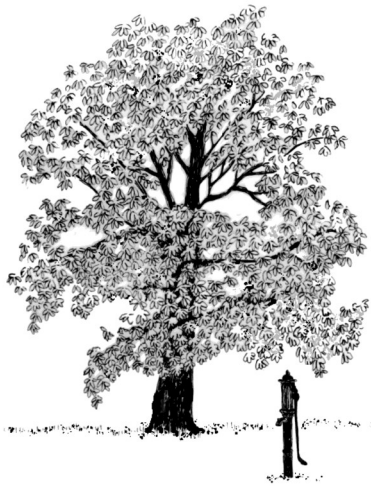




V Cuddington Village Voice

June 2021

Bernard Hall AGM

We are hoping to hold this year's AGM on Monday, 28th June at 8pm in the Bernard Hall.

Obviously not much has been happening in the village hall over the past year and so we took the opportunity to redecorate and spruce it up a bit. We look forward to seeing you there.



Village Voice

Village Voice continues to be a highly important part of village life and communications.

Being published 10 times a year is a big commitment and the Editorial Team is looking to the future and the need to find more people to join it to help in the actual publishing of it.

If you are interested in helping (and especially if you are already familiar with the MS Publisher programme!) then please contact the Editor, Helen Keeping, on 01844 291635 or email to wichertcot@gmail.com

THE FETE COMMITTEE & CPFA
INVITE YOU TO

The Cuddington Village Party

SATURDAY 17TH JULY 2021
3PM UNTIL LATE

Cuddington Playing Fields, Bernard Close

BBQ, Bar, Stalls, Games and much more!



The Fete Committee have joined forces with the Playing Fields Committee to host a Village Party on the Playing Fields – there'll be activities, stalls, licensed bar, The Works Icecream Stall, BBQ, and more.

As ever, we need stall holders, volunteers and prizes! If you can help please contact: cuddingtonfete@gmail.com

Cuddington Youth Theatre



We are back in the Hall on Saturday mornings, hurrah!

We are producing Oliver! for the October half term!

We are welcoming any Cuddington children of any age who would like to be an orphan or a pickpocket for the show to join us. Currently, we are aged 5 to 62 years old.

Come have some fun!

Please get in touch with Elaine English 07947 494 724.

CYD is a family you'll never want to leave...

Happy Summer everyone!

Christian Aid Week 2021

The Christian Aid Family Service was a huge success with a dramatic enactment of a family preparing their meagre breakfast in part of drought stricken Africa, where climate change is having a severe impact. Donations of £123 were gratefully received.

This year the house to house collections raised over £1,000. Many thanks to all those who have volunteered for this and for the very generous donations we have received both in the paper and electronic envelopes. With the 10,000 steps a day just giving money and the Madrigal donations to be added, it looks as if we will have exceeded our £2,000 target this year, which is a fantastic effort.

Caroline Stonham

Thought for the month...



First to say a huge thank you for your wonderful welcome to us as we have joined the benefice and community here in Cuddington. It has been a delight to start to get to know the village and the lovely walks, which our dogs have enjoyed!

'Thank you', two small words which can make such a difference to our lives, when we thank others and give thanks for life's joys and the good things we receive. However, often we focus on negative things. If you think back over the last week, how many good news stories have you heard? As we know 'bad news sells' and we can often pick up this unhealthy focus on the negative aspects of our lives, particularly after the year we have had. If we have 'an attitude of gratitude' we are more likely to focus on the everyday good things in our lives. An 'attitude of gratitude' means making it a habit to express thankfulness and appreciation in all parts of our lives, on a regular basis, for both the big and small things alike.

Paul, a writer in the New Testament sends a letter to the people in Colosse, a small market town in what is modern day Turkey. Thanksgiving is a thread in the letter from beginning to end, which is remarkable given that Paul wrote the letter in prison and faces a violent death. It's also remarkable given the fact that the Colossian Church was facing sporadic persecution like many Christians in Syria, Iraq and Egypt today. Paul says:

"And be thankful...whatever you do, in word or in deed, do everything in the name of our Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him".

Our lives are above all about giving thanks: about appreciating what we have been given, about hearts overflowing with the riches we have received in creation, in relationships and in community. 'Be thankful' is Paul message of encouragement to the people of Colosse.

Thanksgiving can be hard when we are going through difficult times, but I have to say as I have walked with people through the worst times in their lives, those who bear them the best are those who are grateful for the support of family and friends and who focus on the high points not on the low points. What can we be grateful for today?

