

# TIDDINGTON WITH ALBURY & MILTON COMMON NEWSLETTER

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

APRIL/MAY 2011

## From the Editor

May I wish you all a very happy Easter and enjoyment of the activities in the village planned to follow. See page 13 for details of the celebrations surrounding the wedding of Kate and William.

Details of the Car Boot Sale in May are on page 14 and the special voucher for village sellers on page 15.

Finally help needed to spring clean the village on 9 April (see page 4) - more hands make light work!

Zena Knight

## Milton Common NHW (West Side) and Sandy Lane



There has been a spate of suspicious incidents around the Vale and South Oxfordshire. On Thursday, 3 March a man tried to gain access to the homes of elderly residents by saying he was from the electricity company. On one occasion he stated that a refund was due but he needed change and on another he stated the electric and gas needed turning off. This is similar to the distraction burglary at the end of February in Harwell where the electricity board was used as a way of getting into the house. There may be more than one male involved as on one occasion the male was described as in his twenties with an Irish accent and on another he was described as a white male in his 40's. Please ask for

identification and if they are genuine they will also have a long security number which Southern Electric (depends which supplier they are from) will ask for when checking any individual.

We had an occasion to check two individuals from Southern Electric - they were in Tiddington early evening (6:15pm). I have asked Southern Electric not to send salesmen to the door in the evening - especially to our older folk.

Don't forget anyone wanting to join the NHW Oil group give me a ring. (*For Tiddington see page 11 - Ed.*) We have just had a delivery - the more litres we can bring to the area the cheaper it is - but still keeping individual accounts.

If you see anything suspicious, please call the police on 08458 505 505 or 999 for a crime in progress.

Elaine Horne

NHW Co-ordinator M/C and Sandy Lane

01844 279520

(See page 3 for Tiddington Neighbourhood Watch)

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## From the Parish Clerk

**Highways matters** - I have written to Oxfordshire Highways about a number of matters, which I have reported in previous Newsletters, to very little effect. Recently I have notified Highways that there is water running down Sandy Lane below where the water was previously running and have also pointed out that road signs have been damaged at the A418 end.

May I ask you please to assist by reporting such matters via the website. The more they hear, the better the chance of some action being taken.

**Litter Blitz** - our annual Litter Blitz is set for Saturday, 9 April, 10.00am at the Village Hall. High visibility clothing, gloves and pickers will be supplied. Your help would be much appreciated.

**Parish Councillors** - this is the year for Parish Council elections, which will take place on Thursday, 5 May. By the time you read this the date for proposal forms to reach SODC offices will have passed.

5 May is also the date of the referendum on voting systems. Have your say!

### 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	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	
Clerk	Ken Poyser	339216
	Rosewood, Ickford Road, Tiddington	
	Email: twaparishcouncil@googlemail.com	

**Census** - we have all received our daunting census forms, which we are legally required to complete as at 27 March. This is a legal requirement, so don't overlook this rather intrusive task.

**Police presence and action at residence in Fernhill Close** - following this incident, I have been asked to request that a representative from the Housing Association attend a Parish Council in April or May. Watch the Parish notice board for details if you wish to come along and have your say.

Ken Poyser  
Parish Clerk

### Easter and May Bank Holidays Refuse Collections

Please note the changes will be as follows:

Normal day	Revised day
Monday 25 April	Tuesday 26 April
Monday 2 May	Tuesday 3 May
Monday 30 May	Tuesday 31 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.



**THAMES VALLEY  
POLICE**

**0845 8 505 505**

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

## Neighbourhood Watch Tiddington



Thanks to the alertness of individuals in our area, the Police have been able to solve many crimes and prevent more being carried out. The latest local reports from the website <http://www.thamesvalleypolice.uk/yournh-tvp-pol-area-n235> include the following:

14 offenders convicted in Thame during February for a variety of offences.

2 drug warrants served on 17 February in Tiddington and Great Milton and John Cheshire of Fernhill Close appeared at Oxford Magistrates Court on 3 March, charged with possession of a Class B drug, cannabis.

2 men from Ruislip and Nottinghamshire charged with conspiracy to burgle, posing as Water Board employees. 5 of the offences took place in Garsington, Tiddington, Thame, Wheatley and Watlington. Both remanded to appear at court in High Wycombe on 21 April.

