

TIDDINGTON WITH ALBURY & MILTON COMMON NEWSLETTER

www.tiddingtonoxon.co.uk

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2011

From the Editor

Activities coming up in the school holidays for the young ones can be found in the Maple Tree programme timetables on pages 12 and 13.

For the August Bank Holiday Saturday, find details of the Great Haseley Annual Show on page 17.

A second car boot sale this year is on 3 September (see p10 for a special offer).

Zena Knight

Digital TV Switchover

Oxfordshire, parts of Berkshire and Buckinghamshire will begin switching to digital-only TV on 14 September 2011. The two-stage process will complete two weeks later on 28 September. This means the existing analogue TV signal will be switched off and replaced with a new, stronger digital TV signal.

Switchover is happening so that Freeview services (digital TV through an aerial) can be extended to people who can't currently get them. Any analogue television left unconverted will no longer be able to receive TV programmes after the switchover. If you already have Freeview, you will need to re-tune your TV on the day of switchover.

Oxfordshire Rural Community Council will be publicising the Switchover Help Scheme which is run by the BBC and running advice points in various locations. People are eligible for the scheme if they:

- ◆ Are aged 75 or over
- ◆ Are eligible for certain disability benefits
- ◆ Have lived in a care home for six months or more
- ◆ Are registered blind or partially sighted

The Help Scheme can provide:

- ◆ Easy to use digital TV equipment

- ◆ A security-checked installer
- ◆ A 12-month aftercare service

This will cost only £40 or is free to people who are in receipt of benefits

For further information contact Jayne Bullock, ORCC, Jericho Farm, Worton, Witney OX29 4SZ, Tel: 01865 883488, Email: orcc@oxonrcc.org.uk.

Or visit www.helpscheme.co.uk or call 0800 40 85 900

Milton Common NHW (West Side) and Sandy Lane



We need more dog walkers to join Dog Watch. If you are going away for long periods please inform me or a neighbour, as alarms do have a habit of going off in the middle of the night.

Don't forget to order your NHW Heating Oil at summer prices. This includes Tiddington. Please be extra vigilant and report any suspicious looking people or vehicles in the area to the police on 08458 505 505.

Elaine Horne

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

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From the Parish Clerk

Highways matters - as reported in previous newsletters, I have written to Oxfordshire Highways about a number of matters, some of which, I am pleased to say, have now been attended to.

The gating at the approaches to Tiddington and Milton Common has been repainted

The damaged signs at the lower end of Sandy Lane have been re-erected.

A number of potholes have been repaired, including the very bad ones at Draycot.

The footpath between Station Yard and the bus stop has been laid.

Some of the other matters I have reported remain to be done.

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

Village led plan - by the time you read this the inaugural meeting, set for 25 July, will have happened and I hope many of you will have attended to have your input. Thereafter you will be able to let the newly set up committee have your views on the needs and issues relating to our rural community.

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	John Nowell-Smith	339650
	Economic development, businesses	
Councillor	Brian Price	339977
	Health & safety	
Clerk	Ken Poyser	339216
	Rosewood, Ickford Road, Tiddington	
	Email: twaparishcouncil@googlemail.com	

Olympic torch bearer - at the June Parish Council meeting we discussed a communication we had received asking if we had any suggestions for candidates for a torch bearer for part of the Oxfordshire route.

Alan Stratton was suggested in view, not only of his involvement in village affairs, but also because of his run in the London Marathon for village projects. I duly submitted the proposal setting out his suitability for the role and received an official acknowledgment. We await a decision from the 2012 organisers!

Ken Poyser
Parish Clerk

August Bank Holiday

Rubbish collection (grey bin)

Normal collection day: Monday 29th

Revised collection day: Tuesday 30th

From the Parish Council Chair

By the time you receive this newsletter we will have had our meeting to discuss a Community Plan - and hopefully we will have heard your views on ways to improve our village. It was nice to meet some of you at the Fête, and hear your views about going forward with a community plan.

