

VILLAGE CUDDINGTON VOICE



**APRIL
2014**

VOLUME SIXTEEN

- ☛ **Palm Sunday** - A family service, including distribution of palm crosses.
- ☛ **Good Friday** - Meditation on the Cross.
An hour of readings and music reflecting Christ's Crucifixion.
- ☛ **Easter Day** - A family communion service celebrating Christ's Resurrection.
- ☛ **Easter Monday Pantomime** - The Easter Story, based on knights; mainly for Dads, but also for the rest of the family!!

The pity of Passchendaele



Corporal Walter Arthur Horsler was killed in action in August 1917 in probably the most infamous battle on the Western Front.

Passchendaele today is an attractive village near Ypres in Belgium. In 1917 Walter Horsler and his comrades viewed it as a ruined settlement of no particular significance in a war-torn, muddy terrain. The battle at Passchen-

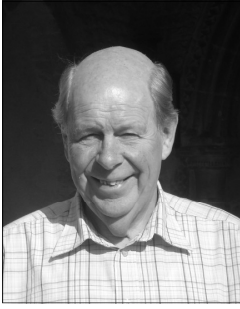
daele was part of the conflict known as the Third Battle of Ypres. This salient was considered so important that in 1917 Germany and the Allies committed one million men to it, and each army lost at least one in four of their soldiers.

Walter's last battle was fought in appalling conditions.

Commander in Chief Haig's determination against all previous experience to launch yet another offensive had prevailed. There were many voices raised against and the Prime Minister, Lloyd George, had been very doubtful. Haig argued that "one more big push" would result in an advance to Ostend and establish control of the Belgian ports. It is one of the most notable examples in World War I of the pointless sacrifice of men's lives. Haig ordered the attack without personally inspecting front line conditions and in disregard of the warnings of some of his own officers in the field. Nevertheless, the offensive began in July and ended in November 1917.

Lloyd George dubbed it "the battle of the mud". The heavy clay ground was riddled by shell fire and pitted with deep craters. Rainfall was almost incessant and the local drainage system had been shattered by British mining activities to demolish German positions on nearby Messines Ridge. On June

(Continued on page 5)



Thought for the Month

The winter crops look ready for harvesting, someone on our walk yesterday asked if the cattle were out yet, buds have started, spring is in the air. What Hope, what Joy!...after the wettest and one of the warmest winters for a long time. Now the lawns are mown and the edges strimmed, but the moss.....It's still a wonderful time of year!

But not for all: as we grow older, there are more hospital visits to make and funerals to attend.

So our prayers are for people struggling with life, as well as for our futures – of ourselves, our children and grandchildren, our parents and siblings, God's Work in the World, our village and all its amazing people and facilities, not least of all seeing War Horse, just across the Upper Green .

Another real bonus for the village is seeing the children going to and coming out of school, the noise of chattering and fun in the play-ground as I go for my daily walk, the toddlers singing in the Church each Friday or Forms 1 & 2 at Nic-Nacs each Thursday, the babies being wheeled in such comfort in their buggies, young Mums and (Dads!) with their wee ones. But I wonder: what sort of a world are these little ones being brought up in? Technologically hugely advanced, yes, but why more children with mental health problems? Knowing far more than we did at their age, yes, but being exposed to alcohol, drugs and sex so early? The children at School in this village and Dinton are hugely privileged but they are a tiny minority in UK, not to mention the world. The recent SIAMS report (looking at Christian education in Church Schools) gave ours an excellent rating, and for that we can be very grateful – and congratulatory! This adds hugely to our hopes for our children into the future.

In some 3 weeks, Easter-time will be on us again. In our village Church, there will be our annual Good Friday Reflection focusing on the Death on the Cross of Jesus Christ; and Easter Sunday morning service rejoicing in the most important single event in human History: Jesus rising from the dead. There will be fun geared more to the kids as well: on Bank Holiday Monday morning, Jo, of Toddler Singing group fame, will be putting on for the second year what might become the annual children's pantomime and activities morning, when especially all Dads – Mums may come along too! – are invited and will be taking part: something about Knights, this year.

All this is saying that if Britain is to be the country that gives the next generation the right environment in which to best flourish, we need to recover our Christian roots and make its practice wonderfully relevant for the 21st century.

April is many people's favourite month: do enjoy it if and while you can!

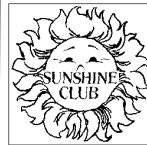
Graham Carr

Congratulations to Angus!

In 2010 Dr. Angus Goodson came to live in Bernard Close with his wife Jo, also a doctor. They now have two young children, Freddie and Arabella.