If you see anything suspicious in our village or the surrounding area then immediately report it to Thames Valley Police on 08458 505 505 or in an emergency 999.

Chris Williams  
NHW Co-ordinator Tiddington  
07710 620820

### 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 Chairman

Before the issue of the next Newsletter (June/July) parish council elections will have been held and we will have a new Parish Council. How new it will be is a matter of conjecture as all existing councillors have given notice of their intention to stand for re-election and the Clerk has had no indications that anyone else is putting their hat into the ring. If this remains the case on 4 April - the last date for nomination - there will be no need for an election and you will have to put up with the mixture as before.

There will, however, be District Council elections and a vote on the possible change from the current "first past the post" electoral system to a new "Alternative Vote" system. It is, therefore, important that you get out and vote! By the way, I am not standing for re-election as a District Councillor.

Other news is thin on the ground but we have been notified of a licence application for the service of refreshments on two of the laybys on the A418 - between the Albury turn and the Shabington one. There has not been time to bring this before a Parish Council meeting but all Councillors have been notified and none has been in favour.

Fingers crossed the worst of the weather is behind us and we can look forward to a warm and colourful spring and summer.

John Nowell Smith  
The Old Rectory  
Albury  
OX9 2LP  
Tel: 01844 339650  
Email: [John@nowell-smith.com](mailto:John@nowell-smith.com)

### Annual Parish Meeting

This will be held on Monday, 9 May at 8.00pm together with the Annual Parish Council Meeting. This is the chance for residents to hear about other organisations in the village and your newly elected Council

## From your County Councillor

**County Council Budget** - the County Council finally set its budget, which included large cuts to service expenditure following the Government's reductions in revenue support grants to Councils in its attempts to reduce the National Deficit. As I write this newsletter the County Council are considering the latest round of Public Transport subsidies to our area. This should not greatly affect the 280 service as it is largely run commercially, apart from the 08:20 from Thame and the 09:00 from Oxford and the extra evening return service from Aylesbury at 18:45 and Oxford at 20:00. However, the low use of the market day bus to Thame from Milton Common is under threat due to its declining usage. I will be speaking on both services at the Transport Decisions Committee on 31 March to represent the interests of local residents. I am most concerned about the cuts and changes to Social Services which are there to protect the most vulnerable people in our communities.

**Burglar alarms sold for 99p in scam** - Oxfordshire County Council's Trading Standards Service is warning residents to be vigilant when opening their doors to companies offering burglar alarms for as little as 99p. Many people have complained to Trading Standards, with victims reporting a cold call by a salesperson who insists on visiting to discuss the installation of a free or cheap alarm. Companies may also use high-pressure tactics to scaremonger residents. Based on previous complaints, Trading Standards found that the companies failed to mention hidden fees for the monitoring, upkeep and rapid response facilities. Some residents have found themselves tied into a long contract agreement costing thousands of pounds. Richard Webb, Acting Head of Oxfordshire County Council's Trading Standards, said: "Some companies are claiming to be directly linked to the police, which is simply not true. Our advice is not to

buy anything based on a cold call. If you intend to make a major purchase always research the market and get at least three quotes from reputable companies.

**Choir Festival** - NAPE (National Association for Primary Education) alerts us to the dates of this year's Oxfordshire Festival of Voices, a music and choir festival featuring primary schools from across the county. The festival will be held from 27 June to 1 July at Dorchester Abbey at 6.30 to 8.00pm each evening.

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  
23 March 2011

### **FREE! SWAP SHOP**

**Saturday, 9 April,  
9.30am – 11.00am**

**Merry Bells, Wheatley**

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

**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 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](http://www.wheatleycag.org)

Reuse, recycle and keep stuff out of landfill!

