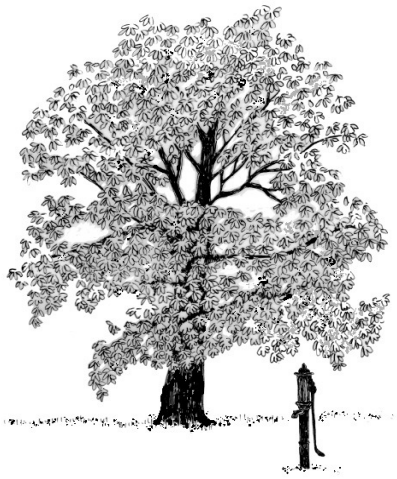




Cuddington Village Voice

February - 2016

Hello there Cuddington! New look for 2016!!



We very much hope that you approve of *Village Voice's* new look!

It was several years ago that the Editorial team of the time felt that it would be appropriate to give the newsletter a new look. Well, it has taken us a little while but hope and believe that the wait was worth it.

We wanted to keep the essence of the tree and pump on the Upper Green as the logo and we asked Julia Straiton if she would like to take on the project. She gladly accepted and we feel that she has done a fantastic job in freshening up the image and giving clarity of focus to our pump. We appreciate that the

Clean for the Queen



Don't forget the weekend of Friday 4th March to Sunday 6th March is the weekend for us all to help spruce up the village and the surrounding roads. The Parish Council has decided that, as the 6th is Mothering Sunday, the main activity will be focussed on Saturday 5th. There will be a flier next month giving more details but Venetia is still waiting for your ideas venetia.davies@talktalk.net or 201899.

brief was a very challenging one to achieve in just black and white, so our huge thanks go to Julia for such a lovely new look to the tree and pump.

We also hope you like the new typefaces that we are using. We have actually adopted what is now largely the standard font as used by Microsoft, Calibri, on the basis that they probably conducted more research into its acceptability than *Village Voice* could ever get round to!

But although our appearance has changed the content hasn't - we still aim to bring you a good mix of news reports, articles of interest and up-coming events and activities based on our wonderful village. And we can't do this without your help, so we look forward to receiving your various contributions which makes *Village Voice* what it is today!

As part of our celebrating a new look we have a special full colour centre page

(Continued on page 10)

Myles Saker 1931 - 2016



Myles and his wife Caroline moved to this village over fifty years ago. During that time Myles had always taken a very active part in both village and church affairs. The crowded church at the Thanksgiving Service for his life in St. Nicholas Church showed in what tremendous affection and respect he had been held.

A full tribute is published on page 9 of this edition.

Welcome to Jey and Sugi!

We are sure that most, if not all of you, will have by now met Jey and Sugi in Cuddington Stores. Having said our fond farewells to John and Elaine in the last edition of *Village Voice* it is a real pleasure to say "welcome" to Jey and Sugi!

Everyone who has met them will have been very taken by their infectious friendliness and warmth and all those of us who use the shop and Post Office

(Continued on page 9)



Thought for the Month

As I look out of my window this morning it is raining yet again. In addition, the temperature has again increased and the weeds on the allotment are once more getting the better of me, but to walk on the bare earth is to pick up 5cm of mud on each boot! At the same time, I can see from the window that the grass in my lawn is growing longer every day but it is far too wet to cut.

We are in that period of time which is not really winter, but is not yet spring and with grey skies it is easy to feel a bit depressed and down hearted.

From a different perspective we can say we are blessed because, while it is raining we have not been flooded as some have been. We are also blessed in as much as we do have rain, whereas so many parts of the world have insufficient to grow the crops that are so desperately needed.

How you view things makes a big difference to how you feel generally. Are you a glass half empty person or a glass half full person? I know that sometimes I can wallow in misery but generally I am optimistic about the future, which is perhaps why I wrote the above words about the half glass the way round I did. If you reverse the order you end up feeling negative whereas the way round it is leaves a positive focus.

So at this time of year I rejoice in the signs of the coming spring. Buds starting to form, daffodils already out in places. Birds starting to investigate possible nesting places and I rejoice in the increasing hours of daylight. All these things lead to optimism about the future.

In the same way, one can often be depressed about the state of the world generally but I remain optimistic because I continually see signs of the Kingdom of God breaking out! Sometimes it is seen in people, sometimes it can be seen in events that take place, but mostly it can be seen in peoples lives that have been touched in a radical way by our Lord and Saviour.

May the blessing of God be upon you all as we look forward to the coming spring.

Revd. Jonathan Hawkins

Inter Church Productions

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SAVE THE DATE!

**Back by popular
demand, CPFA
presents Race Night
Saturday 7th May
Bernard Hall**



Village Voice is published by the Cuddington Parochial Church Council as a service to the community.

