

VILLAGE CUDDINGTON VOICE



**OCTOBER
2010**

VOLUME THIRTEEN

Harvest Festival

*O give thanks to the Lord for He is good,
His steadfast love endures for ever (Psalm 106.1)*

Do join us for some of the following activities at St. Nicholas:

Saturday, October 9th 7.00 p.m. - Harvest Supper in the Bernard Hall
Sunday, October 10th 10.00 a.m. - **Family Harvest Service**
6.00 p.m. - **Special Evening Service**
Monday, October 11th 9.05 a.m. - School Harvest Service
Tuesday, October 12th 11.00 a.m. - Harvest Coffee Morning

Gifts of flowers and harvest produce should be brought to the church by 10 a.m. on the Saturday morning or to the Family Service.

Some of these gifts will go to the elderly in the village, some to the Red Cross Centre in Haddenham and some will be sold in aid of Tear Fund's work with Disaster Relief.

See page 2 for further Harvest Festival information



New Kitchen ready!

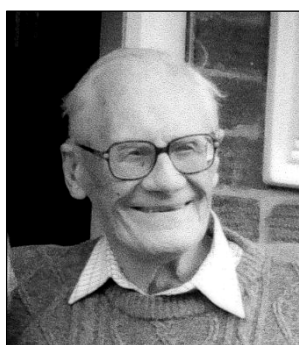
The new kitchen (see picture below) and other improvements to our Village Hall will be complete by the end of September. As well as a brand new kitchen, constructed to the style and quality of the existing building, we have bought a commercial dishwasher which can complete a wash cycle in just a few minutes and built a new wall and roof to improve the gent's WC and bring it within the main building. We are also looking to make substantial improvements to the ladies WC later in the year.



We are extremely pleased with the development. Mark Bryant and his colleagues have done us proud by finishing the job on time and within budget and keeping the work so tidy and I would like to take this opportunity to pass on my thanks to Mark and his team.

(Continued on page 7)

John Underwood 1920 - 2010



With the sudden death of John on 27th August all concerned with Village Voice have suffered a very great loss.

In 1998 soon after the newsletter's first edition in September of that year John brought along an article wondering if we would like to print it. We certainly did and that article became the forerunner of well over 100 others as month after month for 12 years John regularly brought along his article which became for very many readers the highlight of each issue. Starting as "Village Birdwatch" the

column soon became "John's Village Birdwatch and more recently to "John's Column" as not all articles were about birds -holidays in his beloved Wales as well as views on the weather and state of the country were all topics covered from time to time. But whatever the subject John's personality came over. We always appreciated John's knowledge, his wisdom and his great sense of humour, and he was never alone in what he described - Joan always featured either by name or as "my wife" or "she in-doors" - we realised theirs was a very special relationship. John as a family man is further described by his daughter's tribute (see page 6) and we have also re-printed that first article in his regular position on the back page.

From our own deep sense of loss we extend our deepest sympathy to Joan, to Jane and to Stephen and the rest of the family.



Thought for the month

Dear Friends,

It is never easy saying "Good-bye". As we leave Cuddington to live near our daughter in Essex we want to say how much we will miss you with your welcome and friendship both in the church and in the village.

We will miss our links with the Village School, Garden Club and Fete and all the activities at church where we sought to share the gospel of the Lord Jesus. It is good that the church is involved so much in village life. Thank you to so many and if we have upset anyone please accept our apologies.

In everything we have done we have had one purpose. Paul put it like this "It was my determination to concentrate entirely on Jesus Christ Himself and His death on the cross" (1 Corinthians 2.2 J.B. Phillips version). The Good News is that Jesus, the Son of God, came to earth, shared our human life with one plan in view, to pay the penalty for our sin so we can be forgiven and bring us back into fellowship with God. When He rose again this guaranteed eternal life to all who trust Him. This good news is for everyone "God so loved the world...." (John 3.16). It is Good News we need to accept and believe to receive the benefits of all Jesus came to do.....to know Him as our personal Friend and Saviour.

