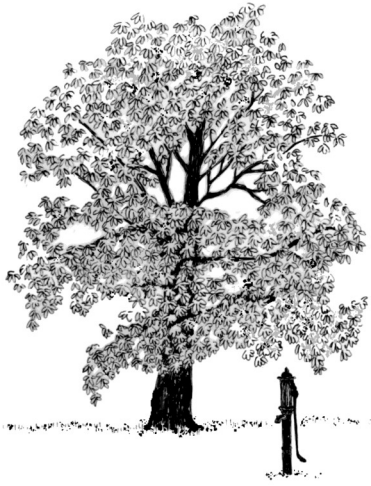




Cuddington Village Voice

May - 2021

New Rector licensed on Thursday 22nd April



Hello everyone, my name is Cassa and I am the newest member of the Wychert Vale Benefice ministry team. The benefice (the name describes an area which the Church of England defines, usually with two or more parishes) includes the village of Cuddington.

The licensing was held on Zoom and I was licensed by Bishop Alan (Bishop of Buckingham). Like many things this year it was not as we might have wanted it to be but very heartening that so many people from our local communities and further afield were able to join us. My family (my husband Myles and our three girls Mia, Roisin and Caitlin) have moved

with me and we are really enjoying getting to know the area. *(Please see separate article about our arrival on the back page of Village Voice!)* I am very much looking forward to meeting people over the next few months and working with you as we seek to serve and care for our community.

The Duke of Edinburgh Came to Cuddington



In village annals a red-letter day occurred when the Duke of Edinburgh opened the Cuddington Playing Field on 14th October 1952. The Duke was greeted at the entrance to the Playing Field by a guard of honour composed of local scouts and cubs and surrounded by flag-waving school children from the Cuddington, Dinton and

Winchendon schools. After a speech of welcome, the Duke planted an oak tree. He then studied the project plan, which included a proposed children's playground. Finally the Duke was driven through the village by way of Upper Church Street, the Lower Green and Holly Tree Lane. The streets were decked with bunting and lined

(Continued on page 7)

Christian Aid



We are delighted that we start the week this year with our all-age

service at St Nicholas Church at 10am on Sunday 9th May. The focus this year is on reducing the effects of the Climate Crisis on the poorest and most vulnerable areas of the world and we will consider the ways that the money we raise can help with long term solutions.

Our regular collectors will be coming around the village during the week with a house to house collection. Alternatively I have set up an e-envelope this year which makes it much easier to keep track of our fundraising. Please use this link <https://envelope.christianaid.org.uk/envelope/caroline-stonham>

Every afternoon from 2 to 6pm there will be a plant sale in the garden at Wellfield House, Spurt Street. We welcome any donations of plants (which can be left by the side gate). There will also be a plant stall running after Christian Aid week at Holymans Farmhouse, off Frog Lane.

Last year the children completed an Everest Challenge by climbing their stairs to the height of Everest and beyond. This year it is the grown-ups' turn with a challenge to complete 300,000 steps, walking, jumping, skipping or running in May. I am up for this challenge and it would be great to get a team from Cuddington to join the nation wide appeal. Please watch for the just giving link on the village website.

caroline@holymans.co.uk



Thought for the Month

What would you do?

When a homicidal man started stabbing innocent people at the Fishmongers Hall some froze, some ran, and some risked their lives and fought back. Three men confronted the terrorist, disregarding the risk to their life. One of them grabbed the tusk of a narwhal and another blasted him with a fire extinguisher. They were prepared to lay down their life for those around them – people they did not know. One of them pinned the attacker down even though he may have been wearing a suicide vest. He wanted to save the life of the murderer and he begged the police not to shoot.

What would I have done? I think of myself as a good person, but would I have offered to lay down my life for others? One of those who did was a convicted criminal, I am a vicar. Who is to say which one of us is good and who is bad?

A recent study of human behaviour found that a surprising number of football fans would hypothetically lay down their life to save fellow fans. Over a third of Crystal Palace fans would hypothetically jump in front of a train to save fellow fans. They feel a bond with people they don't know and would make the ultimate sacrifice to save them. This is the sacrifice Jesus said he would make for all of us – good or bad.

