

TIDDINGTON WITH ALBURY & MILTON COMMON NEWSLETTER

www.tiddingtonoxon.co.uk

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2011

From the Editor

In the approach to Christmas, look out for details of the shopping trip to Reading on 17 November (see page 6), St Helen's Church Bazaar on the 19 November (see page 12) and the annual Christmas Dinner and Dance in the Village Hall on 3 December (see page 16). Earlier on get in the party mood at a 60's-80's Disco in the Hall on 22 October (page 14). We wish every success to the Tiddington 4 Villages Plan Steering Group (see p3).

Zena Knight

Samantha Boswell

Following the sudden death of our precious Sam, we would like to thank everyone who has sent us such kind and loving messages and for the support we have received since that awful day.

We were totally overwhelmed by the number of people who attended Sam's funeral and joined us at the Village Hall afterwards - we will be forever grateful to you all for making her day so special. She would have loved her "send off".

As many of you know, Sam had been battling with breast cancer since May this year and had vowed that when she was given the all clear she would organise a huge fund raising party to raise funds for the organisations who had helped her - we will carry out her wishes and will be organising her party sometime next summer.

Thank you once again for your love and support.
Tot, Jane and Emma x

Strawberry Tea, Saturday, 16 July 2011

Thank you

Waking up to torrential rain and gusty wind, trying to extract the marquee from the garden, a little concerned that our fundraising event would be a complete washout!

However, we had momentarily forgotten the wonderful community spirit and our lovely family and friends, who helped to make our Strawberry Tea an extremely successful one!

We would like to say a huge THANK YOU to everyone who helped, donated, baked, attended and spent lots of money! You raised a grand total of £875.00.

Thank you, thank you, thank you!

Josie and Tracey

Are you missing a black cat?

Sadly a dead black cat was found on the driveway of Walters Farm, Sandy Lane on 15 September. It had obviously been hit by a car and thrown on to the driveway. It had no collar but looked well cared for, so it is likely to be somebody's special pet. The cat has been buried in a small grave in the field belonging to Walters Farm.

Shirley Low

INSIDE

Advertising	26-35
Church Services	11
Council News	2
Cricket Club	13
Diary Dates	back page
Information	24-25
Maple Tree	17,19
Neighbourhood Watch	3
Newsletter deadline	25
Tiddington 4 Village Plan	3
Village Hall	15
Women's Institute	13

From the Parish Clerk

Highways matters - I have written to Oxfordshire Highways about a number of matters which continue to need attention:

There are still bad potholes in Albury and at Milton Common, vibration problems caused by heavy traffic on the A418, evidence of subsidence on the A418 by the Albury turning, and a damaged manhole cover in Sandy Lane, which we now believe may be a water board problem.

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.

Village led plan - the inaugural meeting, on 25 July, was a great success, well attended and with a great atmosphere. A steering committee was formed and has since met. We wait to see what comes out of their thoughts and deliberations.

Olympic torch bearer - following my report in the last Newsletter that the Parish Council had forwarded Alan Stratton's name to the organisers in view, not only of his involvement in village affairs, but also because of his run in

the London Marathon for village projects. I have been informed that Alan's name has gone forward to the next stage and await further news!

Annual audit - I have received notification from our auditors, that they have completed their deliberations, have issued an unqualified report and given us a clean bill of health.

Ken Poyser
Parish Clerk

From the Parish Council Chair

The second meeting of the Tiddington 4 Village Plan has taken place, and I am glad to say we have a very enthusiastic team. You will read more from the Secretary further on in the newsletter. (opposite)

In mid October I am off for some Chairman's training. It will be interesting as I am usually training other people.

Some of the pot holes have been filled in, but there is still a way to go before all are rectified.

It would be nice to see more residents attending the monthly Parish Council meetings, and have your say.

Elaine Horne
01844-279520

elaine@ace-training.me.uk

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	

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.

Milton Common NHW (West Side) and Sandy Lane



In August there were two distraction burglaries, one non-dwelling in Great Haseley.

In the last couple of weeks puppies have been stolen in our area, so beware.

Don't forget to order your heating oil through the NHW Oil Group.

Please be extra vigilant and report any suspicious looking people or vehicles in the area to the police on 08458 505 505.

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

Tiddington 4 Village Plan

Introduction

The process of creating a village plan for the parish of Tiddington was begun successfully with a public meeting in the Village Hall on 25 July 2011. Some 59 people drawn from all age groups and all parts of the parish attended and gave their views on what is good and not so good about living here, and what things they would like to see done. Almost everyone present agreed that having a parish plan would be a good thing and a number of them agreed to join a Steering Group to lead the preparation of the plan.

