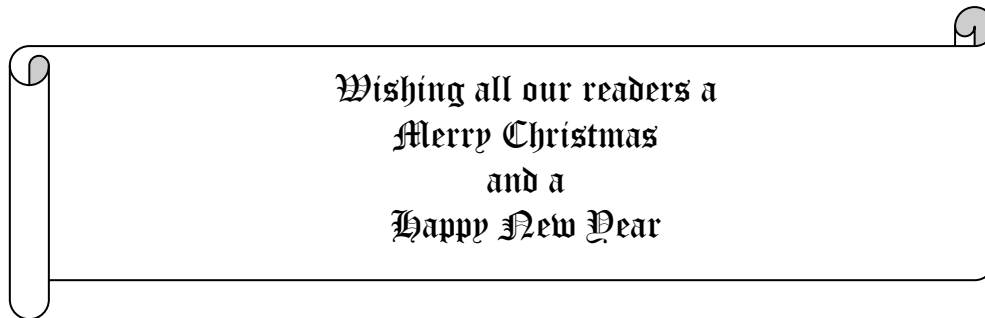


TIDDINGTON WITH ALBURY & MILTON COMMON NEWSLETTER

www.tiddingtonoxon.co.uk

DECEMBER 2010/JANUARY 2011



Wishing all our readers a
Merry Christmas
and a
Happy New Year

From the Editor

I would like to thank all those who provide material for the articles featured in each issue. Without them there would be no newsletter!

In particular, too, I would like to thank all those who distribute it promptly to the residents of the Parish, come rain or shine. All know who they are but I must mention Anne Edwards, who has distributed the newsletter over many years, but has now decided to retire. Thank you Anne. We welcome to the merry band Kim and Gerald Morrish. Thank you for volunteering.

Coming up in December are the Christmas Dinner and Dance on 4 December (see p13) Bingo on 14 December (see p12) and the Carol Evening on 16 December (see p7 and note change of date)

Zena Knight

**Thank you
Tiddington Village Hall**

Jenny and Mike Gray would like to thank Alan Stratton, Brian Price, the Village Hall Committee and all volunteers, past and present, for the excellent facilities which were greatly

appreciated by everyone at our Anniversary Party in September.

Thank you

**Brew for the Few
Tea Party in Aid of
Wings Appeal**

held at the Village Hall, 30 Sept 2010.

Many thanks to all the people that attended this event especially from Tiddington and Albury. If it had not been for you the Tea Party would have been a flop. Special thanks to Zena Knight and Dianne Hirst for their help and support. Money raised was £104.00 and this money goes to help the veterans in the Oxford & District Area.



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From the Parish Clerk

Ken Poyser
Parish Clerk

Drainage works in Tiddington and vibrations on A418 - I am informed that the vibrations felt by residents along the A418 are at least reduced following the removal of the hatching and replacement with double white lines and 30mph roundels on the approaches to the village. I have put in a request to Oxfordshire Highways that the next time that area of road surface is replaced they should use the 'rubbery' material which reduces surface noise and drains more efficiently.

Potholes - nothing much seems to happen regarding potholes, although some dangerous holes have been attended to in Albury View. Elsewhere there is some evidence of white marks having been made on the road surface, suggesting that work is to be done, but the holes have not been filled. I shall keep on asking for attention to this urgent matter, but I feel that a lack of funds is preventing any action. There will potentially be a disastrous situation once the winter snow and frosts have done their worst.

2011 Census - we have been asked to assist in endeavouring to promote a good response to the Census, which will take place in March of next year. More about this elsewhere in this Newsletter. (*See page 5 - Ed*)

Tiddington with Albury Parish Council Members

Chair	John Nowell-Smith	339650
	Econ.development, businesses	
Vice Chair	Elaine Horne	279520
	Planning, highways and Milton Common	
Councillor	Cherry Draper	339347
	Environment, conservation, recycling waste	
Councillor	Ken Field	339671
	Housing, planning, building & controls	
Councillor	Zena Knight	339340
	Planning; recreation, arts, grants	
Councillor	Brian Price	339977
	Health & safety	
Clerk	Ken Poyser	339216
	Rosewood, Ickford Road, Tiddington	
	Email: twaparishcouncil@googlemail.com	

Christmas and New Year Rubbish and Recycling collections

Please note the changes will be as follows:

Normal day	Revised day
Monday 27 December	Wednesday 29 Dec
Monday 3 January	Thursday 6 Jan
Monday 10 January	Wednesday 12 Jan
Monday 17 January	Tuesday 18 Jan

Please see the diary dates on the back page for which types of collections will be made



WASTE RECYCLING CENTRES CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR OPENING HOURS:

CHRISTMAS EVE 08:00 to 15:00

CHRISTMAS DAY CLOSED

BOXING DAY CLOSED

**MONDAY 27/12/10 to THURSDAY 30/12/10
08:00 to 17:00**

NEW YEARS EVE 08:00 to 15:00

NEW YEARS DAY CLOSED

**SUNDAY 2/1/11 ONWARDS NORMAL
OPENING HOURS APPLY, 8:00-17:00**

Freedom of Information Act Publication Scheme

Residents of the Parish can see the records of the Council held by the Parish Clerk or learn where they may be accessed. Records include minutes, financial information and responses to planning consultations.

