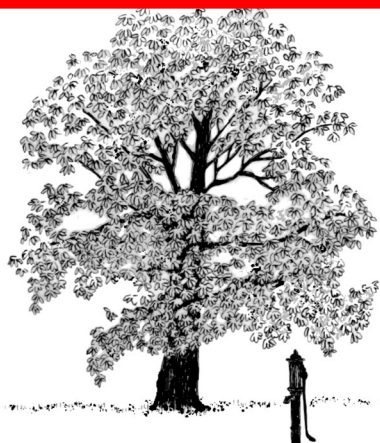




Cuddington Village Voice

December/January 2023/24

GENTLEMAN'S DINING CLUB

The last Gentleman's Dining club on the 19th October was a wow. Everyone in the Crown joined in to the sounds of the fiddle played with such feeling by Jamie Strachan and guitar played with gusto by Doug Kennedy. What a wonderful way to conclude a really fun dinner. New friendships were made and old friendships renewed.

The proposal is to have a Christmas Gentleman's Dinner in the Crown on Thursday the 14th December. All gentlemen interested please contact Phil Johnson 01844 291526 or email philandsherryscott@gmail.com

Christmas at St Nicholas' Cuddington

There are lots of Christmas events to get involved with throughout the festive season. Please find the flyer included with this copy of Village Voice for a full round-up.

Here are a few of the exciting events that are happening in December.

Firstly, Cuddington and Dinton churches are holding a **Craft and Christingle event at Dinton church on Sunday 3rd December from 4pm to 5:30pm**. Families are warmly invited to come and make a Christingle, take part in other Christmas activities and enjoy festive refreshments.

On the 10th December, children of Cuddington church will be performing their nativity play at 10am and we are asking those attending to bring gifts for the women and children who are supported by Aylesbury Women's Aid. Another event to get you in the festive mood is the **Christmas Craft Afternoon on 21st December**. This will be an opportunity for both families and adults to enjoy making some festive crafts such as Christmas decorations and festive decor for your Christmas table.

Carol Singing around the village returns once more this year. Join us at 6pm on Wednesday 20th December to spread tidings of comfort and joy around Cuddington. Meeting point to be confirmed, please check the website nearer the time.

Finally, on both Christmas Eve and Christmas Day there are services for all.

On Christmas Eve, don't miss the family Christmas crib service at 2pm and the wonderful Carols by Candlelight at 7pm.

Christmas Day will see a Holy Communion service at 8am and a Morning Worship service at 10am - come and celebrate Christmas with a short service in church before heading home for your turkey!



Fine Young Cuddingtons presents

Christmas with The Cuddingtons

Live Music at the Cuddington Social Club
Saturday 16th December from 6:00pm

Playing all your favourite Christmas tunes for Crisis. Donation buckets on the night or scan here to donate online!

SCAN ME

CHRISTMAS FLORISTRY MASTERCLASS

WREATH MAKING
4th and 5th December

FESTIVE TABLE DISPLAY
20th and 21st December

Cuddington Clubhouse at 7.30pm
£45 includes materials, a glass of prosecco and a mince pie

To book contact Amy
07782 199 707
flourishgardencare@gmail.com

The team at Village Voice wish to thank all its contributors and distributors for their input and support throughout the year. Happy Christmas and a peaceful 2023 from Helen, Rachael, Erica & Kathy.

Thought for the month...

This time of year our thoughts go to Bethlehem.

The idyllic image of the stable where a child is born to an adoring mother as her husband looks on alongside a collection of animals, adorns our Christmas cards.

This year as our thoughts go to Bethlehem we also think of the city today in the Palestinian ruled West Bank. Our thoughts also go to the sister enclave of the Gaza strip. Here we see another reality of children born in unacceptable circumstances. Parents are on the run, unable to return to bombed out homes. The hospitals are under stress and a nice quiet stable looks like a good option.

However, look again at the Christmas story and it is the Christmas card image that is wrong. Mary was the victim of cruel decisions by ruling authorities. She was powerless in the face of political forces. The child was born in filth and squalor.

The magi brought gifts, but they also brought news of future persecution.

It was into the darkness that Jesus was born.

This is the power of the story. Hope was born in the midst of despair. Peace and joy were experienced even in this dreadful situation.

The cry for peace goes up from around the world as we beg for the madness to stop, not just in Israel and Palestine, but also in Ukraine and in forgotten wars such as Yemen, Sudan and DR Congo. It is only if light can come into the deepest darkness that we can have hope.

The way of Hamas – to inflict maximum pain in extreme violence – will never win. Neither will the attempt to destroy Hamas in an act of war. Hope comes in the story of forgiveness and loving enemies.

That is the true message of Christmas.

Phil Groves



St Nicholas, Cuddington

**Wychert
Vale**

Welcome

Worshipping God
Serving Community
Sharing Life



Services December 2023 & January 2024

3rd December All-Age Advent Holy Communion.

