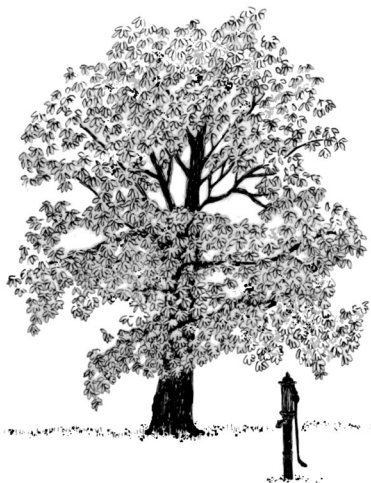




Cuddington Village Voice

November 2020

REMEMBRANCE 2020 Service at St Nicholas' Church 8th November at 10:45am

THE ROYAL BRITISH
LEGION

Due to restrictions imposed because of COVID19, a shortened Remembrance Day Service will be held on Sunday, 8th November at 10.45am, at St. Nicholas Church in Cuddington; the Act of Remembrance will take place at the War Memorial, where wreaths will be laid on behalf of the Village and the children will plant crosses, commemorating all those brave men and women who died serving King and country in two world wars and conflicts up to the present day; a two minutes silence will be observed at 11am. To keep everyone as safe as possible, masks must be worn, there will be no singing and Social Distancing will be strictly imposed during the service which will be held in the church yard around the War Memorial. We do hope that as many of you as possible will come and join us at this time.

(Continued on page 6)

Cuddington Methodist Church

Services will resume at the Methodist Church on 1st November, at 10.30am, and there will also be a service on 8th November. After that we will review the situation. Seats will be limited and we would ask anyone considering joining us to let Colin Watts know by the previous Thursday either by : - phone 01844 291661 or email- colinwatts39@outlook.com. Usual Covid restrictions will apply.

Bear & Vic's Lockdown Adventures

Have you got your booklet yet?

Visit Cuddington stores or go online at:

<https://www.cuddingtonvillage.com/view-page.php?pid=34>



Neighbourhood Plan Consultation



Cuddington Neighbourhood Plan

Have your say!

Following the village surveys and discussions with the Local Planning Authority each household has received a Consultation Draft of the Cuddington Neighbourhood Plan.

We want you, the villagers, to send us your comments and suggestions before we submit the final version to Buckinghamshire Council.

More information, and feedback forms, are available from the Village website: cuddingtonvillage.com/npc or call 01844 201899

The Consultation Period ends
Monday 7th December 2020



Thank you for your help



Pace

Specialist education
and therapy for children
with motor disorders

The Pace Virtual Christmas Gift Fair will take place on Facebook on Sunday 15th November between 7 pm – 11 pm.

There will be a beautiful selection of gifts from some fabulous local and national businesses including Christmas decorations, jewellery, food, homeware, skincare and more. And all from the comfort of your own home. What more could you want!?

Please join us and get your Christmas shopping wrapped up early. Visit <https://bit.ly/2I6lf2Y> to see the wonderful stalls and products.

Thought for the month...



We will remember them!

As I write this article in mid October we are passing through that period when we give thanks for the harvest and looking forward to a period of remembrance. Our allotment harvest has generally been good this year with the usual excess of courgettes and cucumbers, though we have managed to consume or give away most of them. Beans and potatoes have done well and are in the freezer or store cupboard ready to see us through the winter months. Onions though were a bit of a failure and started to go to seed before they had even properly swelled, and the red peppers invariably rotted before they went red! But all in all, much to give thanks for. Looking to the future there will be a time of remembrance in November. We are hoping to have a Remembrance Sunday service though at the time of writing we have had no specific guidance from the government but we are working on the basis that some form of service will be allowed. Remembrance Sunday is an important date in our calendar as we remember those who have given their lives in the service of this country. They are gone but not forgotten.