Reverend Cassa Messervy

CUDDINGTON
PARISH COUNCIL
cuddingtonvillage.com

Dog fouling and dog bins

Over the past year we have seen an increase in people coming to Cuddington to enjoy walking in our beautiful village and the surrounding countryside.

Unfortunately we have also seen an increase in dog waste on the paths in and near the village. If you walk a dog, even one belonging to someone else, you are responsible for cleaning up after the dog if it fouls on public land, as among other things it can pose a particular health risk to children.

The Parish Council commissions the supply and emptying of the dog waste bins, and in addition provides bags at three points in the village. The village's three bins are located at the top of the concrete path near the Upper Green, at the point where Frog Lane and Lower Church Street meet and on the Playing Fields. We have recently relocated the dog waste bin on the Playing Fields so that it is now nearer the car park and club house, which will hopefully make it easier for dog walkers to use. Please also ensure you don't leave plastic bags of dog waste anywhere but in the bins – it's unsightly as well as unhealthy.

Christian Aid Plant Sale

A Plant Stall was held in the garden at Wellfield House which ran for the whole week. In spite of the all-too-frequent downpours many people visited our stall, and we would like to give the warmest thanks to all those who donated and bought plants, and to those who just gave us a donation. We also showed quite a few visitors around our garden, and they must have liked what they saw as they were also generous with their donations. We had a number of children who obviously enjoyed seeing – and sometimes handling – the newts in our pond!

Preparing for, and then running, a plant stall for a week does involve a certain amount of effort, but it was all very worthwhile. We enjoyed seeing those we knew, meeting those we didn't, and hearing happy children running round our garden. Added to all this, our takings for the week amounted to £380, and we would like to send renewed thanks to all those who made this possible.

Angela and Charles Sanderson



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

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Speedwatch and hairdryers



Now that the weather is improving we are beginning to use the camera again around the village. We have also begun trialling a speed gun. Rather than having to share the Sentinel speed camera with other villages, this hairdryer-like device is owned entirely and exclusively by Cuddington, and allows more regular speedwatch sessions. On the 'hairdryers' first hour long session along Bridgeway we captured over 20 cars breaking the speed limit: with the top speed being 46mph. All offenders will be contacted by the police. The one drawback with the speed gun is that it requires three people to operate it. We therefore desperately need more volunteers. If you would like to volunteer for Speedwatch please contact me, Steve Wright at stepnwright@gmail.com

Father's Day at The Crown

The Crown is very much in full operation and being run by David White, very successfully. As of 21st June it should be all back to normal and Laura and I will be back very soon to see everyone again, and very much look forward to it.

Until then why not celebrate Father's Day with us on 20th June.

*Book now so as not to be disappointed.
Contact us on 01844 292222 or email
bookings@thecrowncuddington.com*

The Streets of Cuddington

Street names contribute to our shared history. St Nicholas Church has been at the centre of Cuddington for over 800 years and it is fitting that Upper and Lower Church Street should celebrate this.

Many of our street names refer to natural features. For example, Frog Lane was home to many amphibians who relished the damp area close to the river. However, it seems they did not confine themselves to their named lane as Walter Welford, caretaker to Tyringham Hall in the 1940s and 1950s, reported on well frog-stocked cellars. He used to take village children down to view them.

Village folklore relates that Great Stone is so named because there used to be a huge stone at the foot of the incline before it was removed to facilitate modern traffic. On some early maps it is referred to as Stone Hill. A further possibility is that the name simply refers to the stony nature of the terrain. Meanwhile, Spurt Street – named Spert Street in the 1901 Census – is probably a reference to the number of natural springs, most of whose waters wended their way downhill to the River Thame. Dadbrook also has a watery origin. It is named after Dada's brook, but we do not know who Dada was or where s/he lived. The brook is often a menace in winter, as villagers know, and it can become icy. However, in early times the waters were viewed with great favour as it was believed they had healthful, medicinal properties.

Holly Tree Lane has a more uncertain source. For example in the 1901 Census it appears as Hollow Tree Lane. We note how the lane has been hollowed out with banks on either side. Or maybe at some time there was a prominent holly tree at one end or the other. Another theory is that it leads down to Holyman's Farm, in which that case it was 'Holy' rather than either 'Holly' or 'Hollow'.

When the new council estate on Dadbrook was built the two streets off the main road were both named after local people. Amos (1856 – 1941) and Harriet Welford had seven sons, of whom Walter proved a veritable village worthy. He worked as a carrier on the regular run by horse and wagon to Aylesbury and Thame, and in later life as caretaker at Tyringham Hall. He had also served as Clerk to the Parish Council and as a Churchwarden.

The memorial window in St Nicholas Church reads that he had been Churchwarden for 20 years from 1927 to 1947. He died in 1967 aged 90.