What about you? The train is coming and people are standing there transfixed. This lethal train is our climate that is changing so dramatically. We can see it happening in front of us and if we were in any doubt, just watch any of David Attenborough's documentaries. The wet autumn and dry spring is bad news for our farmers, they are already preparing for a financial hit, but elsewhere in the world people are already dying. I used to live in Tanzania and this year again the climate change has led to a failure in the harvest – some of them will starve.

We know that the only way to bring change is to sacrifice. We need to change our lives and press for change in all nations. We are not being asked to throw ourselves in front of a train, or to confront a killer, but are we able to do things that we don't want to. We can be heroes. We can do things that will save the lives of people we don't know now and potentially the lives of our grandchildren in the not-too-distant future.

What can we do? Eat less meat, travel less, get an electric car, pay more for renewable energy, reuse our plastic bottles by using refills for cleaning products (Planet Health in Thame). We can also tell our preferred candidate from the political party that we support and will vote for that we need all politicians from all parties without exception to push our government to act now.

I am in awe of those three men who were prepared to give their lives to save those around them. What sacrifice can I give so others might live?

Phil Groves

Notes from Uganda



Some copies of this excellent book are still available, at £10 (with all proceeds going to Kampala Music School) from Fiona Carr on fionacarr@hotmail.co.uk; or from Cuddington Stores.

'Notes from Uganda' is uplifting, and written – not just to tell the story – but to show us a positive side of a country, rightly known as 'The Pearl of Africa'. The love of learning and performing, students becoming teachers or professional musicians – all are covered in Fiona's story of how she started and developed Kampala Music

School with so much support and help from all quarters.



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

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Advertising: Kathy Hook - 290636 or getkathy@hotmail.com

Tennis Club

Cuddington Tennis Club is back open after lockdown closure and the new season is underway - there's every reason to get out and enjoy a game of tennis at the Club.

We offer great value membership fees and with two excellent courts and frequent coaching courses led by our LTA-qualified coach, why not join us?

For all membership enquiries, please contact the Club Secretary, Robin Nash at robin.nash7@btinternet.com.



20's Plenty for Cuddington is part of the national campaign to get 20mph limits where people live.

It might seem that 20's Plenty has been dormant for the past few months but in fact 20's Plenty village volunteers have been beavering away in the background alongside TAG.

You might be aware that the Parish Council asked for a study to be carried out to ascertain whether a 20 mph limit throughout the village was feasible.

This discussion document, to which 20's Plenty contributed, has now been passed to the Parish Council for their comments. The answer basically is yes, it is possible, but to be able to get the speed down to the required 24 mph (don't ask, we don't know why it is that figure either) further traffic calming will be required. We could probably get the 20mph speed limit reduced in the lower part of the village now, but as vehicles cannot travel much more than that anyway it would be a rather pointless expense as we would still have to go through the Speed Limit Change procedure.

The 3 main roads coming into our village are where we need the lower speed limits and hence further traffic calming.

You will have noticed the build-out in Aylesbury Road. This so far, appears to have had little effect on speed reduction. Indeed, talking to several people who live nearby it would appear to make many drivers actually increase their speed to get through it!

Apart from the build-out and the 3 flashing 30mph signs, little other traffic calming has been implemented in the past 4 decades. Perhaps this is because our efforts have not achieved significant success.

Maybe it is time to adopt a different approach. In our view the Parish Council, having had the discussion paper, now have 3 possible options to consider. They can either engage with an Urban Design company who will look at our issues and advise us how to move forward, get a group of villagers together and try to sort it out ourselves (sound familiar) or do nothing.