Also not forgotten are those family and friends who are no longer with us. This year has been made more painful by the precautions that have been necessary due to the Corvid-19 virus which have restricted access to loved ones in their last days and hours and also the restriction on the numbers attending funerals. Whenever St Nicholas church has become aware of a death within the village, the family and friends have been prayed for at our weekday morning prayers and especially on the day of the funeral. We continue to be restricted in what support we can provide to those who have been bereaved but please do note that we are here and willing to talk with you and pray for you, regardless of whether you were bereaved in 2020 or even 1940.

As we take time to remember loved ones no longer with us, we continue to pray for a peaceful and prosperous future, not hemmed in by Corvid-19, where we can once again meet and greet our relatives and friends in safety.

May the peace of God be with you, this day and always, as you continue to carry the memory of loved ones in your heart.
Jonathan Hawkins

Tearfund Big Quiz Night

It was announced in last month's *Village Voice* that St Nicholas' church would be taking part in the Big Quiz again this year. However, since then we have realised that the logistics and technical expertise required in order to run it successfully and to make it a worthwhile event was going to stretch us too much.

Reluctantly we have decided not to run our own event but will give people the opportunity of tuning into the Tearfund team running their own quiz on YouTube on Saturday 14th November. This will give us the chance of at least being a part of the event but perhaps more importantly to help in their fund raising via Just Giving.

Details of the YouTube link and our Just Giving page will be sent out in the next few weeks to those on the church's email lists and it will be on the village website as well. Please let us know if you would like to be added to the email circulation by emailing chrisblumer@blumer.co.uk and we will do all we can to help them raise much needed funds at a time when all charities are suffering financially.

Vandalism in the churchyard

In recent weeks we have received reports that on several occasions what looks to be deliberate damage has been done to flowers placed by relatives on graves in the churchyard.

This involves pulling off petals or heads of flowers and clearly relatives are very upset. There is no evidence reported as to who is responsible and this is a very serious and disturbing situation.

Please keep an eye out and if you do have any information could you kindly pass this on to James Stonham, 01844 292221 or james@holymans.co.uk

Kampala Music School

The Kampala Music School, Uganda, will celebrate 20 years since it opened, in February 2021. In addition to Fiona Carr having written - and soon to publish - *The KMS Story*, a range of both Christmas and general cards (all blank inside) are now on sale in Cuddington from The Spinney, The Green: email fionacarr@hotmail.co.uk phone (01844-)290000 A couple of examples are shown here:



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

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Cuddington Tree Wardens

November marks the UK's largest annual tree celebration - National Tree Week, this year taking place 28 November – 6 December. Established by the Tree Council in March 1975 as a national response to the outbreak of Dutch Elm disease, the celebration has since united and inspired communities, schools, voluntary bodies, and many others to get their hands dirty in an effort to replant our country's decreasing tree population. Over the last 45 years, over a quarter of a million people have planted and cared for tens of millions of trees. Unfortunately, due to the uncertainty of the pandemic there has been little opportunity to organise an event in the local area this year. But it need not stop us making a difference! Every tree or shrub we put in the ground contributes to the replacement of lost trees. After all, as Ralph Waldo Emerson says: "The creation of a thousand forests is in one acorn."

Here are some ideas for native species that could benefit your garden and are invaluable to our wildlife:

Holly, *Ilex aquifolium*

An easy-to-grow evergreen tree that can be trained into a hedge and serve well as a natural windbreak. In spring, while in bloom, it will be covered by buzzing pollinators. In summer, the leaves are food to a wide variety of moth and butterfly caterpillars. It offers shelter from predators and nesting opportunities for many birds, while the berries are a welcome snack throughout the freezing winter months. Take care when lifting its leaf litter later in the year as you may find a hibernating hedgehog.

Silver Birch, *Betula pendula* – Often used to create a focal point in a garden, with its airy canopy the birch can also be strategically positioned to provide morning or afternoon shade to flower beds or a seating area. And by October, it will transform into a mesmerising display of glowing yellow leaves shimmering in the autumnal breeze.

Yew, *Taxus baccata* – One of the longest-lived native species in Europe, yew has a reputation for being indestructible. The oldest yew in the UK is estimated to be between 2,000 and 3,000 years old and is found within a churchyard in Perthshire. If only trees could talk, the things it must have seen! With its dense canopy and berry-like fruit, a yew provides wind shelter, nesting, and roosting opportunities for many native birds, as well as food for small mammals, birds, and caterpillars.