Well done to Alan and his crew of helpers for putting on yet another entertaining Fête. The rain did keep off for the vital few hours.

At last our Clerk has succeeded in getting the white gates painted. Things do seem to go at a snail's pace but I can assure you your Parish Councillors are a very determined team.

Enjoy the rest of the summer.

Don't forget our monthly Parish Council meetings, the first Monday in the month at 8.00pm. It would be nice to see more residents attending to have your say.

Elaine Horne
01844-279520
elaine@ace-training.me.uk

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.

From your District Councillor

Core strategy changes approved - following feedback from the planning inspector that we cannot rely on windfall housing sites to meet any of our district's housing needs between 2006 and 2027, Council approved changes to the core strategy on where 814 additional new homes in the district should go, as follows:

- Thame: 600 to the northwest of the town (revised from 530) and a further 175 in or around the town (sites to be specified in a later document).
- Wallingford: 555 to the west of the town (revised from 400)
- Larger villages: 1,154 (revised from 740)

Council gives £450,000 to community projects - the following projects will receive a cash boost:

- Garsington Village Halls
- Goring Village Hall
- Wallingford Rowing Clubs new gym
- Tetsworth Memorial Hall
- Wallingford Sports Trust
- Cholsey Parish Council
- South Stoke Parish Council
- Aston Rowant Parish Church.

For more information about grants please email grants@southandvale.gov.uk or call Jayne Bolton, Grants Manager on 01491 823136.

Verdant name change - we have been advised that staff working for our waste and recycling contractor Verdant are to start referring to the company as "Biffa", the company which recently acquired Verdant. The email address will be altered to

admin.southoxford@biffa.co.uk (South) or
admin.vale@biffa.co.uk (Vale).

Call to all land owners for Queen's Jubilee celebration - South and Vale are inviting all landowners in the area to come forward and have the opportunity to take part in the Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations. One lucky landowner will play their own small but significant part in this momentous day for the Queen, by hosting one of the 2012 beacons on 4 June 2012. Beacon locations will be listed in a special book for the Queen to treasure. The deadline for landowners to register interest is 21 August 2011. The selected site will need to be on high ground and in a prominent location with public access, so as many residents as possible can enjoy the spectacle. Landowners with a suitable beacon site can send their name, address, telephone number and the location of the beacon to the Council by emailing communications@southandvale.gov.uk or writing to Communications, South and Vale District Councils, Benson Lane, Crowmarsh Gifford, Wallingford, OX10 8AD.

Young Achiever Awards Scheme: applications open for up to £250 for young achievers - South Oxfordshire District Council is giving a total of £20,000 to young people in the area, to recognise excellent citizenship, sports achievements and brilliance in the arts, through its Young Achievers Awards. Applications opened on 8 July for young residents between 11 and 18 to win an award of up to £250. There are three different awards available:

- Citizenship awards are for those who are dedicated to helping out in their community, for example through helping in an old people's home.

- Arts awards recognise achievement in music, dance, drama, creative writing, painting, sculpture, photography, video production, multi-media and crafts.
- Sport awards reward those representing Oxfordshire in a sport.

Young people can apply themselves for an arts or sports award. However, citizenship awards are by nomination only. Applications and nominations can be made online through the Council's website:

www.southoxon.gov.uk/grants

Further information can be obtained from Ed Nieburg, Shared Grants Officer, on 01491 823614 or email

ed.nieburg@southandvale.gov.uk

Exciting opportunity for young people - are there any 16/17 year-olds in your area who would like to take part in a free National Citizen Service pilot programme in Oxfordshire over the summer? They are recruiting 60 young people to this exciting and challenging six week programme that includes:

- a week in Wales, the New Forest or Dorset doing things like archery, rock climbing, canoeing, team building etc
- a summer festival week when the young people will come together to form a community, write their own rules, create a street party and invite members of their own communities to come along
- a week planning social action projects in Oxford, Witney, Banbury and Abingdon
- carrying out their social action projects
- a final Celebration and Graduation event on 2 September!

