

TIDDINGTON WITH ALBURY & MILTON COMMON NEWSLETTER

www.tiddingtonoxon.co.uk

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2012

From the Editor

Congratulations to the M40 CEG for winning the competition to find an innovative way of noise reduction on the motorway and at the same time be so eco-friendly. See page 8 for more details.

It will soon be time for the Annual Horticultural Show held on the Saturday of the August Bank Holiday at The Old Rectory at Great Haseley. See page 16)

Tiddington Village Hall will be holding a Barn Dance on 29 September (see p 12)

To anyone who has yet to drop in for coffee at the Cricket Club on the second Wednesday of the month, you are missing a treat. It's a lovely relaxing atmosphere, a great chance to catch up on news and the cakes are scrumptious too!

On a more serious note, following the resignation of John Nowell-Smith from the Parish Council, please consider whether you might like to take his place as a Councillor. (further details on p 2)

So, many of you will now be absorbed in the Olympics, others can hopefully enjoy the summer if the improvement in the weather continues.

Zena Knight

Red Cross

Thank you to all who contributed to the annual Red Cross Collection week in May.

The amount of £329.70 was just in excess of last year and was pleasing as the Oxfordshire collection was on target.

Anne Edwards

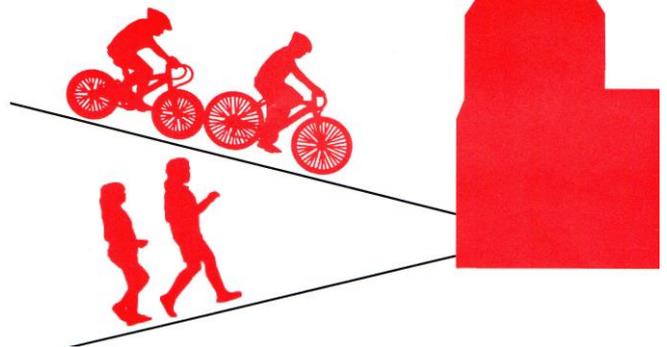
RIDE+STRIDES

Saturday 8th September 2012

A sponsored event to raise money for the church of your choice and the Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust.

Cycle or walk around as many churches as you wish. Be a sponsored participant or be sponsored to welcome visitors to your church.

Over 500 churches can be visited in Oxfordshire as well as churches in other counties.



10.00am to 6.00pm

Sponsorship forms available from

Anne Edwards

Tel: 01844 339794

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From the Parish Clerk

Highways matters - potholes continue to be a problem in Albury Road, but Oxfordshire Highways consider that this is not *their* problem because they have downgraded the road and consider it no longer to be adopted. The Parish Council considers this to be doctrinaire and unacceptable and I am pursuing the matter with them.

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

Parish Council - there is a vacancy on the Parish Council as a result of John Nowell-Smith's resignation. As there has been no request for an election as a result of the notice in the last Newsletter, the vacancy will be filled by co-option. If anyone would like to be considered for the position please let me know.

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

The T4VP committee is drawing up a questionnaire. Please look out for this and respond.

Tiddington with Albury Parish Council Members

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

Plans are afoot for some improvements to the children's play area, to which the Parish Council gave the go-ahead at the Parish Council meeting a couple of months ago. Grant applications are in hand.

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

Trees - Brian Price has written an article about recent happenings in the parish regarding trees. Please have a look.

Ken Poyser
Clerk to the Parish Council

Post Office

Tiddington Village Hall

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

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.

August Bank Holiday

Rubbish Collection (grey bin)

Normal collection day: Monday 27th
Revised collection day: Tuesday 28th

From the Parish Council Chair

What a celebration we had for HM Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee. Many thanks go to Alan Stratton and his team of volunteers, including The Community Champion Angie from Asda. We are still waiting permission to plant two trees to commemorate the Jubilee.

Due to the weather - again we have had problems with blocked drains, and pot holes filling with water. Our clerk has pursued both these problems, but Highways are very slow to react.

T4VP are putting the final touches to the questionnaire, more on this subject from Nigel Draper.

The M40 CEG has some exciting news. See the article from Tony Giddy.

We all hope John Nowell-Smith continues to make good progress after his recent stay in hospital.

Can I remind every one who owns a dog in the Parish to please clear up after your dog and place the waste in bins provided. Think of our children who can contract nasty diseases from dog waste.

Enjoy the rest of the summer!!!!

Elaine Horne
01844-279520

elaine@ace-training.me.uk

TREES WITHIN THE PARISH

Concern has been raised at the number of mature trees that have been felled by County Highways.

The policy of cutting trees down is not supported by the Parish Council on a general basis unless there is a reason relating to safety.

We were assured by the County that the need was there on safety grounds regarding the large ash tree on Thame Road. This had been pollarded in recent years, but this had not saved it from becoming unsafe to residents and road users.

With regard to the commemorative horse chestnut outside the Forge bungalow, concerns were raised about some of the branches, which seemed diseased

and rotten in places. A site visit was made with the Highways Arboricultural Officer and the Parish Council. As children congregate there for the school bus and because of its proximity to the Forge bungalow, it was decided that some weight should be removed with a reduction of 10% of the larger branches, a further review of the tree to be undertaken in five years' time.

