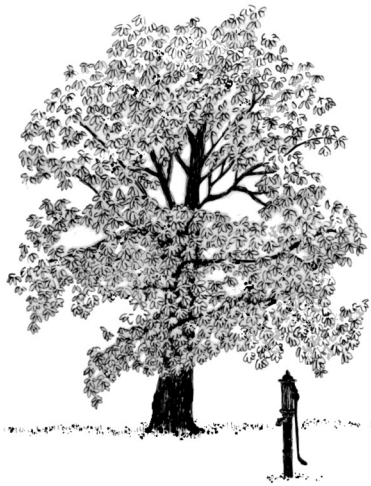




Cuddington Village Voice

August/September 2021

Volunteers needed!

The Cuddington Village Party

SATURDAY 4TH SEPTEMBER 2021
3PM UNTIL LATE

Cuddington Playing Fields, Bernard Close

BBQ, Bar, Stalls, Games and much more!

Inc. Fun Dog Show! (see page 10!)

Anyone able to help on the day (Saturday 4th September)
please let Karen info@porkandginger.co.uk or
Ellen on 01844 761984

Clubhouse News

In May we were finally able to open our doors and welcome you all back inside (albeit according to the rule of 6 etc) and it was great to be back in business again, as outside only opening presented its usual British weather challenges. It's been wonderful to see so many new villagers visit the clubhouse, as well as to see our regulars.

In June and early July, we showed all the England Euro 2020 games which drew in a good crowd, it's just a shame the final result didn't go our way.



The first Friday in July saw a new addition to the clubhouse in the way of Chilli Dogs, a mobile catering van. This was a great success with the van owners vowing to make this a regular feature at the clubhouse. More information will be posted in the village voice and on our Facebook page. Howe and Co fish and chips will also continue to visit every Saturday around 6pm. Over the summer we will be sticking with our current opening hours (Friday 5-8pm, Saturday 5-8pm) & Sunday 3-5pm). We would ideally like to increase these during the autumn but are seeking more volunteers to get involved.

No previous bar experience is necessary, and it's a great way to get to know other villagers. If you are interested in learning more, please drop an email to Ellen Dyer on ells1982@gmail.com. With covid restrictions easing, but cases still rising, we ask you to remain respectful of others and to follow any instructions given by the staff. We look forward to seeing you soon!

ChilliDogs

Mobile Street Food

At Cuddington Playing Fields on Friday 6th
August 6pm - 7.30pm



COME AND SING

CHORUSES FROM 'MESSIAH'

Conductor: Jeff Stewart

Saturday, 4th September 2021, 10 am to 4 pm
At the Church on Fairford Leys, Hampden Square, HP19 7HT

Love singing? This is an opportunity for any singers thinking of joining us, or who simply wish to sing through these choruses for fun, to come along to this FREE "taster" rehearsal. To register interest and order music, please contact Moira at moira.membership@gmail.com.

For more information and a map, visit www.aylesburychoral.org.uk

Thought for the month...

At the end of June Joy and I were holidaying on the Isle of Wight and were fortunately blessed with very good weather so were able to get out and about and enjoy the stunning coastal scenery. One day we found ourselves at the Ventnor Botanical Garden which is situated in an area which has a very warm micro-climate which enables plants from all around the world to survive year-round which as we all know is very unusual in this country!



As you wander around you come across some very exotic flowering plants with sometimes huge spiky leaves, just one of which would probably half fill the average back garden but there they looked amazing and just right. What was equally amazing was how you could walk seamlessly through lush areas evoking South Africa, New Zealand and Australia to Europe and the Americas. It is as though the world's plants were all there living in a beautiful harmony and celebrating that image was very abundant bird song which, as you can tell has left a lasting memory with me.

It was the sense of creative harmony that was so affecting and stays with me as I reflect on all the concerns of the world and perhaps the lack of harmony that we all witness whether that is caused by people influenced by too much alcohol at football matches or lack of respect for others' beliefs, colour or sexuality or the causes for all the refugees to make such perilous journeys to these shores.

As we have reached the traditional time of the year for restorative summer breaks I pray that we all have the opportunity to have a harmonious, peaceful and joyful time away and leave with you this prayer which I hope you find helpful:

O God of all,
all creation comes from you.
All humankind are one vast family,
this world our home.
We sleep beneath one roof,
the starry sky.
We warm ourselves before
one hearth, the blazing sun.
Upon one floor of soil we stand,
and breathe one air,
and drink one water,
and walk the night,
beneath one luminescent moon.
The children of one God we are,
Sisters and brothers of one blood.
May we so care for your earth,
Our home,
That your lost garden may be restored.
Amen

Archbishop David Moxon (b.1951) & Vern Bennom Grimsley (1940-2011)

Nigel Featherston

Watching the tears of of St. Lawrence

If you have ever spent a long August evening sitting outside under a clear sky as it gets dark, you have probably got used to being bitten by midges and seeing bats flitting around.

You may also have seen some shooting stars streaking across the sky, in which case you were probably witnessing part of one of the best meteor showers of the year.

The Perseid meteor shower consists of a trail of debris left by Comet Swift-Tuttle, a comet that orbits the Sun every 133 years and, as a large object that regularly crosses our path, has been described as "the single most dangerous object known to humanity".

Each year the Earth passes through this trail, with the result that specks of dust and grit and the occasional larger rock come hurtling into our upper atmosphere at speeds of up to 40 miles per second. Fortunately for us, this debris does not pose much of a threat to us: most particles burn up at an altitude of around 50 miles, leaving bright trails that can last several seconds.

If you choose a dark night from late July through to mid-August, and find a comfortable place to sit that has a good view to the north-east, you may notice that these shooting stars seem to come from one part of the sky. This is an effect of perspective as we are looking directly into the path of the oncoming debris, at a point within the constellation of Perseus, and that is why they are called the Perseids.

