

VILLAGE CUDDINGTON VOICE



**July
2010**

VOLUME THIRTEEN

Cuddington at the Court of King Arthur Saturday 10th July 2010



King Arthur (Phil Davidson) will be opening our 2010 fête. He will be accompanied by his royal entourage of knights & their ladies, jesters, court musicians & dancers (Haddenham Hoofers).

We're aware that there will be some *Damsels in Distress* (SWANK Street Theatre Co) in need of brave knights to come to their rescue. (Personally me-thinks it may be the knights who will be in need of rescuing given their names are Ladies "Lust-a-lot" & "Longing-for-love" & they're on a crusade to find their knights in shining armour!)

Merlin has been asked to create a magic potion to ensure good weather, & bring us lots of visitors who will dig deep into their pockets & enjoy the afternoon. The Fire Brigade have been alerted to be on standby since his potions have a habit of exploding, or in case we anger a fiery tempered old dragon (& no, that's not the Fête Secretary).

As usual we have a variety of stalls & sideshows – some old favourites & some new including several of our up & coming local enterprises. If you are able to help for an hour or so, on a stall to relieve someone else please **phone Rosemary - 290249 or Jayne - 299149.**

This year the fête committee have taken on board some suggestions from villagers & made changes to the Grand Draw & are now offering a selection of prizes – not just cash. We also have some fantastic prizes to auction.

So please put the date in your diary to come along & enjoy a fantastic afternoon of frolicsome fun & celebration.

*Maggie Waters – 290847
(Afore mentioned Fête Secretary)*

***And in the evening, why not round off the day in style by bringing your family and friends to a BBQ and disco at the Cuddington Playing Fields Club?
Doors open at 6pm.***

Sol Invictus - the Unconquered Sun

It's always a bit hit and miss weatherwise when embarking on the Sunrise Walk and the lure of the warm bed is strong when skies above Cuddington look murky. However, this year the sky had a



***Arriving at the Observatory
(above) and enjoying the sun-***

faint, encouraging rosy tinge as 24 heroes and 3 dogs sallied out to the Lower Green and began the trek to the observatory. Knees brushing past long grass, still wet with the previous evening's rain, were soon sodden, but the sky was brightening all the time and the dawn chorus was going full pelt.



Once the Thame was crossed the uphill part began and the views unfolded. Local landowners had done a splendid job creating broad pathways through the fields of wheat and barley and spirits rose with the larks

overhead as the misty blue Vale spread out below. A vanguard had already arrived at the observatory with the promise of hot drinks and biscuits. Imagine the triumph as the troop stood with steaming cups at the moment when the golden disc rose over the horizon, and surveyed the jaw-droppingly beautiful landscape all around!

An easy return downhill via Nether Winchendon in the morning glow completed the experience, before it was back to their bivouacs for most and a snooze before the rest of the day began.

Holiday Club

This year Cuddington Church will be running a Holiday Club on Wednesday 11th, Thursday 12th and Friday 13th August from 10 – 12 noon in the School. It will be for children from 3 – 8 years old. It will include craft activities, painting, music, drama and games as well as quiet story times. Registration forms will be available from Mid July from the school, the shop and church.



Thought for the Month

As I write this on yet another grey chilly morning my thoughts are inevitably drawn to the hopes that we all have at this time of the year for a warm and sunny summer. This is especially pertinent at the moment with the Village Fête so close. No doubt it will, as ever, be a wonderful day full of fun and good company with much support given to some very good causes. I am certainly looking forward to the sight of various characters transformed into knights of yore with their damsels and maidens in suitable attire!

The key to a good fête is not the weather, although that helps of course, but the sense of community that it forges. When people of all ages and abilities work together for the good of everyone there is a real feeling being experienced of goodwill and of sharing of gifts and talents.