What is a Village Plan?

Our community led plan will set out a vision of how our community wants to develop and identifies the action needed for us to achieve it.

The key features of developing the plan are:

- It is community centred - the whole basis of the plan is what the villagers themselves want and central to its preparation is leadership by community members, extensive participation of community members and full consultation with community members.

- It focuses on action - defining a) what is wanted, b) how it can be achieved (including costs and funding), c) when it should happen and d) who will be responsible for it
- It enables the parish to reach support and advice not readily available to the Parish Council. Therefore it acts independently of but in co-operation and liaison with the Parish Council, who will hopefully take a key role in implementing the agreed plan.

Steering Group

The members of the Steering Group, together with their agreed roles and contact details are listed below.

Name	Position	E-Mail	Telephone
Christine Craddock	Chair	no e-mail	01844 339 525
Nigel Draper	Secretary	drapernigelf@yahoo.co.uk	01844 339 347
Tony Giddy	Volunteer Co-Ordinator	tonygiddy@btconnect.com	01844 278 113
Ian Morris		icmorris@btinternet.com	01844 339 750
Rob Richardson		refrichardson@talktalk.net	
Michelle Richardson	Treasurer	refrichardson@talktalk.net	
Elaine Horne	Parish Council Liaison	elaine@ace-training.me.uk	01844 279 520
Lyn Farrell		lfarrell@brookes.ac.uk	07881 700400
Anton Nath	Specialist Adviser	anton.nath@oxonrcc.org.uk	01865 883 488

There is plenty of scope to increase the numbers on the Steering Group, so if you would like to play a leading role in the development of the plan please contact anyone of the above members.

The Group meets on the evening of the third Monday of each month, for around 90 minutes. We would particularly welcome additional members from Tiddington, as that part of the parish is under-represented in proportion to its population, but that does not mean that anyone from other parts of the parish should not put themselves forward.

Action To Date

The Steering Group has now met twice and has:

- Chosen a name for itself - Tiddington 4 Villages (Tiddington, Albury, Draycot and Milton Common) to reflect the dispersed nature of our parish
- Established a constitution
- Defined a preliminary timescale for producing the plan, taking us from now to December 2012

- Defined the following topics for potential inclusion in the plan, each with a specific lead drawn from the membership of the Steering Group:

Topic	Lead
Roads (including pedestrian crossing and street lighting)	Ian Morris
Cycle Paths	Christine Craddock
Amenities (including Village Shop, Coffee Shop, Film Club)	To be confirmed
Broadband	Rob Richardson
Housing	Tony Giddy
Policing & Crime Control	Elaine Horne
Activities for Youth	Rob Richardson
Services for Older People	Christine Craddock
Environment	Tony Giddy

The groups are based upon the suggestions and concerns put forward at the original 25 July open meeting, but they are not exhaustive, so other topics can be added as and when the Steering Group receives feedback from the community that something else needs to be addressed.

Each lead will be responsible for developing initial ideas for testing with you, the residents of the parish. They will start from the feedback given by the participants at the 25 July meeting and from any current plans and proposals, but will be looking to add to or amend or even replace these plans depending on the feedback they get from you.

If you

- have a specific idea, suggestion or concern **please contact** whoever you feel is the relevant lead from those named above or Nigel Draper as the secretary to the Group.

- would like to join a group to prepare proposals **please contact** the group lead
- are happy to give some time to help us but do not want a specific role or be committed to a regular meeting, **please contact** our Volunteer Co-ordinator, Tony Giddy.

Nigel Draper
Village Plan Steering Group

From your District Councillor

Consultation on new National Planning Policy Framework - the Government are inviting views on the draft **National Planning Policy Framework** as part of a consultation to "get the planning system right for current and future generations". The consultation will close on **17 October 2011**. The framework can be viewed at <http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/draftframework>.

For further information, please contact Miles Thompson, Shared Planning Policy Manager, 01494 823731 (South) or 01235 540339 (Vale) or email miles.thompson@southandvale.gov.uk.

Revenue Grants - the Council offers revenue grants to the voluntary sector to provide ongoing financial support to help cover their core costs and enable them to provide effective services for local communities within the boundaries of the Council's strategic objectives. This year the council awarded £424,140 to 28 voluntary organisations towards ongoing revenue costs.

