

TIDDINGTON WITH ALBURY & MILTON COMMON NEWSLETTER

www.tiddingtonoxon.co.uk

FEBRUARY/MARCH 2015

From the Editor

In the New Year a time for fresh good resolutions!
A number of groups are looking for volunteers – to organise future bingo sessions (see p12), to help at the Fete coming up in the summer (see p12), to join the WI committee (see p11), to be trained in the use of SID (see p2) and finally a Parish Councillor (see opposite).

Do think about it!

Look out for several fund-raising events coming up, with details on the posters within.

Inside quite a lot of information about the disastrous fire at the District Council offices. Further information in the media has shown how all the different authorities are working together.

Very difficult times ahead.

Time to sign up for Neighbourhood Watch (see p14)

Zena Knight



WOULD YOU LIKE TO PLAY AUNT SALLY ON FRIDAY NIGHTS?

The Fox & Goat is going to enter a team for the **Southeast Oxfordshire Friday League**. We shall be in one of the lower sections where things are not taken too seriously (based on the previous performance of The Fox team 2 years ago).

So if you are free on Friday evenings during the Summer and fancy a bit of friendly competition and a few drinks, why not join the team? And of course you can bring your friends and family along for support.

Send an email to **Ken J-Fisher** at fandgas@gmail.com if you would like to join in or if you have any questions. Please include a contact number (preferably mobile) and let me know if you are happy

to have your email and/or phone number shared with other team members.

Local Government Act 1972 Tiddington with Albury Parish Council Notice of vacancy in the office of Parish Councillor

Notice is hereby given that due to the resignation of Cherry Draper, a casual vacancy has occurred in the office of Councillor for the above Parish.

The vacancy will be filled by election, if within fourteen days of the date of this notice, any ten local government electors for the said parish submit a written request to the Returning Officer, Council Offices, Benson Lane, Crowmarsh Gifford, Wallingford, OX10 8PH.

In computing the fourteen days, a Saturday or Sunday shall be disregarded.

If no written request for an election is received by the Returning Officer within the time specified, the vacancy will be filled by co-option by the Parish Council.

Dated this first day of February, 2015

Signed Ken Poyser
Clerk to the Parish Council

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From the Parish Clerk

Vacancy on the Parish Council – Mrs Cherry Draper has resigned from the Council and notice of the vacancy appears on the front page.

Chairman of the Parish Council – Mrs Elaine Horne has indicated her intention of standing down as Chairman at the beginning of the new Council year but intends to stand for re-election as a Councillor at the elections in May.

Surface water and flooding – the drainage engineer from County Highways, Gordon Hunt, reported that the drains were jetted before Christmas and will be done again. The Parish Council believes that the drain has collapsed.

Vehicle Operated Signs – a cheque for payment has been sent to the County Council and we await news of installation.

Tiddington4village plan – we have written to the County Council regarding the possibility of creating a cycle/footpath along the old railway line to seek their support, but to date have not received a reply. The successful coffee mornings at the Cricket Club continue on the second Wednesday of each month. The Art and Craft Group meetings re-commenced on Wednesday 7 January from 9.00am to 12.00noon, at the Village Hall. Details from Zena Knight, tel. 339340.

Ken Poyser
Clerk to the Parish Council

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	

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.

From the Parish Council Chair

We are looking forward to seeing the installation of the VAS units in Tiddington.

In Milton Common I would like four volunteers to be trained on how to use the SID system, the Smiley face that tells motorists how fast they are travelling. The 40 m.p.h is often abused. When walking the children to the school bus or walking the dog, the large lorries just seem to suck you in – which can be a frightening experience. The police have offered some training – so let's take advantage of it.

Thank you to Mont Adams for cleaning the graffiti off the play area.

In April I will be stepping down as Chairman due to family commitments, but hope to remain as Councillor for Milton Common.

I believe there have been some comments about the Parish Council on Facebook. Please come to a Parish Meeting, where we can answer your questions.