To find out more call or text Shelley Maxfield on 07775407557 or e-mail:

ncs@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Changes to our garden waste service - we have recently revised the terms and conditions of our garden waste service to make it clear to customers that the fee is a contribution to our running costs and that we will suspend collections for two weeks over Christmas. The suspension is to enable us to collect the extra

household waste produced at this time of the year, when very little garden waste is created. In the past when we've tried to manage the two it has resulted in lengthy delays to collections of rubbish and recycling. We will collect extra garden waste during a week in spring which we will publicise nearer the time. The other change to the service is that for new customers we will only accept direct debit payments. For more information on the terms and conditions please visit the council's website at www.southoxon.gov.uk.

Stephen Harrod
Great Milton Ward
01844 278068

Stephen@wildhorn.co.uk

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 County Councillor

Government awards £5million for Oxfordshire transport schemes - Oxfordshire County Council has netted £5million for key transport projects including the expansion of Thornhill Park and Ride following a successful Government bid. The money will go towards three schemes aimed at helping support economic growth and development in and around Oxford. The funding has been released by the Department for Transport's Local Sustainable Transport Fund.

Main schemes - around £3.5m of the grant will be put towards the following schemes:

- Expanding Thornhill Park and Ride through the addition of 500 spaces.

- Creating a new outward bound bus lane on London Road in Headington towards the "hamburger" roundabout.
- Establishing two new low-carbon bus services connecting Thornhill Park and Ride with the John Radcliffe and other hospital sites, and the city centre.

The remaining money will be put towards other transport planning work aimed at reducing congestion and promoting sustainable methods of travel behaviour. This includes plans for a small-scale pilot cycle hire scheme for Oxford to test the demand for a permanent scheme, and further work to promote car sharing across the county.

Tragedy on roads prompts fire fighters' safety plea - Oxfordshire County Council's Fire and Rescue Service is urging drivers to take extra care on the roads following a number of serious and fatal incidents across the county in recent days. Fire Crews attended three road traffic collisions - on 7, 10 and 12 June, which all resulted in tragic losses of life. In total, three people were killed and another five had to be cut free from vehicles and taken to hospital for treatment to injuries. Fire fighters also had to cut free injured people following further collisions on 10 and 11 June. Stuart Garner, Risk Reduction Manager for Oxfordshire County Council's Fire and Rescue Service said: "We are urging people to drive to the road conditions and pay particular attention to the speed limits, which are there for a reason."

Top road safety tips:

- Reduce your speed so you can react to the unexpected.
- Always wear a seatbelt and make sure your passengers wear their seatbelts.
- Adjust to the driving conditions; rain and hail reduce visibility. Use dipped headlights and reduce your speed.
- Leave plenty of space between you and the car in front. In wet weather stopping distances will be at least double those required for stopping on

dry roads as your tyres have less grip on the road.

- Never use a mobile phone while driving. Even the most careful drivers can be distracted by a phone call.
- If you are on a long journey make sure you take regular breaks and if possible share the driving with someone else.

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
20 July 2011

SWAP SHOP

Saturday, 15 October,

9.30am – 11.00am

Merry Bells, Wheatley

Bring useful old stuff 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 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!

From your MP, John Howell

John Howell MP writes...

A look back at key issues from Westminster and those raised from the Constituency in June 2011.

Terrorism Prevention and Investigation Measures Bill - the provisions in the Bill follow on from the Coalition Government's 'Review of Counter-Terrorism and Security Powers', published in January 2011. The Bill abolishes the system of control orders, established under the Prevention of Terrorism Act 2005, and replaces it with a new regime designed to protect the public from terrorism, called Terrorism Prevention and Investigation Measures. The Bill was debated at Second reading on 7 June 2011. The House of Commons voted for the Bill to be sent to a Public Bill Committee that will scrutinise the Bill line by line.

