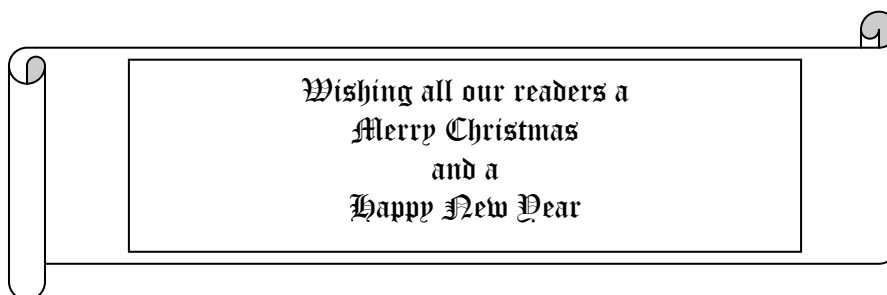


# NEWSLETTER

[www.tiddingtonoxon.co.uk](http://www.tiddingtonoxon.co.uk)

DECEMBER 2011/JANUARY 2012



## From the Editor

As you read this many will be looking forward to the popular annual event, the Dinner and Dance, oversubscribed as usual. Don't forget two other annual Christmas events coming up - the Carol Evening on 12 December (see page 12) and Bingo on 13 December (page 14).

Zena Knight

## Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal Thank you

Wonderful! Four volunteers answered our appeal for help in the village for the door-to-door poppy collection.

The grand total collected was £582.69.

Thanks to all.

Pam Byrne

## Charity Shopping Evening Thank you

I would like to say a huge thank you to all who helped or attended the Charity Shopping Evening in October. It was a great success and I was delighted to hand over a cheque to Sobell House Hospice for £1007.28. It is such

a worthwhile cause that is always seeking help and, with the generosity of the people who attended, really made a difference.

I hope you all enjoyed the evening and managed to maybe start your own Christmas shopping, or just treat yourselves. I also thoroughly enjoyed the experience and you never know I may turn it into an annual event!

Once again many thanks.

Louise

## Church Bazaar Thank you

Thank you to all who supported the Christmas Bazaar on 19 November. £735.91 was raised for Church funds.

Anne Edwards

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## From the Parish Clerk

**Highways matters** - there has been some action regarding the surface of the A418 by the turning to Albury. The Thame side of the road has been resurfaced, eliminating the subsidence which I have reported on a number of occasions. The white lining now needs to be reinstated, but otherwise - a result! There are still some potholes around, but equally some have been attended to.

The damaged manhole cover in Sandy Lane has been replaced (thanks to Ken Field). Two further manhole covers have gone missing in the Waterstock road and these have been reported to Oxfordshire Highways, who have sent an Engineer to have a look. So again, something is happening.

There are still vibration problems caused by heavy traffic on the A418 but Oxfordshire Highways does not seem to think that it is a problem. I shall continue to pursue this matter with them.

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

**Tiddington 4 Village Plan** - the Committee is hard at work, has a budget, has allotted responsibilities and continues to move forward.

### Tiddington with Albury Parish Council Members

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

**Queen's Diamond Jubilee** - this was discussed at the Parish Council meeting and there will in all probability be a village event to mark the occasion. Possibly also a commemorative item for sale. The Village Hall Committee is considering the possibilities.

**Bus shelter at Milton Common** - Great Milton Parish Council has agreed to look at the state of the bus shelter on London Road, which is desperately in need of some attention. The shelter appears to be in their parish. Many thanks.

Ken Poyser  
Parish Clerk

## Christmas and New Year Rubbish and Recycling collections

Please note the changes will be as follows:

Normal day	Revised day	Bin
Mon 26 Dec	Wed 28 Dec	Green
		No brown
Mon 2 Jan	Wed 4 Jan	Grey
Mon 9 Jan	Tue 10 Jan	Green and brown



### WASTE RECYCLING CENTRES CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR OPENING HOURS:

Christmas Eve	08.00-15.00
Christmas Day	Closed
Boxing Day	Closed
Tue 27.12.11 – Fri 30.12.11	08.00-17.00
New Year's Eve	08.00-15.00
New Year's Day	Closed
Mon 2.1.12 onwards	Normal opening hours 08.00-17.00

## From the Parish Council Chair

I am glad to write that we have had another result - subsidence on the A418 has been filled in (an area of road resurfaced). We are still pursuing the vibration problems that some residents are experiencing.

I have had the training - now down to the night time reading of Standing Orders (procedures) that the Clerk and I should know back to front.

If you cannot attend Parish Council meetings and want to have your say - you can always contact me on the e-mail address below.

I hope to see you at the various functions over the festive season.

Elaine Horne

01844-279520

[elaine@ace-training.me.uk](mailto:elaine@ace-training.me.uk)

### Post Office

#### Tiddington Village Hall

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

### 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.



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

Give information on 0800 555 111 or at [crimestoppers-uk.org](http://crimestoppers-uk.org)  
Crimestoppers is an independent registered charity

## SWAP SHOP

Saturday, 21 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 (NOT clothes or shoes).

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

### You can now bring (small) electrical items!

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

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

Refreshments available (small charge)

Run by Wheatley Community Action Group  
[www.wheatleycag.org](http://www.wheatleycag.org)

Reuse, recycle and keep stuff out of landfill!

