

VILLAGE CUDDINGTON VOICE



**May
2010**

VOLUME THIRTEEN



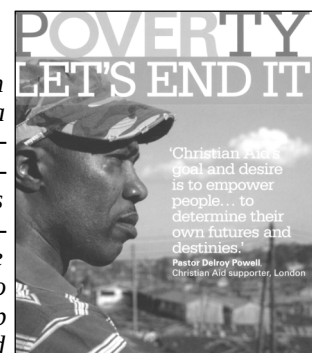
Christian Aid Week May 9th - 15th

Last year £1,236 was raised in Cuddington. This year disasters such as the floods in Chile, the earthquakes in Haiti and China not to mention other ongoing problems such as the ever present poverty in Africa have all resulted in Christian Aid along with the other development agencies having ever increasing calls for help. Last year's total was a most generous one but let us see if we can increase it this year.

On Sunday the 9th at 10 a.m. there will be a special Family Service at St. Nicholas Church and throughout the week there will be the usual House to House Collections.

Once again Skittle Green Cottage, the home of Caroline Thompson, on the Lower Green will be the venue for the popular "Bring and Buy" Coffee Evening, on Monday 10th

from 7.30 onwards. Apart from the opportunity for a chat over a cup of coffee there will be a bric-a-brac stall and the usual produce stall with homemade cakes and jams along with other edibles. In the garden there will be the ever popular plant stall to entice gardeners into stocking up with plants for their borders and there are sure to be pots of tomatoes, peppers etc. to save you having to sow the seeds yourself. Come along to help this good cause while at the same time having a very enjoyable evening.



Good attendance at Annual Parish Meeting

Those who were unable (or unwilling) to attend the Annual Parish Meeting on the 21st April missed a surprisingly jolly parish occasion. More than fifty villagers thronged into the Bernard Hall and hardly any of them thought that they were about to watch a prime ministerial debate, and the lengthy agenda didn't seem to put them off, obviously something for everyone. And maybe the offer of wine and refreshments added to the carnival atmosphere.

After introducing the new Parish Clerk, Venetia Davis, the chairman of the Parish Council, Sherry Scott, moved to the Nicholas Almond Charity; Jim Hayward invited young people in the village to apply for grants for such items as books etc. for further education.

Then David Smith, the grandly titled Bucks County Council Local Area Technician talked about his role in managing the state of the area's roads. Needless to say he knows every one of our potholes intimately and is obviously doing what he can to fill them.

Then a joyful interlude; two incredibly talented young ladies, Jess Bolton and Elena Harris, members of the Cuddington Drama Youth Group, sang a couple of songs; they would surely have been hits on "X Factor."

To bring us back down to earth Sherry went through the expenditure of the P C's precept of some £9,500: the clerk's stipend, mowing, insurance, salt bins (much used



**David Smith taking a question from
Chairman Sherry Scott.**

this winter), the website etc.

Events during the past year raised over £9,000. The theme of this year's fete is "King Arthur and his Round Table, giving everybody the chance to dust down their wimples and suits of armour. Other activities liable to be found in the village include a tug o' war, boules (on the playing field), tennis, cricket, and cleaning up the village (volunteers much needed).

Markus Bolton reminded us of the forthcoming renovations to the Bernard Hall (see Village Voice pas-

sim); work will be carried out between 21st June and 6th September.

And locals will be familiar with the listing of residents at the beginning of the millennium; it was agreed that it was very useful and the exercise will be repeated now.

Chris Blumer ran through his school report; Cuddington now has 68 children and demand continues. The school is aware of the problems caused by school traffic and is addressing the issue. And he paid tribute to the headteacher, Pam Talbot, who is retiring.

