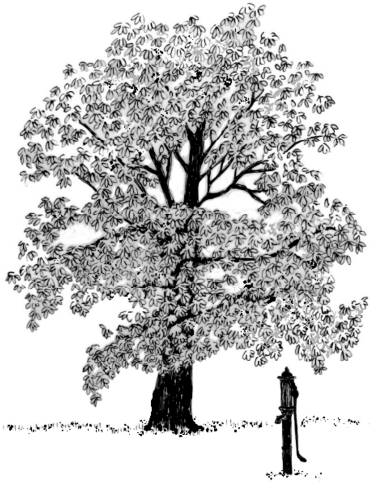




Cuddington Village Voice

July - 2019

Calling all Tractors!

This year's 'On the Farm' Fête is to be opened by Cheersley Farmer, Caroline Mole, who is descended from generations of farmers. Her grandparents moved to the area in the 1930's and were tenant farmers in Brill and Nether Winchendon, respectively. Caroline and her husband, Rob, now farm over 1,300 acres across Kimble, Ludgershall, Thame and Cheersley. They hold around 1600 breeding sheep, rear 500 beef cattle and manage 800 acres as arable farmland. Caroline is a regular at Thame Market, selling stock of Suffolk, Cheviot, Texel and Blue Faced Leicester cross breeds as well as producing over 1,500 lambs each year. Caroline & Rob's children attend Cuddington & Dinton School where Rob is a school governor and Caroline supports fundraising events and as a Parent Forum representative - a huge thank you to Caroline for taking time to open this year's Fête .

Thought for the Month

This is the last Thought for the Month which Margot has written for Village Voice and it is a special one. Ed.

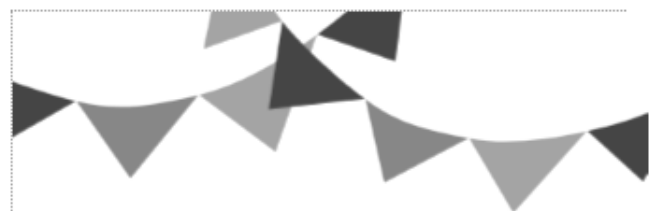


I love walking around Cuddington, meeting people in the village and enjoying the great community spirit that I see in this village. It seems very strange that this will be my last 'Thought for the Month' as my husband Martin and I will be moving at the start of August for me to take on two half-time roles in West Oxfordshire. What has led to this move

The Environmental Crisis

Wandering around Cuddington on a beautiful summer's day, one could imagine that all was well with nature but this is far from the reality of our current global situation. We have been putting fossil carbon into the atmosphere at a vast rate and the result is now being seen in the warming of our atmosphere, the oceans and our land surfaces. In October 2018, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change brought out their latest report with a stark warning of the very short time left to make dramatic and serious changes to our lives and to society if we are to limit global warming to a safe level of 1.5°C. In the same month WWF released a Living Planet report, which recorded a loss of vertebrates (mammals, fish, birds, amphibians and reptiles) of 60% since 1970. This rate has only previously been seen in mass

(Continued on page 2)



Cuddington Fete

"On the Farm"

Saturday 13th July 2019

1.30pm Fete opening and fancy dress procession from The Lower Green



**Vintage Tractors, Ukelele Band,
Teas at Tyringham Hall, Petting Farm, BBQ,
Licensed Bar, Grand Auction, and much, much
more**

Best Ever Sunrise!

June 2019 may be remembered for being a very wet month, but at 4am on the 22nd there was already a rosy glow in the east and the birds were singing at full throttle as the early risers headed off for the observatory at Upper Winchendon on the traditional Midsummer Sunrise Walk. Arriving in time to view the red disc rising up into the sky, the walkers were delighted with the stunning views all around. Wreaths of mist still hovered over the fields of the Vale during the descent into Cuddington and the church clock striking 6am welcomed the group back into the still sleeping village.

(See page 7 for photograph of the stunning sunrise)

(Continued from page 1)

extinction events in geological history. Ever increasing food production and other demands mean that only a quarter of the world's land area is now free from the impact of human activity and this will fall to a tenth by 2050. The Stockholm Resilience Centre, in considering safe planetary boundaries for a number of environmental factors, reports that, in addition to climate change and biodiversity loss, human impact on nutrient cycles (nitrogen and phosphorus), is now at dangerous levels with particularly negative impacts on the health of the oceans, where acidification is also rising. What can we do?

