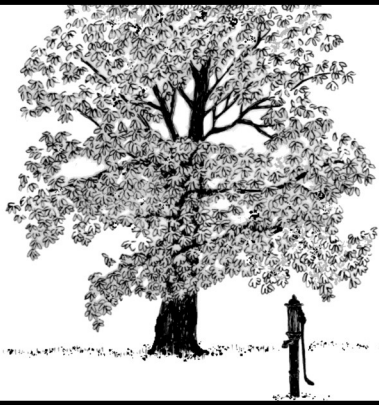




Cuddington Village Voice

April 2026

Easter Vigil

On Holy Saturday (4th April) St Nicholas Church, Cuddington will be holding an Easter Vigil to which ALL are invited.

Starting at 7:30pm, we gather around the firepit, light the Easter Candle and Process through the darkened church to the font where individual candles are lit. Here we renew or think about baptism promises then continue on with music readings and prayers. This beautiful ancient service usually lasts about an hour and is open to anyone in the Village or beyond.



BEST KEPT VILLAGE 2026

CUDDINGTON VILLAGE LITTER PICK & PUB GARDEN TIDY

18th April

Meet at the top green at 10am



Village meeting

Cuddington Annual Village Meeting
WEDNESDAY 22nd APRIL
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.

Cuddington Methodist Church

Sunday 19th April, 3.00pm – Cuddington Chapel

'What to pray for in a world where the news is more than we can bear to follow?'

In a time when the news can feel overwhelming, we warmly invite anyone who prays, would like to pray, or simply wishes to share their understanding of the world with others, to come together.

As Sam says in *The Lord of the Rings*: "There's some good in this world... and it's worth fighting for." We believe that coming together in prayer is one way of holding on to that good—and giving it strength.

Meeting in person is, in itself, a quiet act of hope—keeping faith, compassion, and conversation alive in our community.

You are most welcome to join us to focus our prayer.

And, together, let us—quite simply—pray.

Regular Sunday Afternoon Gatherings

Our series of Sunday afternoon meetings at Cuddington Chapel continues at 3.00pm on the first Sunday of each month (except Easter Sunday).

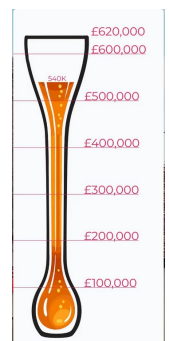
These gatherings have been enriched by thoughtful conversation and first hand accounts on faith, healings, and hope in today's world. We look forward to sharing more about these in future editions.

All are very welcome.

THE CROWN, Cuddington: a community owned pub

WE ARE ALMOST THERE! 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

For a full update turn to page 3



Thought for the month...

Honey Bear Meets the Church Mouse (A thought for children ... and others)

It was a cold, bright morning when the vicar arrived at church with Honey Bear under her arm. Honey Bear is a VERY sleepy puppet who likes to listen to stories but usually needs children in the Toddler Group to shout, "Wake up Honey Bear!" ready for story-time on a Friday morning.

On this particular morning, as the door creaked open, there was an even louder squeal from the Church Mouse as he almost got his tail caught under the door, "Sorry Little Mouse, I didn't see you there" said the vicar. The mouse stayed very still, not knowing whether to run or hide. In the end he did neither. He just waited.

"I wouldn't stay there if I were you. The children from school will be coming over soon for their Easter Service and you might get trampled." Honey Bear was new to Cuddington and so, when the vicar put him down on the carpet, the Little Mouse told him everything that was about to happen in the church.



Good Friday is the afternoon when the Little Mouse would need to stay very quiet as the people came to pray and look at the pictures that tell about how Jesus died on the cross.

The Easter Vigil at 7:30pm on Saturday evening is a wonderful time for the Little Mouse as there will be a firepit ready for everyone to gather round and keep warm until the big Easter Candle is lit and everyone lights their own candle and comes into church for the short service.

Easter Sunday at 10:00 is the Little Mouse's favourite time as everyone celebrates that Jesus is alive. The children wave flags as they sing and Honey Bear was excited to hear there would also be stories about how we can be friends with Jesus, even though we do bad things sometimes. That's because God forgives us and loves us and wants to be our friend forever. Both Honey Bear and the Little Mouse are now best friends and will hopefully have lots more adventures in the future.