Jennifer Schramm de Jong took us through the refurbishment of the Clubhouse; everyone is encouraged to use the building, which is very different to the Bernard Hall; it has a bar and a more intimate atmosphere, just the sort of place for tired Cuddington businessmen (and pensioners) to go for a quick snifter

(Continued on page 7)



David Benson writes

Well, Spring is here! The sight of birds with beaks filled with nesting material, trees coming into fresh green leaf, flowers and plants blooming and insects buzzing, is a welcome change from what has been a very cold and austere winter. The poet Ovid suggests that May is named for the "elders" - presumably the warmth of May gently

heating old bones and muscles in preparation for the Summer. And so May heralds a time for renewal, a call to tackle new work, an expression of joy and hope for the future. In Cuddington, we don't have a Maypole or Morris dancers but we can look forward to the Witchert Chorale singing madrigals from the church tower on the 3rd May. There is something timeless about this event; disregard the weather but find the time to come along and listen to the singing and share in a unique community activity - and perhaps join the Benefice walk afterwards.

This year we have another reason for renewal - with the General Election on 6 May. The political parties bombard us with their views and ideals; policies and manifestos; political argument and counter argument. The personality, media image, and leadership qualities of each of the party leaders is examined as never before. We are enjoined to share in their values and to endorse their vision for the future of the country. But what are **our** values and how have they been developed? How often do we take time to reflect on the values we hold to be a blueprint for a happy fulfilled life? What yardsticks do we use and how do we support community? How often are we prepared to take a stand for what we believe to be right and challenge what is wrong? Or is it just easier to tack with the wind, alter our moral compass to match our perception of what those around us are saying, and thinking, and doing? It is no coincidence that our laws are based on Christian principles and values; the same values that have been under such serious challenge in recent years. It has been interesting to see in the last few months a re-awakening of the public perception of the standards to be applied in both public life and commerce - a clear call to determine right from wrong regardless of existing rules.

If you would like to know more about **Christian values** then a good place to start would be to read Matthew Chapter 5 or Luke Chapter 6 verses 20 - 49 (the Beatitudes). You would also be welcome to join a Home Group (see Graham Carr 01844 290000). During the summer period from June onwards the sermons in St Nicholas church will be based on the writings of Nehemiah in the Old Testament. This will take in aspects of Christian leadership and community. Questions that applied so many thousands of years ago are much the same as today: "What qualities would we like our leaders to have?" "What are the values that shape them to be the people they are?" "How best do we set and achieve high standards and get people to work well together?" And for the Christian the underlying need to recognise the power of prayer and God's ability to work in all situations however difficult. So just take one small step.....a little time.....a bit more thought.....and begin to examine what it is to be a Christian, and how Christian values might change your life.



Sunshine Club Spring Bazar

*A most enjoyable afternoon on
April 17th culminated in the
splendid sum of £360 for
Sunshine Club funds.*



March's weather

It was a cold start to March; however, by mid month, daytime temperatures had recovered and remained well above average until the last day of the month. The average daytime air temperature was 10.9 deg C (52 F) compared with the 11 year average of 10.8 deg C (51 F). The daily night time air minimum averaged 2.3 deg C (36 F) compared to the long term average of 2.2 deg C (36 F). The actual highest and lowest daytime air temperatures occurred on the 18th (17.9 deg C, 64 F) and 10th (5.0 deg C, 41 F) respectively; the actual highest and lowest night time minima occurred on the 25th (9.5 deg C, 49 F) and 7th (minus 5.4 deg C, 22 F) respectively. There were a total of 11 air frosts and 20 ground frosts, the lowest of which occurred on the 5th (minus 8.8 deg C, 16 F).

Until the 19th, only 0.8 mm (0.03 inches) of rainfall was recorded, translating to 13 totally dry days during this period. However, in association with the mild conditions, which arrived after mid month, rain bearing weather systems from the Atlantic brought Cuddington's rainfall up to a final figure of 33 mm (1.30 inches) at the end of the month compared to the 13 year average of 40 mm (1.58 inches).