Faith and the Natural world

It has long been recognised that faith groups are important in responding to the environmental crisis. There are many reasons for this, including involvement in wider communities, and a willingness to work for the good of a community. So churches can have a key role to help to bring about the urgent change that we need in our society. For a long time, Martin and I have been teaching church leaders and others about the environmental crisis and why there is a theological imperative to care for the Earth. The Bible begins with a command to work with and care for creation (Genesis 2:15). Humans were given the responsibility to provide good governance for the creatures of the Earth (Genesis 1:28). In the New Testament, Jesus was born into this material world and died to redeem it. One day there is a promise that all creation will be redeemed and renewed (Revelation 21-22). Once Christians grasp this powerful message, they can be a significant force to work alongside others to bring about change.

Our new role

So this summer we will be moving to the Shill Valley and Broadshire Benefice, near Burford, where I will be licensed as half-time Associate Minister in early September. Alongside this post, I will be taking up the part-time (self-supporting) role of Theology and Education Director for the John Ray Initiative (JRI). My task will be to develop courses and educational initiatives to resource church leaders and wider church members in caring for God's earth as a core part of Christian mission and discipleship. The John Ray Initiative is an educational charity with a vision to bring together scientific and Christian understandings of the environment in a way that can be widely communicated and lead to effective action. JRI's mission is to promote responsible environmental stewardship in accordance with Christian principles and the wise use of science and technology. You can find out more information about JRI on <https://www.jri.org.uk>.

We will miss Cuddington and the other villages very much indeed. We have been here for over ten years and it has become our home. It's been fantastic to see Cuddington thrive as a community in so many ways and both the church and school to flourish in the heart of it. We leave you with our love and with many blessings; may you continue to prosper and to care for God, people and the Earth.

Love and prayers,
Margot Hodson, Rector

Evening Services in the Benefice

This month, when hopefully we'll have sunnier weather and light evenings, everyone is welcome to either of our evening services – details below. If you have been before you will know to expect a service conducive to contemplation, and if you haven't come and experience it; it is very worthwhile.

Sunday 14th July, 6.00pm, at Saints Peter and Paul, Dinton. Evensong, led by Raymond Medhurst and team.

Sunday 14th July, 6.30 pm, at St Mary's, Haddenham – Praise Service: Leader/Preacher - Phil Groves

Please check websites and church notice sheets, nearer the time, for more information.

A REMINDER OF DATES FOR 125TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

@ the Methodist Chapel
Saturday 17th August 11.00am – 4.00pm

CRAFT DAY

Demonstrations with opportunities to 'Have a go'
Many examples of crafts for sale.
Refreshments all day.

Come and see the wealth of talent gathered in one place!!

**If you have any photographs of activities at the Chapel or Sunday School:
Sunday school prizes or certificates for Scripture Exams, please could you let
us borrow them so that we can build up a picture of 20th Century Chapel
events.**

Sunday 18th August a celebratory service at 3.00pm.

**Come and join with us, as people share their memories of the Chapel and we
give thanks for 125 years in ways unique to each one of us.**

**We are so grateful to be a part of the village Community.
Please come and celebrate with us.**

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

We live in a lovely rural area, surrounded by farms, both arable and livestock. Whilst the periodic, seemingly endless procession of heavy tractors can be a bit tiresome, I accept it an essential activity and fully support the farming community.

However, what I do not accept is the frequent law-breaking of a proportion of the drivers of farm vehicles. There are three things which drive me mad!

1. *The frequency that drivers of large tractors, often with fully-loaded, heavy trailers, steer with one hand through the village, with the other hand holding a mobile phone to their ear.*
2. *Drivers of the above vehicles driving on to and along the pavement, rather than slowing, or stopping to let oncoming vehicles pass.*
3. *The proportion of farm trailers, where the owners appear oblivious of the requirement to show a number plate on the rear.*

With the huge cost of modern heavy tractors, it is sheer meanness not to have a hands-free phone facility fitted, if phone calls are needed.

We all know the law and the farming community is not exempt. In future, I fully intend to report any breaking of the law to the police.

