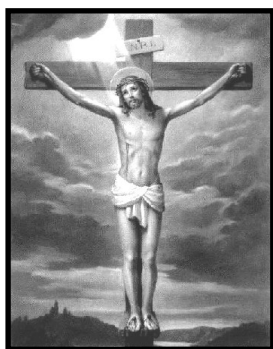


VILLAGE CUDDINGTON VOICE



**March
2015**

**VOLUME
EIGHTEEN**



Faith in Action: Does Christian Faith make a real difference?

A Lent course - five sessions in St Nicholas Church, 7.45pm to 9.30pm Monday evenings from Monday 23rd February. Talks by the Venerable Gordon Kuhrt. See page 2 for more details....

Easter Services: Good Friday 2pm 'An Hour at the Cross'; Easter Sunday 10am Holy Communion; Easter Monday 1.30pm The Easter Story - An Astro Panto

Mothering Sunday - 15th March



Please join us for a special all age service in St Nicholas church at 10 am on Sunday 15th March to celebrate Mothering Sunday.

Bernard Hall AGM - 24th March

The Bernard Hall AGM will be held on Tuesday 24th March at 8pm in the Bernard Hall.

After the AGM Markus Bolton will give us the latest news and chair a discussion on the **Village Picture House.**

After a really successful 18 months with over 3,000 attendances, we are now planning the next phases and we would like to hear your comments.

So come and join us and let us know what films you would like to see or any suggestions you might have regarding our film club.



Sunshine Club Matinee - 23rd March

We were delighted that our January pilot showing of 'South Pacific' ran to a full house with our audience arriving not only from Cuddington but also from several neighbouring villages.

Spurred on by this wonderful audience support, the terrific co-operation of The Village Picture House and a Prevention Matters

grant from the Buckinghamshire Community Fund, we are looking forward to screening 'The King & I' (133mins) starring Yul Brynner, Deborah Kerr and Rita Moreno on Monday 23rd March at 1.30pm (doors open 1pm).

The popularity of our January film has prompted us to arrange a booking system. Tickets, which include tea and homemade cake at the interval, are priced £5/£4 conc and are available from Liz Davies 01844 299 150.



Deborah Kerr and Yul Brynner star in The King & I

Lil Tomes 1918-2015

On 16th February St Nicholas Church was filled with Lil's family and friends who had all come to remember her.

For 72 years she had worshipped in Cuddington and will be much missed by everyone who knew her, whether as Church Warden, Brown Owl, mother, grandmother, or friend.

For further details, see page 4....

Thought for the Month



Nigel Featherston writes...

Dear Friends

Sometimes the world seems very topsy-turvy; for example, I am writing this to you in mid February and have just returned from a conference in Scotland, which had no snow on the ground, to Buckinghamshire where, I am reliably informed, you had a good snowfall whilst I was away. Not enough though for a snowman, perhaps this year the winter will be kind to us again.

I remember when we lived in a small village in Suffolk in the early 1990s that we were virtually cut off by heavy snow for a day or two which fortunately occurred before the lambing time so no harm done and my eldest son, Anthony who was five then had a lovely time tobogganing up and down the lane beside our cottage.

Joy is going back to that village this week to stay a couple of nights with an old friend of our there and no doubt they will have a great time walking along the beach at Dunwich and having mugs of hot chocolate up in the NT Café at the Coastguards Cottages. I must admit to a hankering for that myself but work beckons.....

The village church there has a beautiful old painted screen dividing the Nave (the main body of the church) from the Chancel (leading up to the Altar), it is a great place to sit in quiet and reflect on life whilst taking in the rich but faded colours, the stillness of the building and the sounds of birdsong in the country churchyard outside. Another favourite spot for reflection is the garden of the local Queens Head Pub which backs onto the churchyard and is located remarkably conveniently opposite the old cottage we used to live in, happy days...oh and did I mention we only had two very young boys then!

We are of course richly blessed with a wonderful old church in St Nicholas, Cuddington. It was the sense of centuries of prayer and devotion and warm welcome that I and my family found when we joined the congregation that has made such a profound change to my life. We may still fondly remember our time in Suffolk but we have without doubt found a home at St Nicholas.

I invite you all to experience the warmth and welcome to be found there and to feel God's love for you in that special place

With every blessing.

Nigel

Faith in Action Does Christian Faith make a real difference?

Five sessions to be held in
St Nicholas Church on
Monday evenings,
starting on February 23rd.