10th December Nativity and Gift Service

17th December Morning Worship.

Children's activities in Bernard Hall

24th December Morning Worship, 10.00am

Christmas Crib Service, 2.00pm

Carols by Candlelight, 7.00pm

25th December 8.00am BCP Holy Communion,
10.00am All-Age Christmas Service

31st December Benefice Holy Communion.

7th January Holy Communion.

Children's activities in Bernard Hall

14th January All-Age Service

21st January Morning Worship.

Children's activities in Bernard Hall

28th January All-Age Communion



Cuddington Methodist Church

Our **Carol Service** will be held on
Sunday 10th December at 2.30 pm

The theme of the service will be
" The LIGHT OF CHRISTMAS "

We will be singing traditional Carols accompanied
by a group of musicians led by Patricia Edwards.

Our new minister Rev Hee-gon Moon will be sharing with us in this
Service along with members of the Congregation.

This will be followed by refreshments and
an opportunity to share with each other.

Please come and join with us.

We would love to welcome you and bring your family and friends.

Cuddington Fireworks

A massive thank you to all of you who came and supported the bonfire and fireworks event on 3rd November. It was a great success and, whilst the main aim was to bring our community together, funds raised on the night will be of huge benefit to the playing fields. A big thank you especially goes to everyone who volunteered before, during and after the event - about 25 villagers in total, you know who you are! And lastly, another thank you to the fete committee for making the event possible." Sonia Storey



Cuddington Tennis Club

New members always welcome

Club night - Thursday 7:30pm

Membership enquiries: Robin Nash
(robin.nash7@btinternet.com)

As we write the children are moving towards the end of a very busy term rehearsing for their Nativity plays and practising their



singing for the Sunshine Club Christmas party. It has been sad to say farewell to Mrs Alder, the school administrator who has moved to a job nearer her home, but we extend a warm welcome to Mrs Bingham in the office reception area. The children laid a wreath at the war memorial as their act of remembrance for Armistice Day. The theme 'Dare to be different' added extra fun for the Children in need mufti day when each 'dare' added a further £1 to the total raised .

PLEASE NOTE:

If your child was born between 1st September 2019 and 31st August 2020, you can now apply for a primary school place and the deadline set by Buckinghamshire Council is 15th January 2024. Applications for places in the Foundation year for children should be made via [Buckinghamshire Council website here](#). Two prospective parents open days have been very well attended and a further one is planned for 11th January at 1.30pm. Please Email office@cds.school or phone 01844 291206 to book a place.

News from the Playing Fields

We have had a busy couple of months with plenty more to come! Once again a massive thank you to everyone who has supported us, either via volunteering or spending your hard earned money with us.

Saturday 7th October saw the return of Race Night at the clubhouse. It was a sell-out event which got quite competitive at times! Andy Weller was great as compere managing to extract a lot of money out of you all! Thanks to Michael Collins for his bookmaker skills too. We raised a fantastic £616 for The Playing Fields Association, which will be put to good use. Following great feedback, we will be running this event again early next year.

Friday 3rd November saw the return of another much-loved event, Fireworks! Sonia Storey and her team did such a wonderful job in putting on an amazing show. There was such a great atmosphere, thanks to so many villagers and school children for turning out. £970 was raised, allowing us to ringfence funds to put towards the event again next year.

Coming up we have.....

Sat 2nd December – Nick Preston performs live at the clubhouse, bar open from 5pm

Mon 4th & Tues 5th December – Wreath Making Class with Flourish Garden Care – 7.30pm

Weds 6th December – Bookworms Xmas – 7.30pm

Sat 16th December – The Fine Young Cuddingtons play festive hits live at the clubhouse. Free entry, donations encouraged for Crisis at Christmas – 6pm

As part of the Wild Aylesbury Vale initiative, the Parish Council was awarded a generous grant from the Heart of Bucks. In addition to planting out the triangle at the junction with Holly Tree Lane/Aylesbury Road with spring bulbs, replanting lost daffodils near the Build Out and the purchase of a listening bench on the Lower Green (dedicated to Nan and Peggy Cattell), the Parish Council purchased two bat boxes from the Lindengate Charity in Wendover.

In its search for suitable locations, the Parish Council were delighted when two villagers, Liz Keating and Susan Kudo, offered to site the boxes in their gardens

The bat boxes seen here , with a grooved 'bat ladder' and a narrow entrance slit at the bottom, in situ

We look forward to hearing if they have been inhabited soon!

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Sun 17th December – Kids Christmas Party – 1-3pm

Weds 20th December – Xmas table decoration making class with Flourish Garden Care

Sun 24th December – Later bar opening for Xmas eve – 5-8pm

Finally thank you to everyone who has put in a bar shift this year, we couldn't do it without you – Chris, Jack, Will, Amy, Bianca, Simon, Patrick, Nick, Sonia, Andy, Kieren, Lorraine, Malcolm, Tom & Ellen.

