

VILLAGE CUDDINGTON VOICE



**July
2009**

VOLUME TWELVE

Cuddington's great week

Tuesday July 7th, 7.00p.m.

? Bishop of Oxford to re-dedicate

St. Nicholas Church followed by "Desserts and Coffee" in the Bernard Hall - everyone very welcome.

Saturday July 11th

? The Fête - "Gnomes at Home"

See opposite

Sunday July 12th



? "Out and About" Family Service

Do come and join us at one or more of the following:

- 10 a.m. starting in Church
 - 10.15 on the Lower Green
 - 10.30 at the top of Bernard Close
 - 10.45 on the Upper Green
 - 11 a.m. back to the Church for refreshments.
- We welcome you!*

? "Burma Lunch" at Tyringham Hall

12.30 p.m.

Monday July 13th

Sunshine Club Garden Party

At Tyringham Hall



The Gnomes are getting very excited about their special day & in order to look their best they insisted on having a bit of a makeover, which was duly conducted in Tyringham Hall garage one Sunday, much to the amusement of local ramblers!



In the week running up to the Fête there will be a series of workshops. These are free & you can attend all or just one but you need to book. Telephone Paschale Straiton on 07885 980524/01844 299455. See dates in events diary.

On Fête day performances will start on the Lower Green at 1pm followed by the fancy dress & procession to the Bernard Hall.

The Fête will be officially opened by chief gnome "Old Mike" who will be greeted by our MC for the afternoon, "Younger Mike".

Haddenham Hoofers will provide live music throughout the afternoon as well as dancing.

Cheeky little gnomes will be in various places including a Costermonger's cart, peeking over garden walls, playing on swings etc.

There are some fantastic prizes for the tombolas/auction inc: Gold pass to the Roald Dahl Museum, swimming sessions at Aqua Vale, entrance to Waddesdon Manor, dinner at Tyringham Hall and many more.

We hope to have a crew from BBC2's "What to eat now" programme filming on the day - not confirmed as yet but we could become known for our culinary skills rather than the village with the most murders (maybe we could combine the two...)



Would anyone be prepared to **sponsor/make a small donation** towards the cost of the little prizes for one of the children's stalls (e.g. the Lucky Dip)? If so please contact:

Maggie - 4 Lower Church St. 290847

Rosemary - Downeys, Lower Church St. 290249

Let's hope for good weather on July 11th but regardless please come along, bring your family and friends and on behalf of the Fête Committee, **have an enjoyable and fun afternoon.**



Food for thought – July 2009

On Tuesday, 7 July the Bishop of Oxford will come to Cuddington to rededicate St Nicholas church after the renovation work that has been completed there. The service will be at 7.00pm and we are looking forward to gathering together and giving praise to God for the generations who have supported and worshiped in the church as well as look forward to the new generations who will come afterwards. The last major refurbishment of the church was in the 1850's when the floor was lowered, new tiles put in, and the chancel was considerably altered and embellished. Pews had already been installed in 1828. This time the chancel has been left unaltered, a new floor and heating system has been installed and seating is now a mixed provision of pews in the Memorial Chapel, with benches and chairs in the main part of the church. In addition a modern audiovisual system has been unobtrusively installed to facilitate teaching and better quality sound. Much effort has gone into the renovation and there are many people who have worked very hard indeed to bring about the changes that have taken place. As with all change, it will take a while for the 'new look' church to become a familiar place of worship again. So let's pray that the new renovation will be as long lasting as the Victorian one and facilitate worship in the village for many more generations. We hope that for the new generations, the church will be as much loved as for many previous ones.

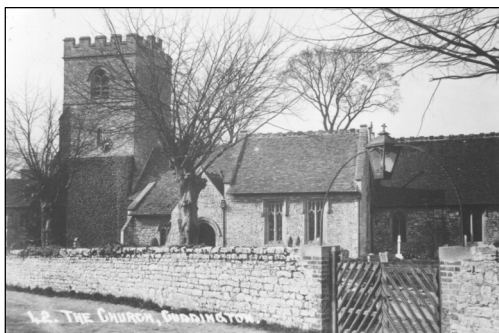
The classic dedication passage in the Bible is the dedication of the Temple by King Solomon and this can be found in 1 Kings 8. Before this time, worship had been in the Tabernacle. This 'tent' had symbolised God's presence with a pilgrim people and had also symbolised that God could not be contained in buildings made of bricks and mortar. The building of the Temple marked a huge change in worship for the Old Testament people of God. No expense was spared and the best of everything was put into the building. It would have been easy to leave it at that, and assume that God would bless the Temple because the work had been well done. However, more than gold and fine timber, God desired sincere worship from his followers. In 1 Kings 8:10ff we see the response of the Lord to the worship of his people. As they worshiped, the Glory or Shekinah of the Lord came down and filled the Temple, such that the priests could not continue their service. It was an awesome experience.

