

# VILLAGE CUDDINGTON VOICE



**December/  
January  
2010/11**

**VOLUME THIRTEEN**

## Hark! the Herald Angels Sing Glory to the Newborn King.

***Come and join the Church's Christmas Celebrations***

- ★ December 5<sup>th</sup> 3 p.m.
- ★ December 6<sup>th</sup> 9.30 a.m.
- ★ December 20<sup>th</sup> 7.30 p.m.
- ★ December 22<sup>nd</sup> 6.30 p.m.
- ★ December 24<sup>th</sup> 7 p.m.
- ★ December 25<sup>th</sup> 8 a.m.  
10 a.m.

Christingle Service  
School Family Christmas Service  
Christmas in the Club  
Carols round the Village  
Carols by Candlelight  
Holy Communion Service  
Family Carol Service

## Christingle



Christingle service December 5<sup>th</sup> at 3 p.m.

Come and find out the significance of the Christingles, shown in last year's photograph right.

There will be a Christingle for each child and refreshments for all after the service.



## Christmas in the Club

**Monday, December 20<sup>th</sup> 7.30 p.m.**

A delicious supper in friendly surroundings, with singing of familiar Carols, to which everyone is very welcome. A charge of £3.50 is payable at the door. *Please let Peggy Cattell (291313) know if you can come.*

## Carols round the Village



**Wednesday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>**

You are invited to join in the Carol Singing, which will start at 6.30 p.m. round the Christmas Tree on the Village Green and will end with refreshments at Tyringham Hall by kind invitation of Sherry Scott.



## Thought for the month

**The Revd. Margot Hodson writes**

Chinese New Years can seem rather more picturesque than western ones - they move from ox to tiger to rabbit in a way that makes 2009, 2010 and 2011 see just a bit prosaic. Well next year we have our very own English new year because it is going to be the Year of the Bible! 2011 marks the 400th birthday of the King James Bible and it gives us a chance to reflect on the reasons why this book has been so significant. There had been a number of previous editions of the Bible in English but the King James version published in 1611 was by far the most accurate having employed teams of scholars to undertake the translation. For this reason it quickly established itself as the "Authorised Version" (though it was never officially called this).

The King James version (KJV) has had an amazing impact on our English language: phrases such as "the eleventh hour"; "skin of my teeth"; "out of the mouths of babes"; and "fall from grace" are all from the KJV. In the last 400 years our language and our culture has been shaped and influenced by this book. Numerous authors, scientists and poets have been inspired by the language of the Bible expressed in the KJV. Melvin Bragg included it in his book "12 books that changed the world". He believes that having the Bible in the English language influenced the development of democracy in the UK and later the US.

In St Nicholas Church we are going to join with St Mary's, Haddenham and others to have a celebratory Bible year. It will not all be in seventeenth century language but will hopefully be inspiring and exciting as we see the impact of this book on our lives and our culture. We are joining a national initiative call Bible Fresh (<http://www.biblefresh.com>). As we approach Christmas I can think of no better way to close this article than by quoting one of the most well loved passages of the King James Bible.

### **John's Gospel 1:1-14**

*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.*

*The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.*

*There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe. He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. He came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth..*

## Poppy Appeal

This year's Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal collections in Cuddington were as follows:

House to house collections : **£623.79**  
Collection by St. Nicholas : **£ 61.10**  
Cuddington Parish Council: **£ 55.00**  
Total: **£739.89**

A big thank you to all our Poppy collectors and to those of you who gave so generously to such a worthy and necessary appeal.

Jennifer Schram de Jong

**A Happy Christmas from all at  
Village Voice—we will be back in  
February 2011**

## Utugi Quiz Night success

The Utugi committee would like to thank everyone who supported the Quiz on 13<sup>th</sup> November, by taking part, helping to set up and clear up, cooking potatoes, serving, running the raffle and providing raffle prizes and equipment. Adrian Ripley again provided us with a great selection of questions. With a wonderful turn out of 14 tables we raised £883 for the Utugi Children's Centre in Kenya. It was a most enjoyable evening and a splendid result.

## Thank you!

A big "thank you" to the six people who, in response to a request in last month's edition, have volunteered to "stand in" as deliverers of Village Voice as and when required..

Judy Miller



## Alice in Wonderland

Bernard Hall Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> 6.30 p.m.



# Village Voice welcomes a new partner in village communications



Our village website was re-launched on 22 November 2010 after a number of months of hard work...

The concept for the new website is different from that of the old one. News and calendar sections will be constantly updated by around 20 editors in the village, to ensure that the site will provide you with the most up to date information on village activities and events.