When the tree surgeons started to cut these branches, it was decided that the tree was so badly rotted inside, it was dangerous for them to pollard it and it should be removed as it was in danger of falling with the possible consequence of causing injury or death. It was therefore felled. We have been informed that a Tree Preservation Order (TPO) would not have saved it.

As this was a commemorative tree, the Parish Council has decided to replace it at a location to be approved.

We will also be looking at other trees within the Parish with a view to applying for TPOs as it is our policy to protect and replant where possible.

With regard to the oak tree on the railway embankment, part was blown down in a storm, having snapped due to a diseased root ball. The remainder was leaning heavily towards 1 Albury View and (due to the disease) was likely to fall on the property. As the embankment is owned by Highways, they examined it and decided it should be removed on safety grounds.

Brian Price
Parish Councillor

Tiddington 4 Village Plan

Efforts towards developing the Village Plan are not slowing due to the arrival of (so called) summer.

Indeed they are gathering momentum. Attention is now very much focused upon the preparation of the questionnaire. This is the single most important event in the whole process of preparing the Village Plan, and the one that involves every single member of the parish.

Everyone will be asked to answer a simple questionnaire covering a range of topics affecting all of us and the way we live here. Topics include roads, footpaths and cycleways,



leisure, broadband, employment, housing and the environment plus others. The purpose of the questionnaire is to obtain your opinions and wishes regarding possible developments in each of these areas. The responses to the questionnaire will be subjected to a detailed analysis and will be used by the Steering Group, and subsequently the Parish, District and County Councils to prepare plans and policies for the parish and to respond to proposals that may affect us.

The questionnaire does not seek to determine what should happen, rather it offers everyone to give their view and for the balance of opinions to be known and so used to help determine what and how things should be done. It is important that everyone responds as the evidence provided by a high response rate will be a major factor in helping the Councils to win approval and funding, especially targeted grants, for things supported by the responses to the questionnaire.

We will do our very best to make it easy for everyone to respond to the questionnaire by giving clear explanations of what to do, providing clear questions and straightforward response formats, by delivering them to each door and personally collecting them, and by providing help to complete them if people desire it.

We aim to distribute the questionnaires at the end of September, and will provide publicity about the exact dates nearer the time, to hopefully ensure everyone knows of and is ready to complete them. There will also be a draw with a prize of £100 for the winner, drawn from those who return completed questionnaires.

We need volunteers to distribute and collect the questionnaire (about 10 houses per volunteer) so if you would like to help further in the preparation of plans for the parish do please contact me.

Contacts: Nigel Draper: Tel 01844 339347 or e-mail drapernigelf@yahoo.co.uk

Nigel Draper Secretary to the Steering Group

From your District Councillor

Exciting Opportunity to be Involved in New Police Accountability Arrangements

On the 15 November 2012, the Thames Valley will be electing its first Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) who will be responsible for setting the priorities and resources for Thames Valley Police, as well as supporting broader community safety activities across the region.

Alongside this a Police and Crime Panel will also be established to scrutinise the work of the PCC. The purpose of this role is to assist the PCC through providing independent challenge as a critical friend. The Panel will be made up of one representative from each of the 18 local authorities in the force area, and two independent co-opted members. The Panel has been looking for two committed and energetic people who either live or work within the Thames Valley to serve as co-opted independent members from Autumn 2012 for a four year term. Meetings will be held at varying locations throughout the Thames Valley (in the historic county areas of Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire). All Panel members will receive induction and other appropriate training. Reasonable travel expenses will be paid.

The Flood Risk Management Strategy Survey

The County Council has been undertaking a consultation to inform the drafting of the Oxfordshire Local Flood Risk Management Strategy. The first part of this consultation was a questionnaire in order to gather specific information concerning flooding from residents, business and local groups in Oxfordshire.

The local flood risk management strategy will give a clear vision for how flood risk will be dealt with in Oxfordshire.

Battle of the Bands

The Young People's Xchange (SODC) and Vale Youth Cabinet members are planning to

organise a 'Battle of the Bands' to raise awareness of Oxfordshire's Youth Parliament campaign 'Free Your Mind' to support young people with mental health issues. The event is planned for early September and will raise money for charity. The event will be open to young people in bands across South and Vale and full details will be available from the Young People's Co-ordinator.

Karen Tolley, Young People's Co-ordinator, tel 01491 823041/01235 540402, email karen.tolley@southandvale.gov.uk

Applications for a Community Investment Fund Grant (Under £15,000)

The Council's Community Investment Fund has been open since 2 April 2012, for capital grant applications requesting under £15,000 and closed on the 4 June.

A second round of funding will open on 6 August and close on 26 October.