As we come to rededicate Cuddington church, we also need to focus, not on the fabric of the renovation but on prayer to God – asking him to come among us by his Holy Spirit so that *'The glory of this present house will be greater than the glory of the former house,'* Haggai 2:9.

Grace and Peace
Margot

Lime trees in the churchyard

These beautiful trees must have been planted at the end of the nineteenth century or the beginning of the twentieth...see photograph of the young trees taken around 1920. Unfortunately those who planted them did not think how large they would grow over the years and their position near the church wall is not ideal. We all enjoy the young growth on these trees in the spring but by now many people are concerned by the way they grow both over the road and the churchyard. The only way of controlling these trees is sadly by going to the expense of having them professionally pollarded every few years. This autumn/winter will be the time for this to be done again.



Village Voice says "thank you"

A recent donation of £250 from the Parish Council has been much appreciated.

Delivering a free copy of *Village Voice* to every household in the village ten times a year obviously costs money; some of which is covered by our advertisers but donations, including those from the Parish Council and the Fête, help us to keep up this service to the village.

However even with generous financial help we could not manage without the band of willing volunteers who freely give up their time to help in their different ways. Of these a special thank you today for the valiant distributors who, each month whatever the weather, make sure you all get your monthly issue. We also much appreciate our contributors who make sure we have a *Village Voice* to distribute.

So much to say thank you for but just one plea - please send in more letters to the Editor to make sure ours really is a *Village Voice*!

The Editorial Team

£20,000 raised by two villagers!

By an amazing coincidence and completely unknown to each other, two villagers, Joe Bruce and Doug Kennedy, set off to cover the epic distance from John O'Groats to Land's End by different methods but at much the same time. Between them they have raised over £20,000 for their respective good causes and we proudly publish their accounts below.

Joe Bruce writes: My father died last year after a tough and difficult fight with cancer. Much of his last few months were spent at the Alexandra Unit in Dumfries. My family wanted to pay tribute by raising money for the Unit for their understanding, sensitive care and skilled attention which made this time so much easier for everyone.

The plan was hatched – but which way shall we go? Land's End to John O'Groats or John O'Groats to Land's End? Meteorologists suggest the prevailing wind would favour an England to Scotland approach, but we all know that starting in the UK's most northern tip would be downhill all the way!

So we settled on doing it the hard way and the Blazing Saddles (myself and my nephew) set off from John O'Groats on the 24th May 2009. The aim was to cover approximately 900 miles and to end up at Land's End 10 days later ending on the 2nd June (anniversary of my father's death).

We left John O'Groats in bright sunshine but it was not long until we began to experience good Scottish weather of rain and wind combined and it was a tough first day of 110 miles.

We had a support vehicle which was stocked with our food, supplies, bike parts and tools. Having food ready every two hours for us was vital and also having a vehicle able to drive ahead to help us navigate through cities etc was very useful. We stayed at mainly B&Bs along the way and tried to get to bed as early as possible as we were back on the road at 6.30am every morning.

We were lucky as we had few technical problems along the way with only the one puncture and a broken pedal to have to deal with between us.

We cycled our way through some amazing countryside and the further we went south the better the weather conditions became. However, we were not prepared for the hills of Devon and Cornwall which made for a far sterner test than the mountains of Scotland but by that stage we were in full flow.

Other highlights included - On Day 6, we lunched in Cuddington (Cheshire), which incidentally isn't a patch on Cuddington



(Bucks). We were also met by Chris and Skippy Blumer (pictured above) on Day 9 on Dartmoor and we swam across two rivers as we had been bet an additional £50 to go to the charity if we did.

All in all, it was great fun and a wonderful feeling to arrive at Land's End in beautiful sunshine to be greeted by a crowd of well wishers, a bagpiper (see picture above) and our families. We are tantalisingly close to our target of £10k - although money is still coming in. If you can, please do help the cause by cheque or by visiting: - www.justgiving.com/blazingsaddles2009, as monies raised will ensure the unit will be able to continue providing support for the next family affected by cancer.