We have created the site to:

- Be complementary to Village Voice
- Be easy to use and find your way around
- Provide up to date information about the village and village activities
- Provide news articles on village life created by the village editors
- Provide a village calendar, a calendar for each organization and a personalized calendar for those who sign up
- Send customized e-mails notifying you of events and activities in your area of interest
- Provide an area for local businesses that have been recommended by other villagers

- Create an archive of village life that builds up over time

- Provide a gallery of photographs of the village, its activities and life

We hope you enjoy using the site and that you find it useful...

**Now it is over to the village:**  
*the editors to keep the calendar and the pages up to date; and everyone in the village with access to the web to use the website.*

Please visit the **Your Cuddington** page and sign up for a free account

Thanks to the editors for their support

The website has been created for the Parish Council by the website working group:

**Stephen Turner, Chris Long, Simon Shaw and Venetia Davies**

[www.Cuddingtonvillage.com](http://www.Cuddingtonvillage.com)

## A link with Cuddington's past



*In August of this year Mrs Greta Courtney died at the age of 93 in the Care Home where she had been living for the past ten years. Apart from this time and a few years after her marriage, Greta had lived in Cuddington all her life. Elderly Cuddington residents remember Greta with great affection as a lively member of the community, but it was her musical talent which*

*linked her with a very important part of Cuddington life, for at the early age of 10 Greta began her many years of playing the organ at the Baptist Chapel.*

*Cuddington's Baptist Chapel was opened in 1829 and for over a hundred and fifty years played a vital part in the life of Cuddington. However, numbers having drastically dwindled, it was decided in 1993 that the chapel would have to be closed. The date for the final service was fixed for February 26th and Greta would no doubt have played the organ as she had done for over 60 years. But just a*

*week before on the night of February 19<sup>th</sup>- 20<sup>th</sup> the witchert built chapel collapsed, and it was therefore in the Methodist Church on February 26 that Greta attended the Thanksgiving Service. (See photograph)*

*Greta's death has served as a reminder of the chapel to which she and her family had, over the years, contributed so much.*

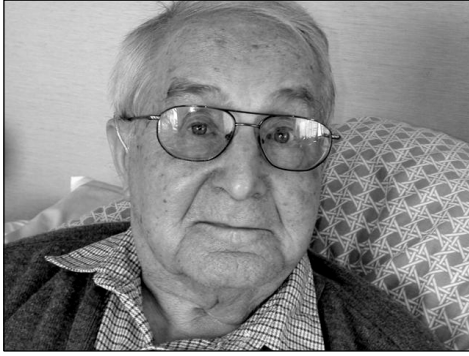
*A more detailed history of this very important Cuddington building of the past will be given in a New Year issue of Village Voice.*

## Nicholas Almond charity

There are still a few days remaining for those of you who might be eligible (young persons resident in Cuddington in further education or an apprenticeship) to submit an application for a small grant to help with study expenses - books, etc.

Please write to: Jennifer Schram de Jong, Larden, Spicketts Lane, Cuddington, email: [jschramdejong@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:jschramdejong@yahoo.co.uk) or Tel: 291501

# Richard Watson - 1916 - 2010



Richard Watson who died on the 25th of October was a veteran of the 1939-1945 war when he served in the R.A.F. as an electrical engineer.

Richard with his second wife Jean moved to Cuddington which became his home for the last 42 years of his life. Richard and Jean both very much enjoyed holidaying in other countries; France where they owned a cottage was a particular favourite as was Portugal where five years ago Richard suffered a stroke. Since that time Richard was severely disabled but thanks to Jean's care he managed to get out - to the Day Centre in Haddenham, to the fortnightly meetings of the Sunshine Club and to its parties. and thanks to the new ramp in the church Jean was able to bring him to services in his wheel chair. A particularly memorable occasion ( made possible by another ramp -- that at the Bernard Hall ) was Richard's 90th birthday party attended by family, friends from further afield and from the village. It was delightful to see how

Richard himself was able to enjoy the occasion.

These same members of the family and friends from all over the country joined with Cuddington inhabitants in thronging into the church on Monday the 8th of November to join in the Service of Thanksgiving for Richard's life

Richard's early life was movingly recalled by Angela his eldest daughter and the poem chosen by his second daughter Hilary and read by her son was a reminder of Richard's service in the R.A.F. Richard's youngest daughter who had died shortly before Richard had his stroke was remembered by a violin solo played by a close school friend.