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The Gardening Club year kicked off with a most enjoyable Social Evening in the playing field clubhouse. On arrival members were treated to a glass of Bucks Fizz and canapés; the evening then continued with a presentation of last year's Gardening Club events given by Club Chairman, Elsie Frost. A mouth watering finger buffet and home made cake was served by the Committee and followed by a "Big Gardens Quiz". The evening was rounded off by a number of one line gardening jokes and then Rudyard Kipling's "The Glory of the Garden" read by James Frost. A good time was had by all!



Congratulations go to the winners of the quiz - Stephen and Mary Turner, Caroline Thompson, Grace Brown and Merryn Polley - please see the photograph.

The next meeting takes place on Monday 1st February at 7.30 pm in the playing field clubhouse. Our speaker

will be Rob Jacobs, Manager of Waterperry Gardens who will be describing "Waterperry behind the Scenes throughout the Year".

We are always pleased to welcome new members and if you would like further information about the Gardening Club please contact Elsie Frost on 290768 or you can download an application form from the village website.

Cuddington's Allotments

Discussion about planning in Cuddington has raised awareness of plans to sell allotment land for development. The area concerned is behind properties on Bridgeway, and the houses on Dadbrook which were built when allotment land was sold some ten years ago. The allotment plots which would be affected by any development plans are currently fully utilised and let to tenants. So, as the land is being used, why is it being sold?

If it was owned by the council, any permission for development would need to be sought from the Secretary of State. However, Cuddington's allotments are owned by a limited company formed in 1921 with the intention of owning and managing the allotment land for the benefit of the allotment tenants.

Cuddington's allotment land appears on pre-1921 maps when it was divided into smaller plots which suggest that this land has been used by agricultural tenants for some considerable time. The villagers who set up the Society shortly after the First World War would have been working together to enable the local community to grow, consume and sell their own produce in a co-operative way.

On Page 4 in Council Jottings, there is further information given about the allotments, and details of the previous development; and we are aware of concerns that the Society's plan may be to ultimately sell the land, some 15 acres, with the Society shareholders making hundreds of thousands of pounds in the process and Cuddington losing the land.

If anyone has any questions or comments on this matter, please write to Village Voice or attend Parish Council Meetings and the forthcoming Annual Village Meeting.

Suspension of Service

11:15am 4th Sunday Communion at St Nicholas

As you are probably aware, the Revd. Ian Herbert has now left the benefice to take up a position in Essex. In addition our benefice is merging with Stone and Dinton, following the retirement of the minister there. We would hope to have a further full time minister in addition to Margot our vicar, to assist in this larger benefice by about July or August.

Both these events mean that currently there are insufficient clergy to officiate at all communion services within the enlarged benefice. In light of this, here in Cuddington, the PCC have taken the decision to not hold the 11:15 service for the time being.

We would encourage those who normally attended this service to come to the 1st Sunday communion service at 10am or to attend one of the BCP communion services at one of the other churches in the benefice, details of which can be found in the benefice directory.

Cuddington Playing Fields Social Club

The Social Club is a valuable source of funds for the upkeep of the Playing Fields and membership of the Social Club enables the drink prices to be much lower than other licensed venues.

Membership fees are now due and it would be great to have more members. Annual Fees are £10 for a family; £5 single or £3 concession.

Bar opening hours are:

Wed, Fri, Sat - 8pm to 11pm

Sun - 1pm-3pm

The Club House and Bar can also be rented out for parties, meetings and special events.

Please support the upkeep of the Playing Fields!

Council Jottings

Planning



CUDDINGTON
PARISH COUNCIL
cuddingtonvillage.com

Concerns have been expressed by a number of villagers over the nature of future housing developments and the possibility of them not addressing the needs of the village for additional smaller houses suitable for first time buyers or people downsizing, who want

to remain in the village. There have also been fears about the possibility, in the future, of the total loss of allotments in the village.

It is clear, from some discussions with villagers, that there is a misconception that the Parish Council owns the allotments. Although most allotments are generally provided by local councils and are bound by statutory and policy criteria from government should they be disposed of, those in Cuddington are owned by Cuddington Allotment Society Ltd and not governed by the same legislation. (See footnote below)

Cuddington Allotment Society Ltd was set up by villagers in 1921 and is now run by a small number of residents who are allotment tenants and each have a shareholding in the Society. The Society manages the allotments – the allotment rules, collection of rents, tenancy agreements, etc. The members of the Society decide on membership of the Society, Society rules, any investments in the allotment infrastructure, disposal of allotment land and the distribution of the resulting windfall profits as dividends amongst the shareholders. The previous sale of land to Rectory Homes Ltd., in 2007, raised £606,000 for the Society which was distributed to shareholders. Rectory Homes built four new houses as in-fill along Dad brook. Under the Section 106 Agreement, the developer, Rectory Homes Ltd paid approximately £8,500.00 to the council. The latest proposal to sell off allotment land to Rectory Homes is likely to realise a sum well into seven figures for the shareholders of the Society.

