



Cuddington Village Voice

MAY 2026

On Saturday 16th May the Sandersons will host a Garden Party from 12.00 noon until 4.00pm to raise money for Christian Aid Week.

There will be lunchtime Barbecued Bangers and Beer (and wine and soft drinks too), and various stalls including Plants, Children's toys and books and Produce/Cakes (**donations for these will be most welcome** and can be left at Wellfield House after 12th May).

Tea and coffee will be on hand during the afternoon, and there will be a Treasure Hunt for the children.

If you would be willing to help run a stall please contact Caroline Stonham carolinestonham@gmail.com) or Angela Sanderson (asanderson2023@outlook.com).



The Crown has a CHEF!

To meet Tom & complete the community questionnaire turn to page 5



MOANA

Rave review and glorious photographs of CYDs latest show on page 3!



Services in May

St Nicholas, Cuddington

Welcome

Worshipping God
Serving Community
Sharing Life



3rd May	All-Age Holy Communion
10th May	Family Service
17th May	Morning Worship, with children's activities in the Bernard Hall
24th May	All-Age Holy Communion
31st May	Family Service

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.

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CUDDINGTON FETE
SATURDAY 11TH JULY 2026

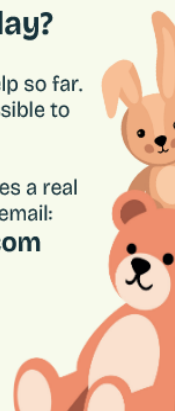
Donations needed for the fete!

We're looking for teddies/soft toys, fiction books, plants, and unopened bottles of wine, spirits or cordial. Drop-off details will be shared in the next Village Voice - so now's the time to start sowing, sorting, and setting a few things aside to donate.

Can you help on fete day?

Thank you for all the kind offers of help so far. We need as many volunteers as possible to make the fete a success.

Just an hour or two of your time makes a real difference. If you can help, please email: cuddington.fete@gmail.com



Thought for the month...

Gale force winds, with gusts of over 40 mph, put the new church flagpole through its paces as it was used for the first time at Easter. St. George's day (23rd April) occurs just as this edition of Village Voice is being prepared, so again the flag is flown.

Saint George's belief and trust in Jesus is at the heart of his legacy. Tradition is that George maintained his Christian faith even in the face of persecution and adversity, refusing to renounce his convictions despite immense pressure; he was executed for refusing to renounce his faith. This is woven into the symbolism of the red cross—an emblem of martyrdom and sacrifice. The white background signifies purity and hope echoing the promise of resurrection, eternal life and the transformative power of love.

What of the tale of slaying the dragon? While the dragon may be a myth, the message it conveys is of courage rooted in faith confronting the forces that threaten truth and justice: qualities still needed in today's world. Or, as an archbishop recently wrote, it challenges us "to saddle up and face modern day dragons".

So, when we see the red cross of St George it signposts us to a way of life marked by devotion and service to others.

And by the way, George was not English; he was a Roman soldier born in what is now Turkey.

James Stonham, Churchwarden.



Cuddington Methodist Church

We met on Sunday the 19th April for discussion and were struck by this well-known passage and how it might still resonate today:

'Peace, peace', they say, when there is no peace. Are they ashamed of their loathsome conduct? No, they have no shame at all; they do not even know how to blush.' You might look up what follows out of curiosity to find the promise of how things are ultimately put right (Jer 6,14).

There is also some guidance for the present: 'ask where the good way is, and walk in it and you will find rest for your souls'... Food for thought – and for prayer...

All are very welcome on 3rd May at 2.30pm for the next Sunday afternoon service at Cuddington Chapel, centred on worship and answered prayer.

Blessings, Martin Dyckhoff

Help is needed

**Cuddington
Village Voice**

Ever thought of trying your hand at editing?

Rachael is looking for someone to share the editorial load, someone who can help put together 5 of the 10 issues a year. You don't have to write the copy, just set it out and Helen will cross the 'Ts' and dot the 'I's for you.