On 18th February Angus travelled to the Royal Society of Medicine's head quarters in London having been short listed for the Alex Russell prize for neurodevelopmental paediatrics. After presenting a case on 'Recovery without neurological sequelae after prolonged asystolic cardiac arrest in profound hypothermia' he was awarded the prize by unanimous decision of a panel of prestigious medical judges. This award comes only a few months after Angus gained first place in the NHS 2023 innovations challenge for his new drug delivery device which is currently awaiting patent.

Village Voice is delighted to be able to announce this and we are sure that everyone will want to join in congratulating Angus on these outstanding achievements.



Please come to our traditional Spring Bazaar on Saturday 12th April at 2.00pm at The Bernard Hall

with all the favourite stalls - homemade cakes and produce, bric-a-brac, good second hand clothes, raffle, tombola, books, teas, etc.

Admission 20p, children free.

We will be delighted to accept contributions at the Hall on the morning of the 12th or please phone 01844 299150 for collection.

Recycling Appeal

We continue to collect used ink cartridges and old mobile phones for recycling in aid of our funds. These can be dropped off at Cuddington Post Office (thank you John and Elaine).



The March meeting was cancelled due to the death of Helen Griffin who was such a prominent member of the WI.

The next meeting will be as advertised on Tuesday 8th April.



Helen Griffin

Village Voice is very sad to record the death of Helen Griffin on March 8th. She died peacefully at her home in Church Close after a few months' illness.

Helen participated enthusiastically in village activities and her vivacity and friendship endeared her to everyone. She will be greatly missed by all who knew her.

Her funeral took place on Friday 21st March and there will be a more detailed account of Helen's life and her contribution to the village in next month's *Village Voice*.

Parish Supper

We've all heard of the power of television, and this year's speaker at the annual Parish Supper illustrated how true this can be. Ruth Robinson (pictured right) of SAT-7 spoke about her organisation's work in transmitting Christian programming to the peoples of the Middle East and North Africa. The organisation has five channels which broadcast in Arabic, Farsi and Turkish to twenty country 24 hours a day reaching an audience of 15 million. The most popular, with over 9 million viewers, is SAT-7 Kids, the area's equivalent of C-Beebies! For more information about the organisation visit their website www.sat7uk.org

The supper and talk were enjoyed by all those who attended (see photograph) and £280 was donated to SAT-7.



THE VILLAGE PICTURE HOUSE CUDDINGTON

Following the success of *Blue Jasmine* we now bring you other Oscar-winning films - *Gravity* and *Twelve Years a Slave*. So don't struggle with them on

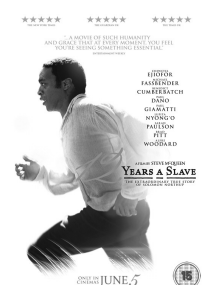
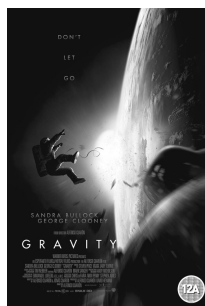
your 'box in the corner' but come to the Village Picture House and see them in comfort on our big screen! See below for the dates.

And another one for the future is *White House Down*, scheduled for showing in June. More details on this and other up-coming productions in May's Village Voice.

Also watch this space for details of both Ladies' and Men's finals at Wimbledon! Following the success of showing three of this year's Six Nations Rugby fixtures we look forward to bringing you the climax of the world's finest tennis tournament – on the big screen in your own village; so keep those dates clear and there may even be some strawberries and cream!

Our programme for the next few months is:

Captain Phillips	Thursday 27 th March at 8.00pm
Hop (Kids' Club)	Friday 4 th April at 2.00pm
Untouchable	Thursday 10 th April at 8.00pm
Lawrence of Arabia	Friday 25 th April at 7.00pm
King Lear (NTLive)	Thursday 1 st May at 7.00pm
Gravity	Thursday 15 th May at 8.00pm
The Curious Incident of the Dog in the	
Night-time (NT Encore)	Friday 23 rd May at 7.00pm
Twelve Years a Slave	Thursday 5 th June at 8.00pm
A Small Family Business	
(NTLive).....	Thursday 12 th June at 7.00pm
White House Down	Thursday 19 th June at 8.00pm
Wimbledon Ladies' Final	Saturday 5 th July
Wimbledon Men's Final	Sunday 6 th July



Weather

February was very mild and very wet. The average temperature was 6.2 deg C (43F), over one and a half degrees above average, although not as warm as February 2011 (6.6 deg C, 44F). Despite the wet conditions, sunshine was slightly above average.