Each evening will start with coffee
from 7.45pm and end at 9.30 pm

There will be a talk by the
Venerable Gordon Kuhrt
followed by discussion in groups

Please contact Graham Carr at
grahamandfiona@hotmail.com
or phone 290000 to book a place

Banner Group - Needleworkers

Following the completion of our Dove for Peace banner, we have had a few months' rest.

Now we are back together again, this time working on a banner which we hope will be ready for Pentecost towards the end of May. One or two of our number are now unable to come to our sewing sessions, so we would welcome new members – basic sewing skills would be helpful!

We meet on alternate
Wednesdays, 7.30 to
9.00pm at Rosemary
Bradbury's house in
Lower Church Street.

More details are available
from Angela Sanderson,
01844 291626



BECOME A PARISH COUNCILLOR!

We all know Cuddington is a wonderful village. Home to approximately 550 parishioners, it boasts some incredible facilities for a village of its size. We have gained regular success in 'Best-kept Village' and 'Britain in Bloom' competitions.

*The next Parish Council elections for Cuddington will be combined with the General Election on **Thursday 7th May 2015**. By standing as a Parish Councillor candidate, you could have an opportunity to make a real difference to the vibrancy, appearance and facilities of Cuddington.*

Independent of AVDC and BCC, Cuddington Parish Council provides services at a village level; representing its electors in the parish ward. The Council is funded by the precept (raised as part of Council Tax) and takes responsibility for a range of local matters and community needs which include, amongst others, the following:

- Maintenance of parish land including the village greens*
- Provision of recreational facilities – including the children's playground and boules pitch*
- Provision and maintenance of the two bus shelters*
- Care of the environment through litter and dog control*
- Oversight of the repair and maintenance of highways including footpaths and bridleways*
- Repair and maintenance of the war memorial*
- Protection of the 'Assets of Community Value'*
- Review of planning applications*



The proposed devolution of a range of services by BCC will only increase these responsibilities.

As well as Councillors working together as a team, some councillors participate in committees or working groups such as the Website Working Group and the Footpath Working Group.

Meetings are held on the first Wednesday of the month (at 7.30pm in the Cuddington site of Cuddington and Dinton School) and generally last no more than two hours. The AGM takes place every May. Every meeting is a public meeting with an opportunity for parishioners to raise concerns or ask questions during Parishioners' Question Time at the beginning of each meeting. Councillors are given support in performing their duties from the Parish Council Clerk. Training is also available to new Councillors through organisations such as Buckinghamshire Association of Local Councils.

To become a Councillor you must be over 18 and a British national or qualifying citizen of the Commonwealth or the European Community. To stand for an election of Cuddington Parish Council you must be an elector of the parish or; for the whole of the previous 12 months have occupied (as owner or tenant) land or other premises in the parish, or; during the previous 12 months have worked in the parish (as your principal or only place of work), or; for the whole of the previous 12 months lived in the parish or within three miles of the parish boundary.

Being a Councillor is a rewarding role that provides a great sense of achievement. If you would like more information please get in contact with our Clerk at venetia.davies@talktalk.net. Or tel 01844 201899

Annual Village Meeting

SAVE THE DATE!

The Annual Village Meeting will take place in the Bernard Hall on **Weds 22nd April**.

Please put this date in your diary and come along. Discussions can be on any subject. More details will follow in next month's issue.

CUDDINGTON STORES EASTER OPENING HOURS

Good Friday	8.30am - 12.30pm
Saturday	8am - 5.30pm
Easter Sunday	8.30am - 12.30pm
Bank Holiday Monday	8.30am - 12.30pm

Lil Tomes (1918-2015)

Lil came to Cuddington when she married in the early 1940's and moved to Ridgebarn Farm. She immediately became very active in the village. She taught in the village school, and with her husband Ron, she joined Cuddington Amateur Theatrical Society where her skills as an actress were greatly appreciated.

She was 'Brown Owl' and always maintained a keen interest in the Guides and Brownies. She became a very helpful member of the Sunshine Club, enjoying their Monthly meetings and numerous outings.

Lil worshipped in St. Nicholas for 72 years and became a very important member entering enthusiastically into all its activities. She appreciated the Mothers' Union and then in the 1970's she joined the first of the home groups and continued as a helpful and thoughtful member of one of these groups until her health was no longer good enough. She was a great support to her husband Ron when he was church warden and after his death in 1981 took on that role herself and continued for some years.