Richard and Jean had shared a deep love of music, in fact this interest had brought them together, and music mingled with friendship was a strong motif of this service. The hymns were the ones they had had for their wedding and several friends contributed musical items Two other examples of friendship were seen in the service: Eric Chamberlain came out of his recent retirement to take the service and Chris Denham, our previous vicar, travelled from his home in Woking to read the lesson and talk about the life Richard and Jean had shared.

After the service refreshments were served in the Bernard Hall by members of the church whom Jean would like to thank for providing such a delicious spread.

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# Karen Adkins - 1956 - 2010

The sudden death of Karen who had lived in the village all her life might well have resulted in the service at St. Nicholas Church on Tuesday November 16<sup>th</sup> being a very sombre occasion. However the lively rhythm of the first hymn "Lord of the Dance" brought in a different mood with its link with the happy occasion of Karen and Steve's wedding, the happiness of that day was reflected by the wedding photograph of Karen on the front of the order of service. A later hymn, "All things bright and beautiful" was not only a reminder of that happy day in 2004 but its words were a reminder of Karen's love of flowers, in fact of all the natural world around her.

The word love came up again and again during the service: Karen's sister, Jo's account of their life together emphasized the warmth of their relationship. Jo also told how fond Karen had been of all children and what a very close relationship had been forged between her and Jo's daughter, Jess. Jo also described the love which had been shown to Karen and herself when their mother had died at an early age. Mary and Roy Ounsworth had treated the two little girls as their own, and Jo took this opportunity of saying to Mary how much this loving care had been appreciated.

Love was again the theme when Steve very bravely recounted his meeting with Karen, on the internet and how their relationship had developed from daily telephone

conversations to a meeting which led on to their very happy marriage. The details given of their married life showed how Steve had lovingly encouraged Karen's desire to become a florist and the delight she had



shown when she obtained her qualification. It was not surprising that the chosen Bible reading was the one which ends with the words "And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love." Margot's address linked these words to the love of God and of the promise of eternal life as seen in the reading.

The church packed with relations and friends from the village and elsewhere and the beautiful flowers lining the church path emphasized the affection felt for Karen,

Steve has asked Village Voice to thank all who contributed towards the splendid sum of £234.97 given to the Stroke Association, as well as those who provided the refreshments in the Playing Fields Club.

Steve is going to cycle round England in July to help raise money for DVT awareness. Steve has set up a webpage at <http://www.justgiving.com/Steve-Adkins> to receive donations.

# Christmas Fayre



Although compared to most commercial outlets the 13<sup>th</sup> November is practically Christmas Eve, to Cuddingtonians it's still summer, but even so the Christmas Fayre was deemed to be a great success. A respectable throng of potential buyers were in the Bernard Hall the moment the



doors opened, and there was certainly a lot to drool over (see picture left) At least ten stalls were laid out with goodies, and on the stage, beaming benevolently on the said throng was.....Father Christmas (the real one, of course). All the stalls displayed their wares most attractively. For sale were Christmas decorations, Christmas cards (Caroline Stonham, of course), the Church stall with no less than three tables containing cards, jellies, fudge, jams, jewellery, decorations and the like.

Traidcraft were selling a whole variety of fascinating *objets*; Jessica had a wonderful display of her glassware and glass jewellery, the W I were offering home-made jams, chutneys and all the tasty foods they are so good at. Then there was Jennifer's stall in aid of the Tongabezi Trust School in Zambia, with delightful carvings and cards painted by the children themselves. And next to Jennifer was something completely different; you could buy all or any part of a pig to provide delicious pork, from rare breeds, bred here in the village, with pork meat and pork sausages to tempt you. (see picture above of Karen and Ben) Cuddington's answer to Nigella, our own Giuliani, under her trading name of Cici Coco, was offering a taste of wild venison pasta – she'll provide you with a complete meal if you wish. And there were stalls with toys, books, anything you could have wanted for presents. Too late now though, anything not sold will already have been put to good use. And when you were on the point of dropping after shopping you could flop down at one of the tea tables so thoughtfully provided and drink your tea and eat the scrumptious cakes served by the lovely kitchen ladies, and watch everyone else. Finally Father Christmas welcomed the children onto the stage and no doubt they did not come away empty-handed. The event looked as if it was a great success; as ever thanks to all who helped in any way whatsoever to make it so.