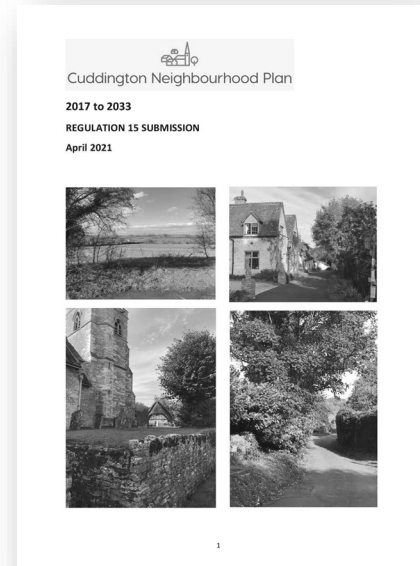
SPEEDING TRAFFIC AFFECTS EVERYONE IN THE VILLAGE, WHEREVER THEY LIVE!

If you think something should be done, email or write to the Parish Council and copy me in.

Pauline Spence
Co-ordinator 20's Plenty for Cuddington ,
01844 291711 cuddington@20splentyforus.org.uk



DRAFT CUDDINGTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN (CNP) SUBMITTED TO BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNCIL IN APRIL 2021



The Regulation 15 DRAFT version of the CNP has been approved by the Parish Council and has been submitted to Buckinghamshire Council. They will arrange for the documents to be reviewed through a further stage of public consultation. The Regulation 15 submission and any objections will then be considered by an Independent Planning Inspector who may ask for amendments to be made before the final version goes to public referendum in the village later in the year.

The submitted draft takes account of feedback from parishioners and comments from statutory consultees such as Buckinghamshire Council.

It has been a long process and the Parish Council would like to thank all the contributors and the residents for their interest and participation in reaching this stage. From now on the process is managed by Buckinghamshire Council.

The Regulation 15 documents can be found on the Cuddington village website at :-

<https://cuddingtonvillage.com/view-page.php?pid=137>

Clubhouse Transformation



A huge thank you to the Cuddington Playing Fields Association and their volunteers for all of their hard work and commitment in transforming the Clubhouse! Prior to lockdown, work had started to redecorate the space and allow electronic payments. During lockdown, volunteers re-paired and painted chairs to give them

a new lease of life! The bar has been updated and transformed. A core of individuals have worked on this for the benefit of the whole village and many villagers enjoyed the open-air community space over the weekend! With a hot air balloon taking off on Saturday and the Fish & Chip Van serving Saturday suppers, there's something for everyone. Well done to all involved!



Sign of the Times?

With the gradual easing of 'lockdown' restrictions, we have been greeted with appalling scenes of mountains of rubbish being left in parks, on beaches and in beauty spots around the country. It is quite clear that there are large numbers of the population who care nothing for the environment in which we live, or the enjoyment of their fellow citizens. It appears that the era of people being trained, from a young age, never to drop litter are, unfortunately, long gone.

Following last month's update about local litter clearing, several Cuddington 'litter vigilantes' have been out and about clearing roadside ditches and verges. To date, 38 bags of rubbish have been removed, as well as various bulky items like car bumpers, scaffold tubes and broken road signs.



One thing we cannot do much about is deliberate fly-tipping. Low Lane has recently suffered again, with a full lorry load of what looks like commercial garage rubbish. Fortunately, this has now been cleared by Bucks Council.

With all the current roadworks, Cuddington is not looking its best, at the moment! There will be a village 'Tidy Up' day, probably in June, where everyone can take part. In the meantime, there is still plenty that can be done. Litter-picking equipment is available from Ken (292921) at any time. It would also make a real difference if everyone took additional responsibility for the area immediately in front of their own home!

Ken Birkby



CYD are Zooming away!

Lockdown has brought about some creative and determined solutions to traditional activities.

So, faced with no indoor rehearsals and get togethers in the Bernard Hall on a Saturday morning, Cuddington Youth Drama have become "Zoomers" and "outsiders" during the last 12 months!

There has been much zooming and rehearsing outside in the beautiful countryside giving thanks and looking forward to :

Much Ado About Nothing - 1st week of September

&

Oliver! - October half term

So please make a note of these dates, we will keep in touch and hope to see you then, much love to all of you from CYD !



Speedwatch 2021 to make a return

As summer approaches and the Covid restrictions ease, Cuddington's Speedwatch volunteers will once again be a sight around the village. Manning various pieces of kit road side, we hope to reduce the number of speeding vehicles. If you are interested in possibly volunteering, please contact Steve Wright on stepnwright@gmail.com.

