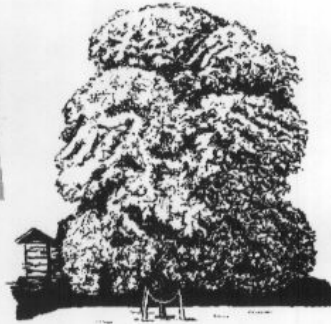


VILLAGE CUDDINGTON VOICE



**March
2009**

VOLUME TWELVE

Bernard Hall - Past, Present & Future



The Bernard Hall AGM

This will be held on Wednesday, 18th March at 8.00 p.m.

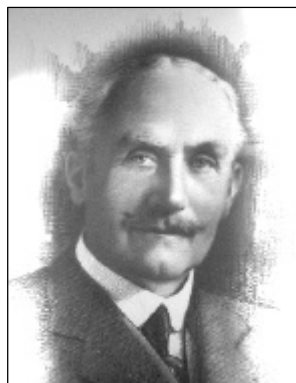
Everyone is very welcome.

Looking to the Future

For 80 years, successive generations of Cuddington villagers have struggled up and down the narrow stairs to the Bernard Hall kitchen, often carrying large vats of hot food. The Bernard Hall Management Committee is pleased to announce that it has drawn up plans for a new larger kitchen which is on the same level as the main hall. The plans will be on show at the AGM (8pm on Wednesday the 18th of March) and the Committee would like to invite everyone from the Village to see what we are planning and to give you the chance to give us your views. Hope to see you all on the 18th.

Looking Back to the Past

Eighty years old but looking very much older is a very apt description of the Bernard Hall for although it was built in 1929 very much older materials were used so visitors to the village can be excused for believing that they are seeing an Elizabethan building. When Robert Spencer Bernard's great uncle (see right a copy of his photograph which hangs in the Bernard Hall) decided to have a hall built in Cuddington in memory of a family member who had been killed in the 1914-18 war he choose for architect Philip Tilden, who was one of the most renowned architects of his day. He was frequently employed by members of the aristocracy who wanted to have their mansions returned to their original Tudor appearance, and Cuddington was fortunate enough to have his expertise to design its hall. It would be difficult to find another village whose hall had been designed by such a prestigious architect.



Can we help you?

The Friends from St. Nicholas offer help to anyone living in Cuddington, so do contact us if you think we can help you in any way or if you know of anyone else who would like our help.

*We have a number of volunteer drivers so if you need **transport** to a health centre or to hospital (either for an appointment or for visiting) then do contact one of the following who will find a driver for you:- Nan or Peggy Cattell (291313) Myles or Carolin Saker (291825) Jean Watson (291595).*

*If you are **housebound** and would like a visit or other help, if you would like us to pray for some **particular need** in the family or if there is any other way in which we could help then don't hesitate to contact one of the above.*



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



From the Vicar

Dear Friends,

I am delighted to be writing to you as your new vicar. I took my first service in Cuddington on Sunday February 15th and I am looking forward to getting to know you and becoming part of your village life. As many of you know I am based at the vicarage in Haddenham and am vicar of four parishes, Cuddington, Haddenham, Kingsey and Aston Sandford.

Living in a village has lots of benefits and also a number of challenges. To help prepare for my new post here, I attended "Plough Wednesday" a training day for rural and agricultural issues held this year on 21 January at Bledlow, Bucks. One of the speakers on the day was Chris Rawson from Bucks County Council, who provided an introduction to the work of Bucks Rural Action Group and the recent rural strategy for Bucks that they have produced. The six key issues looked at by this strategy are: Access to Services, Transport, Rural Housing, Countryside and Environment, Economy and Enterprise, and Community Self Confidence. As local clergy we were keen to find out how church communities could be involved in this strategy and help some of these important goals go forward. A second speaker was Frances Northrop from Bucks Community Action. She explained the work of the Rural Community Council in Bucks. She was especially concerned for those in rural areas struggling as lone parents, as carers for people with long term illness and for families needed social housing. Again there was terrific overlap with the work of the churches and it was good to be able to talk to Frances at lunch and find out more how we could work together.

