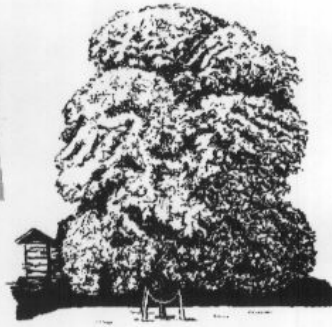


VILLAGE CUDDINGTON VOICE



**August/
September
2009**

VOLUME TWELVE

A Blessing by Candlelight in St. Nicholas Church on Tuesday 7th July

A short time before the large congregation began to stream into the church for the Service of Re-dedication by the Bishop of Oxford there was a power cut. All lights went out and remained out for the while evening. Fortunately there were a few candles which could be arranged round parts of the church and so the service commenced as planned without too much inconvenience. The Bishop remarked that perhaps it was ironic that the lights should have gone out when the theme of his service was light. But as he made clear the light he was thinking about was not the one produced by the Electricity Company, but was the light that came from God. This theme was early taken up by the children from Cuddington and Dinton School who sang with great enthusiasm "We are marching we are marching, we are marching in the light of God".

As the service continued it became even more appropriate that it was by candlelight when the Bishop talked about the past ages of this ancient church. The refurbishment had made the beauty of the medieval pillars and arches more apparent and it was right to see them as our

ancestors had known them by the soft glow of candlelight.

This link between the past and the present of the church was one of the Bishop's major themes, and he also stressed how important it was that every age should consider what was needed for its time and that the church should be handed on for the next generations of worshippers to act as its guardians.

The importance of the future was obviously in the Bishop's mind as at the end of the service he asked the school children, the representatives of the future, to join him on the platform for the prayer of re-dedication and the Blessing.

Apart from the substitution of cold drinks for tea or coffee, the after-service socialising in the Bernard Hall was also in no way spoilt by the lack of electricity, and it served as a happy conclusion to this very important occasion in the life of our church.

Printed below is the prayer of dedication specially written by Margot Hodson:-

Father of light and peace, we give thanks for all that has gone before in this your house. We praise you for the work of renovation and the skills of all those who have taken part. As we remember the worship of the past, we now dedicate this church afresh to your glory, setting it apart for your purposes.

May this building be a place of peace, where faith is kindled and nurtured, where lives are healed and where divisions find reconciliation.

May all those who enter this church meet with you, as they come in joy and in sorrow; in youth and in fullness of age. May the present and future generations of Christians here be faithful disciples, following your word and seeking your truth.

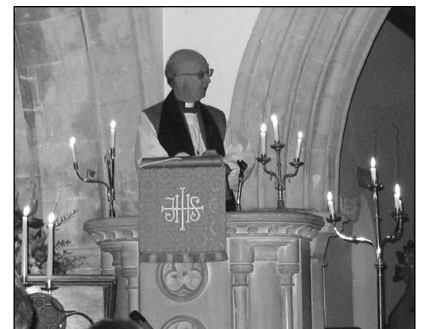
May they love you with their whole heart and love their neighbours as themselves.

We pray for your Holy Spirit to come afresh to fill this building and indwell all who worship here.

***We dedicate St Nicholas, Cuddington to your glory, in Jesus' name,
Amen***



Bishop John Pritchard with the school children



Bishop John preaching in the candlelight

Thought for the month

Dear Friends,

For many of us the holiday season involves travel, with all the possible complications that can bring.

Will I be on time for the plane?
Will the Sat Nav lead me into some dead end?!
Is the car sufficiently road worthy?
Have I got the tickets?

On a recent journey to Berne in Switzerland to visit our daughter and family, my wife and I used a car, a plane, a train and finally a tram before we arrived - plenty of opportunity for failure there! While in Switzerland we enjoyed a boat trip on Lake Thun just to complete most of the possibilities!

Journeys can be complex, worrying and tiring (as well as an enjoyable experience) but it is worth it if and when we arrive.

So when Jesus called Himself "The Way" (John 14.6.) He was using a picture that is very familiar.

He is the Way to get to know God.
He is the way to peace with God.
He is the way to forgiveness and eternal life,
He is the way to a home in heaven.

Arrival is guaranteed!