Goat Willow, *Salix caprea* – Fast growing, it will prefer the damper spot in your garden and, with its deep-reaching roots, is a common choice for erosion control.

Goat willow is one of the first trees to break bud in spring and its furry catkins provide an important early source of pollen and nectar for honeybees and other pollinators. The leaves are eaten by caterpillars of several moths and are attractive to the rare and elusive purple emperor butterfly.

Beech, *Fagus sylvatica* – Growing up to 50 meters high, this queen of British trees requires space and once mature will reward you with a rich canopy providing the much-desired shade during the increasingly hot British summer days.

The beech supports many species of beneficial fungi, while birds and mammals feast on the autumnal fruit. Living for more than 1,000 years when coppiced, it is among the most effective native trees at storing carbon dioxide.

Hawthorn, *Crataegus monogyna* – Another candidate that can be trained into a beautiful hedge, otherwise growing into a small tree, hawthorn is perfect for a natural garden feel. Announcing the arrival of summer with clouds of nectar-rich flowers throughout May, and later in the season, holding masses of shiny scarlet berries well after the last leaf has dropped. The birds will be sure to thank you for this delicious addition to your garden. Hawthorn is well known for supporting over 300 wildlife species.

When buying native trees or shrubs, make sure it comes from nursery-grown British stock and always check the required growing conditions.

The local nursery will be able to advise you on best specimen for your site. Choosing the right variety will ensure stronger and healthier growth.

Planning and planting for the future is just as important as looking after your existing trees and hedges, keeping them naturally healthy and well nurtured.

During the colder months, while most plants are dormant, is the ideal time to do health checks and restorative pruning. You can find advice on how to plant and look after your existing trees and shrubs in November on the RHS website: <https://www.rhs.org.uk/advice/in-month/november/trees-shrubs>

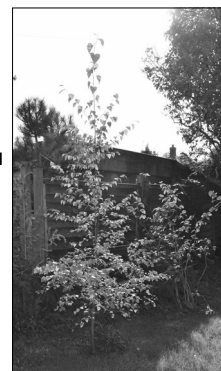
And of course, always feel free to contact your local tree wardens. We are here to help keep our village green.

Julia Otto, Cuddington Tree Warden

For all enquiries please email prspence@btinternet.com, or j.m.otto@icloud.com



Beautiful yew trees framing the view of St. Nicholas' church



Many native trees can be grown from seed, like this silver birch

Christmas Messages

As announced in last month's Village Voice we are offering a "Christmas Message" service in December's edition!

Many of us have found it difficult to get out and about and to see people during this terrible Covid-19 pandemic.

To help ease things you might like to send a Christmas message to your neighbours and friends in the village.

And we are using it as an opportunity to raise some money for Crisis at Christmas – all charities are suffering at the moment so every small contribution will help.

A message of up to 25 words will cost a £3.00 donation and 26 – 50 words will be £5.00

Please write/type your message on a slip of paper and put it in an envelope with your cash donation and deliver it to either: Helen Keeping, Wichert Cottage, Lower Green or Chris Blumer, Southways, The Green. A confirmation via email would be very helpful to either wichertcot@gmail.com or chrisblumer@blumer.co.uk

We look forward to sharing lots of warm messages in December – the deadline for submitting a message will be Friday 27th November.

TAG 2020

Cuddington

Traffic Action Group

Cuddington Traffic Survey

In the October edition of Village Voice we reported on the Traffic Survey that took place on 24th September and gave some of the headline results. We are now able to report the full results.

Key Points from Results and historical comparisons

HGVs numbers were as expected and the principal route was Dadbrook and Bridgeway (110 movements representing 77% of total HGVs)

The number of vans and light trucks represented 17% Commuting cars are significant, high count times peaking at 08.00 - 09.00 and 16.00 - 18.00, heaviest routes are again Dadbrook and Bridgeway representing 50% of car movements over the day.

