



**MAY
2014**

VOLUME SIXTEEN

Christian Aid Week May 11th - 17th

Give people a future without fear

For a growing number of people across the world, the horror of war is part of daily life. The good news is that individuals, communities and churches can make a real difference this Christian Aid Week. Last year, a magnificent 20,000 churches across the country helped raise £12m for Christian Aid Week.

Christian Aid's vision is to bring an end to poverty around the world
Please give generously.



Throughout the week there will be **House to House Collections**

There will be the following events:

May 11th 10 a.m. **Christian Aid Family Service**, St Nicholas

May 12th 7 - 9 pm **Bring and Buy Coffee Evening and Plant Sale**,
Wellfield House, Spurt Street, the home of Charles and Angela Sanderson.
All welcome!

A Mechanic Returns from the War

Peter Wenham continues his research into the families of Cuddington involved in the Great War.

Charles Horsler, unlike his older brother Walter, a corporal in the Oxford and Bucks Light Infantry who was killed in action at Passchendaele in 1917 (see last month's Village Voice), returned to Cuddington at the end of the war. He was born near Dunstable in 1899. His parents, Arthur and Sarah, moved to Cuddington soon after to take over the village Post Office and Grocery Store opposite Munday's shop in Upper Church Street. Three brothers and a sister completed the family.

Charles attended the village school and the Headmaster's log book records that he was an able pupil. At the age of 11 he was commended for essays on a nature theme and "The misuse of alcohol"(!). We have a glimpse of Charles at this time sitting in football kit with his brother, Walter, in a photograph of the Cuddington Football team. This can be seen in the Playing Fields Clubhouse. The youthful Charles helped in the family shop and developed a keen interest in the latest novelty – the bicycle. Not only was he a proud owner, but he also undertook cycle repairs for villagers in a converted workshop next to the shop.

However, when he was old enough he enlisted in the Royal Naval Air Service as a mechanic. Flying was in its infancy. It was under a decade since the first powered flight by the Wright brothers. The RNAS was the air arm of the Royal Navy. At the outbreak of war the RNAS had ninety three aircraft, six airships, and 720 personnel. The developing RNAS maintained fighter squadrons on the Western Front, undertook highly speculative bombing raids and provided useful reconnaissance, patrolling the seas for enemy ships. It was not until April 1918 that the RNAS was merged with the Royal Flying Corps to form the Royal Air Force. As far as we know, Charles was the only man from the village to enlist in the RNAS.



Continues on page 4...

Thought for the Month



As I sit in my study, looking out of the window and, enjoying the wonderful warm weather of mid-April, I am pondering over the world we live in; are we aware of what is going on and the needs of the world we live in today?

The world in which we live is a world with many problems; we face the threat of tsunamis, earthquakes, tornadoes, terrorism, ongoing conflicts, wars and many things that not only affect us personally, but affect the very fabric of our lives. The loss of a loved one, illness or the loss of a job has such a traumatic affect that we no longer see the need around us but become inward looking and self-indulgent.

Having just celebrated Easter in the midst of the bustle and busy-ness of our daily lives we once again had the opportunity to remember and celebrate all that Jesus gave for every one of us. A remarkable story of hope, and by faith in Him, that better days are yet to come.

In 2013, President Barack Obama said while encouraging the American people "to draw strength and inspiration from their Easter and Passover holidays, that Holy Week and Easter are times for reflection and renewal. The common thread of humanity is a shared commitment to loving our neighbours as ourselves and there is no better time for people to rededicate themselves to that mission."

Easter is over for another year, the children are back to school and our lives move forward; however, it is never too late to rededicate and commit ourselves to loving our neighbours as ourselves.

God Bless
Ian Herbert



There will be house-to-house collections around the village.

Bring and Buy Coffee Evening and Plant Sale
will take place 7-9pm on Monday
12th May at Wellfield House,
Spurt Street, at the home
of Charles and Angela Sanderson.

All offerings very gratefully received.

All welcome!

Gentleman's Dining Club

The Dining Club is restarting!

The first dinner will be on
Thursday 08 May 7.30pm at
the Crown, Cuddington,.

If you would like to be included e
mail philjohnsonpen@gmail.com or
telephone Phil Johnson 01844
291526

Reminder!

*Elections for the European Parliament
will be taking place on 22 May.*

If you wish to vote, you must be registered; the deadline for this is 6th May. By the time you receive this Village Voice, you won't have much time to register.

Regardless of whom you vote for, it is important and your democratic right to vote. So, go on line and download a registration form or apply to the electoral officer at AVDC.



St John Ambulance



First Aid tips – a talk and demonstration covering ..

Primary Survey, Recovery position, CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation), Heart Problems, Bleeding and Shock, Low Blood Sugar

... will be given by trainer, Fred Martin OSTJ RGN, at

**The Playing Field Clubhouse
on Tuesday 6th May at 7pm.**

There will be a small charge of £3 per person to help cover hire of the Clubhouse and a donation to St John Ambulance. This can be paid on the day.

