

TIDDINGTON WITH ALBURY & MILTON COMMON NEWSLETTER

www.tiddingtonoxon.co.uk

JUNE/JULY 2014

From the Editor

Well, summer seems to be here at last and as June and July are favourite months for outside activities of all kinds, let us hope the weather is favourable.

We look forward to a bring and share picnic after the Church Cluster Service at Waterstock on 29 June and of course the annual Village Fete will soon be here again, on 20 July. We are promised some new activities as well as the old favourites to look forward to.

Isn't the hall looking smart after its facelift inside? It is now the turn of the outside to be given a makeover. Supporting the Fete will help towards the costs of that.

With the cricket season upon us good luck to our teams not only in the Knockout series but the league matches as well. It is good to see how popular the training sessions are for the youngsters – the adult teams of the future.

Best wishes to everyone as the summer holidays come upon us.

Zena Knight



Art and Craft Group

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

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

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

In particular we have a number of small knitting projects to help worthy causes – hats for grannies, vests for babies, both for third world countries, and baby blankets for Oxfordshire SANDS. Copies of the patterns are available for anyone interested. Also if anyone has balls of colourful acrylic wool they might like to donate for the knitters we would be pleased to receive them.

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

Tel: 01844 339340



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Chairman's review of the year

It's been another frustrating year. To start with Sandy Lane was shut for 3 days – but none of the major road repairs were done.

We lost Anne and Harold Edwards, Anne being an ex – chair of the Parish Council.

The Clerk has written numerous letters to the District and County Councils regarding pot holes, vibrations from the A418, and drainage issues all over the Parish. Since adopting the Village Plan, as councillors we have met with T4VP committee to see how we could utilize all the volunteers. We came up with the idea of having a get together over a glass of wine in September – unfortunately the turn out was so disappointing that we arranged another meeting for November mid week, but had to cancel due to lack of response again. Our thoughts then turned to using the volunteers on a project by project basis , e.g. litter blitz.

Our Clerk took up the offer of tree planting, one at Station Yard and the other at Milton Common, both doing well.

I don't think we will forget the flooding at the bottom of Sandy Lane that shut the lane for weeks from December to the end of January, every one was ringing in to Highways from councillors to family and friends, all for a spring that had not been tapped properly and blocked and collapsed drains that we have been telling Highways about for many years. We lost count of how many motor vehicles were pulled out of the flood and how many tankers were used to drain the water.

Tiddington with Albury Parish Council Members

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

Still the one great successes of the T4VP is the coffee morning at the Cricket Club every second Wednesday in the month. Another success is the Art and Craft Group meeting every Wednesday in the Village Hall, except the second Wednesday of the month.

Albury Lane has finally had the pot holes filled again, at the Parish Council's expense this time.

Hedges and overhanging trees are still causing a problem.

The Play Area is looking good due to hard work by Ken Field and others.

Dog fouling is still a big issue around the Parish.

Last but not least many thanks to all Parish Councillors and to the Clerk for their hard work during the year and for Zena Knight's editorship of the bi-monthly Newsletter.

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.

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.

**Oxfordshire County Council
Annual Report**

**SWAP SHOP
Saturday, 12 July
9.30am – 11.00am
Merry Bells, Wheatley**

Bring useful old stuff that you no longer need, take away FREE stuff that is useful to you (NOT clothes or shoes)

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

You can now bring (small) electrical items!

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

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

RECYCLING: You can also bring used printer cartridges (NOT Epson please), old mobile phones, plastic milk bottle tops, batteries and foil milk bottle tops for us to recycle

Refreshments available (small charge)

Run by Wheatley Community Action Group
(www.wheatleycag.org)

Reuse, recycle and keep stuff out of landfill!

**OPEN SESME
Merry Bells**

Saturday, 14 June 10.00am – 1.00pm

SESME= Saving Energy Saving Money Event

Come along to The Merry Bells and find out how you can improve your energy efficiency and save money.

During the morning you can:

- Chat to local residents who have already done things
- Hear from impartial energy efficiency experts
- Test your knowledge in our fun quiz
- See an energy efficiency-themed art exhibition from the Primary School
- Pick up freebies (including tea and coffee)
- Ride a Smoothie Bike to make a drink using your own energy
- Hear about an exciting new solar project at both of our Wheatley Schools

We look forward to seeing you there.