We may try other ways, other religions and philosophies, usually showing us how to "work our passage". but none will be successful. Jesus says He is the "only way" - He has done everything necessary, and we only need to put our trust in Him - not just as a guide and teacher, but "The Way" Himself!

By His death and resurrection He has overcome all the possible blockages of sin, selfishness and pride. Faith in the living Saviour will bring us safely through to an eternal home with Him.
My prayer is that we shall all arrive at *that* destination.

Your friend in Christ,
Eric Chamberlain



You are warmly invited to join in the following activities of St Nicholas Church's Harvest Thanksgiving

Saturday 10th

10.00 a.m. onwards - Decorating the Church

6.30 for 7.00 p.m. - ***Supper in the Bernard Hall***

Tickets (£7.50; concessions £5; Family Ticket £20) available from Myles and Carolin Saker (291825). There will be a licensed bar.

Sunday 11th

10.00 a.m. - ***Family Service***

6.00 p.m. - ***Harvest Evening Service***

Monday 12th

9.05 a.m. - ***School Harvest Festival***

11.00 a.m. ***Come to the church and collect a Harvest Gift and enjoy a cup of tea or coffee***

7.30 p.m. - ***Harvest in the Club***

A friendly supper and familiar harvest hymns.

A charge of £3.50 is payable at the door





Our second outing in June was to the garden of Mary Berry of Aga fame. Mary gave a brief history of the house and some of the famous people who had occupied it, including Sir George Grove, the first author of the Dictionary of Music and Musicians.

Watercroft is a mature 3 acre chalk and clay garden which has a very natural and relaxed feeling about it. There is a large natural pond with ducks swimming peacefully on the water with yellow water lilies surrounded by interesting plants and many beautiful different irises. The centre of the garden has a rose walk with 300 different varieties. There is a new herbaceous border and an Italianate garden from which on a clear day one can see Windsor Castle. There were gravelled paths and mowed areas leading



Mary Berry addressing the members at Watercroft

down to a wild flower meadow. On the terrace outside the house were orange and lemon trees both with fruit and a lovely bed with the rose Chandos Beauty, along with many other beautiful roses and clematis.

The small vegetable garden contained bay trees surrounded by a hebe hedge and an area of different slug-free hostas. There were also red and black currants and a peach tree with several peaches. The glasshouse with unusual geraniums was where tea and home made cakes were served and we enjoyed out tea sitting under a large weeping ash.

We returned to Cuddington after a happy afternoon, not armed with plants on this occasion but several members had bought one or more of Mary's cookery books!

The next meeting of the Gardening Club is on Monday 7th September when the much anticipated Murphy Weigh In will take place followed by a talk by Gerald Sinclair on "Late Summer Perennials".

Bell ringers visit Ted

Instead of our normal bellringing practice at St. Nicholas, on Friday 19th July Cuddington bellringers and friends drove to Yaxham in Norfolk. Some pitched their tents at Yaxham Waters campsite, others were allowed a more luxurious Bed and Breakfast just around the corner at Ted Ferris's home.

On the Saturday the more energetic took advantage of the quiet, flattish country lanes to cycle between fields heavy with corn to ring the bells at Gressenhall, Beetley and Swanton Morley. After a hearty pub lunch we rang on the much heavier bells in the centre of Dereham and then had a shop for our BBQ tea. Ted kindly offered the use of his garden and the evening sun shone on 20 or so of us from Bucks with Ted's family providing some delicious desserts. We took Ted's pew with us in the van and he spent the evening sitting on it in the garden.

The weekend was rounded off perfectly on Sunday morning with some good ringing at his local church for the morning service before we packed up and headed home.

Thanks Ted – please can we come again?

Methodist Church



See the exhibition
'FACT OR FICTION - What the Scientists Say'

also showing
Unlocking the Mystery of Life
2.15-3.15
The Privileged Planet 3.30-4.30

Refreshments will be available
Saturday 22nd August 2009,
2 - 4.30pm

Cuddington Methodist Church,
Lower Church Street.

Contacts - Colin & Margaret
01844 291661; Betty 01844
290372; Zillah 01296 748320 or
Jill 01296 748339

Green Tips for green cars

Thinking of changing your car?