*A HUGE thank you to all the people who helped make the fayre a very enjoyable afternoon, & I don't just mean those who had tables, but the behind the scenes helpers who cooked, knitted etc, Chris for providing the music & the team who helped get the hall ready on the day.*

*Last but not least, thank you to the people who came along dug into their pockets & through supporting the fayre also supported local organisations/enterprises.*

*Must dash – need to do my own Christmas shopping now!*

Maggie

## Films in the Bernard Hall?

We are thinking of showing one film a month, with people in the village being able to vote for which film they would like to see. Through a national



film club licensing deal, we would be able to obtain and show films say three months

after they are released at the cinema. However we expect that there would be a reasonable demand to see some older films on a big screen as well. People would also be able to hire the cinema for parties or special screenings of films that they wanted to see. It would be cheaper than going to a commercial cinema and of course it is right on our doorstep. We would hope that the film showings would become regular community social events.

We will be applying for grants to move this project forward and public support is a really important part of the grant application process. So if you would like to see a cinema in the village, could you either write to me, Markus Bolton, at the Old Post, Upper Church St, Cuddington, HP18 0AP, email me at [markusbolton@live.co.uk](mailto:markusbolton@live.co.uk) or sign the support forms which Les and Denise are holding for us at the Village Shop and hairdressing salon. We would be very interested in any ideas you have about this project, so please include any thoughts you have when you register your support.

If we get enough support, then we will be applying for grants over the next couple of months and we should be able to give you an update by the Easter edition of Village Voice. We hope you like the idea and can help us take it forward.

## Weather

(Continued from page 8)

The actual highest and lowest day time air maxima occurred on the 8th (22.1 deg C, 72F) and 20<sup>th</sup> (8.8 deg C, 48F) respectively. The actual highest and lowest night time air minima occurred on the 9th (14.0 deg C, 57F) and 21st (minus 1.9 deg C, 29F), respectively. There were a total of four air frosts and five ground frosts, the lowest of which occurred on the morning of the 25th (minus 6.2 deg C, 21F).

Total bright sunshine for Cuddington amounted to 106.21 hours, very close to the long term average of 108 hours. The highest wind gust occurred on the 4<sup>th</sup> (40 mph (64 kph)).

Total rainfall accumulation amounted to 52.8 mm (2.08 inches), 30% below the average of 75.8mm (2.98 inches). There were thirteen totally dry days and the wettest day was the 26<sup>th</sup>, when 8.2 mm (0.32 inches) fell.

Sean Clarke

# Christmas Shopping

## *This Christmas time.....*

### **Buy Cuddington products:**

- ☞ Rare Breed Cuddington Pork (Karen Clayton - 290404)
- ☞ Christmas Hampers (Lucy Murray - Farm Shop - 202999)
- ☞ Homemade Lasagnas (Cici Coci Kitchen - 290482)
- ☞ Jewellery etc. designed in glass (Jessica Ecott - 291101)

### **Support the Third World:**

- ☞ Ugandan Jewellery (Fiona Carr - 290000)
- ☞ Zambian Cards and Calendars  
(Jennifer Schram de Jong - 291501)
- ☞ Traidcraft Goods (Maggie Waters - 290847)

### **Visit the shop:**

for stamps, wrapping paper, books for children's stockings, and the essentials for your own cooking etc.

### **Visit Denise's:**

for your hair-do's, facials, manicures and pedicures.

### **Visit The Crown** for Christmas Cheer at the following special times:

- ☞ Boxing Day & New Year Day—bar open from 12 to 6 p.m. with food served until 3 p.m.
- ☞ New Year's Eve—open for lunch and in evening from 7 p.m. until late

*(closed on Christmas Day)*

## Letter to the Editor

I would like to raise awareness of a current initiative from BT, The Race to Infinity, to enable high speed internet in our area.

Over the next five years BT is rolling out superfast fibre optic broadband across the UK. As Cuddington and Haddenham are not on the announced roll out plan, The Race to Infinity gives us the opportunity to fast track our area to get BT Infinity next (Haddenham is home to the exchange that supplies the internet service to Cuddington).

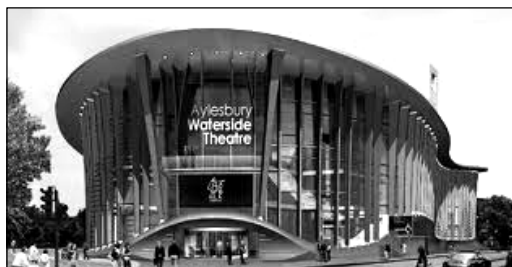
To ensure we're in with a chance, I'd like to ask our local internet users (both residential and business) to vote for this initiative by connecting to the internet, navigating to <http://www.racetoinfinity.bt.com> and registering their postcode as detailed on the site. This will boost the percentage for our exchange area, get us nearer to the minimum requirement of 1000 votes to be eligible, and increase our chances of gaining this useful service.