Happy Christmas to you all!

From the CPFC and CPFA teams.



Village Voice is a Cuddington Church Parochial initiative funded by the PCC, the Parish Council, the Fete Committee and both business and private sponsorship.

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Advertising: Kathy Hook 290636 getkathy@hotmail.com

News from the Pub!



Well, it hasn't been quite so crisp as expected in November although we have had the log burner alight a few nights now... love the pub when the fire is on gives it a warm homely atmosphere.

As I write we are just setting things straight after a fantastic Chateaubriand night accompanied by some excellent live music from Sam King. Some of us even had a boogie, quite unusual for a Wednesday night. Thanks to those who came and supported us. The food was amazing, thanks chef Chris. While on the subject of Chefs we have interviewed again and hope that Sian will join us shortly, she is moving over from South Africa so she is yet to see the pub before she makes up her mind fully.

In the meantime we continue to be very grateful to Chris Hunt for supporting us as well as holding down his other work. Our Christmas party menu is out and will be available Wednesday – Sunday starting from 1st December. This does need to be pre-booked (although I am sure we will have turkey on offer as part of our menu during the festive season). The turkeys are once again being supplied by Starveall Butchers in Stone. Book early to avoid disappointment. We look forward to welcoming you as you celebrate with family and colleagues during this festive time.

Our **December Quiz will be on Monday 4 December**, we will be collecting for the Bucks Radio Toy appeal. Teams of 6-8, £2 pp, please pop in or ring to book your table. Donations for the raffle on the evening gratefully received. We had 3 teams at November's Quiz where we raised just over £100 towards the maintenance costs for the rocking horse at the Cuddington playground.

On **Friday 15 December** we anticipate that we will be joined by the **Haddenham Mummers** some time but I am still waiting for final confirmation on the date and an approximate time.

Keep an eye out on our boards where I will confirm it.

On **Thursday 21 December at 7.30pm** we are going to be joined by the **Witchert Chorale** again for some Christmas Carols.

If you haven't made it to this before I highly recommend it; they are an amazing choir and it really sets off Christmas for us here at the pub. We will be providing the mince pies again. They are only here for a short while before they move on to the next pub, so make sure you are down early so as not to miss it!

Christmas Eve 12 pm – Midnight

Christmas Day 11 am – 2 pm

Boxing Day 11 am – 6 pm

Wednesday 12 – 9 pm

Thursday 12 – 11 pm

Friday 12 – 11 pm

Saturday 12 - 11 pm

New Years Eve 12 – 1 AM

New Years Day 12 – 8 pm

These are our proposed opening times over Christmas.

(subject to change dependent on demand)

On Christmas Eve, Nick Preston will be here again for a sing along and few laughs no doubt.

We will be open Christmas Day for drinks only .

We are supporting the Boxing Day Clay Pigeon shoot again this year. If you are

not part of the shoot but still fancy a breakfast bap we will have them on offer from 11 am.

On **New Years Eve** we will have the **Karaoke Machine** out again but if we can't persuade people to sing there will be a party playlist to boogie in the New Year as well.

In January we hope to be introducing you all to our new chef and a new menu... updates will be posted to facebook and will be on the notice boards in the pub.

Wishing you all a very merry Christmas and prosperous New Year... Cheers Glyn and Tracy

The Rocking Horse

This year the Parish Council undertook the renovation of the rocking horse in the children's play area.

The rocking horse is an iconic piece of equipment made in the 1960's by Wicksteed.

Wicksteed was commissioned to replace the wooden sides and runners which

were rotten and the plastic on the seats which had deteriorated with time.

Volunteers from the village helped to repaint the horse. Unfortunately, during these renovations, it was discovered that the internal workings also needed attention. I am pleased to confirm that this work has now been completed.

A big thank you to Tracy and Glyn from The Crown for their support. They organized two quiz nights and an auction prize at the golf day to raise funds to go towards the repairs. The rocking horse looks very smart and is working perfectly.

Lorraine Stevens



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Annual Swish !!!



No longer a sale but a
come-and-see-if-you-can-use anything!
**13th December, always the second Wednesday
of December, 6-9 pm**

The Bernard Hall, Cuddington HP180AP !

Please cleanse your house of anything you no longer
love or need.

Bring your stuff to the Hall and hang clothes, put out
children's stuff, books, anything, or I will store before
in the Hall if you bring to me on a Saturday morning
10-1 during CYD from this Saturday!

Would anyone like some help going through your
wardrobe or cupboards?

It is easier with someone else... I am available!
Elaine and Marie! Let us know...

Maryelaine.english71@gmail.com

Come get a new wardrobe spicer-upper, gifts for
Christmas, have a glass of wine or a cup of tea and
have some fun trying on some things!

Teenagers-lots of stuff for you!! Come and visit.

Hope to see you there!