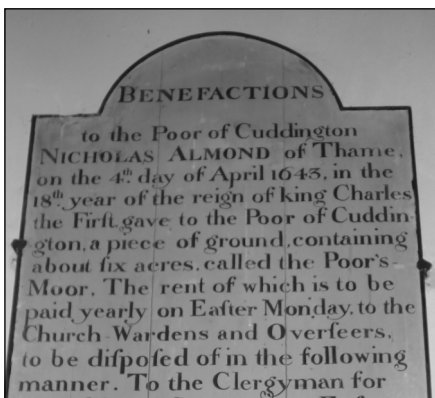
Our prayer is that all Cuddington will come to know him and grow in His love. Our greatest encouragement would be that we have had a small part to play making this happen.

May God bless you all,
Chris and Eric Chamberlain

Cuddington's seventeenth century benefactor

A piece of ground bequeathed to Cuddington in the seventeenth century is still auctioned each year, and thanks to a change in the wording of the trust deed some years ago, any young Cuddington person going on to an apprenticeship or further education is eligible to apply for a grant.

Now is the time for applications to be made: name, address, age and full details of the proposed course should be sent as soon as possible to Mrs. Jennifer Schram de Jong at Larden, Spicketts Lane.



Harvest Festival

Harvest Supper

Everyone is welcome at our Family Harvest Supper on Saturday October 9th 6.30 for 7p.m.

It will be in the Bernard Hall, with a licensed bar.

Tickets are available from Myles Saker Tel: 291825

Adults £7.50, Concessions & School Children £5, Family ticket £20

Any surplus, after paying expenses, will go to Tear Fund's work for disaster relief.

Harvest Coffee Morning

This will be our second harvest coffee morning in church. Do come along to enjoy it whether you came last year or not.

There will be a gift of harvest produce for each OAP

There will on sale other harvest produce, in aid of Tear Fund, along with jewellery in aid of Kampala Music Centre and cards for all occasions in aid of Utugi Children's Centre in Kenya.



Tic Toc Club

This club for mothers (or fathers) and their pre-school children has recently celebrated its third birthday. Weekly meetings take place in the Playing Fields Club Room.

Future planned activities include a visit to Lynx Gym later in September and it is hoped to arrange a visit from a children's entertainer, and then, of course, there will be the Christmas party with its special surprise visitor.

As one member has said "This is a really good place to compare notes and to pass on information regarding experience of nurseries and pre-schools etc over a cup of tea."

New members are very welcome especially as some of the children have now moved on to school. Contact Louise Kirkwood on 01844 299045 for details.

A Railway gem

How many of you are aware that a delightful journey back in time is available only a few miles away? At Chinnor there is the Chinnor and Princes Risborough Association's quintessential country branch line railway, a preserved length of track with steam engines and appropriate rolling stock.

The Association acquired the track in 1994 and has been working on the railway since then, obtaining locomotives, coaches and wagons and restoring them to their original condition. All the members of the Association are dedicated volunteers and the results of their hard work are a joy.



The station itself is straight out of "Railway Children" and you can easily see the children's father emerging out of the steam; it is an exact replica of the original Victorian station. All the station staff are properly dressed, up to their peaked caps, and the Station Master wears the regulation waistcoat and watch chain, though he ought to put on more weight.

In addition to steam engines there are diesels of various kinds. They are all used to pull the coaches which are decked out in a classic chocolate and cream livery, and are as comfortable inside as they look.

The round trip is some seven miles, travelling in the direction of Princes Risborough. At present there are no other stations; the train stops at "Thame Junction", the engine runs back to the other end and the train returns to Chinnor. The whole journey takes about an hour (it's not an express train) and the scenery is superb, with hardly any road traffic to be seen. Having bought your ticket you can do the journey as often as you like while you're there. There are plans to extend the service in due course.

The volunteers are very friendly and are more than happy to tell you all about their train set. The trains run every weekend from March to October, with a special service at Christmas. There are also Cream Tea services and Special Events such as Murder Mystery Dinners.