Application can be made to the Clerk (Tel: 339216) and documents viewed by appointment.

Any copies required will be charged at 10p per page.

From your Chairman

Although as I write this we are still only in November when you receive my next offering it will be February. So a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

I would like to think 2011 will bring us a Pelican crossing, better drainage and an absence of potholes - one can only dream! At least something has been done to alleviate noise problems on Thame Road.

Sometimes your Council can celebrate some achievements, so do bring your problems to us and we will do our best!

Once again all Seasons Greetings.

John Nowell Smith
339650

Post Office Tiddington Village Hall

Please support your local post office facilities in the Village Hall on Wednesdays from 1.30pm-3.00pm.

Your postmaster from Great Milton is able to provide all the usual needs including top-up of mobile phones, etc.

From your District Councillor

The main event at SODC has been the adoption of the Core Strategy which sets out the aims and strategies of the Council to 2026.

We will be most affected by the allocation of new housing, particularly in Thame, although we may also be affected by patterns of transport movement elsewhere.

So far as Thame is concerned, the Strategy provides for 435 new houses in the period 2012 to 2017 and a further 95 houses between 2017 and 2022. Infrastructure needs will have to be addressed and these will be discussed with developers. The proposal is that the new houses will be built inside the western ring road to the north of Oxford Road.

Although this is what the Council has voted for, there are still a lot of stages to be gone through which could result in considerable change.

John Nowell Smith
339650



Listening Learning Leading

Polling Districts and Polling Places Notice of Review

In accordance with the requirements of the Representation of the People Act 1983 as amended by the Electoral Administration Act 2006, South Oxfordshire District Council is conducting a general review of polling districts and polling places in its area during the next few months.

We invite electors to make comments on the convenience of voting at elections within the district and, if possible, to recommend

alternative places that may be used as polling stations.

We are seeking representations from the Acting Returning Officer for the two parliamentary constituencies in the area (Henley and Wantage) and from people who have expertise in access to premises for people with different forms of disability. We will also have regard to the cost of providing a polling place for a small number of electorate.

Details of the existing electoral arrangements and other documents will be available for inspection between the hours of 9:30am and 4:00pm Monday to Friday at the Council Offices in Crowmarsh Gifford or on the Council's website www.southoxon.gov.uk.

If you would like us to consider any issues as part of our review please contact Bev Lee, Electoral Service, Council Offices, Benson Lane, Crowmarsh Gifford, Wallingford, Oxon, OX10 8PH. Email bev.lee@southoxon.gov.uk

We will publish our proposals by mid-December. Comments on the existing arrangements, our proposals or the Acting Returning Officer's comments, either in support or proposing alternative arrangements will be welcome by mid-January. Council will make the final decision in February 2011. All representations received will be made available for public inspection.

If you require any further information regarding this review please telephone 01491-823651.

Oxfordshire Record Office

The rebuilding of St Luke's to accommodate both the Record Office and Oxfordshire Studies is getting closer and it looks as if closure will take place from **29 November 2010 to 18 January 2011**. However work may have to be postponed due to cutbacks so please check on the latest information before making a trip to St Luke's.

Telephone: 01865 398200

Website: www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/oro

From your County Councillor

Review of County Council subsidised bus services - the four-yearly reviews of the Thame/Watlington area subsidised bus services is currently taking place. Whilst the 280 service serving Tiddington is largely commercially operated by Arriva there are some timings which are subsidised and are under review. These are the Sunday and Bank Holiday 0827 and 1920 to Oxford and the 0943 and 2033 to Thame. Early indications from the bus company are that the whole of the Sunday and Bank Holiday timings are only just viable, this especially applying to the 1920 to Oxford and the 2033 to Thame. Your comments on how much you value these Sunday and Bank Holiday timings would be most welcome. In addition the 111 Tuesday Market Day bus from Milton Common to Thame and back and the 124 service from Milton Common to Thame and back are under review. I understand that these services are not very well used so we will need a strong case to keep them. Please make your comments by 24 December at the latest with a copy to me (my contact details at the bottom of this article) to:

Mr John Wood
Assistant Passenger Transport Officer
Oxfordshire County Council
Environment & Economy
Speedwell House
Speedwell Street
Oxford
OX1 1NE
Email: john.wood@oxfordshire.gov.uk
Tel. 01865 815700
Fax. 01865 815085

County Council Boundary Review - the Local Government Boundary Commission for England is currently conducting a review of all Oxfordshire County Council member divisions triggered by one of the constituencies in the