Ken Birkby



Gardening Club members enjoyed two events in June, starting with a container and hanging basket workshop at Penn's Flower Nursery in Longwick. This was a very successful event with plants in a riot of colour and variety to choose from. The staff were helpful and extremely patient, as we changed our minds frequently before our final plantings. Tea and biscuits were provided, and we drove away with our cars crammed with plants purchased at a special price. An excellent evening all round. Do join us next year!

Our second event was a trip to Kew Gardens...on what was surely the wettest day of the year. This didn't stop 34 members and guests enjoying the day, especially under the shelter of the Kew Express hop on hop off train. We were treated to wonderful views of the



fabulously vibrant glass installations by American artist Dale Chihuly, with their striking oranges, reds and blues. The Temperate house also provided shelter from the rain and looked beautiful after a 5 year, £30 million restoration. The Great Pagoda had also been restored with new, beautifully painted dragons around it. We were assured of great views of London from the top. The Palm House contained what was probably the oldest cycad (palm tree) in Britain which has been growing there for 250 years. It was clearly thriving with new palms sprouting from its base. The Broad Walk borders were incredibly bright with striking purple alliums, and the roses were in full bloom looking beautiful, despite being battered by the rain. At the end of the day we were returned safely home by our driver Bob, tired and still a bit damp, but Kew and its massive diversity of plant species did not fail to impress.

There will be no Gardening Club meeting in July or August. We will be concentrating our efforts on the Village Fête on 13th July. Donations of plants and any other gardening paraphernalia will be welcome, including pots and planters etc. For information about where to take donations please contact me, Carol Hayward on 01844 292295, 07875 080251, or bring them on the day. Thank you to all our members and guests for supporting the Gardening Club.

And a few tips for July....water, water, water....rain and recycled where possible...washing up water is fine. Feed the lawn to help it through the hot weather (I am confident we will have some) Clear any algae and debris from ponds. Take cuttings from container plants to keep for next year.

Time for Tennis!



With Wimbledon upon us, it's surely time to get the tennis racquet out and channel your inner grand slam hero. Come to Cuddington Tennis Club and enjoy a game with friends. Visitors and new Members are always welcome, so contact Robin Nash, the Club Secretary at robin.nash7@btinternet.com for details or visit the Cuddington website.



Cuddington Matinee Cinema

On Monday 22 July at 1.30pm (doors open 1pm), in the Bernard Hall, the romantic comedy "Finding Your Feet" will be presented. Featuring a colourful group of defiant and energetic third agers, this is a brilliantly acted and endearing feel-good film on the second chance at life. The stars are Imelda Staunton, Timothy Spall, Joanna Lumley and Celia Imrie.

Entry £5 includes tea and cake at the interval. To book phone 01844 291 526 (office hours) or on the door subject to availability.





CUDDINGTON CRICKET TEAM

Club Nights Fridays 6-8pm at Cuddington Playing Fields

Email Dan June on danieljune@aol.com for more information



CPFA News

The **Playing Field AGM** is on Wednesday 17 July 7.30pm in the clubhouse. Everyone is welcome to come and support it.

Family Fun Day

A huge thank you to all those that supported the Cuddington Playing Fields Association's (CPFA) Family Fun Day on Sunday 2nd June. This is the first year that the current team has run such an event, so we really appreciated the turn out. The weather was mostly kind which allowed for some great cricket and rounders.



Congratulations go to Andy Muir and his team of cricketers, who won the coveted trophy, kindly donated by The Crown. Man of the match definitely goes to Chris Carey who was able to field whilst holding a pint of beer and a pram, special skills indeed.



Thanks must also go to Katie from Cha Char Chimps who kept the little ones entertained. The clubhouse was packed with sleeping bunnies and wiggly worms!

As a result of the Fun Day we have a raised a wonderful £590 which will go towards the upkeep of the playing fields and the clubhouse. The CPFA is a volunteer run charity and we rely predominately on fundraising to allow us to maintain the facilities for all villagers to use. Your support is vital and we thank you for spending money at our fundraising events!

In other exciting news, the Cuddington Cricket Team are looking to reform on a more permanent basis. Club nights are Fridays from 6-8pm at the playing fields. Please contact Dan June on danieljune@aol.com for more information.