For further information about grants please contact Jayne Bolton, Grants Team Leader on 01491 823136 or email Jayne.bolton@southandvale.gov.uk

South Oxfordshire tops recycling table with 70% - South Oxfordshire has pushed Staffordshire Moorlands off the top of the recycling and composting league table for England - after becoming the first local authority to recycle, reuse or compost more

than 70% of its waste, according to research by letsrecycle.com.

The 70% figure has been recorded in the independent annual survey carried out by letsrecycle.com of the top-performing councils in England last financial year (2010/11). This found that the council's provisional reuse, recycling and composting rate was five percentage points higher (70.56%) than its nearest rival, Rochford (65.46%).

South Oxfordshire has become the first English local authority to reuse, recycle and compost more than 70% of its waste.

Help to improve your neighbourhood - is there a public area in your neighbourhood that could do with being cleared, cleaned or painted? If so, Thames Valley Probation could help. They run the Community Payback scheme, where offenders who have been sentenced to an Unpaid Work Requirement are given jobs to undertake that benefit the local community.

For example, placements could involve clearing overgrown public areas, removing graffiti (on public rather than private property), conservation work, painting and decorating (especially schools and other community/charity facilities), etc.

If you know of an area where you think Community Payback could assist with, please email the details to Karen Brown, Shared Community Safety Projects Officer, Karen.Brown@southandvale.gov.uk .

Advice to businesses to help prevent metal thefts - following an increase in metal thefts in South Oxfordshire, Thames Valley Police are advising businesses and van owners about how to best protect their property.

An increase in the cost of scrap metal has meant that thieves have been targeting lead on buildings and vans with catalytic converters. There are some simple steps that business and van owners can take to help prevent these kinds of thefts.

If you would like crime reduction advice, please call 0845 8 505 505 and ask to speak to

Malcolm Wills, Thames Valley Police Crime Reduction Adviser.

Enterprise zone briefing - 9 September 2011 - on 17 August 2011 Government announced that the Oxfordshire Local Enterprise bid for a Science Vale UK Enterprise Zone had been successful. The new generation of Enterprise Zones allow areas with real potential to create the new business and jobs that they need, benefiting from:

- a business rate discount worth up to £275,000 per business over a five year period (£55,000 a year)
- simplified planning approaches for the zone using, for example, existing Local Development Order powers
- super fast broadband throughout the zone.

The zone of 92 hectares encompasses sites split across Harwell Oxford and MEPC Milton Park and has growth targets of over 16,000 jobs over the next 15 years.

New supply of waste sacks - residents whose homes are unsuitable for wheeled bins will soon be getting a new supply of sacks for rubbish and recycling. A year's worth of sacks - green for recycling and pink for rubbish - were left outside their homes from 12 September. Deliveries should have been complete by 23 September.

Victoria Tilley, Communications Officer (part time - work Monday to Wednesday), Corporate Strategy, 01235 540528

Stephen Harrod Great Milton Ward
01844 278068

Stephen@wildhorn.co.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.



On Friday, 16 Sept a horse trailer was stolen from Radnage.

£20,000 worth of horse tack, etc has been stolen from the Loudwater area.

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

Elaine Horne
01844 279520

From your County Councillor

Electric Blanket Safety Check - we have reached that time of the year when the Oxfordshire Fire & Rescue Service offers free electric blanket safety checks. Last year 39% of electric blankets tested failed the safety checks. Testing electric blankets annually is important as all electrical systems have the potential to go wrong.

How to book. Testing is by pre-booked appointment only, strictly on a first come, first served basis. If you would like to get your electric blanket tested please contact the Electric Blanket Testing hotline on 01865 815607 or email

trading.standards@oxfordshire.gov.uk

The electric blanket testing team will be visiting several locations around the county including: **Thame, Thursday, 20 October**

Telephone cables stolen - you may have heard that the village of Chalgrove had no telephone/broadband/email service for approximately two weeks following thieves in the early hours of the morning stealing cables

and damaging underground ducting. The Police and BT ask the public to report immediately any suspicious happenings on the highway etc. by dialling 999. The thieves have not as yet been caught.

Sunday and evening parking charges reintroduced - Sunday and evening on-street parking charges have been reintroduced on various streets in and near the centre of Oxford. The reintroduction of these charges, which was approved earlier this year, is part of Oxfordshire County Council's need to make savings of £119m from its budget between 2011 and 2015.