Bernard Close was named after the family at Winchendon Priory who had owned most of the dwellings in Cuddington before the Second World War. Colonel Francis Tyringham Bernard, who served in the First World War had the Bernard Hall built for village use in 1929 before he died in 1935. Ruby Small, a villager, has written that he had a benevolent approach to the collection of rents. "He would not evict anyone who could not pay rent". The house in which young Ruby lived with a large family was demolished in order for the Bernard Hall to be constructed. The family was provided with a nearby property. However, it is fitting that in later life Ruby and her family moved into a new council house in Bernard Close.

Tibby's Lane has an uncertain origin. It may have been named after a person who lived there. Whatever the truth, it has altered over the years. It has appeared as Tubby's lane, while in 1861 it was called Tebby's Lane.

Some street names, of course, relate to destination - for example Aylesbury Road and Bridgeway.

Dirty Lane, a continuation of Frog Lane, was once the main track from the village to Aylesbury. It gradually fell into disuse and disrepair with the advent of the present road to Aylesbury. However, the 1901 Census records 7 houses along Dirty Lane which have since been demolished. In rainy seasons, as walkers know, it certainly merits its name!

Spicketts Lane on the other hand is of uncertain provenance. It is situated on the fringe of the village and it may well be that Spicketts implies a boundary. Another theory suggests that it is a corruption of 'spigot' which is a tap to manage the flow of liquid, whether water or alcohol.

Street names do indeed help to engender a sense of place and our heritage. Their origins are usually clear but some are bafflingly obscure and give rise to differing interpretations. Any further suggestions from villagers are very welcome. We must get in touch with Cuddington folklore!

Peter Wenham

THE VILLAGE PICTURE HOUSE CUDDINGTON



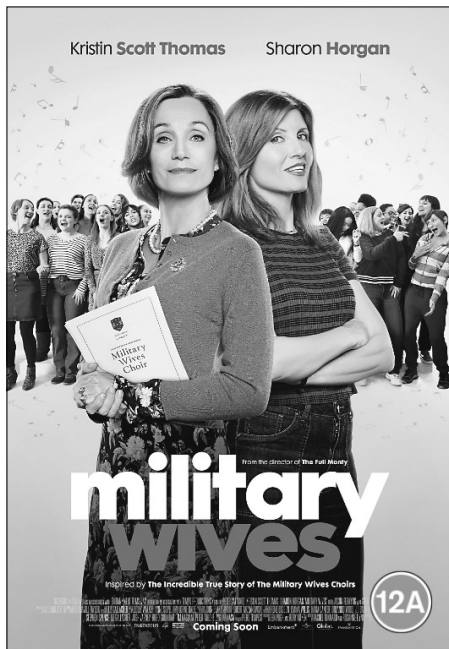
Our summer 2021 season has been very well received, with the result that our screening of *The Good Liar* on 17th June is already sold out. There are, however, still seats available for **42nd Street: The Musical** (cert. PG) on Thursday 3rd June, if this article reaches you in time. This largest-ever production of the Tony Award-winning musical was captured live at The Theatre Royal, Drury Lane. It 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 aching beautiful revival of an American Classic ... a shiny, streamlined homage to a vanished world of razzmatazz", says *The Telegraph*.

On Thursday 1st July we'll be showing **Military Wives** (cert.

12A), an inspirational story of friendship, love and support starring Kristin Scott Thomas and Sharon Horgan. A group of women come together as their partners serve in Afghanistan. Together they form the very first military wives choir, helping each other through some of life's most difficult moments and also becoming a media sensation and global movement in the process.

"Heartstrings are tugged in this treacly choir comedy", says *The Telegraph*. "It's not high art, but this is still one of the must-see films of the year", says *The Daily Mail*. "This crowd-pleasing comedy drama hits all the right notes", says *The Guardian*.

Then on 15th July our film will be **Knives Out** (cert. 12A), a fun, modern-day tribute to mystery mastermind Agatha Christie starring Daniel Craig, Chris Evans and Jamie Lee Curtis. When renowned crime novelist Harlan Thrombey is found dead at his estate just after his 85th birthday, the inquisitive and debonair Detective Benoit Blanc (Craig) is mysteriously enlisted to investigate. From Harlan's dysfunctional family to his devoted staff, Blanc sifts through a web of red herrings and self-serving lies to uncover the truth behind Harlan's untimely death. With an all-star ensemble cast, *Knives Out* is a witty and stylish whodunit guaranteed to keep audiences guessing until the very end. "Daniel Craig has a blast in a murderously fun whodunit worthy of Agatha Christie," says *The Telegraph*. "A brilliantly timely, funny and well-constructed script from *The Last Jedi* director Rian Johnson," says *Radio Times*. "Daniel Craig shines ... the most fun that he has been on screen for years, perhaps ever," says *The Times*.