Grandchildren and grandfathers in particular will love it. It really is well worth a visit. The station is just off the main road through Chinnor; there are the usual brown sign-posts to it, and there's a good-sized car park.

For more detailed information go to www.chinnorrailway.co.uk.

John Fortgang

Charity BBQ at Larden

On a beautiful sunny Sunday in August, with the help of the Cuddington History Society Committee, we held a BBQ to raise money for two charities: the Aylesbury Branch of BUCKS Young Carers, and the Health and Food Programme of Tujatane, a small school in Livingstone, Zambia - a school we have got to know and support through our daughter, Honour.

We would very much like to thank everyone who came and supported us and also the History Society, without whose support and help (especially Brenda and Maryon) the BBQ just would not have happened! A big thank you also to those of you who could not come to the BBQ but who kindly gave us donations. The day was a great success and raised the sum of £335. With gift aid, the amount sent to each charity will come to just over £200. We are absolutely delighted with this result and hope that everyone enjoyed the day as much as we did.

A little later in the year, I will be selling Tujatane calendars, which are lovely, at £5 each; proceeds to the Food Programme. If you are interested, please get in touch.

Thank you again, Jennifer and Jaap

Cuddington's weather

After the promising start to the summer with June's very warm, dry and sunny weather, unfortunately July and August failed to impress! Both months were cooler than average and August was very wet. It was Cuddington's coolest July since 2007 and August was as cool as that in the same year.

Daytime maximum air temperatures in July and August averaged 20.8 (69F) and 20.5 (69F) deg Celsius respectively; the ten year average for both months is 22.5 deg Celsius (73F). Night time air minimum temperatures averaged 11.6 deg Celsius (53F) and 11.1 deg Celsius respectively - the long term average for both months is 11.8 deg Celsius (53F).

The actual highest day time air maxima, for July and August, occurred on the 9th (30.1 deg C, 86F) and 22nd (25.0 deg C, 77F) respectively. The lowest day time air maxima for July and August occurred on the 13th, of both months, (18.4 deg C, 65F) and (15.4 deg C, 60F), respectively. The actual highest night time air minima for July and August occurred on the 26th (17.0 deg C, 63F) and 21st (17.7 deg C, 64F), respectively. The lowest night time air minima for July and August occurred on the 18th (8.7 deg C, 48F) and 31st (5.6 deg C, 42F) respectively.

With the installation of additional weather instruments at my observatory, from August 2010, I will now report the duration of bright sunshine and the highest wind gust for each month.

August received 99.50 hours of bright sunshine - this was very disappointing compared to the long term average of around 194 hours - for 'sun worshippers' it was indeed a dismal month! There were two noteworthy wind gusts during August, both reaching 40 mph (64 kph). The first was associated with a shower during the morning of the 23rd and the latter, during passing of a squall during the afternoon of the 29th.

July's rainfall accumulation continued the theme of being below average, which I described in the last news letter. It was a dry month, receiving only a total of 17.9 mm (0.70 inches), the 12 year average is 55.9 mm (2.2 inches). The five month 'drought' ended dramatically during August with an accumulated total of 146.1 mm (5.75 in) by month's end - interestingly 68.4 mm (2.69 in) of this total fell over two days, 22nd and 25th.

Sean Clarke

Farewell to Eric and Chris Burma Lunch



The Family Service on Sunday 12th September saw an even larger congregation than usual, as St Nicholas – and Cuddington – had to bid a farewell to Eric and Chris Chamberlain.

As is always the case when there is a special event in the Church, it was a glorious day which gave the occasion an extra sparkle, and augmenting the congregation of all ages there was even an orchestra

with a variety of instruments, all played with enthusiasm.

So after eleven years of post retirement work for Cuddington Eric took his last service here, greatly helped by Chris. Both are well-known for their special affinity with children, which was again demonstrated on this occasion. It is obvious that we're losing a partnership, not just a solo act.