Did you ever think what the words at the bottom of a car advertisement mean? The ones that say CO2 emissions 184-289 G/KM?

They mean that in the higher case, a kilogramme of carbon dioxide will be emitted by that car when it has travelled another 3.5 kilometre or 2.2 miles! The average family car does about half these figures, which are in fact for a Jaguar.

If you want to know more about Green issues and specifically what is happening in Cuddington then please go the village website at www.cuddingtonvillage.com and follow the link at the top of the home page.

Doug Kennedy

Playing Fields



It has been a difficult and frustrating ten months. First securing all the necessary financing (in principle, agreed this week). Then the job of obtaining three quotations for every item of work needing to be done, required by WREN,

AVDC and Cuddington Parish Council, which also needed to meet our very tight budgetary constraints. These then had to be submitted to WREN for their approval before they would issue the contract which has to be signed between WREN and the Parish Council, which will permit the refurbishment to proceed. But some good news: life became much easier when John Luckett came on board to help; he has also been helping Martin, the Association Treasurer.

It had been hoped that the work could be carried out in August, when many societies take a summer break; this has not proved possible. However, it is hoped that work will commence in the coming weeks and that, at least initially, this will cause very little inconvenience to club users. Every effort is being made to co-ordinate with contractors to work around those dates already fixed in the club diary at the present time, at least for user societies. If it does begin to look as if it will become necessary to close the club house at any time, then we will give members and member societies as much notice as it is possible to give, so that if necessary, alternative arrangements can be made. This will probably only apply to the second half of September.

We do hope that everyone will be patient with us and try to understand the difficulties and problems that have been encountered while trying to get this refurbishment project off the ground. We very much hope that everyone will be happy with the results when the refurbishment is completed; hopefully no later than first two weeks of October, if not before.

The **Annual General Meeting** of the Cuddington Playing Fields' Association will be held in the Clubhouse on **Thursday, 13th August at 7.30 p.m.** when details of the refurbishment project will be discussed in full and report given on the work that has been accomplished to date. It is hoped that many of you will come to the meeting to learn about what is going on and hopefully give us your support.

Tug of War and other events in the Playing Fields Club

*In addition to a Tug of War Competition against Chearsley together with a family BBQ on **Sunday, 27th September**, we are going to hold another of the very popular chocolate evenings organised by Pam Kilarski (buy your chocolates early for Christmas) on **Wednesday, 21st October** and the village Guy Fawkes Bonfire and Fireworks party with a pig roast on **Saturday, 7th November**.*

Further details will be published in October's Village Voice.

Cuddington Gentlemen stay up late

The newly established dining club met for its second session of conviviality at The Crown at the end of July with a splendid three-course dinner, sampling a fresh summer salad with avocado and roast bacon, pork loin with roasted new potatoes followed by cheese and biscuits.



New members were toasted and welcomed and everyone soon settled into a merry atmosphere of witty and varied conversation accompanied by much laughter.

At just after midnight the group enjoyed a starlit summer evening on the short walk home and the date was set for the dinner on Thursday October 1st, again at The Crown.

A Christmas Banquet is planned with the venue to be debated at the next meeting.

For further details contact Phil Johnson - tel 291526 or email parkstone28@tiscali.co.uk.

Songs of Praise

The 10.00 a.m service on August 23rd will be a "Songs of Praise" service.

Do come and join us.

If you would like to choose a hymn then contact Nan Cattell (291313) or Nigel Featherston (01296 747454).

A reminder to all Cuddington cooks!

Following her request in May's issue of Village Voice Pascale Cumberbatch would like some more recipes to be sent to her for inclusion in the Cuddington Recipe Book that she is compiling.

Please send your recipe to Pascale Cumberbatch, 9 Hillside Cottages, Dadbrook. Or ring her on 299535 and she can come and collect from you.

Pictured right is just one example from her portfolio of work that Pascale does as a Food Stylist. For more information see her website at www.pascalecumberbach.com



Triathlon man from Cuddington



Gareth Anderson of Woodbine Cottage on the Lower Green has recently successfully participated in a triathlon in Switzerland. He completed the race in 11 hours 35 minutes and the following are extracts from his account of that eventful day:

SWIM 2.5 miles completed in 1 hour 9 mins.