Cuddington Bellringers Outing

Our trip to ring bells at different churches took a completely different form this year as we abandoned our bicycles and went on a 42 year old, 70 foot narrow boat on the Grand Union Canal. We rang at Nether Heyford, all boarded the boat, and chugged north to Weedon Bec. Here the church is sandwiched below both the



Canal, on an aqueduct, and the main rail line north! After a delicious lunch on board, supplied by Jenny, our catering manager, we tackled a series of 7 locks without mishap!

We rang at Welton with the village fete in full swing and then boarded our boat again for the mile long Braunston tunnel. Luckily we missed the one thunderstorm of the day while underground but had to progress carefully in the dark to miss the boat coming the other way. Bellringing at Braunston was followed by a group photo by the lock and a lovely meal at 'The Admiral Nelson'. It really was a Grand Day Out!

The advanced party then had the arduous job of sleeping on board, finishing the remaining homemade cakes and returning the boat safely to her marina the following day. Perhaps we will revert to bicycles again next year!

Caroline Stonham

Temporary Road Closures for Cuddington Fête Saturday 13th July.

On fete day the following roads will be closed to all but Fête related traffic from **10.30 am until 5.30 p.m.**

- **Holly Tree Lane from the junction with Great Stone down to Frog Lane**
- **Lower Church Street including the Lower Green and Church Close**
- **Upper Church Street from the main road junction down to Tyringham Hall**
- **Spurt Street**

The St John's Ambulance will be stationed outside Denise's Hair Dressers.

Spurt Street will be used for disabled parking.

It would be much appreciated if **all vehicles** could be removed from these roads by **10.30 am**.

For those of you without off-street parking facilities parking will be available at the Cuddington Playing Fields at the end of Bernard Close.

[Note that the official Road Closure Orders will be going up around the village and these state that the road closure is from 10am. This just gives us some flexibility.

The roads **WILL NOT** be closed at 10am but at **10.30am** as above]

Should it be necessary for an emergency vehicle, e.g. an ambulance, to gain access to one of the closed roads during the fete, the stalls will be moved aside. The requirement to move stalls and provide access will be announced over the loud speakers located throughout the Fête site. Attendees of the Fête will be directed (by stall holders and stewards) to move themselves into the many residential gardens lining the closed roads to clear the roads for access'.

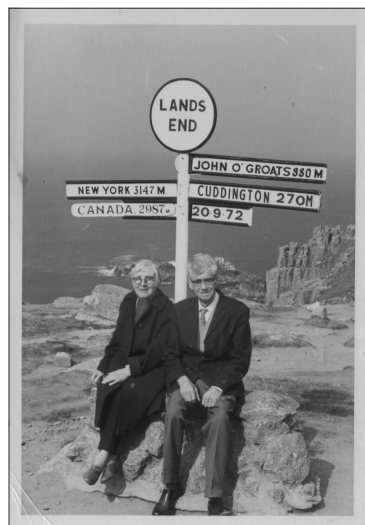
If you have any problems with these arrangements, or would like to know more, please get in touch as soon as possible (kentrew1@gmail.com)

On behalf of the Fête Committee I would like to thank you for your co-operation and wish you all a happy Fêteday!

Ken Trew, on behalf of the Cuddington Fete Committee

Glimpses of Cuddington Past

Nesta Marks was headteacher of the village school from 1932 to 1939. Aged 91 she wrote a three page document entitled "My memories of Cuddington School" in which she gives us an invaluable insight into life in the school during the Thirties. There were two classes. Nesta taught the older pupils while the infant teacher



worked with the younger children. When she was appointed, there were approximately 60 pupils – 20 of whom were in the infant department. Most of the village children went on to Long Crendon school for the senior stage of their education.

The school day was longer than it is now – 9.00am to 4.00pm. The mornings and afternoons each had a break of 15 minutes. Lunch lasted for one and a half hours. At 8.45am the school bell summoned the pupils to school. It was rung again later for the "benefit of any hurrying children". She recalls that there was a drink of warm Horlicks at morning break for children who had brought 5d and a cup.