St. Nicholas was crowded when nearly 200 came to her funeral on February 16th. Members of her family spoke appreciatively of her as mother, mother-in-law, grandmother and great-grandmother. One of her 'adopted' daughters' also spoke. When she was a young lonely nurse at Stoke Mandeville she had found a warm welcome at the farm as had so many others whom Lil and Ron made part of their family at different times. .

Above all Lil will be missed for her wise counsel, support and encouragement which were sought by many (teen-agers and others) . She endeared herself to everyone but particularly to young people who appreciated the love and interest she showed in them. Her tremendous faith was shown in her insistence that no-one was to wear black for her funeral because it was to be a time of rejoicing that she had gone to a 'better place'



The topic for the talk at the W.I.'s February meeting, given by Mrs. Tina Burntsill, was 'Thames Valley and Chiltern Air Ambulances'. This local branch covers Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire..

The helicopters are stationed at Benson and a crew of four, a pilot, a doctor, and two paramedics, are on call for twelve hours a day.



Immediately the decision has been made that a casualty in urgent need of hospital treatment the helicopter takes to the air and having quickly reached the scene of the accident conveys the victim in the quickest possible way to the appropriate hospital.

Members were appalled to hear that this magnificent service, which costs over £3million a year, receives no grant from either the government or other sources. However the speaker -herself a member of the wonderfully efficient fundraising scheme --pointed out that they might otherwise lose their independence and might have to suffer cuts in their invaluable service.

In her vote of thanks Rosemary Bradbury spoke appreciatively of Mrs. Burntsill's thorough and interesting account of this very worthwhile service.



Village Shop 100 Years Ago

Cuddington village shop had been established by Tom Munday in 1884. The premises in Upper Church Street were well placed, occupying a central position in the village. They were not purpose-built, but adapted from an existing dwelling.

Tom and his wife, Martha, had a family of seven - three daughters and four sons. Two of their sons, Percy and Walter, worked in the business. Percy kept the accounts as well as working in the butchery and he and his brother took over the business when Tom died in 1923.

An undated testimonial Tom wrote for his youngest son, Arthur, probably in 1913, gives us an insight into the butchery business. "This is to certify that my son, Arthur, is a competent and skilled slaughterman and butcher, who can kill and dress beasts, sheep, pigs and poultry and is expert in cutting up. He thoroughly knows the business from A to Z..." Even allowing for parental bias, it seems that Arthur, only in his early teens, had learned much from his father and brothers and at this stage was seeking employment elsewhere. Sadly Arthur did not live to further his career as he died of wounds in Flanders in 1917. However, the butchery prospered and when Jack, Walter's son took over in the 1950s, it was thriving.

Meat was sold in the shop a century ago. It was only in Jack's time that a separate butchery was set up where Denise hairdresser's is located today. Animals were slaughtered in the yard which is still there today alongside the shop. Most of them had been reared on the family farm in Lower End, off Frog Lane. The beast to be slaughtered was usually led through the village by a placid cow into the yard and the gates closed. Passers-by, especially children, were fascinated to see blood seeping under the gate into Upper Church Street.

Continued on page 5....

You are invited to **An Easter Monday Party** that promises to be Out of this World!!

Last year you saw Knights (you may remember David Cumberbatch as Sir Singalot and Richard Winnicot as a very green dragon)...

The year before you saw pirates (starring Graham Carr as the crocodile and Angus Goodson as Fireman Pam) ...

This year will be Astronauts and Aliens as the dads of the Village (in collaboration with St Nicholas Church) perform **'The Easter Story'** as told through the medium of pantomime.

If you don't believe it can be done, come, and feast your eyes on the dazzling performance of:



'An Astro Panto' as part of the Easter Monday Party in St Nicholas Church, Cuddington.

Doors open at 10.30am on Bank holiday Monday 6th April.

The performance will be followed by a traditional Easter Egg Hunt, refreshments and party games.

The pantomime is aimed at school age children and adults who are young at heart, but all are welcome!

Fancy dress is optional: We recommend aliens, astronauts and star wars costumes!



The Munday Family at Work in the Village Shop a Century Ago



William 'Sluggo' Dunkin who worked in the butchery, outside the shop

Continued from page 4....

The calm cow, its job done, would walk back to the Munday farm alone. It was not only cattle that were killed. Most weeks two pigs, two sheep and several chickens were also slaughtered. Sometimes after a pig was killed and its bristles burnt off, its toe nails were thrown over the gate for children to eat. Carcasses were hung on display in front of the shop and there was a chopping table for the meat to be cut up for customers.