Witney area getting a long way out of step with the number of electors it represents compared to the average for Oxfordshire. This in my opinion could have been solved by adding one extra member to the Witney area and saving the expense of £180,000 (average cost for a review) at a time when all budgets are under extreme pressure. However the law requires a review. At the same time discussion is taking place on how many councillors the County Council requires to operate efficiently and effectively. This is a complex issue in particular for rural area councillors who in addition to their County Council meetings attend between 10 and 15 Parish Council evening meetings per month. The reduction in the number of councillors will exacerbate this situation and spread their efforts even more thinly. The current thinking amongst the political groups at County Hall is to reduce the number of members to about 63 or 64 from the present 74. Further information can be found on the website www.lgbce.org.uk If you wish to contribute to this review please write to the following address:

The Review Officer (Oxfordshire)
The Local Government Boundary Commission
for England
Layden House
76-86 Turnmill Street
London
EC1M 5LG
Email: reviews@lgbce.org.uk

As this is the last issue of the Tiddington Newsletter before Christmas I wish you all a happy festive season and a peaceful and successful new year.

Please feel free to contact me about County Council issues that concern you. My contact details are as follows:

Address: David Turner, 50 Hardings,
Chalgrove, Oxford, OX44 7TJ.
Home Telephone: 01865 891169
Email: david.turner@oxfordshire.gov.uk

David Turner
20 November 2010

The 2011 Census is coming: help tomorrow take shape!



Your 2011 Census questionnaire will arrive by post in March next year, just as a questionnaire will arrive for every household in England and Wales.

It's vital that you complete your census questionnaire as the statistics are used to make so many key decisions about services and development in our district and our local towns and parishes. Decisions about everyday facilities such as playgrounds, water pipes, refuse collection, and even where new local shops should be located, are based on census statistics.

Our district receives an annual grant from the government that is based on the number of people living here according to the census - funding that can be used for schools, hospitals, transport, employment and training, and many other services. True - the size of the funding pot may be shrinking, but the first step to ensuring our community receives its fair share is that everyone completes the census.

It's all confidential, so no one will see your personal information.

For more information and help of all kinds with the census, visit www.census.gov.uk.

Further details about the Census will appear in the Feb/Mar issue of the newsletter - Ed

 THAMES VALLEY POLICE 0845 8 505 505 The single number for non-emergency calls
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Wheatley Neighbourhood Policing

We have had almost 30% more crimes in June, July and August 2010 than we did for the same period in 2009.

Incidents of robbery and anti-social behaviour (ASB) have all decreased compared with the same period in 2009, whilst violence and vehicle crime has increased slightly, with the majority of this increase being related to theft from retail which includes shoplifting and theft of fuel.

In October, 12 persons were brought to justice for offences ranging from possession of Cannabis, shoplifting to wasting police time.

Auto crime - three young men and one 21-year-old man have all been arrested in connection with auto crime incidents within Wheatley and the surrounding area and investigations are ongoing.

Can all residents please ensure that vehicles are kept locked at all times and valuables are removed or locked securely out of sight of opportunist thieves.

Speeding operations - during October the Wheatley neighbourhood policing team along with Roads Traffic Policing have carried out eight speed checks at various locations, resulting in 39 Fixed Penalty Notices for speeding and several other tickets for motoring offences.

Community messaging - this free service provides information to subscribers about crime and police activity in their area via phone or email and opportunities for local residents to raise concerns with their local policing teams.

More information via the website and you can sign up here too: www.tvpcommunitymessaging.org/rmwebportal/startup.aspx

"Have your say" meeting -

Thursday, 2 December, Wheatley Police Office, Church Road, Wheatley, 5.00pm-7.00pm

Dawn Hunt
(PCSO)

The Great Haseley Archive invites you...

to a small exhibition about the village school past and present based on the information we could find and that we would like to share with you.

We would also like to ask if you might be able to help with any missing information or just to see what or who you might recognise.

The exhibition will be open on Saturday, the 8th and Sunday, the 9th January between 10am and 4pm.

During this time we'll have computers and scanners at the ready if you would like to share any information with us that we can then archive.

Please feel free to drop into the Village Hall to have a look or to take part.

FREE!

SWAP SHOP

**Saturday, 22 January,
9.30am – 11.00am**

Merry Bells, Wheatley

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

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

You can now bring (small) electrical items!

We have a notice board to advertise items too big to carry easily.
Bringing is not compulsory – call in and see if there is something you want to take.

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

Refreshments available (small charge)

Run by Wheatley Community Action Group
www.wheatleycag.org

Reuse, recycle and keep stuff out of landfill!

*See website for other places to recycle these items

Milton Common NHW (West Side) and Sandy Lane



With the darker evenings now upon us ensure you have good lighting on the approach to and around your house. Use a security chain on your door in the event of any unexpected visitors. In recent months cars and vans have been broken into on drive ways, and people have been seen looking in cars in the early hours of the morning. Also two young men in their twenties in a white van were seen looking at horses in the fields off Sandy Lane.

Dog Watch is in operation all year round now.

Try not to leave any tools or equipment in or around the garden, especially ladders, which could be used to force and gain entry. Ensure all sheds and outbuildings are properly secured. Property mark valuable items, Televisions, DVD players, Computers including laptops with an ultra violet marker pen. (postcode and house number) I still have some stock of marker pens.