Numbers will be limited but, at the time of print, there are still places available. To book, please ring Liz Davies on 01844 299 150

Council Jottings Letter to the Editor

Dogs

Happily, the Annual Village Meeting this year was not dominated by the subject of dog pooh. In fact, the subject did not arise! However, a walk along the bridleway along from Frog Lane, a week after the meeting, revealed that the inconsiderate lout who hurls full dog pooh bags into the hedges is at work again. About 200 metres from the start, a total of 47 bags were removed from one spot, over the hedging, on the left-hand side of the track. Not all of these bags were old and most were dark green, rather than the light green that is used in the village dispensers. It appears that this person buys bags, either to move pooh out of their garden to chuck into the countryside or picks it up on walks to drop in the same spot all the time! Contents of these bags would indicate that this is not a small dog. Would anyone seeing this idiotic person please notify any Parish Councillor of their identity and we will do all we can to ensure they are prosecuted and given a heavy fine. It really does beggar belief.



Bollards

You may have noticed that the piece of Upper Green next to the Crown now has the plastic marker posts replaced as a 'minor deterrent' to driving over the edges of the grass. The original ones were put in about ten years ago and after that time only two remained. However, they seemed to do the job. Thanks to Matt Giorgi, who had volunteered to help with the work.

Route to King's Cross

The subject of pedestrians walking on the road along Dadbrook and up to King's Cross in order to get the 280 bus to and from Aylesbury, Thame or Oxford has been discussed before. This is a very dangerous route because of the narrow road, poor visibility and speed of vehicles, as was evidenced by the accident to a villager, who badly injured his leg, when attempting to avoid being hit by a car. The feasibility of a footway was dismissed by Buck County Council, at the time, as just too expensive to build. A number of people have raised this important matter again. In order to try and make some progress, it is proposed to have a small working party to review options and lobby for action. Markus Bolton and Ken Birkby have expressed a desire to take this forward.

Would anyone interested in helping please contact Ken (292921).

Changes to Brown Bin Collections in May

If your brown bin (garden waste) is due for collection on Monday 26th May (Bank Holiday), please note that it will be collected the following Saturday 31st May. AVDC apologise for any inconvenience this may cause.



Dear Madam Editor

Do we live in the Countryside?

Today (10th April) marks the start of the council mowing campaign. Three men descended upon Cuddington's lanes, one with a sit-on mowing machine (totally unsuited to mowing steep verges), one with a strimmer and one with a rake/brush. All dressed in safety clothing and looking rather like a group of aliens about to take over the village!

Before you can say STOP, anything resembling a wild flower or the shoots of one, is GAWN. Only weeds remain, but then we learned on Monday at the Garden Club that some butterflies like nettles so that's all right – perhaps my aliens knew this and only ploughed through about 18" of the verge.

Perhaps it's only me – or does anyone else feel our country lanes should have some wild flowers growing in them - cow parsley or Queen Anne's lace as it is also known, pink campion, English bluebells and primroses to name but a few? Swathes of wild pink violets that made Spicketts Lane their home have long since been strimmed out of existence, does anybody care? There is (or was) a patch of bluebells that never reaches more than about 6" before being ceremoniously cut down.

PLEASE, if this is something that you might possibly care about, get in touch with me and let's see if we can get some "rural" back in our village lanes.

Come to think of it, actually, there is definitely somebody who must dislike Cow Parsley intensely, so much so that they have been down Spicketts Lane and weed killed most of the plants, leaving them to grow yellow and keel over and die. For heaven's sake what's all that about - WHY? Anyway, my aliens have got rid of a lot of the evidence with their strimmers!

I imagine the residents of Holly Tree Lane are also jumping up and down, but that's another episode!

Jennifer Schram de Jong 291501 and
email : jschramdejong@yahoo.co.uk



A Mechanic Returns from the War

Continued from front page...

The expertise Charles gained in this fledgling service was to set him on a new career. But this was tempered by sadness due to the death of Walter who left a widow who had also lost two brothers – Frederick and Charles Vine. The war was particularly cruel to the Vine family.

Once Charles returned safely home, he continued with his cycle business. The 'twenties saw the popularity of bicycles flourish and many were owned in Cuddington and the locality. A photograph of the opening of the village war memorial in 1920, which Charles probably attended because of his brother, shows many cycles stacked against the church wall. Charles repaired, hired and sold bicycles to villagers. Later his skill with engines was also put to new use. By 1920 he was managing a motor car repair business in a workshop in Haddenham and also providing a taxi service. Charles was one of the first people in Cuddington to own a car – an Austin Seven.



Charles was one of the first people in Cuddington to own a car – an Austin Seven.

So, Charles Horsler, like eighty other men in the village, returned home from the war safely. He had acquired a highly opportune skill as a mechanic. He also managed the family shop and developed a successful newspaper delivery business. The versatile Charles lived until 1976 and is buried in St Nicholas churchyard.