Happy Easter Revd TJ

SING A SONG OF MAYTIME



The Witchert Choral

directed by David Quinn
with

Golgatha Kantorei (Berlin)

directed by Ben Cruchley

MONDAY 4 MAY

St Mary's Church

Long Crendon 8:30am

St Nicholas' Church

Cuddington 9:45am



www.witchert.org.uk



Refreshments
will be served

Village Voice needs another editor

10 issues a year, packed with village news about Cuddington
FOR Cuddington.

The team currently comprises of Rachael Barnard, Kathy Hook
(advertising), and Helen Keeping.

If anyone is interested in joining our team, don't hesitate to
contact Rachael or Helen; our details are in every edition.

SEE BELOW

Services in April

St Nicholas, Cuddington

Welcome

Worshipping God
Serving Community
Sharing Life

**Wychert
Vale**



3rd April	Meditation on Good Friday, 3.00pm
4th April	Easter Vigil, 7.30pm
5th April	Easter Sunday. All-Age Holy Communion
12th April	All-Age Service
19th April	All-Age Holy Communion
26th April	Morning Worship, with children's activities in the Bernard Hall

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.

THE CROWN, Cuddington: a community owned pub

And still the Pledges continue to flow – in the last week the total we have raised has risen from £520,000 to

£542,800 – just **£7,700** away from our target of £550,000.

Once again, please may I ask you to reach out to your neighbours, friends and families in the village, along with friends in other villages to support this great cause.

Remember, no matter how much you Pledge, it is still One Person, One Vote.

Management Committee: The new Committee members have all now been appointed:

Timing: Our application to become a Community Benefits Society has now been approved and we have our company number which means we can now apply to HMRC for Advance Assurance for our SEIS and EIS approval.

We will shortly be setting up the new Company bank account and we will soon be emailing all investors with instructions for transferring your pledged funds to the new account.

If all the above goes to plan !! we are still hoping to take ownership of the pub on Friday 17th April, which will allow us two weeks to complete all the refurbishments before we open the doors on the May bank holiday weekend – more details regarding the weekend activity will be available soon.

My thanks to everyone who has volunteered to help with the refurb work, which **Andy Weller** [07980 612452] is coordinating.

If you can help, please make the call!

Thanks everyone, getting closer now!

Mike, Management Committee Chair

Management committee



Mike Cottman
Chair



Tim Stevens
Co. Secretary and Accountant



Ian Cutler
Operations and Vice Chair



David Batchelor
Treasurer



Andy Weller
Refurbishment



Patrick Maxwell
Events



Ali Reeve
Hospitality



Tom Newitt
Catering and Kitchen Equipment



Laura Street
Social Media



Will Dyer
Contracts and Buying



Rachael Barnard
General Support



Kate Anderson
General Support

News from the School



Little word games, rhymes and songs are the fun part of learning to read and write and the children have enjoyed writing their own poems this term. Our Little Owls children shared a lovely Mother's Day Rhyme Time and a talented group of pupils represented our school in the [Thame Partnership Poetry Slam grand final](#) that took place at John Hampden School, with judges from Lord Williams' English department.

The polished performances of our poets were highly commended. The Year 1 and Year 2 pupils had a fantastic visit to Science Oxford, taking part in hands on exploration, watching live science experiments and enjoying a woodland session linked to their science curriculum. On Wednesday 25th March the Junior pupils enjoyed activities linked to the Easter Story in Dinton Church. The Easter Experience was run by volunteers from both Cuddington and Dinton church and took pupils through the events of Holy week in an interactive, moving and thoughtful way. The following day all the Junior pupils travelled by coach to the Infant site so that the whole school could celebrate Easter together.

All the children and the parents are now enjoying a relaxing Easter holiday.



Cuddington Fete

SATURDAY 11TH JULY 2026
Parade from Lower Green 12:30pm | Fete 1-4pm

Celebrating Wildlife

100 YEARS OF DAVID ATTENBOROUGH

How can you help?

STALLS

Do you have a fun and engaging idea for an interactive stall involving crafts, nature-inspired products, games, activities or anything wildlife-themed?