The Parish Council has contributed to the consultation on the Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan, which will, when finally agreed next year, give guidelines for the number of new houses that a village, like ours, could cope with over the next 20 years. The creation of a Neighbourhood Plan would also give direction and focus to developments. In the meantime, the Parish Council intends to engage with landowners and developers to try and have an input into any plans.

Community Defibrillators

Cuddington has been successful in its application to install two defibrillators. These are being provided by the British Heart Foundation, using an amount of government funding. We were fortunate to apply when we did, as the scheme has now closed because of high demand and the funding is used up!

They will be installed outside the Bernard Hall and Playing Field Pavilion. The only cost to the village will be the provision of an electrical supply. There will be training on CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation) and use of the defibrillator, so watch this space. It could save somebody's life.



Annual Village Meeting

Our popular annual meeting is booked for Monday 18 April 7.30 in the Bernard Hall. It is normally very well-attended and has lively discussions. Anything can be included on the agenda (Venetia on 201899). Subjects already requested are Housing Developments, Neighbourhood Plan, Expenditure in the village and a demonstration of CPR and the defibrillators. Hopefully the last item will not be required for real, despite the wine at the end of the meeting!



Save the dates!!

Cuddington Youth Drama will be presenting **Fiddler on the Roof Jr** in the Bernard Hall

5th -10th of April,
Tuesday - Saturday 7:30,
Sunday Matinee 2:30



Save the Dates and look out for further information!!

Donkey Meadow - the Public Inquiry



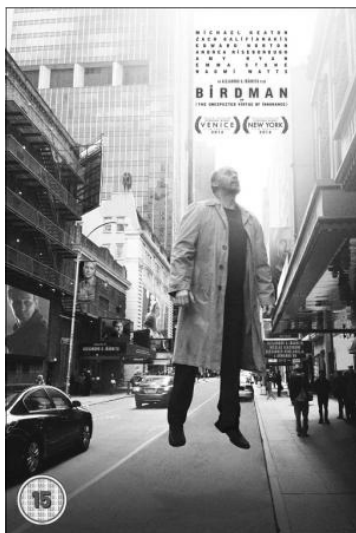
As was reported in the last edition of Village Voice, the Public Inquiry relating to Donkey Meadow was held at the end of November. On that occasion there was time only for the witnesses for both sides to give their evidence before the Inquiry was adjourned.

The Inspector, together with the barristers representing both sides, will return to The Bernard Hall on **Monday 1st February at 11.00am** when the barristers will present their submissions to the Inspector. Anyone interested in hearing what they have to say is entitled to be present, although it is not known how long the presentations will take to deliver.

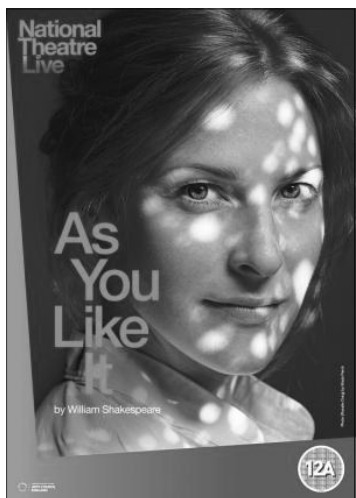
Once the Inspector has heard these submissions he will then go away to deliberate on them, and hopefully we should receive his final decision within the next few weeks. It is understood that this decision will be final, and not open to any form of Appeal.

Our first film for February, on the 4th, is *Mission: Impossible – Rogue Nation* starring Tom Cruise and Rebecca Ferguson. Ethan

Hunt and the Impossible Missions Force find themselves being hunted by the Syndicate, an “Anti-IMF” organisation that the CIA doesn’t believe exists. Hunt and his team need to prove that the Syndicate and its network of assassins is real, and destroy it before it kills them first. “Cruise fires up everything he has as actor and athlete,” says *Rolling Stone*. “All guns blazing, almost constantly,” says *The Guardian*.



On 18th February we’ll be showing the multi-award-winning movie *Birdman*. Michael Keaton heads an all-star cast in this riveting story of Riggan Thompson, a former superhero film star grappling with dwindling fame, an estranged daughter, theatre critics – and his own inner demons. Thompson tries to re-establish himself by directing, co-producing and starring in his own Broadway play, and stakes everything on making the show a success... “Savagely funny, strangely sweet and utterly brilliant,” says *Time Out*. “Birdman is a triumph on every creative level,” says *Variety*. “Michael Keaton delivers the performance of his career,” says *Rolling Stone*.