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



The new national single non-emergency telephone number for the police is now 101

### Burglaries - Great Haseley and Postcombe.

On Wednesday, 16 November, between 13.15hrs and 16.00hrs, a property in Latchford Lane, Great Haseley, was burgled. Offender(s) gained entry via a side gate and then forced open a window. Property stolen included jewellery and a computer. The same day between 08.00hrs and 18.00hrs, a property in London Road, Postcombe, was burgled. Offender(s) forced the front door to gain

entry and stole laptop computers, jewellery, a TV and passports.

Now we have our new dog I am back with the Dog Watch team.

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.

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.

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.

The NHW Oil Group has proved successful again in keeping the price of oil down. The Group in Tiddington is getting larger so in the New Year I will be handing this over to Cherry Draper. I will inform you when this happens.

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 NHW

**Scams and hoaxes** - there are hundreds of types of scams and hoax emails, fake lotteries and prize draws, incredible schemes to make money quickly, fake investment plans and more. The list goes on and on...

A lot of the emails received are urban myths. An example of one email that resurrects itself

every year around Christmas time is the Parcel Delivery Service scam, where a card is posted through your door asking you to phone a number for delivery of a parcel. This email is passed around every year but when checked no one has actually received a card, so if you receive this email do not pass it on again this year.

Before forwarding any emails about scams, please check on the following sites to find out if the scam is true or false

[www.snopes.com](http://www.snopes.com) and [www.hoax-slayer.com](http://www.hoax-slayer.com)

**Theft of tools from vehicles** - there have been vehicles broken into and tools stolen in the South Oxfordshire area. Thames Valley Police are urging vehicle owners, particularly van owners, NOT to leave tools in unattended vehicles whenever possible and to remove them at night. All tools should be properly marked, preferably with a visible mark such as chemical etching. Further details can be found by visiting [www.selectamark.co.uk/product/logomark.html](http://www.selectamark.co.uk/product/logomark.html)

The "No Tools Left in Vehicle" stickers are being supplied to potential victims to display in their vehicles, are FREE and available at Thame Police Station and various trade outlets.

Please be extra vigilant, if you see anyone acting suspiciously in or around vehicles please call the police on 08458 505 505 or 101 or 999 for crime in progress. If you have information but wish to remain anonymous, please call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

If you have any questions please contact me by email: [meteorltd@btinternet.com](mailto:meteorltd@btinternet.com) or phone: 07710620820.

Chris Williams

Tiddington Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator

## Neighbourhood Watch Albury/Draycot Milton Common/Tiddington Membership

Please see opposite for a membership form to join the scheme.

## Tiddington 4 Village Plan

Progress on the Village Plan has been steady over the last two months, with the focus of activity shifting progressively from organising the Steering Group to developing ideas and consulting parishioners.

**Christmas Bazaar** - our stand at the Christmas Bazaar in the Village Hall on 19 November was visited by more than 50 people, who gave us more valuable ideas and concerns and who hopefully learned more about the process of preparing the Village Plan. Amongst the more interesting ideas for new things for the village were a sweet shop, a dinosaur on the playing field, and a place for younger people to socialise. Expect to hear more about these and other ideas in the coming months.



**Drop-In Event** - the next place to hear about them will be the Village Plan Drop-In Event we have planned for **Saturday, 21 January in the Village Hall, from 11.00 - 14.00** (see opposite).

There will be entertainment and refreshments for you to enjoy, and the opportunity for us to talk in more depth about ideas for improving our villages and to hear more about your wishes and worries for the parish. This is an important



event in the process of developing the plan and we hope that as many of you as possible will spare a little time to come and influence it. Look out for more details on village notice boards and the village website in the next few weeks.

**Parish Council Grant** - the Parish Council has shown strong support for the Village Plan by kindly voting an allocation of £750 for the process over this and the next financial year. The Steering Group is most grateful to them, and, indirectly, to you all for this support. We will also be seeking a grant from the Oxfordshire Rural Communities Council, but this may still leave us with a little further cash to raise to meet our budget.

**Volunteers Needed** - the Steering Group is very keen to attract further volunteers to help us prepare the plan. You can give as much or as little time as you wish. You can join the Steering Group (which meets once a month on a Monday night for around 90 minutes), contribute to a particular topic of special interest to you, or help with a single task or tasks (e.g. distributing leaflets).

We are particularly in need of volunteers from Tiddington itself, as at present the village is proportionately under represented in comparison to other parts of the parish. Also, if you have a special skill we can no doubt put it to good use for our cause for just a few hours at least.

**Steering Group Members** - there have been a few changes to the Steering Group since our last report, so here is an update of members, roles and contact details at the end of this article. If you would like to contribute an idea or an opinion on any subject regarding the villages, whether identified in the above table or not, do please contact one of the Steering Group members using the contact details shown. We really would like to hear from you.

Nigel Draper

Secretary to the Steering Group

[drapernigelf@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:drapernigelf@yahoo.co.uk)

01844 339347

Name	Position	Special Interest	E-Mail	Telephone
Christine Craddock	Chair	Older People/ Tracks & Paths	no e-mail	01844 339 525
Nigel Draper	Secretary		<a href="mailto:drapemigelf@yahoo.co.uk">drapemigelf@yahoo.co.uk</a>	01844 339 347
Tony Giddy	Volunteer Co-Ordinator	Housing/ Environment	<a href="mailto:tonygiddy@btconnect.com">tonygiddy@btconnect.com</a>	01844 278 113
Cate Teideman		Young Persons	<a href="mailto:cate.teideman@gmail.com">cate.teideman@gmail.com</a>	07961 551 813
Jenny Leslau		Roads	<a href="mailto:jenny.leslau@hotmail.co.uk">jenny.leslau@hotmail.co.uk</a>	
Rob Richardson		Young Persons/ Broadband	<a href="mailto:refrichardson@talktalk.net">refrichardson@talktalk.net</a>	
Michelle Richardson	Treasurer		<a href="mailto:refrichardson@talktalk.net">refrichardson@talktalk.net</a>	
Elaine Horne	Parish Council Liaison	Policing & Crime Control	<a href="mailto:elaine@ace-training.me.uk">elaine@ace-training.me.uk</a>	01844 279 520
Lyn Farrell			<a href="mailto:lfarrell@brookes.ac.uk">lfarrell@brookes.ac.uk</a>	07881 700400
Anton Nath	Specialist Adviser		<a href="mailto:anton.nath@oxonrcc.org.uk">anton.nath@oxonrcc.org.uk</a>	01865 883 488