VOLUNTEERS

Do you have a skill, contact or equipment that could help bring our fete to life? 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.

GET IN TOUCH
cuddington.fete@gmail.com

A Sweet History: The Story of Chocolate Easter Eggs

Chocolate Easter eggs are a much-loved part of the season, but their story is a fascinating mix of ancient symbolism and Victorian innovation.

The idea of chocolate eggs is thought to have begun in France and Germany during the 19th century, when chocolate-making techniques were rapidly improving. Here in the UK, however, it was the Bristol-based company J. S. Fry & Sons that first introduced chocolate Easter eggs in 1873—much to the delight of a growing nation of chocolate lovers.

Founded in 1759 by Joseph Fry, a Quaker entrepreneur, the company originally specialised in drinking chocolate. It wasn't until the 1800s that Fry's expanded into solid chocolate products and bars.

A major breakthrough came when Joseph Storrs Fry developed a way to grind cocoa beans using steam power. Combined with the discovery that cocoa fat, cocoa powder, and sugar could be blended into a smooth, pourable paste, this innovation transformed chocolate-making.

For the first time, chocolate could be moulded—and crucially, produced on a large scale.

This led to the creation of hollow chocolate, making treats like Easter eggs far more affordable than the solid versions that came before.

With these advances, Fry's became the largest chocolate producer in the UK, eventually offering over 200 products, including favourites such as Fry's Chocolate Cream and Fry's Turkish Delight.

Hot on their heels, Cadbury produced its first chocolate Easter egg in 1875. Over time, Cadbury refined the idea, introducing decorated, foil-wrapped, and boxed eggs that became a familiar part of Easter celebrations.

Fry's, meanwhile, tried to stand out by including novelty gifts with their eggs—everything from watches to jewellery and even cutlery! Although inventive, these extras never quite captured the public's imagination. Gradually, Cadbury took the lead, and when the two companies merged in 1919, this shift was firmly sealed.

Of course, the tradition of eggs at Easter is far older than chocolate eggs.

As early as the beginnings of Christianity in Mesopotamia, eggs were given as symbolic gifts. Often dyed red to represent the blood of Christ—or in colours like green and yellow to celebrate new life and renewal—eggs have long been associated with springtime and rebirth. This tradition of decorating eggs continues in many cultures around the world today.

From ancient customs to chocolate confections, the Easter egg has come a long way. What began as a simple symbol of new life has become one of our most cherished—and delicious—seasonal treats.

And then there are the famous Fabergé eggs...beautiful, priceless works of art.

But when it comes to Easter, most of us would still choose chocolate!

Rachael Barnard



Serbian painted eggs of today

Easter Egg Wordsearch

Rabbit
Renewal
Foil
Eggs
Hunt
Easter
Cocoa
Basket
Fry
Cadbury



b	r	a	b	b	i	t	r
a	c	e	r	y	k	e	g
s	o	a	n	f	o	i	l
k	c	s	g	e	g	g	s
e	o	t	i	h	w	y	r
t	a	e	t	u	g	a	e
o	f	r	y	n	o	i	l
c	h	o	c	t	o	e	i
t	c	a	d	b	u	r	y

Nature Recovery In Cuddington – An Opportunity

Michael Gove was, arguably, one of the most effective ministers in recent Tory governments, playing a big part in Brexit, for which many of us will never forgive him, but also seeing the Environment Act 2021 through Parliament. In this Act, it was recognised that the UK has suffered more environmental degradation and loss of species than most in the World, especially since WW2. The Act introduced Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG), which requires developers to pay for projects rectifying any damage to wildlife and habitats that they cause. It also initiated Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRS) to stimulate councils across the country to find ways to improve nature across their regions.

BNG was implemented last year, which will benefit some projects and farms in our vicinity. Meanwhile, Bucks Council has been working on its LNRS and that has now been published and actual work on is beginning. A very useful new resource is an interactive map that anyone can view which shows the current state of nature and also the locations that offer the best opportunities to improve the state of nature. Bucks Council will be looking to involve parish councils, local and national groups, businesses and residents in creating projects to assist in nature recovery across the county.