Exhibition raises temperature at the County Museum - the temperature is set to rocket at the Oxfordshire Museum in Woodstock with the arrival of a colourful new exhibition. The show - *The Heat is On* - is being staged by the British Society of Enamellers, a group of skilled individuals who melt coloured glass on to metal surfaces such as copper, silver or gold to create jewellery, pictures and sculptures. Pieces from more than 25 enamellers will be available to view in the Garden Gallery at the County Council-run Park Street venue. All items will have been fired in a kiln many times, at temperatures of around 900 degrees centigrade. The subjects of the exhibition, which runs to Saturday, 15 October, are based on natural subjects, landscapes and abstract patterns. Many will be available to purchase.

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 September 2011



THAMES VALLEY POLICE

0845 8 505 505

The single number for non-emergency calls

SWAP SHOP

Saturday, 15 October,
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

Reuse, recycle and keep stuff out of landfill!

From your MP, John Howell

John Howell MP writes..

A look back at key issues from Westminster and those raised from the Constituency in July and August.



Since Parliament began the Summer Recess it has been recalled twice. The first time was the day immediately after Recess began when Parliament was recalled to debate public confidence in the media. It was then recalled on 11 August to hear a statement and to debate public order following the riots. A statement was also made by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, George Osborne, on the recent turbulence in the financial markets, economic growth and debt. Both Houses of Parliament were last recalled on 24 September 2002 to debate Iraq and weapons of mass destruction.

The Media

A small number of constituents wrote to me about phone-hacking and a few more about News Corporation itself. News Corporation bid to acquire BSkyB has been withdrawn. This and the continuing police investigation and the recently announced independent inquiry were welcomed. The inquiry will get to the bottom of what happened and also look at the wider issue of cross-media ownership. The public inquiry will be led by Lord Justice Leveson and it will be able to summon witnesses under oath. There are two parts to this work: first, a full investigation into wrongdoing in the press and the police, including the failure of the first police investigation; second, a review of regulation of the media. The Government will progress both these elements as quickly as possible, whilst being mindful of the ongoing criminal investigations.

The Riots

The scenes of riot and looting that we have seen on our television screens and in our communities were a shock to most people. It was criminality, pure and simple which needs, as the Prime Minister made clear, to be firmly put down.

Responsibility for crime always lies with the criminal. But crime has a context and we must not shy away from confronting this. There has been no better example of our broken society than the riots of the last week. Of course it is true that we also saw some outstanding

examples of bravery and community spirit in the aftermath of the riots. But these do not prove that society is not broken. They prove that there is enough decency left in society to give us hope that the problem can be fixed. There is much ongoing debate on the issues and the Home Affairs Select Committee will be reporting on it in due course. I am confident that their report will make a serious and significant contribution.

The Economy

During the recall of Parliament the Chancellor made a statement on the turbulence in the financial markets and economic growth. The chancellor declared that it was the "most dangerous time for the global economy" since the 2008 crash. But he insisted that the UK remained a "safe haven" in the global crisis and stressed that he would continue with the government's deficit-reduction programme.

Boost to Local Pubs

On 2 August the Government launched a review of restrictive covenants in the pub trade. This is a legal clause that can be used to prevent community pubs reopening as public houses following a sale. In just 5 years between 2004 and 2009 some 572 pubs are believed to have been permanently lost following a sale with a restrictive covenant, potentially depriving thousands of regulars of an important community asset. Covenants can have a double whammy effect, not only taking away a vital community hub but also preventing local people from being able to step in and revive their 'local' as a community-run asset. By changing the use of certain restrictive covenants, communities would be given greater opportunities to use the new 'Community Right to Buy' power in the Localism Bill, which gives local communities the chance to take over and run much-loved local assets, such as the 'local', when they come up for sale. Pubs are hubs of community life, as important to the local social scene as they are to the local economy.

Village Tour

In September I did a tour of smaller villages. Taking advantage of the Conference recess I visited 80 villages to try to meet more constituents and learn about issues of concern. The Henley Constituency covers about 270 square miles and includes well over 100 villages large and small. Although I hold regular surgeries in a number of locations and attend community events there are still some places it is difficult to find an opportunity to visit and meet people - hence my tour. I hope that constituents found it provided a useful opportunity for us to meet.

More information on my work is available on my website www.johnhowellmp.com

John Howell
Member of Parliament
Henley Constituency

From the Vicar

4 October is St Francis day. St Francis is one of the best-loved of all the saints. Born the son of a wealthy cloth-merchant of Assisi, Francis' youth was spent in fast-living, parties and on fast horses as a leader of the young society of the town. Then he went to the war between Assisi and Perugia, and was taken prisoner for a year.