For more information contact Tim Blightman
Tel:01865 873957 or admin@wheatleycag.org

This year I will give a brief outline of what I do on the County Council and then talk about some of the most pressing issues facing the County Council and their local relevance.

For the last year I have been on two working groups (Highways Asset Management Plan and Minerals and Waste). I have also been on the Planning Committee which deals with countywide mineral extraction and waste disposal applications.

For the last year I have also been Vice Chairman of the County Council, a great honour, through which I have learned of many of the events and organisations large and small that volunteers give time and effort into, to the benefit of Oxfordshire and its residents.

The cuts made in the last budget are beginning to work their way through, but many effects will take time to be fully appreciated. Often it is the long term shortage of money that eventually bites hard. An example of this is Highway Maintenance. The shortfall needed to maintain that standard would be around £20m a year. Instead we have only £11-12m per year to maintain the network. Obviously while that continues, the roads will inevitably decline. An extra few millions from the government to be spent on potholes after two very challenging winters is obviously welcome, but does not begin to address the underlying problem of historical under-funding.

Tiddington is still without its much needed pedestrian crossing. There is no budget now for such measures and generally speaking all such improvements (for example the crossings in Wheatley and Holton) have been paid for by developers as part of an agreement when planning permission was sought. I am trying to get money from the large developments expected in Thame, but keep being told that the relevant money from developers will only be used closer to the sites. I am taking every opportunity to point out the folly in this thinking, as there is more at stake here than just the needs in Tiddington. Whenever significant development takes place the roads see an increase in traffic and congestion for miles beyond that development. It is unrealistic to deny funding for issues caused by this extra traffic. I am beginning to get the support of other Councillors on this matter, and while in no way a quick fix, it might give some hope for a crossing in coming years.

I have enjoyed representing Tiddington over the last year and thank the Parish Council for their support.

Anne Purse
Tel: 01865 351404
Email: anne.purse@oxfordshire.gov.uk

South Oxfordshire District Council Annual Report

The Council continues to work in challenging times but has been able to cope without any cuts to services.

The efficiency savings made over the last five years by joint working with the Vale of White Horse District Council and shared contracts have meant that the council can once again reduce council tax by 2.5%. This being the third consecutive year means a total reduction of 7.5% which is very positive.

New Homes Bonus money is received from the government for new homes that are built in the district. We received one million pounds this year and expect to receive nearly two million pounds next year. This money will be spent on projects where houses are being built to improve infrastructure.

Grants

The council continues to understand the difficulties communities and charity groups face when trying to develop their own facilities. For that reason we continue to have a one million pound community grant fund.

The council has given a £15 million loan to SOHA to enable them to accelerate their housing programme.

Planning

The council is pleased to have an approved local plan which means that large developers cannot gain planning permission on any site they feel is desirable as is happening in districts that do not have such a plan. During the last few months we have been working with other Oxfordshire districts as instructed by the government to review social housing numbers. This means that we will shortly start a process similar to the local plan to accommodate more houses and the plan will be extended from 2027 to 2031. This is not a happy position but is one where we have no choice. There are more houses actually being built than in previous years.

Neighbourhood Plans

Thame now has an agreed neighbourhood plan following their referendum and Woodcote will shortly be holding their own referendum. We have lots of similar plans in the pipeline such as Sonning Common. Smaller parishes prefer community led plans.

Planning Enforcement

We have put additional resources into this area as it is important to explain to parishes what we can and

cannot do. Where there is a breach of planning there is frustration at the limit of what the council can do and the speed at which it can be done. We are required to give those in breach of planning time to make amendments where possible. However, some issues raised as enforcement are actually minor developments and are now permitted under permitted development rights. Government reforms have now made it easier for people to erect extensions.

Housing

The council continually works in partnership to keep the number of homeless people needing temporary accommodation low. We have seen a rise in this number in the past year but it remains fewer than 20 households. The cost of providing temporary accommodation can be high so it is important to keep this number down.

Waste

We continue to be one of the highest recycling councils in the country. The joint contract with the Vale of White Horse District Council works very well. Residents say "this is a good and easy system". The floods caused some areas to have collection days changed. However, everyone did their best in exceptional circumstances.

The Big Clean Up continues to be a huge success so once again we have increased the budget by £90K with even more money for the market towns over the next two years.