YOGA

WITH ILONA

CUDDINGTON: MONDAYS 6PM
CHEARSLEY: FRIDAYS 10:45AM

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book online

join a class or find out more:
www.yogawithilona.com



ilona@yogawithilona.com

In Cuddington, there is great potential for residents to get involved with LNRS and to assist in improving and restoring nature in our local countryside, so your Parish Council has asked me to put together some ideas and to present them at the *Village Meeting on April 22nd*. We are looking for a handful of residents to form a biodiversity working group that will work out the best opportunities and lead action in protecting and improving local nature.

The sort of things that could be on the agenda are:

- Establishing wildflower meadows (the flowers attract insects, which attract birds).
- Protecting and enhancing village verges and trees. (The only known tree in which tree sparrows were nesting was felled recently.)
- Providing nesting sites for e.g. swifts & swallows (we have no viable swift nesting boxes and numbers have been declining)
- Contributing to a major new opportunity offered by the River Thames becoming a 'Smarter Catchment', for which there will be significant funding. (It's a really exciting time for our river and the surrounding countryside.)

Do come to the Village Meeting, but if you can't and are interested, please email me at doug@doug-kennedy.com



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BUSINESS SPONSORS & ADVERTS

To advertise or place a company advertorial please contact Kathy Hook for costs and options

getkathy@hotmail.com

We are grateful to the following local businesses who provide sponsorship to support the print costs for **Village Voice**, and to **Print World** for a competitive service:

Cuddington Village Stores	Tel: 01844 291372
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D H Speer, Heating & Plumbing	Tel: 07720 826374
F J Wilson, Funeral Directors	Tel: 01844 291200
Haddenham Carpets	Tel: 01844 291591
Thame Therapy Clinic	Tel: 01844 215555
Dermis & Flor	Tel: 07912 065240
Windmill Windows	Tel: 01844 237070
Pearson Insurance	Tel: 01844 260936
Risboro Garage	Tel: 01844 274330
Ilona Yoga	Ilona@yogawithilona.com
Nailedit by Gabby	Tel: 07547564404
Phoenix Freedom Pilates rachel@phoenixfreedom.co.uk	
Jamie Smith Wall and Floor Tiling	Tel: 07706373472

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Dates for your Diary

'For I remember it is Easter morn,
And life and love and peace are all new born.'
Alice Freeman Plamer (1855-1902)



APRIL

Wed 1st, 8.00pm Cuddington Bookworms, Playing Fields Clubhouse
Sat 4th, 7.30pm Easter Vigil, St Nicholas Church
Tues 7th, 2.00pm Tuesday Group, Book Swap, Playing Fields Clubhouse
Wed 8th, 1.30pm Sunshine Club: visit to Quainton Railway
Thurs 9th, 8.00pm 'Roofman' 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
Sat 18th, 10.00am Village litter pick. Meet on Upper Green
Wed 22nd, 7.00pm Annual Village Meeting, Bernard Hall
Thurs 23rd, 8.00pm 'Dragonfly', Village Picture House, Bernard Hall
Thurs 30th, 8.00pm 'Rental Family', Village Picture House, Bernard Hall

MAY

Tues 5th, 2.00pm Tuesday Group, Playing Fields Clubhouse
Wed 6th, 8.00pm Cuddington Bookworms, Playing Fields Clubhouse
Thurs 7th, 8.00pm 'One Battle After Another', Village Picture House, Bernard Hall
Mon 11th, 2.00pm Sunshine Club Tea, Playing Fields Clubhouse
Thurs 14th, 8.00pm 'Song Sung Blue', Village Picture House, Bernard Hall
Sat 16th, 10.00am Village litter pick. Meet on Upper Green
Mon 18th, 1.00pm Matinee Cinema, 'Saving Mr Banks'
Wed 27th, 7.00pm Parish Council Meeting, Bernard Hall
Thurs 28th, 7.00pm NTLive: 'Playboy of the Western World', Village Picture House, 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 more information please refer to the village website – cuddingtonvillage.com

Need a lift?



An increasing number of people in Cuddington with mobility issues have some difficulty getting to the surgery, for instance, and need transport. If you know of anyone who needs help, or could volunteer to drive on an occasional basis, either: contact Viv Birkby. 07831 807872. vivbirkby@gmail.com I can help for local trips in a standard vehicle. I am DBS registered.