Over the last few weeks in Church we have been learning from the book of Nehemiah how a community can come together to serve one purpose. The parallels between Old Testament times and now are fascinating, many of the issues that Nehemiah and his people faced, we are still facing today and we, like them, need God's guidance and wisdom to deal with them wisely. It is worth taking a moment to reflect on aspects of Nehemiah's leadership that could be an inspiration to us all:

He was able to inspire action in others by being realistic, down to earth and compassionate. He had great integrity and vision and whilst being aware of his own vulnerability he understood human nature and dealt with challenges wisely and sensitively. Most of all, he knew he wasn't alone, he was a great man of prayer and was passionate about seeking God's will for his life and for the lives of those around him.

Wouldn't it be wonderful if we all shared some of these attributes and worked together to make a difference in our communities. Nehemiah was able to make a difference because God gave him hope and he then shared that hope with others. Let us reflect on these words from Paul in his letter to the Romans ch.15 v13:

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."

With love in Christ

Nigel Featherston



Mercy Ships uncovered

*Members braved the torrential rain to attend the June meeting and were rewarded by a fascinating talk by Ken and June Brazier. They are both very involved in the work undertaken by the **Mercy Ships**, whose mission is to bring hope and healing to the world's forgotten poor. Mercy Ships is an international Christian organisation which was founded in 1978 and is described as 'the biggest international charity that most people have never heard of!'*

The first ship, a retired ocean liner, was purchased and then converted into a floating hospital complete with operating theatres, up to date equipment and 32 beds. All the crew and the medical and nursing staff are unpaid volunteers who give their services to provide free surgical, medical and dental care to the poorest and most vulnerable people – mainly on the west coast of Africa. A video showing the transformation of lives of deformed and often outcast in Sierra Leone made everyone reflect on how much we take our N.H.S. for granted, and on the true meaning of poverty.

June and Ken were thanked most warmly by Caroline Thompson and much discussion followed over a cup of tea.



Ken and June Brazier after their talk to the W.I.

Cuddington lives remembered



Thomas John Frost played a key role in the village during his short life. A few months after his birth in 1881 his family moved to Cuddington and he was associated with the village for the rest of his life until his death in 1911.

He was the only son of Thomas and Sarah Frost who lived in The Chestnuts in Upper Church Street. His father was the Registrar for Births and Deaths in the district. Thomas was an able

scholar at the village school. Deciding on a teaching career, he attended a Teacher Training College in Oxford. After teaching elsewhere, in 1907 at only 26, he was appointed Headmaster of Cuddington School, where he had been a pupil just 12 years before!

Thomas participated fully in village life. He was an able musician, becoming master of the Cuddington and Nether Winchendon Robin Hood Band and also a member of the St Nicholas choir. Thomas appreciated the habit of thrift for villagers and was Cuddington secretary of the National Deposit Friendly Society. Subscribers paid whatever they could to provide against sickness, unemployment and old age. He was also a keen advocate of the value of allotments. Later he became secretary of the working party to plan celebrations in the village to mark the coronation of George V.

Thomas' tenure as Headteacher was short – only four years – but it was both successful and eventful. At this time the village school had more children on roll than before or since. In July 1907 there were 127 children aged between five and fourteen. Thomas was an innovator. He introduced gardening into the curriculum, which he regarded as a vital life skill. A vegetable patch was acquired on the Lower Green and school produce was sold each year to buy more seeds and tools. Thomas also ensured that the older girls learned the arts of cookery. They made the weekly walk to Haddenham to the County School where there was suitable teaching and equipment. Another innovation was an annual essay competition for older children. Each pupil chose one tree and one bird, observed them closely over time and then produced an essay. Thomas was also a believer in continuing education and ran well-attended evening carpentry classes in school.

He encouraged his pupils to celebrate national events. For example on May 24th 1907 the school was decorated with flags to mark Empire Day. In June 1911 there was a whole week's celebration for the coronation. Thomas was anxious to maintain high levels of pupil attendance. His Log Book, for example reveals that in the extremely cold winter of 1907, many pupils – especially from Nether Winchendon – were absent and the School Attendance officer was called in. Another entry in Thomas' Log Book reports that at this time the ink froze in the ink wells! Later in autumn 1909 he wrote that some boys had twice played truant to follow the beagle hounds.