Doug Kennedy writes: My friend John Drinkwater and I (pictured above) turned 60 at the beginning of April and to celebrate, did the logical thing and walked 1,025 miles from Land's End to John O'Groats. Just to make it more interesting, I took a guitar, a computer and a camera with a spare zoom lens along with me. It took 51 days, between April 5th and May 26th 2009 and on the way, we raised money for the charity Precious Lives and I published a diary with pictures on the Internet which was followed by quite a number of people around the World (www.lemusicaljog.blogspot.com).

We decided at the outset to attempt to walk 20 miles per day, and aimed to complete the journey within 60 days. Our route had to allow us to do this, and contain as much scenic walking as possible with a combination of roads and footpaths. In the event, we decided that getting back in good time was a major priority, so we didn't hang about, and did rather more road walking than forecast. We kept mostly to the west and walked through the middle of Cornwall to Launceston, then up to Great Torrington, over Exmoor and The Quantocks, Somerset Levels, the old Severn Bridge to Chepstow, then up most of Offa's Dyke, Lancashire, Kendal, Carlisle, following the River Clyde to Glasgow, then the West Highland Way to Fort William, up The Great Glen to Drumnadrochit, from which we got to John O'Groats by the quickest route, which was mostly the A9.

We only took 2 days off, and walking 20 plus miles every day is definitely hard work, particularly as the afternoon wore on. We each suffered from some leg and foot discomfort at times, but both ended up very fit and still walking strongly: in fact, had we wanted to, (which we did not), we could easily have continued. As it was, we came home, very relieved, by the quickest route.

I am delighted to announce that we have so far raised well over £11,000 towards building a children's hospice in Cornwall: there is none currently, so families have to journey to Bristol. If you feel that we deserve a 'pat on the back' for our efforts, then you can do so by making a donation online at www.justgiving.com/johndrinkwater



At the beginning of June on a glorious afternoon we visited Cedar House in Wendover. We were welcomed by our hosts Jeremy and Sarah Nicholson who gave us a short talk about their beautiful

chalk garden on the edge of the Chilterns which had been redesigned and developed over the last 3-4 years. They have created a very peaceful garden which winds round shaped borders containing a wide variety of perennial plants and shrubs leading down to a swimming



pond (pictured left) with aquatic plants and a wild flower area. Sarah has a wonderful eye for colour

and texture with many unusual plants both in the borders and on the terrace where one can take in the wonderful views of the surrounding countryside. The hours that Sarah spends in her inspirational garden is obvious and not a weed in sight! We returned to Cuddington after a happy afternoon armed with our plant purchases.

Later in June the Gardening Club was lucky enough to have Edwin Rye, a familiar face to many of our members, who gave an excellent talk on his favourite topic English Roses. He explained the breeding programme and how it can take 10 years to launch a rose at Chelsea. Advice was given on planting, feeding, dead heading, watering, pruning and diseases. Rose breeders like David Austin of Austin Roses often like to make an impact when naming their roses by using Shakespeare, books and people, including of course their own families. David Austin also sells names for Charities.

Scent is very important and Edwin accompanied his talk with some of his/our favourite roses such as Gertrude Jekyll and Graham Thomas which were circulated so we could smell and enjoy. A huge amount of hard work and patience goes into the breeding of roses and Edwin emphasised the importance of the advice mentioned earlier to achieve the best results – especially feeding, dead heading and watering.

The evening was concluded with the sale of plants that Edwin had brought, the proceeds of which together with his fee go to a crèche in South Africa which he and his wife have had connections with over a number of years.

The Gardening Club has a stall at the Village Fete on July 11th so we hope to see you all there.

Fizzing concert and BBQ

St. Nicholas's Church was packed on Saturday 6th June to hear Aylesbury Choral Society take us through an eclectic musical journey from baroque works by Weelkes, Blow, Tallis and Purcell to modern works by Roberton, Vaughan Williams, Bacharach and Mancini. Interspersed with anecdotes from Peter Leach about the various composers, the programme afforded us a real treat.