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

YOGA

WITH ILONA

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

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MOANA

What a triumph!

We spent a very special evening watching these young actors from CYD bring the magic of Moana island life to Cuddington! Ninety minutes of singing, dancing and passionate acting from this young crew aged 8 and upwards left us laughing, clapping and tapping along... wanting more at the end! A delight from start to finish and a great testament to the passion and fun had by all at this youth drama group plus the amazing staff, crew and volunteers who help make it all shine!

Lesley, Ben, Bella & Jessica Crowther
(Nether Winchendon)



Community Questionnaire *Help shape the future of your local pub*

SECTION 1 — ABOUT YOU

Q1. Where do you live? *

- ☐ Cuddington
- ☐ Nearby village
- ☐ Visitor to the area

Q2. Age *

- ☐ 30 & under
- ☐ 31 – 50
- ☐ 50+

SECTION 2 — WHY VISIT THE CROWN

Q3. Why would you visit The Crown? *

- ☐ Drink
- ☐ Food
- ☐ Happy Hour
- ☐ Meet friends
- ☐ Meet new people
- ☐ Entertainment
- ☐ Dog-friendly visits
- ☐ Other: _____

SECTION 3 — YOUR PUB HABITS

Q4. How often do you visit a pub? *

- ☐ Rarely
- ☐ Occasionally
- ☐ Monthly
- ☐ Weekly
- ☐ More often

Q6. What matters most when choosing a pub? *

- ☐ Atmosphere
- ☐ Food quality
- ☐ Drinks selection
- ☐ Price
- ☐ Friendly service
- ☐ Events / entertainment
- ☐ Outdoor space
- ☐ Location
- ☐ Other: _____

SECTION 4 — FOOD & DRINK

Q7. What would you like to see on the menu? *

- ☐ Traditional pub food (pies, fish & chips, etc.)
- ☐ Posh pub classics
- ☐ Sunday roasts
- ☐ Light bites / lunch options
- ☐ Vegetarian / vegan options
- ☐ Other: _____

Q8. What drinks matter most? *

- ☐ Local ales & guest ales
- ☐ Craft beer / lager
- ☐ Wine
- ☐ Spirits
- ☐ Cocktails
- ☐ Non-alcoholic options
- ☐ Other: _____

Q9. What price would you expect to pay? *

	£ (budget)	££ (mid-range)	£££ (premium)
Main meal	☐	☐	☐
Pint	☐	☐	☐

Q10. Any other food & drink ideas?

Long-answer text

SECTION 5 — EVENTS & COMMUNITY

Q11. Which events would you attend?

- ☐ Live music
- ☐ Sports screenings
- ☐ Charity events
- ☐ Family events
- ☐ Themed food night
- ☐ Other: _____

Q12. Which activities interest you? *

- ☐ Quiz nights
- ☐ Games nights
- ☐ Book club
- ☐ Walking group
- ☐ Craft activities
- ☐ Dining club
- ☐ Coffee meet-ups
- ☐ Cycle stop-off / meet-up
- ☐ Other: _____

Q13. Anything else you'd like to see?

Long-answer text

SECTION 6 — THE PUB EXPERIENCE

Q14. What atmosphere would you prefer?

- ☐ Traditional & cosy
- ☐ Lively & social
- ☐ Quiet & relaxed
- ☐ Other: _____

Q15. How family-friendly should the pub be?

- ☐ All the time
- ☐ Some of the time
- ☐ Not at all

SECTION 7 — DÉCOR & SPACE

Q16. What style would you prefer? *

- ☐ Same as before
- ☐ Lighter
- ☐ Modern
- ☐ Traditional
- ☐ Other: _____

Q17. Anything else about décor or layout?

Short-answer text

SECTION 8 — ACCESSIBILITY

Q18. Do you have any accessibility needs we should consider?