By the time of his release, Francis had changed. Perhaps his own suffering had awakened him to that of others. He abandoned warfare and carousing, and began to help the poor and the lepers of his area. Then one day a voice which seemed to come from the crucifix in the small, semi-derelict church of Damiano Assisi said "Go and repair my house, which you see is falling down".

This religious experience was a vital turning point in Francis' life. His first action was to begin repairing the church, having sold some of his father's cloth to pay for materials. His father was not amused. Francis renounced his

inheritance and even his clothes by his dramatic stripping off in the public square of the town. The Bishop of Assisi provided him with simple garments, and Francis began his new life.

His inspiration was always religious, not social, and the object of his quest was always the Crucified Christ, not poverty for its own sake. Francis rebuilt San Samiano, and then travelled as a pilgrim. His compassion for the poor and lepers became famous. Soon disciples joined him, and they set up a communal life in simple wattle and daub huts. They went on occasional preaching tours. (Not until later did they become an Order whose theologians won fame in the Universities.)

In 1219 Francis visited the Holy Land, and his illusions about the Crusaders were shattered. He went on to seek out the Sultan, and tried to convert him. Back home, he found his Order was now 5,000 strong, and growing. Francis stepped down as head, but continued to preach and was immensely popular. He died after a prolonged illness at 45, and was canonised in 1228.

Francis' close rapport with the animal creation was well known. The story of his preaching to the birds has always been a favourite scene from his life. He also tamed the wolf of Gubbio. This affinity emphasises his

consideration for, and sense of identity with, all elements of the physical universe, as seen in his Canticle of the Sun. This makes him an apt patron of nature conservation.

The 20th century witnessed a widespread revival of interest in Francis. Sadly, some films and books caricatured him as only a sentimental nature-lover or a hippie drop out from society. This ignores the real sternness of his character, and his all-pervasive love of God and identification with Christ's sufferings, which alone make sense of his life.

With best wishes
Caroline

FROM THE REGISTERS

11 August

Interment of Ashes

Mary Lucy Muriel Wing

May she rest in peace

27 August

Marriage

Vicky Ball and James Hoskin

May the Lord bless their union

Church Services	St Helen's Church, Albury
2 October	9.30am Morning Prayer
9 October	9.30am Holy Communion
16 October	9.30am Morning Prayer
23 October	9.30am Holy Communion
30 October 5 th Sunday	9.30am Holy Communion
6 November	9.30am Holy Communion
13 November Remembrance Sunday	10.50am Waterstock War Memorial
20 November	9.30am Morning Prayer
27 November	9.30am Holy Communion

Waterstock & Tiddington W.I.



In September at the Pine Lodge in Little Milton, Carol Hunt provided some interesting ideas for reviving all those garments buried at the back of our wardrobes and bringing them up-to-date. Little Milton is a small group and our Institute members certainly boosted their numbers that evening!

As mentioned in the last newsletter, John Paine will offer an "Oxfordshire Picture Quiz" on 13 October. There will be a bring and buy stall but please note there is **no** competition. It had been decided that the Group Meeting on 20 October in Thame Town Hall will not have a competition this time. The "Witchert Warblers" will entertain and members wishing to attend can sign up at our monthly meeting on 13 October. Please let me know if you would like to go but cannot attend on the 13th as time is short.

On 10 November there is a change of speaker from the published programme. In place of Valerie Calderbank, a representative from Waitrose will come and speak on the same subject of wine tasting.

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



Tiddington Cricket Club has enjoyed a successful season on the field this year. Our 1st

XI finished 4th, 2nd XI was 3rd and our 3rd XI was situated mid table. Many of the teams contain youngsters that have come through our junior academy and with support from our talented seniors, the future looks very bright.

Our juniors had an enjoyable season, with over 100 children attending our Tuesday and Wednesday session. The Academy week in August had over 50 enthusiastic boys and girls taking part in a variety of skills. Our grateful thanks to all the coaches who helped during the week and gave their time so freely.

Our Junior presentation evening was well attended, with awards going to all age groups and a BBQ and raffle.

Our senior presentation evening is on Saturday, 1 October, at 7 30pm. Tickets are £5 to include a buffet; all are welcome.

We are very pleased to announce that all our outstanding debts have now been cleared on schedule. This is a fantastic achievement and all due to continued support from all our members and supporters. We are now looking ahead to improvements to the clubhouse. These include expanding our bar storage, refurbishing the gents toilets and the umpires facilities.