Peter Wenham



Sunshine Club News

Oklahoma Treat

Members of the Sunshine Club and their guests were treated to an afternoon at The Village Picture House in the Bernard Hall on Monday 7th April.

In memory of John and Joyce Ripley, the family had made a donation to The Sunshine Club which very adequately funded the showing of the musical 'Oklahoma', complete with ice cream during the interval and a finale of tea and cakes.

Adrian Ripley joined us and it seemed that the choice of 'Oklahoma' was very apt as it had been one of Joyce's favourite musicals and John had known all the songs, having appeared in an amateur production of the same.

Our thanks just have to go on record for the terrific co-operation from our wonderful Village Picture House.



Spring Bazaar

The sun shone in more ways than one.....with the generous support of our donors, helpers and shoppers, we were able to raise just over £380 (net). Thank you so much to one and all.

Cuddington Playing Field Association Fun Day, Dog Show & Car Boot

Cuddington Playing Field
Sunday 1 June
12 – 4pm



Bouncy Castle	BBQ	Tombola
Face Painting	Raffle	Open Bar
Welly Wanging	Tea and Cakes	
Tug O War	Model Aircraft Display	
Fun Dog Show	Car Boot Sale	
Plus many more		

For any enquires please contact Lorraine 290606

WEBALE NNYO!

Webale nnyo is Lugandan for "Thank you very much" - "nnyo" being the "very" - and I would like to add many more "nnyo's" to lots of you in Cuddington, and especially St Nicholas Church, for the tremendous amount of support, encouragement and money that you have given. It was a daunting task that Graham and myself, with our amazing fund raisers - Venetia Davies, Lucinda Masters and Jacquie Porteous (all local) - were faced with 30 months ago: £350,000 to raise in this climate of recession. In fact, Cuddington support started 15 years ago when Caroline Stonham helped to organise over 80 donated pianos landing up safely in Uganda over many years!



The wonderful news is that ALL the Appeal money is now in. Kampala Music School, well established in its new Home, can now continue expanding, making yet more difference to high quality classical and contemporary music in Uganda (traditional music being taught excellently in other institutions). All that has been ploughed into KMS will continue, well into this century.

Until KMS becomes self sufficient some financial help will continue to be needed. This includes: Bursaries for talented students who cannot pay for lessons; financial support for volunteer teachers from UK - still needed in some instruments; and help with Management salary support so that this can become more effective and efficient.

So please visit the KMS stall at the FETE on 12th July and buy unique Ugandan presents and cards. They are also always on sale in the Spinney - call any time!

Fiona Carr

*In addition, and Fiona was too modest to mention it herself, Fiona has just been awarded the honorary diploma of **Associate of the Royal Academy of Music (ARAM)** in due recognition of all the wonderful work she has done in founding and developing Kampala Music School. This distinguished award is only given to those who have made a significant contribution to the music profession - Editor*

Helen Clara Griffin - 15th February, 1928 to 8th March, 2014



Helen's wishes were well-known - her funeral was to be a traditional service based on the BCP and the King James Bible (both of which she loved) and favourite, oft-sung hymns. On 21st March, on a lovely Spring day, we joined Meg, Helen's oldest sister and her family to bid farewell to a very much loved friend - the church was full. Funerals are strange events. You are mourning the loss of a loved one and yet when at your most sad, it can be a joyous, uplifting occasion. Helen planned this for us, including the "party" afterwards!

At funerals we usually learn things about the deceased we didn't know. For example, her middle name was Clara, for me this brings Beatrix Potter to mind - Mrs Tiggy Winkle perhaps, always bustling around doing something kind for somebody. Then, from the sublime to the ridiculous. In 1945, her home was

bombed and her family moved in with their neighbours; but not Helen! Being too young to begin her training to become a Nightingale nurse, at the tender age of 17, she travelled north to work in a home for "fallen women" (whose children, being born out of wedlock, were taken away from them and given up for adoption). The home was run by the "Moral Welfare Association" - what a terrifying picture the name alone conjures up!

In 1948 she began training at St Thomas' Hospital; one of her proudest moments being to qualify and be presented with her Nightingale Badge. The rest is history, except to say she was a truly wonderful nurse, compassionate and caring to both patients and colleagues, especially the young student nurses in her care. She was "Born to Nurse". How do I know this? Because without exception, all her nursing friends said so.

Helen retired from nursing at the Western General Hospital in Edinburgh, a city she loved. On the death of her parents she moved to Cuddington, a village she already knew well, and where she entered whole heartedly into village life as her parents had done before her. Life was full and busy. Her great nursing qualities were transferred to her family and friends. There was the church where she worshipped, arranged flowers, and rang the bells. She joined the WI, rising to President. She was a "poppy lady" for over 25 years, and a Sunshine club "tea hostess" well past the age when she should have been taking tea rather than serving it - her little chats with members will be sadly missed along with her 'legendary' sausage rolls. The list of her voluntary activities goes on and on.