On 25th February, National Theatre Live brings us *As You Like It*, Shakespeare’s glorious comedy of love and change. With her father the Duke banished and in exile, Rosalind and her cousin Celia leave their lives in the court behind them and journey into the Forest of Arden. There, released from convention, Rosalind experiences the liberating rush of transformation. Disguising herself as a boy, she embraces a different way of living and falls spectacularly in love. “Magical. Flock to this enchanted Arden,” says *The Observer*. “Revolutionary. Fresh, funny and invigorating,” says *The Mail on Sunday*.

There’s another – and completely different – National Theatre Live production the following Thursday, 3rd March. Martin McDonagh’s deeply funny new play *Hangmen* is broadcast live to cinemas from the West End. In his small pub in

the northern English town of Oldham, Harry (David Morrissey) is something of a local celebrity. But what’s the second-best hangman in England to do on the day they’ve abolished hanging? “The most line-by-line funny show London has seen in years,” says *The Daily Telegraph*. “Gripping, funny and dramatically tense,” says *The Sunday Times*. “Drop dead hilarious,” says *The Independent*.

Looking further ahead, our films for March are *Suite Française*, a story of occupied France in 1940 in which a young French woman falls for a handsome and charming German officer posted to live in her house, and *Mr. Holmes*, in which the celebrated detective has retired at the age of 93 but is haunted by his last, unsolved case from thirty years ago involving a beautiful woman.

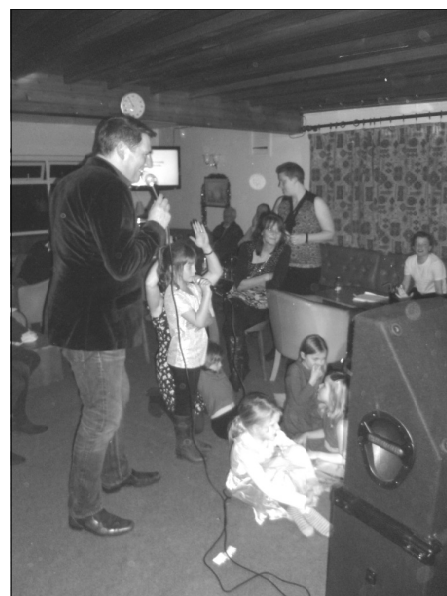
Visit the web page for more details of all features: www.cuddingtonvillage.com/cinema

Noisy New Year’s Bash!



The Playing Fields Social Club organised a great night for Cuddington’s families on New Year’s Eve, with a bring and share supper, a family friendly environment and no babysitting fees to worry about - everyone let their hair down and had fun.

The Karaoke had everyone up singing, dancing and performing through the night and as the families took their tired



children home, the grown-ups stayed on to see in the New Year and party on! Tony Hadley and his family were there and, luckily, Tony raised the standards in singing. In particular when the parents tried to perform Spandau Ballet’s ‘Gold’! One of the highlights being Tony and his daughter, Zara singing the duet ‘Islands in the Stream’.

Thank you to the Social Club for putting on such a great event!



2015 REME



*The Fête (above) and (top, clockwise)—May Madrigals from the church tower, Tennis Club 25 year party, the Dove ba
Community Award, fireworks on the Playing Field, new library furniture o*



EMBERED



inner in church, WI produce stall on Upper Green, Garden Open for Finley Newell, presentation of Best Kept Village and
n the Infant site, Village Picture House says thank you to John and Elaine.

Home Start

For over 10 years Home-Start Aylesbury has been supporting ordinary families with young children struggling to cope through difficult times. We are now looking for new volunteers to join our friendly team. Our network of home-visiting volunteers offer emotional and practical support for 2-3 hours a week to any family in Aylesbury Vale with one or more children under 5 who need some help. Maybe they are feeling isolated or lonely, or are having a hard time coping with their child's illness or disability, bereavement, post natal depression or be having relationship difficulties, they could be struggling to cope with the physical and emotional demands of having a baby, young children, or multiple birth. Volunteers offer a listening ear, reassurance and encouragement, playing and helping with the children, practical support or an extra pair of hands! This simple parent-to-parent help can have a positive and long-lasting impact on family life. If you can give 2-3 hours a week and have parenting experience we would love to hear from you. All volunteers are provided with training, support and expenses.

For an informal chat please contact Shushana Kendrick on 01296 485615 or info@homestartaylesbury.org.uk



BDUNCE AND RHYME



CDME AND JDIN US FDR A FUN
FREE SESSIDN DF SDNGS ACTIDN
AND RHYME. IN THE LIBRARY
FRIDAYS 9:30 -10AM (TERM TIME
DNLY) STARTING FRIDAY 5TH
FEBRUARY

Playing Fields Quiz Night



Just some of those at the Quiz Night - concentrating hard!