Postal Services Bill - the House of Commons considered the Lords amendments on 9 June 2011. This Bill received Royal Assent on 13 June 2011. The Bill provides for the restructuring of Royal Mail, including the introduction of private sector capital and expertise from the sale of up to 90% of Royal Mail, an employee share scheme and provisions for Post Office Ltd to continue to be owned by the Crown or a mutual ownership structure. It makes provisions for the regulatory arrangements for postal services through the transfer of powers from Postcomm to Ofcom. It also deals with Royal Mail's pension and contains provisions for a 'special administrative regime' should the universal postal service be at risk from the provider entering insolvency proceedings.

NHS Reforms - the Government paused the progress of the legislation through Parliament in order to ask doctors, nurses, patients and members of the public how plans could be improved. The work was overseen by the

independent NHS Future Forum which agreed that the NHS is in need of reform in order to keep pace with the rising costs of treatments and technologies and in anticipation of an ageing population. However, the NHS Future Forum made clear that substantive changes were needed to the original plans. The Government is accepting all of its core recommendations and the changes now proposed have attracted broad support from a range of health experts. The changes will safeguard the NHS for future generations, will mean that patients will have much greater choice and access to the best healthcare and they will break down barriers and get doctors and nurses from different parts of the NHS talking to each other to get the best for patients.

Circus Animals - much interest has been expressed in the motion calling for a ban on wild animals from circuses. This was debated by MPs on 23 June. An overall ban could be challenged in the courts under European and UK legislation and work needs to be done on this and other details. In the interim, Ministers proposed to introduce a strict licensing regime using existing powers under the Animal Welfare Act 2006. Any circuses that perform in England that wish to have wild animals in circuses will need to demonstrate to Government-approved vets that they meet very high animal welfare standards for each animal before they can be granted a licence to keep those animals. If circuses cannot meet these demanding welfare standards, they will not be allowed to use wild animals in their performances.

High Speed Rail - this is another subject that is generating a range of comments. The current situation is that the Department for Transport has launched a consultation on the Government's strategy for a national high speed rail network. *High Speed Rail: Investing in Britain's Future* sets out the case for this network, the details of the Government's strategy and the proposed route for an initial

phase from London to the West Midlands. The consultation ran until 29 July, which is two months longer than the normal period for Government consultations, to give everyone with an interest time to express their views. No decision will be made on any of these issues before everyone has had an opportunity to have their say. Details of the consultation are available at <http://highspeedrail.dft.gov.uk/>
I am often asked questions about the workings of MPs and of Parliament. I try to answer one a month.

Q. Parliament only sits on a few Fridays in the year. What do MPs do on all the Fridays when parliament is not sitting?

A. Fridays are usually set aside for MPs to be in their constituencies. On Fridays and over the weekend they visit schools, businesses and other organisations, attend functions and generally try to meet as many people as possible. This gives MPs further insight and context into issues they may discuss when they return to Westminster. As an example of this since the General Election I have carried out over 260 constituency-related functions and have visited over 80% of schools. Since Easter I have added 5 new schools to the list, visited businesses across the constituency and attended 25 community events in addition to other ad hoc meetings representing specific groups or causes.

More information on my work is available on my website www.johnhowellmp.com

John Howell
Member of Parliament
Henley Constituency

From the Vicar

August is often a quiet month. In parish life there is a very welcome rest from meetings, and a time to refresh batteries in preparation for a busy autumn.

Holidays or breaks from the normal routine are important. The holiday or holy day comes from

the very first pages of the Bible. In Genesis Chapter 1, the seventh day is blessed; it was the day on which God rested from his work, when he stopped and enjoyed all that he had done. It was the day on which he no longer did things but purely delighted in them.

Our traditional rest day has altered over the last few years. No longer is Sunday the day to relax and just enjoy being alive, it has become another doing day. Most shops are open, it is a busy day for children's sport and a number of sporting events take place. Compare this to the Sundays of my youth and there is a vast difference.

Given the busyness of our daily lives our annual holiday has become even more important. There are many different types of holiday. Whether you plan to explore the world, laze round a pool, or perhaps like us you plan to enjoy a 'staycation'; wherever or however you holiday do try and spend some time just relaxing.