The Bishop of Oxford attended the day and gave an inspiring talk urging us all to be earthed in our work as Christian ministers. So much of Jesus' ministry was dealing with the day to day: healing individual people, talking to people one to one, and showing how the good news of his kingdom is not something vague and "out there" but is very real and visible in our lives.

As we learn more of what it means to follow Jesus, we can take courage from the earthiness of his ministry. We can have confidence that he is with us both in some of the ordinary day to day tasks as well as in our church services and those personal times of prayer. Jesus described his kingdom as like a mustard seed – though it is the smallest of all seeds it grows to become a tree (Matthew 13:31-32). Whether your faith is more of a seed, a plant or a mature tree, I hope it will grow as you seek God and see his kingdom extend in our community.

Love and Prayers

Margot Hodson

New Vicar licensed

The church in Haddenham was packed on February 9th to welcome to the Benefice the Revd. Margot Hodson and her husband Martin.

The Bishop of Buckingham formally licensed Margot to be Priest in Charge of the parishes of Haddenham, Cuddington, Kingsey and Aston Sandford, in what all present felt was a very inspiring service.

In his address the Bishop spoke of all Christians as the people of God, called to serve him. This idea was emphasized in the service, not only when the churchwardens, on behalf of the parishes, had important roles to play, but also when responses were required of the congregation as well as of the minister. So after Margot had been asked "Will you commit yourself to the mission and ministry of the people in this

place to further the kingdom of God?" and she had responded "With the help of God, I will" the congregation was asked "People of God, will you welcome Margot and support and uphold her in her ministry now and in the years to come?" and they responded "With the help of God, we will."

The churchwardens and others presented Margot with symbols of various aspects of her ministry in the church and in the wider community. This culminated in the new minister pledging herself "To care for the community that gathers here, to share with them the Word of God and the work of the ministry, to celebrate with them the sacraments of the new covenant and to encourage them in their discipleship" and adding "Together may we make this a place where Christian people are equipped for their life and witness in God's world".

Cuddington Methodist Church

invites you to see a new DVD

"Unlocking the mysteries of life"
A group of Scientists face the origin of life.

Wednesday, 25th March at 7.45 for
8.00 p.m.

Contact:
Colin & Margaret 01844 291661;
Betty 01844 290372;
Zillah 01296 748320
or Jill 01296 748339



Cuddington man goes solo

Tim Crowdy writes of his experiences.



I took my first flight 21 years ago, but it wasn't until 12 years later that I became more involved in the magical

world of ballooning. Peter George moved into the village in 1995 and from him I started learning all about balloons. Like most people I first helped out as crew. Joining the Black Horse Ballooning Club I became even more involved with not only the ballooning but also the social side and the committee.

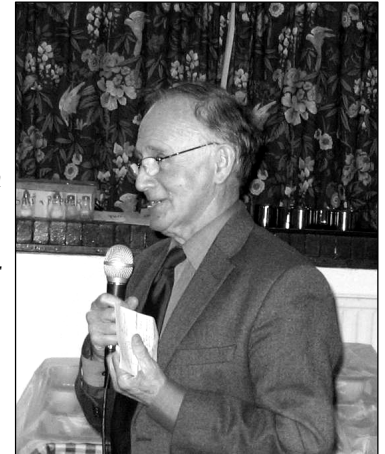
About four years ago I teamed up with a group of enthusiasts and then encouraged by them I decided to become a pilot. Having completed all my exams in the Spring of 2007 I then took my first training flight in July of that year, taking to the skies from Weston on the Green. Many more training flights followed in 2007, some in this country and some on the Continent which included one of the most enjoyable I've ever had --a flight from Chamberly airfield flying over Lake Madine and landing at Bruxieres-sous-les-cotes. Truly a flight to remember! In September 2008 I did my recommendation flight. I was passed in "my wonderful low flying skills". OK maybe not so wonderful but good enough to pass. Then having passed my check flight at the end of September there came the best adventure of all --on the morning of the 6th October 2008 I did my first solo flight! At least 30 minutes were decreed but I was up in the air for one hour fifteen minutes coping with all sorts of hazards but thoroughly relishing every minute of it.