Over a hundred people took part in the Quiz night at the Bernard Hall on Saturday 23rd January. The event was held to raise funds for Cuddington's Playing Fields and it was a great evening. Adrian Ripley, our quiz master, was a great compere for the evening and enjoyed the heckling from a very competitive crowd!

The Food team led by Rosemary Bradbury had prepared delicious platters of cheese , pate, bread and various nibbles - thank you to Rosemary, Laura, Amanda, and Lorraine. The Playing Fields Social Club ran a very busy bar - a huge thank you to Nibby, Alan, Deana & Pat.

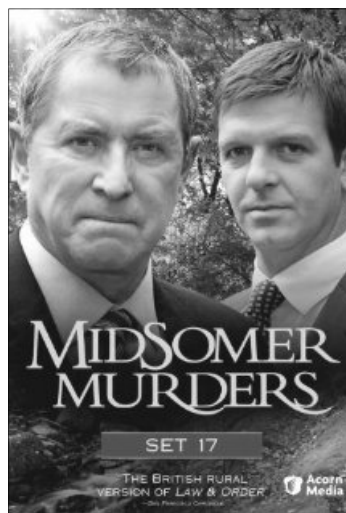
Laura Ewers had put in considerable effort to make hampers of all the raffle donations and raised over £200 on the raffle alone.

The winning team were the Bellringers headed up by Caroline Stonham - congratulations to them all!

Although the final figure is yet to be calculated, around £1000 has been raised from this event. Thank you to everyone for all their hard work in organising the evening and especially to all the villagers who supported the event and made it such a huge success.

Midsomer Murders

Some villagers were preparing the Bernard Hall for a film show when two rather tentative people appeared at the door and asked if they could look inside. They proceeded to view the interior with a rapt expression and reverential air. When asked their purpose, the visitors replied in hushed tones, "The Hall was shown in 'Midsomer Murders'!"



It is true that the long-running series of 'Midsomer Murders', first shown in 1997, has exercised durable fascination and many viewers have become eager visitors to our photogenic locality. Coaches have been known to disgorge avid sightseers in Cuddington, cameras at the ready, to stand in awe before the village shop or walk pilgrim-like the hallowed lanes. There is much to see in the vicinity as Haddenham locations have been used in 9 programmes, Long Crendon in 10 and Nether Winchendon in 4.

The favoured building in Cuddington is the Bernard Hall, which was first used in 'Death of a Stranger' in 1999 as a police incident room. Later it became successively the headquarters of a band, the location of a public lecture, and the venue for a Spanish evening event. The village shop has starred at least 3 times. In 'Talking to the Dead' it was transformed into 'Paradorma', a mystic centre. Some villagers will recall the garish sign erected above the shop window. The Crown was a backcloth in 'Death in Disguise' in the first series when Barnaby meets a traveller off a coach.

'Midsomer Murders' has brought this part of Buckinghamshire to a wide national and international audience as well as enhancing our appreciation of our surroundings. Let us hope the numerous murders which punctuate this series continue to happen only on the screen!

Peter Wenham

Myles Saker - a Tribute

The service of Thanksgiving held in St Nicholas' Church on Wednesday 20th January in honour of Myles Saker had a packed congregation which represented and reflected so many different aspects of his long and distinguished life. David Benson presented a touching and comprehensive tribute to his life and we reprise just some of that here.



Myles' presence around the village was enormous and many of us will have an abiding image of Myles and Caroline at the door to the church or the Bernard Hall at both concerts and supper gatherings. Seated at a card table Myles always had a meticulous list showing tickets sold, tickets reserved, who had paid and, most importantly, who had not paid! No one got past Myles without being relieved of their money, but in the nicest possible way!

It seems quite fitting that the last concert that Myles and Caroline managed was as recently as October and featured Nigel Phillips' "Cuddington Suite" series of sonnets with his protégé Sam Baker presenting a recital for both piano and organ. Myles had been heavily involved in promoting and presenting this wonderful event. And it was as a result his long-standing relationship with the Manor House String Quartet, a group that has played many times in St Nicholas' Church, that their leader, Vaughn Jones played a beautiful violin solo at Myles' Thanksgiving service.

Myles was born in 1931, graduated from Gonville and Caius College Cambridge with a Classics degree and following a brief time in financial management in London joined Guthrie & Co and then spent some 14 years in Malaysia.

He and Caroline, with their children John and Debs, came to Cuddington in 1974 and has played an active and frequently pivotal role in community life – church, Parish and District Council, school governor and competitive tennis player!

Myles served on the Parochial Church Council for 35 years, serving as Treasurer as well as eight years as Church Warden. He had undoubted skills in building rapport with key members of the church and was also a great Mr Fixit – getting things done. His involvement with the church was very wide ranging, from being a key figure in working with the benefice team of clergy as well as with visiting preachers and ministers to being one of the Wise Men in Peggy Cattell's famous Christmas productions.