Ed Nieburg, Shared Grants Officer, 01491 823614

ed.nieburg@southandvale.gov.uk

Stephen Harrod
Great Milton Ward
01844 278068

Stephen.Harrod@southoxon.gov.uk

From your County Councillor

Oxfordshire school children form Guard of Honour at Olympic Opening Ceremony. By the time you read this, school children from the John Hampden Primary School in Thame will have taken part in the Guard of Honour to line the route for the Athletes' Parade at the London 2012 Olympic Games Opening Ceremony. Eight pupils from Thame joined two thousand children from 249 other schools across the UK, holding lanterns and banners they created for the procession of 10,500 athletes who made their way from the Olympic Village, through the Olympic Park and into the Olympic Stadium. The Athletes' Parade saw the

participating teams enter the Stadium, nation by nation. Teams entered in alphabetical order, apart from the Greek team who enter first for the Olympic Games, and the team of the Host Nation (Team GB), who entered last.

Children say: "Please drive slowly through our villages". Posters urging motorists to drive slowly through their villages, designed by school children in Appleford, Drayton and Sutton Courtenay, are being displayed on lamp posts, telegraph poles and entry sites to the villages. The temporary roadside posters are part of an anti-speeding campaign launched by the local Neighbourhood Action Group - one of several NAGs in the Thames Valley. Whilst the Police discontinued our NAG some time ago, I wonder if there would be support for a similar scheme in Tiddington & Milton Common that we could engage with the Police to create? If you are interested please contact me.

Temporary road traffic order-Shabbington East bridge. A temporary weight restriction has been arranged to apply to Shabbington East bridge whilst bridge strengthening works are carried out. A temporary Order will be made to implement the temporary weight limit and will operate from 30 July 2012. The estimated duration of the works is 18 months. Access will be maintained for emergency service vehicles and the works. If you require further information or have any queries please contact Charlie Benner at Oxfordshire County Council on 0845 310 1111.

Tyre treads - The 20p test. Jon Hardy, Retained Support Officer for Oxfordshire County Council's Fire and Rescue Service, said: "I was personally shocked by the latest figures from the Department of Transport that show over the last five years, 164 fatalities occurred due to illegal, defective and under inflated tyres on UK roads.

If all drivers took a few minutes every month to check their tyre pressures, condition and tread depth it would help prevent this needless loss of life. We want to promote to everyone the 20p Test. Drivers insert a 20p coin into

the main tread grooves of their cars' tyres and if the outer rim of the coin is covered by the tread this indicates sufficient tread depth to be safe and legal. If the outer rim of the coin is visible drivers should have their tyres checked by a qualified professional."

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
21st July 2012.



Wheatley Neighbourhood Team

Have your say meeting

Wheatley Police Office, Merry Bells Car Park
Wednesday, 22 August, 6.00-8.00pm

Ken Cooney
Police Community Support Officer (PCSO)



Thames Valley
CRIMESTOPPERS
0800 555 111
call anonymously with information about crime

Got information about crime?
Don't want to speak to police?
Don't want to give your name?

Give information on 0800 555 111 or at crimestoppers-uk.org
Crimestoppers is an independent registered charity

Milton Common NHW (West Side) and Sandy Lane



Possible Scam - Unsolicited Parcels

Oxfordshire Trading Standards have received two calls from vulnerable adults living in Thame who have recently received expensive goods through the post that they have *not* ordered from a well-known mail order company.

On one occasion, the consumer received a telephone call from an unknown caller shortly after receiving the parcel to arrange for collection of the parcel from the consumer's home. The consumer had not contacted anyone about the parcel - this was an unsolicited call.

Soon afterwards a tall black male wearing a yellow hi-viz jacket arrived at the consumer's home and collected the parcel, no receipt was provided.

Both consumers are now being pursued by the mail order company for payment of the items.

We are asking residents living in the South Oxfordshire or Vale of White Horse areas who experience this kind of behaviour to telephone Thames Valley Police on 101 and quote URN 706 of 13/07/12.

Free Advice about Consumer Rights is available by telephoning the Citizens Advice Consumer Helpline: 08454 04 05 06

Further information to help a consumer be 'scam aware' is available via the Oxfordshire County Council website at:

<http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/public-site/scams>

Elaine Horne
NHW Co-ordinator
Milton Common and Sandy Lane Estate
elaine@ace-training.me.uk
01844 279520

Tiddington

Crimestoppers urges the public to "nail" metal thieves



Thames Valley Crimestoppers are joining forces with colleagues in Kent, Hampshire and Isle of Wight, Surrey and Sussex to tackle metal theft crime head on in the South East.

Theft of metal is now one of the fastest rising crimes, with costs to the UK economy estimated at £770m each year. Heavily influenced by commodity prices and the growing economies of both developing and developed countries, it affects communities, industry and commerce and poses a real and significant threat to public safety and critical national infrastructure. It is an international problem and whilst metal prices remain high and global demand continues to rise, this crime is big business and an issue that will not disappear on its own.

"The summer holiday season will see many buildings, particularly schools and offices, left vulnerable to both the organized and opportunistic thief. Thieves are not invisible unless we choose to ignore them," commented Julia Hughes, Projects Coordinator for Thames Valley Crimestoppers.