She outlined her priorities as headteacher. School is "a place for a kind discipline and a preparation for adult life in a Christian form". The school then, as now, had voluntary aided status under Oxford Diocese. She notes that there was 50 minutes of Religious Education each morning and during Lent children attended a service in the church each Wednesday morning. She recalls that only once in her headship did she resort to corporal punishment when three boys received three strokes of the cane each. She states that strict silence was maintained during lessons as "work cannot go on unless the room is in a quiet state". She asserts that reading was of the utmost importance and she hoped the children would acquire a love of English literature, in general, and "real poetry" in particular.

She gives us an outline of the school timetable. After Religious Education first thing in the morning there was a brisk 10 minutes of Mental Arithmetic followed by Written Mathematics. The hour after morning break was used for English – writing "good sentences" by the younger children and written composition for the older pupils. After lunch lessons began with History and Geography. Reference is made to the importance of map reading – local mapping for the infants and "world wide maps" for the older pupils. After afternoon break the boys undertook Art and sometimes Gardening on the school allotment, while the girls learned the useful practical skills of Sewing and Knitting. Most were able to knit gloves and socks before they left school. Sometimes clothes were brought to school for mending. Whenever possible PE was undertaken outside.

Nesta ruefully recalls that there were "no modern conveniences". The toilets were simple buckets, but "no one complained". The large sink in the girls' cloakroom was useful for "washing cups and glasses". The two classrooms were heated by unreliable coke stoves. In the log-book, the prevalence of diseases among the children - for example, mumps, diphtheria whooping cough and measles and "verminous head-lice" – looms large. Another feature of school life was the brick wall in the playground which separated boys from girls, which was not taken down till 1955.

Nesta Marks lived in the school house during her time as headteacher. However she had to resign in May 1939 as she married a local man, Sidney Tomes. She concludes by saying that her time at Cuddington School involved "hard work" but was "rewarding and enjoyable".

Peter Wenham

Cycle Ride for PACE

Many parishioners have probably have heard of the vital and amazing work that the Pace Centre in Aylesbury does - they provide innovative education and therapy for children up to 18 who have learning and development difficulties as a result of cerebral palsy or other forms of motor disorder. You can find out more at

<http://www.thepacecentre.org/> and its registered charity number is 1011133.

Paul Ridout, who moved to Cuddington last year with his wife Julia, has signed up for a challenge in aid of the Pace Centre. "La Grande Aventure" is a ride spread across 4 days, visiting 3 countries and completing over 200 miles for one great cause. Starting at Pace in Aylesbury on 11 September, Paul and his fellow cyclists will travel across Eng-land, France and into Bel-gium, finishing in the beautiful town of Ypres.

Please consid-er making a dona-tion. Your support will help to trans-form the lives of children with sensory motor disorders. You will help unlock the potential of children with conditions such as cerebral palsy by helping to provide intensive specialist education and therapy individually tailored to each child. You will be giving the children the skills they need to become independent, opening up a world of communication, mobility, learning and achievement. Become part of our community, empower disabled children and their families to be the best that they can be.

Paul's fundraising page is at <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/paulridesagain>. Please note that Just-giving have recently dropped their 5% charge on donations to charities, so it's now a really efficient way of making a difference. Or you can donate to Paul at Skittle Green Cottage on Lower Church Street, or even catch him as he heads out for a training ride!



THE VILLAGE PICTURE HOUSE

CUDDINGTON



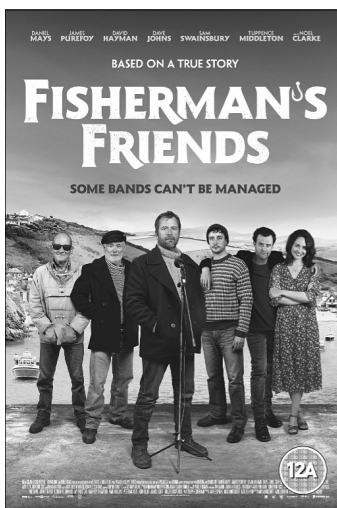
Our 2018-2019 programme at the Village Picture House comes to a close with some terrific films and plays for July. On Thursday 4th we'll be showing **Can You Ever Forgive Me?** (cert.