Sean Clarke



*Primroses in Holly Tree
Lane enjoying the warmer
weather*

CUDDINGTON TENNIS CLUB

Tennis Fun Day
Saturday 15th May
12.00 noon—3.00 pm

Members and non-members are welcome to bring family and friends for free tennis activities throughout the session

Attractions include:-

- ? Test your skills against the ball machine
- ? Fun to enter competitions including serving and mini tennis
- ? Children's competitions and tennis
- ? Top tips for novices and experts alike from an LTA coach
- ? Free play throughout for all ages and abilities
- ? A barbeque bar and light refreshments will be available throughout the day for a small charge!

Please come along and join in the fun, who knows you might enjoy yourself!

NB: Tennis shoes or equivalent should be worn and children must be accompanied.

Bernard Hall back in the black

The A G M of the Bernard Hall took place in the hall on the 24th March under the chairmanship of Robert Spencer—Bernard, who introduced Markus Bolton who summarised the past year by referring to the various activities which had taken place in the hall; drama, keep-fit, yoga, dog-training etc.

The treasurer, Jeremy Stewart -Cox went through the accounts; the main source of income was from the hall hire. The financial result was a surplus of income over expenditure of just under £392 – (thanks in particular to a donation from the fete of £500), against a loss in the previous year of £1,384.

The committee was especially impressed by the quality and enthusiasm of the drama group who are clearly going from strength to strength.

The major current project is of course the refurbishment, including the construction of a new kitchen, which is scheduled to take place in June / July of this year. Full details of this and the financial aspects will appear elsewhere in Village Voice, but thanks must be given to the hard-working committee for all they have achieved.

John Fortgang

Village competitions

Buckinghamshire Best Kept Village 2010



***This is the cup
we want back!***

It is now five years since we last won the Morris Cup, during this period the village has been very highly marked by the judges so an extra effort to achieve the winning position is necessary.

Please will you make that little extra effort by keeping the village tidy and litter free, there is also a need to keep all of the grass mown.

The judges will make an unannounced visit at any time throughout June. Any community effort will be noted by the judging team.

Thames and Chiltern in Bloom 2010

For many years Cuddington has won the "Village" category and been awarded an RHS Silver Gilt Medal on each occasion. Every effort is required to maintain this level, so please prepare your front gardens, pots and tubs to give the village a good floral impact. Once again community effort is worth extra points in the judges' marking.

Judging will take place in mid July on a date to be notified (watch Village Voice and notice boards). Your participation will be appreciated.

Jim Hayward



The Kites are back!

The sound of the mower up on the playing fields means that the cricket season is nearly upon us.

The 2010 season sees a modified fixture list to previous years (see enclosed). This year the Cuddington cricket team will play only eight matches. All of which are at



Reflections of last season

home, with early starts and half of them on Saturdays. The reason for this change is to create a social atmosphere which will bring people of the village and their families together and to use the Club facilities.

We would love people to come up and see us, whether it is to play a game or two or have a beer or two. Hope to see you there.

Thanks, Joe

PS - Lastly, as the cricket square is being re-seeded, we would be very grateful if dogs and children were kept out of the roped off area to allow the pitch to be developed for and throughout the season. Thank you.

Cuddington Playing Fields and Club House



The Cuddington Playing Fields Association (CPFA)

Chairman: Nibby White

Treasurer: John Lockett

Secretary: Viv Birkby

Booking secretary: Deana Bates

To obtain keys, see below.

Cuddington Parish Council owns the Playing Fields and Clubhouse in Cuddington, on behalf of the whole village. The Playing Fields (shown being opened by HRH Duke of Edinburgh in 1952 in the photograph above) and Clubhouse are leased to the Cuddington Playing Fields Association, at a pepper-corn rent, to manage these facilities. The Playing Fields facility is open to all Cuddington villagers free of charge. There are tennis courts, a children's play area, football and cricket pitches.

Additionally, the Clubhouse premises are managed by a separate Club Committee and membership is required to buy drinks, because of licensing restrictions.