Donations welcome to the Bucks Berks Ox Wildlife

Trust. Thank you !

Hope to see you there!

All the best, Elaine and friends!



Greener Cuddington

Deep in the winter, flowers beautify our homes, bringing colour and life where outdoors, the trees are bare and our gardens lie dormant. So we are very fortunate to live in an age where flowers in full bloom can be bought from shops, markets and some flower farmers, but as they are out of season, there is an environmental cost which we should consider in selecting what we purchase and how we display them. A huge global industry is engaged in growing and distributing flowers, and it has a big environmental impact through carbon emissions, pesticides, fertilisers and plastic waste. It is driven by our demand for perfect blooms, often out of season, and at the lowest price possible.



That perfection usually requires the application of many chemicals, particularly pesticides that are seldom selective in what they target and often persistent in the environment. Where blooms are produced outside the UK season, they have to be grown in artificially lit and heated greenhouses, or else imported from the tropics or Southern Hemisphere. Then the demand for low prices has implications for the care taken by growers, and the conditions in which their workers operate.

So it is best to buy flowers in their season and sourced from growers as close as possible to home. There are several local flower growers who sell direct to the public, but when buying from a stall or shop, it's a good idea to check where their stock comes from. We have a few winter-flowering species such as winter cherry, winter jasmine, early-flowering daffodils and witch hazel, but larger, more colourful blooms will be imported. In this case they should have the Fair-Trade logo attached, which indicates that the grower has been fairly compensated and the importers audited for the way they treat staff and do business.

And if there is too much plastic packaging accompanying the flowers, it is well worth making a comment to the shop staff. Bear in mind that roses sourced from Holland in December were probably grown in Africa as that country has a huge flower wholesaling industry.

Flowers have a major role to play in our churches, enhancing worship with the miracle of life. At one time, these would have been gathered from the local countryside, but 60 years ago, floral foam started being used in arrangements as it eased the building of spectacular displays, and until recently it has been used everywhere.

However, it is a plastic foam containing chemicals such as formaldehyde that decays into microplastics that persist and pollute. A movement called Sustainable Church Flowers has taken root with the aims of ceasing to use floral foam and sourcing flowers ethically, avoiding an excessive carbon footprint. You can find out more about it at www.suschurchflowers.com, or by emailing local resident Lindsey Kennedy (lindseykennedy@hotmail.com) who is championing Sustainable Church Flowers in Buckinghamshire. The message is, that beautiful flower arrangements can be created without using foam and without undue environmental cost: it just takes a bit of thought. Doug and Lindsey Kennedy

The X-Stiles!

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Over recent weeks and months the

Parish Council has been working with rRIPPLE*, a group of volunteers charged with improving the path network around North Bucks, to replace our network of ageing stiles with gates.

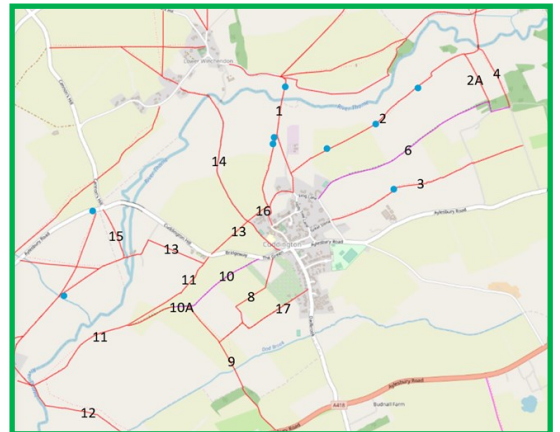
Our initial focus has been to increase access to some of the circular routes from the village, creating stile free walkways for those less able to clamber over the wooden hurdles.



Installing a kissing gate on footpath 3 has opened a 2km loop from Spicketts Lane, and in the coming weeks we expect to replace the three stiles towards Nether Winchendon (it just needs to dry out first!).



This will create arguably the most scenic round route from Cuddington, featuring a bridge, a phone box, a post box, AND the iconic baptism scene from Bridget Jones: The Edge of Reason, albeit confined to the deleted scenes section of the DVD. Speaking of next-door villages, two stiles have also been replaced en route to Chearsley, each marked by the blue dots in the image [below].



The biggest makeover is saved for footpath 2, which boasts a fully repaired low-lying bridge and two new stiles, albeit two stiles remain on that line.

We have more in our sights and welcome any nominations for the next set of stiles to consider.

A big thank you to the landowners who have really stepped up, and in particular to Bill Piers from rRIPPLE who is a literally walking encyclopaedia of all thing's footpaths.

