



Cuddington Village Voice

March 2026

THE CROWN, Cuddington: a community owned pub



Last Friday evening (28th Feb) most of Cuddington's residents seemed to have squeezed themselves in the Bernard Hall to hear the latest news concerning The Crown becoming *our village community pub*.

Mike Cottman gave a [short presentation](#), explaining the current situation regarding negotiations with Fullers—and how, with the help of five primary Investors, it has been possible to secure the pub for the village as a community asset. He also gave an overview of what is needed to make a success of The Crown in the



current market. He stressed the importance of building links with local suppliers, such as butchers and breweries as a 'freehouse', and to develop a bar and menu with sustainable and locally sourced produce. The aim being that The Crown will become a hub for all ages from the village and surroundings communities; as well as for food and drinks, seasonal celebrations, societies and social gatherings.

Mike then outlined the next steps to realising community ownership of The Crown and most immediately, the buying of shares in a Community Benefits Society.

He encouraged everyone present and who could, to pledge their support and buy shares, costing £1 each, from a minimum of £500 up to £20,000, to raise the estimated £618,000 needed to buy the freehold of The Crown from Fullers (£450,000) and run The Crown for the first year. Shareholders, regardless of their investment, will each have 1 vote.

It was explained that a management committee will be created to oversee and ensure the transparent governance of the pub, and that any surpluses, after any capital repayments in the years ahead, are reinvested in the Cuddington community. *Anyone wishing to put themselves forward for this committee, can do so via the newly created Crown website (see opposite) or contact Mike directly.*

Help from volunteers in the coming weeks to prepare The Crown for a possible Easter weekend opening was also requested. *If you can paint, clean, mend locks or fold napkins, they want to hear from you!*

The room was then introduced to Abi Armstrong, who will be contracted as the operator of the pub.

Abi has previously brought success to The King's Head and The Whistler in Haddenham. She and her family will live at The Crown.

After questions from the floor, the meeting closed following thanks to Mike Cottman and Tim Stevens, in particular, for their commitment to this project.

If you would like to learn more about how you can pledge your support and be involved in the reopening and success of The Crown, please go to the new website

www.villagebluesky.com

Village meeting

PLEASE SAVE THE DATE :

**Cuddington Annual Village Meeting
WEDNESDAY 22nd APRIL 2026 at 7pm
in the Bernard Hall**

This is not a Parish Council meeting but a meeting to celebrate local activities/ achievements and to debate current issues in our community.

Thought for the month...

Dydd Gŵyl Dewi Hapus!
Happy St David's Day!



The appearance of daffodils in gardens and, happily increasingly, on the verges around Cuddington always brings a smile at the beginning of spring. After the relentless rain and cloudy days we have endured, I have especially appreciated their arrival this year. Like the narcissus, St David is of course associated with Wales, being the only native-born patron saint of the countries of Britain and Ireland. He is also the patron saint of vegetarians and poets, and so I have at least two reasons to claim him as my own! St David lived in the 6th century, was born by the sea, and schooled at a monastery near present-day Aberaeron. He went on to found a Celtic monastery community on the western headland of Pembrokeshire, where today the cathedral of St David's stands, which later became an important place of Christian pilgrimage. He lived in a time of significant change. The Roman empire had fallen, its remnants being wiped away by invasions coming from the north and east, as Angles, Saxons and Jutes brought Christianity as well as conquest. St David, tradition tells us, lived a life of simplicity that was devoted to faith in preference to personal pleasure, and with a desire to help those around him. He is remembered as saying *"Be joyful, keep the faith and do the little things for God"*. In a time of great change today, with geopolitical events progressing in worrying directions, this is a useful reminder that our most important relationships are with those around us, and that even by doing little things for others we can make a real difference. In the words of the former Archbishop Rowan Williams, by doing so, *"We can transform our domestic, our family relationships, our national life to some extent, if we do that with focus and concentration in the presence of God."*

Will Lewis, Churchwarden

St Nicholas, Cuddington

Wychert Vale

Welcome

Worshipping God
Serving Community
Sharing Life



Services in March

1st	All-Age Service, with Baptism
8th	All-Age Holy Communion
15th	Mothering Sunday All-Age Service
22nd	Holy Communion, with children's activities in the Bernard Hall
29th	Palm Sunday. Short service, with craft

All services are at 10.00am, unless stated otherwise.