Getting my licence to fly a balloon has been one of my greatest achievements but another thrill awaits me as I am now expecting the delivery of my own balloon. 2009 therefore will see me in my own balloon taking to the skies over Cuddington, (make sure you wave as I pass) over other parts of the U.K. and further afield-- in fact the sky's the limit!

Olympics and crumble at Parish Supper

John Fortgang writes:

On a cold night at the end of January about eighty people gathered in the warmth of the Bernard Hall for the annual Church Supper. Flawlessly organised by Myles and Carolin Saker, and introduced with aplomb by Graham Carr, a delicious meal of chicken crumble and veg was served to the stomach-rumbling guests, washed down by plenty of wine, beer or whatever you fancied. The atmosphere was extremely cheerful and friendly and it was clear that everyone present was greatly enjoying the evening.

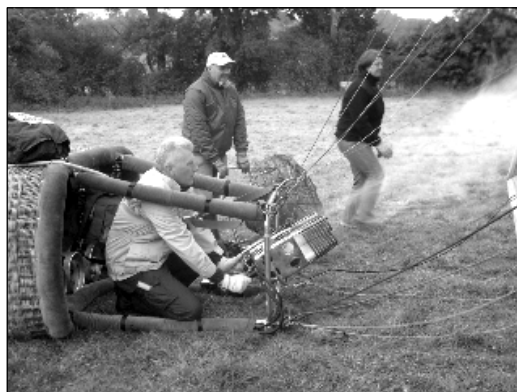


After several helpings of said chicken crumble followed, (in my case at least), by raspberry crumble as well as all the other delectable puddings prepared by the obviously multi-talented cooks in the village, Graham introduced the highlight of the evening, a talk by the Rev Tom Farrell, (pictured above) well known locally (he lives in Long Crendon) and nationally and who, before being ordained, made his name as an athlete taking part in the 1956 Melbourne and 1960 Rome Olympics, as a runner and a hurdler and he held the British record for the 400 yards hurdles.

Born in Liverpool (but with no trace of the appropriate accent, although assuring us he could if he tried) Tom has travelled the world in his role as a minister of the church, talking to people and drawing on his athletic experiences to illustrate his commitment to God. His easy, chatty style is particularly endearing and he is a joy to listen to. It perfectly suited the tone of the evening and the applause at the end was heart-felt.

As the evening drew to a close we all rushed around exchanging last snippets of gossip before venturing out into the night -- which for some reason didn't seem quite so cold -- possibly something to do with the crumble. The heartfelt appreciation of the hungry assembled go to the cooking team and pudding makers.

Thanks to the generosity of everyone present £338.25 was raised for Christian Aid, after defraying expenses. Not a bad total and a tribute to all who attended. We all look forward eagerly to the next such supper (in the autumn) and hope that the crumble-makers remain on good form.



Tim inflating the balloon before lift off.

Calor Village of the Year



As announced in the Village Voice last November we be-

came the "Calor Village of the Year 2008" for Buckinghamshire. We are now moving on to the national level of this Competition organised by Calor Gas. The village will be visited by judges on March 30th. Watch the notice boards for further information.



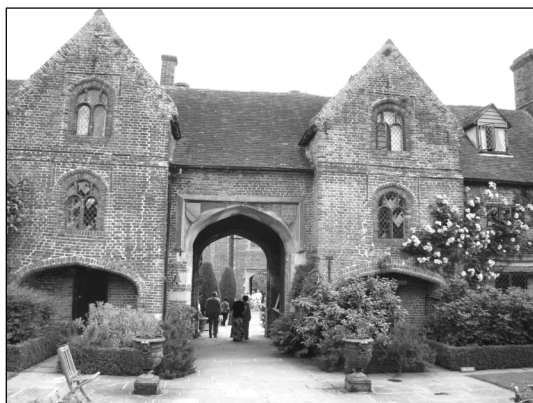
Gardeners beaten by the weather!