Eric's talk was centred round the theme "What difference does it make to be a Christian?" – dealing with obstacles and opposition, but remembering that Jesus died on the Cross for us. It was cleverly illustrated by blindfolded children given conflicting instructions from others, not always able to see the obstacles in front of them. The songs chosen were very much Eric and Chris – all cheerful and positive, accompanied at the end by a lot of flag-waving youngsters.

Eric's final prayer was much to the point – may this be a welcoming church.

After the service, with a backdrop of a giant photo of Eric fully robed ("doesn't he scrub up well" said someone) a number of well deserved tributes were given, led by David Benson ("they have touched us all"), showing varied photos of their work amongst us.

We were then treated to an eye-opening picture of domestic life chez Eric and Chris, as portrayed by Ollie (complete with apron and glasses) and Will (complete with dog collar).

Myles Saker told us how Eric and Chris came here after their last retirement for a bit of quiet and peace, which somehow seemed to elude them. He reminded us of the work they did for the school and the village as a whole, especially during the interregnum.

Tributes were paid by James and Jane Giles, Caroline Stonham and Margot's husband Martin, on her behalf, acknowledging the help Margot had received from them when she first arrived at Haddenham. David presented a splendid card signed by just about every member of the congregation, and a cheque. One of the young members of the church presented Chris with a basket of flowers.

Eric gave a very gracious response, saying that they had tried to help where they could, and acknowledging all the help he has had from Chris. She in turn thanked the children in particular, urging them to "keep in touch with Jesus".

And so the formal part of the occasion ended. Many stayed for a coffee and cakes and for informal chats. Finally we all said our goodbyes to this lovely couple and wished them all the very best in their new home.

For many years now Sherry Scott has hosted a lunch in aid of the "Burma Forces Welfare Association". This has always been a delightful occasion and this year's was no exception. Over 150 guests enjoyed the lunch which, as always, included a delicious Burma Curry. After the excitement of who would win the raffle prizes and who would bid the highest for exceptionally valuable articles, speakers who included the guest of honour, Viscount Slim, spoke of the work being done in Burma to help the veteran Burmese soldiers who fought alongside our own forces against the Japanese in World War Two. The Burmese Government has not allowed the British or American governments to provide pensions



or help of any kind to a now aged group of old soldiers, so their plight is now desperate..

Sherry's late husband, Ray Scott, had fought with these men during the Burma campaign and after the war had founded the "Burma Forces Welfare Association" in order to assist them. After his death Sherry has continued the work visiting the country on many occasions, and in ways such as these lunches providing the money so desperately needed by the 4045 surviving veterans. Sherry has created 12 Sherry Scott Clinics throughout Burma which offer basic care but all of this "eats" money. Sherry works continually raising the funds needed in many ways including this annual Burma Lunch held in the beautiful gardens of Tyringham Hall.

Sherry wants to convey her thanks to those who came to the lunch and to others not able to be present who contributed to the cause.

It was very humbling to hear of the plight of these men who fought for us and no-one could fail to be full of admiration for the wonderful work Sherry, now assisted by Phil, is doing to alleviate their sufferings.

Cuddington Playing Field Association

VILLAGE BONFIRE AND FIREWORKS PARTY

Saturday, 30th October, 2010 at 5 p.m.

on the Cuddington Playing Fields

Mulled Wine, Licensed Bar, BBQ and Hot Chilli

Tickets include fireworks and food

Adult - £7.00

Child - £3.00 - Child under 5 free

Tickets available from Denise's and the Village Shop



After the summer break Kathy Brown a landscape and garden designer gave a beautifully illustrated and informative talk on Creating a Cottage Garden. Her main tenet was that a garden should appeal to all the senses: sight, taste hearing, touch and smell. She gave us ideas on planting up containers, not only with flowers but herbs as well, putting hostas in hanging baskets to avoid slugs and snails, planting fruit alongside flowers in the borders and different flower combinations.