Whilst the butchery was the province of the men of the family, the grocery was the responsibility of Munday women. Tom's daughter, Edith, managed it. Edith had a brisk and business-like manner and was shrewd and practical. She made deliveries round the village in a pony and trap and was assisted by her mother and by Ethel, Walter's wife.

However, there was no Post Office in the shop a century ago. There were indeed other shops as well as the Munday business in Cuddington, which will be highlighted in the next article.

Peter Wenham

THE VILLAGE PICTURE HOUSE



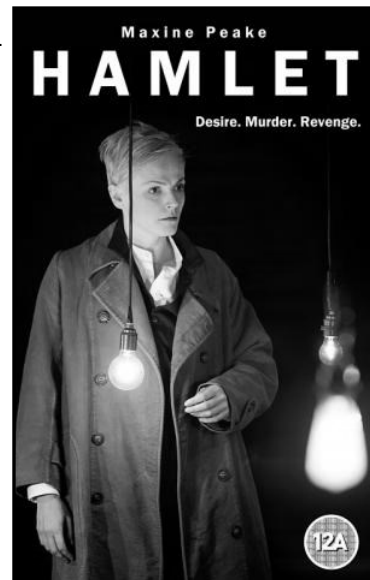
Live theatre screenings feature strongly in the programme for March at the Village Picture House.

Behind the Beautiful Forevers on 12th March stars Meera Syal in a tumultuous National Theatre production about the struggles of the slum dwellers of Mumbai. Following its sell-out run at Manchester's Royal Exchange Theatre, *Hamlet* on 23rd March is a stripped-back, fresh and fast-paced version of Shakespeare's tragic play starring Maxine Peake (*Silk, The Village*) in the title role. On 26th March, don't miss a stellar cast led by Mark Strong in the Young Vic's "magnetic, electrifying, astonishingly bold" production of Arthur Miller's *A View from the Bridge* – the *Evening Standard*, *Guardian* and *Independent*'s top theatre pick of 2014.

In complete contrast, we invite you to come and watch England's games in the RBS Six Nations rugby championship live on the big screen. On 1st, 14th and 21st March England plays Ireland, Scotland and France respectively. Admission is just £3 on the door and accompanied children come free.

Mr. Turner, the beautiful and untold story of the great painter J.M.W. Turner from acclaimed director Mike Leigh, is our film for 2nd April. "Timothy Spall gives the finest performance of his career to date", says *The Daily Telegraph*. On 23rd April we'll be screening *Paddington*, the hilarious misadventures of the marmalade-loving bear from Peru, with a stellar cast including Hugh Bonneville, Julie Walters, Jim Broadbent, Peter Capaldi and Nicole Kidman.

Looking further ahead, we'll be showing *The Imitation Game* (Benedict Cumberbatch as the WW2 code-breaker Alan Turing), *The Theory of Everything* (BAFTA-winning Eddie Redmayne as Stephen Hawking in the love story about the famous physicist and his first wife) and *Leviathan* (a beautiful, award-winning Russian film about a land ownership dispute). Visit the web page for more details: www.cuddingtonvillage.com/cinema



Free Holiday Playtime!

Friday 10th April from 2pm

There will be a free playtime on the Village Playing fields including bouncy castle, face painting and a selection of outdoor toys/sports equipment.

This event is sponsored by the parish council. Please come along and enjoy the fun!

The clubhouse will be open for refreshments and facilities.



Our Community Library

Opening Hours

Tues, Thurs, Fri 9-5
Sat 9.30-1

We will be closed on Good Friday (3rd April)

Regular Events

Tues: Knit & Natter 10-12, Storytime 2.30
Thurs: Spinning Group 10-12
Fri: Tablet taster sessions (advanced booking required)
Sat: Lego Club 10-12, Children's Craft 10.30-12

News/Upcoming Events

Another set of free Children's Knitting Classes will be starting on 10th Apr for 5 weeks- suitable for ages 7+.

Book in the library, but hurry- as spaces fill up fast!

There will be an Easter Egg decorating competition on Saturday 4th April, judged by author Steve Cole. Please ask in the library for more details.



**Haddenham
Community
Library**



At the **Annual General Meeting** held on 9th February, Chairman Elsie Frost was pleased to report that the Gardening Club had enjoyed another successful year with meetings and events well-supported by a strong membership.