"Metal theft is the hot topic today," she continued. "We read about incidents in the papers and many of us may well have felt the impact of metal theft on our day to day lives: train cancellations from cable and track theft, loss of phone and internet connection, school closures. However, awareness of metal theft is only part of the battle. In order to stop criminals continuing to disrupt our lives we all need to be proactive, vigilant and to report our suspicions quickly. To this end Crimestoppers offers the public a safe and anonymous way to stop the thieves by contacting us on 0800 555 111 or using our secure, online form direct from a mobile phone at www.crimestoppers-uk.org.

But we can only be effective if you make that call."

This month Police Forces in the South East introduced a new scheme named Operation Tornado. This will make it easier to trace any person who sells metal to Scrap Metal Merchants and will help to remove and prosecute dealers of stolen metal. Crimestoppers will be working throughout the year to further enhance and support this initiative.

Detective Inspector Ian Wood, the Thames Valley Police lead for Operation Tornado remarked: "As a Force we are committed to reducing metal theft in Thames Valley. Operation Tornado aims to target unscrupulous dealers rather than inhibit legitimate businesses. However we still need intelligence from the public to tackle this crime from all angles and the Crimestoppers anonymous service provides a valuable tool to enable communities to provide information safely and free from fear."

To pass on information about metal theft or any crime anonymously, Crimestoppers can be contacted online at www.crimestoppers-uk.org through the new mobile site or computer, or by calling the 24/7 anonymous 0800 555 111 number. Whichever form of communication chosen, anonymity is guaranteed.

For more information please contact:

Julia Hughes, Thames Valley Crimestoppers on Julia.Hughes@crimestoppers-uk.org or call 01923 225229

Detective Inspector Ian Wood, Thames Valley Police via the 24-hour Police Enquiry Centre on 101

If you have anything that you want to raise please contact Chris Williams on 07710 620820 or meteorltd@btinternet.com

News from the M40 Chilterns Environmental Group

Parishes between junctions 3 & 8 along the M40 have suffered for years with the noise generated by the ever increasing number of vehicles using this Motorway. Our group works tirelessly for our communities seeking ways to help the Highways Agency reduce noise.

We have now successfully embarked on an innovative scheme to tackle noise on our stretch of the M40 whilst simultaneously generating energy. Our aim is to tackle issues of excessive noise pollution on the 20 mile section of the M40 between junctions 3 & 8, while creating solar energy capacity through use of photovoltaic-cells mounted on top of noise barriers.

We employed Thames Valley Energy to undertake a feasibility study. They reported that this innovative idea was a good and practical solution to our problem. It was suggested that we enter a national competition held by the Co-op Bank seeking solutions to develop alternative energy. It was named the 'Co-operative Community Energy Challenge'.

Our proposal, for photo voltaic enabled noise barriers (PVNB's) caught the attention of the selection committee for a number of reasons. First its imaginative scope was recognised as a visually acceptable and potentially widely replicable scheme which simultaneously addresses two environmental issues - carbon free energy and noise reduction. Secondly, the solution would create substantial capacity for alternative energy close to customers, and therefore does not depend on reinforcement of the electricity grid. Thirdly, the group's track record as local community representatives gave us credibility.

Our proposal is to offset the high cost of installing improved quality noise barriers with the sale of the power generated from sunlight by solar panels integral with the barriers. The energy produced would be sold to local businesses i.e. The Oxford Belfry Hotel and energy brokers through local co-operatives. The co-operative structure is important because community participation in the decision making process ensures continued local focus. You will all be hearing more about this issue fairly soon.

M40 Chilterns Environmental Group wins Co-operative Community Energy Challenge Award

The Co-operative and the Centre for Sustainable Energy have awarded the M40 Chilterns Environmental Group and six others £200,000. The initial investment per group is to be £10,000 for the provision of a mentor and further developing their proposals.

Dr Ken Edwards, chair of the M40 CEG, said: "Now we believe we can begin to tackle this needless noise. This is a major step on a journey we started eight years ago. Noise pollution from the M40 has affected the lives of local communities since 1990. Our proposal stemmed from addressing the question of how to make noise reduction barriers self-financing."

Henley MP John Howell has said: "I congratulate the M40 Chilterns Environmental Group on being one of only seven groups across the UK to win this competition. This is very good news indeed both for the Chilterns Group and for the people who live along the route of the M40. I have been in regular contact with the group since I was first elected and I was honoured to have been asked to address their last annual meeting. I have been pleased to be able to help along the way by for example obtaining answers from Ministers to questions posed by the group.

"What has always impressed me with this group has been its tenacity in pursuing its aim and the imagination it has always shown in coming up with creative solutions like this one. Above all, the group has always shown exemplary professionalism and competence. This is a group which really knows its stuff.

"I will now want to ensure that the group receives all possible help from the Highways Agency and the Department for Transport and that this imaginative project receives the support it needs to go forward. This is an exciting project which brings relief to those who live along the M40 a step closer."

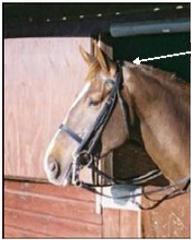
Tony Giddy - tonygiddy@btconnect.com

Go to our website www.M40-Chilterns.org - click onto our 'Facebook Link' and support us.