During his time as a Parish Councillor he played a key part in helping establish the Tennis Club on the playing fields, land owned by the Parish Council. Not only did he help the club get off the ground but was an active playing founder member; being very competitive it was a wise move to try to ensure that you were on Myles' side of the net when on court with him!

Myles always took a great interest in people; he was always enquiring as to family members and one's own well-being. He had a very wise head on his shoulders with a very keen and analytical brain. He will be much missed.

Jey and Sugi

(Continued from page 1)

really value all the efforts that they are putting in to making their new venture a success.

It has been a steep learning curve for them and we are most grateful to them for taking on where John and Elaine left off. Long may we continue to have a thriving and viable shop and Post Office!



Jey and Sugi now firmly established in their new venture in Cuddington

New Community Vehicle

Thanks to generous local donations, Haddenham now has its own community vehicle specially adapted to accommodate passengers in a wheel chair.

A project team led by Dr Hugh Stradling worked for a year to raise funds and acquire the vehicle. The service, launched at the start of November, initially covers the areas served by the Haddenham Medical Centre. The modified VW Caddy vehicle is driven by a team of trained volunteer drivers. A small charge is made for journeys, but it is hoped that most of the running costs will be covered by sponsorship, grants and further charitable donations.

Anyone with a disability who would like to be considered for transport by the new Haddenham Community Vehicle (HCV) can now contact the co-ordinator on 07495 366779. Typical journeys include visits to the medical centre and local hospitals, as well as social events. The HCV team will consider all requests carefully and will prioritise them to meet the needs of as many people as possible.

This new scheme, which complements and extends the existing local FISH scheme, is now fully operational. Look out for the blue vehicle! Additional volunteer drivers are also welcomed and initial contact should be through the co-ordinator on 07945 366779

Council Tax

You may have seen details in the press about increases in Council Tax. Below is a summary of a note from Bucks County Council.



'A large reduction in grant from central Government has led to the County Council's Cabinet proposing a council tax increase of 3.99%, with the aim of

keeping key services as robust and viable as possible, and importantly protecting the most vulnerable, in the face of the financial difficulties. Members also proposed further 3.99% increases each year for the next three years to help the Council maintain its services. Buckinghamshire is the second worst-affected area in the country in terms of losing its government grant.

Council Leader Martin Tett said: "It is with great regret that we have had to make these proposals but we really have no choice due to the imminent complete loss of central government grant to the County Council as well as the increase in demand for high-cost services such as those to the county's elderly and the safeguarding of vulnerable children."

He pointed out that the Council had managed to keep Council Tax at the same level for four years until 2014/15 when it was raised by 1.5% and then a further 1.99% the following year.

But Government funding – which was £60.8m a year in 2013/14 – will be reduced to zero by 2018/19.

Martin Tett added: "This is a very well-managed and efficient Council and we have made enormous cost savings over the last few years. We budgeted for a steep cut in funding but unfortunately, the grant announced at the end of 2015 was far, far more challenging than anything we had anticipated. The massive scale of the reductions was totally unforeseen and the changes to the way the cuts were allocated were not consulted upon. This gave us very little time to come up with credible and deliverable proposals needed to balance the budget.

According to Martin Tett, the financial challenges will mean:

- ♦ Significant reductions across most services
- ♦ The closure of a number of children's centres
- ♦ A lack of funding to support the integration of health

and social care services to residents

- ♦ The inability to resource support to the housing growth plans of the district councils and, in particular, provide the key infrastructure required such as roads and schools.

However, the Cabinet, in keeping with the wishes of residents in a recent survey of budget priorities, also aims to commit £15m to its Highways Maintenance budget in 2016/17.'

Bucks County Council is in the process of devolving some of the services it previously provided, to Parish Councils. Among these are grass cutting, sign cleaning, weed killing, footpath maintenance and other maintenance tasks. There is initially a small amount of grant available, which will probably disappear in a couple of years. The net result is that householders will face increases because the parishes have to do the work. To put it all into context, it is worth considering where the Council Tax goes.

In Cuddington, a Band D property owner pays £1513.09 p.a. Of this the County takes about 75% and the rest going to AVDC, Bucks and MK Fire Authority, Thames Valley Police and Crime Commissioner, and the Parish Council. **Out of the £1513.09, the Cuddington Parish Council gets £38.83.** Our total annual sum amounted to £11000 this year.

At the Parish Council meeting on Monday 11th January, there was a lengthy discussion about how Cuddington Parish Council could cope with the added responsibilities, as well as the essential maintenance and projects to respond to village priorities.