Of HGVs, construction traffic e.g. landfill vehicles servicing development sites etc., were found to peak mid to late morning and early to late afternoon and accounted for 85 movements or 60% of HGV traffic.

Farm traffic, was low but consistent with recordings in the past and anecdotal reports from residents. However it is known that farm traffic peaks at the various harvest times, silage, hay, cereal, straw and maize. For example, on 28 September 2020 150 farm traffic movements were recorded in a 16 hour period running from 7.00am - 11.00pm, harvesting maize. This is seen as a separate issue but worthy of note in this report.

Some historical comparisons with previous surveys are possible but as different methods were used on each occasion careful interpretations are required.

The surveys are:

The Cuddington TAG Survey 24 September 2020

The Ringway Jacobs Traffic Survey 2-9 July 2018

The Cuddington PC HGV Survey June 2016

Methods of vehicle identification, route designations and time slots varied but each of the results are shown and where appropriate averages are used to try to get a representative result.

However the principal change from 2016 to 2020 was an increase from 47 HGV movements per day to 142, an increase of 202%.

Of even greater significance is that of the 47 HGVs only 8 were construction vehicles i.e. 17% in 2016. In the September 2020 survey construction traffic represented 60% of HGV traffic movements.

This is an increase over 4 years of 1600% in construction traffic passing through the village, expressed another way, this is a 17 fold increase.

Every effort has been made to check the accuracy of the figures and whilst it is recognised that descriptions of vehicles and time slots might differ over the 3 surveys, anecdotally this is borne out by residents experience.

Covid-19

There has been a noticeable impact of Covid-19 on traffic numbers in the village. Prior to the virus there was a steady increase in volumes. Upon 'lockdown' these numbers fell drastically from March onwards and then began to recover in June as restrictions were eased. The impact of government interventions is significant and figures from 'Sentinel' data have been used to attempt to illustrate the impact. In simple terms, 1 hour traffic movements in the period 14 August 2019 - 25 January 2020 averaged 309 pre Covid-19 'lockdown' in March 2020. A sample of Thursday only movements during that period produced a figure of 256 movements. As we emerged from lockdown the figure was 220 during June 2020. By the time of the survey 24 September 2020 the figure had risen to 347 movements per hour. It is emphasised that the data on which the above is based is a small sample and is provided as an indication only.

Interpretations

The volumes of HGVs, principally construction related vehicles, is explained by continued residential and commercial developments in Haddenham being serviced by landfill, recycling and cement/concrete facilities in the Westcott/ Calvert area. Whilst both the two areas, i.e. Haddenham and Waddesdon/Calvert are close to the designated freight routes of the A41 and A418 Cuddington lies between the two and provides the easy 'rat run'. This totalled 84 on the day, 60% of HGV traffic.

Non construction freight traffic finds its way into Cuddington but, currently, in nothing like the numbers of construction related vehicles.

Conclusions

It is believed that this survey adds weight to longstanding calls for action to alleviate the pressures on Cuddington caused on a village of this size i.e. around 200 dwellings and 500 inhabitants with inadequate infrastructure currently placed upon the village.

The situation is worsening and will continue to do so as development in the area expands.

Potential Avenues to explore for alleviation of problems

Weight and width limits on all roads into the village.

Planning conditions to be applied to all developments in the area banning construction traffic passing through Cuddington.

Next steps

It is hoped that the report will be endorsed by Cuddington Parish Council and taken forward by presentation to: Haddenham & Waddesdon Community Board Freight Steering Group

TfB Waddesdon Freight Strategy Group

Buckinghamshire Council, Cabinet Member for Transport
Cheersley Parish Council is thanked for sharing their methodology.

Acknowledgements

The survey would not have been possible without the support of some 30 volunteers from the village who gave up time to organise and carry out the survey.

Peter Spence

Cuddington Traffic Action Group

Wednesday, 21 October 2020

Dates for your Diary



In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below. John McCrae (1872-1918)

Please note – all the following events – except the Parish Council meeting - have now been cancelled, postponed, or are online. Please check on the village website or the village's Facebook page.