Market Towns

The market towns are very important to the district and we work in partnership with town councils, business partnerships and share costs of town centre coordinators where agreed. Our economic development team work hard across the whole district involving many small businesses. Car park charges have not increased and free parking on Saturday afternoons in some of our car parks has proved popular. Any surplus car park income is spent on upgrading toilets and car parks and not on any other services.

Leisure Centres

Leisure centres are well used by all ages. We work with the contractor to ensure that the facilities are of a standard acceptable to the user. The present provider's contract comes to an end next year so we have been going through a procurement exercise for the letting of the new contract which will be shared with the Vale of White Horse District Council giving more scope for better value.

Didcot

Didcot is the largest growth area in the district with Great Western Park building 3,000 houses, one of the largest sites in the South East. We are working with Hammersons to achieve phase two of the Orchard Centre development which is still proving difficult to secure an anchor store in the current economic climate. Didcot will benefit from Science Vale Oxford as the government has agreed millions of pounds to encourage new business growth to the science parks. There will also be government monies for infrastructure. This is a very exciting part of the district which should create spin off businesses for the whole of the area.

Cornerstone Arts Centre is well worth a visit for the wide variety of shows, exhibitions and children's sessions plus the café.

Boundary Review

The boundary review is now complete and the commission agreed the reduction in the number of councillors from 48 to 36 which will happen following the May election in 2015.

Community Governance Reviews

Community Governance Reviews have not taken place for many years and started at the end of last year. The process is looking at parish boundaries so we are suggesting some changes and where it would affect residents they are being consulted. Parish councils have already been involved and no changes will be made until we hear the views of the parish councils and residents. The review must be complete by August so will be decided at the council meeting in July.

Office Accommodation

If you have had reason to visit the council office at Crowmarsh you will have seen a lot of activity. Vale staff are moving into our accommodation giving us an annual rent of £175,000. Their Abingdon office is being rented to an Oxfordshire County Council service. This is good partnership working of local authorities.

We will continue to work hard to provide good services and value for money in partnership with others.

The council website (www.southoxon.gov.uk) can give you details of all our services, councillors' allowances, contractors and meetings that you can watch at home as they are webcast.

From your District Councillor

We're promoting 'GO Active Get Healthy', which is a three year project aimed at supporting the district's most inactive residents by providing local sporting activities and support specifically designed for them.

The scheme will help less active residents take advantage of free fitness checkups for the over 60s, senior swimming lessons, a range of gentle exercise classes and sports sessions in a variety of venues within the community, including table tennis, dance, tai chi, yoga and pilates.

The new scheme is being funded by a National Lottery grant from Sport England.

Activities include 'Functional Fitness MOTs' for the over 60s, Nordic walking, beginners' jogging and health walks.

For further information please see www.southoxon.gov.uk/leisure or contact Nicola Meurer.

Help is available for those struggling to meet Council Tax payments as bailiff fees go up.

Officers are urging taxpayers in South Oxfordshire who are finding it hard to meet their regular bill payments to get help as soon as possible.

Why? The nationally-set charges issued by bailiffs when visiting non-payers increased substantially on 6 April. So anyone who does not pay their Council Tax and ignores the subsequent reminder letters will face a hefty fee.

The increase in charges will see the fee for an initial bailiff call out rise from a minimum £24.50 to a fixed fee of £75. If further enforcement action is required, the minimum is now £235, which was previously £160. There will also be further costs of £110 if goods are then put forward for sale.

Last year, 2,000 cases were sent to the bailiffs in South Oxfordshire, while 1,500 cases were dealt with in the Vale. The vast majority of taxpayers referred to the bailiffs did not attempt to make contact with the councils, despite numerous notices beforehand, as well as being summoned to court, which automatically added £110 costs even before any bailiff action. (*also see article on subject by Citizens Advice Bureau towards end of this newsletter – Ed*)

For advice and assistance please contact sodc.counciltax@secure.capita.co.uk or 0345 302 2313.

Stephen Harrod
Great Milton Ward
01844 278068

Stephen.Harrod@southoxon.gov.uk

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



It is the time of year where the risk of raves across the Thames Valley increases. If these illegal events are set up they can run for the duration of the weekend which could cause disruption and inconvenience to local residents and landowners in the area.

Landowners are asked to take precautionary measures to ensure that 'Ravers' do not enter their land. The advice is to place physical barriers in entrance ways to vulnerable sites and regularly check gates and padlocks are still in place.