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

From your District Councillor

Arson at SODC offices

Clearly the most significant news of late is the arson attack at the SODC offices on 15 January 2015. The following extract from the Chief Fire Officer's report is included for your information:

"At 03.11hrs a property fire was reported in the village of Roke Marsh near Wallingford. On attendance of the first crews it was noted that actually two properties were well alight. One was a thatched property and the other a derelict house which was undergoing renovation. Twelve fire engines, our Rescue Tender (to deal with removing the thatch and roof collapse) and a water bowser were used. Adjacent to the derelict property, attending crews noticed LPG cylinders and piping leading into a further property which had not ignited. Thames Valley Police were immediately notified.

At 03.20hrs a further fire call was received to a report of a fire in a funeral director's premises in Benson Road, Crowmarsh Gifford. A second fire call was then received into our control centre indicating an explosion and a large fire at SODC Council Offices which is also in Benson Road adjacent to the funeral directors. In total 17 fire engines dealt with those two incidents supported by two hydraulic platforms, one from Oxfordshire and one from Berkshire. The SODC Offices fire was caused by a car which was deliberately driven into the front of the building and contained a gas cylinder which ignited creating a large and rapidly developing fire.

A 47 year old local male was arrested and is currently being questioned and no other person is being sought in relation to these incidents. It is believed these are isolated incidents and is not thought to be linked to any terrorist activity.

As the above incidents unfolded, Oxfordshire County Council Emergency Planning Unit liaised with the SODC Emergency Planner and a focus was given on supporting the locally displaced and evacuated residents. Additionally, business continuity for SODC has been a priority so the public of South and Vale can still access or receive services. SODC have instigated their critical incident plan which includes measures to ensure business continuity and OCC have assisted in the use of our buildings.

Colleagues from E&E have also been involved with ensuring other OCC assets are made available in the short term.

Bomb Disposal Teams have assisted in the fire ground scene investigation and it would appear at this stage

that cylinders were used at all of the incidents. Cylinders, coupled with very strong gale force winds, made firefighting operations particularly hazardous. However I am pleased to report there have been no injuries to any members of the public, other agencies or fire service personnel. OCC Media have been working closely with the media teams from SODC, Thames Valley Police and South Central Ambulance and the police have taken the lead due to the sensitivities of the incidents and the criminal investigation."

Further to this, on the evening of 16 January, Thames Valley Police charged a man with arson in connection with the fires. Andrew Main, aged 47, of Roke Marsh has been charged with:

- One count of arson with intent to endanger life
- Two counts of arson reckless as to whether life was endangered

Main has been remanded in custody and will appear before a magistrate's court on 17 January.

Staff at SODC have worked heroically to ensure that as little disruption to normal services is felt by the public and we will keep you updated as to progress in restoring full service levels and finding alternative accommodation.

How equally are our residents treated?

We've done a lot of work over the past year to help make sure people in the districts are treated fairly and equally. Our annual report explains it all in detail, but here's a summary:

- providing disability awareness training to taxi drivers
- creating a list of charities and groups who can help disabled people with bulky waste collections
- increased the number of disabled parking spaces in our buildings to the recommended six per cent
- working with local access groups to make sure that accessibility remains a priority in new and existing developments.

For further information and to find out more about what actions we're taking to make South and Vale more accessible and safer places, download a copy of the report.

If you have any more questions, drop Cheryl Reeves an email on cheryl.reeves@southandvale.gov.uk or give her a call on 01235 540324

Keeping you safe and sound

Our £100,000 to help fund six of the district's PCSOs this year has been well spent. Between July and September they assisted 280 victims of crime, helped to get more than 220 people signed up for Thames Valley Alerts, and issued just under 500 fixed penalty

notices for parking offences, as well as engaging with local communities by making visits to 'Have your say' meetings, local fetes, and community and youth groups.

Some good examples of how our PCSOs have helped our communities recently include:

- working with police to promote road safety in the Wallingford area, including stopping 36 motorists for a range of motoring offences, including speeding, not wearing a seatbelt and using a mobile phone
- helping to apprehend two suspected shoplifters in Henley
- performing first aid on a young man who had been found unconscious following a fight in Mill Meadows, Henley.

To find out more about what our PCSOs got up to between July and September see the Quarter Two PCSO Report, alternatively if you would like to receive the latest updates for your area make sure you sign up for the Thames Valley Alert service..