She is the creator of The Manor House Garden at Stevington which covers 4 acres and we saw from her talk the wonderful roses, clematis, foxgloves laburnum, wisteria etc. that she has there. She also has an edible flower border and whetted our appetites with delicious ideas for their usage using rose petals, lavender, primroses, nasturtiums, herbs to name but a few and her recipes ranged from cakes, ice creams, sorbets to salad and savoury dishes.

She has published several books and one on Edible Flowers. At the end of the evening we were able to buy beautiful cards of her garden with recipes on the back using edible flowers.

The evening was preceded by the Murphy Potato Growing competition which this year was won by Robin Hood from Chearsley with the heaviest crop of 7lbs 4 oz 8



Robin and Elsie with their winning entries

drams. The heaviest individual potato was won by our Chairman, Elsie Frost, with a weight of 10 oz 8 drams. The School winner was last year's Reception Class (now Class 1) with a crop of 2lbs 4

oz. The variety Estima (second early). Thank you to everyone for taking part and making it another Gardening Club highlight and well done to the winners.

There will be no meeting in October but an outing has been arranged to Wisley for 2nd October.

The next meeting at the Clubhouse will be the 8th November when Elsie Frost will be giving a talk and demonstration on Winter Containers.

Singing for pleasure

After a summer break our singing group will meet again on Wednesday 20th October at 2.00pm in St Nicholas Church, Cuddington. We welcome new members – no audition or previous experience required, just a love of singing.

Please contact me, Eileen Fortgang on 01844 291880, or by email to johnfortgang@gmail.com.

County-wide speed review

Bucks County Council (BCC) commenced their County-wide Speed Limit Review some seven years ago, the county was divided into 14 areas with Cuddington falling into Area 11. The main purpose was to consider whether the limits and signage are appropriate for today's road and traffic conditions. The Cuddington's Traffic Action Group, through the Parish Council, drew up recommendations and these were presented to BCC seven years ago. In spite of extreme pressure from our Parish Council delay after delay occurred and thus we have only just now received notification of the County Council's review committee's decisions.

A number of articles on this subject have appeared in Village Voice over the last seven years and full information about Cuddington's proposals were contained in an article published in Village Voice in December 2009. To remind you, the main recommendations put forward by the Parish Council in the interests of road safety were: -

Speed Limits

- C56 – the 30mph limit be extended in both directions starting at the Winchendon Hill junction though the village to Brookfield Farm on the Aylesbury Road.
- C66 – move the existing 30mph sign back to just past Dadbrook House and Dadbrook Farm to slow the traffic thereby helping with visibility.
- C66 – 40mph from the end of the revised 30mph position to Kings Crossroad where it meets the A418.
- C56 – 50mph from Winchendon Hill Junction to Chearsley.
- C56 – 50mph limit from Brookfield Farm to the C56/A418 to Dinton Castle.

HGV Restrictions

- C56 and C66 – introduce a 7.5 tonnes limit on all roads leading to Cuddington, the Kings Crossroad and also Chearsley.

After all the hard work carried out by a number of people, it is with some sadness that I have to tell you that the Review Committee's decision is to turn down all of our proposals with the exception of the one concerning Dadbrook. Here they have agreed to move the 30mph sign back 41 metres towards the Kings Crossroad direction. Although BCC say there is no appeal procedure against their conclusions we will continue to make our local voice heard on this subject. Anyone wishing to support our recommendations in an endeavour to over-turn BCC's draconian decision should write to: -

Mrs Valerie Letheren
Cabinet Member for Transportation
Bucks County Council
County Hall
Walton Street
Aylesbury
HP20 1UA

Please do make your views known!

Michael Pegge



Best Kept Village - again!

MORRIS CUP COMES HOME.

"I was set down from the carrier's cart at the age of three; and there, with a sense of bewilderment and terror my life in the village began".

Whilst this may have been true of Laurie Lee I doubt very much whether any one ever felt like that coming to this village. Not only are there so many delightful residents here, they work very hard to keep it spic and span.