Please report sightings of anyone acting suspiciously on or around your land as they may be checking locations to hold a Rave.

If you hear any disturbances during the night call the police as soon as possible on the non emergency telephone number 101, the sooner we are informed the quicker we can react.

Prevention is vital; once an event is set up there is less chance of stopping it.

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



Thames Valley Police is appealing for information following recent thefts of horse tack, feed and medicine. During the early hours of the morning on 11 May, offender(s) forced entry to a barn at Ashdown Park, Lambourn, and stole a large amount of horse tack. A noise was heard and persons seen nearby (believed to be lamping) around 2.00am.

The same morning forced entry was gained to an outbuilding and office at Sheepdrove, Lambourn. Medicines and other property were stolen. Four male suspects were seen entering the premises at 1.23am, all had their faces covered.

Three of the suspects were of large heavy build, two wearing white paper suits and one was wearing dark

clothing with his hood up. Suspect four was of medium build, wearing light clothing with a hood and limped on his left leg.

Overnight between 10 and 11 May, offender(s) gained entry to horse stables at a farm in Kingston Lisle, Wantage and stole horse tack. Over the same period twenty bags of horse feed were stolen from an insecure outbuilding in Aston Upthorpe, Didcot and entry was gained to two outbuildings at a farm on Wantage Road, Lambourn, where medicines were stolen from a cabinet.

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

Elaine Horne
01844 279520

From your MP, John Howell



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

At the time of writing this month's newsletter Parliament has just come to the end of the session and awaits the forthcoming Queen's Speech to open the next session. As we cannot have a Queen's Speech during an election period the date of the State Opening of the next session of Parliament is set for after the European elections have been held and the following preset recess.

The Session just ended has seen 20 Bills receive Royal Assent and become Acts of Parliament and another 5 Bills will carry over into the next Session. The main legislative highlights have included the following:

- On social care: Adoption, Children in Care, Special Educational Needs, Shared Parental Leave, Pensions Reform, Mesothelioma, Marriage and the Care Bill.
- On the provision of infrastructure it has included HS2, Energy and the Water industry.
- On the economy and financial services it has included the Employment Allowance and Financial Services.
- On criminal justice it has included Anti-Social Behaviour and the Rehabilitation of Offenders.

AIR PASSENGER DUTY

Air passenger duty is a tax paid by airlines which is typically passed on to their customers within ticket costs. It is banded on the distance from London to

countries' capital cities, with a reduced rate for economy class passengers. It is something that I have been contacted on by a number of people. At Budget 2014, the Government announced a significant reform to it to bring the cost of long-haul travel down to a uniform duty rate. From 1 April 2015 any country over 2,000 miles from London falls into the same B rate banding as the USA. Bands C and D with their higher costs have been abolished. This will help export-led growth and will help businesses to strengthen links with key growth markets like Brazil, India and China. The vast majority of passengers fly to band A destinations within the UK and Europe. I am pleased to tell you that the economy flight duty rate for these journeys is set to remain at £13. By the end of March 2016 it will have stood unchanged at this level for four years.

NHS MATERNITY SERVICES

From time to time the media has suggested that NHS maternity services are under pressure. A review of changes during this current Parliament shows that good progress is being made. Overall 84% of women now say that they had good care compared to 76% 6 years ago. Since May 2010 there are 1700 more midwives with over 6000 more in training. There are also over 1000 more health visitors. The NHS has key objectives to ensure that every woman has a named midwife to offer personalised care throughout pregnancy, childbirth and the post natal period. There has also been £35million invested to deliver improvements in birthing environments in a number of hospitals. A recent Care Quality Commission inspection of Oxford hospitals rated the maternity and family planning unit as good. It acknowledged some need for ongoing improvement but overall noted that women received care and treatment from caring, compassionate and skilled staff. The maternity unit at Wallingford Hospital has not yet had a follow up assessment since the initial assessment when it was set up in 2010.

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

For more information my website is regularly updated and offers information on my work both in Westminster and in the constituency. The address is www.johnhowellmp.com In addition, if you would like to subscribe to my free e-newsletter please e mail

me at: john.howell@oxfordshireconservatives.com

You can also follow me on twitter @johnhowellmp or on Facebook www.facebook.com/john.howellmp

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St. Helen's Church

Church News

The church had a good attendance in the last months and we are enjoying the new matins service sheets compiled by Robert Hutton for our service on the first Sunday in the month. The family service also goes well on the third Sunday in the month.