I know every year I say the same thing but remember when putting the Christmas Tree up, try not to place in front of patio windows as this can be too tempting for our would be burglar, with presents laid underneath the tree.

If you are going to be away over Christmas for long periods please let me know. If pets need to be looked after during holidays and your direct neighbours are away - please give me a call.

The NHW Oil Group has proved successful again in keeping the price of oil down. I would like to say a big thank to my Deputy - Debbie Devine for all the work she has done with the Oil Group.

Last but not least enjoy the festive season, Keep Safe and a Happy New Year to you all.

Elaine Horne

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

Tiddington

The co-operation of individuals in the various local villages frequently helps the police to solve crimes and prevent distress to innocent residents.

So during this autumn period please be alert to strangers or unusual activities that you see in the village and please be careful when you open your doors to strangers.

Bona fide officials (Council, Water, Electricity, Gas or Police) will have identity cards that they will be willing to show you upon request. (Those people who are not bona fide will simply "flash" a card and attempt to bluff their way into your house).

If you have any doubts at all, ask them to **WAIT OUTSIDE** while you contact your Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator. (They will either cause them to clarify their position or leave quickly).

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

A very enjoyable Christmas to you.

Chris Williams

NHW Co-ordinator Tiddington

Tel: 07710 620820

Email: meteorltd@btinternet.com

Carol Evening

Thursday, 16 December, 7.30pm
Tiddington Village Hall
Community singing with coffee and mince
pies in the interval
in aid of Cancer Research UK

Tickets: £2.50 for adults

£1.50 for children

Available from: Anne Edwards 339794

Night Shelter, Oxford

It is that time of year again when the cold nights are upon us and I am collecting blankets, unwanted towels, men's socks, pants, gloves, scarves, hats, shoes, coats, jumpers, etc. Also soap, shampoo, shower gel, etc but no aerosols due to solvent abuse! Dog food is also required. Duvets are not suitable because they hold the rain!

I would be grateful for any donations and can collect if needed. My cut-off day is mid-December.

Please telephone 01844 338812.

Many thanks

Kim Quinton

From the Vicar

And is it true? And is it true,
This most tremendous tale of all,
Seen in a stained glass windows hue,
A baby in an ox's stall?
The Maker of the stars and sea
Become a child on earth for me?

For me these words from John Betjeman's Christmas poem sum up the heart of the Christmas message. Could it be true that God who created the world is present on earth amongst us as a tiny baby?

I have my fair share of wobbles in the lead up to Christmas but I love Christmas, I love buying presents, wrapping them, giving and receiving them, and I love the food, the parties, and the company. I love the faces on my children, indeed all children as they are captivated by the magical images they see around them. Christmas also brings light and laughter at the very darkest time of year.

It is important to send cards and try to keep in touch with people we don't often hear from. Presents are signs of love and appreciation we

might otherwise find it hard to express. It is important especially in these dark days of winter to set time aside for a festival and say that for 24 or perhaps 48 hours nothing else matters. The ironing, the bills, the long to do lists can be put aside; spending time with those we love and care about is what matters. These are aspects of Christmas, are good reasons for a festival but by themselves they will not get us to the true meaning of Christmas.

The true meaning of Christmas is Emmanuel "God is with us". At Christmas we celebrate that God has made himself present in human flesh; he has entered this world as we all do in the messiness of human birth. Babies are small and helpless; they utterly depend on their parents for their each and every need. In a strange way babies seem to demand nothing yet everything. When we had our first child I don't think anyone could have prepared us for its full impact.

Jesus' presence in the world as a tiny baby is a powerful and poignant call for us to respond to him, as parents respond to their own new born baby, by offering our love totally and unconditionally. That is a rather awesome demand but it is the only response we can make. In becoming human God has declared himself for us. The good news of Christmas is the good news of the gospel that we are loved, and can love. The glorious truth of Christmas that the word has become flesh is calling to us, inviting us to respond, by sharing that love among those we know.

No love that in a family dwells,
No carolling in frosty air,
Nor all the steeple-shaking bells
Can with this single Truth compare
That God was man in Palestine
And lives today in Bread and Wine

I wish you all a very happy Christmas.

With best wishes
Caroline

FROM THE REGISTERS

FUNERAL

29 October

Rosie Hubbocks

"May she rest in peace"

BAPTISM

31 October

Abbie Simpson

"Welcome to the Lord's family"

Christmas Bazaar

On behalf of the Parochial Church Council, I would like to thank everyone who supported the Church Bazaar.

The final figure amounted to £663.45 which unfortunately did not reach last year's amount. Nevertheless we are most grateful to all who helped in any way.