The Gardening Club meeting for February had to be cancelled due to the bad weather, but the good news is that Anthony Powell will be coming to speak to us on the topic of "The Scented Garden" sometime next year. The AGM has been postponed to **our next meeting on Monday 9th March starting at 7.30 pm** and will be followed by a talk on "British Wild Flowers" to be given by Peter Sheasby of the Alpine Garden Society.

Thelma Parry has kindly agreed to become our new **Membership Secretary**. If you are thinking of joining the Gardening Club please contact Thelma for an application form. Subscriptions are very reasonable and extremely good value! Her address is 36 Bernard Close, Cuddington and telephone number 291075.

Thinking ahead to the spring the Gardening Club will be holding its annual **Murphy Potato Growing Competition**; seed potatoes and buckets will be distributed after the meeting on 6th April. Non-members are welcome to join in and application forms are available from David Jones, 18 Bernard Close, telephone: 290838 with a closing date of 30th March. Have a go and see how many potatoes you can grow in one bucket. The record weight now stands at 9lbs 1oz.

This month's photograph shows the entrance to one of the most famous gardens in England but where is it? The answer will be given at the next meeting (9th March).



Do you know the mystery entrance?

A local treasure

At the February meeting of the History Society the members welcomed Judith McArthur who, with twenty years' experience as a volunteer guide at Waddesdon Manor, was well qualified to talk on this subject.



Fountains at Waddesdon Manor

Waddesdon Manor was built in the 19th century in the style of an 18th century chateau and designed by a prominent French architect. It is now effectively jointly owned by the Rothschild family and the National Trust.

With the aid of slides, Judith showed us some of the many treasures of Waddesdon and filled in the background to the Rothschild family history. Even members who have visited Waddesdon Manor many times before were inspired afresh by Judith's enthusiasm and knowledge.



Gnomic Questions

Since the glad news of the theme of the 2009 fete entered village consciousness, most responses have been positive. However, villagers, ever alert and intellectually curious, have raised various questions.

A key concern centres on the origin of the gnome. Various interpretations have been suggested, but what appears most likely is that the gnomic idea was first conceived in the Germanic psyche. Apparently the belief took root that miners emigrated about 1500 BC to what is today South Germany to dig for gold and silver. Subsequently Teutonic notions proliferated regarding these newcomers. The miner was transformed into a mascot, first in the house and then in the garden. He retained his pointed red hat, which was traditionally worn by the miners of Southern Germany. Eventually the gnome came to England. The 'father' of the English Gnome was Sir Charles Isham, who proudly displayed our first gnomic immigrants in his rockery at Lamport Hall, Northamptonshire in 1849.

Another issue raised by some villagers, ever avid for gnomic understanding, concerns gender. Why are gnomes traditionally considered male? Are there no females? If not, this has implications for the delicate matter of procreation. Despite recent research on the gnome genome, this matter is still unresolved. Some have suggested that their cheerful expressions may indicate freedom from female domination!

Questions also arise on the relationship of gnomes to dwarfs. Are they similar manifestations? Be assured, the gnome is indeed a dwarf. Walt Disney may pro-

vide us with a clue here. In 1937 the popular animated feature-length film "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs" was based on a Brothers Grimm tale. The heroine was given shelter by seven dwarfs in the forest, where they worked, significantly as miners.

This film did much to popularise the delightfully fey gnomes and thus we can conclude that gnomes are traditionally truncated in stature.

Cuddington fete committee's theme for 2009 has, of course, gained approval from village gnomes. They pose neither questions nor doubts to the committee, rather feelings of gratitude and relief. For example, Alexander, a fine stone gnome, who inhabits a garden in the east of Cuddington, has acquired a definite grin since news came of his emancipation to the green wood in July.