We also have several christenings planned for this summer which is heartening.

On 12 June Kit Arnold is holding a meeting in St Mary's Church, Wheatley to discuss and cast the play he has written for the World War 1 commemoration. This will be performed in Wheatley at St Mary's on 14 September. There may also be other performances within the cluster, maybe even here! If you would like to be involved in any way – acting, costumes, production, music - do please come to the meeting. If you would like to read the script let me know and I can send on email.

We are looking forward to the pudding evening at Brian and Dawn Price's house on Friday, 20 June and hope to welcome plenty of neighbours to another evening of delicious indulgence and good company. If you would like to come please contact Dawn on 01844 339977 or any other member of the PCC.

On 29 June we are having a cluster service at 11 o'clock at Waterstock which will be followed by a shared picnic. Please let me know if you need help with transport or have any other queries about this.

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

Church Services	St Helen's Church, Albury
1 June	9.30am Matins BCP with Robert Hutton
8 June	9.30am Holy Communion BCP with Reverend Michael Grantham
15 June	9.30am Family Service with Reverend Michael Grantham
22 June	9.30am Holy Communion Common Worship with Reverend Michael Grantham
29 June	11.00am Cluster Service Waterstock with Reverend Michael Grantham
6 July	9.30am Matins BCP with Robert Hutton
13 July	10.30am Waterperry for Art in Action with Bishop Anthony Russell
20 July	9.30am Family Service with Reverend Michael Grantham
27 July	9.30am Holy Communion Common Worship with Reverend Michael Grantham



News from The Maple Tree Children's Centre

The sun is shining, and it looks like summer could be here – the perfect time for us to begin work on our garden project. We will be landscaping our outdoor area to make it more child friendly and a great place to enjoy the outdoors. We have already made a start on this by erecting our canopy, which provides shade from the sun and shelter from the rain, meaning children can play outdoors whatever the weather.

Our regular sessions continue to run at the centre as usual: **Mondays 1.30-3.30pm is Bumps to Babies and Baby Café**, **Tuesdays from 9.30-10.30am is Baby PEEP**, followed by **Little Magic Train from 11.00-12.00**. **Stay and Play** sessions run on **Wednesday from 9.15-12.00 and Fridays from 9.30-11.30am**.

If you have had a baby in 2014, then our 4 week course **My Baby and Me** is for you. Starting on **Thursday, 5 June, 10.30-11.30am**, this course will be a chance to meet other new mums and chat together with your Health Visitor about bringing up your baby. For more details, please contact Gerry Jewell at Morland House Surgery.

Calling Dads and Male Carers: **Saturdads is on 7 June**, when we will be joined by the Oxfordshire Family Learning Team for some fun Kitchen Science, and **5 July** will be a fun sensory session. Join us from 10.00am to 12.00 noon

Signing Workshop 18 June, 12.30-2.30pm. This workshop is for anyone with an interest in signing e.g. teachers, LSAs, parents, grandparents, education/healthcare workers. The vocabulary will include a range of topics, such as everyday objects and actions, animals, food, activities specific to the nursery/school environment. There will be an opportunity to learn and practice in a fun, informal way. The training is free to parents and carers, but

there may be a charge for professionals who wish to attend. Spaces are limited, so booking is essential.

Our next **Baby Massage** course will be running for 3 weeks from **Thursday, 3 July, 10.30-11.30am**. This course is suitable for babies from 1-6 months old. We request a donation of £5 per family for the course, to cover the cost of materials. Again, spaces are limited, so booking is essential.

Finally, a big **THANK YOU** to all of you who spoke to the inspectors who conducted our **OFSTED** inspection recently. We are delighted to announce that we received an overall grade of **GOOD**, with some **OUTSTANDING** features.

Most of our sessions are free, although we do welcome donations to cover the cost of snack and materials, and are suitable for children under 5 years old (and don't forget that accompanied older siblings are also welcome during school holidays). You can also find further details on our webpage www.oxonchildrenscentres.org.uk/themapletree.

If you would like to reserve a place on any of our courses, or you have any questions, please contact the centre on 01865 873916 or mapletreec@oxfordshire.gov.uk. You can also follow us on Twitter (@themapletreec) or like us on Facebook (mapletreec).