Long-answer text

SECTION 9 — LOOKING BACK & FORWARD

Q19. What did you like about The Crown?

Short-answer text

Q20. What would you NOT like to see return?

Short-answer text

SECTION 10 — GET INVOLVED

Q21. Would you be interested in getting involved?

- ☐ Volunteering
- ☐ Sharing skills
- ☐ Helping organise events
- ☐ Not at this time
- ☐ Other: _____

Q21a. If sharing skills, please tell us more:

Short-answer text

★ SECTION 12 — FINAL THOUGHTS

Q23. What would make The Crown your go-to pub? *

Long-answer text

SECTION 13 — STAY IN TOUCH

Q24. Would you like to be kept updated?

Q25. Email address (optional)

We will only use your email to share updates about The Crown. Your details will be held securely and never shared with third parties. You can unsubscribe at any time. Responses are anonymous unless you choose to provide contact details.

Short-answer text

Tear out and leave at Denise's, thank you

NEWS FROM THE CROWN

Meet our new chef



Thanks to the HUGE team effort of Abi Armstrong, Ian Cutler and Tom Newitt The Crown community pub now has a fantastic addition to the team—**Tom Cadle, our new chef.**

Tom is a hugely likeable and experienced chef, Oxfordshire born and bred, and lives locally. At 6ft 5", he's hard to miss! But it's not just his height that stands out...

Tom has

- Over 15 years' experience in professional kitchens
- Trained across cafés and restaurants, including learning to cook the Italian way
- Former Senior Sous Chef (Pastry Lead) across a group of five regional pubs
- Experience as a banqueting chef at a large golf club
- Previously Head Chef in three Oxfordshire village pubs, just like The Crown

Tom brings a love of French, English, and Italian cooking — from beautifully prepared dishes to proper pub classics.

Tom recently completed a "cook-off" with Abi, Ian and Tom — and impressed across the board:

Perfectly cooked steaks

Filletts of sea bass

And yes... a proper ham, egg & chips too

Safe to say, we're in very good hands.

What this means for The Crown

This is a big step forward for our community pub.

As your answers to our questionnaire confirm, great food needs to be the heart of The Crown — and with Tom on board, we're one step closer to opening the doors again. We can't wait for you to meet him!

Questionnaire—Help share the future of your local pub!

Vital for Tom and Abi, is knowing what you want to eat and drink, and what you think The Crown should feel like.

If you haven't yet completed our community pub questionnaire, please either

- scan this qr code
- [Or click here](#)
- fill it in here in Village Voice, see page 4.

Please leave completed questionnaires at Denise's for collection.

The Management Committee



News from the School



At last the children are wearing sunhats instead of raincoats at playtime and all the new Opal Play ideas are leading to some imaginative games, with donated equipment, at mid morning break and lunchtime. Breakfast club and Night Owls have proved very popular but also School led clubs have started back this week with a whole range of activities on offer for those keen on sport and creative pursuits.

April and May are the times for visits and trips; Year 3 and 4 pupils enjoyed an educational visit to the Anglo-Saxon village at the Earth Trust helping their understanding of life in Anglo-Saxon times. Year 1 have started their swimming lessons at the Stoke Mandeville Stadium pool and older pupils are excited to be going to the Royal Albert Hall for their Echoes Performance.

Some village schools traditionally dance around a Maypole to welcome the month of May. Even though we don't have a Maypole the children have been practising their country dancing and hope that as many of you as possible will come out and support them as they walk around Cuddington on the morning of Thursday 21st May.