And so, after residing somewhere else for the last five years, the Morris Cup is now back where it belongs – here in Cuddington. The Morris Cup is of course awarded to The Best Kept Village in Buckinghamshire. If you look at the handsome board on the Up-



The presentation party on Upper Green

per Green you will see that the Cup has been here in 1987, 1988, 1989, 1992, 1994, 1998 and 2005. And now 2010. The village has good reason to pat itself on its collective back.

A large number of local residents gathered on the Upper Green on Saturday 4th September to see Richard Pushman, chair-

man of the Best Kept Village Competition in Buckinghamshire, introduce Sir Henry Aubrey-Fletcher, Lord Lieutenant of the County, who delivered a graceful speech as he presented the award to the village. As it always does when required in Cuddington the sun shone, cucumber sandwiches and proper scones with jam and cream were handed round, and tea was plentiful – hot water courtesy of the Blumers. Grateful thanks to all who, as ever on these occasions, contributed to the superb spread.

Sherry and the other members of the Parish Council also say a big Thank You to everyone in the village for your hard work in achieving this award.. As we do not want to wait another five years before we earn it again, it's down to all of us make jolly sure that we keep our own little bits of Cuddington neat and tidy between now and next June - and the Morris Cup will remain at home.

Judges' Marks and Comments

84 marks were awarded out of 100 and the comments were as follows:-We all liked the flowers which border the path to the church door and feature throughout the village. It is such a welcome to churchgoers. The churchyard is in good order and the War Memorial is the best cared for of all the memorials we have seen this year. We liked the village pump. The bus shelters were in good order and the notice boards were excellent. All the material was up to date and very neatly arranged. The Bernard Hall was in use and is clearly a valuable feature of the village. We saw no litter. The children's play area is fenced, has some interesting equipment and is very well presented. We thought the sports area and the children's playground would benefit from a signpost on the main road indicating where they are.

Thanks to everyone who contributed to the success, and especially to Jim Hayward who once again has steered us to victory.

John Underwood remembered

"Live all you can – it's a mistake not to. It doesn't much matter what you do in particular, so long as you have your life. If you haven't had that, what HAVE you had? "

Henry James 1843 – 1916



My father chose this quotation for the 'Voice' not realizing that he had so little time left, but it sums up so neatly how he viewed life. He was looking forward to his 90th birthday and pondering in the rest of his piece on the many 'events' in his life. To quote, he had,

"lived through three, possibly four, major world depressions, several national strikes and emergencies and served Iraq in the RAF during WWII. I survived meningitis, malaria and years of plaster casts and steel framed corsets owing to a slipped disc...so when I caught a nasty cold and was having a grumble, my little lady walked by remarking offhand, "Oh you'll survive."

He was a true gentleman who loved the countryside around the village that he had come to call home with Joan, his wife of 64 years. He still however, felt a strong affinity with his Welsh roots and every year would travel off in search of familiar haunts. This year he had been fortunate to have two visits to Wales – both in unusually glorious weather – and had been thrilled to see the Ospreys nesting and feeding their young, courtesy of the RSPB on the Glaslyn Estuary.

The following words of W H Davies always put me in mind of Dad, who taught me to be still, look and listen for nature to come to you,

*"A poor life this, if full of care
We have no time to stand and stare."*

Without his wise advice I would never have seen the wonderful sight of a heron on the river Thame near Winchendon, standing within touching distance, or the Kingfisher flashing to and fro at Mains Bridge. There were always pets too, including a budgie for which my Dad had an inordinate fondness. 'Bill' repaid his kindness in letting him out regularly by pecking him smartly on the nose at each and every opportunity! Not to be put off, Dad said that he was only expressing affection....

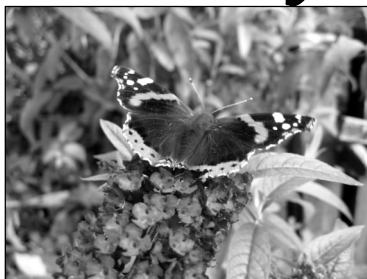
Dad remained an avid 'watcher' and lover of our feathered friends till the end and he will be much missed by his family, friends and the wider community who enjoyed his regular column.