Waterstock & Tiddington W.I.

At the April meeting, we were amusingly entertained by Simeon Courtie, telling of his experiences busking around the world with his wife and three daughters in a campervan. Calling themselves the Beatnik Beatles, they took the Beatle sound to the people they met along the way from Liverpool to New York.



In May we discussed the National AGM resolution on organ donation before having a fascinating talk from Dr Clark Friend on the history of Greenland. He took us through the different peoples that had populated the inhospitable terrain from prehistoric times to the present day.

Several of us enjoyed the Group Meeting at Sydenham, where we saw close up the techniques of a ventriloquist, Paul Dumas and his amazing selection of puppets. Our Institute won the competition for a sock puppet. Congratulations to Liz Booker who made it.

On 12 June, Andrew Hall will tell us of the Philosophy of Hairdressing in an informative but light hearted way and I believe will demonstrate his techniques as well.

10 July has top tips for those of us who drive from Chris Smith.

Our competition letters for fruit or vegetables are K and L for June and July respectively.

On 20 July we will be providing teas and cakes as well as managing the produce and cake stall at the Village Fete. We would welcome cakes for the teas from members and help on the day. We would like cakes and produce from everyone to sell on the stall.

Many thanks.

A date further ahead to put in your diaries is our celebration of 90 years as an Institute. We will be having a tea party on Sunday, 12 October, the nearest date to our founding on 14 October 1924.

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

Zena Knight

Tel: 01844 339340

Email: zenaknight42@btinternet.com

Tiddington Village Hall

Since the last newsletter we have held two very successful functions:

The Children's Easter Party was attended by 40 children, ranging in age from 1 to 10 years old, who all had a fantastic afternoon making Easter cards, decorating plates, biscuits and eggs, followed by tea and an Easter Egg hunt. Apologies to all the parents who went home clutching their 'presents' but it was brilliant to see so many happy smiley faces, with no tears and tantrums all afternoon – well done kids!!!

Our second event was the May Dance, which was a great evening with a very good DJ who played some

brilliant music. The evening was thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended, it was just a shame that we didn't have a few more people there but we did make a small profit, so all in all a good result! We are going to be holding another dance on Saturday, 18 October with the same disco but with the added fun of a bit of karaoke for the brave amongst us! So come along and dance, sing or just watch.

We now have 2 more events planned:

The Annual Fete will be on Sunday, 20 July at 2.00pm. All the usual attractions will be there as well as a few new ones. Without all of you this event would not be the success it always is, so members of the committee will be calling on everyone in the week leading up to the fete to collect any donations of tombola goods, raffle prizes, books, CD's etc. (BUT please no white elephant goods) We are also appealing for help on the day. We are a small committee and rely on volunteers to help set up in the morning and man stalls in the afternoon, to give people a chance to look around the stalls for a while. If you are willing to help please call me on 01844 338146. Let's keep our fingers crossed for fine weather.

On Saturday, 20 September we are holding a blues night, with music provided by a band called Southern Blues Fiasco – keep the date free. Further details will follow in the next newsletter.

Now that the inside of the Village Hall has been refurbished to such a high standard, we will be looking to freshen up the outside. This will mean we will need to do a little bit more fundraising than usual but we intend to hold a variety of events to suit different tastes and make them social events for all to enjoy.

Have a great summer – see you at the Fete ☺

Kind regards

Tot Boswell

Tiddington Village Hall Committee

01844 338146



The sun has been shining and we have had cricket! Some mixed results from our teams and plenty to look forward to this season.

The Village Knockout rolls on. By the time you read this we will have visited Cumnor on Sunday, 25 May, having beaten Challow on a cold wet afternoon and Shrivenham conceding their match.

The league has started with our three Saturday teams filled with emerging youth talent, great to see our youth coaching reaping rewards. Sundays will be a series of friendlies and mostly home games, members are most welcome to come and watch and enjoy a drink at all our games.

Membership is due and forms are available in the Club, £15 single and £25 for family, which includes all children under 18. We are registered as a Community Amateur Sports Club which needs a membership database and enables us to collect Gift Aid on donations. We look forward to welcoming new members.