In four years Thomas Frost had proved an inspiring headmaster. Sadly his potential to do more was unfulfilled. He fell ill and died in August 1911 at The Chestnuts. The death certificate states the cause as "diabetes, coma, exhaustion and syncope" (fainting). His contribution to the welfare and education of the villagers reflected many of the humanitarian concerns of Edwardian England. Thomas Frost was a force for good. Rather like a meteor he seems to have burnt himself out.

Peter Wenham

Letter to the Editor

High Speed Rail Destruction

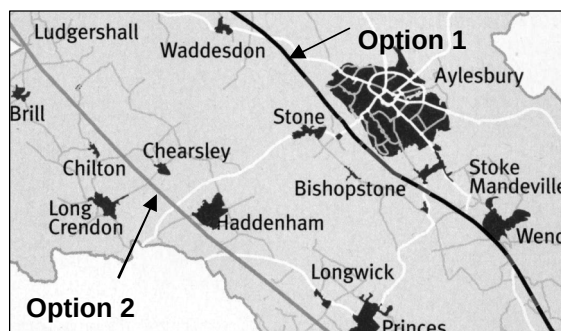
How many of us have just looked at the article in the new magazine published by Aylesbury Vale and Bucks County Councils, the Aylesbury Vale and County Times, about the High Speed Rail Link, and realised what a real threat to our beautiful Buckinghamshire countryside this is?

The justification for it is apparently that HS2 Ltd's report which came out at the end of 2009 said that a "strong business case for a new London to Birmingham line" had been made out. What it boils down to is that the Government feels that the benefits from "enhancing capacity and connectivity" between the large conurbations (London, Birmingham, Manchester, Leeds and Sheffield) could justify large scale destruction in the Chilterns by saying that the scheme will not have "unacceptable environmental impacts"(!). Apparently it is vital to have trains travelling up to 250 mph covering a new network consisting of a total of.....335 miles! This will mean being able to get to these destinations by at most thirty minutes quicker than at present. And this of course justifies despoiling for ever large tracts of our countryside - most of which is designated an Area of Outstanding Beauty.

For us here in Cuddington, if option one is chosen it will mean the line travelling through Bishopstone, Stone, Hartwell, Waddesdon, Quainton and northwards – only a short distance from us. And if option 2 is selected the line will come from Princes Risborough via Haddenham, Chearsley, Chilton and northwards – and how far is Chearsley from us? - so we will all be able to hear, if not see, the 28 trains an hour travelling at an enormous speed. And what about the huge upheaval during construction, and then the dreadful permanent scars formed by the bridges, flyovers and other structures?

This is not nimbyism; it is simply that a case just is not made out for this enormous and irreversible damage to a large part of our countryside for such footling benefits.

John Fortgang



As Consultation begins this Autumn, what should we be doing about this? For more information about this visit www.dft.gov.uk/highspeedrail and see map

Family History

Eve McLaughlin from Haddenham gave a lively and amusing talk entitled "Practical Work on Family History". I for one was not sure what to expect and was a bit worried that I would be involved in audience participation.

Eve started her talk by commenting on the number of pot holes in the road as she travelled from Haddenham to here. Not, she discovered a new phenomena as the people of Cuddington had in 1549 been accused of digging out sand from the Thame road for their own use so causing pot holes. Later in the 1780's Cuddington people were summoned for not maintaining the roads as was the custom by filling the pot holes with stones taken from the land. (At last I've found a use for all those dreadful stones in my garden!).

Eve lives in a house formally called "Rogutter" that was owned by the Rose family. For four generations it was the custom for the father on the marriage of his son to move from "Rogutter" to Dadbrook House, Cuddington. John Rose married Mary West a Quaker a match so despised by the Haddenham Quakers that the marriage took place in London and on returning to Haddenham John became so disenchanted with the Haddenham Quakers that he and Mary immediately moved to Dadbrook. Although he remained a Quaker he never again attended the Meeting House in Haddenham.