## From your District Councillor

**Mattress recycling trial** - all mattresses collected in South Oxfordshire and the Vale are currently being recycled as part of a six month trial. The mattresses are now being taken to a plant at Culham to be broken down into their component parts and the metals and fabrics sent off for recycling and reprocessing. If the trial proves a success the service will be extended across Oxfordshire.

**New PCSO "Crime Prevention Champions" on hand to deter burglars** - to help residents best protect their properties from potential burglars, three PCSOs in South Oxfordshire have now been trained as "Crime Prevention Champions". They will support the police Crime Reduction Advisers by carrying out basic crime reduction surveys at homes where either the owners have been a victim of a low level theft or crime or they haven't been a victim of crime but want a survey as a preventative measure.

Contact officer: Katharine Doherty (Shared Community Safety Team Leader),  
email [katharine.doherty@southandvale.gov.uk](mailto:katharine.doherty@southandvale.gov.uk),  
tel. 01491 823615.

**Neighbourhood Planning leaflet** - the government has produced an easy to read introduction to neighbourhood planning in leaflet form. This leaflet explains what neighbourhood planning is; why it matters and how it will work and provides information about the sources of advice and support for communities interested in doing neighbourhood planning.

Miles Thompson, Shared Planning Policy Manager tel 01491 823731

Email [miles.thompson@southandvale.gov.uk](mailto:miles.thompson@southandvale.gov.uk)

**Joint Housing Needs Team** - from 1 November 2011, there will be a joint housing needs team for South Oxfordshire and the Vale. The team will be primarily located at the Vale offices in Abingdon with a satellite operation at Crowmarsh.

Customers calling on any of South's current housing numbers will be given details of the new contact numbers for the team. We will be replacing any references to the existing numbers on the website with the direct numbers in the next few weeks and in marketing materials over time.

We are confident that these proposals will not only ensure a seamless housing service continues for all housing customers but an improved one too. If you have any questions about this matter please contact Lyn Scaplehorn, Shared Housing Needs Manager, tel 01491 823322 or 01235 540533

**Icelandic Banks Kaupthing & Friedlander Update** - the council has received the seventh distribution of £131,563.66 on 7 October 2011. This brings the total amount repaid to date to £1,657,702.16 in respect of the claim for £2.6m (£2.5m investment plus interest) deposited with the Icelandic bank KSF. Further details can be viewed at : [www.kaupthingsingers.co.uk](http://www.kaupthingsingers.co.uk)

Please contact Nikki Thomas tel 01491 823551, email [nikki.thomas@southoxon.gov.uk](mailto:nikki.thomas@southoxon.gov.uk)

**Joint agency action on local community safety priorities** - Joint Agency Tasking and Co-ordinating (JATAC) brings together a wide range of agencies working in South and Vale to tackle community safety problems that can't be resolved locally due to their complexity, scale etc. On a monthly basis, information is shared

and actions are agreed to jointly tackle the issues brought forward by attendees.

For more information about JATAC, please contact Mandeep Mann on 01491 823057 or email at [mandeep.mann@southandvale.gov.uk](mailto:mandeep.mann@southandvale.gov.uk).

**Changes to Police non-emergency phone number** - callers are now able to use the new national non-emergency number 101 to call Thames Valley Police about something that is less urgent than 999. It replaces 0845 8 505 505

The service will be available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. For more information, visit [www.police.uk/101](http://www.police.uk/101). Calls from landlines and mobile networks will cost 15 pence per call, no matter what time of day or how long you are on the phone. If somebody is deaf, hard of hearing or speech impaired they can textphone 18001 101. If a person has difficulty speaking English, their local police can access interpreters who can translate their call.

Katharine Doherty,  
[katharine.doherty@southandvale.gov.uk](mailto:katharine.doherty@southandvale.gov.uk),  
direct line: 01491 823615

**Didcot growth projects update** - Didcot is designated by Government as a New Growth Point and Government has provided the council with substantial grant funding and the council is managing a number of major projects that are key to sustainable growth. South Oxfordshire District Council and Hammerson PLC have entered into an agreement to develop a £125 million town centre in Didcot. The Orchard Centre phase two will see a major new shopping complex and town centre amenities on a 10 acre site next to the existing Orchard Centre, which opened in 2005. The 200,000 sq ft retail development will almost double the amount of shopping in the town and will include a number of leading high street brands, restaurants, cafes and civic spaces all within a new leisure quarter.

Stephen Harrod Great Milton Ward  
01844 278068  
[Stephen@wildhorn.co.uk](mailto:Stephen@wildhorn.co.uk)



Horse Trailers are the flavour of the month again. A couple have been stolen in our area.

We are still waiting permission to put the Horsewatch signs up.

If you want to become part of Horsewatch and receive the e-mails,

please e-mail me on [elaine@ace-training.me.uk](mailto:elaine@ace-training.me.uk).