The family would like to express their grateful thanks to everyone for their kind messages of sympathy and many offers of help. It is much appreciated.

Jane Hindmarsh.

Dates for your Diary

An Autumn butterfly



October

Saturday 2 nd	Gardening Club Coach outing to Wisley
Wednesday 6 th 7.30 p.m.	Parish Council Meeting
Saturday 9 th 7.00 p.m.	Harvest Supper in the Bernard Hall
Sunday 10 th 10.00a.m.) and 6.00p.m.)	Harvest Festival at St. Nicholas
Monday 11 th 9.05 a.m.	School Harvest Service in church
Tuesday 12 th 10.30 a.m.	Harvest Coffee Morning in church
Tuesday 12 th 2.30 p.m.	W.I. Talk: "Village Sayings"
Thursday 14 th 7.30 p.m.	Gentlemen's Dining Club at The Crown (see page 7)
Saturday 16 th 8.00 p.m.	Quiz Night in Cuddington Social Club
Tuesday 19 th 7.30 p.m.	History Society "The Great Exhibition of 1851"
Wednesday 20 th 2.00 p.m.	Singing Group in St Nicholas
Sunday 31 st 4.00 - 6.00p.m.	"Light" Party for families in Bernard Hall

November

Wednesday 3 rd 7.30 p.m.	Parish Council Meeting
Monday 8 th 7.30 p.m.	Gardening Club Talk and Demonstration on Winter Containers
Tuesday 9 th 2.30 p.m.	W.I. "Gift Wrapping - Hands On"
Sunday 14 th 6.00 p.m.	Evening Service for Remembrance Sunday at St Nicholas
Tuesday 16 th 7.30 p.m.	History Society "Chaucer and His Times"
Saturday 20 th 8.00 p.m.	Theatre in the Villages Productions - "Nearly Lear"
Saturday 27 th 6.00 p.m.	CYD presents "Persephone" in the Bernard Hall
Sunday 28 th 3.00 p.m.	CYD presents "Persephone" in the Bernard Hall

Anyone for Bridge?

Would you be interested in playing bridge on a social basis?

We would like to return to playing after a few decades' absence.

Please ring us.....Stella and Alan Marsh on 292466

Dining Club

Our last Meeting at the Crown was on Thursday the 4th June. Another scrumptious meal was prepared then served to the Gentlemen by the beautiful female staff. It developed into a truly comical evening of joke telling and amusing stories. One gentleman enjoyed the evening so much he asked if we could dine every Thursday.

The next dinner was planned for September, but so many gentlemen were away at the beginning of September a later date has been arranged.

Our next dining extravaganza will be on Thursday the 14th October at the Crown 7.30 for 8 o'clock. Gentlemen interested in dining please telephone Phil Johnson 291526 or E Mail parkstone28@tiscali.co.uk

Bernard Hall

(Continued from page 1)

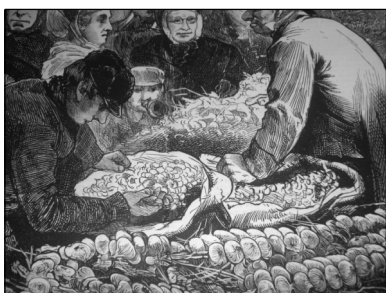
We are holding a wine tasting event on 1st October as a grand opening. This will give us a chance to use all of the new facilities and to raise the last few thousands required to complete the work. Tickets which include canapés, wine tasting and a two course meal are £25 a head and we would of course like to see as many there as possible. Anyone wanting tickets can call Jessica Ecott (291101) or Nicky Bolton (292818).

Markus Bolton



Fairs of old England

At the W.I. Meeting on September 14th Helen Griffin, our president, welcomed members back after the Summer break, and when the business was over she introduced Mrs Janet Dineen, the speaker for the afternoon who then gave an illustrated talk entitled "Fairs of Old England". Her talk was absolutely encyclopaedic covering the whole history of fairs from very early days, even before the reign of King John when they were organised by village churches on the local saint's day.