Hopefully by Easter we can tiptoe through the tulips and, by the summer, be walking on sunshine. * ramblers Repairing & Improving Public Paths for Leisure & Exercise

Andy Hughes

THE VILLAGE PICTURE HOUSE CUDDINGTON



We have two more films to screen in December before we take our usual break for Christmas. On Thursday 7th December, we shall be showing the final film in the *Indiana Jones* series: *Indiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny* (cert. 12A). In 1944, daredevil archaeologist Indiana Jones (Harrison Ford) retrieves one half of the Antikythera, an ancient dial built by Archimedes, from the hands of Nazi scientist Jürgen Voller. Twenty-five years later, Indy teams up with his estranged goddaughter Helena (Phoebe Waller-Bridge) and they race to track down the other half of the dial. But Voller, who is now working for NASA, is determined to take the artefact for himself and use it to alter the outcome of World War II...



"A fitting goodbye to cinema's favourite grave-robber," says *Empire*. "This loving coda is surprisingly poignant," says *The i*. "An apt final journey for Indy ... an enjoyable, old-school action-adventure," says *Radio Times*.

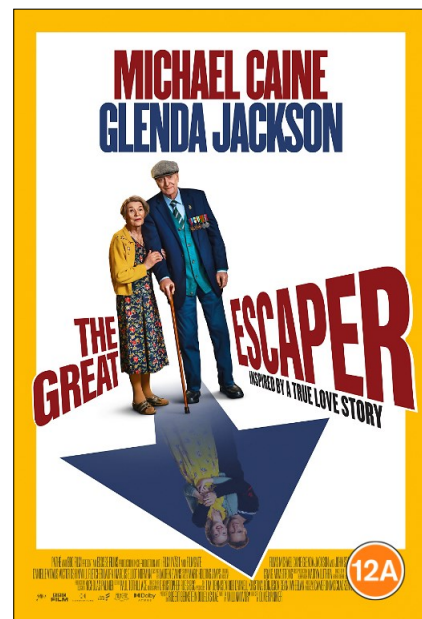
On 14th December our film will be the latest and probably the last film from Ken Loach, called *The Old Oak* (cert. 15). It's the story of a village in the northeast of England, where the mine closed and people feel deserted by the system. Many young ones have left and what



was once a thriving, proud community struggles to keep old values alive. There is growing anger, resentment, and a lack of hope. But houses are cheap and available, which makes the village an ideal location for the Syrian refugees that have been accepted by Britain in recent years. How will the Syrians be received? And what will be the future for the last remaining pub in the village, *The Old Oak*?

"Ken Loach delivers a film as fired up and human as any you'll see this year," says *Time Out*. "Ken Loach's fierce final call for compassion and solidarity ... a ringing statement of faith in compassion for the oppressed," says *The Guardian*. "Ken Loach's urgent picture of economic distress and xenophobia speaks urgently to the absolute present moment," says the *Financial Times*.

After the Christmas break we return on 11th January with *The Great Escaper* (cert. 12A). In the summer of 2014 – the 70th Anniversary of the D-Day Landings – octogenarian Bernie Jordan made global headlines. He'd staged a "great escape" from his care home to join fellow war veterans on a beach in Normandy, commemorating their fallen comrades. It was a story that captured the imagination of the world – Bernie seemed to embody the defiant, "can-do" spirit of a generation that was fast disappearing. But of course, this wasn't the whole story. Bernie's adventure also marked the culmination of his 60-year marriage to Irene. The story celebrates their love without sentimentality and with an eye to the lessons we can all learn from the Greatest Generation. "Michael Caine and Glenda Jackson exude ineffable class ... the two British icons bring a huge amount of joy to this heart-warming true story," says *The Guardian*. "Michael Caine is brilliant as a D-Day veteran who sneaks out of his retirement home, but Glenda Jackson is utterly transfixing in her final film – the late actress is a force of nature to the last," says *The Telegraph*. "A moving and surprisingly nuanced drama offering far more than flag-waving nostalgia," says *Empire*.



Then on 25th January we have a new play captured live on stage at the National Theatre: *Dear England* (cert. 15). Joseph Fiennes plays Gareth Southgate in James Graham's gripping examination of nation and game. The country that gave the world football has since delivered a painful pattern of loss. Why can't England's men win at their own game? With the worst track record for penalties in the world, Gareth Southgate knows he needs to open his mind and face up to the years of hurt, to take team and country back to the promised land. "Joseph Fiennes mesmerises as Gareth Southgate," says *The Telegraph*. "An absolute blast, a riot of exuberant theatre," says *WhatsOnStage*. "Joseph Fiennes is a phenomenal Gareth Southgate ... a thumping win," says *The i*.



Visit the web page for more details of all features:

www.cuddingtonvillage.com/cinema



Old villages have stories to tell. Do you have a story?



The Old Rectory and its history

The Old Rectory is full of interest, surprises, some tragedies, and at least one mystery.

Built in 1857 and on the very edge of the village; the first surprise is that it is hundreds of years newer than the Church, that is because Cuddington has always been linked to Haddenham, and secondly that it is located almost as far away from the Church of St Nicholas as one can get but, the biggest surprise is that it never was a "Rectory". Cuddington has never had Rectors and the house was initially called the Parsonage being upgraded to a vicarage in 1866.