(Continued on page 5)

Cuddingtots says

'See you in September'

Everyone has thoroughly enjoyed the last few months of Cuddingtots. It has been lovely to see the little ones growing in confidence, joining in and getting to know each other well. The rainbow parachute has been a wonderful addition; providing sensory stimulation and much excitement for both young and old. Friends have been made, cake eaten and bubbles well and truly popped! We are signing off for the summer and look forward to seeing everyone back on Wednesday 8th September for a jolly good sing-a-long! Stay safe and have fun.

Amy

Church News

The Wyckert Vale benefice are delighted to announce that the Rev Harriet Orridge will be joining us as an associate priest. Harriet, her husband John and their family will be moving into 2 Church Close, Cuddington over the summer. Harriet was Priest in Charge of the Saxonwell Churches in the Lincoln Diocese and will be with us for a short placement.

Bernard Hall



Management Committee, Chairman's Report

In line with the rest of the world, 2020 has been an unusual and disappointing year for the Bernard Hall.

The Hall exists to provide a service and meeting place for the Cuddington Community so it was with great sadness that the hall has been mostly closed since March 2020.

The Hall has been operating under very strict COVID guidelines throughout the pandemic and this has meant very occasional hirings, restricted to events where compliance to COVID regulations could be guaranteed and monitored. This has included limiting re-openings of the Village Picture House operating with limited audiences.

As a result, hirings were down by over two thirds during the year with hiring revenues of £1,465 compared to £4,835 in 2019. Picture House revenues were down by over 80% at £2,871. At the same time costs were relatively static due to the continued requirement to insure and the decision by the Committee to continue heating the hall in order to protect the fabric of the building. However, we are pleased to report that Buckinghamshire Council have paid the Hall £11,384 under a Village Hall COVID support scheme and this has kept the hall in shape financially. We ended the year with net assets of £16,636.

During the lockdown we have been able to redecorate the Hall and repair woodwork at a cost of £2,862. The Hall remains in good condition overall and in 2021 we will be turning our attention to the outside of the Hall with particular emphasis on the railings by the front stairs.

The VPH reopened cautiously on Thursday 3rd June 2021 with a fortnightly programme across June & July, subject to the current Government restrictions for Community Cinemas of 50% local capacity (35 people) and "one metre plus" social distancing whilst seated, with the compulsory wearing of masks and good ventilation.

We now look forward to restarting on September 9th with weekly screenings, which coincides with the National Theatre's restart and a new autumn programme of live and encore screenings.

After seven years of standstill prices we have had to increase our admission prices to £8 /£7 concession for movies which reflects the increasing cost of film licensing and Blu-Ray discs. However, NT Screenings and other special events (West End musicals, opera & ballet) will be held at £12 / £10 concession. This is still around half the price of tickets at the local Odeon for movies and similar special event screenings. After seven years as Administrator and front of house co-ordinator of Village Picture House, Chris Blumer has stepped down from this role, as he and Skippy are sadly about to leave Cuddington after almost 35 years, and move to Devon. They go with our very best wishes, and enormous thanks to Chris for his tireless management of the VPH's film licensing, Front of House organisation and weekly accounting of box office receipts and expenditure, alongside his many other activities in our community including his time as a Bernard Hall Trustee. He will be greatly missed.

Once again, the Management Committee has done a great job of running the Hall in these difficult circumstances.

Chris Lockett, Brian Woodford, Caroline Winnicott, Jessica Ecott, Charlotte Cooper, Brian Woodford and Zoe Gibson have all made full contributions and I am very grateful for their support. I would also like to thank John Cooper, Chris Blumer, Chris Long and their band of helpers for running the Picture House so well.

Markus Bolton

Three vignettes from from the days of Idi Armin in Uganda

by Graham Carr

Early in the Idi Amin days, I had been asked by the British High Commission to be a conduit for messages to personnel from UK, Ireland, Australia, New Zealand living in Kampala. One day, I received a phone call from the BHC, saying all personnel must go home urgently, lock up their houses and keep heads down: the army was going around picking people up and putting them into the boots of cars. I followed orders, made the phone calls and winged it off home to the family. I found our house-help crying, but as I shut up our home, I found myself looking round the house and at our "things", and sensing so strongly that what mattered was Fiona and our two daughters, and all the things were utterly unimportant, if they were all lost, compared with our family and our relationship with our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. It was a very telling experience. but nothing happened that day and we, including house and garden staff, breathed collective sighs of relief an hour or two later.

On another occasion, I heard a hooting at our gate, as a car drove in, out of which jumped four army personnel with guns, deploying themselves around the corners of our house. They were followed out by a senior officer and a driver in civvies.

"We hear you have many visitors". I concurred and said we had many good Christian friends. "Are any of them spies?". I showed shock at the thought, of course, and assured them all was fully normal and legal. "I want to see round your house". I invited the two in and took them to the front room, into the dining room, our bedroom and into the bathroom where Fiona was bathing the two girls, whence they withdrew very fast and embarrassed! We went quickly round the rest of the house and they thanked me and told me all was well. They and the soldiers returned to their car and drove out before stopping at the gate and reversing. The fellow in mufti got out and said: "I like your face: can you give me a job in your firm?"

(Continued on page 9)

Mandy's 102km walk for Devon Air Ambulance Trust

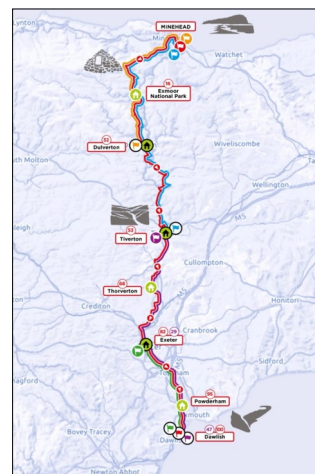
On Saturday 24th July, villager Mandy Spencer and her lifelong friend Tina, walked 102km from Minehead, Somerset to Dawlish, Devon in aid of Devon Air Ambulance Trust.