November

Monday 9 th , 2.00pm	Sunshine Club Tea, Playing Fields Clubhouse
Tuesday 10 th , 2.30pm	Tuesday Group, Playing Fields Clubhouse
Wednesday 11 th , 8.00pm	Book Club at Playing Fields Clubhouse
Monday 23 rd , 2.00pm	Sunshine Club Tea, Playing Fields Clubhouse
Monday 30 th 7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting, Bernard Hall (via video conference); please contact Parish Clerk (cuddingtonpc@gmail.com) for ID number and password)

December

Wednesday 2 nd , 8.00	Book Club at Playing Fields Clubhouse
Monday 7 th , 2.00pm	Sunshine Club Tea, Playing Fields Clubhouse
Tuesday 8 th , 2.30pm	Tuesday Group, Playing Fields Clubhouse
Monday 21 st , 2.00pm	Sunshine Club Tea, Playing Fields Clubhouse
Monday 28 th 7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting, Bernard Hall (via video conference); please contact Parish Clerk (cuddingtonpc@gmail.com) for ID number and password)

We announced the launch of the **Village Voice Donation scheme** in last month's edition and are pleased to report that we have had a very



positive response so far. As we said in that edition, we hope you will agree that having **Village Voice** delivered to your home is worth £5.00 per year for 10 editions. To that end we are setting up an entirely voluntary scheme whereby you can donate £5.00, or more if you wish, each year to help support us. We recognise how valued Village Voice is and we want to reassure everyone that if you don't feel able to contribute at the moment you will still receive a copy. We fully appreciate that not everyone will feel able to make a donation and that's absolutely fine; however, we also feel that some may like to donate considerably more, even £10 or £15 and that is also absolutely fine! So please do exactly what you feel is appropriate and that you can manage.

If you haven't contributed yet then you can go online to the Cuddington website and visit our page at <https://www.cuddingtonvillage.com/view-page.php?pid=34>

However, as we indicated last month, if you prefer to do it by cash or cheque then there is a payment slip included in this edition. Please place your donation (minimum of £5.00 please) in an envelope along with the filled in slip and deliver it to one of the two addresses indicated, Rose Cottage, Lower Church Street or Southways, The Green. Please note that donations will remain confidential. We do stress that this is a totally optional and voluntary donation to **Village Voice** and every household will continue to receive it regardless of whether or not you feel able to make a donation.

In praise of local food supplier



Throughout this extraordinary year, I've come to value, more than ever, the contribution made by local shops, local farmers and local food suppliers.

I still remember the half-hour queue outside my local supermarket, only to find that many of the shelves were bare. That was before I rediscovered my smaller, local shops, where much of their produce was supplied by local farmers. So now, as Christmas approaches, I'm thinking about how best to ensure that my local food suppliers are still around in years to come.

'Shop local' is certainly a strong strategy – so I'm making sure that my local shops continue to receive my custom. But I also want to support local farmers – and as Christmas approaches, I'm wondering about turkey farmers.

I always buy a superb, slow-reared turkey from Starveall Farm, in Stone – and I happen to know that their Free Range Bronze Turkey has, once again, won 2 Stars in the Great Taste Awards. So I asked the farmer, Mike Lambert, how the pandemic had affected them.

"What some people don't realise," said Mike, "is that, because we supply a superior, slowly-reared bird, we buy our chicks in early spring. That's long before the pandemic lockdown. We always buy a variety of sizes, to meet the various needs of our customers. But this year, with all its restrictions on household numbers, I worry that some customers might favour a smaller bird.



That would leave us with a surplus of large birds, which would be a terrible waste"

It would indeed, especially as turkey lends itself to so many superbly tasty left-overs, like curries, risottos, pies and all kinds of interesting dishes, which can be frozen. So, however many people are around my table this year, I won't be changing the size of my usual turkey. With a bit of luck, I'll have lots of leftovers to keep me happily supplied with delicious, healthy dishes, well into the New Year.

www.starveallturkeys.co.uk 01296 747 549



We had a wonderfully generous response for the Harvest food collection; this was taken to Aylesbury food bank who were most grateful.