After so many hundreds of years, how was it that Cuddington came to have its own Vicarage?

In 1848-49 the hamlet of Gibraltar (behind the Bottle and Glass on the A418) was ravaged by an outbreak of cholera. It is said that the Bishop of Oxford, under whose care the Church of St Nicholas resides, was outraged that there was no parish priest to visit the sick and that the dead had been buried without Holy Rites. It was from this time that plans were made for Cuddington to have its own priest living in the Village and, when the then incumbent of Haddenham died in 1855, a separate appointment was made.

The first dedicated incumbent of St Nicholas was the Rev'd. James Mansel Price, but of course he had nowhere to live.

A permanent house was required but there was nowhere to build near the Church. Eventually, a deal was struck with the representatives of a Baker Morrell Esq. dec'd for 8+ acres of land having one boundary with Spicketts Lane and another with Aylesbury Road. The value at the time was stated to be £569.2s.6d but the land was actually exchanged for Glebe land held elsewhere.

An architect, a Mr Edward G Bruton, was appointed and a builder, Giles Holland of Thame, engaged. The contract for the works amounting to £1,304 paid for out of the "Queen Anne's Bounty," work commenced and the house built.

Continued - tragedy and drama

The House was originally configured with: a basement, 3 reception rooms, kitchen, scullery and larder all downstairs and a total of 6 bedrooms and 2 dressing rooms on the upper two floors. It is note worthy that whilst there were 2 WC's, one on the ground floor and one on the first floor, there were no bathrooms.

According to the 1891 census there were no less than 11 people living in the house as follows:

James Mansel Price - Clerk in Holy Orders

Annie Gale Price - his Wife

Ernest Simpkins - Son-in-law

Agatha Simpkins - Daughter

Leslie Ernest Simpkins - Grandson

Hubert Simpkins - Grandson

Kathleen Gertrude Simpkins - Granddaughter

Isabelle Rowe - Governess

Sarah Mapley - Servant (cook)

Sarah xxxxxx - Nurse

Elizabeth Harris - Housemaid

It is for the reader to guess how they all fitted in and how they coped with just 2 WC's? There were however, 2 outside privies, a "mans" privy and a "maids" privy.

James Mansel Price remained Vicar of Cuddington for 40 years until his death in 1895.

Tragedy struck on 15 February 1886. There were two other grandsons, Austin Byron Simpkins (10 months) and Eustace Mansel Simpkins (2 years 10 months) living at the house at the time who contracted diphtheria, died, and they are buried in the churchyard. The two young boys are also remembered in two stained glass windows inside the chancel to the left when facing the altar.

The drama; in 1902, the then incumbent, Rev'd. Allan Cameron Alford wrote to the Church Commissioners to say that there were serious problems with the building, cracks in the brickwork and plaster falling off the wall. Substantial remedial work was undertaken but in 1922 the problems had become so severe and the cost of putting right so great it was decided that a more radical solution was required and the decision was made to vacate the house.

The then Vicar, the Rev'd. James Percy Taylor left the house and moved in to the Lodge on Upper Green as a temporary measure until a new house was built. This new vicarage was erected on 2 acres of land cut out from the existing plot fronting Spicketts Lane. This house now called Cowleas was the new vicarage and the old house in its dilapidated state was sold and it was probably at this time that it became known as The Old Rectory.

Continued - the present time and a mystery

It was in 1983 that James & Elsie Frost purchased The Old Rectory. Whilst immaculately kept, that is both the house and the garden, it had suffered very badly from underinvestment, and so a comprehensive refurbishment was undertaken.

Plaster was stripped from the walls, doors and skirting removed and the roof taken off. At night you could stand in the cellar and look up to see the stars. New heating, plumbing, and wiring were installed and to avoid damp, the cellar was tanked.

From the outside very little changed and so the house maintained its position as a very fine example of an early Victorian Rectory. However, the inside was completely remodelled. The servants' quarters were incorporated in to the house, more bathrooms added out of the existing accommodation, a new kitchen and utility room created and much more. Two fireplaces were retained in the sitting room and drawing room, one chimney stack was blanked off but retained and another chimney stack, previously removed re-instated, that is why there are now four chimney stacks as there would have been when the house was first built.

A new porch and first floor bathroom above were added in 2011 to match the existing front elevation and visitors have commented that they thought that it had been there all along. The house continues to look fundamentally unchanged from whence it was built in 1857.

For those who have been to the house in daylight, they will know that if you compare the south and west sides of the house with the north and east sides it looks like to different houses. The south and west sides are very ornate and the north and east sides are very plain. Why, it is just speculation of course but, it is the south and west sides you would have seen coming up from the village?

And finally, you were promised a mystery!