In 2008, Mandy's Grandfather suffered a heart attack in a remote area of Devon. Without a doubt, his life was saved by the Devon Air Ambulance giving him a further wonderful 13 years with his family and friends. This walk was to celebrate his life and to thank the Devon Air Ambulance team. In 2018 it cost £7.5 million to run this vital service with costs expected to rise in the coming years. In addition, the trust is seeking to upgrade its fleet, and expand its operations to reach more people who need them. Every penny really does count, so anything you donate is gratefully received.

Mandy and Tina departed at 7am on Saturday 24th July from a very soggy Minehead.

The route saw the ladies heading south through the hills of Exmoor National Park, onto Tiverton, walking through the night to Exmouth and then onto the finish line at Dawlish. At times the weather was cruel, and the hills were challenging, but both retained their resolve to get to the finish line with their sense of humour in a better condition than their feet. Mandy and Tina completed the route in a very respectable 27.5 hours despite the last 2km hurting every step of the way. Mandy's current total stands at £1545, and there is still time to donate! For more information and to give what you can, please visit: <https://www.facebook.com/donate/847066556158448/>



St. Nicholas in Buckinghamshire



I have often wondered why there are three ancient Churches in Buckinghamshire so close together all dedicated to St Nicholas. There is one here in Cuddington, one in Chearsley and one in Lower Winchendon, which are only 1.9 miles away from each other. The answer is that St Nicholas (AD 15th March 270 – 6th December 343) was one of the most popular Saint for Church dedications. There are thousands around the world with 437 medieval churches in England alone, and 50 in Rome! St Nicholas (the name is Greek meaning "victory of the people") was born in Patara, which is now in Turkey. He was a Christian and became the Bishop of Myra, originally an ancient Greek city in Lycia, and now a small town named Demre in Turkey. In the first three centuries of our modern era Christians were savagely persecuted because they refused to worship the Roman Emperor as a god; they would only serve the Holy Trinity as the one true God. Nicholas was imprisoned under the rule of the Emperor Diocletian but when Constantine the Great was proclaimed Emperor at York in AD 313, he pronounced Christianity as the official religion of the Empire and these Christian prisoners, including Nicholas, were released. Nicholas attended the Council of Nicea in AD 325 when Constantine called bishops from around the then known world to codify the Christian faith and agree a formal summary of Christian belief in what became known as the Nicene Creed. St. Nicholas has the longest history as a patron of children and is one of the most popular saints of all time.

The number of churches, chapels, religious institutions and altars dedicated to him throughout the Christian world defy counting. Nicholas is the patron saint of many countries, notably Greece and Russia.

One of the most popular stories about St. Nicholas tells of his compassion for three poor young women. Their father had lost his fortune and with it all hope of providing dowries for his three daughters. To save them from poverty and the threat of having to support themselves as prostitutes, Nicholas threw three bags of gold coins through an open window of the family's house so that each daughter would have enough to make a good marriage.

In the 11th century, the Seljuk Turks began encroaching on the territory of the Byzantine Empire and by 1084, Myra, the site of the tomb of St. Nicholas, was in Muslim hands. Although the Turks had not defiled the shrine, many Christians in the West thought that the relics of St. Nicholas needed rescuing. In 1087 sailors from Bari, in southern Italy, seized them and today the relics of St. Nicholas lie in the crypt of the grand Romanesque basilica that the people of Bari built for the saint and pilgrims of all Christian denominations continue to visit the shrine. Recently Pope Francis arranged for a portion of the relic at Bari to be lent to Russia. A rib bone was extracted from the rock-bound tomb using key-hole surgery technique. The rib was set in a casket and sent to Moscow in 2017, where it was venerated by thousands.

Countless children have been named after Nicholas such as Nick in English, Nicol in Scots, Nicola and Colin in French, Cola in Italian, Klaus in German Nikolaj and Kolinka in Russian and many others. As his day is just before Christmas he was made the purveyor of the gifts of the season, and the Dutch element in New England introduced Santa Klaus to many a young American and at Christmas he eventually achieved fame around the world.

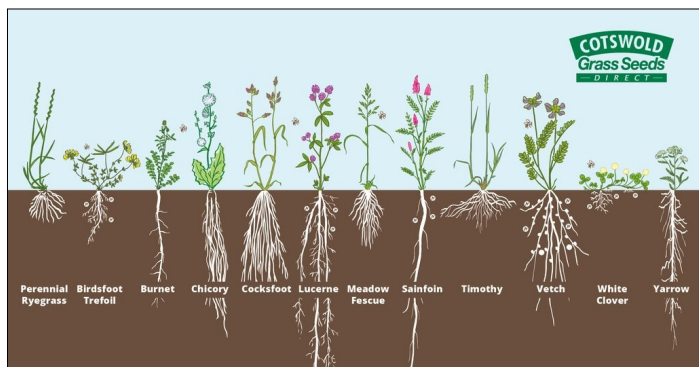
Dr. Michael Straiton

Lower Farm Regenerative Project

In spring 2019, a thousand saplings were planted in Mike and Gilly Cottman's field off the bridleway at Frog Lane. The aim of this tree planting was to restore native woodland encouraging biodiversity as well as having a minor contribution to locking in the greenhouse gas, carbon dioxide.

During lockdown we had occasion to watch 'Kiss the Ground' (www.kissthegroundmovie.com) which outlines the case for regenerating soil to protect the environment. The principle being that soils need to regenerate in order to sequester carbon and encourage biodiversity. Retaining roots in the soil by avoiding ploughing and the use of chemicals supports growth and diversity of micro-organisms and other organisms within the soil.

Following some research, the paddocks were re-seeded through Cotswold Grass Seeds Direct with an organic grass, legume and herbal mix. The grasses would have deeper roots and would be allowed to flower with the herbs and produce seeds encouraging more insects, birds and small mammals. The legumes such as clover and fescue lock nitrogen which fertilises the soil.