In the 1680s Thomas Chapman, Vicar of Cuddington, recorded the births of children in the register in minute detail even stating the time of the birth. Thus providing a touching vignette of the children. He was not so generous in the burial register however, describing one poor woman as "strumpet to Richard Hickman".

Cuddington had a butcher called William Beale who in July 1725 was said to have dragged Edward Baker into a pond and beaten another man for which he was fined 1/= (one shilling in old money). At Easter 1724 Beale had assaulted his Master, was fined 1/= and lost his job. Again at Easter in 1726 Beale was accused of assaulting Mary Miller after she had refused to serve him alcohol, and both Mary Wheeler and John Bates. He was fined 1/= on both counts and ordered to spend a night in gaol but only spent the day there. At Easter 1728 he was accused of breaking windows in the inn.

In October 1729 Beale stole a chicken in Haddenham and on this occasion was sentenced to be "whipped til his back be bloodied". Was property thought of greater value than person one wonders? Eve suggested that it was the drink that did for him a - very plausible explanation.

Beale subsequently moved to Aylesbury continuing his antisocial behaviour where 60 years later another Beale appeared displaying similar behaviour and 60 years after him a third Beale.

Eve explained how contemporary local newspapers are a good source of information. However, nothing seems ever to have happened in Cuddington as the village never appears in the alphabetical listing of village news. Then as now, Cuddington still does not feature in the village news in the Bucks Herald.

In the 19th century the census gave a portrait of village life. The population declined, in 1851 it was 623, in 1861 it was 590 and in 1891 493. The lowest recorded population was 413 in 1931. Now it is over 600. Occupations listed include agriculture labourers, lace makers, pub keepers, and bonnet makers although by the end of the century there were no lace makers but 27 domestic servants. Eve illustrated her talk with wit and a variety of appropriate accents. It was a lively and informative evening of which I hope to have given a flavour.

On the 10th June a coffee morning was held to boost the History Society's funds hosted by Brenda and Terry Williams at Dyson House, Lower Church Street. Despite the trepidations of the organising team and the flaming (awful) June weather that ruled out the use of the garden, it was a great success. £1:50 for coffee or tea and a piece of home made cake, plenty of chat and the irresistible opportunity to see inside some else's house enabled The Society to make £52:85p.

For those of you interested in the arithmetic I should explain that some kind souls being more use to Bring and Buy brought goods which others subsequently bought.

Calling all dog walkers!

Some time ago, the Parish Council wrote in Village Voice about the special bags and bins provided for use by dog walkers to dispose of any "accidents" their dogs might have while out walking !! "Dog fouling" has again become an issue and so we would once more like to remind dog



The bin and bag dispenser on the edge of Upper Green

owners of their responsibilities regarding their dogs' behaviour within the village, and in particular on our playing fields.

Special red bins and supplies of green plastic bags situated at various points throughout the village and on the playing fields, have been provided for use by dog walkers at a very considerable cost to you, the tax payers; last year's cost to the village was about £700 ! The system generally has worked well. However, for some months now, it has been brought to our attention that sadly, not every owner (not necessarily from the village) takes advantage of the special waste facilities provided, and dog fouling is again becoming a problem in the village - a number of householders have reported dog fouling in their drives and on some footpaths - and more particularly on the playing fields. Furthermore, it has also come to our notice that not all the bags are disposed of in the special bins and continue to be found in household wheelie bins, skips, the verges and in the dustbin outside the playing fields pavilion which is about 50 yards from the closest green bin!

While we do know that the majority of dog walkers are considerate, law abiding citizens who care for their surroundings, particularly those who live

(Continued on page 5)

May in Cuddington

Overall, it was both cool and very dry. However, later in the month, day time temperatures did rise into the twenties Celsius, for eight consecutive days.