There followed a talk on Coton Manor Gardens, very enthusiastically delivered by Caroline Tait, a garden designer who also managed the nurseries at Coton. She described the ethos of the garden which has been developed since 1925 by three successive generations of the present owners. It encloses a series of smaller gardens within a framework of clipped evergreens which provide interest and variety through the seasons. There are deep herbaceous borders, a dry gravel garden, a wildflower meadow and a colourful display of pelargoniums. Beyond the garden there is a 5 acre beech wood under planted with English bluebells - the perfume is wonderful!

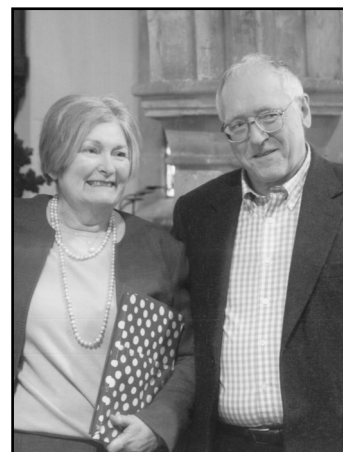


Sixteen members braved the February chill to visit **Sue Bedwell's garden in Blethingdon**, Oxfordshire to view her collection of snowdrops, some of which are very expensive - recently retired men have been struck by "galanthomania"; apparently prices on e-bay can reach £1,000 per bulb for some rare varieties! Sue's relatively

small, village garden is packed with additional winter flowering plants such as hellebores, the early irises, aconites and scented shrubs such as daphnes and winter honeysuckle. It really does show what can be done in a small garden for year round interest.

The next meeting takes place on Monday 9th March at 7.30 pm in the playing field clubhouse when Peter Sheasby will be showing slides of the "**Flowers of Turkey**". Many of these plants and bulbs were brought to this country and are now widely cultivated in our gardens today. If you are interested, do come along and if you would like to join the Gardening Club, an application form can be downloaded from the village website.

Farewell to a Wonderful Couple!



Although they had already left their house in Aylesbury for their new home in Monmouthshire David and Jane Benson returned on Sunday, January 25th to join their friends in the congregation who had planned a farewell occasion for them.

David spoke at the 10 a.m. service....as in the past this was a very thoughtful and helpful talk, while Jane returned to the two organs...using in each case the one more appropriate for that service.

After the 11.15 service, thanks to the work which David had done 6 years ago, as Project Manager for the refurbishment

of the church, a small group of stalwarts were soon able to clear some of the chairs to the side and then set up tables and chairs for a friendly meal. In the meantime tables were prepared to receive the variety of appetising food brought for the 'Bring and Share' lunch.

After a very happy meal, enjoyed by all ages, David and Jane were presented with a gift from the congregation. It was hoped that the garden token and cheque would be used to remind the popular couple of the affection in which they had been held.

Continued on page 8.....

HOSANNA!

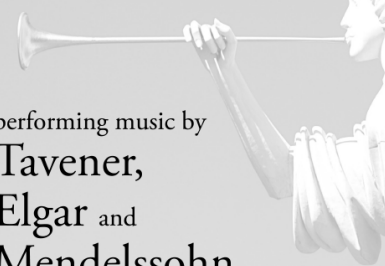


The Witchert Chorale

Conductor: David Quinn

with Golgatha Kantorei

Conductor: Martin Krüger



performing music by

Tavener,

Elgar and

Mendelssohn

and readings by Andy Hardy

St Nicholas Church, Cuddington
Saturday 28th March 7:30pm

Tickets £10 (children free) incl. interval refreshments
from "Blooming Fruity" (Haddenham)
or Myles Saker 01844 291825 (Cuddington)
or Sarah Chapman tim.sarah.chapman@btinternet.com
in aid of The Utugi Street Children Kenya Project

Cuddington - Your Landscape

Inspired by a recent Radio 4 programme, I have decided to start to get to know my landscape at Cuddington better by looking on my walks at:

- how it folds and undulates
 - what is growing or not
 - what is in the sky
 - the buildings that punctuate the landscape
- how it feels to be out in it at different points and times of day and seasons and weather

Knowing your landscape will give you a deeper appreciation of your surroundings and therefore a deeper pleasure in them.

You can walk across the fields – see last month's edition, or around the village.

You can record your thoughts and feelings in your mind, by drawing or painting or photography.

Directly from the village there are 8 separate footpaths each in a different direction including to:

Haddenham, Chearsley (if not flooded) and Long Crendon, Nether Winchendon and Ashendon, Upper Winchendon and Waddesdon Manor, Eythrop and Gibraltar and Dinton.

Enjoy your walking and knowing your landscape.