*(Watching the tears of St. Lawrence
continued from page 1)*

Another name for them is the tears of St Lawrence, so called because they appear at around the anniversary of his martyrdom. St Lawrence was a deacon in the early Christian church and was executed on the orders of the Emperor Valerian after he had defied the Roman authorities by distributing the church's wealth to the poor, so that there was nothing left to be confiscated. It is said that he was executed by being grilled, and that he told his executioners to turn him over as he was done on one side. As a result, he is the patron saint of chefs and of comedians, as well as having a meteor shower named after him.

Not many of you will want to stay up until the early hours of the morning to watch these meteors, but the truth is that the later you stay up, the faster they will appear, because the side of the earth that faces into the meteor stream coincides with the early morning.

Members of my family have been known to give up after barely half an hour of watching, which is always a cue for the meteors to turn up in greater numbers.

We used horse drawn agricultural methods to mow the existing pasture, then used a hundred year old seed drill to scrape a small furrow and deposit the seed within the existing grass meadow. The paddocks have then been segmented in order to manage the land through strip grazing. This is the principle of confining your grazing animals into smaller strips of land, allowing them to eat one third of the area, trample one third and manure one third before moving them on to the next strip. To facilitate this, moveable electric fencing is



required to pen in the animals.

Herdwick sheep and Dexter cattle are moved on every two days or so. The electric fencing is set up in such a way that the water troughs are always accessible and the public footpath has had to be sectioned off with electric fencing for the movement of animals due to strip grazing as well.

The Allotment Society has allowed us to re-seed and use the same practise in the meadow we rent from them which many of you will have enjoyed when walking on the public footpath. Hawksbeard yellows with pink and white yarrow make a stunning back-drop to these village walks.

Already the meadows are alive with butterflies, bees and finches and we plan to keep you updated on our progress in future issues of Village Voice.

We are very grateful to the Cottmans and the Allotment Society for enabling our regenerative farming initiative.

Ben & Karen Clayton

Don't get too excited – a good Perseid shower can offer up to 60 meteors an hour at best, under ideal conditions

with no moonlight or light pollution to get in the way, so the term "shower" is perhaps a little misleading, as is the accompanying image of a meteor shower seen in France in 1872. But this year the moon will be setting earlier in the evening, and I am looking forward to setting up a deckchair with a view up the Thame valley in the hope of spotting some of St Lawrence's tears.

Paul Ridout



VILLAGE VOICE BUSINESS SPONSORS

ADVERTORIAL

KIRSTY BOUGHTON SKIN & BEAUTY SPECIALIST

Hi, my name is Kirsty.

Edd and I along with our 3 little girls have lived in the village for 6 years now having moved here from Amersham.

I realised some time ago that there really is so much more to life than the rat race which I was firmly part of. So, I decided to retrain in something which makes people happy – Skin and Beauty treatments. I have a thriving, mobile Skin and Beauty business where I travel to see you in the comfort of your home. I have trained with the best, learning and being examined in in-depth theory as well as practical applications and am fully insured with one of the top insurers in the industry – BABTAC.

The last year or so has given us a greater appreciation of this beautiful village that we are lucky enough to call home and we decided that having a little base that Edd can use as an office, and I can use as a salon could be the best idea yet! With the help of great friends and neighbours this dream became a reality and now the inherited 'shed on steroids' has become a part time hub.

If you would like to enjoy one of the many wonderful treatments I offer, please do get in touch.

Kirsty

XXX

T: 07912 065240

Treatment List: Facial Treatments, Waxing, Nails, Brows & Lashes, Tanning

www.kirstyboughton.co.uk kirsty@kirstyboughton.co.uk I: @kirstyboughton F: @kirstyboughtonbeauty

FOR INFORMATION ON SPONSORING VILLAGE VOICE EITHER AS AN INDIVIDUAL
OR A LOCAL BUSINESS, PLEASE VISIT THE **VILLAGE VOICE** PAGE ON OUR

WEBSITE: www.cuddingtonvillage.com



Business Sponsors

We are grateful to the following
local businesses who provide
sponsorship to support the print costs for *Village Voice*