Daytime maximum air temperatures averaged 17.1 deg Celsius (63F), the ten year average being 17.7 deg Celsius (64F). Night time air minimum temperatures averaged 5.8 deg Celsius (42F) - the ten year average is 7.3 deg C (45F).

The actual highest and lowest day time air maxima occurred on the 23rd (28.5 deg C, 83F) and 8th (8.9 deg C, 48F) respectively. The actual highest and lowest night time air minima occurred on the 20th (12.4 deg C, 55F) and jointly on the 12th and 13th (minus 1.9 deg C, 28F) respectively. There were a total of two air frosts and ten ground frosts, the lowest of which occurred on the 13th (minus 5.3 deg C, 23F).

It has now been the third consecutive month with monthly rainfall totals being well below average. The total for the month was 34.1 mm (1.34 inches); you would expect 57.9 mm (2.28 inches) - it was Cuddington's driest May since 2005 (29.0 mm, 1.14 inches).

Sky Notes

I have been asked by several people from the village what the brilliant 'star' is that is visible in the north-west well after sunset. This is in fact the planet Venus, our nearest planetary neighbour. Venus will now grace our evening skies for the rest of the summer and early autumn so do take the opportunity, when the sky is clear, to admire the 'goddess of love'.

Sean Clarke

Dog walkers

(Continued from page 4)

in the village, just a few are spoiling things for the majority. We would like to remind you that dogs are forbidden in the children's playground, and if "accidents" continue to be found on the playing fields, it may even become necessary to forbid the walking of dogs there. Just think of the children and young people who play there! There are very strict rules regarding "dog fouling" and the Parish Council can take action against anyone caught breaking these rules.

Please, when walking your dogs, not only do we ask you to use the green plastic bags to remove any mess your dog may leave behind, but please ensure that you dispose of them in one of the red bins specially provided for this purpose. If you feel you are too far away from such a bin, then take it home with you and dispose of it there. Would you want to have to remove such a bag from the verge or step in an "accident" in your own drive or garden and even walk it into your car or your home?

We thank you for your co-operation and wish you happy dog walking!

Jennifer Schram de Jong, Parish Councillor



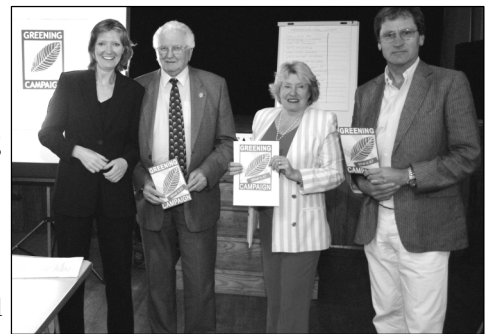
Greening Cuddington

Cuddington has an opportunity to become a leader in environmental sustainability in this part of the county, and we aren't alone - Long Crendon and Haddenham will be right behind us. Or will they be in front of us??

As the latest initiative of the Sustainable Cuddington Project (<http://www.englishvillageexperience.com/cuddington/Going%20Green.html>), or just visit our web site and click on Environmental Issues), your sustainability team are getting everyone to join them in 'Greening Cuddington'.

If you didn't get to read about it in last month's issue, or in the Bucks Herald, this is a very exciting project which helps everyone in the village to do their bit for the environment (and their bank accounts) by saving energy. You've heard it all before, but you really can do something about it, and Greening Cuddington will help you at minimal cost to yourself. You will also be part of a village movement which could result in a big CO2 saving that we can measure, and will report on.

Your local AVDC Councillor, Michael Edmonds, and the Parish Council Chairman, Mrs Sherry Scott introduced the Greening Public Meeting on Wednesday 9th June, in the presence of some 60 residents and representatives from local clubs and societies lending their full support to the Greening Cuddington Project.



Terena Plowwright, Michael Edmonds, Sherry Scott and Doug Kennedy (above) and Terena Plowwright addressing the audience (below).