Where to find postcode identification

www.thamesvalleyhorsewatch.org.uk



Bridles are stamped under the head piece (top band)



Postcode all your rugs to deter thieves



Leather saddles are stamped here



Synthetic saddles are engraved here

Elaine Horne, Horsewatch co-ordinator
01844 279520

From your MP, John Howell

John Howell MP writes..

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



In Westminster

The run up to the summer recess is always a particularly busy period in Parliament. Not only is there a pressure to complete particular business before the recess but also there are many organisations who arrange events to showcase their work to MPs and also to raise awareness on specific issues. When constituents ask me to attend events that they will be at I try my best to do so if other House business permits. This summer I met constituents concerning wide ranging issues such as learning difficulties, various different health issues, inter-faith relations, housing concerns, and issues of justice. I have also added my support to dairy farmers for a fair price for milk.

Although much has been debated in the Chamber in recent weeks the issue that particularly grabbed media attention was the

proposed reform of the House of Lords. It is generally agreed across all political parties that reform is necessary; indeed every one of the main Parties included it in their Election Manifestos and most constituents who contacted me on the matter agreed with this.

Four oral statements by Ministers were of particular note. The most recent of these on Rail Investment announced major investment in rail infrastructure across the UK including this constituency. The Foreign Secretary announced a review which will look at the scope of the EU's competences (the power to act in particular areas conferred on it by the EU Treaties) as they affect the UK, how they are used, and what that means for Britain and its national interests. Other statements covered further changes to the armed forces and to specialist disability employment.

Anyone wanting to find out more about the work of Parliament and the progress of specific Bills can find full details on the Parliament website at <http://www.parliament.uk/business/bills-and-legislation>

In the Constituency

One of my election promises was that I would visit each of the 58 schools within the constituency. By and large these visits have had to be fitted in among other constituency business on a Friday. With the exception of one school which is scheduled for me to visit in September, I have fulfilled that promise and visited them all. The schools vary hugely in size from some of the county's largest to some of its smallest. The majority are local village schools at the heart of their communities reflecting the highly rural nature of the constituency. The visits have enabled me to get a good understanding of the issues faced and thus be better able to feed needs and concerns through to Government.

I have also been pleased to add my support to the campaign by parents of Benson to fight proposed cuts to the free school transport

provision. Whilst I fully appreciate the need of the County Council to be mindful of cost and to encourage children to walk to school where possible I have supported this on grounds of safety. I share parents concerns over the assessment by Road Safety GB and ROPSA that suggests their alternative walking route to be safe.

Another ongoing saga is the push for fair treatment for Equitable Life policyholders. I have worked with constituents on this for the last four years and the June deadline set for all those affected to receive details of their compensation spurred another major push on their behalf. I have personally written to all those who have contacted me on this matter to check that they have received their information and have offered to take up cases of any who have not yet had details. If this is an outstanding issue for anyone reading this please do contact me.

Parliamentary Recess

Please note that periods when Parliament is in recess are simply times when Parliament does not sit. During these times MPs continue to carry out other duties. My offices in Westminster and the Constituency both remain open during the summer period.

Village Tour September 2012

During recess last September I undertook a 'village tour' where I visited 80 villages in 8 days. This enabled me to meet with constituents in their own village in places where there are not normally opportunities to do so. Building on the success of this I will be undertaking a similar venture this coming September. The purpose is simply to provide an alternative and informal opportunity for people to raise concerns or discuss issues, or simply to say 'hello'. Details will be available through Parish Councils and I hope they will post them on local notice boards. I hope to meet many more people during this time.

For more information, my website is regularly updated and offers information on my work both in Westminster and in the constituency.

Its 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

John Howell
Member of Parliament
Henley Constituency

From the Vicar

FROM THE VICARAGE

Some of you may already have heard that Caroline has been appointed as Team Vicar in The Dorchester Team Ministry with responsibility for Newington, Stadhampton with Chiselhampton and Warborough and Shillingford. This is an exciting new challenge for her, a full time post with more responsibility, (Albury, Holton, Waterperry and Waterstock is a part time post, although it managed to keep her occupied). This means we will be leaving Holton rather sooner than we expected - although we don't have an exact date yet, probably in late August or early September. Caroline's last Sunday will be 9th September.

We arrived in these parishes in 2004, following an unexpected spell of Winter snow, so have now been here nearly 9 years, in which time both Joshua and Sarah have done a lot of growing up. In that time we put down family roots and enjoyed sharing village life in all 4 villages. During our time here we have experienced a house fire (2006), and gained another family member, Bella our Cavalier King Charles Spaniel, (a dog of much enthusiasm but little brain). There have been several cold winters, of a coldness that seemed to hark back to Dickens, these churches are picturesque but they can be bone chillingly cold in the winter months.

Through all of that we have felt supported by the people of the parishes, and privileged to be able to join in the activities of these most English of English villages - plays in Holton

Village Hall, carol singing around Waterperry, the annual Palm Sunday walk along the river from Waterstock, Tiddington fete. as well of course as having ringside seats for Art in Action.

We hope that we have been able to contribute something in return, and will always remember our time in these parishes as being happy (if, at times, having slightly too much weather). We will not be far away, indeed Sarah will still be

at school here so we will often be over here.