"Lake Zurich was calm and clear and seeing all the 2300 competitors at the lake's edge was the moment when I thought "This is going to be interesting!" The whole field started at the same time (with the exception of the pros) and we were taken to just out of our depth, 9-10 people in a very long line. I had positioned myself in the middle and to the

right hand side. The first buoy was approximately 300 m. away, and we had two laps to complete with an exit and re- entry to do at half way. When we got to the first buoy we had to swim breaststroke around it, bottle neck was an understatement, but the swim did thin out a bit after the halfway mark -

BIKE 112 miles completed in 5 hours 45 mins.

"Exiting the swim and into transition I felt good and took a load of energy drink, got on my bike and off I went. The bike was 2 laps with around 1300m of climbing in total. Apart from the hills the ride was brilliant, great roads, stunning views, bands playing on the roadside and plenty of people supporting, with a top speed of 49.5mph on one section. It was a breathtaking ride. The end of the lap involved a hill called "Heartbreak Hill". Need I say more? But this hill was covered with spectators and live music wishing you up the steep slope. It was like something out of the Tour de France -

RUN 26.2 miles completed in 4 hours 33mins.

Into transition for the final time to face for me the hardest of the three disciplines - a change of socks, on with my trainers and off I went. Again the support was incredible all the way; you were given coloured bands on each lap to indicate how many you had completed (blue, green, yellow and Red for the final lap). Lap 1 was fairly comfortable, but lap 3 was my darkest moment and I needed to dig deep, continuously munching on fruit, pretzels etc. and drinking soup, water and flat coke! I survived and picked up the all-important red band. This was it - my last lap, just 6 miles to go. Without doubt my most enjoyable lap. And so the final 100m which was sided with stands full of people. This was the end of a long day. Crossing that line -all sorts of feelings were going through me - I'D DONE IT!

And in "doing it" Gareth raised nearly £800 from his sponsors to donate to Cancer Research.

Gareth would be happy to hear from any additional sponsors on www.justgiving.com/garethanderson2



The Cuddington Kites have not had any consistency this year. The re-

sults as well as the weather have been fairly erratic. However with only the one fixture in August, it just happens to be one of the big games of the season.



Will it be another titanic scrap for the honour of the Tonsley Events Challenge Shield? The Kites have had a fair-to-middling season and will be looking at this encounter to ensure the silverware stays in Buckinghamshire. For the Tonsley Tornados searching for revenge they will be looking to win at all costs and have strengthened their squad accordingly. The fixture will be surrounded by all the usual family favorites - bouncy castle, music, face painting, barbeque, tea and cakes and fully licensed bar

Come along and join in the fun in the sun (hopefully!)...Match starts 1.30pm, Saturday 15th August on the Cuddington Playing Fields.

Village Voice

Village Voice is taking its usual summer break and the next edition will be published in October.

You will perhaps notice that this edition is of 10 pages—a first for Village Voice—with a double page spread justifiably devoted to the Fête and our special gnomes!



High profile policing

Vehicle Crime

At the end of June, in the wider Aylesbury Vale, the police launched Operation Artemis - this is a summer campaign to tackle vehicle crime. Officers are carrying out high visibility patrols in known hot spot areas across the Vale and targeting known offenders. In the first two weeks of the operation there was a dramatic fall in the number of reported crimes and a total of 16 people were arrested. Offences included possession of drugs, intent to carry out burglary, criminal damage, theft from and of a motor vehicle.

The police are also using Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) to track possible stolen vehicles which may not have the proper legal documentation or may be used for criminal purposes. Operation Artemis will be running throughout the summer.

New Website

A new website has been launched, which allows anyone with access to the internet, the opportunity to view figures and maps of crime in Buckinghamshire. This is the first public website to show crime and community safety information by using hotspot maps and providing a summary of crime figures at postcode level. You can visit this website at www.ionbucks.info

Cuddington News

Sadly we have suffered a number of criminal incidents in our village over the past few months. One (a partially thwarted burglary) led the police to send in one of their helicopters which was already airborne over Aylesbury at the time (3am), in an attempt to locate and apprehend the perpetrator/s. This break-in occurred whilst people were asleep in the property and who were awoken by the noise the criminals were making, the latter escaped but fortunately not with too much to show for their efforts. As we have reported in this journal in the past, it behoves us all to be vigilant and report anything suspicious we see to the police on 0845 8 505 505.