Go Gnome!

Dates for your Diary

Spring is surely here!



March

Wednesday 4th 8.00 p.m.
Monday 9th 7.30 p.m.

Parish Council Meeting
Gardening Club: A.G.M. followed by a Talk on
British Wild Flowers

Tuesday 10th 2.30 p.m.
Sunday 15th 11.15 a.m.
Tuesday 17th 7.30 p.m.

W.I. Birthday Meeting with Musical Entertainment
Annual Parochial Church Meeting in Bernard Hall
History Society: Talk "Memories of an
Aylesbury Boyhood"

Wednesday 18th 8.00p.m.
Saturday 28th 7.30
Monday 30th

Bernard Hall A.G.M.
Monthly Bingo in the Club – 8.00 p.m. start
Calor Gas Competition

April

Wednesday 1st 8.00 p.m.
Monday 6th 7.30 p.m.

Parish Council Meeting
Gardening Club Talk: "Make More of Your Plants"
and Distribution of Murphy Potatoes

Tuesday 14th 2.30 p.m.
Tuesday 21st 7.30 p.m.
Friday 24th 8.00 p.m.
Saturday 25th 7.30p.m.

W.I. Talk and Display - "Bucks Cottage Crafts"
History Society Talk "The Berlin Airlift"
Annual Parish Meeting
Monthly Bingo in the Club – 8.00 p.m. start

A story spanning 16,000 years



Any disappointment there might have been on hearing that the advertised speaker was unable to come was quickly dispelled when Peter Wenham was introduced. Peter had visited the W.I. on several previous occasions so all knew they were to have a most enjoyable afternoon, and Peter certainly didn't disappoint them.

Peter showed and discussed slides of Prehistoric paintings found in the Lascaux Caves. He said that his story began in 1940 in the Dordogne area of France. A story is always guaranteed to attract attention and what a story this was (and incidentally what a story teller!)



Peter enjoying a cup of tea and chatting to members after his talk.

Four boys out rabbiting had followed their dog into a cave and came upon walls covered with paintings of animals. Experts assessed them as being 16,000 years old and presumably not seen again until this discovery! 1948 saw the cave open to the public, but 1963 saw its closure as the breath of thousands of visitors was damaging the paintings. However visitors were still able to appreciate this find when a museum was built to house a replica of the cave and its wonderful paintings referred to by many as the eighth wonder of the world.

Peter then went on to explore the questions these paintings posed: what kind of person had painted them? How was

Neighbourhood representation



You may be aware that the Vale of Aylesbury has been restructured into a number of groups of towns and villages which have been named Forums. This is a fairly recent development and is part of the County's policy of devolving some authority closer to communities. Cuddington is part of the Had-denham and Long Crendon Forum which is the group of villages situated close to these two larger villages.

Each of the towns and villages was asked to provide up to two people to become members of a forum committee. Their remit is to speak on behalf of their own community and to learn and comment on the plans being formulated by the District and County Councils. The Parish Council appointed Jim Hayward and Michael Pegge to represent Cuddington on the Forum Committee and to report back on relevant matters.

There is also an opportunity at these meetings to hear from the police about matters affecting our area and it will also provides a platform to report to them matters of local concern.

The Committee is chaired by Mrs Margaret Aston and her Vice Chairman is Mr Michael Edmonds both of whom are County and District Councillors and who are well known to most of the residents of Cuddington.

Further reports on this important committee will be carried in future editions of Village Voice.

the work done? and for what reason? Innumerable theories had been put forward which Peter discussed. Members added their own theories, showing how absorbed they had become in the topic, but no-one has found the answer to these questions so what happened 16,000 years ago remains an intriguing mystery.

In her vote of thanks Caroline Thompson emphasized what a delight Peter's topic and his recounting of it had been for them all.