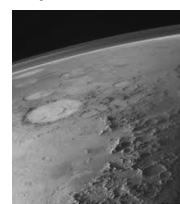
Daytime maximum air temperatures in February averaged 9.1 (48F); the long term average is 7.9 deg C (46F). Night time air minimum temperatures averaged 3.4 deg Celsius (38F); the long term average is 1.4 deg Celsius (35F).

The actual highest day time air maxima occurred on three days, 20th, 23rd and 24th (11.5 deg C, 53F) and the lowest on the 28th (5.1 deg C, 41F). The actual highest night time air minima occurred on the both the 24th and 25th (6.5 deg C, 44F) and the lowest on the 16th (0.9 deg C, 33F). The lowest temperature just above the grass occurred on the 11th (minus 3.5 deg C, 26F).

February received 80.69 hours of bright sunshine – the long term average is 78.9 hours.

February was very wet with a total of 91.7 mm (3.61in); this is over twice the long term average of 42.0mm, (1.65in). In recent years the previous wettest occurred in 2000, with 82.7 mm, 3.26in. Oxford's rainfall dataset, which goes way back to the year 1853, reveals that highest ever recorded in February was in 1937 with (120.3mm, 4.74in).

Sky Notes



On April 14th the planet Mars will be at its closest to Earth, a mere 57 million miles away (92 million km). During April, Mars can easily be located with the naked-eye, initially low in the south-east during early evening, after dark, and later, due south between midnight and 1 am.

Mars will then be located about one third of the way up from the horizon to the overhead point. To the unaided eye Mars appears as a prominent 'star' and distinctly orange in colour; a small telescope trained on the planet will reveal some dark surface markings and the prominent north polar cap. On the 14th the full moon will appear close to Mars in the sky, with Mars located just above the moon, in reality the pair will be separated by many millions of miles.

Sean Clarke

Council Jottings

Local Initiatives

The County is divided into a number of 'Local Areas' based around the nearest large community, where there are a wider variety of services and facilities. Cuddington belongs to the Haddenham Local Area, along with Chearsley, Long Crendon and ten other nearby parishes. There are a number of meetings a year, at which representatives of all the parishes, as well as BCC and AVDC, can discuss issues of common interest. This Local Area Forum (LAF) also has a small budget (£46,500 for the next financial year) that can be allocated for small projects put forward by the parish members, which fit in with the agreed priorities.

For 2014/15, these priorities are:

Main priorities

- * Teenagers and community facilities
- * Traffic calming
- * Support for carers and support for older people to live in their homes

Secondary priorities

- * Supporting local businesses, which are integral to the sustainability of local communities and supporting their development as community hubs
- * Providing a more flexible transport network to fulfil the needs of rural communities
- * Widening broadband access

Our Parish Council will be discussing how we could benefit from any funding. If you have any ideas for projects that fit in with the above priorities (however loosely!), then please raise them.

Appearance of the Village

It was decided, at the last PC meeting, that we would reinstate the white boundary markers on the Green adjacent to the Crown to try and deter careless drivers from mounting the kerbing and damaging the grass. Concrete bollards were considered but we are going for the original plastic, because



of cost! It is proposed to install these on Sat 5th April. A couple of volunteer helpers would be really good! Please ring Ken on 292921, if you can spare a couple of hours.

The point has been made, very strongly, about the County Council contractors spraying the edges of verges and the Village Greens with weed killer, which has resulted in the grass dying back.

Ken Birkby.

Children's Writing Competition

As announced last month Village Voice is launching a poetry-writing competition for the younger members of the village. It is open to any child living in Cuddington, or attending Cuddington and Dinton School.

There are three categories and the winner in each will receive a £10 book token:

Children in School Years 1 and 2. Theme: My favourite animal.

Children in School Years 3 and 4. Theme: Water

Children in School Years 5 and 6. Theme: Spring

We would like them to write a short poem – it could be descriptive, imaginary, what the theme means to the poet; it is entirely up to the writer. When completed please e-mail the entry, including name and age, to Helen Keeping (wichertcot@btinternet.com) with "Village Voice poem" in the subject line or leave it in the box in the village shop.

The closing date is Wednesday 23rd April.



Thirty-one members and guests enjoyed a stunning and peaceful walk around the grounds of Hartwell House on a beautiful spring afternoon. Richard Jones, Head Gardener led our group explaining the history of the house and features in the extensive parkland. We walked through the mass blanket of daffodils planted at the beginning of the Millennium and were entertained with the story of how the exiled King of France secreted

his mistress in the stone boathouse which lies at the head of the original canal. The tranquillity of the setting is however going to be completely devastated by the construction of HS2 which will cut through the edges of the woods on the Aylesbury



boundary and run directly across the vista created by the avenue of trees facing north. Take the opportunity of enjoying these surroundings while you can.