Kind regards



Stephen Harrod
Great Milton Ward
01844 278068

Stephen.Harrod@southoxon.gov.uk

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



The message below is sent out on behalf of South Oxfordshire and the Vale of White Horse District Councils:

Due to a major fire at South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils' offices there are disruptions to some services. For the latest update and information visit the website www.southandvalecouncils.wordpress.com

The following services are running:

- Waste collections and street cleaning
- Leisure centres
- Housing benefits (payments aren't affected)
- Council tax payments by phone: 0845 303 8506 (South residents) or 0845 372 3201 (Vale residents)
- The Beacon in Wantage
- Cornerstone Arts Centre in Didcot

- limited Food and safety and building control services

In an emergency call 01235 520202. Services affected by the fire include planning, environmental health, finance and housing. We will provide more updates later. We'd be grateful if anybody with any day to day enquiries can wait until we're fully up and running again.

Thames Valley Police has been congratulated by Minister for Crime Reduction, MP Lynne Featherstone, during a Parliamentary debate, for managing to cut crime while also working to become more efficient. John Howell, MP for Henley, drew the Minister's attention to the 30 per cent reduction in crime in Thames Valley between June 2010 and June 2014, as published in the Independent Crime Survey for England and Wales. The Minister responded by paying tribute to the Force for "rising to the challenge of driving efficiency and cutting crime". The Minister said: "I am happy to congratulate Thames Valley Police on all it has done in reducing crime by 30 per cent in its area. "Effective policing plays a key part in reducing crime, as does tackling the underlying drivers of crime." The exchange occurred at a House of Commons debate on crime reduction on Wednesday 7 January

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

Tiddington

Facewatch system

Facewatch allows you to view CCTV images of people being sought in connection with theft and criminal damage offences across the Thames Valley Police area.

The app, which is free to download on both Apple and Android devices, allows you to search by postcode and then identify those people that you recognise – anonymously if you prefer.

With a number of positive identifications already, we are keen to encourage members of our community to download the app and help us in our fight against crime.

You can read more about Facewatch on www.facewatch.co.uk

Internet Security advice through Get Safe Online



Did you know that 80% of online crime is easily preventable by taking simple steps to protect computers, smart phones and tablets?

During 2015, Thames Valley Police will be working in partnership with Get Safe Online to provide practical advice to help our communities protect themselves on the internet.

The website covers a wide range of topics, and will be a useful read for parents, businesses and the vulnerable and elderly too. Visit www.GetSafeOnline.org

Are you a parent or carer of a child aged 8 – 12?

You may have already seen or heard about the new NSPCC online safety campaign, *Share Aware* which has just been launched.

Many parents feel out of their depth in understanding what their children are doing online and what the risks might be.

This campaign is aimed at parents and carers of children aged 8-12, and is a good tool to help with understanding what children like to get up to online, that will certainly help parents to have those difficult conversations with children about staying safe.

There is a downloadable *Share Aware* guide for parents that has three main purposes:

- to provide an overview of sites, apps and games that children and young people use from a user-perspective
- to give parents the confidence to facilitate balanced and informed conversations about what their children are doing online
- to encourage parents to look at social networking platforms themselves and form their own views about the appropriateness of popular sites for their children

Thames Valley Police supports the campaign, and we encourage you to read the guide, watch the video with your children, and to start having those important conversations about staying safe as a family.

Visit www.NSPCC.org.uk/ShareAware, follow @NSPCC and #ShareAware

Taking a few moments now to familiarise yourself with the best ways to protect yourself, your family and your devices online might be a smart and safe way to start 2015.

For anything suspicious please call the police directly - non-emergency number 101, or for an emergency dial 999.

Thank you.

Chris Williams

NHW Co-ordinator Tiddington

07710 620820

meteorltd@btinternet.com



A date for your diaries: On Thursday, 26 February 2015, Thames Valley Police will hold an equine evening at The Horse Trust. Guest speakers will include a vet, a National Farmers' Union (NFU) spokesperson, a member of Thames Valley Police mounted section and others. Further details will be available in the New Year from PC Claire Marchant at Marlow Police Station.

If you received some equine gifts this Christmas – i.e. rugs, saddles, etc – please ensure that you mark them. Please also be careful about leaving property in your car when visiting stable yards or out shopping, and always make sure that your vehicle is secure. Stay alert, and report anything suspicious immediately to the police. And, as always, review your security and stay safe.