Anne Edwards

Church Services	St Helen's Church, Albury
5 December	9.30am Morning Prayer with Caroline King
12 December	9.30am Holy Communion with Caroline King
19 December	9.30am Morning Prayer with Caroline King
Christmas Eve	6.00pm Carols and Communion with Caroline King 11.15pm Midnight Communion with Caroline King at Holton
Christmas Day	8.00am Holy Communion with John Morrison at Waterperry 9.30am Holy Communion with Caroline King at Waterstock 10.45am Short Service of Holy Communion at Holton
26 December	9.30am Cluster Communion at Holton
2 January	9.30am Morning Prayer with Caroline King
9 January	9.30am Holy Communion with Toddy Hoare
16 January	9.30am Morning Prayer with Caroline King
23 January	9.30am Holy Communion with Caroline King
30 January (5 th Sun)	10.00am Cluster Service at Holton



An invitation to Grandparents!

We would like to invite you to a week of festive activities with your grandchildren and their parents at our Stay and Play sessions in December. Please join us for cake and a cuppa at the following events:

Monday, 13 December, 2.00-3.30pm, Wheatley Young People's Centre

Wednesday, 15 December, 12.15-2.30pm, Wheatley Young People's Centre

Friday, 17 December, 9.30-11.30am, Great Milton Neighbours Hall

Workshops

We are taking bookings for a First Aid workshop for carers with children under five to be held on Tuesday, 11 January. We are also planning to run another baby massage short course and a workshop on child accident prevention in the home. Please contact Debbie on 07988 159041 for more details and to reserve a place.

Want to get the best out of family life?

We are delighted to be able to offer families the opportunity of joining us on the hugely

popular Family Links Nurturing programme. If you fancy a couple of hours to yourself each week, and be reminded of what a great job you are doing Family Links is for you! Please contact Debbie on 07988 159041 or ask one of the team at our regular sessions if you would like to find out more.

Childminders, au pairs and nannies

You are all welcome to attend any of our activities, and we would love to see you! We are also interested in hearing about any additional services you would like to see developed in the area for child carers. Please contact Jenny on 07533 573746 or

jenny.stoker@oxfordshire.gov.uk.

Thomley Hall Fun Day

And finally, thank you to all those who joined for a day of pumpkin carving and play at Thomley Hall Activity Centre. It was fantastic to see everyone enjoying the facilities and sharing lunch at the centre. We are always happy to support our local amenities - please do let us have your ideas for other trips.

Children's Centres are a one stop shop for all young children, their parents, grandparents, childminders and other carers. As well as running **free** and low cost play events for families, we also provide a range of information and advice about local children's services, including health and education and outreach home support. Please contact Deborah Jackson for a programme or further information on 07988 159041 or email deborah.jackson@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Jenny Stoker

07533 573746

jenny.stoker@oxfordshire.gov.uk



Children's Centres
for families in Oxfordshire

Waterstock & Tiddington W.I.



In October Claire Moore vividly recalled her experiences of life in the musical theatre, meeting and working with Andrew Lloyd Webber among others. Members appreciated her lovely singing voice, a true professional.

Anne Sharman brought a wealth of materials for a practical session on making decorations for the Christmas tree or for the dinner table at our December meeting. Her completed examples inspired us to make items which we displayed at the end.

In December we have our Christmas dinner at the Oxfordshire Golf Club, meeting there at 7.00pm for 7.30pm. Bring along a wrapped present to exchange.

On 13 January we have our own member, Caroline Robinson, speaking and her talk has the intriguing title "People are different". The competition will be a kitchen item beginning with the letter "P".

At the January meeting, too, our Treasurer would be very happy to receive your subscriptions of £30.00 for the year 2011.

Members will have seen in the latest edition of "WI Life" the list of resolutions to choose from for debating at the National AGM in June. Please take a few moments to look at these before our January meeting, when we will discuss them briefly. Also bring your voting form from the magazine with you and the Secretary will forward them all to the County Office to save on postage.

Finally looking ahead a date for your diary - 5 February for another quiz evening.

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

Zena Knight

Tel: 01844 339340

Tiddington Village Hall

On Saturday, 4 December we will be holding the annual dinner and dance. We have once again been overwhelmed by your support, so much so that at the time of going to press we are completely sold out. However, we do have a reserve list so if you are interested in coming then please register with Pauline Field on 339671.

Once again, will be hosting the ever popular *Christmas Bingo* (see page opposite) which will take place on **Tuesday, 14 December**. All donations of suitable prizes are very welcome and a committee member should call sometime during the previous week to collect. If for any reason you don't get a visit then please call me on 339430 or 278534 and I will drop round.

A year ago I spoke about the need to look at developing more play leisure facilities in the village and in April I ran the London Marathon to raise some money to help kick start this and make a contribution towards the cost of a Pelican crossing. I am still keen to hear people's opinions on what they would (or would not) like to see built and in order to apply for relevant grants we will need to show support for such projects. Remember I'm not just thinking children, maybe the adults might like a tennis court? Please email me your thoughts stratton@gmx.com.

Following Bill Brownsill's retirement as Caretaker for the Hall earlier this year the Committee wishes to advertise for someone to take over from him. Although the job description is somewhat negotiable it will probably suit someone retired who lives in the village and likes the idea of pottering around carrying out small repairs, emptying the bins etc and generally keeping an eye on things. If you are interested then please put your application in writing to the committee. Applicants will be considered at the January

committee meeting. The deadline for applications is Saturday, 15 January 2011.