The five areas in the UK with the largest percentage of votes by December 31st 2010 will win the chance to bring superfast broadband to their area. **BT will also donate £5,000 of computer equipment to a local community project.**

At the time of writing, we have reached 19.16% of our exchange area, and achieved 457 out of 2385 possible votes. Help us to increase this now!

Nick Heath, Dadbrook

## Go to the theatre!



Most of you will know that the new Waterside Theatre has now opened in Aylesbury, but how many of you have either been or at least booked tickets? It really is well worth a visit.

Our first visit was to see a recent production of *Evita* and we were extremely impressed. First of all

by the theatre itself, which seems even more capacious inside than seems possible. It holds just over 1000 people, on four levels, including the stalls; there are also three circle levels, each running halfway round the auditorium, giving the interior a great feeling of space. The interior is decorated in large wood blocks, making for excellent acoustics. Each of the circles has its own bar area so there's plenty of socialising space.

The stage engineering is clearly the latest word in technology, there doesn't seem much that can't be done, and the sound is first class.

As for the productions themselves, *Evita* was all you'd expect, the performers did full justice to the well-known music and lyrics by Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice, a very professional show with some big names behind it. A great variety of future entertainments are planned, so it's worth keeping an eye on what's coming up. *The Rocky Horror Show*, *Annie* and *Spamalot* are coming in the New Year, not to mention Cilla Black in the Christmas panto.

Hopefully the theatre will get plenty of support, and coach-loads of theatre-loving Cuddingtonians will soon be making their way there.

John Fortgang

## Coffee and gift wrapping



A warm welcome awaits you at Cuddington Methodist Church on Saturday, December 18<sup>th</sup> from 10 a.m. to 12 noon.

Enjoy free refreshments and, if you hate wrapping presents, bring them to us and we will wrap them for you.....wrapping paper etc. provided. Come and see the changes to the church building so far.....



With the evenings drawing in it was lovely to have a simple but informative demonstration by our Chairman Elsie Frost on planting up hanging baskets and containers to provide us with colour and interest in the winter and spring i.e. from November till the end of the frosts (not James and Elsie of course!)

Elsie demonstrated the preparation of hanging baskets and the use of nutrients in the form of "Miracle Grow" all purpose plant food. There were three baskets, one which was already planted with dainty violas which are more resilient



than the normal winter flowering pansies. The other two were planted with a variety of plants in a basket with multipurpose compost and approx 2 dessertspoons of "Miracle Grow" sprinkled in the compost. There was a central plant with other plants in a triangle with smaller plants in the spaces.

Winter flowering heather (which can be planted out in the garden eventually) cyclamens, violas, thyme, purple sage, variegated sedum, winter flowering pansies and trailing ivy were all used in one or other of the two baskets. Trailing periwinkle, and lamium were used at the sides of the baskets. Elsie did stress to

(Continued on page 8)

## Footpaths of Cuddington - its glory!

*An early-morning walk is a blessing for the whole day.*  
~ Thoreau

We are very blessed in Cuddington with a variety of footpaths and bridleways. We are sure that many of you enjoy them. There are short and long walks for all ages which can continue into Chearsley, the Winchendons, Haddenham etc and don't forget the annual village sunrise walk next June! Please contact us if you want any ideas for walks or look at

the new Village website where there is a map and where we will post some ideas for walks and ask for yours. The footpaths and bridleways need to be regularly maintained – this is the responsibility of the Parish Council working with Bucks County Council and the landowners. As footpath checkers for the Ramblers' Association, we have recently walked all the footpaths in Cuddington and Nether Winchendon and reported the problems to the Parish Council and Bucks CC. They should be listed with the impending actions on the Bucks CC website by the time you read this – we hope! Details of links are on the new village website. Please let us know of any problems you encounter and we can ensure they are reported to the Parish Council and Bucks CC for action and co-ordinated on a village basis. As some of you do already, it is quite handy to carry a pair of secateurs to cut any minor growth or stamp it down as appropriate.