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
Horsewatch Sandy Lane and Parish
01844 279520

From your MP, John Howell



I am writing this month when we have just witnessed one of the worst attacks of arson known in the area. The fire at the District Council offices, the funeral directors, and the cottage in Roke Marsh left significant problems, enormous concern and much uncertainty. I am grateful to all those who have worked so hard to get the District Council services up and running so quickly following the event. I know that the midnight oil was burning and weekends given up to help. I would also like to record my thanks to the

fire service and police for the excellent work they did on these incidents.

Arson attacks are thankfully rare events. More generally there is good news that the level of crime has reduced across the county. However I was particularly delighted to see figures recently published that showed that in the four year period from June 2010 to June 2014 there has been a 30% decrease in recorded crime in the Thames Valley Policing area. I was pleased to have the opportunity to put this on record in the House and to seek the Minister's congratulations for our police force on their work to keep us safe.

For people living on the eastern side of the constituency an issue that has been prominent over the past few months is the increased volume of air traffic and the associated noise. In order to try to get an understanding of what was going on I wrote to the Civil Aviation Authority, the Chief Executive of Heathrow Airport and the Minister responsible for aviation. There have been some airspace trials looking at alternative ways of using our airspace but these have now finished. The greatest issue appears to be the wind direction. For safety reasons aircraft take off and land into the wind. In the UK the prevalent wind is from the west which means that planes depart over Windsor and arrive over London. However we have recently seen an unusually high level of easterly winds which means that aircraft have been taking off and landing over this area. In addition there have been more early morning flights arriving from this direction due to runway maintenance. For more information on this and the opportunity to ask questions I have arranged for representatives from the Civil Aviation Authority and Heathrow to meet with residents of Henley and the surrounding area on 26th February.

The state of our roads is another issue regularly raised with me. Maintenance and repairs are a responsibility of the County Council and I welcomed the announcement of nearly £17 million of new funding for Oxfordshire for road maintenance. This is part of £87,143,000 of funding allocated for roads maintenance in Oxfordshire up to 2020/21 – the first time councils have had certainty over funding for this length of time. This will mean they can plan ahead and spend more efficiently and effectively. It is much needed money to tackle potholes and improve our roads.

I have been advised that a campaign organisation has categorically stated that Henley is sitting on a seam of

shale gas. This strikes me as extremely doubtful and I have asked both for information about this and proof that it is not so.

With several months until the election and plenty of work to do it is frustrating that things already seem to be focusing on campaign issues. Let me reassure readers that my office is keeping focus on the work that needs to be done and will continue to help with issues where we are able as usual. My contact details are below. If I am not the right person to help with a particular issue we will always try to direct you to those best placed to help.

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

For more information my website is regularly updated and offers information on my work both in Westminster and in the constituency. The address is www.johnhowellmp.com In addition, if you would like to subscribe to my free e-newsletter please e mail me at: john.howell@oxfordshireconservatives.com You can also follow me on twitter @johnhowellmp or on Facebook www.facebook.com/john.howellmp

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St. Helen's Church

From the Vicar

The sight of snowdrops always lifts the spirit. Tiny, and apparently fragile, they bring a luminous quality to dark woodland floors and churchyards at a dark time of year. In the harshness of winter they bob as if they were flickering candles. And close up, the white of the petal is entirely unblemished except for touches of green, the colour of life.

The snowdrop – galanthus, a name derived from the Greek, gála meaning "milk", and ánthos meaning "flower". And the best way to see their full majesty and beauty is to kneel down and, gently lifting the drooped head, to see the intricacy of the patterns before you.

Wordsworth writes of the snowdrop:
Nor will I then thy modest grace forget,
Chaste Snowdrop, venturous harbinger of Spring,
And pensive monitor of fleeting years!
Those themes of purity, light, candles, mother's milk,
intricate beauty have long linked the snowdrop to the
great feast of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple,
Candlemas, also known as the Purification of St Mary
the Virgin which we celebrate. This is why the
snowdrop has been known in England as the
Candlemas Bell.

A practice from medieval times was to bring
snowdrops into the church at Candlemas to evoke
that sense of reverence and presentation and
offering.

As the month of January progresses, we will notice the
days getting a little longer, with the promise of spring
round the corner.

Having something to look forward to is always a
pleasant thing, it might be a holiday you have booked,
a baby to be born, a wedding in the family or starting
a new job.