In the churchyard, just past the entrance and to the right of the path you will find the marked graves of James Mansel Price and the two grandchildren who died in 1886. In between the two marked graves you will find an unmarked grave and you might reasonably wonder who would put an unmarked grave between James Mansel Price and his two grandsons?

On 16 November 1855 a baby girl was born, Florence Annie Price, a daughter. She died 6 hours later. Is this, an unmarked grave between father and grandsons, the resting place of Annie?

Old villages have stories to tell. Do you have a story?

James & Elsie Frost (first published March 2012)

**Village Voice is looking for village stories
to share in our 2024 issues.**

**If your family or the property you are living in within the village
has a story to tell, please contact Village Voice.
We look forward to hearing from you.**

A Feast of Carols

Thame Chamber Choir & Thame Children's Choir, directed by Duncan Aspden, present carols and festive music by candlelight served with mince pies and festive warming drinks

Saturday 16 December
St Mary's Church, Thame

4:30pm Afternoon performance
with Thame Children's Choir

7:30pm Candlelit performance

Tickets: WeGotTickets.com or from The Book House, Thame

www.thamechamberchoir.org | www.tcz.org.uk | Thame Chamber Choir Registered Charity No. 10911886



Cuddington 2023
Next issue February 2024



Dates for your Diary

'For it is in giving that we receive' St Francis of Assisi (1181-1226)



December

Monday 4th, 2.00pm	Sunshine Club Christmas Bring & Buy, Tyringham Hall
Tuesday 5th, 2.00pm	Tuesday Group, Festive Tea & Secret Santa Playing Fields Clubhouse
Wednesday 6th, 8.00pm	Bookworms Book Club at the Playing Fields Clubhouse
Thursday 7th, 8.00pm	'Indiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny', Village Picture House
Sunday 10th, 10.00am	Nativity & Gift Service, St. Nicholas Church
Monday 11th, 1.00pm	Sunshine Club Christmas Club, Bernard Hall
Thursday 14th, 8.00pm	'The Old Oak', Village Picture House
Wed 20th, 6.00pm	Carol Singing around the village
Thurs 21st, 2.30pm	Christmas Craft Afternoon, St Nicholas Church
Sunday 24th, 4.00pm	Crib Service, St Nicholas Church
Sunday 24th, 7.00pm	Carols by Candlelight, St Nicholas Church
Monday 25th, 8.00am	Christmas Holy Communion, St Nicholas Church
Monday 25th, 10.00am	All Age Christmas Service, St Nicholas Church

January

Tuesday 2nd, 2.00pm	Tuesday Group, New Year Resolutions Playing Fields Clubhouse
Wednesday 3rd, 8.00pm	Bookworms Book Club at the Playing Fields Clubhouse
Monday 8th, 2.00pm	Sunshine Club Tea at the Playing Fields Clubhouse
Thursday 11th, 8.00pm	'The Great Escaper', Village Picture House
Monday 22nd, 1.30pm	Sunshine Club Cinema
Thursday 25th, 7.00pm	'Mrs Harris Goes to Paris', Bernard Hall
Thursday 25th, 7.00pm	'NT Live: Dear England', Village Picture House
Tuesday 30th, 7.00pm	Parish Council Meeting, Bernard Hall

And every Friday, at 10.00am, also in termtime, Toddlers Singing Group takes place in St Nicholas Church. Everyone is welcome.

For more details please contact Christine

(christine.jackson@live.co.uk) For more information please refer to the village website – www.cuddingtonvillage.com

Cuddington Fete 2024

Plans are already underway for next year's fete which we are pleased to announce are **inspired by the Olympics!** We felt this was an inclusive theme and a chance for everyone to get involved in some way, be it showing off your throwing skills or throwing on an old PE kit.

Thanks to everyone for your feedback on last year's fete. It was our first time as a group organising the event and we have learnt a lot which we hope to implement next time.



Cuddington Fete 2024

Save the date!

Saturday 13th July

Following our last meeting, we have divided the fete tasks into easily manageable categories, and currently **we have a couple of vacancies on the core team:**

Treasurer: We are looking for someone to handle all things money. The role involves paying invoices, collecting and banking fete funds and handing out grants. The majority of this work occurs between May and September.

External Stall Coordinator: This role takes charge of sourcing commercial stalls that fit in with the fete theme and making sure they know where to go on the day. Village run stalls are already taken care of.

Soon we will start to contact previous stall holders to see if they would be willing to participate again (Please and thank you!) and we are also looking for people who would either like to run a stall or provide ad hoc help in the days leading up to the fete, the actual day or the clear up.

It's a huge event and we would love to involve as many people as possible. If you are new to the village and just want to learn a bit more before committing, we'd welcome a chat too.

Contact Cuddington.fete@gmail.com and we will get back to you ASAP! A massive thank you to everyone, we are looking forward to putting on a show in 2024.