Our times of rest and refreshment need to be kept special and apart, given the status of holy. Jesus said "I came to bring life in all its fullness". To enjoy life in its fullness we need to strive for a balance between being and doing. I hope this August you manage some 'downtime' whether at home or on the holiday of a lifetime and that during that time you are able to make space in order to cherish your life and enjoy what you have been given, however small or large that may seem.

At a time when many of us are preparing to go on holiday it is sobering to realise that for much of the world holidays are a luxury beyond the means of many. I was touched by the extent of the present crisis in the Horn of Africa and as part of this letter I include some information from Christian Aid.

Ten million face starvation across the Horn of Africa

Christian Aid has launched an emergency humanitarian appeal to help people across the east and Horn of Africa after two failed rainy seasons have left ten million on the brink of

starvation.

Drought and displacement combined with rising global food prices have left Kenya and Ethiopia in particular facing severe food shortages, with UNOCHA reporting that the regional situation is the worst food security crisis in the world today.

Some parts of the region are experiencing the driest conditions in 60 years, and Christian Aid emergency teams are continuously assessing how best to help local populations.

"The crisis has been building for some time, especially in Kenya and Ethiopia, and is fast escalating across the region," warns Nick Guttman, Christian Aid's humanitarian director.

"People are desperate and if we don't act now we could be looking at one of the worst humanitarian situations the world has seen in a long time."

Funds are urgently needed for life saving measures such as: provision of water for

villages experiencing the worst of the drought conditions; food for families, malnourished children, and pregnant women; animal feed to protect livestock that are so crucial to survival.

To make a donation to Christian Aid's East Africa Food Crisis Appeal call 08080 004 004 or visit www.christianaid.org.uk/east-africa-appeal.

With best wishes
Caroline

FROM THE REGISTERS

12 June Holy Matrimony

Martin Jee and Emma Bennett
'May the Lord bless their union'

2 July Holy Baptism

Louisa Martin
'Welcome to the Lord's family'

Church Services	St Helen's Church, Albury
7 August	9.30am Morning Prayer
14 August	9.30am Holy Communion
21 August	9.30am Morning Prayer
28 August	9.30am Holy Communion
4 September	3.00pm Annual Team Service at St Mary's, Wheatley Preacher: The Rt Revd John Pritchard, Bishop of Oxford There are no other services in the Team that day
11 September	9.30am Holy Communion
18 September	9.30am Morning Prayer
25 September	9.30am Holy Communion

Waterstock & Tiddington W.I.



Bill Heine's talk in June was both entertaining and informative about BBC broadcasting and, in response to a member's question, he also told about his thinking behind the shark which he

installed on his house in Headington all those years ago.

In July Joyce Marriott, a volunteer at the dog rescue centre in Stokenchurch, brought along Rory, a bearded collie cross she had homed for the last six years. He of course stole the show and he had probably heard her talk many times before, so settled down to sleep. He came to life again when the applause began! Harrowing tales of the many dogs rescued, but also happy

endings when successfully rehomed gave much food for thought.

We have no meeting in August but on 8 September we will be visiting Little Milton WI to join their meeting at the Pine Lodge at 7.30pm. Carol Hunt will help us "Revive our wardrobe". Arrangements for transport were made at our July meeting and car drivers will be in touch with their passengers nearer the time.

On 13 October John Paine will give us an "Oxfordshire Picture Quiz" and there will be a bring and buy stall. There is no competition in September and in October it will be for the Group Meeting and the subject will be announced later.

The Autumn Group Meeting will be hosted by Thame WI in the Town Hall on Thursday, 20 October and we will be entertained by the "Witchert Warblers"

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

Zena Knight

Tel: 01844 339340

Email: zenaknight42@btinternet.com



Our season is well under way and we have had many successful matches. All our teams are in the top half of their leagues, promotions are a possibility, which is fantastic. We are however, now entering the holiday season, which does have an impact on results.