Thank God for New beginnings, fresh starts, a New
Year.

The past never has the last word.

Thank God for the promise of the snowdrops.

Michael Grantham
01865 872795
Email: granthammichael@sky.com
The Vicarage,
Buryhook Corner
Holton,
Oxford,
OX33 1PY

Church News

Christmas has been and gone and we happily filled the
church on Christmas Eve with record numbers. It was
especially good to see so many children at the service
this year.

The bazaar went well and raised £600. All the children
enjoyed having Father Christmas.

The funerals, baptisms and marriages in the church
saw the burial of Jack William Newett on 20
November, the baptism of Logan and Taylor Ensoll on
23 November and the marriage of Andrew Michael
O'Brien to Dione Michelle Smith on 20 December.

The last occasion was great fun for all the village as
Dione rode to the church from her home in a horse-
drawn carriage. It was a lovely sunny day too.

Our first frivolity for the year will be a pancake
eating/tossing session on Shrove Tuesday in the
Village Hall from 4.30pm -6.00pm. The cost will be £3
a head and do bring your own pan if you are going to
toss and race.

We are holding the Gardeners' Question Time on
Friday, 20 March in the Village Hall at 7.30pm. Please
send me your questions and I will submit them to the
Waterperry gurus so they can hone their replies. The
tickets are £6.00 and you get a Ploughman's supper
and glass of wine as well as all the gardening expertise
of our panel.

We fell short on our fund raising last year so will be
trying extra hard this year to raise the money for our
Parish Share which is paid to the diocese so that they
can employ and house the clergy who look after our
parishes. We had to pay £7,888 last year but are lucky
to have a reduction to £5,330 this year. However with
all the other expenses on the maintenance of the
church we need to raise £11,000 every year which is a
tall order.

We believe that many residents in Tiddington and
Milton Common value our beautiful church and would
be willing to support the expense involved in its
upkeep. Some may be able to make a regular gift
aided donation by bankers standing order.

If so, please contact Tracey Smith on 01844 339178
ntbjsmith@gmail.com for the necessary forms.

Look out for more exciting fund raising events as the
year progresses.

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 February	9.30am Matins with Robert Hutton
8 February	9.30am Holy Communion BCP with Reverend Michael Grantham
15 February	9.30am Family Service with Reverend Michael Grantham
22 February	9.30am Holy Communion Common Worship with Reverend Michael Grantham
1 March	9.30am Matins with Robert Hutton
8 March	9.30am Holy Communion BCP with Reverend Michael Grantham
15 March	9.30am Family Service, Mothering Sunday with Reverend Michael Grantham
22 March	9.30am Holy Communion Common Worship with Reverend Michael Grantham
29 March	10.00am Cluster service at Waterstock and procession to Waterperry

Great Milton Methodist Church Redevelopment Project

YOGA FOR FUN – there will be another fund-raising event at the Neighbours Hall, Great Milton on **Saturday, 7 February at 10.30am – 12.00 noon**. Donations would be appreciated with a suggestion of £10.00 which will include refreshments. Come and join us for some fun Yoga with gentle exercise, flexibility and some much needed relaxation.

Waterstock & Tiddington W.I.



It seems quite a long time ago now, but we all had a very enjoyable festive time with a Christmas meal at the "Fox and Goat". It was particularly good having the convenience of our venue being on the doorstep for most of our members.

In January we were fortunate to have a local speaker at short notice as our previously booked speaker had suffered a bereavement. Ian Jones, who had been a bomb disposal expert for many years, titled his talk "40 years bomb disposal and still ten fingers". Such a dangerous profession but his light-hearted presentation showed just how brave he had been over those years.

On 12 February, Russell Cherry will take us on "A journey through history". We will also have a Bring and Buy stall and members will be asked to submit

nominations for committee for the coming year. As several members will be standing down, we ask that

everyone considers whether they might stand. Committee membership is not an arduous commitment, particularly if we have a full complement to share the tasks. It only involves one extra meeting a month and you can be part of the team that takes us forward into the future and continue to have a lively and welcoming WI that has existed for 90 years.

On 12 March do all come to our Annual Meeting and help to take us into the future with confidence. We will be having a talk from a WI Adviser who will come from the County.