\*See website for other places to recycle these items

## From your MP, John Howell

**Constituency Issues** - *many issues are raised with me on a daily basis. Here is an update of some key ones of concern across the constituency.*

**Speaking up for pensioners** - up to 1,500 pensioners in the constituency could be missing out on a vital benefit which could mean an addition of, on average, over £50 per week to their household income. I raised the issue of the take-up of Pension Credit in the House of Commons, asking Ministers what could be done to make sure this support reaches those who need it most. The take up of pensioners claiming in the constituency is under half that of the national average. Work undertaken when I was a member of the Department for Work and Pensions Select Committee in the last Parliament showed that many pensioners did not know about the benefit, felt stigmatised in claiming, and did not want to give out personal information or fill out long forms. So I was pleased to be advised that the DWP is working with the Revenue (HMRC) to see whether those entitled to the benefit could be more easily identified and payments made automatic.

**Up-date on forests** - a number of constituents wrote to me on the consultation on the future of forests and woodlands. The Government's decision to end the consultation will lead to the setting up of an independent expert panel which will report directly to the Secretary of State in the Autumn on how best to move forward.

**From Westminster** - *a wide variety of topics and issues are raised each week in Parliament, some of general concern and interest, others very specific. Here I bring you an update on things of particular relevance to this constituency.*

**Welfare Reform Bill** - issues of welfare and benefits are often raised with me either by constituents in need of help or those who feel that too much help is given. The Welfare Reform Bill, which is the biggest shake up of the welfare system for 60 years seeks to address these issues. In the Bill steps to make work pay and put individual responsibility right at the heart of the benefits system were unveiled. With five million people trapped on out of work benefits and almost two million children growing up in homes where nobody works, we cannot afford to simply continue tinkering around the edges of the welfare system. Only root and branch reform will do.

**Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Bill** - the first part of this Bill deals with the voting system for parliamentary elections and the second with parliamentary constituencies. It is the first part that has had most coverage as it paves the way for a referendum on 5 May. The referendum will be on a choice between the First-Past-the-Post and the Alternative Vote as the system for electing the House of Commons. You will hear much about this in the coming months.

**The question now be put** - *I am often asked specific questions about the working of Parliament and role of an MP. I shall take one a month to answer.*

**What is an EDM and how do you decide whether to sign them?** - Early Day Motion (EDM) is a colloquial term for a notice of motion given by a Member of Parliament. They are not debated in the House and are little more than petitions. Like many MPs I do not sign them. Indeed, Ministers and Parliamentary Private Secretaries like me do not by convention of the House sign EDMs. EDMs have little if any impact on Ministers and are used for reasons such as publicising the views of individual MPs, drawing attention to specific events or campaigns such as a local football

team winning, and demonstrating the extent of parliamentary support for a particular cause or point of view. They are expensive to run. In the 2009-2010 session of Parliament, 1248 EDMs were submitted at a total estimated cost of £1m. Not for nothing have they become known as little better than parliamentary graffiti. If an issue is important writing to ministers is a much more effective action and the one I much prefer.

*More information on my work is available on my website [www.johnhowellmp.com](http://www.johnhowellmp.com)*

John Howell  
Member of Parliament  
Henley Constituency

## From the Vicar

This year Easter is almost as late as it can possibly be, coming as it does so close to the Royal Wedding and a bumper week of Bank Holidays. I hope it is not completely overshadowed by press attention of the wedding. Easter is our primary Christian festival and deserves our full attention. In the northern hemisphere the liturgical year echoes the calendar year; it has been a long and cold winter, but it is wonderful when spring finally bursts forth. Our villages look especially wonderful this time of year, it is as if nature itself is filled with an irresistible energy.

The resurrection message of new life links in quite naturally with the new life we see all around us. The secular images of bunnies, chickens and daffodils are all around us in shops, on Easter Eggs and cards. They speak to us of the new life of spring, perhaps they awake in us an instinctive sense of excitement and hope. But by themselves they will not get us fully to the heart of the Easter message, which is that Christ is risen.

Jesus' resurrection is something wholly different from anything experienced before or

since. On Easter morning Jesus rose to a wholly new life never to die again. This was not a biblical event like the raising of Lazarus (John, chapter 11), where you may recall Lazarus is called from his tomb by Jesus into his old life. Jesus is raised to a wholly new life; it is resurrection not resuscitation. When Jesus rose from the dead a part of God's re-creation was present upon earth. Something God promised at the end of time belongs through God's grace in the present. Jesus is fully alive, fully present.