The programme was well balanced, with some familiar choral items, new arrangements, solo work and an organ voluntary. Conducted by Peter Leach and accompanied by Colin Spinks, the Choral sang with well disciplined phrasing and expression. The pleasing blends of the combined voices filled the air and the acoustics of the church carried the intricate weaving of the four voice parts clearly to all areas of the church. Particular favourites of mine – "If Ye Love Me" (Tallis) and "I was Glad when They said unto Me" (Purcell) formed part of the programme in the first half and the voices soared into the body of the church "on wings of song". The Choral were given a "breather" when Colin Spinks demonstrated the sweet sound of the Victorian organ with an organ voluntary by Purcell. For those of you unfamiliar with the organ, it's small, has one short keyboard, a pedal board and only five stops. Colin, an accomplished organist who has played on some of the biggest and best organs, made ours sound one of the best too.

After a refreshing interval, we were treated to a selection of 20th century music. Another favourite of choirs "All in the April Evening" (Roberton) was sung with passion. A difficult one this, to get the change of key, but the piece floated through the air, ending in that lovely silence when audiences reflect on the words before breaking into applause. An introduction to Vaughan Williams's choral and solo works gave us the chance to hear the beautiful voice of Peter Leach. The swing of "Raindrops keep Fallin' on my Head" (Bacharach) and "Moon River" (Mancini) showed the Choral in relaxed mode, then we all had the chance to raise the roof with the hymn "Christ is made the Sure Foundation", sung to the tune Westminster Abbey, (Purcell) - great practice for our church service the following day! This led into the final choral piece, "O God thou art my God" (Purcell).

This was a wonderful concert. Thank you to all those who gave of their time and talent. You sent us into the somewhat damp June evening with "Summer Fizz" in our hearts.

Jane Benson (organist at St. Nicholas)



As a postscript to the above, may I please say what an enormous pleasure it was for me to welcome Aylesbury Choral Society to Cuddington. I have now been singing with the choir for some 25 years so it

was very special that our summer concert this year should take place in St Nicholas. The church, with its new lighting, looked beautiful; the stone floor and new paint really help the acoustics and both our conductor and organist made many complimentary remarks! It was really lovely to see so many familiar faces in the audience: thank you all for coming. We certainly enjoyed singing for you, and I hope – and believe – that you enjoyed listening to us.

At the end of the concert, choir members and their families retired to our home for a well-earned drink and a bit of a celebration. After so much rain during the day we were blessed with a dry evening, and enjoyed a very merry barbecue party (pictured above).

Angela Sanderson

Cuddington loses two Second World War Veterans

Jill Fisher, daughter of Gordon and Joan, has sent in the following:-

Gordon Laming O.B.E. M.M. died on 24th May 2009.

Gordon and Joan have lived in Cuddington at Swan Cottage for nearly 30 years. They moved here following Gordon's retirement from the Civil Service as Assistant Secretary. He was awarded an O.B.E. for his work in 1970.

During the 2nd World War, Gordon was imprisoned by the Germans in France in 1940. He showed tremendous courage by leading a group of others to freedom by escaping down a manhole and crawling through the sewers for two and a half hours. With the help of some French people who hid them and gave them food, they made their way to the south of France and across the Pyrenees. However, they were then captured by the Spanish and suffered badly by having to sleep on the snow-covered ground with no blankets and no food or water. They were eventually released and made their way to Gibraltar. Gordon was awarded the Military Medal for his actions during the war.

Gordon was always very modest about his achievements and it is only in recent years that the events of his war years have been recorded in various publications of books about escapers. Since living in Cuddington, Gordon and Joan (pictured below) have been



involved in voluntary work teaching their skills of wood turning and glass engraving at the Queen's Park Centre in Aylesbury.

For many years Gordon and Joan were hosts to the Chelsea Pensioners who visited the annual village fete.

When Gordon knew he had a terminal illness he was determined to see his 90th birthday, sadly he missed it by four weeks.

Ron Hooper 1922 - 2009

Ron had spent his early life in London, but eleven years after he and Olive married his firm moved him to this area and he and Olive settled in Cuddington where they brought up their three sons. That was 47 years ago and as Olive says they couldn't have been happier anywhere else.



Following cremation in Amersham on Friday June 5th a Service of Thanksgiving for Ron's life was held in St. Nicholas which was packed with friends and neighbours who had come to support the family. Everyone had known Ron as a most kindly and helpful person.

Among the congregation was a group from the Chinnor Operatic Society who began the service by singing in memory of the man who had been a member of their society for over 20 years, both singing and acting in innumerable productions. This was just one of the many interests Ron had had as was revealed in the tributes given by two of his sons, Martin and Graham. References were made to his love of rowing which he only gave up when a river was no longer accessible and he had then enthusiastically taken to cycling.