Everyone is welcome

Every Wednesday between 9.00 and 9.20 there is a Time of meditation and reflection on a Bible passage, and prayer.

News from the School



Gymnastics, football, swimming competitions, netball, dance and tennis have all been enjoyed this first half term which ended with a non-uniform day when donations were made to Buckinghamshire Mind charity. It was Children's Mental Health Week, with a focus on supporting children to express their feelings and understand the importance of looking after their wellbeing. Donations will help the charity continue its valuable work within our local community.

Cross curricular themes have been explored in the classrooms with a 'Maths in Art' project when pupils explored how maths appears in patterns, symmetry, shapes and tessellations. It is good to see them confidently applying mathematical ideas in different contexts. A selection of the creative and thoughtful pieces are now on the school website.



The Department of Education is closely monitoring attendance records in all schools as it is useful in understanding how attendance impacts learning. In the season of colds and coughs it is sometimes difficult to decide whether a child is well enough to attend school so a NHS poster 'Should I keep my child off school' has been shared with parents.

The school is looking forward to celebrate World Book Day on Thursday 5th March but instead of buying fancy outfits parents are encouraged to keep costumes simple and low cost by dressing as a 'word' and children can bring a pre-loved book to swap for a 'new to them' book to celebrate a love of reading.

Cuddington Matinee Cinema

On Monday 16th March at 1.30 (doors open 1.00pm) in the Bernard Hall, the film

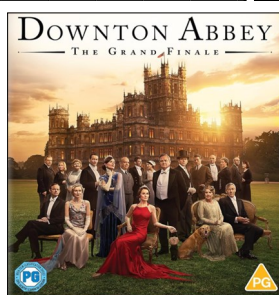
Downton Abbey: The Grand Finale

will be screened. A film starring Hugh Bonneville, Elizabeth McGovern, Michelle Dockery.

The third and final film in the Downton Abbey franchise follows the Crawley family and their staff as they enter the 1930s. When Mary finds herself at the centre of a public scandal caused by her divorce and the family faces financial trouble, the entire household grapples with the threat of social disgrace.

Entry £7 (£5 for Sunshine Club members)

Includes tea and cake at the interval.



Emerging Local Plan for Buckinghamshire

Buckinghamshire Council has published its draft site allocation from its earlier *Call for Sites*.

An informal engagement on 400 potential sites is now invited from landowners and agents, town and parish councils, developers and infrastructure providers. For Cuddington, the two sites are Dadbrook Farm (Ref 216), put forward for 72 homes, and a Haddenham site beside the A418/Churchway (Ref 294).

The Parish Council will be responding to the consultation stressing that any development at Dadbrook should prioritise the existing brownfield farm buildings rather than expanding into greenfield areas. The PC's response will also include the delivery of the Dadbrook footpath, the safety of the A418 junction and the infrastructure constraints specifically highways, schools and drainage. For Haddenham site the main concerns are safe access onto the A418, the risk of visual or physical coalescence with Cuddington (as the gateway to Haddenham, a green buffer will be requested) and the infrastructure constraints specifically highways, schools and drainage. The Draft Local Plan with proposed suitable sites is expected in the summer and will include a formal consultation when residents can make their views known.



Cuddington Neighbourhood Plan

The current Cuddington Neighbourhood Plan (CNP) remains in force until 2027 but ideally should be reviewed after 5 years, i.e. April 2027. The benefits of undertaking a review include updating the CNP with the emerging Buckinghamshire Local Plan, addressing any gaps in the existing Plan, and securing protection against speculative development. The Parish Council has agreed to review this when the next major review of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) is published (expected summer 2026). The Draft of this new NPPF includes specific provision for Neighbourhood Plans.