Elaine Horne  
01844 279520

## From your County Councillor

**Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Service scoops national award** - Oxfordshire County Council's Fire and Rescue Service has been presented with a prestigious national award for its work in fundraising for the Fire Fighters charity. The service was honoured with the title "Brigade of the Year" at the Spirit of Fire Awards held in Canary Wharf, London on Friday 4 November. The award recognises the outstanding charity work the service does, over and above its day to day work of protecting the community. This includes contributions to fundraising, reaching those in need and acts of courage or selflessness in the fire service community. All of the fundraisers are volunteers, either serving fire fighters and support staff or family and friends.

**Seven arrested in rogue trader crackdown** - Oxfordshire County Council's Doorstep Crime Team and Thames Valley Police Officers have arrested seven men and seized two vehicles in a joint operation in Oxfordshire. It is alleged that a gang of five men turned up to the house of a 79 year old man in Abingdon and said they

were going to resurface his drive, despite his protests, and they would be returning shortly. It would appear that the man was extremely shaken by this and called the police. The Doorstep Crime Team were alerted and turned up just in time to catch the men, who had returned to the house and were about to begin the work. The men, who are all from the midlands, were arrested and two vehicles were seized.

**Rogue Trader repays victim £2,500** - the 89 year old, who lives in the city, called a landscape gardening company he found in the yellow pages. They were listed as a local company with a local address and claimed to be a family business. Believing them to be legitimate, he asked them to replace his lawn with good quality, slow growing grass. He was quoted £1,500 and although they made a verbal agreement, no paperwork was produced. Workers turned up and carried out work for two and a half days, during which time they claimed they couldn't get the grass he had asked for, but could get a better type and needed more money. He was bombarded with calls until he paid £2,500 in cash. In reality, the lawn they put down was poor meadow grass. He tried to contact the company, but was told it was a false address. He then contacted Oxfordshire Trading Standards. The victim, who does not wish to be named, said: "I wanted the front lawn reurfed and although I was originally quoted £1,500, the price went up bit by bit. The turf itself was not real turf at all. It immediately started growing weeds and in one section, weeds grew to about two feet high. The work was badly done and there were gaps in the turf which could cause elderly people or children to trip. I wrote a letter to the two addresses I had for the company, but it transpired that both were false. It was only when officers from Trading Standards got involved, that I got my money back.

**High rating for Council after Ofsted inspection** - Oxfordshire County Council's services for children and young people have

been judged as performing well and the authority has been told it is an organisation that exceeds minimum requirements. It is the local education authority and also provides children's social care, youth and youth offending services and many other services that relate to young people and their families.

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](mailto:david.turner@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

David Turner  
20 November 2011



**THAMES VALLEY  
POLICE**

**101**

**The single number for non-emergency calls**

## **From your MP, John Howell**

**John Howell MP writes..**

*A look back at key issues from Westminster and those raised from the Constituency in September and October*



You will hear snippets of what goes on in Parliament in the news and this is inevitably limited. In my regular newsletter I try to give a factual report of the key things going through parliament. Where appropriate I also give a summary of the purpose or aim of a particular piece of legislation. These are not party political reflections simply the stated aim of the Bill. Constituents of all political persuasions may agree or disagree on different

issues. I welcome letters and emails from constituents on these and other parliamentary matters.

Now that the clocks have changed the summer recess seems distant. It has been a fragmented period since the summer with just two weeks back in Westminster before the recess during which the various Party Conferences took place. At the time of writing we have again had just a few weeks back in Parliament. At this time of year the work of Parliament can feel similarly fragmented as there is tidying up of Bills to be done as each House makes its recommendations for amendments.

### **Bills and Debates in Parliament**

The Pensions Bill received Royal Assent in November, becoming the Pensions Act 2011. The Act equalises men and women's state pension ages to 65 by 2018 and accelerates the increase in state pension age to age 66 for both men and women by 2020. The Energy bill also received Royal Assent. Originally introduced in the House of Lords the energy Bill becomes The Energy Act 2011. The Act specifically includes key provisions on The Green Deal. The Armed Forces Bill, the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Bill and the Sovereign Grants Bill also reached Royal Assent.

The Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Bill finished its first stages in the House of Commons and passed to the Lords. The Bill seeks to redefine the scope of civil legal aid so that it is more focused, effective and sustainable; implement proposals to restore proportion to "no win, no fee" Conditional Fee Arrangements; and reform of sentencing legislation to ensure that offenders are properly punished and rehabilitated.

There were also some key debates including a moving debate relating to the disclosure and publication of the documents relating to the 1989 Hillsborough Disaster. One of the key debates was on the National Planning Policy

Framework. Given the media attention on this it was good to have the chance for a debate

The Localism Bill completed all its Parliamentary stages and has now passed to Royal Assent to become an Act. The Bill introduces neighbourhood planning, abolishes Regional Spatial Strategies such as the South East Plan and provides a number of new rights for communities and their councils.

Although this newsletter looks back at September and October the lead times of Parish Magazines are such that it will be December before this is published. I would therefore take this opportunity to wish all constituents a Happy Christmas and my good wishes for the New Year. May I also say thank you to all those who work hard in our communities to make them special for the rest of us. It is always a pleasure when I get the opportunity to visit community activities and I look forward to learning yet more about what is being done in 2012.