Terena Plowwright, who began the movement in 2008, gave a presentation and Cllr Edmonds said that AVDC are fully behind such initiatives. This is one of several community movements to cut wastes and improve environmental behaviour in this area. Cuddington residents were invited to draw up a list of energy saving actions for when the campaign starts in the autumn, such as turning off electrical items (not just leaving them on standby), and turning down heating by just 1 degree in winter. Project co-ordinator Doug Kennedy warned us that we have to think about what kind of planet we want our children and grandchildren to live in.

Phase 1 of the campaign will begin with villagers displaying a card in their windows with five energy-saving habits they plan to implement.

AVDC and others will be in attendance at the Village Fête to explain it further and will have some freebies on offer to help you!



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Dates for your Diary

Daisies in the churchyard



July

Friday 3 rd 7.00p.m.	A play for young children and families in Bernard Hall (see Village Notice Boards)
Wednesday 7 th 7.30p.m.	Parish Council Meeting
Saturday 10 th	VILLAGE FETE
Monday 12 th	Sunshine Club tea party
Tuesday 13 th 2.30p.m.	W.I. Garden Meeting
Wednesday 18 th 1.15 p.m.	School end of year service in St Nicholas' Church

August

Wednesday 4 th 7.30 p.m.	Parish Council Meeting
Wednesday 11 th)	Church Holiday Club
Thursday 12 th)	(see page 1 for details)
Friday 13 th)	

Local Transport Plan

Do you care about the future of transport in Buckinghamshire?

Transport for Buckinghamshire is currently developing a new 15 year transport plan. A 12 week public consultation is being undertaken this summer (August – October) giving you the opportunity to influence transportation in Buckinghamshire towards 2026. To get involved please visit our website: www.buckscc.gov.uk/ltp3

A job well done!

It is not often we praise the service we receive from Bucks County Council but we should not let this opportunity pass without commenting on the major resurfacing work the maintenance crew carried out on various parts of the Aylesbury Road last month.

In last month's Village Voice we warned of the impending work that was to be carried out on the C56 Aylesbury Road, this information had been passed to us by our hard working area technician, David Smith. He provided details on where, when and how the work was to be carried out and informed us about the road closure that would allow the job to be done in the most speedy and efficient manner. Well, the plan worked perfectly and by the end of the day, on the 14th June, the sun set on a road which had a much better surface than had been the case hitherto.

I contacted David Smith, the day after the work had been completed, and asked him to thank his colleagues on behalf of the village, for a job well done. Let us hope there will be many more occasions when we can thank David and his team for their good work!

Michael Pegge, Parish Councillor

Barry Fisher 1948 - 2010

Many of us who live in Cuddington have been sad to learn of the death of Barry at the end of May, following a short illness. His funeral service took place on 10th June at Amersham Crematorium, and was well attended by a great number of his family, friends and colleagues from the village and surrounding area.

Barry arrived in Cuddington in the late 1970's with his wife Gill and sons Richard and Paul. He had followed his father into the building trade and was working in Bicester. Together with John Luckett he purchased a plot of land from the Gibsons: with Barry acting as designer they built the two houses in which they and their families have lived ever since. Barry had always set his heart on running his own company, and in 1984 he set up Country Home Developments in partnership with Alan Williams, who also lived in the village. The company has been very successful, and there are many people in the locality who have, over the last 25 years, reaped the benefit of Barry's skilful work and eye for design.



Barry with (from left) younger son Paul, John Luckett and Charles Sanderson in 1992

late 1980's he turned to tennis and became one of the founder members of Cuddington Tennis Club when it was formed in 1990. Apart from contributing fully to the Committee, he was a key member of the initial Cuddington Men's team which won promotion in its very first year. For the next 10 years he was a leading player in both Men's and Mixed teams. He also encouraged Paul to take up tennis with great effect: Paul has now become one of the top coaches with the LTA. Barry devoted much of his spare time supporting Paul, and driving him to tournaments all over Britain and Europe.

Many of us will remember Barry with wings/a red curly wig/nurse's uniform as he took part in the annual Mixed Hockey Match that used to be played just after Christmas each year. This was typical of Barry's enthusiastic attitude to village sporting activities.