Sue Jones, one our two hard-working and friendly Police Community Support Officers, has sent us the following message on behalf of our local Neighbourhood Police Team: -

"PC Dean Kingham came to the Cuddington Fête with his family and PCSO Sue Jones attended towards the end of the afternoon (see picture right). Both of us enjoyed the afternoon and hope that it was as successful for the village as for those attending it. Thank you for making us welcome.

Unfortunately, we have a couple of incidents to report which have occurred over the past month: offender(s) entered the church and forced open donation box which is attached to the wall and removed the money from inside. There was also a somewhat botched burglary attempt in the village very early one morning. There has also been a spate of criminal damage in the Recreation Field over the past month. Between the 4th and 18th July, all the windows on the tractor, which is used for mowing the field, have been broken and equipment in the Children's Play Area has been damaged. I understand that there is continual damage to the football dug out and to the tennis court fence. If anyone has any information about any of these incidents please contact us. You can email us directly or telephone. I have also listed the CrimeStoppers number where you can leave information anonymously.

PCSO C9830 Sue Jones – email suzan.jones@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk

PC 5924 Dean Kingham – email dean.kingham@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk

Non Emergency Police Telephone Number – 08458 505505

CrimeStoppers – 0800 111555

Sue Jones (C9830)

Police Community Support Officer, Waddesdon Police Station, Haddenham and Long Crendon District, Tel: 08458 505505"



Gardens raise impressive funds



Cuddington Open Gardens 21st June 2009

Well, what an amazing day with over 500 visitors to enjoy the pleasures of Cuddington gardens and Cuddington teas! The figures speak for themselves - £2,735 was taken on the garden gates and £788 was taken on the plant stall enabling us to send a cheque for £3,523 to the NGS. The Bernard Hall teas raised £441, to go directly into their own fund and the Tyringham Hall teas raised £629. for Sunshine Club funds. What an incredible show of generosity from garden openers, plant providers, cake makers and stalwart helpers.

ngs gardens open for charity

Prescriptions needed?

Ring friends from St. Nicholas:-

Nan and Peggy Cattell (291313), Myles and Carolin Saker (291825) or Jean Watson (291595).

A reminder that in addition to visits to health centres etc. volunteers will collect prescriptions from Chemists.



Carolin Saker providing a much appreciated lift

Dates for your Diary

Roses in our country churchyard



August

Wednesday 5th 8.00 p.m. Parish Council Meeting
 Thursday 6th 10 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. Play Round the Parishes on Playing Fields
 Thursday 13th 10 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. Play Round the Parishes on Playing Fields
 Thursday 13th 7.30 p.m. AGM of Playing Fields' Association
 Tuesday 25th 10 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. Play Round the Parishes on Playing Fields

September

Wednesday 2nd 8.00 p.m. Parish Council Meeting
 Monday 7th 6.30 p.m. Gardening Club Weighing in of Murphy Potatoes followed by talk on Late Summer Perennials (see page 3)
 Tuesday 8th 2.30 p.m. W.I. Talk by Helen Slaymaker "Life as a Three Way Stretch"
 Saturday 12th 10.30 a.m. W.I. stall on Upper Green (see below)
 Tuesday 15th 7.30 p.m. History Society Talk on Eric Gill (see below)
 Sunday 27th Tug of War on Playing Fields (see page 4)

Cuddington's own meteorologist

There is obviously an untapped vein of experts in our village, so Village Voice has set itself the task of uncovering them and displaying their talents for the benefit of us all.

This month we introduce our answer to Michael Fish in the shape of Sean Clarke, who will each month give us interesting data from his own private Met Office.

Sean has provided some background notes about himself:



"The nice people at the Village Voice have just discovered that there has been a meteorologist living in Cuddington who has been meticulously recording village's weather for over 10 years now. That person is me, Sean Clarke, and I formerly worked for 12 years as a professional meteorologist at the Met Office, which included working as a forecaster at Cardiff Weather Centre but left the organisation in 2003 when the HQ relocated from Bracknell to Exeter. However, my interest in the weather never waned and I will begin to share my valued data with you all in future editions of this newsletter - reporting the previous month's weather statistics for Cuddington including a headline summary, highest and lowest air temperature, rainfall and rainfall duration and eventually sunshine duration. I will also make you aware of any significant forthcoming astronomical events such as eclipses and bright comets. I hope that you will find my column interesting".