She adored her little house surrounded as she was by so many kind friends. Not the greatest gardener, but she did enjoy pottering in the garden her father had designed. She was a founding member of the Gardening Club, the History Society and much else besides. But, above all else, this funny, loving, generous lady just loved being surrounded by friends, and was one of life's great party givers! However, the parties her friends will remember best are those she gave at home: gentlemen in the kitchen and ladies in the sitting room all eating and drinking merrily, everyone getting gently sloshed with Helen giggling away happily. On her birthday this year, she was "At Home", holding court, enjoying herself, smiling, laughing and taking lots of unflattering photographs with her I Pad. Did I mention that she had also mastered the internet and her I Pad, constantly emailing family and friends? One friend remarked: "it's just like old times" and it was.

When the doctors told her nothing more could be done for her, she simply told us she didn't want to die in hospital and asked to go home. Her wish was granted and she arrived late on Friday night. Saturday was a beautiful spring day with the sun streaming through the open French doors through which she could see her beloved garden. She remarked on her lovely flowers and admired all her cards. We talked for a while until she grew tired and so I said goodbye and, promising to return, I left. Not long afterwards in the late afternoon, once more home safely in her little house, our dear friend left us; she is at peace.

She was fun and funny, kind to everyone, a shoulder to cry on; generous and big hearted, her lovely smile and infectious laugh, her frown when displeased (usually with politicians or the CofE). A loving, loyal friend, always there when needed. No longer will we hear her horn sounding as she drove at a snail's pace round the corner by Tyringham Hall! A friend who knew Helen's parents said it was the end of an era; there had been a Griffin in the village for over 50 years. She touched so many hearts and will be greatly missed by all of us. It still doesn't seem quite real, perhaps it never will do; I still expect her to come knocking on my door.

Dear Helen, we can weep because you have left us or we can smile because you have lived. Perhaps we will do both, but I think I know what you would want us to do! Au revoir! God Bless you and keep you safe.

THE VILLAGE PICTURE HOUSE



The Village Picture House continues to be enormously heartened by the excellent attendances for its various showings - from Shakespeare to the Six Nations and Cate Blanchett to the Kids' cinema!

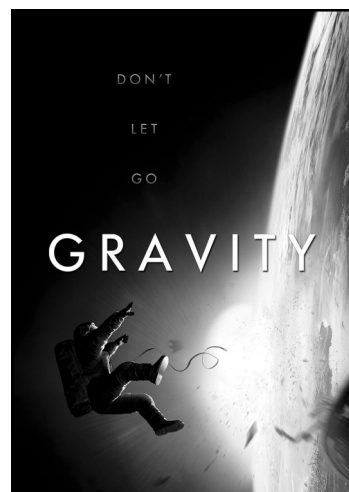
We hope very much that we are appealing to as wide a range of interests as possible but we are always happy to hear from you regarding specific requests as well as the overall format – pricing, bar, start times etc..

Please let Markus know on markusbolton@live.co.uk

In May we have National Theatre Live's *King Lear* and their Encore showing of *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time* (both of which are already sold out!). In between there is the amazing *Gravity*, with its technical effects owing so much to British expertise and production.

In June we have another Oscar-winning film, *12 Years a Slave*, and the National Theatre's *A Small Family Business* – and then there's football!

We will be giving more detail of our World Cup coverage in June's Village Voice but for now make a note that all of England's games will be shown at the Picture House – big screen, bar – and a non-partisan audience!! Depending on how all of that goes the plan is to show only key matches after that, which will naturally include the final!



Gardening Club

“Wildlife comes first in your Garden” to promote enjoyment and a feeling of well-being. This statement is the philosophy of Stuart Mabbutt, gardener and enthusiastic wildlife expert who visited the Gardening Club this month to encourage members to attract (desirable) wild life into their gardens, however big or small the plot. He recommends that your garden should contain at least some of these elements, even if just a small corner:

- Ponds/containers of water to attract frogs, newts etc
- Patches of bare soil, great for insects, bees and birds
- Bird and bat boxes which provide a warm and sheltered home
- Micro habitats as a haven for wildlife to maintain the balance of nature
- Great plant diversity for differing types of insects to assist pollination
- Nectar rich plants all year round from Mahonia in January to ivy in December
- Some dead wood : from different varieties of trees, in sun and shade
- Grasses of differing lengths to attract butterflies
- Wildflowers to attract butterflies, moths and bees
- Shrubs which produce berries for the birds

He also suggested that the community should work together to provide “green avenues” of hedges for the movement of birds and insects; also to allow one plot of the allotments to remain fallow preferably overgrown with brambles. (I'm not quite sure how the allotment owners will take to this idea!)