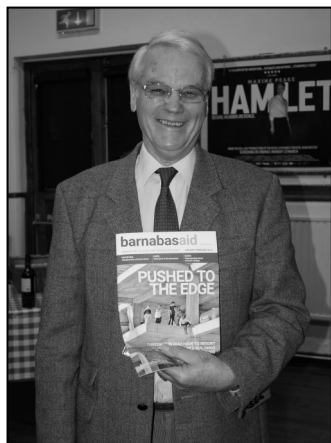
Alan Marsh – alan@rosetree40.plus.com



Parish Supper



After an excellent meal, provided by the ever-reliable catering committee, we listened to an illuminating, if shocking, talk by Roger Howell of the Barnabas Fund - an aid agency working for and with persecuted Christians around the



world. We learnt about the difficulties and dangers for Christians – risk of being accused of blasphemy, which, in Pakistan, means a death sentence; abduction of young girls who are forced to convert to Islam and marry - not just in areas of conflict, such as Iraq and Syria, but also closer to home – in Bradford.

For more information:
www.barnabasfund.org

Message from the Bensons

Jane and I would just like to say that we were overwhelmed by the cards, gifts and good wishes given on our departure from St Nicholas Church on 25 January. Since we first started attending St Nicholas Church in 1988 we have always been made to feel so welcome in both the church and the village. We have very much enjoyed participating in and supporting the Fetes, Parish Suppers and School activities, and seeing Cuddington change with each season and year. But most of all we have enjoyed the friendship and fellowship of so many people – so freely given. And in recent weeks and particularly with Ruth Bligh and Lil Tomes funerals we have been reminded that we have many friends who now rest in the churchyard.

The church has been very much our focus and we have been very privileged to share both the good times and the bad with a wide variety of people as Jane has played the organ at weddings, baptisms, and funerals over so many years. Our daughters Fiona and Rachael were both married in St Nicholas Church which holds a very special place in their hearts too. That we should have been challenged to accept responsibility within the church from time to time has also been a great honour. Not least for Jane as she has extended her flower arranging skills over the years - learning much from some very skilled ladies (and their husbands) and sharing conversation with them.

Please continue to cherish the church at the centre of your village. It is a very special place that has over the centuries provided a place of worship; a place for celebration; and a place of peaceful sanctuary in times of trouble and sorrow. That so many people support the church and worship regularly in it, flies in the face of what is happening in so many villages today where a very small number of people attempt to keep the church open.

Cherish the church and the village shop and post office. Cherish the Bernard Hall and the Picture House. Cherish the School and the Fete. Cherish Village Voice! They are all jewels to be polished and nurtured and preserved for the benefit of all. As we write we are still homeless and without a landline and will probably remain so until 12 March. But we will let you know contact details when all is settled.

God Bless
David and Jane

Farewell to a Wonderful Couple!

Continued from page 7...

It was 27 years ago that Jane first took over the organ and apart from a few years when David, then in the RAF, was posted to Cyprus, they had worshipped regularly at St. Nicholas.

Jane will be remembered, not only for her playing but for her warm personality which had endeared her to all ages. David's tireless work for the church culminated in his organising the refurbishment, and then for 6 years, having the responsibility of being churchwarden. In that capacity, in spite of living 6 miles away, David was always around when needed and kept a close eye on the fabric and the preparation for any event to be held in church.

St Nicholas will sorely miss these two for their warm friendship and their stalwart work over the years.

AROUND THE WORLD FETE

**Can you spare some time after fete day to help clear up?
Do you have items e.g. clothes, bottles, toys, books, bags, beads be used as prizes?
Do you have personal or business contacts that can donate auction prizes?**

**Let us know: m0301291@doctors.net.uk
Jo and her merry band of fete makers!**

Tic-Toc Children's Group

To all those stressed parents and carers out there – why don't you come along to Tic-Toc on Friday afternoons (3.30 – 5pm) at the Cuddington Club and playing fields and let the children play, while you relax and have a coffee and chat?

We provide tea, coffee, juice and biscuits for a £1 contribution per family.

It's a great opportunity for Cuddington children from baby to junior school age to play together with the toys and colouring materials we have in the clubhouse, or outside on the playing fields in the fresh air if weather permits.

We even arrange a visit from Santa at our lovely Christmas party!