Cuddington Village Stores

Denise, Hairdressing

F J Wilson, Funeral Directors

Hampden Veterinary Hospital

Ken Ryder, Decorator

M J Radwell, Quality Carpentry

Risboro Garage

The Crown, Cuddington

Tel: 01844 291372

Tel: 01844 291277

Tel: 01844 291200

Tel: 01296 745372

Tel: 07952 431487

Tel: 01844 291032

Tel: 01844 274330

Tel: 01844 292222

Darran's Fresh Grimsby Fish

D H Speer, Heating & Plumbing

Haddenham Carpets

Ivor Miles Garage, Haddenham

Kirsty Boughton, Beautician

Pam's Bake House, Cakes

Thame Therapy Clinic

Windmill Windows

Tel: 07516 147804

Tel: 07720 826374

Tel: 01844 291591

Tel: 01844 291263

Tel: 07912 065240

Tel: 07786 918341

Tel: 01844 215555

Tel: 01844 237070

As this edition of *Village Voice* goes to press, it's impossible to predict whether or not lockdown will once again be a reality come the autumn. Nevertheless, we've put together an interesting and varied schedule of films and concerts for our autumn programme, in the hope that we can screen them for you. As in June and July, we shall of course be complying with any Government rules and guidelines in force at the time. Last year, we conducted a survey inviting you to choose the classic film(s) that you would most like to see at the Village Picture House. So we begin our autumn schedule on Thursday 9th September with the film that most people told us they would like to see. ***Out of Africa*** (cert. PG) stars Meryl Streep and Robert Redford and follows the life of Danish noblewoman and storyteller Karen Blixen, from her marriage and departure for Kenya in 1913 until her return to Denmark in 1931. As she struggles to maintain a coffee plantation through various setbacks, and strives to improve relations with the local natives, her marriage of convenience to a titled aristocrat gradually gives way to an enduring romance with the noted big-game hunter Denys Finch Hatton. "A beautifully filmed movie ... eminently watchable," says *Radio Times*. "The film that made us fall in love with Kenya," says *The Telegraph*. "A sensitive, enveloping romantic tragedy," says *Variety*. On 16th September our film will be the multi-award-winning ***Nomadland*** (cert. 12A) starring Frances McDormand (*Three Billboards...*). Following the economic collapse of a company town in rural Nevada, a woman packs her van and sets off on the road exploring a life outside of conventional society as a modern-day nomad. The film features real nomads Linda May, Swankie and Bob Wells as Fern's mentors and comrades in her exploration through the vast landscape of the American West. "Hauntingly beautiful ... a multi-Oscar-winning masterpiece," says *The Telegraph*. "This Best Picture Oscar winner is a film of fragile, humanist beauty," says *The Independent*. "Utterly inspired ... Frances McDormand delivers the performance of her career," says *The Guardian*. On Tuesday 21st September we'll be screening the recent Opera Australia production of Verdi's classic opera ***La Traviata***, captured live in Sydney Harbour earlier this year. Violetta is the life of every party. A courtesan with a heart of gold, she's free and free-spirited. Could a little love change everything? This glamorous production features timeless romantic arias, lively choreography, beautiful costumes, fireworks... and a breathtaking nine metre high chandelier covered in 10,000 shimmering crystals. "It's the perfect potion – the glitzy visuals and hyperactive energy of a Broadway musical mixed with world-class opera," says *Time Out*. "How a venue brings out different qualities in a familiar work! ... Conductor Brian Castles-Onion manages this project superbly," says *Opera Wire*. On Tuesday 28th September we have a new production of ***Romeo & Juliet*** from NT Live, filmed earlier this year in the backstage spaces of the National Theatre. The stellar cast includes Jessie Buckley (*Wild Rose*, *Judy*) as Juliet and Josh O'Connor (*The Crown*, *God's Own Country*) as Romeo, along with Tamsin Greig, Fisayo Akinade, Adrian Lester, Lucian Msamati and Deborah Findlay.



"An ingenious triumph. Josh O'Connor and Jessie Buckley captivate as the star-crossed lovers in a pacy, painterly and emotionally raw production," says *The Guardian*. "Riveting. A testament to the power of the imagination," says *The Telegraph*. "Played like this, *Romeo & Juliet* has so much to say about the transformative qualities of love ... it's a terrific achievement all round," says *What's On Stage*. Looking ahead to October: on the 7th we have ***Little Women***, Greta Gerwig's delightful take on the beloved story of the March sisters; on the 14th our film will be ***1917***, in which two young frontline soldiers cross No Man's Land to deliver a vital message that would save hundreds of lives; and on the 21st we'll be screening ***Michael Ball and Alfie Boe*** in concert singing their favourite musical theatre, pop and rock tracks, captured live at the O2 Arena. Visit the web page for more details of all features: www.cuddingtonvillage.com/cinema

Greener Cuddington

The lovely valley whose edge we live on has been carved by the River Thames; a gentle meandering stream that, within living memory, contained trout and grayling. Sadly, it has been severely polluted with sewage at intervals since WW2 and particularly since privatisation in the late 1980s. The most recent severe incident was that which killed almost everything in the river during an extended period of criminal negligence by Thames Water in 2012-2013. This resulted in a fine of over £20 million for the company and prompted me to set up the Save The River Thames campaign. Since then, the Aylesbury sewage works (STW) has been upgraded and its management has greatly improved, although there have been some equipment failures leading to releases of raw sewage, the latest of which was last autumn.

In the meantime, the River Thames Conservation Trust has taken off, partly funded by Thames Water. and they are doing excellent work in monitoring and restoring the river and also creating new wetlands at Eythrope and Waterstock. They join me in the River Thames Liaison Group at the Aylesbury STW where we meet with Thames Water, Bucks CC and the Environment Agency each 6 months in order to discuss the state of the river and review measures to protect it from further pollution. I believe that this is an essential factor in protecting the Thames as it ensures that the company is aware that we are concerned and watching them.

One concern is the large number of smaller STWs along the Thames catchment as these are in a variable state while house-building continues and the population increases. Thames Water have informed us of their plans for upgrading their infrastructure, for which we are grateful, but it all takes time and is mostly just plans. It is therefore not totally surprising, but very disappointing, that I have been informed that a large amount of raw sewage has been released from the Cuddington STW during 2021: the details of comparative sewage releases are set out below:

	2020		2021	
Works	Sewage Spills	Duration (hrs)	Sewage Spills	Duration (hrs)
Aylesbury	12	151	15	194
Chinnor	83	601	38	342
Cuddington	33	589	85	1,887
Haddenham	101	1948	44	834
Thame	35	516	22	275

You may have noticed that press coverage of sewage pollution in our rivers has been increasing and this, sadly, is because the problem seems to be getting worse, with illegal releases not being followed up nor punished. This is contributing to the fact that NO English rivers are considered to be a good ecological condition. None.

According to the Centre for Hydrological Research, the River Thames is rather highly polluted by sewage, widespread agricultural pollution and road run-off, and is a tragedy. For a brilliant and clear view of what is going on, have a look at George Monbiot's latest documentary <https://rivercide.tv> What is needed? I have discussed this at length with water company directors, a government minister,

Defra civil servants, the regulators and environmental activists and the general conclusion is that we lack government leadership in protecting and restoring our rivers.

What we get are occasional promises, endless assurances and statements about what has been achieved, but no effective policies and inadequate resources to make a difference. Even the water companies tell me that they hope for stronger leadership and a better regulation regime.