*More information on my work is available on my website [www.johnhowellmp.com](http://www.johnhowellmp.com)*

John Howell  
Member of Parliament  
Henley Constituency

### **From the Vicar**

I am writing this letter in the middle of some dark, cloudy November days, Christmas feels a long way off, but it will come more quickly than I am ready for. The list of Christmas services is below and I hope to meet a number of you over the Christmas season. Amongst the services we will be having will be a Christingle at St Helen's Albury on Sunday 18 December at 9.30am.

The word 'Christingle' actually means 'Christ Light', and celebrates the light of Jesus coming into the world. Stories of how the Christingle began look back to the Moravian Church, which is found in the Czech Republic. The Moravians have held Christingle services for more than

200 years, and according to them, this is how the first Christingle might have been made:

Many years ago the children in a village were asked to bring a Christmas gift to put beside the crib in the church. One family was very poor, and had no money for gifts, but the three children were still determined to take something. The only nice thing they had was an orange, so they decided to give the Christ-child that. But then they discovered the top was going green, so the eldest cut it out, and put a candle in the hole. To add some colour, one of the girls took a red ribbon from her hair and tied it around the middle of the orange. It was hard to make the ribbon stay still, so they fastened it in place with toothpicks. The toothpicks looked a bit bare, so the youngest child added some raisins to them.

The children took their decorated orange lantern to the church for the Christmas Mass. The other children sneered at their meager gift, but the priest seized upon it with joy. He held it up as an example of the true understanding of the meaning of Christmas, for the following reasons: the orange is round, like the world; the candle gives us light in the dark, like the love of God; the red ribbon goes round the 'world', as a symbol of Christ's blood, given for everyone; the four sticks point in all directions, and symbolise that God is over all: North, South, East and West; and the fruit and nuts remind us of God's blessings.

The Children's Society first introduced the Christingle Service to The Church of England in

1968, and it has since become a popular event in the church calendar. This candlelit celebration is an ideal way to share the key messages of the Christian faith. Please let others know about the service and join us for a wonderful festive occasion. Our collection from this service will go to support the work of local children's charity Thomley Hall.

With very best wishes for a glorious Christmas

Caroline

### HEATING AND LIGHTING AT ST HELEN'S

Being vicar of 4 small rural parish churches means that there is always something needs to be done to the buildings. As winter approaches I am more aware than usual that our rather lovely church buildings can also be cold and draughty. I hope that we will at long last soon start work on new heating and lighting at St Helen's. Thank you to everyone for their fundraising efforts, whether you have made cakes, knitted gloves, come to our events or jumped off buildings each and everyone of you has made an enormous difference.

### Carol Evening

**Monday, 12 December, 7.30pm**

**Tiddington Village Hall**

**Community singing with coffee and mince pies  
in the interval**

**in aid of Cancer Research UK**

**Tickets: £3.00 for adults**

**£1.50 for children**

**Available from Anne Edwards 339794**

Church Services	St Helen's Church, Albury
<b>4 December</b>	9.30am Morning Prayer
<b>11 December</b>	9.30am Holy Communion
<b>18 December</b>	9.30am Family Worship for Christmas
<b>Christmas Eve</b>	6.00pm Carols and Communion
<b>Christmas Day</b>	9.30am Holy Communion <b>at Waterstock</b>
<b>8 January</b>	9.30am Holy Communion
<b>15 January</b>	9.30am Morning Prayer
<b>22 January</b>	9.30am Holy Communion
<b>30 January</b>	Cluster service to be arranged

## Special Christmas Services 2011

### Sunday 18th December

Albury 9.30am Family Worship for Christmas

Holton 3.30pm Carol Service

Waterperry 8.00am Holy Communion

### Christmas Eve

Albury 6.00pm Carols and Communion

Holton 11.15pm Midnight Communion

### Christmas Day

Waterstock 9.30am Holy Communion

Waterperry 8.00am Holy Communion

### Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> January

11.00am Cluster service at Holton

## Waterstock & Tiddington W.I.



In October, John Paine showed us pictures of well-known and less well-known places in Oxfordshire, challenging us to name the locations. Working in pairs provoked interesting discussions and much informative history was gleaned on the way.

Two ladies, Michaela and Tracey, came from Waitrose in November for a wine tasting and introduced us to two red wines, inviting us to name the countries of origin and the grapes used as well as assessing flavours.

Those who attended the autumn Group Meeting in Thame in October thoroughly enjoyed the entertainment given by the "Witchert Warblers". We were given the chance to join in with many well-known songs of the past, but there were several comic poems and sketches performed with great panache by the eight ladies of the group.

Come and join us for our festive Christmas meeting on 8 December. "Three Pressed Men" will entertain us with English folk songs and tunes, I guess with a Christmas theme, and the committee will provide some extra special refreshments, including wine or soft drinks.

Bring along a wine glass and a wrapped present to exchange from Santa's sack.

On 12 January, Thelma Sanders will provide a "Light Entertainment" of verse, prose and ditties.

Our competitions for December and January are garden items beginning with the letters "E" and "F".

In early December several members will be attending a County event in Oxford Town Hall, known as Christmas Songs. An annual event, it is always popular and two of our members are part of the performing team on the night.

Back with our own WI, we have an annual event - a quiz night. Book your tickets soon for 11 February 2012, available from Anne Purnell on 279429.

May I take this opportunity on behalf of the WI to wish everyone a merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

New members will be made very welcome at our 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

Email: [zenaknight42@btinternet.com](mailto:zenaknight42@btinternet.com)



The Aunt Sally season ended with both teams reaching the finals and having to play each other.

The A team triumphed over the B team at the finals night on Friday 21st of October.

The B team set an impressive 21 in the first leg including their 2 x handicap points. With 4 needed from the anchor, Dick Brownsill, the leg looked in the balance but with 4 needed and 4 got it secured the leg.