After a long debate, it was decided to increase our share of the Council Tax (precept) to a sum of £55.39 p.a. for a Band D property. This is equivalent to an increase of about 32p per week. The total extra amount raised will be £5000p.a. It may well be that we do not spend all of this, and our reserves, wholly in the next year but it was felt to be prudent to fully consider the extra costs that Cuddington will incur in the very near future and make some ongoing provision for them. The same discussions are taking place in other villages and similar decisions are being made. Chearsley is planning to double its precept to a similar level as ours.

Over the next two years we will be paying for some of the services that BCC previously provided as well as village projects such as playground improvements, further speed reduction and traffic initiatives and the creation of a neighbourhood plan so that we can better have a say in what housing and infrastructure are needed in Cuddington. The Council will continue to apply for grants and funding, wherever possible, as we have done in the past, but these are becoming harder to obtain.

Ken Birkby

Recycle with the Sunshine Club



Wanted Please for Recycling and to raise funds for our Club - Used Ink Cartridges and Old Mobile Phones. We are delighted to say that you can continue to leave these at the Village Shop and Post Office.



Thank you so much Jeyan and Sugi, and may we take this opportunity to welcome you here and to wish you every success with your Cuddington venture.

New Look Village Voice

(Continued from page 1)

spread showing some of the highlights of 2015.

This is very expensive to produce and we are most grateful to the Fête Committee for augmenting our funds with a grant to help pay for it.

Thanks also go to Chris Long for providing several of the photographs.

Thank you, Ed.

Dates for your Diary

The poetry of the earth is never dead.
John Keats



February

Monday 1 st 2pm	Sunshine Club, Playing Fields Club
Monday 1 st 7.30 pm	Gardening Club talk "Behind the Scenes at Waterperry Gardens throughout the Year"
Tuesday 9 th 9.00am	Infant Family Assembly in church
Thursday 4 th 8.00pm	<i>Mission Impossible</i> , Village Picture House
Friday 12 th	Start of school half term
Monday 15 th 2pm	Sunshine Club, Playing Fields Club
Thursday 18 th 8.00pm	<i>Birdman</i> , Village Picture House
Monday 22 nd	School re-starts
Thursday 25 th 7.00pm	<i>As You Like It</i> , NTLive Village Picture House
Saturday 27 th 7.00pm tbc	Parish Supper, Bernard Hall—check website for details
Monday 29 th 2pm	Sunshine Club, Playing Fields Club

March

Thursday 3 rd 7.00pm	<i>Hangmen</i> , NTLive Village Picture House
Monday 7 th 7.30 pm	Gardening Club AGM and a talk on "Garden Photography"
Thursday 17 th 8.00pm	<i>Suite Francaise</i> , Village Picture House
Monday 14 th 2pm	Sunshine Club, Playing Fields Club
Sunday 20 th 6.30pm	Wychert Vale Benefice inauguration
Monday 21 st 1.30pm	Guys and Dolls, Bernard Hall
Thursday 24 th	End of school term
Friday 25 th 2.00pm	Good Friday Reflection

Poetry through the Year

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

The President welcomed members and a number of guests to the meeting which started with the business followed by

the tradition of Peggy Cattell as the speaker for the January meeting. This took the form of a look at each month of the year through poetry; short verses were read for each month by members and visitors depicting the calendar month concerned. Readers and poetry were varied and interesting, with Peggy, using her expertise to co-ordinate the readings with a narrative taking us through the months of the year.

Joyce Parry gave the vote of thanks, recalling the many times Peggy has entertained us in January each year.

Weather

Both November and December were exceptionally mild. The mean temperature for November was 9.4°C (48.9°F), above the long term average and similar to November 2011 with 9.3°C (48.7°F). December's mean temperature was 10.0°C (50°F), again above the average and a record! The previous highest mean December temperature in my 18 year record was 2006 with 6.1°C (43°F). To place December's temperature into a historical perspective requires using Oxford's climate statistics, which began in 1853, and are a very good analogue for Cuddington's climate. The previous highest mean December temperature occurred in 1974 with 8.3°C (46.9°F).

The overall mean temperature for 2015 was 10.6°C (51.1°F); Cuddington's 3rd warmest year this century.

The two months' daytime maximum air temperatures averaged 12.2°C (54.0°F) and 12.4°C (54.3°F); and the night time ones averaged 6.5°C (43.7°F) and 7.5°C (45.5°F). This century the averages were 9.9°C (49.8°F) and 7.1°C (44.8°F) during the day and 3.9°C (39.0°F) and 1.5°C (34.7°F) at night.

The highest day time temperatures occurred on 6th November (16.4°C, 61.5°F) and 19th December (14.9°C, 58.8°F); with the lowest ones occurring on 21st (4.2°C, 39.6°F) and 11th (8.2°C, 46.8°F) respectively.