Waddesdon Freight Strategy

HGV traffic through the village roads is at a record high and is causing damaged roads, eroded verges, increased potholes, and safety concerns. The Parish Council requested an update from the Senior Transport Strategy Officer (Freight) at Buckinghamshire Council on the progress of the much-awaited Waddesdon Freight Strategy, which is summarised here: The Waddesdon Freight Strategy was paused while the Ivinghoe Freight Zone pilot was completed. The pilot was not as successful as hoped, because enforcement of the restriction could not be implemented. Buckinghamshire Council now plans to use powers (under Part VI of the Traffic Management Act 2004 - commonly called Moving Traffic Enforcement) and hopes to include this in the next cabinet submission, after which there would be a public consultation.

In the meantime, officers agree it sensible to consider more local, targeted measures rather than waiting for the full enforcement outcome from Ivinghoe. They will work with local members from the Waddesdon area to identify potential intervention sites, assess how HGV movements might be displaced, and scope likely impacts. Buckinghamshire Council is also looking to introduce a new version of the council's freight strategy. This will incorporate a need a default use of Construction Traffic Management Plans for new developments of significance. This will identify routings for construction vehicles avoiding villages and sticking to more appropriate A and B class routes.

Work has started on identifying potential sites and understanding impacts on HGV flows and they will *be looking to bring options to parish councils as soon as they can*.

BEST KEPT VILLAGE 2026

CUDDINGTON VILLAGE TIDY

21st March



Save the Date!

CUDDINGTON FETE

Saturday 11th July 2026

Planning has begun for this years' fete, and we're looking for enthusiastic volunteers to join the Fete Committee and help make this year's event our best yet. Whether you can spare a little time in the run-up to the day, lend a hand with planning, organise a stall, coordinate games, or support logistics, your ideas and energy would be hugely valued. The Fete is one of the highlights of our community calendar, and it only happens thanks to the generosity and teamwork of local residents. Last year we were able to support community causes through grants totalling £5,500 from the fete proceeds.

We are also seeking one or more confident and cheerful comperes to take to the microphone for part of the afternoon, following in the much-loved footsteps of "Mike the Mic." If you enjoy chatting with people, keeping the crowd informed, announcing competitions, and adding a bit of humour and sparkle to proceedings, this could be the perfect role for you. No professional experience required — just a clear voice, a friendly manner, and plenty of village spirit! If you'd like to get involved - behind the scenes or in front of the crowd - please email Cuddington.fete@gmail.com.

We'd love to welcome some new faces and work together to create another fantastic day for the whole village.

The Cuddington fete committee

WELLFIELD HOUSE, Spurt Street

Cuddington, St. Pancras Station and Selfridges ...

Wellfield House in Spurt Street was built by George Green in 1884.

The first of the Green family to move to Cuddington in 1800, was John, who came from Great Milton in Oxfordshire and married Ann, a lacemaker, from Nether Winchendon. John was a carpenter, a particularly useful trade at this time when [agricultural enclosures](#) meant many of the rural peasantry had to move to the industrial towns for work. In 1811 Ann and George had a son called Robert who also became a carpenter.

In 1835, Robert married Mary and in 1836 they had a son, George, who was born in the Crown pub, like many Cuddington children in the years to come; the pub was probably well lit and had some form of heating.

By 1841 George's parents were running the Crown, which they did for the next 20 years and this may have contributed to George being known as a heavy drinker! That said, George progressed from carpentry to being a general builder, and at 23, he married Sarah who had been born in Winchendon Mill. In 1863 they had their first child.

Due to rural poverty, George saw little future in improving his family's prospects in Cuddington, so leaving his wife and child behind, he walked to London to seek his fortune.

One of his first projects was being involved in the building of the Grand Hotel in Brighton, which at the time was regarded as one of the finest buildings in the UK. He gained a lot of experience and capital from this project and established himself as a Master Builder and before long was doing rather well!

As mentioned before, whilst living in Cuddington, he had a reputation for being a heavy drinker and a bit of a layabout, but one day in London he came up on a Salvation Army meeting where their founder, [William Booth](#), was speaking. From that day, George became a teetotaler.