Our screenings will continue to be subject to the latest Government rules and guidelines. If the move to step 4 coming out of lockdown doesn't take place on 21st June as planned, our seating capacity will have to remain at 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. You are welcome, however, 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 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.

Visit the web page for more details of all features:

www.cuddingtonvillage.com/cinema

TAG 2020 Cuddington Traffic Action Group

In last month's Village Voice we reported on the meeting between TAG, Parish Councillors and Transport for Bucks to look at potential solutions to the 2 issues of traffic mounting the pavement in Aylesbury Road and the safety of pedestrians crossing the road by the Crown. The Parish Council has now received a preliminary report from TfB outlining a number of potential solutions and recommendations.

This report is now being considered and developed.

A response to TfB is in course of preparation.

As more detail emerges residents will be kept up to date.

Peter Spence Leader, TAG,
prspence@btinternet.com

Dates for your Diary



What is one to say about June—the time of perfect young summer, the fulfilment of the promise of earlier months, and with as yet no sign to remind one that its fresh young beauty will ever fade?
Gertrude Jekyll 1843 - 1932

June

Wednesday 2nd, 8.00pm
Thursday 3rd, 7.00pm

Book Club at Playing Fields Clubhouse
'42nd Street: The Musical',
Village Picture House

Monday 7th, 2.00pm
Tuesday 8th, 2.30pm
Thursday 17th, 8.00pm
Monday 21st, 2.00pm
Tuesday 22nd, 7.00pm
Monday 28th, 8.00pm

Sunshine Club Tea, Playing Fields Clubhouse
Tuesday Group, Playing Fields Clubhouse
'The Good Liar' Village Picture House
Sunshine Club Tea, Playing Fields Clubhouse
Parish Council Meeting, Bernard Hall
Bernard Hall AGM, Bernard Hall

July

Monday 5th, 2.00pm
Tuesday 5th, 2.30pm
Wednesday 7th, 8.00pm
Thursday 15th, 8.00pm
Monday 19th, 2.00pm
Tuesday 27th, 7.00pm

Sunshine Club Tea, Playing Fields Clubhouse
Tuesday Group, Playing Fields Clubhouse
Book Club at Playing Fields Clubhouse
'Knives Out' Village Picture House
Sunshine Club Tea, Playing Fields Clubhouse
Parish Council Meeting, Bernard Hall

And every Wednesday at 9.15am Cuddingtots takes place in the Playing Fields Clubhouse; and every Friday at 10.00am Toddlers Singing Group takes place in St Nicholas Church. Everyone is welcome, but places are limited for both groups, so please book. For more details please contact Amy (07782199707) for Cuddingtots, and Christine (christine.jackson@live.co.uk) for Toddlers Singing Group.

Parish Council meetings have now resumed in person at the Bernard Hall. All are welcome to attend.

Pace
The National 3 Peaks Challenge
Step up and make a difference
27 - 30th August 2021
Get ready for the challenge of a lifetime as you attempt to climb the highest mountains in England, Scotland and Wales over just 3 days!
Sign up at thepacecentre.org/3peaks
Charity No. 1011133

The National 3 Peaks Challenge in aid of Pace

27th – 30th August 2021

Get ready for the challenge of a lifetime as you attempt to climb the highest mountains in England, Scotland and Wales over just 3 days! Trekking 25 miles and ascending 3,000m, this is one serious challenge. You will be rewarded with some of the most spectacular views Britain has to offer, in places more beautiful than you can imagine. This is one almighty feat that will leave you with a life-long sense of achievement like no other!

Sign up here <https://getoutdoorsuk.org/products/pace-national-3-peaks-august-27th-30th>

Cuddingtots re-opens!

It was with much excitement *Cuddingtots* re-opened last month. Finally we are able to get together again to sing songs, dance with bubbles and share a story. *Cuddingtots* runs every Wednesday during term time from 9.15- 10.15am and is suitable for babies and preschool age children. They benefit greatly from being in a social space with their peers and having been starved of this kind of interaction for the past year, more or less, it is wonderful to see how they are building in confidence and enjoying themselves. The group provides a fun, local, affordable music and play group in a safe environment.

Taking place in our Playing Fields Club House there are refreshments available, as well as the chance to purchase a special treat from *Pam's Bakehouse*. So while the little ones play, parents can enjoy a cuppa and a chat. This has given new families to the village the chance to get acquainted and all of us, a long awaited natter! Once the class is over, many head to the park to get some fresh air and burn off more energy before home time.