History Society

The society is currently enjoying its summer break and our next meeting will be on September 15th (7.30 p.m. in the club house as usual), when the topic will be "Eric Gill – stone carver, typographer and engraver". The speaker, Dr. N Wheeler Robinson, has the reputation of making his subject, who was himself 'larger than life', come vividly to life once more, and the evening promises to be a lively one! Even if you are not a member, you will still be most welcome to attend that meeting, or indeed the 20th October talk about the Chiltern Society. Meanwhile, enjoy your summer!

A garden meeting with a difference



The WI held their meeting in The Red Lion, Church Street, Brill on Tuesday 14th July when 17 members and six guests enjoyed a delicious meal prepared and served by the owners, Lynne and Gary Hawkins in their pleasant function room with doors into the garden. The business meeting was deliberately brief

and it gave an opportunity for us all to engage in stimulating conversation with each other. An added attraction was the mini-bus driven by the owner as this enabled the drivers to relax and enjoy the day.

Our next meeting will be at 2.30pm in the playing fields' clubhouse when our speaker will be a lady known to many villagers, Helen Slaymaker who will give a talk entitled "Life as a Three Way Stretch".

A note for your diaries: we will be holding our annual coffee morning with produce and craft stalls on Saturday 12th September at 10.30am. on the Upper Green. We look forward to a successful morning in aid of good causes.

If you would like to come along and experience a pleasant and lively afternoon, please telephone Anne Holland on 290982.





The Gnome Secretary writes:

Well, the gnomes did us proud. They rallied their friends, pixies, elves, leprechauns, fairies etc and made sure we had good weather. Old Mike opened the Fête then handed over to young Mike who did a marvellous job and was faced with one of the most interesting challenges in his Fête MC'ing career so far - having to hang on to a lost dog called Dave.

Another Bluming gnome ran around the village taking the pictures (in VV) and then did an excellent job running the auction – balloon rides, tickets to the X factor etc. Thank you to all who donated these and other prizes that went into the basket tom-bola etc.



Red Herring Productions had set up their gnome home on Lower Green and throughout the week they ran a series of activities and workshops, which all who attended thoroughly enjoyed. This culminated in some fun performances on the Green on Fête afternoon.

Musical entertainment was provided by Haddenham Hoofers who not only danced but provided the band, and as usual they got a few young recruits who found the boards fascinating. CYD did a wonderful performance of the Dance of the Indian braves from Peter Pan – remind me never to go to Denise's if any of them end up working there – don't fancy being scalped! Maybe John Cooper could use the Fête as an audition venue for X factor talent?

Winners of the children's fancy dress (pictured left with Old Mike) were Eleanor Muldoon and Tommy (the Healey's grandson) and Andrew Baillie won the "big kids" prize. Sophie Rodmore is now the happy owner of a toy pony having won the Guess the Name competition which was sited on Lower Green with the petting animals – goats, Shetland pony (saved the Parish Council a bit of money on mowing and manure).

Sherry and the committee would like to express their thanks to all of the stallholders & people who helped on the day, too many to mention in person. You helped us raise around **£8,764** (prior to expenses) towards village funds – an incredible achievement.

We will be writing to the various village organisations in due course regarding applications for donations and we will be inviting the village as a whole to the AGM when a date has been decided. Look forward to seeing you there.

STOP PRESS. For those of you that were worried about what became of the gnomes on the Costermongers cart, they are not gnome-homeless. They have been offered new accommodation courtesy of a friend of Michael Collins (yeah, we believe you Michael) & are reportedly settling in nicely & may invite us to their toadstool-warming party.

Gnomes of Cuddington have their say!

Peter Wenham, the village expert on gnomes, who has kept us all informed about them since February, now writes his final article:

The gnomes of Cuddington express their warm appreciation to the village. For years they have uncomplainingly toiled at their various specialist activities – fishing, barrowing, chopping, planting, digging, or just standing on mushrooms, with rarely a kind word, or indeed any notice or approval.