We have a Sponsorship Committee, made up of our President, Nick Edmondson, Stephen Bowley, Sam Hollingshead, Matt Maule and Phil Manning and we have a range of sponsorship opportunities for all. Please contact any of them if you know of any organisation that would be interested in supporting the Club in their development.

Our youth cricket goes from strength to strength and we have a large number of children training on a Friday evening from 6.15pm onwards, with many parents enjoying a relaxing evening on the balcony, with the bar opening early.

Aunt Sally is now under way with a team on Wednesdays and two teams on Fridays.

Ex-player, Adrian Manger is celebrating being 60 years young this year and to mark this, has arranged a reunion of the 1985 Lord's Cricket Team to play a match against the Oxfordshire 50+ team that won at Lords in 2008, this will be on Friday, 20 June with a 2pm start. We don't envisage many 'quick singles'.

Lesley Pykett

07762 572558

www.tiddingtoncricketclub.org



**THAMES VALLEY
POLICE**

101

The single number for non-emergency calls

the charity for
your community



Question:

I've received a letter from a bailiff firm saying that they are going to come and collect an unpaid parking fine. I've seen stories in the news about how bailiffs have been treating people badly, and I'm worried that they will come to my house before I can sort out a repayment plan. Is there anything I can do to protect myself?

Our advice:

Citizens Advice Bureaux have helped thousands of people who have fallen foul of bullying bailiffs. We see evidence of bailiffs breaking the rules, so it's important that you know your rights if a bailiff turns up on your doorstep. At the beginning of April this year, the government introduced new regulations to give people better protection and make bailiffs clean up their act.

The new rules should reign in some bad behaviour by bailiffs. They have to write to you to tell you that they have been told to collect the debt so that you have the chance to arrange payment. Bailiffs are no longer allowed to enter your home between 9.00pm and 6.00am, when there are only children under 16 or vulnerable people present, or through an open window.

Vulnerable debtors are also given more protection, as they must now be given an opportunity to get advice and assistance from an organisation like Citizens Advice.

Bailiffs do have the right to charge fees, although there are now set fees that they can charge you at different stages of the process. Your debt could just get bigger if you ignore them. An adviser can help you to check what the bailiff is allowed to take and how much they can charge you in fees.

If a bailiff is behaving badly, you can complain to the bailiff firm or the company you owe the original debt to. You might also be able to complain to an Ombudsman.

If you believe a bailiff has broken the law or you think they should be struck off, you can complain to the police or the County Court. The bailiff's certification may then be withdrawn or they could be ordered to give you compensation.

If you are in a situation where you are dealing with bailiffs then you should go to your local Citizens Advice Bureau in **Market Square, Thame**. Citizens Advice can then help explain what your rights are, what a bailiff is and isn't allowed to do, as well as guiding you through the process of making a complaint, should you need to. For more information visit the Citizens Advice website www.adviceguide.org.uk.
Adviceline: 08444 111 444
03 00 33 00 650 (Mobile)

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

Opening Hours

Monday, Thursday, Friday 9.30 – 4.00

Tuesday, Wednesday 9.30 – 1.00

Advice line: 08444 111 444

Or 0300 3300 650 (mobile)

Appointments: 01844 217186

Website: www.adviceguide.org.uk

General information: www.thamecab.org

A session is held at the offices of the United Reformed Church, Crown Square, Wheatley on Monday mornings by appointment from 10.00-1.00
Drop-in from 10.00-11.00

Wheatley Library
Opening Hours

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

The Merry Bells, High Street, Wheatley

Tel: 01865 875267

Email: wheatley.library@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Wheatley Library

Greetings from Wheatley library.

The lovely sunny days of the season are a good opportunity to go walking. Our Local Studies section

has plenty to offer with information on walks in the local area and further afield, including "Paws under the table: 40 dog-friendly pubs and walks from Oxford to the Cotswolds." Come along and see what inspires you.

We also have a small collection of local publications for sale for those who may be new to the area and would like to know about more about Wheatley. The proceeds go to various societies around the village.

Upcoming events in June and July include:

- Regular Rhymetimes on Friday mornings at 11.00am for babies and toddlers.
- Six week IT course for beginners on Tuesdays at 2.00pm.
- Lively Library Club, with invited speakers, on the second Wednesday afternoon of each month starting at 2.15pm. Meetings are on 11 June and 9 July.
- Summer Reading Challenge for children and adults. Be sure to come and sign up from 12 July.