15), starring Melissa McCarthy and Richard E. Grant. This classy film received a critics' score of 98% on Rotten Tomatoes – one of the highest scores of the year – and both McCarthy and Grant received Oscar and BAFTA nominations for their performances. The film tells the true story of best-selling celebrity biographer Lee Israel. Lee made her living in the 1970s and 80s profiling the likes of Katharine Hepburn, Tallulah Bankhead, Estée Lauder and journalist Dorothy Kilgallen.

When she is no longer able to get published because she has fallen out of step with current tastes, she turns to plagiarism, abetted by her loyal friend Jack. The movie is a loving tribute to a relatively unknown figure whose story deserves to be profiled. "Melissa McCarthy is magnificent as an odious literary forger abetted by Richard E Grant as her lounge-lizard drinking buddy," says *The Guardian*. "This match of freakish opposites who are also kindred spirits is mesmerising from the moment they meet," says *The Telegraph*.

Then on Thursday 18th our film will be **Fisherman's Friends** (cert. 12A), from the makers of *Finding Your Feet* and starring Daniel Mays, Tuppence Middleton and James Purefoy. A fast-living, cynical London music executive heads to a remote



Cornish village on a stag weekend where he's pranked by his boss into trying to sign a group of shanty singing fishermen. He becomes the ultimate "fish out of water" as he struggles to gain the respect or enthusiasm of the unlikely boy band and their families, who value friendship and community over fame and fortune. As he's drawn deeper into the traditional way of life, he's forced to re-evaluate his own integrity and ultimately question what success really means. "An easy-going, gently moving treat – one of the most crowd-pleasing British films of

the year," says *The Daily Mail*. "A formulaic but thoroughly amiable and upbeat British comedy," says *The Independent*.

At 2pm on Wednesday 24th, our Kids' Club film for the start of the summer holidays is **How to Train Your Dragon: The Hidden World** (cert. PG). Hiccup fulfils his dreams of creating a dragon utopia and rules it alongside Astrid. But when the sudden appearance of female Light Fury coincides with the darkest

threat their village has ever faced, Hiccup and Toothless must leave the only home they've known and journey to find the mythical Hidden World before a hired tyrant named Grimmel finds it first. As their true destinies are revealed, dragon and rider will fight together – to the very ends of the Earth – to protect everything they've grown to treasure. "The third film in the children's fantasy series evokes wonder and melancholy with skill," says *The Guardian*. "Magical moments in a delightful dragon's den ... a real treat," says *The Daily Mail*.

Finally, on Thursday 25th, we'll be showing **The Lehman Trilogy** (cert. 12A), broadcast live from London's West End as part of National Theatre Live's 10th Birthday season. It's the story of a family and a company that changed the world, told in three parts on a single evening. On a cold September morning in 1844 a young man from Bavaria stands on a New York dockside, dreaming of a new life in the new world. He is joined by his two brothers and an American epic begins. 163 years later, the firm they establish – Lehman Brothers – spectacularly collapses into bankruptcy, and triggers the largest financial crisis in history. This critically acclaimed and five-time Olivier Award nominated play stars the recently-knighted Simon Russell Beale, Adam Godley and Ben Miles who play the Lehman Brothers, their sons and grandsons. "Mendes is on the money with this astonishing saga ... an acting masterclass," says *The Guardian*. "A bankably brilliant theatrical experience ... a modern classic," says *The Telegraph*.

Looking ahead to September, on the 12th our film will be **Green Book**, the true story of a working-class Italian-American bouncer who takes on a job as a chauffeur for a highly-educated African-American classical pianist. On the 19th we'll be showing **Wild Rose**, in which a young Scottish woman, fresh out of prison, strives to become a country singer and make it to Nashville. On the 26th there's another chance to see the hilarious West End and Broadway hit **One Man, Two Guvnors**, featuring a Tony Award-winning performance from James Corden,

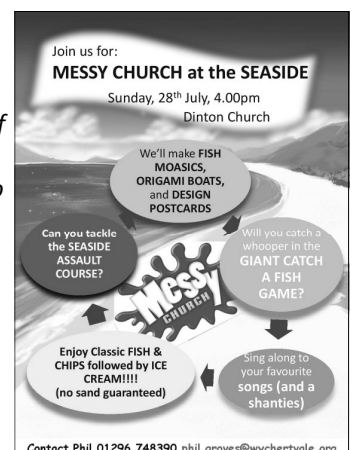
Visit the web page for more details of all features:
www.cuddingtonvillage.com/cinema

Messy Church

Dinton Messy Church is again on Sunday 28th July, in Dinton Church from 4-5.30pm. There will be lots of craft activities based on a 'Seaside' theme. It is open to all ages and is completely free. We will also be providing fish fingers and chips for the children's tea with veggie sticks and fruit and ice cream for pudding.