Another of Ron's great interests had been bell ringing and for 40 years he had been a member of Cuddington's bell ringing team, where his sense of humour and enthusiasm were evident to all. The present team, including Ron's son, Alan, had rung before the service and as a mark of respect bell-ringers from all the neighbouring churches – Dinton, Nether Winchendon and Haddenham – were present at the service. In the evening the team rang a quarter peal to celebrate his life.

Other aspects of Ron's life were referred to in the family's tributes including his war time service. Ron had been in the army for six years and it was on D Day (65 years almost to the day of this service) that he had been dropped by glider behind enemy lines.

So many activities and interests had made this a very full life, but what came over most strikingly from these tributes was the close family relationships which he had had. This came over not only from the sons' tributes but from those of two of his granddaughters, Bethany and Laura. We heard of the love they had had for their grandfather and of the many happy times they had spent together.

Ron will be greatly missed by his family and friends, but he has left to all very happy memories.

Message from the Hooper Family

The Hooper family would like to express their heartfelt gratitude to everyone who has helped and supported Olive and Ron over the last few months, with special thanks to Judy Miller whose friendship means more than words can say. It was particularly comforting that so many people came to Ron's memorial service, where the warmth of feeling was so obviously evident.

Thanks to all who shared their memories of Ron with us. It's a comfort to know that, although he's gone, he's not forgotten.

Gardens Open



**Clockwise from top left:
Box Cottage, Tyringham Hall, Bernard Close,
The Old Place and The Old School House**

"A Garden is a Lovesome Thing, God Wot!"
The Victorian poet T E Brown had clearly just visited some of Cuddington's gardens when he wrote his immortal words! On Sunday the 21st June they were open again to aspiring poets, gardeners and those who simply wanted to know what their neighbours had been getting up to. Under the aegis of the National Garden Scheme five local gardens were opened and a steady flow

of visitors were treated to wonderful examples of what can be done in any shape or size of plot.

On entering The Old School House garden we were welcomed by a gnome and a peacock. This was a garden built up by Margaret and her daughter Marianne over many years. It was a delight of twisting paths through many rooms, each different from the other and all with enticing views.

Tyringham Hall is well known to us all. Its grounds are a contrast to the smaller gardens; it is on a grand scale with swimming pool; tennis court, long views, and as you would expect, all of course beautifully presented.

The Old Place garden lies alongside a charming house of two separate characters. There are large lawns and wild and natural areas. Hidden amongst the beds were sculptures – and two splendid scarecrows.

Next door is Box Cottage, where the Picots welcomed visitors to their pretty thatched cottage garden. Although a smaller plot they have gravel areas, water features, and a dazzling array of colour – roses, delphiniums, lupins, honeysuckle and a host of others.

And finally the Orchards at 33 Bernard Close; the visitor is welcomed by a fragrant scent; there are bedding plants in the ground, hanging from walls, and vegetables, tomatoes and pot plants. Although not large the garden is a delight to the eye.

And at the end a delicious tea either at Tyringham Hall (courtesy of Sherry and Phil) or the Bernard Hall (thanks to Charlotte and her enthusiastic – and talented – team of helpers.)

With the sunshine to complete the picture Cuddington was presented as the idyllic English village.

John Fortgang



We have received a number of important items of information from the Thames Valley Police Community Messaging Service

and we would ask you to consider the following to avoid becoming a victim of crime!

With better weather, hopefully approaching, many of us will be making visits to local beauty spots or other places of interest. When leaving your vehicle unattended in the car park, avoid leaving your property inside your car but if you really have to, do make sure the items are well out of sight. Do not be tempted to leave your handbags, laptops, sat nav systems etc. in the boot of your car and do remove items of value from the glove box. Further, remove sat navs and mobile phones from their cradles otherwise if seen, they are likely to encourage a potential thief to break into your vehicle.

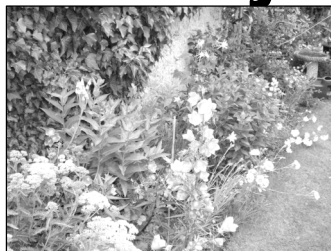
Be vigilant and report on persons/vehicles who are acting suspiciously. If possible note the registration number and details of any such vehicles together with a description of the persons acting strangely. Telephone any information to the police on 0845 8 505 505 – even if it turns out to be a false alarm the Police would rather check on the incident, than be told later that a crime had occurred.