We are in the quarter finals of the 20/20 knockout and have a home tie against local rivals, Aston Rowant.

Our youth teams go from strength to strength, enthusiasm is paramount and if you ever get a chance to come and see them play, you will always leave with a smile, watching their enjoyment and participation and some of these are only 7 years old.

Youth coaching continues during the summer on Tuesday evenings. Our ever popular Summer Academy runs for a week from 15 August and is already full with 40 children. Our thanks to the coaches and helpers who give their time so freely for all our activities, we could not do it without them. Our youth presentation evening is on Friday, 9 September. There will be a raffle with hampers - donations much appreciated!

Aunt Sally continues to be keenly competitive and there has been some brilliant throwing this year from all sides - keep polishing the sticks!! The enthusiasm and support is great to watch.

Our congratulations to Julia, who has been a mainstay of our bar staff over the last few years, on her marriage to Matt, and I know many will look forward to celebrating with them soon. She is moving on to a new school, so wishes me to say goodbye on her behalf to so many lovely people that she has met and will take the memories with her.



Lesley Pykett

Secretary

07762 527558

lesleypykett@btinternet.com

Tiddington Village Hall

Tiddington Village Fete 9 July 2011

On behalf of the Village Hall Management Committee I would like to extend my thanks to everyone in the village (and beyond) who gave up their valuable time to help make this year's fête yet another huge success! It was great having so many helpers turning out on the Saturday morning to make sure we were ready to welcome the crowds in the afternoon. Despite the threat of rain somehow we managed to dodge the showers and it was a beautiful afternoon.

This year we decided not to have the usual evening social so we presented all the prizes soon after the legendary egg throwing game which had plenty of excitement. You can view photos of the day by visiting www.tiddingtonoxon.co.uk where you will also find pictures from the Royal Wedding Celebrations back in April.

I am pleased to report that we raised something in the region of £1,500. The money will go towards further improvements to the Hall. There are lots of things we would like to do this year and hope this money will help us achieve some of our goals.

I'm already starting to think about our 2012 Fête. The date is not confirmed for sure but it is likely to be the 7 July, which is two days before the Olympic torch relay comes to Oxford. With that in mind, I'm hoping we can put together a one-off bigger and slightly unusual fete which might include more games and competitions not usually seen in Tiddington. This is our chance to celebrate London and the UK playing host to the world's finest athletes.

Please, if you have any good ideas, maybe you've seen something at another event and think it

might work then please let me know. Also if you'd like to be part of the organizing committee then again please let me know.

Enjoy the rest of the summer and look out for news of the Village Hall Christmas dinner in the next newsletter!

Alan Stratton
Chairman

Tiddington Village Hall Committee

Tel: 01844 339430/278534

Mobile: 07889 851588

Email: Stratton@gmx.com

Car Boot Sale

Saturday, 3 September

Shall we try again? Fingers crossed for good weather this time!

Even if you have nothing to sell come along and have a look. You never know what you may find. Usual refreshments and good company will be available.

See below for special price for parish residents.

Janet Willis
Tel: 339415

Tiddington Car Boot Sale

Saturday 3 September 2011

10.00am - 1.00pm

Set up from 8.30am

Car boot: £8.00

Buyers: Free

Refreshments available

**Bring this voucher with you for
residents' special price of £5.00**



Summer Activities

All mums, dads, grandparents and child carers in the village are invited to a range of activities hosted by the Children's Centre over the summer holiday period.

As well as our usual sessions, we are looking forward to some special summer fun and play times!

Wednesday 3 & Friday 5 August - Stay and Play at the Seaside

Thursday 4 August - Stay and Play in the Park

Friday 5 August - Tips for Starting School with Claire Sandford

Wednesday 17 August - Stay and Play in the Park

Wednesday 31 August and Friday 2 September - Making Dips

And you are also invited to our:

Family Fun Day
to be held at

The Park Sports Centre in Wheatley

Saturday 20 August 2011

11am - 3pm

Please note there will be no sessions running week commencing 8 August due to staff inset days. However the office and outreach service will be open for business as usual.