The second leg went to three sticks but without any handicap points, the A team won convincingly.

Another trophy in the bag and a good night for all players and the many supporters at Thame FC and later at the club.

Darts is now in full swing with the ladies every Wednesday and the men on Fridays. Crib runs on alternate Mondays.

Special thanks must go to Phil Manning who has secured considerable funding for our net replacement. This project will go ahead in the Spring and will greatly improve the facilities that we offer for youth and senior cricket.

As many of you will have seen, we have made substantial improvements to the cricket field. The square has had its usual winter renovation and has already been mowed and is looking very green and lush. For the first time for many years we have had work carried out on the outfield. It has been scarified, seeded and fertilized. The new growth is coming through, thanks to ideal weather conditions and we should see a real benefit next season. Thanks to all for keeping off the grass and allowing the seeds to germinate.

On a sad note, we have had to remove the tree 'in the top corner' for safety reasons. We plan

to plant another in its place in the Spring and we are assessing all the others.

Following the junior cricket assessments, Paul Gladdy is pleased to report that all our 7 girls secured places in either development or county squads. Well done to Chloe, Lucy, Eliza, Charlie, Ellie, Lottie and Lizzie. We have two boys who have county places, Max and Tom, and 6 boys are in district squads, Kieran, Ali, Ben, Charlie E and Charlie P and Oscar. We wish them every success during their winter training.

Lesley Pykett

Secretary

07762 527558

[lesleypykett@btinternet.com](mailto:lesleypykett@btinternet.com)

## Tiddington Village Hall

On Saturday, 3 December we will be holding the Annual Christmas Dinner and Dance. We have once again been overwhelmed by your support, so much so that we sold out of tickets within just a few weeks of them going on sale. However, we do have a reserve/waiting list so if you are interested in coming then please register with Pauline Field on 339671.

Once again, we will be hosting the ever popular *Christmas Bingo* (see opposite), which will take place on Tuesday, 13 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.

Next year promises to be very exciting with the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic games. As a village we intend to mark these events starting with Sunday, 3 June where we have started to make provisional plans for a street party and 'Sunday Lunch'. It is early days regards the planning but June will come around very quickly and any ideas you might have would be greatly appreciated. For the summer Fete on 7 July, we plan to have an Olympic theme with some

new 'competition' games including fastest bed maker (singles and doubles!) - watch this space for more news in the New Year. This will be just a couple of days before the Olympic torch comes to Oxfordshire, sadly the route does not run through Tiddington!

And finally, may I take this opportunity on behalf of the Village Hall Committee to thank you for your support in 2011 and to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Alan Stratton  
Chairman

Tiddington Village Hall Committee  
Tel: 01844 339430/278534  
Mobile: 07889 851588  
Email: [Stratton@gmx.com](mailto:Stratton@gmx.com)



## Building News and Diary Dates

We are pleased to say that the project to refurbish the former young people's centre in Wheatley is underway, with a procession of engineers and contractors visiting the site to plan the works. The upgrades to the building will include new windows and doors, improved reception facilities, a new kitchen, new flooring and décor, better heating and lighting and a self-contained garden. Once the plan is complete, we will have more information on precise timings of the work, but at this stage, indications are that work will begin late December/early January, and will be complete by the beginning of March. We have drawings available if you would like to see them, and we would welcome your ideas; particularly with a new name for the building and there is an online questionnaire on our section on the school website, [www.great-milton.oxon.sch.uk](http://www.great-milton.oxon.sch.uk) or contact us for a paper copy.

For more information on the refurbishment project please contact

[jenny.stoker@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:jenny.stoker@oxfordshire.gov.uk) and on the development of the youth club in Wheatley, please contact

[clerk@wheatleyparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@wheatleyparishcouncil.gov.uk).

Because of the planned works, there will be some changes to our programme from 19 December for Monday Baby Café and Bumps to Babies and Wednesday Stay and Play. We are still finalising a venue for Baby Café and Bumps to Babies, but can confirm that Stay and Play will relocate to Wheatley Preschool running from 9.30 to 11.00am. The Buggy Walk will not be running. Please look out for posters locally for details of Baby Café and Bumps to Babies or contact the office on the numbers below. Other dates for your diary include:

- 7 & 9 Dec Christmas cooking at Stay & Play
  - 8 Dec Stay and Play goes to Tiddington
  - 9 Dec Antenatal welcome meeting,  
Morland House
  - 12, 14 & 16 Dec Christmas celebrations at  
Stay and Play
  - 18 Jan Stay and Play trip to Wheatley library
  - 7 Feb Baby and infant first aid workshop -  
booking essential
  - 16 Feb Stay and Play goes to Tiddington  
(Cricket Club 10.00-11.30am)
- Please note that whilst there will be fewer sessions running, the office, information and outreach service will be open for business as usual!

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and  
Happy New Year!

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

[jenny.stoker@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:jenny.stoker@oxfordshire.gov.uk) for further details on times and venues or visit our webpage

[www.oxonchildrenscentres.org.uk/themapletree](http://www.oxonchildrenscentres.org.uk/themapletree)



## Wheatley Park School Community Events

Here at Wheatley Park School, we are hosting more creative events and hope that you will be able to join us for them.

Our annual Christmas Carol Service takes place on Monday, 12 December at 7.00pm in St Mary's Church, Wheatley. The evening will be a memorable and musical way to start your festive season.

On 25 January 2012, Splendid Productions will be visiting the school and performing a new adaptation of the Euripides classic, *Medea* in the Main Hall at 6pm. Tickets will be available on the night from main reception.