Later some fairs became specialised ones: for example there were hiring fairs when men and women stood around hoping they would be hired for farm or domestic work respectively. We were also told about specialised Nineteenth Century Fairs, for example the goose fair in Nottingham and Birmingham's Onion Fair (*See photographs of old prints*)

Fairs throughout the ages included entertainments, even the exhibiting of human freaks (perhaps they were paid something in compensation for being so humiliated).

Quack doctors were frequent visitors to fairs, attracting the gullible.

The details Mrs Dineen gave and the innumerable prints she projected on the screen meant that at the end we could truly say that we had been shown "all the fun of the fair".

In her vote of thanks Mrs Dorothy Woodford not only expressed our appreciation of the talk but was able to add her own personal memories of the local fairs she had visited in her youth.



We bid a very warm welcome to Mrs Kim Price who takes up her post as Acting Headteacher for this year. Mrs Price comes to us from Stoke Mandeville Primary school where she had been acting Deputy Headteacher and the head of the special hearing unit.

Chris Blumer
Chairman of Governors



The Infant site at the Murphy potato weigh-in as reported in the Gardening Club article

Both the Junior and Infant sites will be holding a joint Harvest festival on the 11th October in St Nicholas Church.

Open Mornings for Children starting school in September 2011

We are holding 2 open mornings on the Cuddington site for and prospective parents of children who will be starting school in September 2011.

Dates: 4th & 7th October
Time: 10.30-11.00am

We look forward to seeing you.

Mrs K Price

Quiz night full!

Due to the fantastic response to the Quiz Night scheduled for October 16th this event is now full.

Thank you to all those who responded so quickly and we look forward to seeing you all for what will be a fun evening.

Lorraine Ray (290606)

Services at St. Nicholas

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

October

- 3rd 10.00 am HOLY COMMUNION
A modern Communion Service with hymns. The children go to "Sunday Special" for part of the service
5.00 pm TEA & PRAYER
- 10th HARVEST FESTIVAL
10.00 am FAMILY SERVICE & BAPTISM
6.00 pm SPECIAL EVENING SERVICE
- 17th 10.00 am HOLY COMMUNION
A less formal modern Communion Service with hymns. The children go to Sunday Special for part of the Service
- 24th 10.00 am MORNING WORSHIP
A service of worship and the word, with a mixture of traditional and modern hymns. The children go straight to Chatabox and the Grid in the Bernard Hall at 9.50 a.m.
11.15 am HOLY COMMUNION
A communion service with hymns, according to the Book of Common Prayer.
- 31st 10.00 am MORNING WORSHIP
A service of worship and the word, with a mixture of traditional and modern hymns. The children go to Sunday Special for part of the Service
6.30 pm BENEFICE EVENSONG
A service with hymns, according to the Book of Common Prayer

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

John's Column

It is with much sorrow but also a great deal of pride that we re-print below John's very first article for Village Voice - first published in December 1998.

Ed.



Village Birdwatch

It was the third week in October when, walking on the west side of the village, I saw two swallows flying low across the meadow. They were obviously a late brood and the unseasonal warm weather meant they were in no hurry to begin their migration.

A pair of Little Owls nesting near the Mill Farm brought off four chicks and I have seen Kingfishers on several occasions. I was particularly fortunate to observe one which had perched on a post in the river and from which it dived repeatedly and returned with small fish - that sighting was indeed a real bonus!

Referring to my diary, I noted that it is now some ten years since I last heard the curlews and skylarks in the Chearsley meadows - I keep hoping they will return. I expect we shall receive return visits to our garden of the Great Spotted Woodpecker and the female Sparrowhawk, although the latter is not welcome since last winter she killed a Dove off our birdtable and had the audacity to pluck and eat it in full view from the kitchen window - my wife was furious!

A word of warning in conclusion. If you walk children and/or dogs near the river at this time of year - take great care. At times of high water or especially flooding the river is up to 10/12 feet deep with a strong current and is very dangerous.

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

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