Or: The Haddenham Community Vehicle, 07468 650866 <https://haddenhamcommunityvehicle.org.uk>

Affectionately known as Carrie, it is specially adapted to allow easy assisted access for those in wheelchairs. It is available for any Cuddington resident who has mobility issues and needs transport.

The free service is door-to-door and takes people to shops, family and friends, lunch at a local garden centre, medical appointments.

Viv Birkby



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Enquiries@osogardens.com

THE VILLAGE PICTURE HOUSE CUDDINGTON



We have another varied selection of films for you at the Village Picture House in April. On Thursday 9th we'll be showing **Roofman** (cert. 15), based on a true story and starring Channing Tatum and Kirsten Dunst. After escaping from prison, a former soldier and professional thief finds a hideout inside a Toys "R"

Us, surviving undetected for months while

#planning his next move.

However, when Jeffrey falls for a divorced store employee his double life starts to unravel, setting off a compelling and suspenseful game of cat and mouse as his past closes in... "Channing Tatum is Oscar-worthy ... *Roofman* brings heart, energy and personality to the true story of Jeffrey Manchester," says *The Telegraph*. "An

unbelievable crime caper with a compelling central character, it provides fertile ground for a gritty but heartfelt big-screen adventure," says *Empire*. "Channing Tatum and Kirsten Dunst are a match made in crime comedy heaven," *The Independent*.

Then on the 16th, Bryan Cranston and Marianne Jean-Baptiste feature in a five-star, triumphantly acclaimed new production of Arthur Miller's classic play **All My Sons** (cert.

12A), captured live at Wyndham's Theatre in the West End. One family, the heart of the American dream. When wartime delivers profits for Joe, it comes at a price when his partner is charged with criminal manufacturing deals, and his eldest son goes missing in action. Will peacetime bring peace of mind, or will he be confronted by the consequence of his actions? "The stars of a dream cast align for Arthur Miller's towering tragedy ... superb," says

The Guardian. "An astonishing, deeply moving piece of theatre," says *The Standard*. "Director Ivo van Hove strikes gold ... Cranston is superb ... Marianne Jean-Baptiste is exquisite," says *Time Out*.



On the 23rd our film will be **Dragonfly** (cert. 15), a tense psychological drama starring Brenda Blethyn, Andrea Riseborough and Jason Watkins. Lonely pensioner Elsie develops a close bond with her much younger neighbour Colleen, who takes over her care from negligent professionals. But as Colleen's behaviour becomes increasingly possessive and unpredictable, the film shifts from heart-warming to a claustrophobic, dark thriller.

"Brenda Blethyn and Andrea Riseborough are superb as two neighbours thrown together by their neglected circumstances," says *The Guardian*. "A bleak but captivating study of loneliness and social care in contemporary Britain ... Brenda Blethyn is at her very best," says *Radio Times*.

Finally, on the 30th we'll be showing **Rental Family** (cert. 12A) starring Brendan Fraser. Struggling to find a purpose in life, an American actor lands an unusual gig with a Japanese agency to play stand-in roles for strangers. As he immerses himself in his clients' worlds, he begins to form



genuine bonds that blur the lines between performance and reality. Confronting the moral complexities of his work, he soon rediscovers purpose, belonging, and the quiet beauty of human connection... "Brendan Fraser is extraordinary in his finest role since *The Whale*," says *The Telegraph*. "Brendan Fraser delivers a tender performance in this saccharine exploration of loneliness," says *Time Out*.



"Brendan Fraser exports his charm in this Tokyo-set feelgood drama," says the *Financial Times*.

Looking ahead to May, on the 7th we'll be screening the multi-award-winning **One Battle After Another** starring Leonardo DiCaprio. Bob is a washed-up revolutionary who lives in a state of stoned paranoia, surviving off-grid with his spirited and self-reliant daughter Willa. When his evil nemesis Colonel Lockjaw resurfaces and Willa goes missing, the former radical scrambles to find her as both father and daughter battle the consequences of their pasts. Then on the 14th we'll be showing **Song Sung Blue**, postponed from 9th April. This is 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.

Tickets for all features are on sale in Cuddington Stores or on our web page: www.cuddingtonvillage.com/cinema