And finally, may I take this opportunity on behalf of the Village Hall Committee to thank you for your support in 2010 and to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Alan Stratton
Chairman

Tiddington Village Hall Committee
01844 339430 or 278534



As the nights draw in and you feel like hibernating, there are busy times at the cricket club. We are planning and preparing for next year on and off the field.

2011 brings a celebration of 125 years of cricket at Tiddington Cricket Club, officially known as Quasquicentennial, but it was decided it was too hard to pronounce and far too long to put on a logo!

We have a number of events planned, starting with a quiz night on Saturday 26th February, 7:30pm and a race night on Saturday 2nd April. More details will follow on posters around the village, all are very welcome. We are planning a new logo to incorporate this and clothing and ties will be available next year to reflect this landmark.

I am sure many of you will remember our Centenary and we must be very proud of how the club has developed since then, due to continued support from all our members. We are still on track to repay our loans taken out to build our new clubhouse and look forward to being debt free within the next two years.

The Club is now able to offer all Sky Sports channels, Eurosport, ESPN and At The Races which can be viewed on the big screen. We are hoping to replace our wall television with a larger model (37"/40") and if anyone is upgrading theirs, we would love to discuss a deal.

We will be open over the Christmas break as follows:

Friday 24th December 8 - 11:30

Saturday 25th December 12 - 2

Sunday 26th December 12 - 6

Monday 27th December 12 - 6

Tuesday 28th December Closed

Wednesday 29th December Closed

Thursday 30th December 8 -11

Friday 31st December 8 - 1

Saturday 1st January 8 - 11:30

Sunday 2nd January 12:30 - 4, 8 - 11

We are lucky to have a good selection of experienced and cheerful bar staff that will look forward to welcoming you all.

Lesley Pykett
Tiddington Cricket Club
07762 572558

Wheatley Library

A Very Happy Christmas to you all!

Be sure to stock up on books and DVDs for the holiday period as the library closes for Christmas at 1pm Friday, 24th December and reopens on Tuesday, 4 January 2011. Take advantage of the extended loan period!

On Wednesday, 22 December at 11am there is a Christmas Storytime for 4-8 year olds (accompanied by an adult). Please let us know on 01865 875267 if you would like to come.

On Friday, 24 December there will be seasonal mince pies in the morning before we close at 1pm.

Under 5s Rhymetime: Those attending our October Rhymetime, with instruments and Bookstart Bear, enjoyed it so much that they

requested a monthly session. Therefore we propose to begin in the New Year with a Rhymetime on Friday, 21 January at 4 pm. Other dates to follow.

Get online : Those people who booked get online sessions in October found them very helpful and enjoyable! We are your local get online centre, so please call in and use our computers to get started, or build up, your online confidence.

Finally we hope you all enjoy your holiday celebrations, and we look forward to seeing you in the New Year. Make it a New Year's Resolution to visit us, and use our many resources!

Wheatley Library

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

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

Opening Hours

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

Advice line: 01844 214827

Appointments line: 01844 217186

Website:

www.citizensadviceoxfordshire.org.uk

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

Thame & District Citizens Advice Bureau

Getting the best deal from your Letting Agent

- ◆ Are you renting your home? Make sure your letting agent is treating you fairly by following our top tips!
- ◆ Shop around. Ask for details of the services each agent provides and what they charge for. Not all agents make additional charges, and the amounts they do charge can vary.
- ◆ It is a criminal offence for a letting agency to charge you just to register with them. You shouldn't have to pay any fees until the agency has found accommodation for you. If you think that an agency is acting illegally, contact your local council's trading standards officer or tenancy relations officer.
- ◆ Check whether the agent is a member of a trade body such as ARLA, NAEA, RICS or NALS, which require members to have client money protection arrangements. This should prevent you losing money if the agent goes out of business. They also require members to have a complaints procedure.
- ◆ Check whether the agent has a procedure in place to deal with complaints including access to independent redress, for example, an ombudsman scheme.
- ◆ If you are charged a tenancy deposit, ask the agent for the details of the tenancy deposit protection scheme they use. Agents and landlords are required by law to protect deposits for assured shorthold tenancies in a Government approved scheme.
- ◆ Ask the agent whether the landlord has the lender's permission to rent out the property. If not, you could be evicted with minimal notice if your landlord gets into arrears with their mortgage and the property is repossessed.

◆ Get free, confidential, independent advice from your local Citizens Advice Bureau (see www.adviceguide.org.uk or your local phone book for contact details) or local housing aid centre.

Chased for someone else's debt?

Sometimes when people move house, they find themselves receiving letters pursuing debt from the house's previous occupants. The first thing to remember is that it is not your debt and you are **not** responsible for it.