*Our next meeting takes place on **Monday, 19th May at 7.30 pm** when our speaker will be Brian Fisher talking on the topic **“The Uses of Climbing Plants in the Garden and Conservatory”**.*

Our late Spring Newsletter giving full details of our programme for the rest of the year can be downloaded from the Gardening Club page of the Village Web-site. If any one is interested in joining us - and we're a very friendly crowd, please contact Thelma Parry on 01844 291075.

theWI Womens' Institute

INSPIRING WOMEN

The President started the meeting with a tribute to Helen Griffin. The business was dealt with first. Caroline and Rosemary had been to the Bucks Federation Annual Council Meeting; a well attended and interesting meeting with excellent speakers. The W.I. members will be helping with teas and cakes on the Family Fun Day.

The speaker for the afternoon was Sally Mansi from Bucks Young Carers. She told us of the numbers of Young Carers known to them, the range of tasks they undertake and the problems they face.



**Guest speaker
Sally Mansi of Bucks
Young Carers**

She drew attention to the unknown numbers of Young Carers that the authorities are not aware of. Sally then spoke of the work they do with the Young Carers giving them some social life, respite breaks and support. Sally was warmly thanked by Joyce Parry and the discussion and questions continued over cups of tea.

Peggy Hampshire, 6th December 1915 - 22nd March 2014

On Thursday 3rd April a service was held in the Methodist Church Cuddington for Mrs Hampshire who had been a member since 1995.

Known as Mrs Hampshire to many people in the village, but Peggy to those of us who had that privilege, we came together to thank God for her long life. When she first came to Cuddington she lived opposite the Crown. She then moved to the bungalow in Bernard Close where she nursed her husband until he died. She remained there and had her wish to die there.

She had attended the Baptist Church until one night in 1995 one of the Wychert walls collapsed, making the Church unsafe and it had to be pulled down. She came to the Methodist Church that year and was a faithful member until her death.

If we asked her to choose a hymn it was always "What a friend we have in Jesus." She loved the old hymns like 'Turn your eyes upon Jesus' and 'Trust and obey'. When the Church was renovated she wanted to know what progress had been made. She was pleased with all the changes and told others what was happening. She was amused when the scaffolding tower was decorated with Christmas tree branches and lights!! Peggy shared it all with us.

Betty Blake of the Women's Fellowship commented: Peggy never missed any of our midweek meetings, rain or shine, and would bring her friends along. She particularly enjoyed our regular speakers, like Mr Harold Puttick who would bring his violin, and Rev. Andy Bryer. She was tickled pink one afternoon when he turned up in full cycling gear to illustrate his talk! With encouragement Peggy would talk about her younger days when she worked in Aylesbury and sometimes told us about strange or humorous events. Her memory did not fail her and she always remembered to enquire about people. She will be sadly missed.

Carole and David Jones, Peggy's neighbours were the family she didn't have. It was special to her to spend Christmas with the extended family. She was so grateful for all their support and friendship and she loved the children and grandchildren. After she had her fall and had to be hospitalised their help made it possible for her to live at home again. Along with other neighbours they were able to make changes in the house that made life easier for her and arranged Carers who looked after her so well to the end.

Carole told us that she loved the Carol Concert in the Social club and knew the words to all the Carols off by heart. Jill Royston, a friend, recounts: - I know how much she enjoyed it, especially when the children contributed. It was one of the highlights of her year along with Sunshine club outings. She always had a lot to tell the following Sunday and if the trip had been to the Seaside we would all receive a stick of rock!!

Children were a joy to her. Carole Jones' daughter Wendy who is a teacher had invited Peggy to speak to her class about her life. She very happily shared how she had gone into service when she was 14 as Assistant to the Cook's Assistant - very low down the pecking order. When the children asked how much she earned she told them that she didn't know as the money went directly to her Mother! Just imagine that happening today! The children were fascinated with her talk as she shared that she had worked in a factory in Aylesbury making parts for Spitfires. She loved answering their questions. We had no idea that she had done this talk only recently. Peggy was a very independent lady and had her own opinions on various topics and could speak her mind!! We shall miss her at the services as she had planned to come back when we altered the clocks. Now clocks don't matter to her anymore!

Trip Of A Lifetime!



Hi, we are trying to raise money for a World Challenge School trip to Ecuador and the Galapagos Islands in the summer of 2015. The trip costs £4995 each and, as there are two of us, we need to do some hefty fundraising. If there are any jobs such as walking the dog or babysitting etc., please consider us to help out, or donations would be much appreciated, or if you are a company and would be happy to sponsor us (i.e. pay for flights, etc.), we can advertise your company on a t-shirt whilst on World Challenge. We are also doing a triathlon to try and raise money. Sponsorship forms will be in the hairdresser in the village (Aunty Denise)

Contact us on 01844 291593

Many thanks, Elle Bennetts (Year 11) and George Bennetts (Year 10), Waddesdon Church of England School.



Wild West Fête - July 12th

Wanted - Baskets and items for the basket tombola, nearly new clothing, soft toys & games, bottles & long life food (in date for July 12th), crockery, bric-a-brac and YOU to help us!