*Walking: the most ancient exercise and still the best modern exercise.*

~ Carrie Latet

Happy walking, Alan and Stella Marsh 292466



*The style half way up Spicketts Lane*

# Chaucer and his times

*For the final meeting of 2010 Ann Severn gave a talk entitled "Chaucer and his Times".*



*Ann stated that she aimed to show that people had changed little since Chaucer's time and that the characters found in the Canterbury tales would be familiar to us all.*

*Ann began the talk with a biography of Chaucer, probably born in 1340 and died in 1400. The precise dates may be confused as the calendar has changed twice since the 15<sup>th</sup> century.*

*Edward 3<sup>rd</sup> was on the throne and as Chaucer's family was of sufficient standing, Chaucer was apprenticed to the King's second son becoming a squire in the household. This entailed learning how to run the household. He did well and was promoted, gaining valuable insight into running a great house. After Edward's death Chaucer went abroad with Richard 2<sup>nd</sup>'s army. On one occasion he was captured, a ransom was paid by the King for his release denoting Chaucer's standing.*

*Chaucer became a lawyer, studying at the Temple. Then he took charge of the Customs on the river Thames. There were no banks in England so Chaucer was sent on behalf of the King to Florence to do banking. So trusted was he that in his thirty's he was in charge of all the royal houses along the Thames.*

*Writing was his hobby. He composed stories as entertainment for long winter evenings which were so popular that they were written down so others could take them as entertainment to different country houses.*

*The first copies were hand written, later they were printed. Ann showed us examples of both the hand written and the printed editions, from the photos difficult to tell apart. Ann*

(Continued on page 9)



## Bring and Buy

The Sunshine Club annual Bring and Buy will be held at 2.30 on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> December at Tyringham Hall – come and enjoy a sociable afternoon with bargains galore, raffle and refreshments. Proceeds will go towards our club Christmas party.

Our Recycling Appeal continues. We can turn unwanted mobile phones and used ink cartridges into funds for our Club. Please leave any of these items at Cuddington Village Stores (thank you Les and Jan) or phone 01844 299 150 for collection.

## Weather - and an eclipse!

The large partial solar eclipse occurs on January 4<sup>th</sup>. The sun will rise above the Chilterns just after 0811 am as a beautiful crescent, due to over 70% of its disc being obscured by the moon. Although it will be safe to take brief glimpses at the sun for a couple of minutes after sunrise with unprotected eyes, however, it will soon become too bright, and dangerous, to observe with anything



other than a special eclipse filter. I intend to set up a small telescope on the playing field (weather permitting) and will gladly show the eclipse, safely, to anyone interested. The eclipse ends just after 0930 am. Lets hope for clear skies.

### Sky Notes.

Two eclipses will occur over the festive period, one lunar and the other a solar. The first, a total lunar eclipse, occurs in the early hours of December 21<sup>st</sup>. A small 'bite' will appear on the moon's disc shortly after 0632 am, increasing in size until 0740 am when the moon is entirely immersed inside the earth's shadow and appearing coppery in colour; it will set about half an hour later while still totally eclipsed.

The month began warm but cooled towards midmonth allowing the over-night air temperature to fall below freezing on several occasions during the third week. Overall, the month was 0.5 deg C below the long term average monthly temperature of 10.9 deg C (52F); Despite this, it was still much warmer than the cold October of 2008 (9.2 deg C, 49F) and especially the very cold one in 2003 (8.5 deg C, 47F).

The daytime maximum air temperature averaged 14.7 (59F); the ten year average is 14.8 Celsius (59F). The night time air minimum temperature averaged 6.2 deg Celsius (43F); the ten year average is 7.0 deg Celsius (45F).

*(Continued on page 5)*

## Bonfire and fireworks party



On the Monday preceding Saturday, 30th October, forecasters predicted dire weather; I couldn't bear to look again! On Saturday afternoon Jaap found it necessary to show me a beautiful rainbow and the most enormous black cloud hanging over the fields just outside Cuddington! However, my prayers were answered and the cloud moved off towards the Chilterns and we were left to enjoy yet another very successful village bonfire and fireworks party up on the village playing fields.

Thanks must go to Jo and Mark Goodall for all their help with the organisation this year, and to members of the Cricket Club and many others who helped out on the night. The BBQ ran out of beefburgers and sausages and there was very little left of the delicious chilli made by Jo and her helpers Diane and Pascale, so that can't be bad, and we also ran out of mulled wine - not so good! The idea of a hot chocolate stand was inspired! The fireworks were super - "the best yet" according to many people.

The fireworks were super - the best yet - according to many people. Together with the many facilities the village has: a School, village shop, the Bernard Hall, etc., the village is also very lucky to have its own playing fields with the refurbished sports pavilion, and it was great to see so many families enjoying themselves both inside and out - it was a real village event! A big thank you to Nibby and his helpers for all their hard work behind the bar, and to Denise and Les and Jan who helped us to sell tickets. Thanks also to Chris Long for his music which always livens up the event.