Dates for your Diary

"She turned to the sunlight
And shook her yellow head,
And whispered to her neighbour:
"Winter is dead."
A.A. Milne



March

Monday 2nd 2pm	Sunshine Club in the Playing Field Clubhouse
Monday 2nd 7.45pm	2nd session of Lent Course, St Nicholas Church (see page 2)
Monday 9th 7.30pm	Gardening Club, Peter Sheasby "Flowers of Turkey"
Monday 9th 7.45pm	3rd session of Lent Course, St Nicholas Church (see page 2)
Thursday 12th 7.00pm	<i>Behind the Beautiful Forevers</i> NTLive - The Village Picture House
Sunday 15th 10am	Mothering Sunday Service, St Nicholas
Monday 16th 2pm	Sunshine Club in the Playing Field Clubhouse
Monday 16th 7.45pm	4th session of Lent Course, St Nicholas Church (see page 2)
Monday 23rd 1.30pm	Sunshine Club Matinee - <i>The King and I</i> in the Bernard Hall (see front page)
Monday 23rd 7.00pm	<i>Hamlet (Maxine Peake)</i> - The Village Picture House
Monday 23rd 7.45pm	Final session of Lent Course, St Nicholas Church (see page 2)
Tuesday 24th 8.00pm	Bernard Hall AGM & Village Picture House Review
Thursday 26th 7.00pm	<i>A View from the Bridge</i> NTLive - The Village Picture House
Friday 27th 1.30 for 2pm	<i>Paddington</i> Kid's Movie Club, Bernard Hall
Saturday 28th 7.30pm	Witchert Chorale <i>Hosanna!</i> St Nicholas Church
Saturday 28th 8.00pm	Bingo at the Playing Fields Clubhouse
Monday 30th 2pm	Sunshine Club in the Playing Field Clubhouse

April

Thursday 2nd 7.30pm	<i>Mr Turner</i> - The Village Picture House
Friday 3rd 2pm	Good Friday Service <i>An Hour at the Cross</i> , St Nicholas Church
Sunday 5th 10am	Easter Holy Communion, St Nicholas Church
Monday 6th 10.30am	The Easter Story - <i>An Astro Panto</i> , St Nicholas Church
Friday 10th 2pm	Children's Playtime, Playing Fields
Thursday 16th 7.00pm	<i>The Hard Problem</i> NTLive - The Village Picture House
Wednesday 22nd 7.30pm	ANNUAL VILLAGE MEETING, Bernard Hall
Thursday 23rd 8.00pm	<i>Paddington</i> - The Village Picture House
Thursday 30th 8.00pm	<i>The Imitation Game</i> - The Village Picture House

Sky Watch!

On the morning of March 20th we will be treated to a very large partial solar eclipse. It begins at 8.25 am after which a small bite will begin to appear on the right hand side of the sun's disc. Over the next hour the moon will continue to encroach the sun until 9.30 am when up to 88% of the sun will be obscured. The moon will then gradually move off the sun's face, finally leaving it at 10.40 am. Those lucky enough to be located in places such as the Faroe Islands will have the chance to witness totality, when the moon will cover the sun entirely for a few dramatic minutes.

Please note that eclipse safety is of paramount importance. You should never observe the sun directly through any optical aid unless it has the correct filter or else permanent blindness could result. My advice is to buy special eclipse glasses from a reputable dealer off the internet for a few pounds - they are widely available. Never attempt to use anything such as smoked glass or darkened exposed film - damaging infra-red light can still get through even if it appears to be suitable.

At maximum eclipse the sun will appear as a downward pointing crescent, making a great photo opportunity. This will be the UK's best solar eclipse until 2026 so let's hope for a clear sky.



Cuddington's Weather: January 2015

Overall the temperature was a little below average at 4.1°C (39°F); the normal is 4.4°C (40°F). The majority of daytime maximum temperatures exceeded their daytime average, however, penetrating night frosts later in the month helped depress the overall monthly temperature. Last year January had been warmer (5.4°C, 42°F). A few snowflakes were observed to fall during the evening of the 29th.

Daytime maximum air temperatures in January averaged 7.4°C (45°F); the long term average is 7.0°C (45°F). Night time air minimum temperatures averaged 0.9°C (34°F); the long term average is 1.7°C (35°F).

The highest day time air maxima occurred on the 9th (13.7°C (57°F)) and the lowest on three days, 18th, 19th and 22nd (3.5°C (38°F)). The highest night time air minima occurred on the 10th (9.7°C (49°F)) and the lowest on the 23rd (minus 7.0°C (19°F)). The lowest temperature just above the grass occurred at this time (minus 10.8°C (13°F)).