All sessions are **FREE** and are suitable for children under 5 years old (accompanied older siblings are welcome). Please contact Debbie on 07988 159041 or

deborah.jackson@oxfordshire.gov.uk for further details on times and venues or visit our webpage

www.oxonchildrenscentres.org.uk/themapletree



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



THAMES VALLEY POLICE

0845 8 505 505

The single number for non-emergency calls

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

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

the charity for
your community



Changes to Incapacity Benefit

The government has started to re-assess people currently claiming Incapacity Benefit (IB) in order to decide if they qualify for the new Employment and Support Allowance (ESA).

If you currently receive IB, the Department for Work and Pensions will write to you between now and March 2014 about reassessing your benefit entitlement.

First of all, you will have to fill out a questionnaire which asks about your health condition or disability. You must complete this questionnaire with as much detail as possible and return it by the date requested. If you don't, your benefit may be affected.

You may then be asked to attend a face-to-face assessment. You will be asked a number of questions to help determine what you are able to do and whether you might be capable of work.

If the assessment finds you meet the qualifying conditions for ESA, you will be automatically transferred to this benefit. If the assessment finds that you're not entitled to ESA, your Incapacity Benefit will stop. You will then have to make a new claim for Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) or another benefit that suits your needs.

If you attend an assessment and are unhappy with the way it's carried out, or you don't agree with its outcome, you can get advice on what to do from your local CAB.

CAB advice line 08444 111 444 or 0300 3300 650 (mobile)

For general advice visit www.adviceguide.org.uk

Your local CAB is in Market Square, Thame

Neighbourhood Policing Newsletter from Dawn Hunt

Graffiti

Two teenage girls have been issued with Youth Restorative Disposals for the criminal damage that was caused to the recreation ground in Wheatley. Graffiti was sprayed on Parish Council property and a resident's garden fence. Both of these offenders will partake in reparation by means of cleaning off the graffiti and making good.

Both girls have also attended a Restorative Justice meeting and apologised to the community as a whole via Gareth Morris, the Parish Council Clerk.

Theft of Fuel - Waterstock

With fuel prices on the increase Thames Valley Police have recorded a dramatic increase in the number of fuel thefts that are currently taking place within our neighbourhood (Wheatley/Waterstock/Forest Hill). The vehicles that are predominately targeted are HGV vehicles parked up in laybys for rest breaks or overnight stops, tanks are drained whilst the driver sleeps and the fuel is removed in large drums.

In an effort to combat this type of criminality Operation Mangrove has been running for the last two months which has involved many of our Neighbourhood Policing Officers who are working hard in a two pronged attack, firstly to raise awareness to the unsuspecting motorist and secondly to break up this criminal activity.

This month 14 offenders were brought to justice in our area

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'.

Community Messaging

This free service provides information to subscribers about crime and police activity in their area via phone or email. It also includes information on what we and our partner services are doing to bring offenders to justice or combat anti-social behaviour, and information on opportunities for local residents to raise concerns with their local policing teams.

More information can be obtained via our website, and you can sign up here too:

<http://www.tvpcommunitymessaging.org/rmwportal/startup.aspx>.

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: <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' meeting is:-

- 28 August 2011, midday - 2pm at Wheatley Police Office, Merry Bells, Wheatley with PC Paul Gregory.

This meeting is an ideal opportunity for local residents to speak to their local police officers and PCSO's about any local issues. No

appointment is necessary, just turn up and speak to your local officers. Further meetings will be publicised locally and on the force website at www.thamesvalley.police.uk

If you want any advice or would like to contact the neighbourhood team you can call us on the police non emergency number 0845 8 505505 or WheatleyNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk. Please note this email address cannot be used to contact Thames Valley Police to report crimes or for any urgent matters. Alternatively you can visit the force website at www.thamesvalley.police.uk to view information on your neighbourhood.

Energy Saving Trust

Is my home suitable for solar?