In the 1870s the British Empire was at its heights and London was booming. George was involved with building hotels, terraced housing, shopping parades and railway stations and in particular St. Pancras. He accumulated a fortune and built himself a splendid family house in Clapton, which he called Cuddington House in honour of his birthplace.

George's dreams, however, were still to be satisfied. Having left Cuddington 20 years earlier with no money and a dubious reputation, he wanted to return to Cuddington and build the finest house in the village.

In 1884 he purchased the site behind The Crown of 3 acres with an old Jacobean farmhouse called Church Farm, which had been built with white stone from the Crendon stone pits. Apparently, the previous owner had been caught stealing sheep and with the evidence of 5 sheep skins being discovered in the cellar, he was found guilty and [transported to the Caribbean](#). George decided to demolish the old farm and build himself a fine five-bedroom house where he planned to retire. In honour of his London house, he called it Clapton House.

George retained the original chimney breast sidewall and cellar but the frontage of the house was built in brick, which was fashionable in Victorian times. The back of the house was a mixture of stone from the demolished farmhouse and brick. He also built a double coach house with room for stables for four horses. The house was described as an impressive five-bedroom house with extensive outbuildings and a tennis court.



The front of the house was and still is decorated with ornate ironwork (probably surplus to requirements from his work at St. Pancras station) and fronted with an impressive glass roofed veranda. One of the best Victorian houses in the area. George Green's initials are clearly still visible on the front of the house today. The original beautiful internal plasterwork is also still in situ as well the coloured glass in the front door. Of interest to the current owners, are the doors which separate the dining room from the kitchen, which are lift doors from the London department store, Selfridges...more surplus supplies perhaps?

Since 1884, the outward appearance of the house has not changed although much of the original land has been sold to allow for the building of two houses on each side and the houses in Church Close. Internally there have been no structural changes only cosmetic painting and wallpaper. The Sandersons who have been at Wellfield House since 1983 have added a garden room and conservatory to the back of the house, and installed a Victorian greenhouse in the garden. In 1906, after 22 years in the house, George Green sold it to a Mrs. Sarah Putnam, a widow and Miss Mary White for £850.00.

Including George there have been 10 owners of Wellfield House, including farmers Dora & John Sherwood in 1933 and Mr. Thompson in 1939, a retired butcher from Wilsden paying £1100 for the property. Next, Mrs Healey bought 'Clapton House' as it still was in 1943, then left in 1957 when her proposed housing development for Spurt Street was turned down: she sold it to a Mr Wilson for £3650.

Nan and Peggy Cattell, two very much-loved and remembered sisters who devoted themselves to the church, village

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)

societies, the fete and other activities, became residents in 1959 and renamed it Wellfield House, as it is known today. In 1966, Wellfield House was sold to the Roswell family, but by 1968, they too had moved on after Mr. Rowells' job took him and his family to Essex.



Charles & Angela with friends on their first evening in Cuddington celebrating a successful moving day in The Crown

But, their bad luck was the Sandersons good fortune as Charles' wine trade job had just moved from London to Aylesbury. A small advert in the Bucks Herald, a pint at The Crown and a conversation with Mrs. Roswell in the garden, secured the house for them.

Charles and Angela moved into Wellfield House with their two children, Katie & William on 6th January 1983.

Charles Sanderson

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Jamie and Doug's

FOLK NIGHT

Starts at 8 pm
Friday 20th March

Cuddington Playing Fields clubhouse,
Bernard close,
HP18 0AJ

email: doug@doug-kennedy.com to join us for a tune

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SATURDAY 21 MARCH 2026 - 7.30PM
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Mondays every week, Fridays during school termtime only



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contact Kathy Hook for costs and options

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

"March brings breezes loud and shrill,
Stirs the dancing daffodil."
(Sara Coleridge 1802-52)