What you can do:

- ◆ Ignore them, they can't do anything.
- ◆ Contact the company pursuing the debts in writing and explain that the person they are chasing for payment no longer lives at this address and has no connection with you.
- ◆ Point out in the letter that harassment is a criminal offence and that you will take further action if it does not stop.
- ◆ If the debt is in the previous occupant's name and they have left a forwarding address you could pass this information on, (it's their debt not yours!) but you're not under any duty to do so.
- ◆ Use a call-barring service or change your phone number and go ex-directory.
- ◆ Keep a record of any harassment, including dates, times and content of any telephone calls, and keep copies of all correspondence. Report the matter to the police if debt collectors threaten or intimidate you.
- ◆ Write a formal letter of complaint to the debt collector and original creditor, if you know who it is.
- ◆ If this still doesn't work, take your complaint further to the trade body they belong to (the Finance and Leasing Association; Credit Services Association or the Consumer Credit Trade Association all have Codes of Practice for their members).

◆ Speak to trading standards - they may have other complaints about the same company - and inform the Office of Fair Trading, which regulates debt collection.

◆ Don't suffer in silence. Contact your nearest Citizens Advice Bureau - for contact details go to www.adviceguide.org.uk An adviser can intervene on your behalf with the company and help you to complain.

GREAT HASELEY AND DISTRICT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

As I write this in mid November, the weather is stormy with a strong gusty wind. It is important to protect those plants which are at risk. I prune my tall roses to about half their height or new stems may be broken completely and the whole plant may be loosened in the soil. The Italian cypresses have been tied at regular intervals along their height with garden twine; this can either be removed in the spring or allowed to rapidly cover with new growth and it will gradually rot away. This serves to not only prevent wind damage, but also to help prevent the weight of any snow bending down branches. I have noticed over the years we have lived here that the first snowfall often arrives just before Christmas and so I need to be ready. When the snow comes it is important to brush it off trees and shrubs before the weight causes permanent damage to the branch structure. In frosty weather don't forget to put out fresh water for the birds on a daily basis.

Meantime, continue to remove and compost fallen leaves which lie on evergreen shrubs or disfiguring damage may result. Similarly lawn grass will be badly damaged by piles of wet, compacted leaves left on the surface.

In the vegetable garden sprouts will be ready to harvest for Christmas lunch and I am surprised to find I have purple sprouting broccoli in mid November, but I suspect there

will be none for Christmas day. Onions and garlic are showing shoots which will overwinter well. However, the same cannot be said for broad beans which I have yet again tried to grow from an autumn sowing for an early crop; last year the weather was too harsh so I live in hope.

When the weather is mild it is well worth continuing to weed, especially removing perennial weeds with strong root growth and preventing annual weeds from seeding. When the weather is bad I find it more comfortable to study seed catalogues and plan for next year!

I am cheered by the bright yellow flowers which are opening on Mahonias and winter jasmine. By the end of the month the first snowdrops will be visible if the weather is mild. If you are fortunate enough to possess a *Coronilla glauca* 'Citrina', this will be flowering madly with strongly scented yellow flowers; although these are a little tender and need a sheltered sunny wall, they can survive even very hard weather. Sadly mine survived the worst of the weather last winter only to die overnight in a late frost; I have yet to source another and I really miss it. There will also be strong growth on alliums and grape hyacinths which will remind you that spring is not so very far away.

Indeed one year blends beautifully into the next as I can usually find at least one rose in the garden to brighten the New Year's Eve dinner table.

Liz Moyses

PS Christmas Party 7.30 on 8th December in
Great Haseley Village Hall

The Garden Centre, Newington

Fresh Air Machines

Conifers must be the ultimate plant group for year-round appeal. Any weather, any season, almost any soil, they are there delivering the goods. There is such diversity amongst conifers; you can get even more visual value by planting species and varieties with unusually coloured leaves. And it isn't just the benefit of what we see; it has been proven scientifically that the needles of conifers trap and neutralise those deadly disease-causing particulates thereby improving air quality around our homes and workplaces.

Style and fun are the key concepts to have in mind when thinking about conifers. Dwarf species, for example *Pinus mugo*, are full of natural humour. Take *P. mugo* 'Mops', that almost spherical little tree that works so well in beds and borders, or *Pinus pumila* (Dwarf Siberian pine), another star whose diminutive family member 'Compacta' will happily slot into most garden situations. These dwarfs need only a couple of metres of ground and will give so much year-round value in return.

Similarly, many of the golden conifers available in this country are dwarf varieties which make them highly adaptable for use in smaller gardens or in areas of special interest such as rock gardens. In these situations they can provide colour and interest, especially when many other garden plants are dormant. The leaves of some take on a bronze tinge in winter which is an added colour bonus and all will look fabulous encrusted with hoar frost or dusted with a covering of snow.

Here are a few species and varieties that deserve a special mention. From the family of the White cedar, *Thuja occidentalis* 'Rheingold' is highly valued for its golden-yellow foliage. An added colour feature includes the fact that foliage is pink-tinged when young and turns bronze in winter. 'Rheingold' reaches a height of 1 – 2 metres. Another White cedar, 'Golden Globe' has lots to offer as a plant for a rockery or small garden. A spherical, dwarf shrub, it has bright golden foliage and grows to an approximate height and spread of 1m.