We would love to keep in touch, if you are ever in Warborough do visit us, we would love to see you.

With our thanks and best wishes

Caroline, David, Sarah and Joshua

Church Services	St Helen's Church, Albury
5 August	11.00am Morning Prayer at Holton
12 August	9.30am Holy Communion
19 August	9.30am Morning Prayer
26 August	9.30am Holy Communion
2 September	9.30am Morning Prayer

Please note some changes to the usual pattern
Services after 2 September will be publicised

Waterstock & Tiddington W.I.

At our June meeting Christine Whild brought a lovely selection of antiques



which she unwrapped before us. As well as identifying them, she told us what they meant to her personally. One particular item, a Falklands War special edition mug reminded her that her son had been in that war.

In contrast, we enjoyed the amazing dexterity of a young magician Edmund Quigley. He had several members participating and for a lad only just coming up to seventeen years of age, he was so self assured and competent. Only three days after our meeting he was off to India for four weeks, having raised the money to go by doing these magic performances to other groups and WIs.

On 9 August we have a garden meeting at Hill Top Cottage, Tiddington, by kind permission of Jennie Sherlock Williams and her husband, Chris. Please note the earlier start time of 7.00pm. Transport arrangements will be made.

Back in Tiddington Village Hall on 13 September, our own member, Caroline Robinson, will tell us of her trip to Jordan.

Competitions for August and September will be items from the garden beginning with the letters "L" and "M".

Several members have enjoyed recently organised activities by the County, including courses at Denman College, a literary lunch at Benson and a symphony concert in Birmingham. Coming up in November, the Oxford Operatic Society will be performing Disney's "Beauty and the Beast" at the New Theatre. On Thursday, 29 November the coach will go from "The Fox" for a cost of £23.00 including the ticket. If anyone would like to join us, please let me know before the end of September.

New members will be made very welcome at our meetings on the second Thursday of the month in Tiddington Village Hall (usually!) at 7.30pm.

Zena Knight

Tel: 01844 339340

Email: zenaknight42@btinternet.com



The wettest season anyone can remember has played havoc with our senior and youth fixtures together with our training evenings. League tables for many clubs are really now based on who had the driest ground and managed to play. Thoughts must go to our Captains and Coaches, who spend a lot of time and effort getting teams out and then having to ring and cancel. It takes up a lot of valuable free time and we thank all for their efforts.

We have three coaches who have completed their Level 2 coaching award. We are very proud of our coaching team, supported by our Cricket Young Leaders, whose enthusiasm brings so much enjoyment to the children. We receive very positive reports from parents.

Thanks must go to Ron Manning, as to celebrate his 90th birthday, he has donated a lovely new bench that is situated by the entrance to the Club. Great to see spectators using it.

We were sorry to hear that one of our Vice Presidents, John Nowell-Smith has been ill and we wish him a speedy recovery.

Let's hope the rest of the season keeps dry.

Lesley Pykett
07762 572558

Tiddington Village Hall

Tiddington Village Fête 7 July 2012

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 despite the weather! It was great having so many helpers turning out on the Saturday morning to make

sure we were ready to welcome everyone and keep them dry in the afternoon. Despite the threat, in actual fact the rain kept off for the most part of the day but the playing field was simply too waterlogged to use, so we made full use of the Hall and marquees.

I am pleased to report that we raised something in the region of £1,000 and the money will go towards further improvements to the Hall.

Diamond Jubilee Celebrations

Wow, what a great turn out. Once again despite the weather we all celebrated the Queen's Diamond Jubilee with a special dinner of sausage and mash in the Hall whilst watching the special river pageant live from London.

A big thank you to the Committee and other locals for all their help in making the day so special. Particular thanks go to Mr John Bull for providing many of the sausages and to Peter Bernstrom and the team at the Belfry Hotel for providing all the mash potato.

Barn Dance - Saturday 29 September

As mentioned in the last newsletter we are hosting a traditional Barn Dance in the Hall on Saturday, 29 September starting at 7pm. Tickets are £8 each and we invite you to bring your own supper if you wish. The bar will also be open. It's been many years since we've had one at the Hall so come and enjoy the live band and expert caller who will talk you through all the routines! Tickets are now available from me via email stratton@gmx.com or by text on 07889 851588

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

Alan Stratton,
Chairman
Village Hall Committee
Tel: 07889 851588
email: stratton@gmx.com

Tiddington Car Boot Sale - 19 May 2012

This, our fourth venture into Car Boot Sales, was the success I knew it could be.

Cars started arriving around 8.00am and carried on arriving!

Unfortunately we only had three folks from the village that took us up on the reduced cost of a stall, the rest were taken up by others. Still the upside was extra revenue! The playing field was almost full to capacity.

Buyers arrived by the car load!

I spoke to many stall holders who were very pleased indeed with their takings and enjoyed the morning very much.

Buyers and sellers were very happy to see our WI doing the refreshments, so much so we ran out of food at 12.15!! My thanks to Zena, Maureen M, Doreen, Kim, Val and Sheila who were rushed off their feet! (What would we do without you!). Please see picture below.