The Clubhouse (CPFC)

Chairman: Frank Crowdy 01844 292401

Treasurer: Pat Jennings 01844 290161

Secretary: Kevin Bennetts 01844 291593,

Kevin@caswellmaintenance.co.uk

Booking secretary: Deana Bates 01844 291748

The Clubhouse has just been refurbished and now looks fresh, bright and clean, to encourage all Cuddington residents and their visitors to enjoy it to the full. To ensure that the standard of the Clubhouse is maintained, all users are asked to clear up afterwards, and when children are present, there is also a responsible adult. This is for everyone's health and safety.

There is a new plasma TV for watching sporting events, and also a pool table and darts board.

In order to buy drinks, you need to be a Club Member. You can be a member either as an individual, or by paying the fee through a village club or society. If you are unclear whether you are a member or not, please contact the Treasurer (Pat) or Secretary (Kevin).

- Membership fees:
 - Family £10
 - Single £5
 - Concessions £3
 - All guests must be signed in, 50p each time
- Club house/Bar opening hours: Wed night 8 – 11, Fri night 8-11, Sat night 8-11, Sun afternoon 1-3
- Prices: 'Club prices'

How to book Club House for private use, who to contact

- Private hire. One-off usage of premises eg for a party
 - £25 for first 3 hours, £10 per hour thereafter, including usage by Club members. Bar usage would need to be agreed with the Club and any fee would go to them.
- Contact Deana Bates to make a booking.
- Regular and special events
 - see Deana Bates for information
 - Date of AGM 2010: 7.30pm on 8th June 2010, at the Playing Fields Clubhouse
- Key holders
 - John Lockett – Treasurer
 - Denise, hairdresser - for access during the day
 - Frank Crowdy - Council member
 - Sherry Scott - Chairman of Parish Council

CPFA Council Members

Council

President	Ivor Healy	291554	s_j_healy@yahoo.co.uk
Chairman	Nibby White	290358	
Hon Treasurer	John Lockett	290491	johnlockett@hotmail.com
Hon Secretary	Viv Birkby	292921	viv@vivsemmens.force9.co.uk
Booking secretary	Deana Bates	291748	

Reps from clubs/societies

Allotment Soc	Frank Crowdy	292401	t.crowdy@btinternet.com
Bar	Deana Bates	291748	
Cricket Club	Joe Bruce	299351	joe.bruce@williamsf1.com
Gardening Club	David Jones	290838	
History Society	David Jones	290838	
Parish Council	Jennifer Schram de Jong	291501	jschramdejong@yahoo.co.uk
Sunshine club	Sherry Scott	291526	parkstone28@tiscali.co.uk
Tennis Club	Phil Davidson	299149	phild@mail.com
Tic Toc	Louise Kirkwood	299045	louisewaters@yahoo.co.uk
Youth Drama	Chris Long	291153	chrislong@hotmail.com
Youth Group	Vanda Goddard	292897	trevor@luke21.freemove.co.uk



Good people, fellow citizens.....

it is with great satisfaction that we can pronounce that arrangements for this year's fete continue apace. **SO** now is the time for all ye good people of Cuddington to

look to thyself and ponder what **ye** can do to assure the success and pleasure of the day. Indeed, without thy full participation the full glory would be lost!

Helpers are most desperately needed before, during and after the event!

Prithee, give any help ye can to sort and ticket prizes and gifts; join in the setting up and clearing away of stalls and games; volunteer to help man a stall on the day if only for a short spell – thy committee would be most truly thankful and indeed guarantee thy own sense of fulfilment!

DO NOT TARRY – pick up thy phone and join our jolly throng. Contact Sherry on 01844 291526 or Rosemary on 01844 290249.

Now, the Programme Editor is keen to include more **local enterprises as advertisers**. Anyone interested should contact Julia on 01844 299455. 400 copies of our worthy and most pertinent Programme will be printed and distributed this year and for a small fee thy name can be in it!