Mark and Jo unwisely mentioned doing it all again next year, which will be great. So now we all have something to look forward to in addition to that other event that will be taking place next year!

The Fancy Dress Competition was won by Jenna Bright

I would finally like to thank Phil and Jayne Davidson who, whenever I have asked for help over the past ten years have never said no! Jayne has now taken over as fête committee chairman, so I hope everyone will give her and her committee all the help they will need.

Last, but certainly not least, a big thank you to all those of you who came and helped to make the evening such a success.

*Jennifer Schram de Jong*

### Gardening Club

*(Continued from page 7)*

make sure the hanging baskets are hung up straight!

Elsie went on to give advice on preparing containers and planting them up – getting rid of old compost and keeping drainage holes clear by placing old crocks over them. She also advised to raise containers off the ground using ceramic 'feet' and to give them a sunny but not exposed position. They can be grouped together to give a good splash of colour - placed by a front door, outside patio doors or in a border.

Elsie also described how evergreen shrubs might be used in more permanent containers which can then be trained and under planted. These should be planted in situ if they are going to be too heavy to move when planted.

There was a lovely raffle prize of a container planted up with heuchera "purple palace", cyclamen, heather and winter flowering pansies with bulbs at the bottom and the lucky winner was Louise Powell (see picture on page 7).

Thank you Elsie for all the time and trouble you took in making it such an interesting evening.

The next meeting of the Gardening Club is on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> December when Alexia Balance will be speaking on "Easy Plants for Difficult Places". Mulled wine and mince pies will be served.

# Dates for your Diary

## A Christmas decoration



### December

|                                        |                                                                                 |
|----------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> 7.30 p.m.    | Parish Council Meeting                                                          |
| Saturday 4 <sup>th</sup> 6.30 p.m.     | "Alice in Wonderland" in Bernard Hall                                           |
| Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup> 3.00 p.m.       | Christingle Service                                                             |
| 6.00 p.m.                              | "Jack and the Beanstalk" in Bernard Hall                                        |
| Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> 9.30 a.m.       | School Christmas Family Service in St Nicholas                                  |
| 7.30 p.m.                              | Gardening Club: A talk by Allexia Ballance on "Easy Plants in Difficult Places" |
| Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> 2.30 p.m.     | Sunshine Club's Bring and Buy at Tyringham Hall                                 |
| Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> 12.30 for 1pm  | Sunshine Club Christmas Dinner                                                  |
| 2.00 p.m.                              | School Christmas Performance in St Nicholas                                     |
| Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> 2.00 p.m.     | W.I. Annual Meeting                                                             |
| Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> 7.30 / 8p.m. | Gentlemen's Dining Club                                                         |
| Saturday 18 <sup>th</sup> 10 - 12 noon | Coffee and Gift-wrapping in Methodist Church                                    |
| Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> 7.30 p.m.      | Christmas in the Club                                                           |
| Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> 6.30 p.m.   | Carol Singing round the Village                                                 |
| Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> 7.00 p.m.      | Carols by Candlelight in St. Nicholas                                           |

### January

|                                     |                                                                        |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> 7.30 p.m. | Parish Council Meeting                                                 |
| Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> 7.30 p.m.   | Gardening Club Annual Social Evening                                   |
| Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup> 2.30 p.m.  | W.I. Illustrated talk by Peggy Cattell                                 |
| Tuesday 25 <sup>th</sup> 7.15 p.m.  | History Society A.G.M. followed by talk on London Rivers and Buildings |

### February

|                                     |                                                                          |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> 7.30 p.m. | Parish Council Meeting                                                   |
| Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> 7.30 p.m.    | Gardening Club A.G.M followed by talk on "Plant Paradise" by Derek Leary |
| Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup> 2.30 p.m.   | W.I. Talk on "Drug Awareness"                                            |
| Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup> 7.30 p.m.  | History Society "E.N.S.A.: Never a Dull Moment"                          |

### Chaucer

(Continued from page 7)

*explained that the first printed books needed to look like the books people were used to in the same way that e-books oblige the reader to "turn the page" today!*

*Chaucer married Philippa Roet when he was twenty. That they had a family is known as Chaucer wrote a treatise on the astrolabe for his ten year old son. When Chaucer was forty two he gave up some of his roles. He collected together his stories which we know as the Canterbury Tales. The promise of the prologue that there would be sixty tales finishing as it started at the Tabard Inn was not fulfilled suggesting that they were either lost or not completed. Chaucer died at fifty eight a good age for the time.*

*Ann continued by telling about five of the characters from the Tales, the Knight, the Yeoman, the Prioress, the Friar and the Wife of Bath. First reading in the original, translating as she went along, Ann was right these people were very familiar to us!*

*It was a most interesting and stimulating evening. I am now resolved to unearth the pristine copy of The Canterbury Tales I was given for my twenty first birthday forty odd years ago and familiarize myself with the Pilgrims.*

*Best wishes for Christmas and the New Year to you all.*



# Wrapping up!!

Christmas might have seemed a long way off but with shops full of enticing presents it seemed appropriate that the topic for our November meeting should be "Gift Wrapping" .