What happened at the Fête was wonderful – their culture, their very existence was celebrated and they feel much more integrated into the village community. So much so that most have decided to stay and enjoy human contact rather than create a gnome ghetto in the Bernwood! The Fête slogan "Gnomes at Home" has been vindicated!

Grateful thanks go to Sherry and all the hard working Fête committee. Senior brother – Old Mike – nobly cast aside his gnomely reticence and demonstrated his versatile talents. Paschale's players celebrated, in winsome and memorable drama, the traditional gnome culture. The donning of red hats by the human stallholders demonstrated both respect as well as exquisite dress sense. How could Cuddington gnomes leave such a sympathetic village? Cuddington has now become both beacon and magnet to the gnome fraternity. It is very likely that as the news spreads among "the little folk" on the gnome phone that more will come to find a new life here. Gnomes know Cuddington is an open tolerant community and no gnomonic immigration restrictions apply! The former motto of village gnomes – "Go Gnome" – has after one heady afternoon become "Stay Gnome"!





Gnomes come home

It took the best part of a year to arrange, but finally, on a warm, dry Saturday, 11th July, Cuddington's extended family of gnomes were everywhere to be seen. Happily their arrival coincided with the annual Fête, and the combination was a huge success.

A performance by the gnomes on the Lower Green, followed by a fancy dress competition and parade to the Bernard Hall and a formal opening by Old Mike started the festivities. All the way down Upper and Lower Church Street were stalls selling an eclectic mix of essentials such as cakes, White Elephants, home-made jewellery, clothes, horse-shoes, plants, paintings (at Fête Modern), books, toys, not to mention a sausage barbecue and a stall inviting everyone to submit their favourite recipe for publication in a book (Chewing the Cuddington?).

The atmosphere was delightful and the streets were thronging with visitors, both human and gnome (many of whom seemed larger than expected).

In addition to all the street entertainment there were many special attractions not to be missed. Tractor rides were extremely popular; tea at Tyringham (thanks to the indefatigable Sherry and Phil, both looking more gnome-like than the real ones) was very welcome; two resplendent Chelsea Pensioners, John and Bill, strolled majestically round the village and attracted much attention; and Jane Benson played the organ in the church during the afternoon to the delight of visitors needing a well-earned rest.

Special entertainment for children included pony rides, baby goats and face painting, and on the Lower Green they gathered round the Gnome Hut to get a glimpse of Gnome at Home.

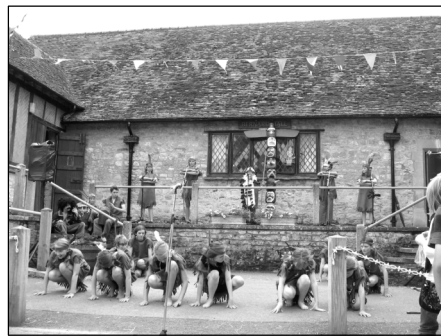
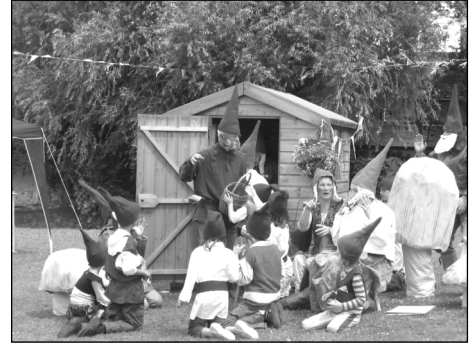
During the afternoon a number of performances were presented. The Haddenham Hoofers Band provided just the right musical background for the occasion and then played for the Hoofers who gave really outstanding displays of folk dancing; the youngsters were particularly praised.

The Cuddington Youth Drama group, always a popular attraction, gave us a taster of their next performance with a splendid "Dance of the Indian Braves". A Grand Auction, conducted by Chris Blumer, as though to the manner born, enabled lucky punters to bid for such diverse items as Winnie The Pooh, tea at Hartwell House, a ride in Tim Crowdy's hot air balloon – and tickets for the "X-Factor".

For those of us experiencing their first Cuddington fete it was a very impressive introduction; even those who have been round the course several times could not fail to be proud of it. The dedicated group of people who put so much effort into it can be very satisfied with its success.