Village Voice Business Sponsorship Scheme

A big thank you to all of you who have contributed to our new donor scheme to keep Village Voice in print and through our letterboxes. The pandemic has provided the opportunity to review how VV is funded. We are very grateful to the loyal businesses who have supported us over the years and hope this support will continue, albeit in a slightly different way going forward. We have decided that it is time to move away from the printed advertising supplement and instead we are inviting businesses to sponsor VV. In return for supporting our village community they will be credited on our new sponsors page within VV itself with a listing including their main contact details. The idea is to recognise our kind sponsors as well as building an easily accessible 'go to' page of trusted local businesses encouraging us all to shop locally whenever we can.

If you are a business owner, or know someone who is, and would like to sponsor VV this is very easy via the VV section on the website or by contacting Kathy Hook (kathyhook86@gmail.com) if an invoice is preferred. We recognise this is an incredibly challenging time for businesses and so the minimum contribution is just £20 for a year, of course higher amounts would be very welcome.

TAG 2020
Cuddington
Traffic Action Group

Representatives of TAG, 20's Plenty and parish councilors held a site visit in the village together with a Buckinghamshire Council and highways engineers from Transport for Bucks (TfB) on 22 April to discuss road safety issues.

The principal focus was on the Aylesbury Road pinch point opposite the Crown and the pedestrian crossing point at the Upper Green.

Whilst TAG and the Parish Council continue to consider solutions to address the full range of traffic problems in the village the two road safety issues identified above were felt worthy of special attention, hence the meeting.

We were encouraged by the response of the TfB highways engineers who recognised the traffic issues faced daily by residents here in Cuddington. Not only was it a lovely afternoon for our 1 hour meeting, the traffic turned up and illustrated perfectly the points we were trying to get across.

We had HGVs struggling to get around corners, tractor/trailer units taking up all the road, car drivers mounting the pavement (one even scowled at a TfB employee as, although he was on the pavement in his high-viz outfit, it prevented the driver from mounting the pavement which they obviously wished to do) and examples of vehicles clearly driving at inappropriate speeds.

We believe our case was well made on the day.

The TfB representatives were happy to talk informally about potential solutions that could be considered. They are now coming up with suggestions for our consideration and further discussion.

As proposals are developed, please be assured that villagers will be consulted along the way.

Peter Spence
Leader, TAG
prspence@btinternet.com

Covid-19 Casualty

Village Fete 2021 - Cancelled



The uncertainty around the opening up of communities post-lockdown from June 21st and encouraging visitors with increased footfall to the village has led the Committee to take the decision to cancel the 2021 Fete. The Playing Fields Committee are hoping to put on a village summer party at some point so please look out for any announcements. We do need more volunteers for the Fete Committee 2022 and a new Fete Chair as well so please contact Karen Clayton on 07718 559978 if you can help at all.

Stay Safe!
Cuddington Fete Committee

Crown Service

The Crown is open again, unfortunately only for outside trading until 17th May, we would however love to see you all while the sun shines. On the 17th May you are all allowed back inside, so please book your table now so not to be disappointed, Mike & Laura would like to thank you for all your support over these particularly hard times, and look forward to seeing you all again very soon.





The Village Picture House is starting up again – and we can't wait to welcome you back!

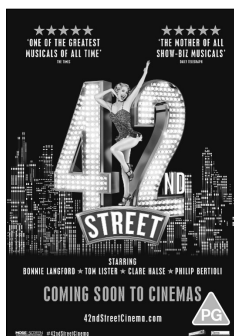
Our first two screenings will be subject to the latest Government rules and guidelines, which means limiting our seating capacity to around 50% of our normal amount. Social distancing will need to be observed and face masks will be compulsory. There will be a one-way system of entrance and exit, good ventilation, and chairs will be specially arranged according to the size of each group of people who have bought tickets. We will be unable to provide a bar and refreshments until the July screenings. However, you are allowed to bring your own wine, tea, coffee and snacks etc. – but we ask that you take away your empties and rubbish please.