Back problems eventually forced Barry to give up tennis, but this did not mean

an end to his sporting activities! He turned to golf with his usual enthusiasm, and latterly found great pleasure and peace when fishing with Alan.

Barry was only 62 when he died – the cancer took him from us far too young. He will be greatly missed, and our deepest sympathies go to Gill and her family – including little Henry, the grandson to whom Barry was devoted.

John Luckett and Charles Sanderson



A great deal has been going on at school recently and we are very proud to announce that we have been awarded Artsmark Gold by Arts Council England. This is now the third time running that we have received this very important award.

Many people have been enquiring after Pam Talbot and we are going to say our main good-bye to her on Sunday 18th July at a picnic lunch on the Dinton site playing field at 1.00pm. Any past parents and friends are welcome—just bring your own picnic and there will be a bar.

She will also be attending the end of year service at St Nicholas Church at 1.15 pm on Wednesday 21st July. This will be an opportunity for many of her friends from all of her years in Cuddington to see her; everyone is very welcome to that service.

Finally we are very pleased to say that the Governing Body has appointed Mrs Kim Price to be our Acting Headteacher for the next academic year starting in September. Mrs Price is currently Acting Deputy Headteacher

at Stoke Mandeville Combined School and has excellent leadership credentials and experience.

She is going to be spending as much time as she can before the end of term in meeting parents, staff and governors, and we look forward to welcoming her full time in September.

School finishes for the summer holidays on 21st July and the Autumn Term starts on Thursday 2nd September.

Bellringers' outing

It was very fitting that Cuddington Bellringers Outing this year involved a number of us cycling around the beautiful churches of the Cotswolds on June 19th in Green Week 2010! We enjoyed ringing the bells at Bodicote and Bloxham, working up a thirst before lunch, when the brewery tap at Hook Norton proved popular.

The beautiful mellow peal of 8 bells here sounded even better in the afternoon. The day was rounded off with a barbeque at Holymans Farmhouse where we were joined by bellringers from Winchendon, Long Crendon and Haddenham.

Caroline Stonham, Captain of the Tower

Services at St. Nicholas

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

- 4th 10.00 am HOLY COMMUNION
A modern Communion Service with hymns. The children go to "Sunday Special" for part of the service
- 7th 9.30 am PRAYERS
- 11th 10.00 am "OUT AND ABOUT" FAMILY SERVICE
A service for all ages, including lively hymns
- 18th 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
- 25th 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.

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

John's Column

*"Too quick despairer, wherefore wilt thou go?
Soon will the high Midsummerpoms come on,
Soon will the musk carnations break and swell;
Soon shall we have gold-dusted snapdragon,
Sweet-William with his homely cottage-smell,
And stocks in fragrant blow."*

(Doctor Thomas Arnold 1795-1842)

Four years ago I wrote in the Voice of a virus (Trichomoniasis) previously unknown at that time and which was killing an alarming number of our small garden birds—greenfinches, chaffinches, goldfinches, blackbirds etc.

This disease is apparently spread via birdbaths and bird tables and causes the birds' throats to swell preventing them from swallowing and they starve to death. It poses no threat to humans nor animals. It is recommended that all birdbaths are first emptied and washed prior to refilling and tables are brushed prior to replenishing. Tests are continuing urgently to trace and eradicate this virus.

This year has been good for garden birds – the Blue Tits have again raised a family in the box (unfortunately this time I missed seeing them fly). Joan found the Wren's nest whilst tidying up a remote corner of the garden, but it was empty and showed no signs of



This photograph of a birds' nest, taken by James Frost, has already been featured on BBC's South Today. The nest was in his garage!

disturbance, so I presumed the hatch was successful. However the Thrush family did not survive – we found their nest disturbed and 'pulled' with broken eggs and one dead chick –all presumably by a Magpie. The Wood Pigeons who nested in the large cherry tree produced one chick.

Village Voice is published by the Cuddington Parochial Church Council as a service to the community