So what can we do about it? The most powerful thing is to show that you are concerned and want to protect our rivers in general and the Thames in particular. So please send an email to our MP, Greg Smith (greg.smith.mp@parliament.uk). Tell him that, as one of his constituents, you are appalled at the way that his government is allowing sewage to be poured into our rivers, that you want to know why this local spike in releases has happened, and that you want our River Thames to be protected, along with all of England's beautiful waterways.



A sewage discharge pipe (not at Cuddington)

Butterflies in Our Area

2021 started as a bad year for butterflies as a wet end to winter was followed by a cold, dry April and a cool damp May. This meant that not only were there very few orange tips and brimstones to be seen, but small white butterflies, which are our most common species, were almost absent from the air until July. Now, with some lovely warm sunshine, we seem to have more of these lovely creatures than usual, especially meadow browns and small whites.

As well as these

common species, Bucks and Oxon play host to all five of our uncommon hairstreak species, which are small colourful insects found mostly in hedgerows and scrubby areas but only in this region. At the other end of the size scale, if you visit the bits of Bernwood Forest that remain in June and July, you may be lucky enough to come across Purple Emperors. I had been on the lookout for them for 3 years before I got this photo of a male trying to lick something nutritious from the outside of a dog poo bin! They are magnificent butterflies that spend most of their time high up in oak and willow trees, but I'm afraid that the location of this specimen wasn't a surprise.

Butterfly Conservation are currently carrying out the annual Big Butterfly Count, and if you want to know more, details are online at <https://bigbutterflycount.butterfly-conservation.org>.



*A Purple Emperor at Bernwood Forest
(Photo by Doug Kennedy)*

Doug Kennedy

Florence Nightingale

Charity seeks new volunteers

Florence Nightingale Hospice Charity has over 400 volunteers, working in their shops, their offices, at the hospice, drivers, gardeners and bereavement listeners, plus those out supporting their events in the community.

But they are urgently need more volunteers to join the team as many have stepped back from their roles following the Covid-19 pandemic, on both a regular and ad hoc basis.

“Our volunteers are absolutely invaluable to us and we couldn’t do what we do without their incredible support,” says Penny Bradshaw, Head of Volunteering at the Charity. “We offer full support and training for new volunteers, wherever and however they volunteer.”

There are lots of opportunities available to suit all interests including Hospice Drivers, Hospice volunteers, Bereavement Listeners, Complementary Therapists, Online Retail, Fundraising Support, Events, Shop Volunteers, Showroom Van Drivers, Office Admin and, Marketing & Communications support.

“The benefits to volunteering are endless, not only can it help you develop your career by gaining valuable experience in the workplace, it’s also a great way to connect with other people and build confidence.”

So, if you are friendly and motivated, and up for a challenge to support local hospice care, please get in touch at

volunteering@fnhospice.org.uk or visit their website www.fnhospice.org.uk/volunteer

Further information: Florence Nightingale Hospice Charity needs to raise over £1,000,000 a year to provide specialist palliative care services which are accessible and free of charge to those with a life-limiting illness and their families in Buckinghamshire.

Thank you



(Vignettes from the days of Idi Armin continued from page 3)

Finally, in 1972, as part of our preparation for moving to Nairobi to establish a second firm there, we agreed I should drive our VW Kombi-Camper to Nairobi, taking it, and some of our goods, to the house we’d found, leave it there, flying back a day or two later.

We had bought the Kombi very cheaply from some friends who wanted to leave Uganda as quickly as possible. We were not allowed to take any money out of the Country, so the only way we knew to capitalise the firm (and ourselves!) was to take goods with us – and eventually we took 4 cars, plus we filled most of a small-size railway goods-wagon to take beds, fridge, cooker etc for us! One evening we were talking about the many St Andrews School, Turi, parents, about to go to Kenya for half-term, who would be driving through the border. We needed to leave before that, as when Idi Amin realised that lots of people seemed to be leaving Uganda, he would shut the border: they would be “stealing Ugandan property”.

I’d planned to go at the week-end, but Fiona’s instinct told us I had to go the next morning.

Thus, I set off early the next morning, and reached Malaba with only the occasional roadblock to negotiate. All seemed silent at the border, but then a group of army personnel emerged and stopped me, instructing me to get out of the vehicle, opening the doors for an inspection. They happened to spy my Piano Accordion and asked me what it was. I told them, and they said: “Play it”. I strapped it onto my shoulders and started playing the well-known tune of “What a Friend we have in Jesus”. At which point several of them started joining in the words and we had a bit of a sing-song. They then said I could continue my safari to Nairobi: “No problem”. I did, rejoicing, and reached my destination safely. Idi Amin closed the Border that evening!

Enjoy!

Graham Carr

Best Kept Village

One of the events in the usual village calendar at this time of year is the judging for the Best Kept Village. Sadly this competition has been suspended for the last two years. Cuddington enters for the Morris Cup category which is competed for by villages of 501 to 1,501 residents. Founded in 1957 the aim of the BKV project is to encourage towns and villages in five categories to make their environs more attractive for residents, but also for visitors. Each village enters for a cup relevant to the size of the population. The judges, usually a panel of three, spend 30 to 40 minutes in a village. Judging takes place in June or early July.

The competition is assessed on specific criteria. These include the appearance of the churchyard and war memorial, the playing field and play area and the village hall. Environmental features like hedges, verges, ditches, greens, ponds and streams are taken into account. The maintenance of the village pump, the notice boards, the public house and bus shelter are also checked. Community involvement and absence of disfiguring litter are also considered by the judges.