Congratulations to our Aunt Sally teams for reaching finals night and are sure it will be a keenly contested match. All support welcome at Thame Football Club on 21 October.

The winter sees our crib team in action on Monday nights, Ladies darts teams on Wednesdays and Men's darts on Fridays. The club will be open Wednesday evenings through to Sunday evenings and Monday when crib is at home. We look forward to welcoming you.

Date for the diary - Race Night - **Saturday, 17 March 2012** - St Patrick's Day.

Lesley Pykett

Secretary

07762 527558

lesleypykett@btinternet.com

Tiddington Village Hall

60's 70's and 80's Disco!

Following the success of the Village Hall Disco back in February, we've booked a 60's, 70's and 80's one for 22 October. Tickets are just £5 each and can be purchased from committee members (see advert). Please come and support the Hall, enjoy the music and maybe even strut your stuff on the dance floor!

Christmas Dinner 2011

It seems strange to be talking about this event so early but we are about to enter the last quarter of the year! This year's event will be on **Saturday, 3 December**. Following comments from recent years we have decided to limit numbers so that things are a little more comfortable. As we did last year, to make it fair we are opening the booking line to villagers only from 1 October and then (subject to availability) we will welcome other bookings from the 1 November. To book your space please call Pauline Field on 01844 339671

Bingo

From 13 September until the end of the year (and beyond!) you can play Bingo at the Village Hall every other week on a Tuesday night. It's 'eyes down' at 8pm so please come along and support.

On behalf of the committee I would like to give a big thank you to the dedicated team of people who have given up their time so generously to organise the bingo sessions over the past year. These include Lynn, Kay, Helen, Phil, Trish and Tracey. In August they presented the Hall with a staggering £1,010.00, being the money raised over the last year. This is much valued income and will be used to further improve the Hall's facilities.

Doreen Williams

On behalf of all the Committee I would like to thank Doreen for her fantastic help over the years with the Hall. She has decided after many years to 'retire' from Committee but I

know will still be a regular attendee and helper at Hall events.

Village Hall Committee AGM

The date for the 2011 AGM is **Monday, 14 November**. We are always looking for new people to join the Committee to help lessen the load on those who are already on it! So if you fancy finding out more or just want to come and hear what the VH team has to say then the AGM is a public meeting so please feel free to join us at the Village Hall at 7.45pm.

Digital Switchover

If you are reading this newsletter and wondering why it is that you cannot view terrestrial TV anymore it is because you have not switched over to the new digital service. The analogue system has been switched off and the only way to watch BBC1, 2, ITV etc through your aerial is if you have a TV with a built in digital tuner, a digital set top box, Sky, Freesat, Freeview, BT Vision or Virgin Media. If you would like any advice on what you might need or just simply want some help re-tuning your TV then I'm happy to help so please feel free to give me a call if you are stuck.

Alan Stratton
Chairman

Tiddington Village Hall Committee
Tel: 01844 339430/278534
Mobile: 07889 851588
Email: Stratton@gmx.com

Car Boot Sale

Saturday, 3 September

The weather forecast was excellent. Alan had done a superb job of posting the advertising boards - could this be THE one?

I arrived over the Hall at 8.00am, closely followed by Wendy - at least there were two cars on the field!!

John, our "doorman" took his post fully expecting it to be a long morning. Not so, no sooner had he arrived than cars started to pull

in. At one stage we even had a queue. Not just local folks either.

We had an excellent numbers of sellers but, unfortunately, the buyers were very thin on the ground. Those of you who kindly turned up as sellers, I do hope you managed to sell something. Please, please do not be discouraged. The committee has agreed that next time we will advertise in the local press and Alan will be ordering more notice boards for better local coverage.

I spoke to the "out of villagers" and the comments were; "Excellent venue, toilets and food, lovely atmosphere and really good to go to a genuine boot sale rather than dealers setting up stalls." So hopefully they will come back.

Thank you lovely folks in the village who turned out to walk round, buy some refreshments and even managed to find a bargain or two - it's good fun isn't it?

I am pleased to let you know we made a handsome profit of £341.00 - the best yet, due mainly to the refreshments side. Grateful thanks to "The Kitchen Crew"; Maureen Marchant, Doreen Williams, Kim Morrish and Wendy Paterson who came to help without me even asking!

Next one will be May 2012 - see you there?