It was a sunny month with a total of 76.40 hours of bright sunshine – the long term average is 63 hours. And rainfall was a little below average at 53.7mm (2.11in). The 17 year average is 60.1mm (2.37in).

Sean Clarke



Cause for Celebration at CDS

During February, the Schools League Tables were published and we were thrilled to find our school very near the top of primary schools in Bucks. Our staff and children have much to be proud of and it is encouraging to see the results of their hard work.

This month has seen our pupils out and about on a variety of school trips. Firstly, Years 3 and 4 spent an exciting night at the National Space Centre in Leicester where they enjoyed team building games, the Planetarium shows and sleeping on the floor surrounded by exhibits!

The Foundation children visited the Oxford Museum of Natural History to find out more about dinosaurs and enjoyed looking at bones, fossils and even dinosaur footprints. The coach journey was especially exciting as was the picnic lunch!

Years 5 and 6 spent the day at the Globe Theatre in London which involved a tour and a workshop based on "Twelfth Night" and a demonstration of Shakespearean sword fighting. Not to be left out, Years 1 and 2 will be going to Bekonscott Model Village shortly after half-term and participating in a science show called "The Big Drip".

March brings with it World Book Day and Red Nose Day, both opportunities to dress up, as well as participation in a Dance Festival and the "Voice in a Million" concert at Wembley Arena. We are also looking forward to some warmer weather and hoping for a visit from some spring lambs.

Services at St. Nicholas

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

March 2015

1st	10.00 am	HOLY COMMUNION
8th	10.00 am	FAMILY SERVICE
15th	10.00 am	ALL AGE SERVICE FOR MOTHERING SUNDAY WITH COMMUNION
22nd	10.00 am	MORNING WORSHIP (Chattabox)
	11.15 am	HOLY COMMUNION
29th	10.00 am	MORNING WORSHIP

Opportunities for praying together in church are each Thursday at 9 a.m. and each Sunday at 9.10 a.m.

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



Greener Cuddington

The Save The River Thames campaign is getting to work and building the framework for achieving long-term improvements in our river and its wildlife. We have now joined up with the River Thames Conservation Trust, a voluntary body that has been working on the southern section of the river, from Thames to Dorchester, for a few years. This means that we jointly cover the entire river, and being linked to the Trust means that we won't have to waste time setting up as a body in our own right as they are firmly established and have charitable status. Our group will continue to focus on the Bucks section of the River from Aylesbury to Thames.

Our water monitoring team is active and growing. We are testing the water on a monthly basis for nitrates (mostly caused by farm fertilizers), phosphates (from fertilizer or sewage) and checking the water clarity. Currently, nitrate and phosphate levels are on the high side which is something that we are concerned about and we would like to find out more about the exact sources of these pollutants so that we can start to tackle the causes. These chemicals act as fertilizers in the water and tend to result in strong growth of reeds and other plants in the water which can end up blocking the waterway. They are also bad for the sort of aquatic organisms that exist in a healthy, clean river and both chemicals are subject to legal limits (which are being broken in parts of the River Thames).



River Thames at Winchendon

We are starting on work to build an interactive website and have activated a Twitter account @riverthamel where we post news and developments.

There is some very **good news**, for a change! We are meeting with landowners along the River and finding ways to work with them and involve them where possible. Waddesdon Estates is the biggest landowner in our area, and they are already in our Working Group team, and contributing to our efforts. We met with two inspiring landowners at Manor and Notley farms near Chearsley last week who have both been working for some time on improving wildlife along their stretches of the Thames. Like Waddesdon they have Level 1 Stewardship status and are creating wetland habitats and generally encouraging biodiversity on their land whilst running working farms. Whilst on these farms, we saw linnetts, lapwings, Canada geese, ducks, teal, kingfishers, finches, roe deer, rabbits and evidence of a lot more: so these farmers have a passion for the countryside and its wildlife, and really love the land.

There is a footpath that runs from Cuddington to Chearsley that starts at the lane of Bridgeway at the edge of the village and enters Chearsley at one of Manor Farm's fields below the church. This contains the manor moat system that gave the farm its name. Another footpath crosses Manor Farm from the church and leads down to the railway and crosses a brook before entering Notley Farm and continuing to Long Crendon.

With landowners showing such commitment to the river environment and wildlife, Thames Water need to do their bit to ensure that the water is in excellent condition.

If you are interested in getting involved with testing the water, please email riverthamel@gmail.com or doug@doug-kennedy.com.