Lastly but by no means least the Court of King Arthur has decreed that on the day (10th July 2010) there should be **as many appropriately costumed participants as possible** – not just the children! So put on thy thinking caps!!! As well as the many knaughty knights and luscious ladies of Camelot do not forget the hearty heralds, jolly jesters, frolicsome friars and servile servants. Nay, even the saucy sorcerers with artful apprentices; the wicked witches and dreadful dragons ... t's a challenge to thy imaginations and such fun!

Camelot in Cuddington!

There is wonderful news to report. King Arthur, who has been sleeping in a cave for over one and a thousand years will awake and travel to Cuddington in July! He will set about recreating his famous court – Camelot – in our village. There will be resplendent knights, feasting around a sturdy round table, merry minstrels, jolly jesters and lovely ladies (although we are used to the latter in Cuddington!). The age of chivalry will be revived.

However the arrival of King Arthur and his court may cause us some problems. As we know the long-suffering King has a dysfunctional family. His sister, Morgan le Fay is anti-social. She is constantly trying to kill her brother by poison or by wicked spells. She once sent Arthur a fine cloak as a present. Had the wary King put it on, the cloak would have burst into flames and burnt him alive. Some sister! The King needs to be vigilant and follow the wise counsel of his magician, Merlin. Villagers will do the same to forestall this malignant enchantress! Moreover, the King's wife, Queen Guinevere, will be making eyes at the handsome Sir Lancelot. This flagrant disregard for royal rectitude cannot be

condoned in Cuddington!

Many of the King's knights can be high-spirited and quarrelsome and may rampage through the village. Arthur may, as usual, try to distract them with a tournament or a hunting expedition in the Bernwood. He will also be sending them off on adventures or quests. Perhaps we can help him by encouraging particularly troublesome knights to rescue distressed damsels in Cheersley, or cross the Dad Brook to joust with some of the more knavish rivals in Haddenham.

However the major problem we have is the complete absence of fiery dragons in our village. Arthur, when at his wits end with hot-blooded knights, would order a dose of dragon slaying. It is difficult to see how we can help him with this. However our enterprising fete committee with the assistance of the mercurial Merlin may be able to conjure up a dragon or two.

Camelot is coming to Cuddington! It will be exciting, but with an edge of danger. Will the knights lay siege to Tyringham Hall? Will Morgan le Fay perform her favourite spell of imprisoning any lady more beautiful than her in a scalding bath in a dungeon? Will the King be able to retrieve his trusty sword, Excalibur, from the Lady of the Lake? And will Merlin be able to weave his magic to make the sun shine down on our fete on Saturday 10th July?

Peter Wenham



The April meeting was held at a date later than usual, as several members had attended the 90th Council meeting of the Bucks Federation (BFWI) the previous

week. This was a special occasion and guest speakers included Averil Mansfield, Professor of Vascular Surgery (St Mary's, London) and President of the BMA and Edwina Currie who



needed no introduction. Both spoke of the inspiring role of women in Medicine and Politics. Beautifully hand-crafted banners and other works of art made by Bucks members were on

display. Their famous jams and cakes were on sale.

At the March meeting, we were entertained by the reminiscences of a retired Chief Superintendent of Police in the Thames Valley and today had the opportunity to hear from Sue Jones, PCSO. She is a member of our Neighbourhood Police team and a familiar figure to many in the village. Accompanied by Helen Taylor (PCSO), she talked on crime prevention. She emphasized that Cuddington had very little house theft but warned us about distraction burglary. She gave useful advice on protecting property, on securing garden sheds etc. and avoiding stealing from cars. Both Sue and Helen gave us information without causing alarm which was much appreciated.

Lynn Ashby thanked them warmly, saying how glad we were to have an obvious police presence in the village and presented them with a basket of plants. They joined us for tea and questions at the end of the afternoon.



Murphy is back!