In 2012, on Thursday, 2, Friday, 3 and Saturday, 4 February at 7.30pm we will be presenting the musical *Hairspray* as our annual school production. Tickets will be available from January onwards from the main reception or on 01865 872441. With musical numbers such as *You Can't Stop The Beat* and *Good Morning Baltimore*, this show promises to be a fun and upbeat treat for all the family so don't miss out!

From January, once a week during term time, there will be life drawing classes after school. These classes enable you to draw with an experienced life drawing tutor who will be there to give you support and guidance. Classes cost £5 a session.

For more information about any of the above, please contact Mellie Budge, Community Arts Manager on 01865 872441 on ext. 118 or at [mbudge@wheatley-park.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:mbudge@wheatley-park.oxon.sch.uk).



Looking for ways to cut your energy bills before winter?

At the moment, half of the UK's carbon emissions come from the energy used to generate heat. As a result, a switch to low carbon heating is vital to meet the UK's carbon targets.

A new Government scheme, which runs from 1 August 2011 to 31 March 2012, has been set up to help people install green energy heating systems. The scheme is particularly for those households who don't have mains gas heating. You can get grants for the following amounts, for the following products:

- a ground source or water source heat pump - £1,250 (for homes without mains gas heating)
- a biomass boiler - £950 (for homes without mains gas heating)
- an air source heat pump - £850 (for homes without mains gas heating)
- solar thermal hot water panels - £300 (available to all households).

The scheme for householders is mainly aimed at the 5.5 million households in Great Britain not heated by mains gas. Rather than mains gas, these households have to rely on expensive and higher carbon forms of heating such as heating oil and electric fires to keep warm. To qualify, householders will need to ensure they have basic energy efficiency measures in place before they apply.

Up to 25,000 new installations will be supported over the next year. The grants will be given out on a first-come, first-served basis, and providers of social housing can also apply. For more information, including how to register early, visit: [www.directgov.uk](http://www.directgov.uk) or call the Energy Saving Trust on 0800 512 012.

For more advice on getting the best energy deal, or help if you're struggling to pay gas and electricity bills, contact:

CAB adviceline 08 444 111 444 or 0300 3300 650(mobile)

For general advice visit [www.adviceguide.org.uk](http://www.adviceguide.org.uk)

Your local CAB is in Market Square, Thame

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

**Opening Hours**

Monday, Thursday, Friday 9.30 – 4.00

Tuesday, Wednesday 9.30 – 1.00

Advice line: 08444 111 444

Or 0300 3300 650 (mobile)

Website: [www.adviceguide.org.uk](http://www.adviceguide.org.uk)

General information: [www.thamecab.org](http://www.thamecab.org)

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

### Community Policing

**Wheatley** - the Co-Operative store in Station road, Wheatley has been targeted on numerous occasions in the last month by shoplifters. The offenders have now been apprehended and are local young people living within the village. They are currently being dealt with by Thame police officers.

**Graffiti (Wheatley)** - racial graffiti is still appearing on the bus stop in London Road (near to The Harvester), and as quickly as the Parish Council remove the remark it is being re-applied. The Neighbourhood Policing Team has made extensive enquiries throughout the village and extended our patrols but we have not yet been able to identify the offenders.

If you have any knowledge of these incidents or believe you have any information that may be of use to us then please speak to one of the neighbourhood officers or you can phone anonymously using the Crimestopper number 0800 555 111.

**Non-emergency new number** - Thames Valley Police went live with 101, the new national single non-emergency number replacing the 0845 8 505 505 number. Both numbers will run side by side until the end of March, but if

demand for the 0845 8 505 505 number drops it may be discontinued earlier.

Calls to 101 (from both landlines and mobile networks) cost 15 pence per call, no matter what time of day the call is made, or the duration of the call.

Everyone calling the police for non-emergency matters will now know exactly how much a call will cost them, and can be assured of equal access whether they are on a pay-as-you-go mobile or a home landline.

The routing will be based on the same system as 999 calls. If a caller is using a landline the routing will be based on the caller's postcode and the call will be directed to the police force for that area. If a caller is using a mobile, the call will route using the mast that the phone is transmitting from.

If you want any advice or would like to contact the neighbourhood team you can call us on the police non emergency number 101 or email [WheatleyNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk](mailto:WheatleyNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk).

Please note this email address cannot be used to contact Thames Valley Police to report crimes or for any urgent matters. Alternatively you can visit the force website at [www.thamesvalley.police.uk](http://www.thamesvalley.police.uk) to view information on your neighbourhood.

### Wheatley Library



**Opening Hours**

<b>Monday</b>	Closed
<b>Tuesday</b>	2.00pm - 7.00pm
<b>Wednesday</b>	9.30am - 1.00pm 2.00pm - 5.00pm
<b>Thursday</b>	2.00pm - 5.00pm
<b>Friday</b>	9.30am - 1.00pm 2.00pm - 6.00pm
<b>Saturday</b>	9.30am - 1.00pm

The Merry Bells, High Street, Wheatley

Tel: 01865 875267

Email: [wheatley.library@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:wheatley.library@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

## Great Haseley and District Horticultural Society

This time last year I wrote that the weather was stormy with a gusty wind; what a difference a year can make. On this the third weekend in November, the sun is still shining and the temperatures mild. There were a couple of frosts last month affecting the vegetable garden which is in a frost hollow, but most of the garden is untouched as we enjoy what is likely to be the warmest autumn on record. It is a pleasure to be outside clearing up after the summer and enjoying the last flowers. I normally hate November as it is usually wet and foggy with ever shortening days and little of cheer in the garden. My much loved tender Salvias are giving their best show ever and providing significant colour particularly in the front garden if you peer through our gates. A chrysanthemum with bright pink simple flowers looks magnificent; some of you may have bought divisions of it at the fete this summer. Rudbeckia 'Prairie Sun' is providing a fabulous block of colour near the gate and reminds me how late it can continue to flower.