John Fortgang





Year 1 children from both sites had a joint adventure day at Green Park in Aston Clinton. Their day was based on the Gruffalo story by Julia Donaldson. The children tracked clues left by the Gruffalo in the woods!

School sports was held during the extremely hot weather in early July so we were glad we had chosen an evening timing for this event. It also made it easier for parents and friends to attend so the children had a really appreciative audience. Rockingham House came out the eventual winners and many families stayed for a picnic on the field afterwards.

Our children took part in the infant schools' Bernwode Music Festival held at Long Crendon when ten local schools got together to perform. This year the musical was Eddie the Penguin Saves the World. The children repeated the performance at the Waddesdon MAD (Music, Arts and Drama) festival on the following Sunday, an event that was much enjoyed by everyone there.

The seaside came to Cuddington during the last week of term when Little Owls held a beach party day. The children had been busy cooking all the food and even making the elderflower cordial from elderflowers picked on one of their walks. Sand and paddling pools were installed in their garden and despite the slightly inclement weather a good time was had by all.

Our end of year service was held on the last day of term in St Nicholas Church. It proved to be an eventful service when, during the storm raging outside, the electricity failed and then water came flooding in from flash flooding on the path outside. Despite all going on around them our children remained calm and just got on with the service. Our Year 2 children who will be moving on to the Dinton site and other schools in September gave readings and all the children sang songs. As usual prayer books were given to Year 2 children by the Chairman of Governors, Chris Blumer on behalf of the PCC, to remind them of their time at Cuddington. The handwriting prize was eagerly awaited by the children and the winner this year was Madeleine Dale.

Our new school year starts on Thursday 3rd September when we will be welcoming 26 new children into Little Owls Reception Class.

Services at St. Nicholas

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

August and September

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| August 2nd and September 6th | 10.00 am HOLY COMMUNION |
| <i>A modern Communion Service with hymns. The children go to "Sunday Special" for part of the service</i> | |
| August 5th and September 2nd | 9.30 am PRAYERS |
| August 9th and September 13th | 10.00 am FAMILY SERVICE |
| <i>A service for all ages, including lively hymns, with the involvement of young musicians and occasional drama.</i> | |
| August 16th and September 20th | 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> | |
| | 11.30 am PRAYERS |
| August 23rd | 10.00 am SONGS OF PRAISE (see page 4) |
| | 11.15 am HOLY COMMUNION |
| <i>A communion service with hymns, according to the Book of Common Prayer.</i> | |
| August 30th | 10.00 am MORNING WORSHIP and BAPTISM |
| <i>A service of worship and the word, with a mixture of traditional and modern hymns for all ages</i> | |
| September 27th | 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 Chatabox and the Grid in the Bernard Hall at 9.50 a.m.</i> | |
| | 11.15 am HOLY COMMUNION |
| <i>A communion service with hymns, according to the Book of Common Prayer.</i> | |

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

John's Column

*"Expect St. Martin's Summer,
Halcyon days"*

William Shakespeare 1564-1616

Recently I took a wander around the garden peering in the bushes and hedges to find any nests that I had missed earlier in the year. As I passed our compost bins at the rear of the large cherry tree I noticed a rough circle of grey and brown feathers on the ground - they were those of a Collared Dove.



I picked up one large feather and pondered upon the predator - a cat perhaps or a hawk? As I stood there I had a strange memory flashback - back to the Thirties.

I was walking with my father on the Berwyn Moor. My father was chatting to a gamekeeper who wore a trilby hat with a number of feathers in the brim and they talked about the protection of Grouse on the Moor and the constant "war" against predators both "winged" and "four legged". The keeper removed his hat and took one of the larger feathers from the brim. "This", the keeper said, "is a wing feather from a Red Grouse, and its my job to protect these birds for my 'Boss' and his gentlemen friends when they come here for the 'Glorious Twelfth' and this bird was killed by a hawk. You may ask how I know", he said and pointed to a tiny hole about two inches from the feather's end. "This was made by a razor sharp curved beak as the feather was plucked. All other predators such as foxes simply tear the feathers from their prey".

Back in the present I examined my feather and true enough two inches from the pointed end was a tiny hole.