Donations to Denise's and Cuddington Stores, offers of help, please, to Sheriff Galpin on 07709 411098

Captain Phillips - Insights at the Village Picture House

Recently shown at the Village Picture House, was this enthralling, suspense filled and action packed film about the reality of modern day Somali piracy and the risk taken by today's merchant sailors. The experience was greatly enhanced by the presence of one of the camera crew (Ollie Driscoll), who was able to give a rare insight into the making of this award winning film (BAFTA for Best Supporting Actor). This was a sold-out performance of Paul Greengrass's latest documentary style blockbuster – a genre for which he is famous.

It was complemented by a Q & A with Ollie both before and after the showing, where we learnt that Ollie spent three weeks in a lifeboat, which seemed to be on the ocean, but in reality was in a studio off the M3!

As usual the event at the Village Picture House was a great success, and we look forward to future features, especially those which may have unique insights from cast or crew.



BURMA FORCES WELFARE ASSOCIATION (BFWA) CELEBRATES 20 YEARS AT THE SPEAKERS APARTMENT IN WESTMINSTER

Sherry Scott of Tyringham Hall, Cuddington has been associated with the charity BFWA for twenty years. As Chairwoman, in April each year, she posts invitations to join her for the annual Burma lunch, held in the gardens of Tyringham Hall on the second Sunday in July, the day after the Cuddington fete. 250 people enjoy a Burmese curry prepared by a Burmese London chef. It helps raise money that is distributed to the remaining old Burmese soldiers who fought along side our own brave men against the Japanese during World War Two. These poor old soldiers have been ignored by the Burmese authorities and successive UK governments. Sherry visits Burma each year to put the money in the hand of each of the remaining 900 veterans or their widows. For the majority of the old men the BFWA money is the only funding they have.



John Bercow addresses the guests

In recognition of her work she was awarded the MBE three years ago. To celebrate the charity's 20 years the Speaker of the House, John Bercow, offered Sherry the Speaker's Apartments as a venue to entertain those who have supported her charity over the years. In the evening of the 12th March this year 150 people were ushered through the security at the House of Commons to the Speaker's sumptuous apartments for canapés and wine. Among the 150 guests were John Bercow, Viscount Slim (the BFWA patron) MPs from all parties, and a number of show business celebrities. After chatting with Sherry, the celebrities approached John Bercow to ask if he would allow them and other well known faces the use of the Speaker's Apartments for a fun night to raise money for Burma. Sherry's delighted to say it's in the planning stage

During their speeches, John Bercow, Viscount Slim and Sherry, gave an update of the Burmese situation. Sherry explained how the donations had been spent and why the direction the BFWA is taking would have to change as the number of old soldiers and widows become less. Helping the children of the Burmese veterans with health education and an electricity

supply will be the next step. Many youngsters are dying after suffering a drug overdose because there is no support or help for them.

Dr Michael Marett- Crosby is Aung San Suu Kyi's right hand man, controlling her charitable funding. After talks with Sherry he was impressed with the BFWA operation and its hands on approach. He wants to use the BFWA (to by pass the loops of red tape) for smaller projects that will help build a future for the forgotten children. He and Sherry have a common goal to raise the awareness of the poor of Burma and to win as many donations as possible.

Telephone 01844 291 526 or e mail philjohnsonpen@gmail.com if you would like to be included on the lunch mailing list. It will be held on the 13th July this year beginning at 12.30 for a pre lunch Pimm's in the gardens. Between 1.30 and 2.00 o'clock a Burmese curry is served with wine, followed by Tyringham desserts then cheese and coffee. You can drink and eat as much as you wish. We dine in the shade of a large marquee and after lunch there is an auction, live music, and dancing on the lawns. Sherry and Phil look forward to welcoming you all in July.

Poetry Writing Competition

The Revd. Eric Chamberlain 1934-2014

Although the standard was high, we only received three entries; all on the theme of My Favourite Animal. Peggy Cattell, our former editor, has judged them, and she has decided that Eddie Skold's 'Red Crab' is the overall winner – he receives a £10 book token. And Kai Terry and Harry Collins with their poems about The Viper, and Pat the Cat are runners-up, each receiving a £5 book token.

Red Crab

Red crab on the sand
I hope it doesn't bite my hand!
Red crab in the sea
Will you please listen to me!
Red crab sideways walking
Watch out crab I'm stalking
Red crab in my net
You are perfect to go in my cooking set

Eddie Skold, Year 1

The viper snake
Slithering and slimy,
Shedding its skin.
Pouncing on its prey,
Eating a wood frog.
Looking like a tangled wire.
I am a snake slithering
down the plughole!

Kai Terry, Year 1.

I have a cat called Pat
He sat on the mat
He jumped on me – ouch!
He jumped off me.
That silly old cat!

Harry Collins, Year 2.

On Thursday, April 24th 16 members of St Nicholas Church attended the funeral service for Eric Chamberlain.

This took place in the Parish Church of Elsenham in Essex where he and his wife Chris had settled in 2011 after his retirement as Assistant Minister in Cuddington.