With regard to the Morris Cup, 1992 was a year of striking success. We were also awarded the Sword of Excellence, which is bestowed on the entrant in Bucks with the most points across all categories. An article in the Bucks Herald reported that Cuddington's success was partly due to "the litter consciousness of the villagers". Jim Hayward was quoted as saying "We have to look round the village for about an hour on a Sunday before judging and can barely fill a carrier bag with rubbish". He indeed played a key role in our success. Gardening was his abiding interest – his father had been a gardener at Winchendon Abbey – and Jim was instrumental for the hanging baskets and tubs outside the Bernard Hall. The Best Kept Village post had been erected on the Upper Green and in 1992 a flower bed was added round it. Since then the Gardening Club has tended this small but colourful plot.

However, Jim Hayward was not the only villager who played a major role in the 1992 success. The upkeep of the Playing Field was the responsibility of Frank Crowdy, often assisted by his son, Tim. Vic Wagborne, another village stalwart, mowed the Upper and Lower Greens and maintained the churchyard. Meanwhile Ray Ounsworth clipped the hedges and maintained the banks at the entrances to the village. The Swan Hill area and the garden on Welford Way were also under his special care. The July 1992 article in the Bucks Herald "commended the trees and shrubs planted" that year and concluded that the village indeed presented a "green and pleasant image".

Since 1992 our village has continued to enjoy frequent success and Cuddington has won the Morris Cup 14 times. We have also been awarded the Tindall Cup which can only be entered by winners in each of the five categories the preceding year, so is much harder to win. We were successful in 2011 and then again in 2018. In the 2019 Morris competition we were awarded equal points as runners-up together with Chearsley, but our neighbours were given second place to the winners, because they had not been successful before – a gracious concession! Our trophies are exhibited in the cabinet in the Bernard Hall.

Peter Wenham

CUDDINGTON VILLAGE PARTY FUN DOG SHOW



Come and show-off your posh pooches or your marvellous mutts at the Cuddington Fete Fun Dog Show.

Classes start from 3pm

- 1) Fancy Dress
- 2) Best Young Handler (children under 10)
- 3) Best small dog (any breed or mix)
- 4) Best medium dog (any breed or mix)
- 5) Best large dog (any breed or mix)

- 6) Best mongrel (Must be a proper multiple-mix cross breed!)
- 7) Best rescue
- 8) Best Veteran (ten years or over)
- 9) Best in show

Rosettes will be given for first and second in every class with a 'special' rosette for a special effort. Those who come first and second in classes 3-8 qualify for Best in Show.

Entry £2.50 per class



Chearsley Village 'Classic & Vintage Fun Day'

Chearsley Cricket Club, Sunday 12th September 2021



"All roads lead to Chearsley in September...."

The organising committee of the Chearsley Village 'Classic & Vintage Fun Day' are telling car owners and enthusiasts to put Sunday 12th September in their diaries

The 10th Chearsley Village 'Classic & Vintage Fun Day', hosted by Chearsley Cricket Club, is due to take place on that date. Chearsley is a small village (pop.560) in Bucks, on the border with Oxfordshire.

Last year's show had to be cancelled due to the COVID epidemic but the organising committee are pressing ahead with the planning for the 2021 event, recognising that they may need to modify some aspects of the traditional format of the show in order to meet any required 'social distancing' rules and guidelines.

"We will scrupulously monitor the government guidelines for outdoor events in the months ahead and we're already looking at a variety of practical steps we can take this year to ensure we fully

Dates for your Diary

*First the blade and then the ear,
Then the full corn shall appear*

From: 'Come Ye Thankful People Come',
written in 1844 by Henry Alford 1810-1871



August

Tuesday 31st, 7.00pm Parish Council Meeting, Bernard Hall

September

Wednesday 1st, 8.00pm Book Club at Playing Fields Clubhouse
Saturday 4th, 3.00pm Village Party, Playing Fields
Tuesday 7th, 2.30pm Tuesday Group, Playing Fields Clubhouse
Thursday 9th, 8.00pm 'Out of Africa', Village Picture House
Thursday 16th, 8.00pm 'Nomadland', Village Picture House
Tuesday 21st, 7.30pm 'La Traviata', Village Picture House
Monday 27th, 7.00pm Parish Council Meeting, Bernard Hall
Tuesday 28th, 7.00pm 'NTLive: Romeo and Juliet', Village Picture House

And every Wednesday, at 9.15am, in termtime, Cuddingtots takes place in the Playing Fields Clubhouse; and every Friday, at 10.00am, also in termtime, 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. For more information please refer to the village website w.cuddingtonvillage.com

Royal British Legion

Dear Villagers,

I am writing to you all concerning the Royal British Legion's Annual Poppy Appeal, which I have organised for quite a number of years now, and which also includes our Remembrance Day Service.

Last year our collection was very limited because of "lockdown". This year I believe we will be doing a house to house collection and hopefully the Sunday Remembrance Service will also be held with the whole Service or simply the Act of Remembrance taking place at the village War Memorial as it did last year. However, I am really not yet entirely sure what is happening! All I know is that the British Legion Poppy Appeal will be celebrating its 100 anniversary and I know they would like to celebrate this special occasion. If we can find enough helpers, perhaps we can indeed do so. As it is at the moment, our team of helpers has been decimated, partly because of Covid19, then a number of collectors have left/or will be leaving the village shortly and sadly Cherry Munger, a very long-standing helper has passed away; some just feel too old to continue.

Poppy selling around the villages takes place during the fortnight leading up to Remembrance Sunday. I would be extremely grateful if anybody in the village, particularly the young, but also the old, who feels that they could help with the house to house selling of poppies, could get in touch with me as soon as possible so that we can get organised. The more helpers we have, the smaller the number of houses individual collectors need to visit. Should anyone have any suggestions for celebrating the RBL's 100th Poppy anniversary here in Cuddington, please also get in touch with me as soon as possible.

I look forward to hearing from you in the very near future at the above address, so that I can confirm to the RBL that we will once more be able to help with this year's Appeal.

With my heartfelt thanks and best wishes,
Jennifer Schram de Jong

Larden,
Spicketts Lane
Cuddington
BUCKS HP18 0AY
Tel: 01844 291501

Poo Galore!