We made the fantastic profit of £464.00 for Village Hall funds just holding an enjoyable morning event.

Janet Willis



the charity for
your community



Changes to Social Housing

If you are a council or a housing association tenant, you normally have a tenancy for life. The rent you pay is also cheaper than if you were renting privately, and when you die, you can normally pass your home to your spouse or partner and sometimes to other family members who were living with you.

This will not be the case for much longer as the law will soon be changing for **new** tenants, possibly from April next year. The rights of existing council and housing association tenants will not change.

Councils will still have the option to offer 'lifetime' tenancies to new tenants, but they will also be able to offer them a shorter tenancy, known as a **flexible tenancy**.

This will be for a minimum of two years, but in most cases it will last for five years or more. If you're given a flexible tenancy for a fixed period of time, the council will review your circumstances before the tenancy comes to an end to see if you still need council housing or not.

There are also other changes planned. If you're homeless through no fault of your own and apply to the council to be housed, it can find you a privately rented home to live in instead of a council or housing association place. If you refuse, the council won't always have to offer you another place.

Each council will also have more control of who they'll accept on their housing waiting list, although they'll still have to look after people who are in most need, for example, if you're homeless.

You can get more information and advice at your nearest CAB (see below)

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)

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

Lots happening this summer at Wheatley Library.

The Summer Reading Challenge for children has started. Children can go on a reading journey across the globe to recover 3 lost items, needed to help Professor Cortex boost the imagination of the Story Lab.

Children can collect a Story Lab 3-D model from the library and during the exciting journey collect stickers and prizes as they read, finishing with a Gold medal!

Look out for fantastic new books, exciting puzzles and fun activities at the library too! There is also a brilliant interactive website which you can find at www.story-lab.org.uk

There will also be two events for 4 to 8 year olds: a storytime on 15 August at 11.00am and a special event run by the Museum on 29 August at 10.00am. Tickets for these events are available from the library.

Rhymetimes for the under 4s will also continue on alternate Thursday afternoons on 9 and 23 August, and 6 and 20 September.

For adults we are holding a tea party on Friday 14 September. Everyone is welcome, even if you are not a library member, come along for a cup of tea and a piece of homemade cake. Donations will go to the NSPCC.

We look forward to seeing you in the library. If you have any queries please call in or telephone us on 01865 875267.

Anne Spruce
Library Manager

Great Haseley and District Horticultural Society

Garden visits 2012

Wednesday 19 September

The Mill, Medmenham, Marlow, Bucks.
10.30am

6 acres of immaculate gardens with a vast collection of plants. This is a plantsman's paradise where the desire to grow different things every year means the garden is constantly evolving and flower beds tend to be enlarged to accommodate the growing collection. They try at least 30 new seeds every year. There are begonias, cannas, bougainvillea and salvias, enormous plumbago and amazing hanging baskets with lotus berthelotii and rhodochiton. Also a kitchen garden where flowers are raised between the vegetables, a yard full of young stock in pots and two large greenhouses. This garden is very rarely opened and is a real treasure.

7 miles to

Scotlands, Cockpole Green, Wargrave, Berks
2.30pm

A five acre garden created since 1980. A small lake has been created in a boggy area surrounded by trees and waterside plants leading to rivulets, still pools and a waterfall. The ground rises to the formal gardens around the house and herbaceous borders edge the path leading to the oval swimming pool enclosed by yew hedges. The original 17th century low-walled kitchen garden has criss-crossing pathways punctuated by clipped box and pots, all planted with cottage-garden plants mixed with roses and herbs.

Cost: £12.00 members, £17.00 non-members.

For further information or to make a booking please contact

Di Cawdron 01844 278270 or di@cawdron.net.

Newington Nurseries

In the zone

Pelargoniums, more commonly known as geraniums, are the perfect plant for providing instant summer colour in the garden. Better still, they're drought and heat tolerant. They have adapted to parched and inhospitable growing conditions in their native habitats which include South Africa, Turkey, Iraq and the remote south Atlantic islands of St Helena and Tristan de Cuhna. Most Pelargoniums cultivated in Europe and the United States have their origins in South Africa however.

The first-known cultivated Pelargonium was *P. triste* (the Sad Geranium) and this was introduced to the UK from France in the early 1600s. Today, Pelargoniums fall into six horticultural groups.

Zonal Pelargoniums (*Pelargonium x hortorum*) are the most popular type and produce beautiful clusters of flowers on long stalks. They are derived from *P. zonale* and *P. inquinans*. They're called zonal as their round, fan-like leaves have either a dark, coloured spot in the centre or are edged deep brown. Zonal Pelargoniums, like most of the other types, hate getting wet and thrive in hot and sunny situations.

Ivy-Leaved Pelargoniums, derived from *P. peltatum*, have a relaxed growth habit and are used in hanging baskets or in large urns where they can trail to their hearts content. They produce masses of tiny flowers on long, slender stems above thick and waxy, ivy-shaped leaves. Although we use Ivy-Leaved Pelargoniums in the UK, it's the Europeans who use them to best effect in their stunning balcony displays.