At home and working in your garden make sure that areas of your house you cannot see are fully secure thus reducing the risk of a quiet visit from opportunist burglars. Lock away your garden tools when you have finished with them in a shed or garage.

The Police have issued a warning after it came to light that fraudsters had been using peoples' personal details to have goods delivered to their home, which they have never ordered. Elderly residents have receiving parcels delivered from various catalogue companies, they later receive a call from a unknown person who says that the parcel has been delivered to them by mistake and that he/she would come over to collect it. The packages mostly contain items of value, such as mobile phones, video cameras and clothing. Anyone receiving such a package followed by a call from someone who says they will come to collect it should immediately contact Detective Constable Sharon Vann at Aylesbury CID via 0845 8 505 505.

Dates for your Diary

A Cuddington garden



July

Wednesday 1 st 8.00 p.m.	Parish Council Meeting
Sunday 5 th 10 a.m. - 5.00 p.m.	Workshop in Bernard Hall
Monday 6 th 4.30 p.m. - 6.30 p.m.	Workshop in Bernard Hall
Tuesday 7 th 4.00 p.m. - 6.00 p.m.	Workshop in Bernard Hall
Wednesday 8 th 4.30 p.m. - 6.30 p.m.	Workshop in Bernard Hall
Friday 10 th 4.30 p.m. - 6.30 p.m.	Rehearsals in Bernard Hall
Saturday 11 th	VILLAGE FETE
Sunday 12 th 12.30 p.m.	Burma Lunch at Tyringham Hall
Tuesday 14 th noon	W.I. Outing
Wednesday 22 nd 11.00 a.m.	Children's Entertainer in Bernard Hall
Saturday 25 th 8.00 p.m.	Monthly Bingo in Club
Monday 27 th 10 a.m. - 12.30 p.m.	Play Round the Parishes on Playing Fields

August

Wednesday 5 th 8.00 p.m.	Parish Council Meeting
Thursday 6 th 10 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.	Play Round the Parishes on Playing fields
Thursday 13 th 10a.m. to 12.30 p.m.	Play Round the Parishes on Playing Fields
Tuesday 25 th 10 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.	Play Round the Parishes on Playing Fields
Saturday 29 th 8.00 p.m.	Monthly Bingo in Club
Monday 31 st	Tug of War on Playing Field (Details to be given next month)

A pocket full of poems



After the June meeting in the playing fields' clubhouse, the scene was set by Diane Picot who opened the social time with reading a poem written by her grandson when he was just 10 years old, and, whenever possible, used to spend a lot of time on their farm. Each member then read one of their favourite poems, some remembered from early school days. We all enjoyed listening to a delightful selection of poems, both humorous and thought provoking written by classical and modern poets together with the members telling us briefly why each poem was special to them. The poems attracted much interaction between our members during our tea break. Our photograph of ducks illustrates Dorothy Woodford's chosen poem.



Our next meeting in the clubhouse will be on Tuesday 8th September at 2.30pm when Helen Slaymaker will give a talk entitled "**Life as a three-way stretch**". A note for your diary, we shall be holding our annual coffee morning with produce and craft stalls. on Saturday 12th September on the Upper Green from 10.00am to 12 noon.

The Age of Stupid

On Wednesday 17th June about 70 people packed into the Bernard Hall in Cuddington to see the climate change documentary drama, "The Age of Stupid". The film is set in 2055 when the whole planet has been completely wrecked by runaway global warming, and the human race is on the verge of total extinction. An archivist looks back at video material from 2008, and asks "Why did we not do something about global warming when we had the chance?" It is a powerful and disturbing film. After the film I led a discussion for half an hour on the issues raised. Amongst these were human population, nuclear and renewable energy, the science and politics of global warming, and what we can do at individual and community levels. The film was put on by a new group, Transition Thame and District, who are running a whole series of events and projects in our area (if you want more details contact me at martin@hodsons.org). If you missed the film and want to see it, then it is showing next in the Walter Rose Room, Haddenham Village Hall, on Wednesday 8th July and the doors open at 7.30pm for an 8.00pm start.

Dr. Martin J. Hodson

Sunrise walk - minus the sun!



What the walkers didn't see - a previous year's sunrise.

sleeping village to make the climb to the Upper Winchendon Observatory under a light drizzle which continued unabated till the descent was nearly completed.