The postponed annual social evening took place on April 12th where members enjoyed a slide show of the highlights of the Gardening Club year. Our Chairman Elsie Frost guided us through our various outings and, closer to home, the gardens that were open for the National Gardens Scheme. She also showed the Fête and the children at school being shown how to plant winter broad beans (but the creepy crawlies in the bed were far more interesting!).

After the slide show there was a buffet supper and flower quiz which was won by the team calling themselves The Hardy Annuals with a score of 20/25 – well done. The proceeds of £73.50 from the evening's raffle draw went towards the Clubhouse refurbishment fund and the picture shows Jeane Oke collecting one of the prizes.

The evening was rounded off with the distribution of the Murphy Potatoes – there were 40 entries and the all important judging will take place on Monday 6th September 2010

Looking ahead we have an outing planned to the Savill Gardens in Windsor Great Park on 13th May and Rycote Park, Thame, on 28th May and later in the year a visit to Wisley.



History Society goes back to school

Peter Wenham, the Chairman, opened the meeting by giving out two notices. The first was to advertise the leaflets that were received from the Chiltern Society entitled "Walk Back in time". The second was to ask the members to volunteer to help run the History Society stall at the village fete. Our stall will be fishing for ducks, any volunteer is asked to contact Maryon, the secretary on 01844 290115.



Peter then introduced the speaker Derek Aylesford who gave a talk entitled "A School Report – Evidence from Bucks school log books".

Derek started by giving a brief but comprehensive history of children's education stressing that although skills education has always existed in the style of apprenticeships grammar schools provided the first formal education. It is not certain when the first grammar schools were founded although they are known to date from Tudor times. Only boys went to school (Aylesbury Grammar school was founded in 1558) and these boys were the sons of middle class merchants and traders who paid for their sons' education which concentrated on the Classics.

Cuddington school is believed to have started around 1840 in Frog Lane moving to its current position in the 1860's. It was founded by the Church of England. The government having recognised the necessity of universal education gave a grant of £20,000 to cover all the country's schools in 1833. The following year school inspectors were introduced to monitor standards and ensure that state money was not wasted.

Derek has been working on a project to retrieve school log books, digitally preserving them and producing CDs of their contents.

The records of Cuddington School were fascinating and illustrated how the skill of the Master was reflected in the achievement of the pupils. In 1888 the school inspector stated that "The children are not an intelligent set" shortly afterwards the Master left and a new one appointed. In 1889 the school inspector reported that the school was "much improved", in 1893 that "Nothing could be better than this little school." So it was not the intelligence of the children that was at fault but the skill of the teacher!

It was fascinating to see village names on the leaving register and know that many of their descendants still live in the village.

Derek concluded his talk by recounting the story of Agnes, a ten year old who attended Ellesborough School. Her father was the village policeman and told Agnes not to give out the slates as she attended school to be taught not to do the teacher's work. She also refused to stand when the attendance officer visited the school as her father said "he was no better than she was". Agnes was sent home from school but returned a stand off between the teacher and Agnes occurred in which Agnes appeared to have the upper hand. The teacher summons support from the Master who again sent Agnes home.

Her father wrote to the education board who, after deliberating for three weeks, came out in support of the teacher. Further episodes occurred, Agnes still refusing to stand for the attendance officer and displaying anarchic behaviour supported or directed by her father fortunately the situation was suddenly resolved when it was recorded that Agnes had left the village!

The work Derek is doing to preserve these records is admirable and it is reassuring to know they will be accessible for a long time to come.