No subject has commanded more column Inches in Village Voice than the subject of dog mess in and around the village! This month is no exception, but with added variation.

There is an owner of a large dog, which is regularly allowed to poo with immunity down the side of the first hundred yards of the road/footpath down towards Nether Winchendon.

No amount of publicity seems to encourage this selfish owner to bend down and pick up.

The other Sunday, I followed two women with dogs along Spurt Street and Great Stone. The women were engrossed in chatting whilst one of their dogs shambled along some 20 metres behind depositing several piles on the road and a house entrance path. I caught up and challenged the owner, who expressed great surprise but admitted to not having any poo bags. She promised to come back and clear up, which she did. (I did go back and check!)

I am at a loss to know how to encourage owners to take active responsibility for their dogs, as it is the exception for a third party to be there when the deposits occur.

It is good to see horse riders enjoying the outdoors and riding through the village.

However, horses depositing muck on the pavement outside the shop and Chestnuts is just not acceptable. Also, walking along Great Stone is often like an obstacle course for pedestrians, avoiding the daily deposits, on a road without a footway.

It seems ironic that the riding fraternity spend hours clearing muck from horse fields and stables and yet think nothing of leaving the muck elsewhere for the tidiness fairies to deal with! No one expects a rider to clear as they go but they could return later. The deposit in the photo has been there for 3 days.

The last poo related issue is the most unusual! Various parents made comments about pigeons roosting on



the beam along the top of the swings in the Playground and making a mess on the seats. As a result, the Parish Council fixed bird spikes along the top to prevent the roosting. Within a week, one pair of spikes had the fixings cut and the spikes stolen. If anyone knows anything about this, please contact the Clerk.

I suspect a gang of delinquent pigeons was not responsible!!
Ken Birkby

The Nicholas Almond Cuddington Charity

Registered UK Charity Number: 237677

Grants for 2021

Calling all students, apprentices and school leavers!

As most of you will already know, The Nicholas Almond Charity dates back to 1643. Nicholas Almond lived in Haddenham, and when he died in 1643, he gifted a parcel of land called Poors Moor to the village of Cuddington. Income from the use of this land was to be given to the poor living in Cuddington for the purchase of food, coal, clothing and in some instances for the purchase of apprenticeships.

Over the centuries, inevitably the income from the land has diminished considerably, and in the early 1950s the Trustees decided that the income was insufficient to continue with the Charity's original aims, and that the money would be better used to **help young people, who must be resident in Cuddington**, with the cost of **going into further education or taking up an apprenticeship**. Today the grants are not large, but they can be helpful with some of the expenses incurred by students or apprentices such as the purchase of books, equipment or paying for field trips, etc.

Grants are usually paid in two halves; with students having already received one half of the grant and who have successfully completed their first year, being eligible to apply for the second half.

Prospective candidates must submit a signed application giving details of the university or college or an apprenticeship to be attended, giving some idea of the course/s to be followed and how the grant might be spent.

Your application must include confirmation that you have been accepted to follow a course or an apprenticeship, or will be continuing a particular course. Your application must be submitted to

Mrs. Jennifer Schram de Jong, Hon Secretary and Treasurer of the Charity, Larden, Spicketts Lane, Cuddington, BUCKS HP18 0AY, by 31st October 2021.

If you have any queries, you may contact me on: 01844 29150

The Trustees look forward to hearing from anyone who is interested in applying for a grant.

With best wishes, Jennifer Schram de Jong



I am really grateful for all the support that the school has had over this difficult year – from parents and carers, staff and governors and the wider community. I know it has been particularly challenging for the parents of our Reception children and those parents of children who are new to the school who haven't been inside the building yet. Let's hope that in September we can return to our normal activities and offer opportunities for everyone to see the school in action, for parents to meet the teachers in person and see their children's work in situ.

It has been a truly up and down period with moments when we thought some normality was returning only for all hopes to be shattered. The year 5 & 6 parents, children and staff have coped well with the 10-day isolation we had when we switched to home learning with relative ease and provided one zoom lesson a day with learning activities accessible on the website. Thank you to Mrs Brogan who has zoomed year 5 on her days off as Mrs Reed was teaching year 3. Mrs Chaplin and I were also isolating as we had been momentarily in close contact of the child who tested positive for COVID 19. We have stuck to one zoom lesson a day, because at any point another bubble could go into isolation, and we needed to ensure that we didn't overlap zoom sessions between classes.

The choir have now been videoed singing one song and we hope to video the rest of their repertoire during the school day. Once edited, we will announce how to view the performance.

The transition zooms were very entertaining! I hope the children feel more settled now they know who their new teacher/s are going to be in September. Hopefully, we'll be able to allow parents into school in September too! Rev Phil has kindly invited class bubbles to go to Church over the last few weeks. He has held assemblies for year 1&2, year 3&4 and Foundation went on 14th July. It has been great to be back inside the two churches - thank you Rev Phil and all the Church Wardens.

Finally a message to our Year 6 pupils from our Chair of Governors, Mr G Ecott:

"I'm sure you have all heard everyone say what a strange year it has been, and it has been a very unusual Year 6. But even though it has been very different to normal school years, what is very impressive is how well you have all done, and all the governors are very proud of the way you have worked and got on with school even during lockdown. Now as you go on to your next school, I am sure you will all continue to shine as brightly as you have at Cuddington and Dinton."

Have a great summer and we look forward to being back on 2nd September 2021. **Kim Price, Headteacher**

Pace

The 3 Peaks Challenge Series

Step up and make a difference

National 3 Peaks 24hr Challenge
21 – 23rd August 2021

National 3 Peaks 3 Day Challenge
11 – 14th September 2021

Yorkshire 3 Peaks
9th October 2021

Sign up at thepacecentre.org/3peaks

Charity No. 101133

Twitter Facebook YouTube Instagram