The gospels struggle to describe what has happened. None more so than John, read chapter 20 verses 1-18. John's gospel is a work of spiritual genius, it is very carefully written and has many resonances with the Old Testament. This passage is very different. It is almost breathless as it tries to describe the experiences of the women as they went to visit the garden where they placed Jesus' tomb.

Mary had gone to the place of Jesus' burial on that first Easter morning to grieve and anoint his body. What actually happened was earth-shattering. Mary did not recognise Jesus at first, she thought him to be the gardener; only once she had heard his voice did she know him to be Lord. There is something energetic, breathless and bursting with joy about the resurrection.

It is our Christian faith that Easter Day is not just history. That irresistible energy, that promise of new life, a promise of transformed life is there waiting for us. What may seem ordinary is not in the least ordinary. Christian faith promises us that the risen Christ still bursts through barriers of time and space and makes himself present. To believe in the resurrection is not to take a step in the dark or to commit intellectual suicide. It is as one commentator put it an act of rebellion against the evil, corruption and oppression that can threaten to overwhelm us.

At Eastertide we join with the church throughout the world and say "Alleluia Christ is risen"; in so doing we are in a sense rebelling and refusing to see the world as it is because we have glimpsed the world as it is meant to be, created, redeemed and transformed by the risen Christ. By joining in the Easter chorus we are transforming the world because we are transformed. Jesus appeared to a teary eyed

Mary at the tomb, He still appears to us and transforms us. Christ is risen, he is risen indeed. Alleluia.

I hope you have a very Happy Easter.

With best wishes

Caroline

### HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SERVICES

#### Monday 18th April - Wednesday 20th April

8.00pm Compline at St Bartholomew's

#### Maundy Thursday 21st April

7.30pm Short service of Holy Communion at St Bartholomew's Holton

#### Good Friday 22nd April

9.30am Procession of Witness in Wheatley

12.00noon Service in Waterperry

#### Easter Day 24<sup>th</sup> April

8.00am Waterperry Holy Communion

9.30am Albury Family Communion

11.00am Holton Holy Communion

9.30am Waterstock Holy Communion

Church Services	St Helen's Church, Albury
3 April	9.30am Morning Prayer
10 April	9.30am Holy Communion
17 April Palm Sunday	10.30am Cluster Service at <b>Waterstock</b> walking to <b>Waterperry</b> for Holy Communion and Discantvs
22 April Good Friday	12.00noon An hour by the cross at <b>Waterperry</b>
24 April Easter Sunday	9.30am Family Communion
1 May	9.30am Morning Prayer
8 May	9.30am Holy Communion
15 May	9.30am Morning Prayer
22 May	9.30am Holy Communion
29 May	11.00am Cluster Service at <b>Waterperry</b>

## Waterstock & Tiddington W.I.



At our February meeting, the local historian, John Fox, had everyone fascinated by his tales of times past and particularly the interesting artefacts that had been unearthed locally over the years.

We all breathed a sigh of relief at the March Annual Meeting when a volunteer, Marion Talbot, agreed to become our new treasurer. We are grateful for that and also for the many years that Pam Papps has so ably given as Marion's predecessor. We were encouraged by the help of the two County advisers who came, Beryl Mann and the County Treasurer, Linda Needle.

We begin our new year, our 87<sup>th</sup>, on 14 April with a talk by Jan Warner entitled "Survival of the fittest". This is apparently a history of childrearing, illustrated with antiques from the speaker's collection. The competition is for a decorated egg, the winner going forward as the Institute's entry to the Group Meeting.

In May we begin a new series of competitions following the same pattern as before but with "garden" as the subject rather than "kitchen". Small items beginning with the letter "A" will be the challenge for the meeting on 12 May.

Also in May we shall be talking about the one resolution going forward to the National AGM in June and that is the subject of "mega farms", a concern if the one proposed at Aston Clinton comes to pass. We shall also welcome Eva McDonald from Thame WI, who will relate her experiences "Leaving home at 6".

The Spring Group Meeting will be held at Chinnor Village Centre on Wednesday, 20 April and a local florist, Madeleine, will be demonstrating flower arranging with an Easter theme. Members are welcome to attend and transport can be arranged but please let me know if you are coming by our meeting on 14 April.