This month the **Gardening Club** hosted a modern plant hunter as its speaker. Chris Chadwell visits Kashmir once a year but his talk this time described some of the garden flowers he found in Alaska and along America's PW Pacific coast when he undertook an extensive lecture tour last spring. Starting in Alaska the climate and conditions favour the construction of rock gardens featuring mainly alpine plants. Further south in Washington State, Meconopsis (the blue poppy) are grown, together with flag irises, peonies, aquilegias, Bergénias and Lewisias. In Colorado, pasque flowers emerged from the ground as snow melted and further along the coast towards San Francisco, in the spring rains, showy primulas such as candelabra and Japonica thrive.

We gardeners in this country become irate at rabbits and pigeons in our gardens, but in Alaska gardeners have to contend with moose and pernicious mosquitoes!

At the next meeting which takes place on **Monday, 7th April**, Stuart Mabbutt, a gardening expert and wildlife specialist, will be telling us how to encourage (welcome) wildlife into our gardens. Starting time is 7.30 pm in the playing field clubhouse.

THE BERNARD HALL CUDDINGTON



The Bernard Hall AGM

will be held on Wednesday, 9th April at 8pm. in the Bernard Hall.

Everyone is welcome and we look forward to seeing you all there to hear all about how one of the village's key amenities is doing!

Dates for your Diary

*The spring is coming by a many signs;
.....And then a little lamb bolts up behind
The hill, and wags his tail to meet the yoe;
John Clare 1793 - 1864*



April

Wednesday 2 nd 7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting
Friday 4 th 2.00pm	Hop – Kids' Village Picture House
Monday 7 th 2.00pm	Sunshine Club at the Village Picture House
Monday 7 th 7.30pm	Gardening Club – Stuart Mabbutt "Wildlife Gardening"
Tuesday 8 th 2.30pm	WI - Young Carers Bucks
Wednesday 9 th 10.00pm	Play around the Parishes – (see page 5)
Wednesday 9 th 8.00pm	Bernard Hall AGM (see page 4)
Thursday 10 th 8.00pm	Untouchable – Village Picture House
Saturday 12 th 2.00pm	Sunshine Club Bazaar, Bernard Hall
Friday 25 th 7.00pm	Lawrence of Arabia – Village Picture House
Saturday 26 th 8.00 pm	Bingo in the Playing Fields Club

May

Thursday 1 st 7.00pm	King Lear – NTLive at Village Picture House
Monday 5 th 9.30am	Madrigals from the church tower
Monday 5 th 10.45am	Benefice walk, returning 5.00pm
Wednesday 7 th 7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting
Saturday 10 th	Annual school Ball
Tuesday 13 th 2.30pm	Resolutions meeting
Thursday 15 th 8.00pm	Gravity – Village Picture House
Monday 19 th 7.30pm	Gardening Club – Brian Fisher "Climbing Plants"
Saturday 31 st 8.00 pm	Bingo in the Playing Fields Club

Slugs, Snails and Water



Greener Cuddington

Water purity in the entire Thame catchment area is of poor quality and has been getting worse over decades. The sources are:

** Sewage, which turns water turbid and introduces solid and dissolved pollutants and nutrients. These have many ill-effects on our ponds and streams, killing off many species and so reducing biodiversity whilst also reducing the attractiveness of the area.*

** Nutrient run-off from the land, including nitrates and phosphates, which kills off some plant species and stimulates algae and other less desirable organisms.*

** Pesticide run-off, which introduces poisons to the water, some of which can be very persistent.*

Although, in our area, agriculture is the biggest contributor, gardens, allotments and small-holdings all contribute to pollutants that end up in the river. The quantity

(Continued on page 6)

Play around the parishes

Once again, Cuddington Parish Council has teamed up with Aylesbury Vale District Council and Sure Start Children's Centres to provide a great 2 hours of fun for 1-11 year olds during the Easter Holidays. Crafts, toys, giant games, face painting, a bouncy castle and much more will be available on the Playing Fields (or Club-house in the event of wet weather).



Join the in the fun on Wednesday 9th April - 10-12 noon.

Passchendaele

(Continued from page 1)

7th nineteen deep mines with tunnels 15metres to 30metres deep had been exploded. Lloyd George was said to have heard the sound of the detonation in Downing Street. The German position was erased and approximately 10,000 Germans were killed and over 7,500 shell-shocked soldiers were taken prisoner.