Routines got more established and settled in school as the term unfolded; the children are coping exceptionally well with the limitations to their movements around the building and at playtimes and it has been especially good to see the Infant children working hard and settling into the routines of being back in school. Seeing the children learning and making good progress are the things I really love about my job.

We are delighted our very first phone-call parents evening was so well received – we have had to be very innovative in replacing normal face-to-face contacts!

Cuddington youth drama carries on !



Thank you dear Cuddington!

We are now back in the Beloved Bernard Hall, -5 at a time- on Saturdays!

CYD's *Chitty Bang Bang* had a glorious rehearsal time over the summer months of sunshine in the hills and valleys of Upper Winchendon, and gave 6 socially distanced performances to a socially distanced audience.

We would have loved to have been able to invite you all!

We are so grateful now to be able to carry on in the Hall.

We are reminded again and again what a special place it is for the children. Newcomers respond immediately to the magic of opening the curtain to the real stage. They love the secret understage storage, the green room full of hats and props and historical photographs and the mirrors everywhere. We don't know whether we'll be able to give a performance this year, or whether we'll have to stick to small groups and filming, but we hope we can share some of the joyful fun of the theatre with you all in some way soon.

Thank you Markus, Charlotte, Zoe, Christine and Chris.

What a team. What a village! Hurrah!

Lots of love and thanks to all of you, from all of CYD.

The Crown

The Crown are still offering Take-Away meals from our Take-away menu, delivery or collection, Wednesday to Sunday to include our Saturday Night Steak and a bottle of wine for two at £35.00!

We are also offering Wednesday, Thursday and Friday lunch a 2 course lunch or dinner for £13.95.

We have come to the end of the first 1/2 term since our lockdown with happy, but exhausted children (and staff!) and thanks must go to parents for their patience as we navigated our way through this difficult time where so many things changed. The staggered start and finish have worked well for the children and the arrangements for the end of the day allow everyone to social distance.

Our usual activities leading up to Christmas will be very different this year. We won't be able to have any events where groups of more than 6 can attend. I am exploring the possibility of filming the Infant nativity and offering DVD's or something similar for sale to parents.

And finally a poem written by a pupil during lockdown:

*When 2020 Lockdown began,
The world was in a mess since I don't know when.
People got furloughed and lost their job,
Children stopped going to school, holding back sobs.
The NHS worked harder trying to save lives,
Numbers of COVID rising and rising to extreme heights.
But this did not stop us, because we are unbeatable,
This did not stop us because we are unbeatable.*

(Continued from page 1)

REMEMBRANCE 2020

Sale of Poppies

These are extremely difficult times, but with no "house to house" collections this year, on behalf of the Royal British Legion we would be most grateful if you are able to make a donation to help the Legion to continue its invaluable work. The Royal British Legion was founded in 1921 - 100 years ago next year!

Poppies, including a limited number of the metal lapel pins, will be on sale at:

Denise's Hairdresser – Upper Church Street

The Village Shop - Upper Church Street

The Crown Inn; Aylesbury Road and Cuddington and Dinton (C&D) School will have poppies for sale to families.

Gift Aid forms will be available from and can be returned to:

Skippy Blumer- Southways, The Upper Green

Margaret Russell - 4, Swanhill Cottages, Aylesbury Road

Rosemary Bradbury - Downes, Lower Church Street

Jennifer SdeJ - Larden, Spicketts Lane

It will also be possible to donate directly to the Royal British Legion via:

Lloyds Bank Sort Code : 30-11-75

A/c No. 01937121

Please quote Payment Reference : EBA/34 Cuddington

Should you wish for further information about the Poppy appeal or the 2020 Remembrance Service, please contact Jennifer Schram de Jong at 01844 291501 or jschramdejong@yahoo.co.uk.

With my grateful thanks for your support with this year's Poppy Appeal.

Stay safe and well. Jennifer Schram de Jong

Any changes to the above arrangements will be notified on the Village website.