Tickets are £2.50 per family (payable weekly in cash), places are limited and tickets are reserved on a first come first served basis each week. If you'd like to come along please contact Amy on 07782199707.

CUDDINGTOTS
Preschool Music Group
Wednesdays 9.15am
Cuddington Playing Fields Clubhouse
Bring your favourite instruments to join in!
Refreshments available
£2.50 per family

As we started back after the Easter break it was very heartening to feel that things in school were getting back to some semblance of normality; the children were more settled, working hard, happier in their friendships and understanding what it is to be back in school. We know that this fluctuation in school life (Lockdowns, holidays, back to school) has made things tricky for some of our pupils. I am so proud of how they have all engaged with their learning and managed their emotions.

The Chair of Governors, Mrs Wilde, Mr Jackson and myself have planned for many different scenarios, but until the Government issues new guidance they remain as plans. The staff, Governors and I are as frustrated as anyone that we can't get 'back to normal' more quickly. But we must continue to follow the Government guidance and keep as safe as possible so that the expected changes can happen on the key dates of 17th May and 21st June.

We hope to be able to offer all our usual Summer term events: - Leavers show and Leaver's service for year 6, Sports day, Summer dancing, Music performances, Alice in Wonderland performance from year 5 & 6, in person fund raising activities for F4CADs, trips etc. However, we will not be able to share any dates until things are confirmed and/or we have guidance from the Government and Public Health.

I am delighted that we have had an intensive period planning residential trips! The year 6 Norfolk trip for one and we have just organised a school sleep over for the current year 4. We are delighted also to report that there was an overwhelming amount of parental support to take the children to France in June 2022!!

We are also pleased to report that during the half term holiday we hope to have the Junior playground resurfaced with an environmentally friendly surface of recycled trainers, plus a new carpet in the year 4 classroom. The play equipment work for the Infant site has been booked in for the summer holidays.

I want to give a huge thank you to Mrs Swain and Mr Peaks for helping us to run the after-school sports clubs.

We would not be able to offer such a range of sports without their help - thank you.

We are delighted to announce that the school came 1st in the KS2 Dance County Finals! We are so proud of the dancers who helped create the routine and danced with enthusiasm and excitement. A huge congratulations to the dance group.



But we are also incredibly proud to announce that we came 2nd in the KS2 Gymnastics County Finals (see photo of one of our gymnasts in action). Huge congratulations to Betsy, Courtney, Greta, Izzy, Nadia and Sophia.
Kim Price, Headteacher



Greener Cuddington

This is the eleventh year in which a group of Cuddington residents have spent some of their weekend in the middle of May, counting the birds, mammals and amphibians that they see.

This year, seventeen volunteers took part which is a record, so thank you all and a warm welcome to our newcomers, which includes one family who involved their children. This has



Figure 1: Bluetit

pushed the overall count up and has also increased the area covered to include Cuddington Mill, which brings the River Thame into the survey along with geese, ducks and swans for the first time. Pigeons (which includes feral, wood and stock doves) were most numerous, closely followed by house sparrows. Blackbird numbers look good, although this is down to increased observers rather than an overall higher population. Goldfinch, collard dove and magpie numbers have kept up, and I'm delighted that song thrushes are back, having almost disappeared in recent years.

Several watchers have reported nesting doves, blackbirds, sparrows, starlings, bluetits and chaffinches in their gardens, which is excellent news.

Several people report having heard a cuckoo, and we have confirmation that one took up residence near the Mill last summer and it returned during May, which was rather later than normal. If it manages to mate, the egg will be laid in the nest of chiff-chaffs, reed warblers, dunnocks or some other unfortunate, much smaller bird.

Some species have had a bad year, particularly jackdaws, whose numbers are down by about two-thirds. House sparrows seem to have disappeared from some usual locations and would have been in low numbers had it not been for the flock living in the Sanderson's garden. The very low numbers of house martins, swifts and swallows is sad and may be a result of the cold spring weather which has restricted insect numbers (very few butterflies about this year and the mayflies won't like the cold!)

So, taking into account our larger watcher group, our bird populations seem quite healthy, although numbers are reported as seeming lower in a few gardens. The richest area is the south-east side of the village. Indeed, I have noticed that around the village edges the volume of bird song in the early morning and in the evening suggests that they are doing alright. The full results are posted on the village web site under Greener Cuddington.

This has probably been our best year yet for the Cuddington Vertebrate Watch, and if you would like to join in, especially if you have children, then just send me an email to doug@doug-kennedy.com