The competitions for any item of fruit or vegetables begin with the letter "Q" in February and "R" in March.

Members are reminded that they no longer need to bring any refreshments. They will be provided by the tea hostesses.

Our Quiz Evening on 7 February will be at 7.30pm for a prompt start at 8.00pm. It has been decided that our chosen charity will be Thomley Hall and we look forward to a fun evening.

New members are always made welcome and for a subscription of £36.00pa a magazine "WI Life" is received eight times a year and a monthly County newsletter "News and Views" has details of all the many outings and talks which can be enjoyed throughout the year.

We meet on the second Thursday of the month at 7.30pm in Tiddington Village Hall. We look forward to seeing you.

Zena Knight

Tel: 01844 339340

Email: zenaknight42@btinternet.com

Tiddington Village Hall

Well I hope you all had a good Christmas and New Year and are sticking to your New Year Resolutions! The Christmas period was very busy in the hall – the Annual Dinner Dance proved to be an entertaining evening, with great food, a very good band and even a little impromptu karaoke thrown in to finish the night. Thanks to everyone who came along and made it such a great event.

Also very successful was the Christmas Bingo, at which we raised £600.00. Again thanks to all who came along on the night and to those who donated prizes. Without your support this event just wouldn't happen. Unfortunately the regular fortnightly bingo sessions have come to an end but if there is anyone out there who would be prepared to start these up again, perhaps even just once a month, I'm sure that the village community would be very grateful. A huge thank you must go to the group who have been running the bingo very successfully for the last few years; they have made some significant contributions to Village Hall funds.

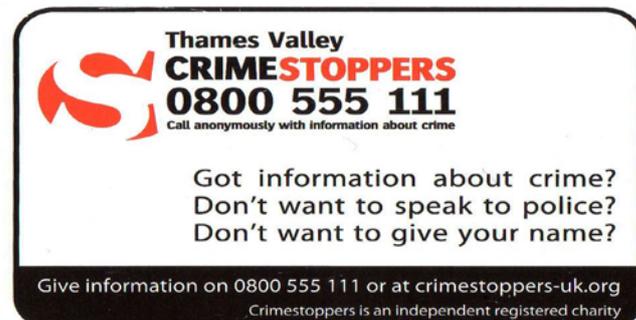
On the subject of support, we are in desperate need for more volunteers to help at the Annual Fete (date yet to be decided but likely to be early July). We would like to organise a rota of helpers for the afternoon to allow everyone the chance to enjoy the event. If you could spare us some time either in the morning to set up or in the afternoon to "man" a stall, if only for half an hour, please give me a call on 01844 338146 or speak to any committee member.

We will be holding another Easter Party for the children and grandchildren of villagers on Sunday, 29 March. Please look out for more information to follow.

Let's have a Great Year.

Tot Boswell
Chairman

Tiddington Village Hall Committee
01844 338146



February 2015

The Cherwell League fixtures are out; any day now the Village Knockout draw will be published; the Youth Competition entries have been submitted and 16 of our boys and girls are enjoying winter training with Oxfordshire County and Development squads, and are enjoying following Jack Brook's winter with England Lions.

The nights are drawing out and it can only mean the season is getting closer!!

There is always plenty to do to get the Club and ground ready and thanks to Phil Manning who has been trimming and relaying the hedge in the entrance. Many more jobs to be done before the season.

Darts and crib continue to be enthusiastically contested by all the teams and some good performances by all.

The monthly coffee mornings continue to be very well supported and we thank the organisers for the donation of new mugs for the kitchen, a lovely addition.

The Club continues to be used regularly outside of our usual opening hours, with the Officials Association running umpiring courses during Saturdays and evenings and Oxfordshire Cricket and Oxfordshire Sports Partnership using the

facilities for training and meetings, all making use of our media and catering.

We look forward to welcoming existing and new members throughout the year.