Coming out of winter and into spring, the County Federation is organising a good number of outings and events during the next few months, all of them listed in the County Newsletter, News and Views. Let me know if you would like to attend any of these events or sign up on the lists displayed at our monthly meetings.

New members will be made very welcome at our meetings on the second Thursday of the month in Tiddington Village Hall at 7.30pm, or come as a visitor to see if you like us!

Zena Knight

Tel: 01844 339340

Email: [zenaknight42@btinternet.com](mailto:zenaknight42@btinternet.com)

### OIL BUYERS' GROUP TIDDINGTON WITH ALBURY

For some time Milton Common residents have been co-ordinating their oil purchases in order to benefit from bulk purchasing discounts offered by the oil companies. Recently there has been an expression of interest in joining this group from quite a few Tiddington residents and we have therefore decided to see if it is feasible to set up a Tiddington with Albury sub group. I have volunteered to help Elaine Horne with this.

Deliveries would be ordered on a regular basis, and group members would be contacted before each order is placed to see if they require supplies. Although the price would be negotiated centrally each individual household will be billed separately and will be responsible for paying their own bills.

If you live in Tiddington or Albury and would be interested in joining the Oil Buyers' Group please contact **Cherry Draper** on **339347** or email: [cndraper@fsmail.net](mailto:cndraper@fsmail.net)

## Tiddington Village Hall

I can't believe we are already a quarter of the way through 2011. Since my last piece plans for the Parish's **Royal Wedding Celebrations** have been fine tuned and amended following feedback from villagers.



We've decided to move the street party and evening entertainment to the Village Hall rather than being outside the pub. There were concerns about safety on the main road and what we would do in the event of bad weather. Not that it's going to rain on William and Kate's big day!

So on FRIDAY, 29 APRIL at 3pm we are going to have ONE big tea party that EVERYONE in the Parish (Albury, Draycot, Milton Common etc) is invited to attend. As we are not selling tickets, all we ask is that you contribute some food to the buffet. Now of course this needs to be co-ordinated and we've got Doreen Williams and Janet Willis looking after this. So if you would like to come then we need you TO REGISTER (even if you have already mentioned that you would help following the last newsletter). We need you to either email ([stratton@gmx.com](mailto:stratton@gmx.com)) send a text to 07889 851588 or leave a message on my office telephone 01844 278534. Please give details of who will be coming from your household and a contact number so that Doreen or Janet can call you to discuss food.



As well as lots of red, white and blue bunting we'd like to get all the kids to take part in a special 'make your own hat' competition with the theme of ROYALTY. There will of course be prizes to be won so please encourage the youngsters to get busy and join in the fun.

The Tea Party is open to everyone and afterwards (subject to weather conditions) we hope to have some games and a big screen showing highlights from the morning's events. Then in the evening we have a live band playing in the Hall so it's time to party the night away. The bar will also be open from 3pm so even if you just fancy relaxing and simply watching the celebrations then please come and join us.



For the evening, Lati from the Moti Mahal has very kindly put together a menu of Popadoms, choice of starters (onion bhajee or Vegetable samosa) main course (Chicken Curry - Mild, Medium or Hot) with rice all for just £8.95. He would really like to hear from people in advance if you would like to book this package so **please call him at the pub in advance** or see him at the tea party in the afternoon.

The Tiddington Parish commemorative mugs are now on order so if you haven't already requested yours please let me know as soon as possible.

We look forward to welcoming you to the Hall on Friday, 29 April at 3pm.

Alan Stratton  
Chairman, Village Hall Committee  
Tel: 07889 851588

## **Tiddington Car Boot Sale (see poster opposite )**

Please show the coupon below for special residents' price of £6.00 per car.  
Set up will be from 8.30am and refreshments will be available in the Village Hall.  
Come along and support us, either as a seller or buyer, or just come for a cuppa.

**Tiddington Car Boot Sale**  
**Saturday, 7 May 2011**  
**Tiddington Playing Fields 10.00-1.00**  
**Sellers set up from 8.30am**  
**Residents special price of £6.00 per car**



The smell of cut grass..... yes, the season is approaching. Ground preparations are under way. Square and outfield cut, edges strimmed, sunshine!!!!!!