Regal Pelargoniums (*P. x domesticum*) are fairly dense in form and produce large flower heads on short stems. They're compact and rounded in shape, producing richly-coloured flowers over a long period. They can be easily identified by their serrated leaves which are virtually obscured by the numerous flower blooms. They were first raised at Sandringham, hence the name regal, and like a little more water than the other varieties.

Angel Pelargoniums' parentage is *P. Crispum* crossed with a Regal variety and were cultivated in the early 20th century. They have increased in popularity over the past 30 or 40 years due to new varieties being produced by specialist nurseries. They grow in an upright manner and are bushy in nature.

Unique Pelargoniums are shrubby plants, often with two-tone foliage that emits a scent when crushed. They derive from *P. fulgidum* and produce masses of flowers. They were cultivated at the turn of the 19th century in the glasshouses of stately homes when the cost of labour was low.

Scented Leaf Pelargoniums are grown principally for the fragrance of their foliage. Some species are grown for their oil, 'geranol', which is used in the perfume industry. The leaves can also be used to make potpourri or used as flavouring in cooking. In contrast, other species give off an unpleasant smell when touched and act as a deterrent to grazing animals. On the other hand, insects are attracted to the flowers and pollinate the plants.

Finally, **Species Pelargoniums** are the parents of the different cultivar groups. They're to be found growing with complete ease in their natural yet stark habitats which include lowland, arid deserts as well as harsh mountain environments.

Pelargoniums need plenty of light to thrive and only a little water to survive. Over-watering will cause die-back and rotting of the plant. They need heat and sunshine to succeed in producing a display of flowers throughout the summer. They can be helped along with a high potassium plant food. They're at their most striking when planted in terracotta pots, strategically placed on patios, tops of walls, balconies, garden steps, gravel paths, in fact any sunny areas of the garden.

Over-winter in a frost-free greenhouse (not a heated room in the house), having cut back to half their size. Keep dry during the winter months and provide only the minimum amount of water. Cuttings can be taken late summer; put straight into moist compost and they will take. As a general rule, the harsher a Pelargonium is treated the better it will flower.

Anne Hendry

Newington Nurseries (on the A329 on the outskirts of Stadhampton)

Tel 01865 400533

www.newington-nurseries.co.uk

Is the Green Deal the right deal for you?

The Big Picture

The Green Deal is a Government backed scheme to help people to refurbish their homes. With rising fuel prices, over 3.5 million people living in fuel poverty and some legally binding carbon reduction targets the Government desperately needs us all to start cutting our fuel use.

The Green Deal will be officially launched in October 2012, but it may be 2013 before it gets fully geared up and then it is likely to have quite a long shelf life, probably at least ten years. The scheme allows homeowners and tenants to have an independent generic assessment to work out which measures would be most suitable to their homes. The assessment will calculate the potential savings. A further bespoke assessment will be done which will indicate more accurately if an individual home will be able to realise the savings. A Green Deal Plan will be formulated which will show the measures which could be undertaken, the indicative cost range and an idea of possible saving. This plan, just like a prescription for a home, can then be taken to a number of different Green Deal Providers for quotes.

The government's Green Deal scheme aims to help more homeowners refurbish their homes by spreading the costs over future energy bills. But is it the right deal for you?

Under the 'Golden Rule' any technologies installed must be so energy efficient that loan repayments should be less or equal to the money saved. So, for example, a 30% more efficient boiler could be installed. It delivers the same heat with 30% less fuel. You are then saving money on heating your house. Under the scheme this saving is used to repay the loan for the boiler. You get a new boiler, the house heats up faster, it's more comfortable and you aren't out of pocket.

So, what's the catch? Firstly, the sums aren't simple. For example, as energy suppliers charge more for the first block of units, a 30% reduction in gas use does not equal a 30% reduction in bills. Secondly, basic loft and cavity wall insulation are unlikely to remain cheap or free under the scheme. Thirdly, interest payable on the loan might be 6 - 7%. If you have money and expect to stay put, you may get a better return paying for the work yourself.

If you are unsure, talk to someone who has already greened their home. SuperHomers host free Open Days in spring and September. They can explain both the benefits and challenges of

eco renovation. See the website to book a visit or, for the latest on the Green Deal, see www.superhomes.org.uk/greendeal

SuperHomes

SuperHomes harnesses the enthusiasm of pioneering households to demonstrate the benefits of switching to low energy living. SuperHome Open Days showcase today's technologies, providing a touch and feel experience to inspire visitors to action. They also let visitors see for themselves both the challenges and the financial and environmental savings to be made from such radical changes. Currently there are 135 registered SuperHomes and 85% of the population in England lives within 30 miles of one. The network includes a wide range of older property types including Georgian, Edwardian and Victorian houses.

SuperHomers volunteer their time for free to make these open home events possible and to share their experience. SuperHomes has won multiple awards and was a 1st prize winner at The Ashden Awards for Sustainable Energy in 2009.



Ask someone who went green

Mark Brown of High Wycombe. One of some 40 SuperHomers across the country opening their doors to the public in September.

Photo courtesy of www.superhomes.org.uk