We encourage everyone to book their tickets online through the Village Picture House page on the website, but there will be a very limited number of tickets available in Cuddington Stores for those local residents who are unable to do so.

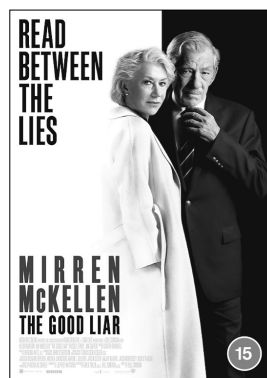
Important: Shop sales and online bookings will close at 4.00 pm on the day, and there will be **no** tickets available on the door.

We are very reluctantly increasing our ticket prices. They have been held at £5/£4 for six years, however the licensing of a movie has a fixed cost, and we are having to set the new prices at £8 with a £7 concession to cover our costs. The good news is that we are able to keep the "live/as live" theatre events at the original price of £12 with a £10 concession price – and even better news: all these prices are around half the cost of tickets at the local Odeon.

Our summer 2021 programme begins on Thursday 3rd June with **42nd Street: The Musical** (cert. PG), captured live at at The Theatre Royal, Drury Lane. This legendary Broadway theatre classic tells the story of Peggy Sawyer, a talented young performer with stars in her eyes,



who gets her big break on Broadway. Fresh off the bus from small-town America, Peggy is just another face in the chorus line on Broadway's newest show. But when the leading lady gets injured, Peggy might just have the shot at stardom she's always dreamed of... This largest-ever production of the Tony Award-winning musical features a dazzling tap-dancing and show-stopping ensemble cast headed by Bonnie Langford. "An utterly moreish extravaganza of glitz ... an old-fashioned glamour musical that keeps on giving", says *The Times*. "An achingly beautiful revival of an American Classic ... a shiny, streamlined homage to a vanished world of razzmatazz", says *The Telegraph*.



Then on Thursday 17th June our film will be **The Good Liar** (cert. 15) starring Helen Mirren and Ian McKellen. Career con artist Roy Courtnay can hardly believe his luck when he meets well-to-do widow Betty McLeish online. But as Betty opens her home and life to him, Roy is surprised to find himself caring about her, turning what should be a cut-and-dry swindle into the most treacherous tightrope walk of his life... "This mystery

thriller is outrageous and irresistible, featuring delicious performances by Helen Mirren and Ian McKellen," says *The Guardian*.

"This couple of unlikely internet daters are an absolute joy," says *The Times*.

Looking ahead to July, we shall be screening **Military Wives**, about a group of women who come together as their partners serve in Afghanistan to form the very first military wives' choir, and **Knives Out**, a fun, modern-day tribute to mystery mastermind Agatha Christie starring Daniel Craig, Chris Evans and Jamie Lee Curtis. More details next month.

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



Get up early!!



Florence Nightingale Hospice Charity is asking everyone to set their alarm clocks for 5am on Saturday 10th July and join hundreds of others (virtually) for a dawn walk to raise crucial funds to support the Hospice.

"Whilst we are disappointed not to be able to go ahead with our traditional Midnight Walk, we had such an overwhelmingly positive reaction to last year's event that we are confident that it will be a great success and raise a fantastic amount of money to help fund local hospice care again" says Julie Chittie, Events Manager at the Charity.

This year Walkers are again be asked to walk a minimum of 5 miles, wherever they want, starting at 5am on Saturday 10th

July. The event is open to all, whatever your age and wherever you are in the world - last year saw lots of children (and dogs) join in so this year the Charity are offering children's T-shirts and dog bandanas so everyone can be a part of the event.



The Midnight Walk is a long-standing and major fundraiser for the Charity, and with their income hit so badly over the past year, they are hoping everyone will get behind them by signing up to this year's virtual event and help to raise the thousands of pounds needed to help secure the future of local hospice care.

For more information and to sign up, please visit www.fnhospice.org.uk/notthemidnightwalk or call 01296 429975.

Dates for your Diary

"As full of spirit as the month of May, and as gorgeous as the sun in Midsummer."
—William Shakespeare



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.