However there was still much to enjoy – the beautiful views, the hot drinks and lovely home-made biscuits at the top, the smug satisfaction of all that exercise! And, of course, there is the conviction that next year the midsummer sky will blaze again over Cuddingtonian fields!

As often happened when the founder of the tradition, Ruby Small, led the walk, the sun failed to show its disc over the horizon this year. 20 stalwarts and 5 dogs left the

Green tips

Green Tips Number 2 In your garden:

Save money on chemicals and improve biodiversity in your garden by reducing use of pesticides and artificial fertilizers.

With a bit of patience, a garden can be beautiful AND chemical-free. For example, we had quite a lot of snails in our garden a couple of years ago, fewer last year and they are much harder to find this year. It is a little garden, and it seems that NOT using poisons combined with encouraging birds and our toad has resulted in a new balance where snails are not a pest any more.

Doug Kennedy M.Sc.



In the year of the Millennium our school participated in a Songs of Praise event held at the Adam's Park Stadium in High Wycombe. Since then there hasn't been a venture of this kind until this year. On Tuesday 9th June the whole school travelled to High Wycombe where we rehearsed with thirty two other schools from the whole of Buckinghamshire before taking part in a Sing Praise celebration. It was wonderful to have so many children and staff together in one venue, joining in singing the twelve hymns that had been chosen. Luckily the forecast of rain proved wrong and we had a super day out.

Little Owls have been busy starting the planting of their raised vegetable beds in the early year's garden. They are also busy keeping the potatoes watered for the Gardening Club competition.

All of our Year 1 children are visiting Green Park in Aston Clinton for a "Gruffalo Day" at the end of June. Based on the story by Julia Donaldson the children will be tracking the Gruffalo through the grounds!

A whole school sports event will take place on the Dinton site field on Thursday 2nd July, weather permitting.

We have lots of musical events lined up for the next few weeks. Children will be performing at the schools Bernwode Music Festival and then at the Waddesdon MAD (Music, Arts and Drama) festival. Our children will be singing on the Sunday afternoon at Waddesdon.

Our end of year service will be held on the last day of term, Friday 17th July at 1.15pm in St Nicholas Church.

Letter to the Editor

As a member of the RSPB, I am keen to promote the launch of the RSPB National Swift Inventory that is now available online on the RSPB website, for members of the public to complete (either electronically or by printing off and posting). The inventory which has been produced in partnership with Swift Conservation Groups provides the opportunity for the public to record calling or screaming swifts and their nest sites. Swift population are dramatically declining in the UK and need as much help as possible. The information collected will be used by the RSPB and conservation groups to help protect swift sites. For further information and access to the Inventory please refer to the link below.

<http://www.rspb.org.uk/things/todo/surveys/swifts/>

Claudine Walduck

John's Column

*The summer's flower is the summer sweet,
Though in itself it only live and die.
But if that flower with base infection meet,
The basest weed outbraves his dignity.*
(Sonnets) William Shakespeare



On the 28th May last at 09.15 the Blue Tits flew the kitchen window bird box, but there were only two chicks !! The first out made it to the lowest branch of the plum tree, but the second landed safely in the Mint bed. We did not see them after that. But why only two ?? Later on that day, and since there was no other activity around the box, Joan decided to open the box side door. She found the nest spotlessly clean and tidy but no trace of any other occupants. Since Blue Tits are generally recorded as laying clutches of from five to twelve eggs, this poses the question –why then only two? –I doubt we shall ever know.

Humanity's constant attrition against nature continues – the industrial revolution which has now spread into the countryside coupled with the demand for more and more housing presents problems the likes of which I dare not contemplate.

Services at St. Nicholas

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

July

- | | | |
|------|----------|--|
| 1st | 9.30 am | PRAYERS |
| 5th | 10.00 am | HOLY COMMUNION
<i>A modern Communion Service with hymns. The children go to "Sunday Special" for part of the service</i> |
| 12th | 10.00 am | OUT AND ABOUT FAMILY SERVICE
<i>See front page for details</i> |
| 19th | 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 |
| 26th | 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> |
| | 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.

Christian Aid Week

In spite of the committee's inability this year to organise a traditional main event on the Saturday evening during Christian Aid Week, Cuddington has again displayed its commitment to supporting the important work carried out by Christian Aid.

With house to house collections and the Bring and Buy/Plant Sale, plus an extra contribution from the combined Cuddington and Dinton School, the handsome sum of £1,236 was raised. The committee would like to sincerely thank all those involved in achieving this wonderful total.