The highest night time temperatures occurred on 6th November (13.0°C, 55.4°F) and 17th December (12.0°C, 53.6°F), respectively; with the lowest ones occurring on 22nd (minus 3.6°C, 25.5°F) and 12th (2.5°C, 36.5°F) respectively. The lowest



temperature just above the grass tips was minus 7.0°C (19.4°F) on 22nd November and minus 1.5°C (29 .3°F) on 9th December.

November was a very dull month with a total bright sunshine amount of 35.80 hours, only 50% of the normal. Since 1929 there have only been two duller Novembers, these being 1945 and 1962.

December was sunnier with 40.74 hours, 23% below normal and the duller since 2010 (25.8 hours). This means the two months combined (76.54 hours) were the duller last two months of all years, since records began in 1929.

Total rainfall for November amounted to 73.3 mm (2.89 in); 13% above the 17 year normal of 64.8 mm (2.55 in). December's rainfall amounted to 53.4 mm (2.10 in); 14% below the 17 year normal of 62.4 mm (2.46 in).

Cuddington's total rainfall for 2015 was 528.3 mm (20.80 in); 21% below the 17 year average. It was much wetter in the previous year with 736.8 mm (29 .00 in).



Happy New Year from all of us at Cuddington and Dinton School!

We all returned refreshed and raring to go after our Christmas festivities although there is a lot of talk of diets in the staffroom at the moment!



Local Police Officer attending a recent village Fête

Another busy term has got underway. Year 2 are off to Stoke Mandeville Stadium every week for their swimming lesson and Years 1 and 2 have a visit from a local Police Officer and her car this week to coincide with their topic of "People who help us". Topics on the junior site are "Romans" for years 3 and 4 and "Water" for years 5 and 6 and learning in Foundation is centred around the theme of toys.

Many of the children are attending clubs such as tag rugby, hockey (it's very popular), choir, sewing, tennis, Lego and Nods to God and we have already taken

part in, won and progressed to the next round of a basketball tournament and participated in an inter-school quiz. Although we did not win, our children made us so proud by the way they co-operated with each other and worked so brilliantly as a team.

We have run workshops for parents on Special Educational Needs and Maths and hope to run a similar evening to explain how we teach English. Preparations for our May Ball are well underway and tickets will be on sale on our infant site from 10-11.30am on Saturday 30th January. The Ball is being held on Saturday 14th May and promises to be a spectacular evening.

Coming up in the next few weeks, we have a visit from a travelling theatre company and from the School Nursing team who will deliver their "Injury Minimisation" programme to our Year 6 children. In February, years 5 and 6 are looking forward to attending the Queen's Park Faith tour in Bedford where they will have the opportunity to tour a mosque, a gurdwara and a Church of England church.

Services at St. Nicholas

(Churchwardens: Graham Carr 290000 and James Stonham 292221)

February

7th 10.00 am HOLY COMMUNION

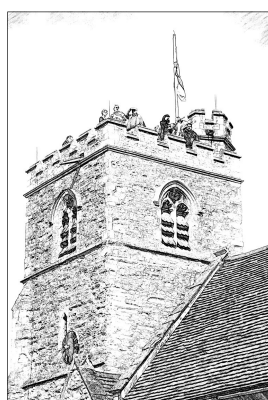
14th 10.00 am FAMILY SERVICE

21st 10.00 am HOLY COMMUNION

28th 10.00 am MORNING WORSHIP

Opportunities for praying together in church are each Thursday at 9.00 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

Conservation work and campaigning continue in our efforts to improve the state of the River Thames, and a lot has

been happening. My Save The River Thames campaign has now merged into the River Thames Conservation Trust. This body already has been working on the Oxfordshire section of the river for several years and has now taken on a Chief Executive and a new Projects Officer to carry things forward. They have charitable status and proper funding from Thames Water and the Freshwater Habitats Trust, and now we have joined them, cover the entire river from its source to its confluence with the Thames at Dorchester.

I will continue to monitor the water and wildlife on the river and am working on a new web site for the Trust that will be very informative and interactive, and include video of wildlife, and update on the state of the river, and information about walks along the river.

A team of people started surveying the birds along the length of the Thames in December as part of the British Trust for Ornithology Wetland Bird Survey (WeBS). Each of us has a 2 kilometre section that we patrol once a month, noting all the birds we see with a focus on aquatic birds. The results are proving to be fascinating, and large flocks of geese (Greylag and Canada), large flocks of lapwings (near Ickford and other areas), golden



A Tufted duck

plover, grey herons, a variety of ducks (including teal, tufted ducks, widgeon) and kingfishers along with the more day-to-day birds such as mallards and pigeons.

This is very good news and it will be fascinating to watch the overall picture develop in the coming months as the survey continues. It's nice to have some good news among all the environmental devastation that is being wreaked on our poor planet!

If you are interested in contributing to the improvement of our river, do get in touch with me. Doug Kennedy (doug@doug-kennedy.com)