Dates for your Diary

A Cuddington magnolia tree in blossom



May

Monday 3 rd 9.30a.m.	Madrigals from the Church Tower
Wednesday 5 th 7.30p.m.	Parish Council Meeting
Sunday 9 th to 16 th	Christian Aid Week
Tuesday 11 th 2.30p.m.	W.I. Resolutions Meeting
Thursday 13 th	Gardening Club Outing to Savill Garden, Windsor
Saturday 15 th 12 noon	Tennis Club Fun Day (see page 3)
Tuesday 18 th 7.30p.m.	History Society Talk by Peggy Cattell on Cuddington Voices from the Past
Friday 28 th 2.30p.m.	Gardening Club Visit to Rycote Park, near Thame

June

Wednesday 2 nd 7.30p.m.	Parish Council Meeting
Tuesday 8 th 2.30p.m.	W.I. Talk with video on "Mercy Ships"
Sunday 13 th	Gardening Club "Village Safari" with tea
Tuesday 15 th 7.30p.m.	History Society Talk "Practical Work on Family History"
Saturday 19 th 4.00a.m.	Ruby Small Sunrise Walk (see page 8)
Saturday 19 th	Cuddington & Dinton School Ball
Wednesday 30 th 2.30p.m.	Gardening Club Visit to Chalford Farm, near Sydenham, Oxon.

Have you ever thought about fostering?

There is a recognised shortage of 10,000 Foster Carers in the UK. PACT, founded in 1911, is also known as the Oxford Diocesan Council for Social Work inc. We are a registered charity working to improve life chances for children. The focus of our work is within Berkshire, Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire and aims to build and strengthen families.

We are an approved Adoption and Fostering Agency. We have a history of finding safe, loving families for children in care. Here are a few facts about Fostering:

1. Did you know you don't have to be married to become a Foster Carer?
2. You don't have to have children already although you do need to have experience of caring for children.
3. Did you know you get paid a Fostering Allowance of £335.70 a week to be a Foster Carer which is tax free and won't affect any other benefits?
4. Most of the children who need fostering are known as 'hard to place' children, they will usually be 8+ years of age.

Fostering is a hard but very rewarding job. If you think you might have what it takes to become a Permanent Foster Carer or you want to find out more then contact PACT now on **0800 731 1845** e-mail **fostering@pactcharity.org**

Annual Parish Meeting (Continued from page 1)

before going home to warm slippers and dinner on the table.

Finally, a dramatic entrance and Sue Jones, our Community Police Support Officer strode in. At first we all thought we were under arrest for after-hours drinking but in fact Sue explained how the police were trying to control and monitor speeders. She finished by talking about Neighbourhood Watch; is anyone willing to become a co-ordinator?

Attention then turned to the wine and refreshments which kept most of us there for another hour. It really was a convivial evening and well worth a visit next year If you haven't been before.

John Fortgang

A little bit of Italy comes to Cuddington

Guiliana, of Beam Cottage, Lower Church Street, explains:- Since moving to Cuddington in 2008 and leaving London and a career in fashion behind to look after my two children Francesca and Scarlett-Grace, I have been thinking about what to do next... Not wanting to take on the commute back into London each day and enjoying life in Cuddington inspiration struck. My friends had always commented on my food, especially my Lasagnas so why not set up a company selling handmade Italian food – CiCi-CoCo was born.

Inspiration for the name came from my favourite childhood poem called 'Ambaraba CiCi CoCo.' In the poem CiCi CoCo is Italian for things that go perfectly together so for an idea that was to bring together the authentic values of Italian cooking with the best of local British ingredients the name seemed perfect.

I launched CiCi-CoCo on the 1st April - locally at first to test the concept and ensure that there is total control over the quality. Initially I launched two varieties of lasagna; **Lombardia Lasagna di Magro**, a vegetable lasagna inspired by recipes from the Lombardia region of Italy and a more classic **Lasagna alla Bolognese**, a deep lasagna using a recipe I learnt while studying in Bologna. The initial feedback has been incredibly positive and the next stage is to develop the range into other dishes and sauces and create a monthly special recipe.

To follow my progress sign up at my blog, www.liberatethelasagna.wordpress.com or if you would like to try one of my lasagnas e-mail her at thecook@cici-coco.com for details of how to order.