Years 3 & 4 running free at the Earth Trust

BEST KEPT VILLAGE 2026

CUDDINGTON VILLAGE TIDY

16th May

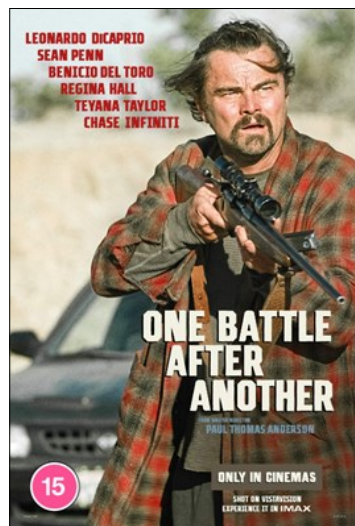
Meet at the Upper Green @ 10am



THE VILLAGE PICTURE HOUSE CUDDINGTON



Our schedule for May begins on Thursday 7th with the BAFTA and Oscar-winning **One Battle After Another** (cert. 15), starring Leonardo DiCaprio and Sean Penn. 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. "A thrillingly helter-skelter counterculture caper ... at once serious and unserious, exciting and baffling, says" *The Guardian*. "Paul Thomas Anderson's electrifying thriller has heists, show-downs and two of the best car chases in years," says *The Telegraph*. "Leonardo DiCaprio romps through 2025's coolest film ... a riotous, chaotic blast," says *The Standard*.



Then on the 14th, Hugh Jackman and Kate Hudson star in **Song Sung Blue** (cert. 12A), an inspirational film based on a true story. In 1987, down-on-their-luck musicians Mike Sardina and Claire Stengl meet each other while performing



at the Wisconsin State Fair. They decide to form a Neil Diamond tribute duo and experience both soaring success and devastating heartbreak in their musical journey together. "A sweet treat of movie thanks to Jackman and Hudson ... undeniably entertaining," says *The Guardian*. "A big-hearted, blue-collar love story – with a shocking fork in the road," says *Radio Times*. "Jackman and Hudson are immensely watchable on stage together," says *Empire*.

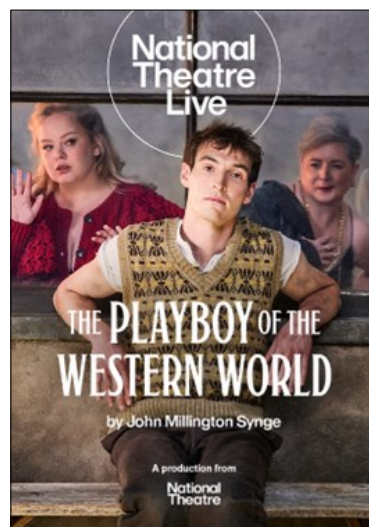
On the 21st our film will be **Hamnet** (cert. 12A) starring Jessie Buckley and Paul Mescal. William Shakespeare and his wife Agnes celebrate the birth of their son, Hamnet. But tragedy strikes and Hamnet dies of the plague at a young age. Agnes, a healer, must find the strength to care for her surviving children while processing her devastating loss, and meanwhile Shakespeare is inspired to write his timeless masterpiece *Hamlet*.

Jessie Buckley won the Best Actress BAFTA and Oscar for her role as Agnes. "Paul Mescal and Jessie Buckley beguile and captivate in an audacious Shakespearean tragedy", says *The Guardian*. "Jessie Buckley is extraordinary in Chloé Zhao's tender act of Shakespearean catharsis," says *Time Out*. "Jessie Buckley is superb in this masterly study of loss," says *Radio Times*.

On 28th May we'll be screening the National Theatre's latest production: **The Playboy of the Western World** (cert. TBA) captured live on stage at the National and starring Nicola Coughlan, Éanna Hardwicke and Siobhán McSweeney. Peggyn Flaherty's life is turned upside down when a young man walks into her pub claiming that he's killed his father. Instead of being shunned, the killer becomes a local hero and begins to win hearts, that is until a second man unexpectedly arrives on the scene... Caitríona McLaughlin directs this darkly funny tale full to the brim with secrets.



"Two of Ireland's best-loved comic actors go head to head in this moody staging of a neglected 1907 farce," says *The Independent*. "A twisty treat ... Nicola Coughlan is a spirited presence in the classic Irish drama that still sets off sparks," says *The i*. "Terrific performances ... handsome and gorgeously acted," says *Financial Times*.