Many people have fond memories of their ministry in the village: his lively family services were particularly appreciated. One of his innovations, which has continued, is an annual outdoor service which takes place at several points in the village.

He is remembered with affection not only by church goers but also by other members of the village.

An obituary, which will include memories from members of the village, will appear in June's Village Voice.

Cuddington Stores - John & Elaine are pleased to announce that we can now take card payments. MasterCard, Visa, Diners Club and many others are accepted. Transactions of £10 and over are free. Due to terminal and processing costs there is a 30p charge for transactions below £10.

Dates for your Diary

*"Loveliest of trees, the cherry now
Is hung with bloom along the bough."
A.E. Housman 1859-1936*



May

Thursday 1 st 7.00pm	King Lear – NT Live 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 - AGM
Saturday 10 th	Annual school Ball
Monday 12 th 7.00pm	Christian Aid Plant Sale at Wellfield House, Spurt Street
Tuesday 13 th 2.30pm	Resolutions meeting
Thursday 15 th 8.00pm	Gravity – Village Picture House
Saturday 10 th 9.30am	Open morning at School (see page xx)
Monday 19 th 7.30pm	Gardening Club – Brian Fisher "Climbing Plants"
Thursday 22 nd 9.15am	Infant school May dancing around the village
Friday 23 rd 7.00pm	The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time NT Live at the Village Picture House
Saturday 31 st 8.00 pm	Bingo in the Playing Fields Club

June

Wednesday 4 th 7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting
Thursday 5 th 8.00pm	12 Years a Slave – Village Picture House
Tuesday 10 th 2.30pm	The Streetlight Trust, Rev. Ian Herbert
Thursday 12 th 7.00pm	A Small Family Business - NT Live at the Village Picture House
Wednesday 11 th 2.00pm	The Old Rectory Gardens open for Scannappeal
Saturday 28 th 8.00pm	Bingo in the Playing Fields Club

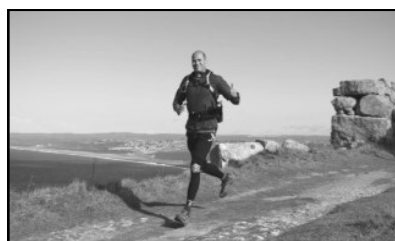
Marc Acheson Completes Jurassic Challenge

In March, Marc Acheson of Bernard Close competed against 200 runners over three consecutive days by running three off-road marathons in a row on the Jurassic Coast in Dorset. Marc was raising funds for Macmillan Cancer Care and the Florence Nightingale Hospice - if you are inspired to donate, you can visit Marc Acheson's page through www.virginmoneygiving.com

Day 1 (27 miles) was an eye opener – I managed to get lost twice, fell over (spectacularly!) into a briar bush once, ran in sun, wind and punishing hailstones across some very boggy terrain for 5h 56 minutes and covered 28 miles. I finished 100th out of 200 with 6 non-finishers. The winner (who passed me early on) on only took 3h50!

Day 2 (28 miles) the first half felt surprisingly great! The final 10 miles were horrible....First the recent storms and tidal surges had meant the path that we should have been running on for 4 miles was now a shingle beach...I tried running on it but spent as much time going sideways as I did going forwards. Eventually, I crested the final hill by Lulworth Cove and hobbled down to the finish in 6h 20 after 28 miles and I finished in 74th out of 200 with 16 non finishers for that day.

Day 3 (30 miles) was always going to be a challenge – yet I still felt pretty good providing I didn't have to lift my right leg off the floor to climb up or down steps, or go over stiles I was going to be just fine.



My wife, Claire, kept popping up on the course too shouting encouragement and spurring me on. You always feel you have to keep on running when someone has taken the time to come watch – no matter how much it hurts! I finished day 3 in 6h 52 finishing 79th out of 168 including 6 non-finishers.

Weather

March was very mild with some good spells of sunshine - rainfall was below average. However, with an overall monthly temperature of 7.8 deg C (46F), the long term average is 6.4 deg C, 44F), it was not as warm as March 2012 (8.2 deg C, 47F).

Daytime maximum air temperatures in March averaged 12.7 deg Celsius (55F); the long term average is 10.8 deg Celsius (51F). Night time air minimum temperatures averaged 2.9 deg Celsius (37F); the long term average is 2.1 deg Celsius (36F).

The actual highest day time air maxima occurred on the 30th (19.5 deg C, 67F) and the lowest on the 3rd (8.2 deg C, 47F). The actual highest night time air minima occurred on the 31st (9.4 deg C, 49F) and the lowest on the 24th (minus 3.0 deg C, 27F). The lowest temperature just above the grass occurred at this time (minus 7.6 deg C, 19F).

March's bright sunshine totalled 121.4 hours, around 10% above average – the long term average is 111 hours.

Total precipitation for the month was a little below average with 32.7 mm (1.29 in) the 15 year average is 38.4 mm (1.44 in). March 2012 was much drier with 23.5mm (0.93 in).