We are very lucky in having such great support in our club. We are currently awaiting delivery of a new electronic scoreboard, with many thanks to our President, John Bull. This will be situated on our current scorebox with new fittings, thanks to Dan Brownsill and Les Brooks. There will also be a linked box enabling those in the clubhouse to see the score.

Our sightscreens are crumbling under the pressure of the years and Dan Brownsill is leading the team to rebuild these.

Thanks to Phil Manning for leading these projects. Our net facility is also under review, subject to costs and location.

We are working hard to bring the inside of the clubhouse to a fresh new look and hope you are able to offer a few hours of your time to help.

The cricket season starts on 16 April with a home game against Thame, and 17 April, home against Dinton. The league starts on 7 May with 1<sup>st</sup> XI home v Abingdon. In the Village Knockout, we have a home game against Deddington on 1 May. All support welcome.

Our youth programme goes from strength to strength and, following successful winter coaching, our outdoor sessions commence on 26 April. We are running teams at under 9, 11, 13 and 15. Our popular summer academy will again run for a week from 15 August. We already have bookings and places are limited to 40.

Membership is due from 1 April and prices have been held again - £20 family and £15 single. Hellen Purnell has offered to be our membership secretary and will be contacting you.

We are lucky to secure a new sponsor for our website - [webboutiques.co.uk](http://webboutiques.co.uk). Our current website will be revamped over the next month and will offer more information. We are now able to offer the chance for businesses to advertise on the site at reasonable rates. Please contact us for more information. See our results, pictures, members' area etc. Keep checking

for the latest information  
[www.tiddingtoncricketclub.org](http://www.tiddingtoncricketclub.org)

Our 100 Club continues. This will be £20 per year and prizes will be offered on a monthly draw of £20, £30 and £40. December brings an additional draw of £100. Prizes are subject to an increase if we have more members!! Help the club and have a chance to win!!!!

The club is open every Monday between 10 and 12. Everyone is welcome, pop in for a coffee, chat or just watch the future of Tiddington racing around!

Regards

Lesley Pykett  
Secretary  
07762 527558  
[lpykett@bucksgfl.org.uk](mailto:lpykett@bucksgfl.org.uk)

## Wheatley Library

There will be a Storytime for children ages 4 to 8 on Wednesday, 13 April at 11.00am. Tickets are available from the library and all children must be accompanied by an adult.

There will be a Rhymetime for the younger children on 15 April and also on 20 May at 4.00pm.

If anyone would like an hour one-to-one coaching on the computer please contact us. We now have a volunteer called Wendy, who is here on Wednesday mornings and is happy to help complete beginners. Please phone for an appointment on 01865 875267.

The library will be closed for Easter from 22 April and will reopen on Tuesday, 26 April at 2.00pm. We will also be closed on Friday, 29 April.

Please call in at the library or phone us on 01865 875267 if you would like any further information about the library. More information will be available about the public consultation on the future of Oxfordshire Libraries in April.

Wishing you all the best for the Spring/Easter holidays and thanks to everyone who has supported us at the library.

Anne Spruce  
Library Manager

### 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](mailto:wheatley.library@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

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

#### Opening Hours

Monday, Tuesday, Friday	9.30 - 4.00	Open door
Wednesday	9.30 - 1.00	Specialist debt clinic (appointment)
Thursday	9.30 - 1.00	Telephone advice

Advice line: 01844 214827

Appointments line: 01844 217186

Website:

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

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

## Thame and District Citizens Advice Bureau

### Changes to Income Support Benefit rules

Benefit rules have recently changed so that if you are a single parent who currently gets Income Support and your youngest child has turned seven, you will now have to move to Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) if you are able to work.

The Department of Work and Pensions should write to you eight weeks before your child is due to turn seven, inviting you to an interview to apply for JSA.

However, there are some protections built into the new rules to take account of the particular difficulties lone parents might face in juggling work with the needs of their children.

You will only be expected to be available for work during normal school hours, and you may be able to refuse work if you cannot find suitable childcare or the childcare costs would be too high.