Janet Willis



We have lots going on this autumn, but the first piece of exciting news is that we have been working with two other groups in our community to take on the site management of the Young People's Centre in Wheatley. This means that we will have a more permanent home and venue from which to provide workshops and events. There is still a lot of work to be done on the building, but we are

delighted that this has been agreed in principle, and we are looking forward to working with Barnado's, Wheatley Parish Council and youth workers to continue providing services for children and young people in Wheatley and surrounding villages. We will keep you updated on how this project is going.

In response to feedback from families, we are launching a new Stay and Play session at the Young People Centre on Wednesday mornings from 9.30am which will run until 1pm so please feel free to bring your lunch.

Other dates for your diary include:

10, 17, 24 October New baby workshops: weaning, sleep & home safety, Wheatley

Please contact Stephanie for further details on 07545 440970

Special themes for our Stay Play sessions to highlight:

- w/c 3 October Numbers
- w/c 6 October Wellbeing
- w/c 24 October Festival of lights, Fireworks
- Fri 28 October Day out to Thomley Hall Activity Centre

(no Stay and Play that day)

Please contact Nicole or Anna for further details on 07545 209819 or 07547 440969.

Finally, a plea for help - if you have any skills in advertising and publicity and could spare a couple of hours a month to help us with our communications we would be very grateful for some support. If you can help, please contact Jenny 07533 573746 or email jenny.stoker@oxfordshire.gov.uk.

All sessions are **FREE** and are suitable for children under 5 years old (accompanied older siblings are welcome).

Please contact Debbie on 07988 159041 or deborah.jackson@oxfordshire.gov.uk for further details on times and venues or visit our webpage

www.oxon.childrenscentres.org.uk/themapletree



the charity for
your community



Paid Holiday Entitlement

If you are working full time, you are entitled to at least 28 days' paid holiday a year (5.6 weeks) including public holidays. This is a legal right.

Your contract of employment may give you the right to take more than the statutory amount of paid holiday, but it cannot give you less. To help you work out your exact entitlement, you can use the calculator on the Business Link website at www.businesslink.gov.uk

You don't have an automatic right to take bank or public holidays off work, with or without pay, but your employment contract may give you bank or public holidays off on top of your statutory holiday. If this is the case, your contract should specify this and also say whether you will be paid for these days.

If your employer refuses to let you take holiday, or refuses to let you take holiday at a particular time, try to sort it out informally with them first. If this doesn't work, get advice as soon as possible from your trade union if you belong to one, or from an experienced CAB adviser. You may be able to take your case to an employment tribunal, but there are pros and cons to think about if you are considering this course of action.

CAB advice line 08 444 111 444 or 0300 3300 650(mobile)

For general advice visit 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

General information: www.thamecab.org

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

Wheatley Library



Opening Hours

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

The Merry Bells, High Street, Wheatley

Tel: 01865 875267

Email: wheatley.library@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Energy Saving Trust

With the recent announcements from the main energy providers of large increases in the price of energy, the cost of keeping warm is rising. It is becoming harder for residents to keep their homes heated to the recommended temperatures of 21°C (70°F) in the living room and 18°C (65°F) in other occupied rooms. To

help combat this, a free phone helpline has been set up to advise residents in Oxfordshire how to cut their energy bills.

The service is offered by the United Sustainable Energy Agency in partnership with Oxfordshire County Council, the five Oxfordshire District Councils and Oxfordshire Primary Care Trust.

If you are finding your energy bills unmanageable, you are not alone. Currently over 5 million people in the UK cannot afford to pay for the heat they need. Any resident in Oxfordshire who is struggling with their energy bills can call **0800 107 00 44** for free, impartial advice on:

- Cavity wall and loft insulation including the grants available
 - Grants and loans to help with heating system replacements
 - Government and energy company payments
 - How to switch energy suppliers to get the best deal
 - Advice on fuel debt
 - How to be more energy efficient in the home
- Some of these improvements can take a few months to install; don't wait until it gets cold to phone.

The helpline is available Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm.

Great Haseley and District Horticultural Society

In recent days it has become more autumnal with a slight nip in the air and foliage starting to colour; it is indeed "Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness" (John Keats). Sadly, we do not seem to have had much of a summer since the glorious weather of April and I am reminded that it is important to make the most of good weather however early it comes in the year. I can remember gardening in a T-shirt in February more than once in the last 20 years

and in one year that time was the last prolonged period of good weather.