Lesley Pykett
07762 572558

www.tiddingtoncricketclub.org
Follow us on Facebook or Twitter

GREAT HASELEY AND DISTRICT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

February 2015

I have just spent a wonderful afternoon in the garden clearing up. Although I suspect the air temperature was not much above zero as the snow from two days ago is still there in the shade, it was bright sunshine and I felt warm when wrapped up and working. I have not finished tidying the borders from last year and, despite having collected leaves in the autumn, many more have appeared. I am not complaining as leaves make the most wonderful compost when rotted down by themselves to make leaf mould; I collect them along with other compostable material in heaps. We have three compost heaps - one in use, one 'cooking' and one being added to. I find that the most useful attribute of home-made compost is its ability to hold moisture; this is particularly important when planting. My soil is sandy and very free draining and so without a lot of care and effort during dry periods, new plants don't do well and sometimes I lose them; adding our own compost makes a big difference to survival rates (and watering frequency). I would urge you to compost waste green matter if you don't already do so.

While outside today I took the time to see what was happening around the garden. Several Daphnes are in flower along with Christmas Box (*Sarcococca*) and both smell wonderful, especially when warmed by the sun. Snowdrops seem to be a little behind compared to other years, but winter aconites are showing yellow and are always a cheerful start to the year. Weeds are also developing fast, but everything will slow down this week as the freezing temperatures continue.

Now February is here it is time to start planning sowing schedules, particularly for the slower developing plants. Seed packets give good instructions on how to grow the plants, but if your vegetable patch is in a frost pocket, it is a good idea to wait a little longer than the earliest recommended time. There is no doubt that temperatures are much lower in small

rural villages than in bigger places - this is noticeable just driving between Great Milton, where I live, and Wheatley which is a mere three miles away.

It is also time to prune Roses and Clematis, although it is good to wait for a mild spell to do so. Make sure that your secateurs are clean so that you don't introduce infection and don't compost rose waste, particularly leaves, as diseases such as rust and blackspot may well survive the process. Be gentle with Clematis as stems are rather brittle and easily break off while you are untangling them. A good tip for mixing climbing roses and Clematis is to use group 3 Clematis, the stems of which require pruning down to a strong bud about 12 inches from the ground. If this is tackled first, then the rose will be much easier to prune; when I planted up my pergola I did not know this and have found the pruning more than a little tricky when I have to protect delicate Clematis group 2 shoots (these flower on last year's growth). Things were even worse where I planted a vigorous group 1 Clematis (no pruning) with a rose; the rose died! Enjoy your garden in spring which I hope is advancing by the time you read this.

Liz Moyses
Membership secretary
liz@moyses.org
01844 279875

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

Thank you to those members who have already paid their subscription for 2015 and may I remind other members that your subscription is now due and will be gratefully received.



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



Surviving Winter appeal – if you don't need your Winter Fuel Payment, donate it!

Local charity Oxfordshire Community Foundation are encouraging those who receive an unneeded Winter Fuel Payment to consider giving it to their Surviving Winter appeal, which uses the funds to help elderly and vulnerable people around Oxfordshire who are struggling to cope. Now in its fifth year, the current appeal has so far raised nearly £8,000 to support local charities and community groups that are working directly with those who need help the most. But with a target to match the £20,000 that was raised during the previous appeal, there's still a long way to go!

In the past, grants from the appeal funds have been made to groups that befriend elderly people, help them overcome fuel poverty, and that assist them in practical matters such as keeping warm and well fed through the cold winter months. Oxfordshire Community Foundation are partnering with other

local organisations who are working hard to address the needs of the elderly locally, in particular Age UK Oxfordshire. The appeal addresses the fact that in 2013 there were 18,200 excess winter deaths across the UK, with 340 winter-related deaths in Oxfordshire alone.

Anyone can donate to the appeal. If you would like to help, visit the online donation page at www.justgiving.com/SurvivingWinter2014-15, or call 01865 798666 to arrange a postal donation.

Surviving Winter 



LOGS
TOE2

Logs for Labour

Would you like free firewood, or do you have a woodland that needs managing? The Trust of Oxfordshire's Environment's "Logs for Labour" programme aims to promote sustainable use of wood fuel by running events where volunteers help to manage woodlands in return for logs. The events are 2-3 hours long and could involve coppicing hazel, thinning trees or piling up brash. Bring sturdy gloves, shoes and a saw (hand tools only allowed) or let us know if your woodland needs the help of volunteers. Information about forthcoming events is at www.oxonwoodfuel.org.uk or "like" us at www.facebook.com/oxonwood.

Riki Therival
01865 243488

**CLEAN IT UP!
OR PAY THE PRICE**



MAXIMUM PENALTY £1000