Despite all this cheer it is important to protect tender plants and I have moved most of my pots into the greenhouse for the winter. I am waiting for the Dahlias to blacken with frost before I mulch them with chipped bark in the hope that they survive until next year. This week I emptied my summer pots, despite them still being colourful, and potted up the tender perennials to overwinter saving money next summer. I have refilled the pots with Tulips and Panolas. Panolas are a relatively new hybrid between, as the name suggests, a Pansy and a Viola resulting in plants that overwinter very well and have flowers intermediate in size between the two parents. They give a much more visible show than Violas with a neater flower than Pansies and are, in my opinion, an improvement on both; they are available at one

garden centre locally that I know of and if you miss them this autumn you should be able to buy them in early spring. The tulips I buy mail order from a very reliable supplier; it is much cheaper than buying in garden centres and the quality is excellent.

The severe weather of the last two winters is continuing to take its toll on garden plants. I wrote earlier in the year about my Pittosporum having finally shown regrowth in midsummer; this has died back and the plant shows no sign of life. I intend to replace it with a black bamboo (*Phyllostachys nigra*) as I have been impressed with the performance of the plant I already have. It is (so far) non-spreading and wind resistant, giving a rather exotic feel to the garden. Large specimens are very expensive, but it grows relatively quickly so it is more cost effective to purchase a young plant and be patient.

In the vegetable garden I am still picking beautiful raspberries and have only just finished the last of the beans. We recently picked a bowl of strawberries which was a lovely treat. My broad beans are doing well, so far; this is my third attempt at overwintering young plants and this year I will fleece them when the frosts arrive.

I know that harsh winter conditions are not far away and we do need the rain rather badly as the soil is very, very dry which makes bulb planting easy, but is not in anyone's longer term interests. I think it possible that spring flowers may be less showy than usual as a number of spring flowering plants such as primroses and Irises are flowering now. I have never seen *Geranium palmatum* flower now; I suspect it will not perform in the spring.

Liz Moyses

## Newington Nurseries

### Pine Needles

It's that time of year again. Christmas will soon be upon us and we're thinking about 'the tree'. Real or artificial? The debate continues as to whether living trees should be cut down annually or whether imitation trees derived from oil and metal compounds should be used. If a live tree is the preferred option, should it be potted with a root system so it can be planted in the garden after Christmas? Or if the preference is a cut tree, can it be recycled as a mulch for the garden borders in January? As a general rule of thumb, there are two types of tree on offer; the Nordmann Fir (*Abies nordmanniana*) and the Norway Spruce (*Picea abies*), two confusing names in themselves.

The Nordmann Fir is one of the most important species grown for Christmas trees. Some describe it as the Rolls Royce of Christmas trees. Named after Alexander von Nordmann (1803-1866), Professor of Botany at the University of Odessa, it was brought to the UK from southern Russia in the mid 1800s. This evergreen conifer has beautiful blue/green foliage with a slightly white hue and the needles are short and stubby without being sharp. They give off a citrus smell when crushed. It also retains its foliage rather well when in the dry conditions of a house so 'needle drop' is generally not an issue with this tree.

Its native habitat is the mountainous regions of Turkey, Georgia, Armenia and the Russian Caucasus. Left to its own devices, it will grow to a magnificent height of some 70 to 80 metres and have a trunk diameter of around 2 metres. Its cones emerge as pale green, maturing to a distinctive red/brown colour by which time they've grown to about 20cm in length. Not for the small garden, this majestic tree is best planted where there is plenty of space so it can be admired from a distance. The Nordmann Fir is also grown as a commercial crop for the production of paper as its wood is quite soft and almost white in colour.

The Norway Spruce is an equally important species when it comes to Christmas trees. This evergreen tree produces dark green foliage whose needles are quite long, fairly narrow and sharp. The young cones emerge as green in colour, turning to red then brown as they mature. The needles tend to fall more quickly than the Nordmann Fir when in the warm home environment.

The native habitat of *Picea abies* stretches from Norway to Poland, to the Alps, Carpathians and Balkans and from northern Greece to the Ural Mountains in Russia. It plays a vital role in mountainous environments in that its root system helps to stabilize steep slopes. This tree doesn't reach the dizzy heights of the Nordmann Fir but it's still too

big for the small garden, getting to some 60 metres when fully grown. Like the Nordmann Fir, it is used commercially in the making of paper. Being a medium/hard wood, it's also used in the building industry for joinery and carpentry purposes.



Small change makes a big difference



### Will you look after me?

A collection box like me will collect around £10 a month in your local shop.

We are actively seeking volunteers to place and manage boxes in your area. It doesn't take long to empty your tin and bank the money, but it all adds up.

Help us to be there for people in Oxfordshire.

Thank you

Contact Chris ♦ 01235 552680 ♦ [cwheatcroft@redcross.org.uk](mailto:cwheatcroft@redcross.org.uk)

Happy Christmas and enjoy decorating your tree, whether live or artificial!

Anne Hendry, Newington Nurseries, Newington, Wallingford, Oxon, OX10 7AW

[www.newington-nurseries.co.uk](http://www.newington-nurseries.co.uk)