Sky Notes: This month (May) is the turn of the ringed planet Saturn to reach it closest to Earth. On May 10th the planet will be a mere 819 million miles (1321 million kilometres) from us. Even a casual glance through a small telescope will instantly reveal its magnificent system of rings. Saturn reaches its highest in the sky (low down in the south) between midnight and 1 am and appears as a conspicuous, non-twinkling star. At this time its elevation above the horizon will then be about one quarter of the way from the horizon to the overhead point. On the evening of the 14th the moon will be an excellent marker to locate Saturn with it appearing just above and to the right of the moon in the sky.

The NASA space probe Cassini, which has been in orbit around Saturn since 2004, recently discovered for the first time what could well be a moonlet in the process of being 'born' out of Saturn's rings. If this discovery is confirmed it will add to the planets 62 known moons'.

Sean Clarke



We are going to be holding an "Open Morning" on Saturday 10th May, 9.30 – 11.00am when we would be delighted to welcome any parishioner to come into school on the Infant site to look at our plans for developing the site. Do please drop in and see us and you will also be able to see something of what the children do as well.

Many of you will, I know, have concerns about how children get exposed to various aspects of the internet and social media. We have been running a very successful series of meetings involving children and parents from both sites on the whole area of E-Safety and we will continue to keep abreast of the issues.



Our runners did very well at the recent Haddenham area School Sports Partnership cross-country event; the conditions were fine and all our participants put up terrific performances, coming away with a number of 1st and 2nd place medals.

We have encouraged the children to enter the exciting new Village Voice writing competition and hope very much that there are plenty of entrants!



Next term we look forward to welcoming Mrs Kathy Chaplin as our new School Administrator; she comes with a great deal of experience of Primary schools and I know that the village will make her very welcome.

Please do join us on Thursday 22nd May from 9.15am when the infants will be performing their May dancing around the village both at the Lower Green and then Bernard Close. The children will be handing out posies and it would be lovely to see as many villagers as possible!

Mrs Kim Price

Greener Cuddington

The Cuddington Vertebrate Watch on Saturday May 17th and Sunday May 18th 2014



In May of the past three years we have carried out a successful Garden Vertebrate Watch during which people spent an hour looking out for mammals, birds, reptiles and amphibians in their gardens, or on a piece of open ground nearby. We are building up a picture of Cuddington wildlife over the years and you can see those for previous years on the Cuddington Website at <http://www.cuddingtonvillage.com/view-page.php?pid=81>.



A Peacock butterfly amid blackthorn blossom

Numbers were somewhat down in number last year, so the picture is not clear regarding trends in numbers of birds, so *please do take part as the more that do so, the better the picture that we can build.*

Forms are enclosed in this Village Voice so that you can record what you see as accurately as possible, and when you have returned them, the data will be added to increase the accuracy of our picture.

Save The River Thame

The River Thame is in a poor condition owing largely to pollution, which derives mostly from output from the various sewage works, the largest of which is at Raban's Lane in Aylesbury. I reported the death of most of the fish and all of the dragonflies along the river last summer, and it seems that this was caused by material from sewage treatment plants. I believe that our entire community plays their part in this, not only by producing or spreading the materials that pollute the river, but also because the bodies charged with looking after the river don't see it as being important to the community.

The Environment Agency tell me that, if Thames Water know that the community is concerned and interested, they are ready to engage with them and the result can be a great improvement in catchment water quality.

I have been gathering support for a campaign to achieve a great improvement in the Thame water quality and wildlife, and can report that your Parish, AVDC and County Councillors are on board as is your M.P., John Bercow. We are working to gather all the stake holders together to hammer out a solution so that the entire catchment water quality and biodiversity improve and then stay better. A Cuddington resident informed me that she used to carry out monitoring of the Thame water quality for the water company, but this was abandoned many years ago, so things used to be done properly and should be again. You can see the effects of the dirty water down at Cuddington Mill, where there are discoloured bands around the river banks, and the river is cloudy greyish in colour.

If you would like to be involved with Save The River Thame, do contact me:

Doug Kennedy - doug@doug-kennedy.com

Services at St. Nicholas

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

May 2014

- | | | |
|------|----------|---|
| 4th | 10.00 am | HOLY COMMUNION
<i>A modern Communion Service with hymns. The children go to "Sunday Special" for part of the service</i> |
| 11th | 10.00 am | FAMILY SERVICE
<i>A service for all ages, including lively hymns, with the involvement of young musicians and occasional drama.</i> |
| 18th | 10.00 am | HOLY COMMUNION
<i>A less formal modern Communion Service with hymns. The children go to Sunday Special for part of the Service</i> |
| 25th | 10.00 am | MORNING WORSHIP
<i>A service of worship and the word, with a mixture of traditional and modern hymns. The children go straight to Chatabox and the Grid in the Bernard Hall at 9.50 a.m.</i> |
| | 11.15 am | HOLY COMMUNION
<i>A communion service with hymns, according to the Book of Common Prayer.</i> |

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