If you cannot work because you are sick or disabled, you may be able to switch to Employment and Support Allowance (ESA). If you get Carer's Allowance or look after a child who gets Disability Living Allowance, you may continue to get Income Support.

JobCentre Plus offers a range of services to help you get back into work. For more information contact your local JobCentre Plus office. Go to: [www.direct.gov.uk](http://www.direct.gov.uk).

For more information about Jobseeker's Allowance, see [Benefits for people looking for work](#) on the Citizens Advice website [www.adviceguide.org.uk](http://www.adviceguide.org.uk)

If you are still worried, a CAB adviser can give you free, confidential and independent advice on your situation.

To make an appointment call 01844 217186

To talk directly to an adviser call 01844 214827

## GREAT HASELEY AND DISTRICT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

The spring equinox is upon us along with the so-called super moon which has indeed been impressive in the clear night skies. At this time the quality of light and day length increases markedly, is especially noticeable in sunny weather and raises my spirits; the worst of winter is over. Growth in the garden is rapid and the soil is fast disappearing from view. This is the time to be vigilant in control of weeds, an activity which pays dividends. When complete cover is achieved by plant growth in the ornamental garden, work there is much decreased and my energy can be concentrated on the fruit and vegetable garden where weeding is an ongoing necessity if maximum yield is to be achieved.

My attention is currently directed towards mulching and feeding my flower beds. I use whatever is available - homemade compost, composted bark, old potting compost and sometimes mushroom compost. Much of this is only partially rotted and so it is necessary to also add nitrogen in some form or nitrogen is extracted from the soil by the process of rotting of the organic matter; I use pelleted chicken manure which is easy and clean to use, but does leave a certain aroma for a few days! It is important not to apply this too early or winter rains can wash nitrogen away. Charles Peers, in one of his very informative articles about farming, explained how farmers use a formula to calculate this timing; we gardeners guess. The soil in my garden is currently very dry already and I am endeavouring to water before applying mulch if there hasn't been recent rain, so that water is trapped and available for plant use. If you remember that gardening is about feeding the soil, rather than the plants, then things become easier. Soil needs as much organic matter as possible which improves its structure, water retention and drainage (sounds like magic doesn't it?) and

then also fertiliser which I prefer to be organic rather than chemical; better plant growth results automatically. Sadly I don't have enough time or energy to mulch all my beds every year and so it tends to be as I go along; I will mulch the area around new planting whenever in the season that occurs. Hopefully I get there eventually and the job seems less overwhelming when attacked in chunks.

Now is a good time to give attention to your lawn and you will find lots of products in garden centres aimed at feeding, weeding and removing moss and giving instructions for their use. Our lawn is mown field and as such has lots of "weeds" many of which, such as daisies, I like and don't want to remove. I fear that if I used feed and weed I would have little in the way of lawn left, so I don't; this also has the added attraction of not encouraging lush lawn growth and therefore less lawn mowing to do. The other plus is that weedy lawns tend to look greener in drought conditions, but then I'm female and fastidious lawn care seems to be a typically male pursuit. However, despite all this lack of lawn care, I do like to control the edges to prevent grass growing into the borders and generally keep the garden looking tidy. This requires a lot of effort during early spring, but, if done regularly, a light trim will suffice for the rest of the season. TIP: if you are short of time and want the garden to look good for a special occasion simply trim the lawn edges (don't forget to pick up the bits) and you will see that the whole garden looks better out of all proportion to the effort expended. The eye is drawn along the edges and round the garden rather than focussing on any untidiness - a great use of optical illusion.

Liz Moyses

#### Newington Nurseries

##### Spring Clean

March and April are months in which to prune, plant and give the garden a good tidy up after the diverse weather conditions of winter.

Shrub roses can be pruned in March, cut down to between 10 and 15 centimetres above ground. Prune to just above

outward-pointing buds. Climbing roses can also be pruned now, quite vigorously if the shoots have got too long. March is also a good time to get new roses in the ground; remember to add plenty of plant food to the planting hole as roses are hungry plants.

If you're thinking of having a new tree or trees for the garden, these can be planted in the spring if you ran out of time in the autumn. They're just about to put out new shoots and getting them in the ground in March will help them on their way. Remember to water well during the first year of planting. Acid-loving plants also have a need for water in March so ensure you start watering Azaleas, Rhododendrons, bilberries, etc.