May

Monday 3 rd	Bank Holiday
Wednesday 5 th , 8.00	Book Club at Playing Fields Clubhouse
Monday 10 th , 2.00pm	Sunshine Club Tea, Playing Fields Clubhouse
Tuesday 11 th , 2.30pm	Tuesday Group, Playing Fields Clubhouse
Monday 31 st	Bank Holiday
Monday 31 st , 2.00pm	Sunshine Club Tea, Playing Fields Clubhouse
Monday 31 st , 7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting, via video conference

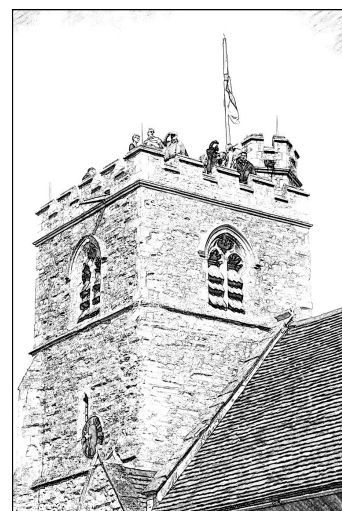
June

Wednesday 2 nd , 8.00pm	Book Club at Playing Fields Clubhouse
Thursday 3 rd , 7.00pm	'42nd Street: The Musical' , Village Picture House <i>this is due to show—final details on website</i>
Monday 7 th , 2.00pm	Sunshine Club Tea, Playing Fields Clubhouse
Tuesday 8 th , 2.30pm	Tuesday Group, Playing Fields Clubhouse
Thursday 17 th , 8.00pm	'The Good Liar' Village Picture House <i>this is due to show—final details on website</i>
Monday 21 st , 2.00pm	Sunshine Club Tea, Playing Fields Clubhouse
Monday 28 th 7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting, via video conference

Services at St Nicholas'

Please note that until further notice there will be an outdoor service every Sunday at 10.00am in the churchyard of St Nicholas'.

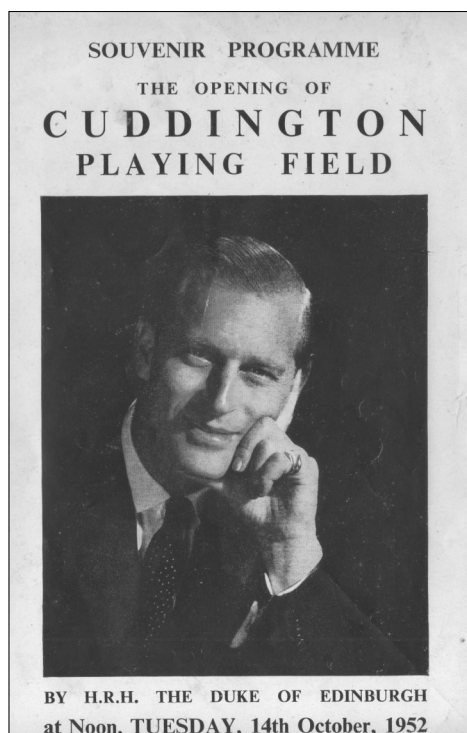
We will be constantly reviewing the situation as guidelines change and relax and further information will be put on the village website.



(Continued from page 1)

by excited villagers, while the church bells rang out. The late Dorothy Woodford remembered getting a special wave from the Duke as he was driven away!

The Duke was presented to 4 members of the Cuddington Playing Fields Committee who had led the playing fields project: Mr Forster, Mr (Ted) Ferris, Mr (Vic) Waghorne and Mr (Bill) Woodford. The Bucks Herald gave an account of the Duke's visit, reporting on some of the verbal exchanges. The Duke said, "I am delighted that the ommittee is largely composed of men who served in the navy". The Cuddington vicar, Rev Crawley-Boevey offered the Duke "a most cordial welcome to the village" and continued, "We count it as a great honour that out of your very busy life you have spared us a great deal of your time". Apparently the Duke, who was famous for never wasting words replied, "I hope you will all enjoy this ground". In



the Parish Magazine the vicar joyfully declared that the visit had been "an unqualified success" and that the Duke had been given a "right royal welcome".