The French General, Foch, stated that it was impossible to defeat both the "Boches" and the mud and dismissed the project as "a duck's march". Many of the dead had drowned. Some men who survived reported that they struggled to advance, they often sank up to their waists in stagnant pools. Twenty two tanks were deployed and became stuck in the swamp and rendered useless. Eventually Haig had to accept that his offensive could not succeed. The Germans, for their part, held their line with tenacity. The cavalry behind British lines, which had waited four months for a breakthrough, finally stood down.

Corporal Horsler and his comrades had been fighting impossible odds. One poignant response to this campaign was made by Haig's Chief of Staff when he visited the devastation on the day after the offensive con-



Tyne Cot Cemetery, Belgium

cluded. He burst into tears and said "Good God, did we really send men to fight in that?" Corporal Horsler was just one of the soldiers "sent" and duly killed. He is remembered on the sadly expansive, but peaceful, Tyne Cot memorial, near Passchendaele with so many of his brave, but ill-served comrades. The historian AJP Taylor declared that the "Third Ypres War was the blindest slaughter in a blind war".

Peter Wenham



I am delighted to report that good progress has been made with our internal alterations and we now have a new and much

larger staff room at the front of the building where the Head's office used to be. Very soon all the new boys' and girls' toilets will be ready – a big improvement.

We will be putting in for planning permission shortly to move the main entrance door a yard or two to the right to enable us to have a much better visitors' reception and administration office area.

Meanwhile our Foundation children went on a dinosaur trip and this is what Freddie and Naomi wrote about it:



We went to the Dinosaur Museum and it was like Dinoland. When we went into a gallery we saw Dinosaur footprints. We saw big and small bones. I liked the roaring dinosaur and the dinosaur that came out of the egg. I liked the dressing up clothes and Jack dressed up as a Pterosaur.

The school Value which we are concentrating on for this half of term is Respect and one of the key Bible readings we are using to illustrate it is:

'However you want people to treat you, so treat them,' Matthew 7:12

Our applications for admission next September for the new school year are still being finalised but we are confident that we will have a full complement of 26 new children joining us which will be very healthy. It means that we will be at our capacity figure of 78 on the Infant site and just short of capacity at 100 on the Junior site.

Mrs Kim Price



The Infant site's main entrance - due to move?



Greener Cuddington (Continued from page 5)

and variety of chemicals and composts that we use in our gardens is entirely under our control and is something that we can limit.

The biggest problem for the Environment Agency that looks after our water supplies is a substance called metaldehyde: this is slug poison. It is very persistent in the environment and very difficult to destroy once it is in the water, but it is cheap and effective and is the active ingredient in most slug pellets used in gardens and in agriculture (particularly oil-seed rape and broccoli).

Metaldehyde is poisonous to fish, birds and mammals so the concentration allowed in a river is strictly controlled, but in the River Thames it is often much higher than the recommended concentration, particularly after wet weather in the growing season when slugs and snails can present a real problem for gardeners and farmers alike.

This is not actually the molluscs' faults, but because:

- a. We want to grow crops and garden plants that encourage slugs and*
 - b. We want a cheap and easy way of controlling them, and farmers trust it.*
- There are other, non-chemical, ways of controlling slugs in gardens which are well documented and their implementation is much more responsible than simply spreading lots of pellets. It is worth remembering that slugs and snails do make nice meals for black-*



birds and thrushes, such as this one in my garden (which will suffer if their prey is poisoned).

So next time you visit the garden centre to spend money on the array of dressings on sale there do consider the fact that the more you use, the more will run off into waterways and that will damage the quality of our water and our countryside.

Doug Kennedy

Services at St. Nicholas

(Churchwardens: David Benson 01296 433757 and Graham Carr 290000)

April

- 6th 10.00 am HOLY COMMUNION
A modern Communion Service with hymns. The children go to "Sunday Special" for part of the service
- 13th 10.00 am PALM SUNDAY FAMILY SERVICE
A service for all ages, including lively hymns, with the involvement of young musicians.
- 18th 2.00 pm GOOD FRIDAY REFLECTION
- 20th 10.00 am EASTER DAY FAMILY COMMUNION
A less formal modern Communion Service with hymns. The children go to Sunday Special for part of the Service
- 21st 10.00 am EASTER MONDAY PANTOMIME
- 27th 10.00 am MORNING WORSHIP
A service of worship and the word, with a mixture of traditional and modern hymns. The children go straight to Chattabox and the Grid in the Bernard Hall at 9.50 a.m.
- 11.15 am HOLY COMMUNION
A communion service with hymns, according to the Book of Common Prayer.

There is a service at 5.30 pm every Sunday evening at Cuddington Methodist Chapel.