Looking ahead to June, on the 4th we'll be screening the BAFTA-winning **I Swear** starring Robert Aramayo, Maxine Peake and Shirley Henderson. This exceptional film is based on the true life story of John Davidson, a Scottish man with severe Tourette's Syndrome. The film follows John's journey from a misunderstood teenager in 1980s Scotland to a campaigner advocating for understanding and acceptance. Then on the 11th our film will be **Is This Thing On?** starring Will Arnett and Laura Dern. As Alex adjusts to life in a new "divorced dad" apartment in New York City, he impulsively steps into the stand-up comedy scene, while his wife Tess confronts the personal sacrifices she made for their family and career. The film is loosely based on the life story of Scouse comic John Bishop. Tickets for all features are on sale in Cuddington Stores or on our web page:

www.cuddingtonvillage.com/cinema

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REFUEL



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REPLICATE

Greener Cuddington

Local Nature Needs You!

Would you like to play a part in restoring natural habitats and wildlife around Cuddington? We are looking for a group of people, backed by your Parish Council, who will seek for ways to improve biodiversity in and around the village. New opportunities could be available through connecting



with the Buckinghamshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy and the River Thame becoming a 'smarter catchment'. There is also plenty that could enhance nature within the village, such as creating wildflower meadows, looking after trees and verges, installing and monitoring bird and bat roosting sites.

If you like bird song and enjoy wildflowers and would like to see more of them in Cuddington, this is an opportunity to do something about it.

If you would like to learn more, please email Cllr Ken Brown at brownkenmax@gmail.com

Cuddington Vertebrate Watch 2026

This is the 15th year in which Cuddington Vertebrate Watch has taken place during the 2nd week of May. It is very simple: a team of volunteers spread around the village watch for birds, mammals, amphibians and reptiles in a place of their choosing and record what they see. The aim is to get an accurate count of creatures visiting the location, so the watch normally lasts for an hour.

I then collect and compile the results into a report and send you that, along with the numbers seen this year and historically.

I would particularly like to hear from people around Dadbrook and the allotments as some of our regular participants will be away.

If you are interested, please send me an email.

Doug Kennedy doug@doug-kennedy.com



Dates for your Diary

'Among the changing months May stands confest
The sweetest, and in fairest colours dressed.'
(Edmund Spenser 1552-1599)



May

Sun 3rd, 3.00pm Prayer Meeting, Cuddington Methodist Chapel
Tue 5th, 2.00pm Tuesday Group, 'Bring a mystery/unusual item' 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, 1.30pm Matinee Cinema, 'Saving Mr Banks', Bernard Hall
Thurs 21st, 8.00pm 'Hamnet' Village Picture House, Bernard Hall
Wed 27th, 7.00pm Parish Council Meeting, Bernard Hall
Thurs 28th, 7.00pm NTLive: 'Playboy of the Western World', Village Picture House, Bernard Hall

June

Mon 1st, 2.00pm Sunshine Club Tea, Playing Fields Clubhouse
Tue 2nd, 2.00p Tuesday Group, Playing Fields Clubhouse
Thurs 4th, 8.00pm 'I Swear', Village Picture House, Bernard Hall
Sun 7th, 3.00pm Prayer Meeting, Cuddington Methodist Chapel
Mon 8th, 8.00 Bernard Hall AGM, Bernard Hall
Thurs 11th, 8.00pm 'Is This Thing On', Village Picture House, Bernard Hall
Wed 24th, 7.00pm Parish Council Meeting, Bernard Hall
Sun 28th, 2.00pm Tyringham Hall Open Garden & Fashion Show

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 village information www.cuddingtonvillage.com

Village meeting

Thank you to everyone who came along to the village meeting on 22nd April, at which role of volunteers within our village was commended and celebrated. If you missed the presentations and wish to update yourself, the full booklet of news **can be read** [here](#).

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