If you didn't have time to plant a deciduous hedge in the autumn, again, this can be done in March but remember to water well throughout the summer and into the autumn months. Give hedging plants, trees and shrubs a good start by adding a generous handful of plant nutrients to each planting hole. Don't skimp if you're investing money in new plants.

Divide perennials; they age over time so grow less vigorously at the centre and produce less flowers. Dividing and separating every 3 to 4 years will help prevent this. If you plan to relocate the divided plants, enrich the soil to get them established more quickly. Also plant biennials now so you get flowers the following year.

April is an excellent time for sowing a new lawn or restoring an existing lawn. Use a lawn restoration kit to give grass new life. Scarify the lawn to remove thatch if you didn't do this in the autumn. Also tackle moss in the lawn; any bare patches left after moss removal can be dealt with by reseeding. Grass will probably start growing more strongly now and you'll need to start regular mowing. Don't cut too low at first - a light trim once a week will be sufficient.

April is a good time to plant evergreen hedges including conifers and hollies. Specific tree and shrub composts are available so add some to the soil if the soil quality is poor. Also remember to add a good handful of plant nutrients to each planting hole. Water the new plants thoroughly and continue to water if the weather is dry - this is especially important with evergreens as they will not show signs of drought damage until it's too late to prevent dieback.

Tidy the pond and remove all dead plant residues. Divide pond plants and get rampant varieties back under control. Give the plants special water plant fertiliser granules via the roots in the soil. Marginal plants may need dividing or re-potting into bigger baskets.

Weeds are starting to grow in March and April. Remove as many as possible before the seeds can form. This happens more quickly than you think. Eradicate stubborn weeds thoroughly. Sort out plant pots and troughs ready for April/May planting of annuals. Clean thoroughly, ensure drainage holes are not blocked and fill with fresh compost. Pressure-clean all flagstones, patio slabs and garden decking that have become green and slippery during the winter.

Anne Hendry, Newington Nurseries, Newington, Wallingford, Oxon, OX10 7AW

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



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## **Neighbourhood Policing Newsletter from Dawn Hunt**

### **Heating Oil Thefts**

Theft of heating and diesel oil has been a problem for many years and the police have always noticed an increase in this type of crime whenever the price of crude oil rises. A rise in the price of fuel at the petrol pump inevitably leads to a rise in the cost of heating oil. This makes oil a more attractive proposition for the thief and they are now actively targeting fuel tanks at farms, transport depots and domestic properties. The thief may be using the oil for their own central heating or selling it on at a handsome profit. These tanks can contain many thousands of pounds worth of oil and it therefore makes good sense to take a few precautions to protect them.

- ◆ Control switches that control the flow of oil should be turned off and the electricity supply isolated when the tank is not in use.
- ◆ Close shackle padlocks are the best as they offer most resistance to the most popular of burglar tools - the bolt cropper!
- ◆ Defensive planting, this is nature's way of helping to reduce crime. Thieves will not wish to force their way through or over a prickly hedge.
- ◆ Security lights can have a very positive effect and make any property a much harder target for the thief. It's not always necessary to floodlight the area with high power beams, as a more subtle level of lighting may be all that is needed. Low energy "dusk til dawn" lights positioned close to the tank should, in most cases, provide sufficient light to illuminate any suspicious activity.

### **Have Your Say online**

You can now send non-emergency messages to us using the online form that is available on the Thames Valley Police website. A number of people have already sent their concerns using this method. For you to do that please follow the link:

<http://www.thamesvalley.police.uk/yournh/yournh-about-nh-pol/yournh-tvp-pol-area-n252-hys>. Please allow some time for us to get back to you as we do check our mail box only at certain times of the day.

There is also the opportunity to attend Have Your Say meetings in person.

Upcoming 'Have Your Say' meetings are:-

19 April 2011, 10:00am - 11:00am at Merry Bells Coffee Morning with PCSO Dawn Hunt  
24 April 2011, 12 noon - 2pm at Wheatley Police Office, Merry Bells, Wheatley with PC Paul Gregory