We are still harvesting the last of the climbing french beans, sweetcorn, cabbage, carrots, and raspberries and I have just picked the last cucumber. In the greenhouse are peppers, chillies and cape gooseberry. For the winter there will be parsnips. I decided not to grow brussel sprouts this year as they always seem to be frozen when I want to pick them and get badly attacked by Brassica aphids which are particularly unpleasant and difficult to deal with. I also admit that I never got around to planting my leek plants which actually says more about my relationship with leeks than my organisational skills! However, they will make small late spring leeks next year. Annual spinach will also overwinter and provide an early crop which always surprises me, but I am a great believer in always trying everything at least once because the perceived wisdom is not always correct.

Now is a good time to think about what you want from your garden next year. If you like having lots of autumn colour from flowering plants then it is a good time to visit gardens which are open to the public and see what takes your fancy; make notes and either buy plants now when you can see exactly what colour the flowers will be or best of all see if any friend has what you want and beg plants when they are being divided. Nearly all gardeners are very happy to give away plants for free and, if you are really organised, simply plant straight into your garden having first enriched the soil with some compost (homemade or purchased) and a handful of chicken manure. I would also add a dose of mycorrhizal fungi which helps most flowering plants (with the exception of ericaceous and Brassicas) access nutrients and improves growth. I particularly like brightly coloured Rudbeckia, both annual and perennial, with Asters at this time of year. These are accompanied by Fuchsias, Dahlias, annual

Cosmos and tender perennial Salvias, particularly those with blue flowers.

If you prefer more gentle colours there is a lovely Helianthus which thoroughly deserves its name of "Lemon Queen" and is well behaved, unlike many Helianthus varieties which appear to have a mission to take over the world. This could be paired with a pale violet Aster, of which there are a number easily available locally, a pale blue Salvia and perhaps a pale pink Cosmos.

My main success this year is with my tubs to which, as an afterthought, I added a few Nasturtium seeds. These have added lovely late colour and really perked up the display when it would have been looking a bit tired.

In the end it is up to you what you do in your garden as there is no right or wrong in plant colour combinations. If you like what you are creating and the plants are happy with their conditions, then ignore what other people say and simply enjoy yourself.

Liz Moyses

Newington Nurseries

Grass Facts

Pennisetum grasses, along with all other grass species, are incredibly valuable plants in any garden. Like hardy plants, the Chinese Fountain Grass provides the necessary form and structure needed in the border. It also gives texture and the same seasonal interest as herbaceous perennials, the 'fireworks' of the garden.

From the bottlebrush-like flower spikes of the *P. alopecuroides* cultivars to the billowing *P. orientale* types, the seeding flowers of this genus waft around in the gentlest of breezes, generating both movement and sound. The subtle ebbing and flowing of grass is at its best and most visible when the plants are used *en masse*, as in the wild, but they also work in harmony with other plants when used in the smaller garden.

Pennisetum grasses also look magnificently architectural when planted in contemporary containers such as zinc or steel which in turn can be sited in front of a modern or light-coloured building. Otherwise, the larger cultivars make good, stand-alone specimens in borders whilst the smaller varieties are more effective when planted as a group or used in drift planting. A grouping of a single cultivar looks more natural than an assortment of different varieties.

Pennisetum species come into their own in late summer when flowering really starts to get going. Combine these grasses with other late-blooming perennials such as *Crocsmia*, *Echinacea* and *Rudbeckia*, for example, to create maximum interest and colour in the early autumn garden. *Pennisetum* species should be grown in well-drained soil and in full sun although they will tolerate dappled shade in southern parts of the UK.

The best time for planting grasses is late spring but plants can be added to beds, borders and containers throughout the growing season. Once established, most grasses are drought-tolerant. However, an eye will need to be kept on the watering during the first year of planting especially if the spring, summer and autumn months are unusually dry.

Foliage and flower spikes are best left in situ throughout the winter so as to help protect the roots and new spring growth. Better though is the interest provided by the foliage and spent flower heads in an otherwise barren winter garden. The seed heads attract birds in search of winter food and the foliage offers a safe haven for small mammals.

Once the threat of frost has passed, the plants can be cut down to ground level. Make sure you don't leave it too late though as pruning may harm new growth. Although the plants can look a little untidy by the end of winter, early-flowering herbaceous plants in the near vicinity will provide a foil for this. *Pennisetum* species are generally pest and disease-free plants. Of equal importance is their low maintenance, perfect if this is a priority in any garden scheme.

Anne Hendry, Newington Nurseries, Newington,
Wallingford, Oxon, OX10 7AW
www.newington-nurseries.co.uk



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Thank you

Contact Chris ♦ 01235 552680 ♦ cwheatcroft@redcross.org.uk