UK Feed-in Tariffs (FITs) make solar photovoltaic (PV) panels an attractive investment for homeowners who have savings. The soon to be introduced Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) will also provide better returns for solar water heating (SWH). But there are some points to consider before chasing quotes:

- 1) Which way does my roof face?
A south facing roof is best but panels can deliver very good results facing anywhere between east and west, through south.
- 2) Do I have the roof space?
A minimum of about 10m² of panels are needed for solar PV and approximately 4m² for SWH (based on a household of 4 people). Sections of roof shaded by trees or buildings are to be avoided.
- 3) Will I get the most benefit?
Daytime users of electricity and hot water have much to gain by directly replacing energy they'd otherwise have to pay for with free solar energy.
- 4) Can I afford it?
An ideal budget would be in excess of £8,000 for PV and £3,500 for SWH. It's important to remember that in order to be eligible for FITs and

RHI your system must be installed by an MCS certificated installing company.

To find out more, check out Cocoon's new on-line 'Solar Suitability Checker'. This tool allows you to find your roof on a satellite map, check its size and orientation, and see what returns an investment in solar might deliver. No personal details are required. The tool will go live in Summer 2011 at www.cocoonyourhome.co.uk

Newington Nurseries

Agapanthus – The Flower of Love

This outstandingly architectural plant is more commonly known as the Lily of the Nile although its native habitat is nowhere near this majestic piece of water. Actually, Agapanthus hail from South Africa where they grow in abundance; in domestic gardens, in municipal parks, on windy mountainsides, even on the edges of dusty roads. In warmer climes, the rhizomatous root systems of Agapanthus are used to combat soil erosion in mountainous areas (think of Madeira) and swathes of Agapanthus planted as hedging in Australia apparently deter snakes. Agapanthus does however have a more romantic connotation: derived from Greek, *agape* means love and *anthos* means flower. On a more practical note, Agapanthus have been in cultivation in the UK since the late 1600s which contradicts the myth that they are difficult plants to grow and care for.

Agapanthus, botanically speaking, falls into two groups. Evergreen *Agapanthus africanus* (previously *A. umbellatus*) have broad, strappy and fleshy leaves. They produce tall, robust flower stems on top of which sit croquet ball-sized umbels (rounded clusters of flowers) of trumpet-shaped blue or white flowers. *A. africanus*, not fully hardy, are generally grown in pots making it extremely convenient to wheel them into the greenhouse or conservatory as winter approaches then wheeled out again as spring gets underway. The plant's fleshy root system likes to be constrained in pots and this results, by and large, in a more spectacular flower display. Divide the plant every few years to ensure continued flowering (although the plant may be a little shy in producing blooms immediately after division) and a healthy root system.

Deciduous *Agapanthus campanulatus* produce narrower yet still strappy leaves and the flower heads are smaller albeit no less showy than *A. africanus*. They grow at higher altitudes making them hardier than their lowland cousins. They can be grown in pots (which can be left in the garden during the winter) or in garden borders. Both evergreen and deciduous Agapanthus require plenty of sun and fertile soil; provided you oblige, they will reward you with fat, large clumps that can be divided in the spring. Although hardier than their evergreen counterparts, it's good

practice to give *A. campanulatus* some winter protection; cover the crowns with a thick layer of home-made garden compost or good quality bark mulch.

All Agapanthus like plenty of water in the summer months as well as regular doses of a high potash plant food. Tomato food does the trick here. Mid-season, use a balanced liquid plant food to ensure that the plants receive all the trace elements that tomato food can't otherwise provide. In no time at all, flower spikes will appear followed by juicy-looking buds that will explode into show-stopping globes of flowers. Plants that associate well with Agapanthus are *Crocsmia* and *Kniphofia*, either the red or yellow varieties. Other associations include ornamental grasses such as *Miscanthus* or *Pennisetum*, small bamboos such as *Pleioblastus* (plant these only in pots as they 'run') or the airy *Gaura* 'Whirling Butterflies' and *Verbena bonariensis*.

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