If you're looking for a bigger tree with a columnar/conical form to fulfill a particular garden design theme, look out for *Thuja plicata*. It's an absolute beauty. From the family of the Japanese cedar (*Cryptomeria*) you can choose either end of the spectrum: 'Elegans compacta' is an attractive conical shrub that has dark green juvenile foliage which turns bronze in winter and will reach 2 – 4 metres in height whilst *Cryptomeria japonica* (Japanese Cedar) is a handsome tree that can reach 25 metres.

No survey of ever stylish conifers would be complete without a mention of Scots pine (*Pinus sylvestris*) 'Gold Coin'. This slow growing shrub sports intense golden foliage and achieves a height and spread of approximately 2 metres.

Grow these conifers in deep soil with good drainage. They will do best in sheltered, sunny positions. Japanese cedars will tolerate chalky soils and are happy in partial shade. *Thuja*s need shelter from cold drying winds.

A little reminder . . .

Autumn is the perfect time for planting - nature does so much of the work for you if you can get plants in at the right time of year. You can plant right up to early December provided we don't have any hard frosts. So focus on a new gardening project this autumn - perhaps revamping borders by splitting plants and repositioning them or adding new plants and trees to newly created borders or other areas of the garden. Also remember to get spring-flowering bulbs in now.

Anne Hendry, The Garden Centre, Newington, Nr Stadhampton, Oxon, OX10 7AW

Open Tuesday to Sunday, 10am – 4pm November to February, 10am – 5pm, March to October

T: 01865 400533 W: www.exoticbotanic.com

Preparing for Transition?

Imagine discovering an energy source so versatile that it could power 90% of modern transportation, help in the production of 95% of industrial goods, provide a three fold increase in agricultural crop yields and supply our government (alongside gas) with 30% of its corporation tax receipts.

You just struck oil! But here's the rub. 100 years ago you only had to puncture Texan ground to make oil burst forth. Today we're burning natural gas to extract it from tar sands. The return on energy invested was once 100:1 - for tar sands it is closer to 2:1. As more and more energy is required to extract oil, less will be available to feed economic growth. The low price oil we've enjoyed for decades appears to be history.

The Transition Town Network has highlighted some of the challenges this poses.

It is working to build local resilience and it is not alone. Interest in allotment plots, car sharing and renewable energy is growing. Sustrans is encouraging us to walk, cycle and use public transport. People are getting their homes better insulated - a sensible first step faced with the prospect of rising heating costs.

For further information visit www.cocoonyourhome.co.uk/saving



AAA - NORCAP

Do you know that the former surgery on Church Road, Wheatley is the office of a national charity? Adults Affected by Adoption - NORCAP has been based in Wheatley for 15 years. During that time we have welcomed visitors including, government ministers, our former MP Boris Johnson, other celebrities including Kate Adie and Toby Anstie as well as TV outside broadcast units and other, less high profile, reporters and producers. We are currently working with Wall to Wall a company who produced the highly acclaimed programme "who do you think you are?" on a new series "long lost families" fronted by Nicky Campbell and Davina McCall.

We are a small but dedicated team doing a very big job. Our main role is in facilitating access to information, searching and reunion services to people who were adopted as babies or children and any of their relatives, in particular their birth parents and siblings. We also campaign for changes to legislation to improve things for people whose lives have been touched by adoption. AAA-NORCAP also operates the largest adoption contact register in the UK and make several links on it every month. Over 65,000 people are included on the register and the charity is actively working with about 500 service users.

The charity only employs a dozen people and relies on the input of around 80 volunteers nationwide, including some invaluable Wheatley and Tiddington people who help us in the office. If AAA-NORCAP may be able to help you or someone you know please contact us on **01865 875000**. We will also be pleased to hear from anyone who may like to volunteer for admin or service providing roles in the charity. Thank you for your support of your local charity

Pam Hodgkins, MBE
Lucy Thomas
112 Church Road,
Wheatley
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Oxfordshire Advocacy

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Wanted - Volunteer Advocates!

Help others get their voices heard.

Advocacy at its heart is really very simple. It is making sure people get their wishes and choices heard and taken into account on matters of importance to them.

People can find it difficult to be listened to for all sorts of reasons - communication difficulties, health problems, anxiety and others. However as a volunteer with Oxfordshire Advocacy, with training and support, you can help them to ensure that their voices are heard.

We run three general advocacy schemes- OSTAS for people who need support with a short term issue, CAPOLD for those with learning disabilities and ADAPT for people with dementia.

Volunteers attend a training course which is accredited. They then have a CRB check and provide references. Once the training and application process is complete, we will give you opportunities to be an advocate, provide expenses and continued training and support. Oxfordshire Advocacy provides a service throughout Oxfordshire so you can decide which areas you would like to volunteer in.

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer advocate or want more information, please do contact us or have a look at the website for more information. We have an initial Volunteer training course planned for the 3rd, 4th and 11th February 2011.

We would love to hear from you!

Rebecca Norris
(Volunteer coordinator)

Tel: 01865 741200 Email: oadg@oadg.org.uk

Website: www.oadg.org.uk