XI Buckingham (A), 2nd XI Buckingham (H)

Sunday, 27 April - NVKO Challow (A)

We are looking forward to watching the cricket from the extended balcony, the new furniture (donated – with thanks) is a great addition and has been well received by all. Great to see the balcony nearly full the other warm Sunday.

There will be a couple of work parties organised to bring everything together for the summer season, the

first being on Saturday, 5 April, from 10am. All help welcome.

Phil and Tony D have worked hard on painting the inside over the last few weeks, which has given the place a fresher feel.

Our Youth Coaching starts on Tuesday, 22 April for secondary age children and on Friday, 25 April for primary. Coaching is open to boys and girls from 7 years upwards and our signing on evening is Wednesday, 2 April at 7pm. Full details on our website.

There are a range of packages available for sponsors. There are details on the website. If you feel you can support our activities, please contact us: sponsorship@tiddingtoncricketclub.org. We can tailor any package to suit you.

We are very lucky to have support already but anything extra can only add to what the Club can offer, be it senior or youth cricket or any of our other worthwhile activities.

Thank you to all who supported our race night, we raised about £1000. Thanks to Nick Pykett for his organisation and to all our sponsors, helpers and guests, who made the evening successful.

Memberships are due on 1 April and the rates remain the same: Family membership (including all children under 18) £25 and Single membership £15. Payment can be made direct to our bank account, please ask for details, or to Tracey Smith. 100 Club will also be due and again this remains at £20 for the year. A list of winners can be found on the website.

Our AGM will be on Thursday, 3 April, 8pm in the Club. All members are welcome

Let's hope for the hot summer they predict

Lesley Pykett
07762 572558
www.tiddingtoncricketclub.org



Question:

I have heard in the news about going through assessments to obtain my Employment Support Allowance (ESA) benefit. What are these and what should I expect?

Our advice:

No one knows when an accident or ill-health could have a dramatic impact on their life. Last year the Government added an extra step to the process for applying for sickness and disability support.

The Work Capability Assessment (WCA) process, which has come under fire for lengthy and unfair decisions since it was introduced in 2008, will now include an extra step before sick and disabled people can access financial support through Employment Support Allowance (ESA).

If your sickness or disability prevents you from working, then you could be entitled to ESA to help you manage your day to day living costs. Since October last year, the Government introduced a new 'mandatory reconsideration' phase to ESA.

This extra step in the process takes place after you receive a decision on your initial application for support and you can't lodge an appeal until it is completed. It is supposed to take about two weeks to go through the reconsideration period but unfortunately some of our clients have said it can take much longer than this.

You won't be able to claim ESA during the reconsideration phase but you can apply for Jobseekers Allowance. We're concerned that some people will find this difficult and be left with no financial support – leading to people in already trying circumstances being subjected to even more anxiety.

If you're in this situation then you should go to your local Citizens Advice Bureau in **Thame** for help on how to manage your finances and make sure your application is dealt with fairly and promptly. Once the reconsideration process has taken place, you may well get a positive decision about your application. If you are unhappy with the decision, you can appeal.

Appealing against a decision can seem like a daunting prospect but advisers in your local Citizens Advice Bureau can help you to deal with this.

For more information, contact your local CAB in Market Square, Thame or see

www.adviceguide.org.uk

Adviceline: 08444 111 444

From mobile: 03 00 33 00 650

The CONSUMER PARTNERSHIP in OXFORDSHIRE

www.caox.org.uk/consumer

Are "Work Capability Assessments" fit for work?

We turn our attention to the consumer aspects of a new campaign called **FitforWork** around the Work Capability Assessments required for certain benefits. The Consumer Partnership's interest in this campaign

lies in the fact that people's claims depend on medical assessments from private firms, and yet these companies are unaccountable for poor quality or bad customer service, as has been reported only recently in the press. We are carrying out a survey of GPs across the county and also collecting evidence from claimants.

May will be Scams Awareness month

With the number of scams multiplying, May will once again be Scams Awareness Month. One recent scam was adverts for non-existent jobs, which wasted applicants' time, money and emotion, just in the hope that they might also click on a CV-writing service for which the scammer would be paid a pound! You will all have your pet examples. We would love to have yet more helpers throughout Oxfordshire for our May campaign: can you help to raise awareness in your local library or church or sports club?

Get in touch through www.caox.org.uk/consumer or call David on 01865 304125.

**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

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

Wheatley Library

Our regular Rhymetimes for babies and toddlers take place on Friday mornings at 11am. It's great fun so if you haven't been before, come along and join in.

Our Lively Library Club, run in association with Age UK, meets on the second Wednesday of each month at 2:15pm. The next meeting is on 9 April, when Viv Vernede will be telling us about local folk tales, myths and legends.