CiCi CoCo
handcrafted food, the Italian way

We are pleased to publish this account of a Cuddington venture and hope that we might be sent other examples of village enterprises to include in our future editions. (Ed.)



Many readers of Village voice will already know that Pam Talbot has been undergoing surgery and on-going treatment having been diagnosed with breast cancer towards the end of last year.

Parents were notified at the end of last term that Pam had decided to take early retirement as the next 12 months were going to be a very disruptive time for her and the school and that she did not want anything to cause difficulty for the children.

The school is desperately sorry to be saying good-bye to her after 12 years and wishes her well.

We are most grateful to all of the staff, and particularly Matt Tomson who has taken on the role of acting head-teacher for last term and this term.

A letter has now gone out to parents informing them that all efforts are being put into looking after their children and to recruiting a new head-teacher.

Chris Blumer
Chairman of Governors

Polish your boots!

Walkers arise! The annual Ruby Small Sunrise Walk will take place on Saturday 19 June. This village tradition was begun 40 years ago by Ruby Small, (pictured) a keen walker and at that time



will enjoy refreshments, (including biscuits made to Ruby's own recipe!) as you survey the Vale under mid-summer skies and hopefully watch the sun burst out over the Chilterns. What better way to start the weekend? You can even be back in the village and tucked up in bed again by 6.30am! So come and join in this healthful tradition. We can offer lifts to anyone who would like to see the sunrise, but doesn't fancy the walk! Any queries to Angela Wenham 291932.

President of Cuddington Women's Institute. Just as all those villagers before us, we will leave Cuddington Lower Green at 4am prompt for a gentle climb to the observatory

at Upper Winchendon. There in the time-honoured fashion, you



A group of walkers at the observatory



John's Column

"For Winter's rains and ruins are over,
And all the seasons of snows and sins;
And time remembered is grief forgotten,
And frosts are slain and flowers begotten,
And in green underwood and cover
Blossom by blossom the spring begins."

A.C.Swinburne, 1837-1909

One bright sunny morning last month we received a visit by a cock pheasant. He was calmly feeding on seeds which lay on the ground and which had been thrown out of the feeders suspended above. He was only some six feet from the kitchen window, so Joan and I admired his gorgeous colours in detail. He was quite unfazed by our presence. Pheasants are widely present throughout the British Isles (with the exception of the very north of Scotland), and were introduced in this country as early as the 15th century and have since been beneficial in the maintenance of woods and copses as well as providing their owners for seasonal shoots. These birds originally came from China and other countries in the Far East.

Writing about exotic birds I am reminded of "Percy" – a Peacock who years ago graced the Dadbrook area of our village tapping his beak on our doors for his daily biscuit, and causing mayhem in the early morning rush hour (he would take his time to cross the road, even stopping half way to give a little preen!!) Yes he was noisy, but when he left us, we did miss him.

Services at St. Nicholas

(Churchwardens: Caroline Stonham, 292221 and David Benson, 01296 433757)

May

- 2nd 10.00 am HOLY COMMUNION
A modern Communion Service with hymns. The children go to "Sunday Special" for part of the service
- 5th 9.30 am PRAYERS
- 9th 10.00 am CHRISTIAN AID FAMILY SERVICE
A service for all ages, including lively hymns, with the involvement of young musicians.
- 16th 10.00 am HOLY COMMUNION
A less formal modern Communion Service with hymns. The children go to Sunday Special for part of the Service
11.30 am PRAYERS
- 23rd 10.00 am MORNING WORSHIP
A service of worship and the word, with a mixture of traditional and modern hymns. The children go straight to Chatabox and the Grid in the Bernard Hall at 9.50 a.m.
11.15 am HOLY COMMUNION
A communion service with hymns, according to the Book of Common Prayer.
- 30th 10.00 am MORNING WORSHIP
A service of worship and the word, with a mixture of traditional and modern hymns.

There is a service at 5.30 pm every Sunday evening at Cuddington Methodist Chapel.

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