One of the residents of our school – a certain bear called Spencer, who usually resides in the Reception class, going home each evening with different children in the class, made an exciting journey recently. He was lucky enough to visit the Jenny and Jessy school in



Spencer Bear on the flight deck and with two children at Jenny & Jessy School

Uganda. During his time there he kept a photographic record and on his return along with Brian Connolly, he was able to share with the children all that he had been doing and pictures of all the friends that he had made whilst there. The children loved hearing about all that he had seen and reading the accounts in his diary written by the children at Jenny and Jessy.

The recent snowy weather meant the school had to close for four days. There were many accounts in the media about the school closures but we now live in a time when almost all of the staff and the majority of pupils live too far from school to make the journey on foot so the stories recounted of “trudging through the snow whatever the conditions” just aren’t applicable to today. Though the school had to close the children were able to keep in contact using the internet. The school has a Virtual Learning Environment (known as our VLE for short) that the teachers could keep up to date with homework and pictures of the snowy weather and accounts of what everyone had been doing. It was also a valuable way of informing everyone if the school was open or not so people didn’t have to make unnecessary journeys.

We are looking forward to an exciting half term with our creative arts week on the theme on “Treasure Islands” being held in March. The children will be taking part in a variety of activities including a visit from Perform drama.

On Monday 16th March we will have our first family assembly of the New Year having had to cancel the one arranged for February. The service will be held in the Bernard Hall as the Church is out of action at present but as usual everyone is welcome to attend. The assembly will start at 9.05am.

Please keep sending in Times and Sunday Times Books for Schools tokens. With

John's Column

“There is a wicked inclination in most people to suppose an old man decayed in his intellect. If a young or middle aged man, when leaving a company, does not recollect where he has laid his hat, it is nothing; but if the same inattention is discovered in an old man, people will shrug their shoulders and say ‘His memory is going.’”

(Dr) Samuel Johnson 1709-84

Over the last couple of years a pair of Jackdaws have nested in the chimney at the gable end of my house. Occasionally both birds will perch at the top of our Honey Locust Tree at the bottom of the garden -- they are a very close couple and lean against one another with their heads together. When Joan throws out lumps of bread or similar waste, the cock bird immediately flies down and picks up three or more pieces in one go, and returns to his partner in the tree and then proceeds to pass the food to her ‘beak to beak’. This act of benevolence is also repeated when the hen bird is perched on the top of the chimney. I find this behaviour most strange since it occurs outside the breeding season.

The extreme summer and winter weather over the last two years has wreaked havoc with our wild bird breeding seasons, and even as I write (early February) it is still snowing. I urge my readers to provide food and water for our weathered friends.

St. Nicholas's Services

*in the Bernard Hall 1st to 15th
in Methodist Chapel 29th*

(Churchwardens: Myles Saker, 291825 and Caroline Stonham, 292221)

March

- | | | |
|------|----------|--|
| 1st | 10.00 am | HOLY COMMUNION
<i>A modern Communion Service with hymns. The children go to “Sunday Special” for part of the service</i> |
| 4th | 9.30 am | PRAYERS (at Linnets, Spurt Street) |
| 8th | 10.00 am | FAMILY SERVICE
<i>A service for all ages, including lively hymns, with the involvement of young musicians and occasional drama.</i> |
| 15th | 10.00 am | HOLY COMMUNION
<i>A less formal modern communion Service with hymns. The children go to Sunday Special for part of the service.</i> |
| | 11.15 am | Annual Parochial Church Meeting |
| 22nd | 10.00 am | MOTHERING SUNDAY—A SPECIAL FAMILY SERVICE
<i>in the Bernard Hall</i> |
| | 11.15 am | HOLY COMMUNION
<i>in the Methodist Chapel
A communion service with hymns, according to the Book of Common Prayer.</i> |
| 29th | 10.00 am | MORNING WORSHIP
<i>A service of worship and the word, with a mixture of traditional and modern hymns. The children go straight to Chattabox and the Grid in the Bernard Hall at 9.50 a.m.</i> |

Cuddington Methodist Church holds a service at 5.30 pm each Sunday.