These events are free and you can also take the opportunity to borrow some books, audio-books or DVDs. If you are not already a library member it's very easy to join and now Spring is here why not get some inspiration from our selection of gardening books?

We also have a photocopier, computers with free internet access and a scanner. One to one computer support can be arranged if you are interested.

Tel: 01865 875267 for further details

GREAT HASELEY AND DISTRICT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

April 2014

I am certainly enjoying the arrival of spring and the drier weather. It has been a mild winter so I have a number of tender plants that have survived in a state of active growth. There are deep blue Salvias which have flowered all winter and which I have had to cut back or they will be very leggy and vulnerable to the wind; this is painful so I have left a few flowers as they are such a treat. Melianthus major has flower buds on it which has only happened once before in all the many years I have been growing this plant. I don't find the flowers particularly attractive, but the seed germinates readily and will result in plants which are expensive to buy and provide an exotic feel to the garden with their architectural look. Hopefully they will be for sale at next year's fete. It is, however, very noticeable that these survivors are looking rather yellow which will be as a result of the excessive amount of winter rain washing nutrients out of the soil; therefore it is vital to feed the soil as soon as possible with preferably organic material such as home-made compost for texture and water retention

and something like pelleted chicken manure for nutrients. If you don't have garden compost then spent mushroom compost or composted bark are good substitutes.

The mild weather means that scented flowering plants such as Daphne and Coronilla are flourishing and provide such a wonderful perfume wafting on the breeze; this is such a pleasure to enjoy so don't forget to buy scented plants when you have a gap in your garden. I note too that my Apricot is in flower and I am hoping it produces some fruit this year. There are plenty of pollinating insects around and also plenty of ladybirds which will need to work hard to deal with the excesses of pests which will have over-wintered in the mild conditions. Be wary of late frosts on tender plants which you can cover with fleece overnight if necessary.

The warmth coupled with the wet soil means that weeds are growing and flowering rapidly so get on top of them before they seed everywhere. Keeping up with the weeds will pay dividends in future years when fewer seedlings will appear. This is especially important in the vegetable garden where weeds will steal light, water and nutrients from your crops and reduce yields. My vegetable garden is a disaster zone as it has been under water for much of the winter so I have a real battle to rescue it from the weeds which are now taking over. Fortunately my other half built some raised beds a number of years ago which are above the water table and one of these houses my precious asparagus. So far there is no sign of growth there which is a little worrying given how mild the weather has been, but I remain hopeful. It is time to start sowing seed if you have not already done so; I have not even sown any in the green house so you are not alone. I find it helpful to sort my seed packets according to time of sowing so it is easy to see what should be next and I really must get on and do that.

Finally, I have a new 'assistant' in the garden whose name is Rafi; he is a beautiful tabby with white socks and bib and lives next door. He joins me every time I am outside and 'helps', but mostly he spends the time stalking me, leaping out from behind bushes and wrestling with my arm. Rafi certainly brightens my days, but I'm not entirely sure the birds feel the same way...

Liz Moyses
Membership secretary
liz@moyses.org
01844 279875

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 2014 and may I remind other members that your subscription is now overdue and will be gratefully received



Crime prevention advice - tracker apps for electronic devices

Smart phones and other electrical items, such as laptops and tablet computers, are becoming an indispensable accessory. As they get better and smarter the cost of such devices is increasing, making them more desirable to thieves. Many of these devices have the capability to run tracker applications. These applications can track the location using Global Positioning Satellite (GPS) technology. If the device is lost or stolen, the owner can use a computer to log on to their account and see on a map where it is. Go to your supplier to discuss which application will suit you best. This will ensure you do not jeopardize the guarantee by running something which is inappropriate/not designed for your particular device

Have you signed up to Thames Valley Alert?

Thames Valley Alert is the new system for receiving crime and policing updates for your area. The state-of-the-art system allows anyone who signs up to choose what updates they receive and how they would like to receive it. A new option includes receiving information via text and more traditional landline and email messages will still be available. You can also filter the updates you receive by specifying the priority level of the messages. To sign up to receive alerts visit www.thamesvalleyalert.co.uk/

Crime mapping

The Home Office national crime mapping website gives the public access to street-level crime information as well as information on their Neighbourhood Policing Teams, Neighbourhood Priorities and Events - details of Have Your Say and

other neighbourhood activities. Log on to www.police.uk, type in your local postcode or neighbourhood name and then click on 'Find out more'.

Traffic issues

As a number of villages within the Wheatley/Chalgrove Neighbourhood have expressed a concern over possible speeding in the area, your Neighbourhood Policing Team will be out at the roadside with our Speed Indication Device (SID). This measures the speed of traffic and the details of any vehicles breaking the speed limit will be recorded.