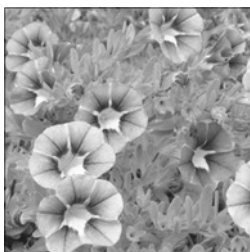
So join us on Sunday where we will be making: seaside postcards, fish mosaics, rainbow fish weaving, boat origami, giant 'catch a fish' game and a lighthouse. You can also take part in our seaside themed assault course!

We hope to see you there!



Dates for your Diary

A perfect summer day is when the sun is shining, the breeze is blowing, the birds are singing, and the lawn mower is broken.



July

Monday 1 st 2.00pm	Sunshine Club tea, Playing Fields Clubhouse
Wednesday 3 rd 8pm	Book Club at Playing Fields Clubhouse
Thursday 4 th 8.00pm	Village Picture House 'Can You Ever Forgive Me?'
Tuesday 9 th , 2.30pm	Tuesday Group, Playing Fields Clubhouse
Saturday 13 th 1.30pm	Cuddington Fete
Saturday 13 th 6.30pm	Post Fete Family Games & BBQ at Playing Fields
Sunday 14 th 10.00am	Open Air All-Age Service, Playing Fields
Monday 15 th 2.00pm	Sunshine Club Garden Party Lunch, Tyingham Hall
Thursday 18 th 8.00pm	Village Picture House 'Fisherman's Friends'
Monday 22 nd 1.30pm	Sunshine Club Matinee Cinema, Bernard Hall, <i>Finding Your Feet</i>
Thursday 25 th 8.00pm	Village Picture House NTLive 'The Lehman Trilogy'
Sunday 28 th 4.00pm	Messy Church, SS Peter and Paul, Dinton
Monday 29 th , 2.00pm	Sunshine Club Tea, Playing Fields Clubhouse
Monday 29 th 7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting, Bernard Hall

Tuesday Group

The speaker for the June meeting of the Tuesday Group was Mrs Fiona Carr, ably supported by her husband, Graham. They are well known to their fellow Cuddington residents, but for many years lived in Uganda and it was because of her work in Kampala Music School that she was awarded an MBE.

Fiona first described this recently built Music School with its special rooms for all aspects of this subject. She remembers how before the music school was built, young students, many of them accomplished musicians, had to walk 5 miles or more each day for tuition and practice on the rickety piano housed there. With the help of Graham and many others they managed to raise the finances and expertise for the school.

Recognition for the wonderful work from the unassuming Fiona came, not only with the MBE but also a further degree from the Royal Academy of Music. Thanks to all the hard work and dedication the boys now have a building worthy of their talents.



CAKES? Mmm Yes, please!

Also biscuits, sweets, fudge, jams and chutneys would be much appreciated.

Volunteers from the Tuesday Group and St. Nicholas' Church will again be running the ever popular Cake Stall at the Village Fête on 13th July and need your help in ensuring we have lots of produce to sell.

You can bring your donations to the Bernard Hall from 11.00 am on the Saturday morning.

Please ensure items are adequately wrapped and labelled, especially if nuts are involved. Thank you very much for your support.

Contact: Rosemary Bradbury 01844 290249.



Footpath Network

Cuddington is very fortunate in having a network of public footpaths through some lovely countryside. These are well-maintained by an enthusiastic group of volunteers, who put in many hours of work for the benefit of all walkers.

It is unfortunate that some users of the footpaths are not respectful of the

private land that these paths run through and do not keep their dogs under control. One of the local farmers has reported having six sheep killed by loose dog, or dogs, and having a cow



chased through a barbed wire fence. In addition, people have been crossing fields, as a short cut, to join other public rights of way.

Farmers have a legal right to shoot any dogs worrying livestock on their land. It is important that dogs are kept under control and on leads, particularly in the presence of livestock. Additionally, it is only on the well-marked footpaths that there is any public right of way. There is no access through private land, without the owner's specific permission.