The Duke was President of the National Playing Fields Association and had undertaken a typically busy day on 14th October. When he arrived in Cuddington at midday, he had already spent the morning in Eton Wick and Haddenham. After Cuddington he travelled to Aylesbury, visited a Churchill Avenue site in Southcourt, had lunch in 'The Bull's Head', then spent the afternoon in engagements in Stoke Hammond and Bletchley.

This was probably the only recorded royal visit to the village. It would be interesting to hear the reminiscences of anyone who witnessed this event.

Peter Wenham



Since our last item in April's Village Voice we have had our Easter Holiday break and are now all safely back in school. In the Christian calendar, Easter is always a

time for reflection. We have had lots to reflect on over the year. I spent time before the break with year 4 and we talked about the good things that happened in Lockdown and reflected on ways we can continue with them (a quieter Christmas was quite popular!). For some children, we know that this year has been difficult, and we spent some time talking about this and thinking how we can support each other, and what we are looking forward to.



Thank you to all the families who took part in the Easter Egg trail around the village. Everyone who paid for a trail should have brought home an Easter Egg - I have just handed out 117 of them! Well done to Emilia S and

Alice G for winning an additional egg in the lucky draw; Mrs Humphreys and Jacob won the best Easter display (as voted for by the children). Once again thank you to our anonymous donors of the eggs, especially since the surplus eggs went to a children's hospice. Good luck to Hamish and others who are completing a sponsored walk for Pace at the weekend.

Kim Price, Headteacher

Our new Rector and family

The Messervy family are now settled into the new rectory and getting to know the parish and benefice. We are so grateful for the delicious takeaway delivery on our first night, which was much needed after a very long and stressful mov-ing day! Also we were delighted by the gorgeous welcome hamper which we have really enjoyed eating!

So a little introduction to our family, I (Cassa) am married to Myles who was born in Ireland where some of his family still live. He is an electrical project manager for SSE Major Projects and is currently working in London. Our eldest is Mia who is 16 and in her GCSE year (rather difficult as you can imagine), she is passionate about music and loves to sing and play the piano. Roisin is 13 enjoying her studies and working hard in Yr 8 at school. Roisin loves art, textiles and creative writing, like her mother she is a bookworm. Our youngest is Caitlin who is 10 and will move to Haddenham Junior School for the summer term before she starts secondary



school in September. Caitlin is our little sportswoman, who plays tennis and is looking forward to playing on the courts opposite the school.

Finally we have two dogs, Paddy and Twiglet who are really enjoying the wonderful footpaths locally. We are very much looking forward to meeting everyone over the summer term as restrictions allow.

Elections, or not!

Cuddington has always been a vibrant community with lots of things going on, although most activity has been on hold over the past year. Many people



willingly volunteer to participate in a wide variety of things such as; Tree Wardens, Footpath Maintenance, Village Voice production, Neighbourhood Plan work, organising village societies and much, much more.

Despite this, and with a fair amount of publicity and lobbying, it is disappointing that we seem unable to attract enough people to stand for election to the Parish Council. With seven seats available, we were only able to attract six candidates (all of whom are current councillors!) to put themselves forward for election.

This will be the third consecutive election date when the lack of sufficient candidates resulted in no ballot being held and parish councillors being elected unopposed.

A real democracy is where electors choose who they want to be their representatives from a wide range of candidates.

The Parish Council, effective from 10th May 2021, will be;

Ken Trew
Ravarn Stevens
Lorraine Stevens
Julia Ridout
Ken Brown
Ken Birkby

One vacancy, to be filled at some future date.

6th May is a vitally important date for the election of our three representatives to sit on the Buckinghamshire Council. Since the creation of the Unitary Authority, the ward boundaries have changed and Cuddington is now included in the Stone and Waddesdon ward, in which there are 15 candidates standing for these three seats.

Voting will also take place for the Thames Valley Police and Crime Commissioner.

Please go out to the Bernard Hall and exercise your vote. (don't forget to take your pen!)

Ken Birkby