Our speaker for the afternoon, Amanda Beckett, first showed us how to transform a simple box into a work of art. She then demonstrated how the same piece of wrapping paper could be turned into a gift bag, (what a money saver!) and finally a jar of jam was transformed by skilful



### Truly a "hands-on" meeting

use of attractive paper into a delight for the eye. Amanda told us that the same technique could transform a bottle of wine into a sight worthy of its contents.

After admiring Amanda's skilful transformation of a sheet of paper into a thing of beauty it was the time for members to try out their skills. After a few false starts a truly professional -looking cover was emerging on each member's box.

This Christmas if you are fortunate enough to receive a gift from a Cuddington W.I. member the chances are that you should not only have the pleasure of the gift itself but will also have a beautiful wrapping to admire!

Erratum The November issue of Village Voice incorrectly stated that money from the W.I.stall was sent to Breast Cancer Research. This should have read "to Cancer Care and Haematology (Stoke Mandeville Hospital)"



First, a big thank you to the Fête Committee for the generous donation which is being put towards storage for outside play equipment.

The children have had lots of visitors to school - Mrs Macintosh demonstrated to all the children how to wash their hands correctly, Chris and Eric Chamberlain came to say goodbye to the Infant children and Mr Connolly has delivered an assembly about Jenny and Jessie school in Uganda to all the children.

Our children have also 'shown off' their sporting talent by playing Hockey and Football against other schools this term—see picture of our hockey team.

The parents have joined Mr Tomson and myself for two after school sessions - one on Assessment and the other for Maths. Both were very hands on with parents writing a story at the assessment event!

Finally, a big "thank you" to the

children who raised over £360 for Children in Need.

I would like to take this opportunity to invite you to our two events at St Nicholas Church:

- 6th December at 9.30am Christmas Family service led by the Rev. Margot Hodson
- 13th December 2.00pm Infant Performance of 'Whoops-a-Daisy Angel'

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from all at Cuddington and Dinton School.

Mrs Kim Price



## Governors

*I am most grateful to so many of you who acknowledged my article in last month's Village Voice about being a governor. It is very encouraging that there is both interest and awareness amongst parishioners and I will do my best, in conjunction with Kim Price, to keep you informed about school activities and progress.*

Chris Blumer

## Jack and the Beanstalk

Cuddington and Dinton C of E School drama club presents:

Roald Dahl's version of : **Jack and the Beanstalk!**

6 pm. Sunday, 5th December, Bernard Hall

Admission free! Everyone welcome!



### Services at St. Nicholas

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



#### December 2010

- 5th 10.00 am HOLY COMMUNION  
*A modern Communion Service with hymns. The children go to "Sunday Special" for part of the service*
- 3.00 pm CHRISTINGLE SERVICE
- 12th 10.00 am FAMILY GIFT SERVICE  
*A service for all ages, including lively hymns, with the involvement of young musicians and occasional drama.*
- 19th 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 7.00 pm CAROL SERVICE
- 25th 8.00 am HOLY COMMUNION  
10.00 am FAMILY CAROL SERVICE
- 26th 10.00 am HOLY COMMUNION at HADDENHAM  
*A united Christmas service for the Benefice.*

#### January 2011

- 2nd 10.00 am HOLY COMMUNION  
*A modern Communion Service with hymns. The children go to "Sunday Special" or a crèche for part of the service.*
- 5.00 pm Tea and Prayer
- 9th 10.00 am FAMILY SERVICE  
*A service for all ages, including lively hymns, with the involvement of young musicians.*
- 16th 10.00 am HOLY COMMUNION  
*A less formal modern Communion Service with hymns. The children go to Sunday Special a crèche for part of the service.*
- 23rd 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 Chattabox and the Grid in the Bernard Hall at 9.50 am*
- 11.15 AM HOLY COMMUNION  
*A communion service with hymns, according to the Book of Common Prayer.*
- 30th 10.00 am MORNING WORSHIP  
*A service of worship and the word, with a mixture of traditional and modern hymns.*



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