If anyone is in doubt about where the rights of way are, they can consult the Cuddington website, where there is a detailed map in the 'Village Amenities' section.



Stunning sunrise from page 1 article



We are very pleased to welcome Clare Foxall and Dan Faller as our new Parent Governors which means that, with both Rob Mole and Adam Bolton continuing to serve in different roles, we are back to a full strength Governing Body.

It was fantastic that so many families attended the Family Fun Day on Saturday 15th June - it was great! It was so lovely to see families past, present and future fully involved – thank you for coming! F4CADs are still calculating how much we made; however, it was more about providing a day for the children.

It's that time of year again – the Cuddington Fete being on Saturday 13th July; we will be having our usual stall outside of the school and we will be busy collecting filled jam jars for the jam jar tombola. Hopefully they will be filled with sweets, stickers, small toys and attractively decorated. So please come and see us on the day!

We are really pleased to encourage and support Dinton Messy Church – the next one being on Sunday 28th July, in Dinton Church from 4-5.30pm. There will be lots of craft activities based on a 'Seaside' theme. There are more details elsewhere in Village Voice.

A highlight over the last four weeks has been a trip by a small group of children to see a dress rehearsal at Garsington Opera where they had a wonderful time watching the opera, talking to the director and soaking up the atmosphere of the setting.

We are so fortunate to be able to set up such visits and enable our children to experience such a wide range of activities.

Kim Price, Headteacher

Services at St. Nicholas

(Churchwardens: Helen Keeping 291635 and James Stonham 292221)

July

7th 10.00 am HOLY COMMUNION

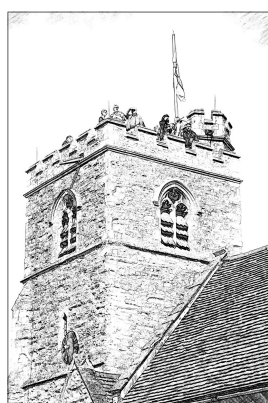
14th 10.00 am ALL-AGE SERVICE

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.

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



Greener Cuddington

11 people took part in the 9th year of Cuddington Vertebrate Watch, a little down on last year so we hope to increase numbers again for our 10th year!



Volunteers spend an hour watching their gardens or a chosen piece of land and record any mammals, birds, reptiles or amphibians they see. This year, house sparrows remain the most numerous (47 on 9 forms) followed by blackbirds, pigeons and robins. Pigeon numbers are down a lot on 2018 and 2017, but quite close to



Bluetit

numbers in earlier years. Corvids (crows, jackdaws, rooks) have dropped back after increasing in numbers for a few years.

Goldfinch and bluetit numbers are down, but this may be because someone couldn't take part this year, who normally reports lots of both.

Green finch numbers

are up somewhat, which is nice to see as they have had problems with disease nationally.

Each year participants who look out over fields report flocks of birds which can affect numbers reported dramatically. This year, a resident who lives adjacent to the playing fields joined us for the first time and reported large numbers of starlings, blackbirds, large corvids (probably crows from the arable field) and house sparrows. I see the starlings every time I walk the dog on the field, often lining the telegraph poles. When walking the dog on the playing fields, I often see groups of pied wagtails, goldfinches, magpies, and one or two kites that live in the large trees there.

Thirty-five different species were recorded, mostly birds, which is a little down on last year. We have had a cuckoo close to the village this year which some people have seen and lots heard it, but no woodpeckers, jays, and very few thrushes again.

The overall picture seems to be reasonably stable, with variations between species year to year in terms of numbers. The most common birds are pretty consistent, and we always have the visitor that is not normally seen. However the loss of thrushes and jays is a real shame, particularly as they are great at removing slugs, snails and other less popular creepy-crawlies from gardens.

We would love to see hedgehogs reappearing in our gardens once more, but none have been reported during the entire nine years: they are in trouble, so leave holes in the base of fences and don't use slug pellets... ever.

Aside from that, Cuddington had quite a good presence of butterflies during the springtime, particularly orange tips and holly blues. There aren't many around at the time of writing, but we will hopefully be enjoying the summer species when this is published.

Doug Kennedy