Ask a member of staff for more information.

Our Reference Online service, available both from home and in the library, is an ever expanding resource, so be sure to keep checking what is available. You will need your library number card and your PIN to access all the options from home. One of the more recent additions is free access to published research from academic journals and conference proceedings.

We hope to see you soon.

Wendy Stanton

GREAT HASELEY AND DISTRICT
HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

June 2014

I have just looked at what I wrote this time last year and find that spring was so late that my tulips were still in full flower and the Wisteria had not yet peaked. What a difference a year makes as the Wisteria is long past its peak and the Tulips finished flowering about 10 days ago.

I am very much enjoying the current warm and sunny period which is due to end today. There are of course negatives as well as the positives and too much of my time is spent watering pots, but there should be rain this week although rain often seems to bypass Great Milton. For me one of the things I really appreciate is being able to naughtily come into the kitchen to make

coffee without having to take off my boots which always seems a chore in the winter!

I am sad to report that my beautiful, scented, winter flowering Coronilla died very suddenly a couple of weeks ago and before I had got round to taking some cuttings, but I think the very wet winter is partly responsible as a number of other plants have also unexpectedly suffered; I will miss it. On a happier note, Rhododendron fragrantissima has flowered magnificently for a second year. This rather tender plant had not flowered for five years until last spring and I couldn't understand why. My other half came up with the answer which was that he had positioned the pot on a manhole cover for the main sewer which gets hot water through it from the kitchen very regularly so, in effect, it had had under floor heating all winter; there it will stay, although it desperately needs a new larger pot this summer.

Yesterday I noted that my Trachycarpus fortunei had two flower spikes which make it look even more exotic than usual. We purchased this as a small plant some 10 years or more ago and now it is much taller than I am. It is remarkably hardy and looks rather improbable in an English garden with its huge palm leaves. Each spring I cut off the old leaves and leave just the centre and the newly developing leaves creating a clear trunk and lifting the crown above the surrounding plants. This rather magnificent plant was brought back from China in the 19th Century by the plant hunter Robert Fortune who also brought tea from China to India while dressed as a Mandarin.

Over the last few weeks I have been planting a new border area with white plants which I have tried to plan with scent and a long flowering season as this is outside the kitchen and will be enjoyed all year. My main plant is Daphne 'Eternal Fragrance' which I have written about before, but these are tiny plants bought in 9cm pots - propagation is very tricky - and it will be some years before they give the effect I am planning so I have also added some white perennials, annuals and biennials to bulk out the planting. These will be easy to remove in future years and either move elsewhere or sell at the fete. It is my first single colour border so I am looking forward to seeing how it works out.

I have also started to move plants out from the greenhouse which is a full 2 to 3 weeks earlier than I normally would do, but the weather has been so mild I thought I would take the chance. I will fleece them overnight if a frost is forecast. Should I sow my french beans? Every year I have done so before 1 June I have regretted it, but this year does seem exceptional.

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

Thank you to those members who have already paid their subscription for 2014 and may I remind a few members that your subscription is now overdue and will be gratefully received if you wish to receive the show schedule.

On Wednesday, 18 June there is a trip to visit two local gardens **Chesham Bois House and Chenies Manor Gardens**. If you are interested please contact Di Cawdron on 01844 278270/07714755670 or di@cawdron.net for further information and to make a booking.

Liz Moyses

Membership secretary

liz@moyses.org

01844 279875

Incentive for greener home heating

Rural homeowners living off the gas network have long had to pay extra for oil, LPG or electric heating. The Domestic Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) is here to encourage these households to consider lower carbon alternatives when replacing an old boiler.

The RHI aims to even out the relative cost of installing and running a new renewable heating system instead of one using fossil fuel. With the RHI you receive a payment for every unit of renewable heat it is estimated your system will generate. Supported heaters include biomass or pellet boilers, air, ground or water source heat pumps, and solar thermal panels.

The RHI is open to homeowners, private landlords, social landlords and self-builders. If you installed a renewable heat system between 15 July 2009 and 8 April 2014 you may also be eligible. Application for the RHI is by a form on the [Ofgem website](http://www.ofgem.gov.uk). You can also get free advice from the Energy Saving Advice Service on 0300 123 1234.



Biomass boiler in a rural farmhouse

Photo courtesy of www.superhomes.org.uk