March

Mon 2nd, 2.00pm Sunshine Club Tea, Playing Fields Clubhouse
Wed 4th, 8.00pm Cuddington Bookworms, Playing Fields Clubhouse
Thurs 5th, 8.00pm 'Materialists', Village Picture House, Bernard Hall
Thurs 12th, 8.00pm 'The Choral', Village Picture House, Bernard Hall
Sat 14th, 2pm SWISH sale in aid of CYD
Mon 16th, 1.30pm Cuddington Matinee Cinema
'Downton Abbey: The Grand Finale', BH
Thurs 19th, 8.00pm 'Springsteen: Deliver Me From Nowhere',
Village Picture House, BH
Sat 21st Village Tidy
Wed 25th, 7.00pm Parish Council Meeting, Bernard Hall
Thurs 26th, 8.00pm 'On Falling', Village Picture House, Bernard Hall

April

Wed 1st, 8.00pm Cuddington Bookworms, Playing Fields Clubhouse
Wed 8th Sunshine Club: Visit to Quainton Railway
Thurs 9th, 8.00pm 'Song Sung Blue', Village Picture House, Bernard Hall
Mon 13th, 2.00pm Sunshine Club Tea, Playing Fields Clubhouse
Thurs 16th, 7.00pm 'NTLive: All My Sons', Village Picture House, Bernard Hall
Wed 22nd, 6.00pm Annual Village Meeting, Bernard Hall

Every Friday, at 10.00am, in term time, Toddlers Singing Group takes place in St Nicholas Church. Everyone is welcome. For more details please contact Christine (christine.jackson@live.co.uk) for Toddlers Singing Group.
For more information please refer to the village website – cuddingtonvillage.com



Come SWISH your clothes
and all stuff from your house you
no longer need! Come browse and
refresh your wardrobe!
SWISH! for CYD
Saturday 14th March
2pm Bernard Hall

Pancake Racing

Well done to
everyone who took
part...it's fair to
say, some were
better than others!



Movement Matters

Hello, I'm Rachel, Physiotherapist & Pilates teacher. I'd like to say a sincere thank you to the Parish Council for supporting my business application, and to our local community for their encouragement in helping Phoenix Freedom Pilates remain here in the village. As a way of giving back, I'd like to share a simple movement thought.

A movement thought to take away

Our bodies have evolved to rest and move in a variety of floor-based positions, often called "archetypal postures," a term popularised by osteopath Phillip Beach. These include sitting on the floor in different ways and standing back up again. These fundamental movement patterns support strength, mobility, and balance, yet many of us rarely practise them today due to our reliance on chairs.

Spotlight on the deep squat

A comfortable deep squat helps maintain joint mobility, create gentle traction through the spine, strengthen legs and core, improve balance, and support everyday movement. If it feels difficult, and if appropriate for you, try placing a small block or book under your heels and spend a little time each day working toward this natural posture.

Here's to keeping our village moving well.

Rachel

BOOK Worms

Cuddington

BOOK club

JOIN us at BOOK CLUB -
Everyone welcome!

4th March

The Club at the Playing Fields at 7.30PM for 8.00PM



AYLESBURY
Choral Society

REQUIEM

by MAURICE DURUFLÉ

Sung by Aylesbury Choral Society, directed by Philip Stopford with Colin Spinks (organ)



PLUS anthems and motets
including:

Allegri
Miserere

Tallis
Salvator Mundi

Dan Forrest
And Can It Be

and works by Chilcott and Stopford

Saturday 28 March 2026
at 7.30pm

St. Mary's Church
Aylesbury, HP20 2JJ

Tickets £18 (under 18s £7)
aylesburychoral.org.uk
from members, or scan the QR code:



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THE VILLAGE PICTURE HOUSE CUDDINGTON



March sees a varied selection of films at the Village Picture House starting on Thursday 5th with **Materialists** (cert. 15). It's a smart, spiky romcom starring Dakota Johnson as Lucy, a high-end New York City matchmaker who helps wealthy clients find partners based on financial and materialistic criteria. But when it comes to her own love life, Lucy finds herself torn between two men: the perfect, rich bachelor Harry (Pedro Pascal), and John (Chris Evans), her financially struggling, aspiring actor ex. "This captivating romantic drama explores love and money with piercing honesty ... exquisite," says *BBC Culture*. "This is a razor-sharp look at the competitive marketplace of dating: both rigorously honest and idealistically romantic," says *Empire*. "One of the sexiest, sharpest looks at modern matchmaking you'll ever see," says *New Musical Express*.