Charlie, Ellen, Ken T & Rachael

Winter Waggle at Waddesdon Manor

16th February
3k & 5k routes

Join us for our inaugural, fun-filled 'Winter Waggle' dog walk and help babies, children & young people with a neurodisability like cerebral palsy

Scan the QR code to book your tickets!



Sign up now

thepacecentre.org/event/winter-waggle



Registered Charity 1011133 thepacecentre.org

EARLY BIRD
TICKET
£10 Adult
£5 Child



2023 Christmas Appeal



Give the Gift of Time this Christmas

Florence Nightingale Hospice Charity is launching a Christmas Appeal called 'Give the Gift of Time this Christmas' to ensure that local people with life-limiting illnesses, and their families, get the help and support they need this Christmas and beyond. A key message from the appeal is to explain that just £25 will pay for an hour of a nurse's time to provide care and reassurance to a patient and their loved ones at Christmas time. The Charity is asking people living in Buckinghamshire and its borders to consider making a one-off donation or becoming a regular monthly giver by visiting <https://fnhospice.org.uk/christmasappeal>

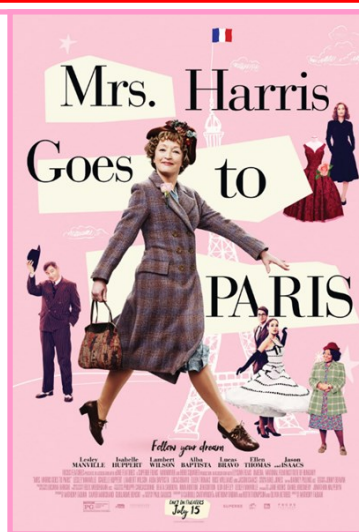
A relative of a patient recently said, "When we, as a family, heard the word 'Hospice', it scared us. We thought that's it then, this is the end, what a sad, depressing place it will be. "But we couldn't have been more wrong. From the moment we stepped through those doors, a beautiful and calm sense of relief enveloped us. The kind, friendly, reassuring, happy, smiling nurses and doctors just put us at ease straight away." Florence Nightingale Hospice Charity would like to thank all its supporters for any help they can give during this season of goodwill.

Cuddington Matinee Cinema

On Monday 22nd January at 1.30 (doors open 1.00pm) in the Bernard Hall, the film **Mrs Harris Goes to Paris** will be screened. A film starring Lesley Manville, Isabelle Huppert and Lambert Wilson.

In 1950's London, widowed cleaning lady, Ada Harris thinks her lonely life might turn around if she can become the owner of a couture Christian Dior gown. A heart- warming story of how an ordinary woman becomes an extraordinary inspiration by daring to follow her dreams.

Entry £7 (£5 for Sunshine Club members) Includes tea and cake at the interval. If you need a lift to the Bernard Hall please phone Angela Wenham 01844 291932



BUSINESS ADVERTS & SPONSORS

To advertise or place a company advertorial please contact
Kathy Hook getkathy@hotmail.com

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

Cuddington Village Stores	Tel: 01844 291372
Darran's Fresh Grimsby Fish	Tel: 07516 147804
Denise, Hairdressing	Tel: 01844 291277
D H Speer, Heating & Plumbing	Tel: 07720 826374
F J Wilson, Funeral Directors	Tel: 01844 291200
Haddenham Carpets	Tel: 01844 291591
Hampden Veterinary Hospital	Tel: 01296 745372
Ivor Miles Garage, Haddenham	Tel: 01844 291263
Ken Ryder, Decorator	Tel: 07952 431487
Kirsty Boughton, Beautician	Tel: 07912 065240
Bucks Cycle Repair	Tel: 07749 425543
Limesmith, Plaster & Render	Tel: 07711 372694
M J Radwell, Quality Carpentry	Tel: 01844 291032
Pam's Bake House, Cakes	Tel: 07786 918341
Risboro Garage	Tel: 01844 274330
Thame Therapy Clinic	Tel: 01844 215555
The Crown, Cuddington	Tel: 01844 299255
Windmill Windows	Tel: 01844 237070
Print World	Tel: 01296 434666
Pearson Insurance	Tel: 01844 260936



**Haddenham
Community
Library**

December events

Every week

Tuesdays 10.30 to 11.00– Storytime with Catherine

Tuesdays 10.30 to 12.00 Knit and Natter

Thursdays 10.30 to 12.30 - Drop in for all things digital with Mary

Friday 10th and 24th at 10.30am – Bounce and Rhyme

Saturday 10.30am to 12.30 – Crafts and Lego Club

New Lunchtime Reading Group: First meeting Tuesday 5th December at 12.45, and monthly thereafter (please check Website). No need to sign up or commit to reading a specific book, just show up and talk to others about books you have enjoyed reading.

Special Events in December

Saturday 9th December we will be holding a table-top sale where we will be selling home-made gifts and produce.

Saturday 16th December we will be hosting a special event for children including a Christmas story time, and a visit from Father Christmas who will be bringing some gifts for the children.