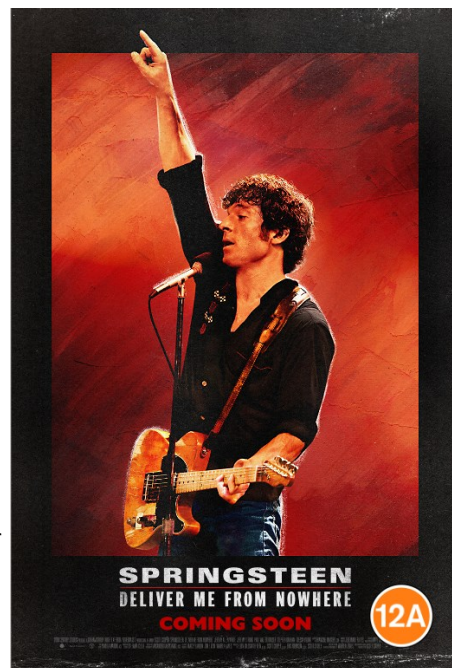
Then on the 12th we'll be screening **The Choral** (cert. 12A), written by Alan Bennett and with an all-star Front, the Choral Society cast led by Ralph Fiennes. It's 1916 and, as war rages on the Western in Ramsden, Yorkshire has lost most of its men to the army. The Choral's committee engages a new chorus master and resolves to recruit local young men to swell their ranks. As conscription papers start to arrive, the whole community discovers that the best response to the chaos that is laying waste to their lives is to make music together. "A quiet and consistent pleasure: an



unsentimental but deeply felt drama," says *The Guardian*. "Ralph Fiennes is tremendous in Alan Bennett's wartime drama," says *The Telegraph*. "Fiennes is typically good as a careworn choirmaster who believes in art as a redemptive force," says the *Financial Times*.

On the 19th our film will be **Springsteen: Deliver Me From Nowhere** (cert. 12A). On the cusp of global superstardom, New Jersey rocker Bruce Springsteen struggles to reconcile the pressures of success with the ghosts of his past as he records

the album "Nebraska" in the early 1980s. Jeremy Allen White stars as Springsteen. "A tender, thoughtful film that finally brings the legendary singer-songwriter's story, or at least a snatch of it, to the big screen," says *New Musical Express*. "This low-key biopic resists fireworks but showcases a vocal performance which will surely land its star an Oscar nomination," says *The Telegraph*. "As a living, loving portrait of blue collar Americana, *Deliver Me From Nowhere* excels," says *Time Out*.



On the 26th, we'll be showing an outstanding movie from the same stable as the Ken Loach films *I, Daniel Blake* and *The Old Oak*: **On Falling** (cert. 15). Constantly working against the clock at a vast fulfilment centre in Scotland, Aurora (Joana Santos) craves connection but enjoys only the briefest of exchanges with her co-workers and those in her small flat-share. This powerful meditation on contemporary social isolation won two Scottish BAFTAs. "Laura Carreira's



impressive debut drama sees a quietly excellent Joana Santos endure dehumanising work conditions while looking for a way out ... outstanding," says *The Guardian*. "This superb debut about a lonely warehouse picker is an astonishing fable of hidden miseries," says the *Irish Times*. "A subtle yet heavy portrait of precarious work life," says the *Scottish Herald*.

Looking ahead to April, on the 9th we'll be showing **Song Sung Blue**, the true story of two down-on-their-luck musicians who form a Neil Diamond tribute band and experience both soaring success and devastating heartbreak in their musical journey together. On the 16th we'll be showing the National Theatre's five-star, triumphantly acclaimed new production of Arthur Miller's classic play **All My Sons**, with Bryan Cranston and Marianne Jean-Baptiste heading up the cast. The on the 23rd our film will be the BAFTA-winning **Hamnet** starring Paul Mescal and Jessie Buckley, Paul Mescal as William Shakespeare and his wife Agnes. This is certain to sell out quickly so don't delay securing your places. Tickets for all features are on sale in Cuddington Stores or on our web page: www.cuddingtonvillage.com/cinema