

Cheddington Village Newsletter

No. 539 – February 2024

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Published by the Residents' Association

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CRA NEWS.

Christmas Tree. We hope you enjoyed seeing the lit 15-foot Christmas tree outside the Methodist Church on The Green. We would like to thank the Townsland Trust who paid for the purchase of the tree, which was put up, secured and lit by CRA, with power for the lights provided by the Methodist Church. We thought it looked splendid.

Speed monitoring. CRA and the Parish Council working together have recently monitored the speed of vehicles entering the village from the direction of Cooks Wharf. Over 1,700 vehicles a day enter the village from this direction with the busiest period being 3pm to 6pm. 72.5% of the vehicles were driven at 30 mph or less, 21% at 31 to 35 mph and 6.5% over 35 mph. This is a significant improvement on this time last year. The average speed of those speeding was just under 39 mph. Figures were fairly similar on each day of the week.

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS.

NEXT MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL.

The February Monthly Meeting will be held on Wednesday 7th February 2024 at 7pm in The Pavilion, Cheddington Recreation Ground, High Street, Cheddington LU7 0RG. For those residents who do not know, to find 'The Pavilion' just follow the path alongside the tennis courts until you reach the white building.

The Agenda will be posted on the Cheddington Parish Council Facebook page, on the Cheddington.org web site and on the Notice Board at The Green, with 3 clear days' notice before each the meeting. If you wish anything to be discussed at the meeting please advise the Clerk well in advance of the Agenda being finalised.

The Parish Council carry out the day-to-day running of the village so if you have any queries please contact the Clerk, Roz Roberts on cheddingtonparishcouncil@gmail.com or on 07885 442643 and leave a short message with your name and contact number. Please note that all correspondence is emailed directly to all the Parish Councillors for comment or for their information.

PARISH COUNCIL FACEBOOK PAGE.

Please note the aim of the Cheddington Parish Facebook page is to relay information to the residents of Cheddington. It is **not** a public forum page.

PLANNING MATTERS. Planning matters discussed since the December edition:

23/03366/APP – 6 Hillside Cheddington Buckinghamshire LU7 0SP – Householder application for a first-floor side extension – No Objection

23/03425/APP – 1 Horseshoe Close Cheddington Buckinghamshire LU7 0SB – Householder application for 1.5 storey side extension and alterations to front parking area – No Objection

20/02947/APP – Land At Church Hill And Mentmore Road Cheddington Buckinghamshire – Erection of 4 No. detached houses with access and associated landscaping – Objection submitted for same reasons provided by the Parish Council in 2019 as the reasons still stand, are valid and the ecological issue had not been addressed, regardless of the report provided by AAE

B. Determinations by Buckinghamshire Council:

No determinations received.

DID YOU KNOW THAT ...

The PC does many varied things around the village, so we thought that every so often we'd bring you a "fascinating fact".

Lighting. Another major item in the budget, the Parish Council currently manages 120 footway lights within the village boundary – wood and steel column. There is only 1 LED light with the majority being fluorescent. Currently every 2 weeks one of the Parish Councillors checks that the lights are working and obviously the PC asks that residents contact the Parish Council to report any faulty lights. The PC's contractor for the lighting is a company called Lights & Tubes Illuminations Limited who are quick to respond to call outs. We tend to wait until we have 2/3 faulty lights so it might take up to 10 days to get repaired so, please bear with us.

Remember any faults with streetlights should also be reported to the Clerk, **not** Buckinghamshire Council. The PC hopes to number all the lighting columns to make it easier to report any faults.

Please note the PC does not have responsibility for Partridge Close (Hastoe) or Barkham Garage light (Fairhive), Orchard Manor or at the Blenheim area (Buckinghamshire Council).

GREAT NEWS! ADDITIONAL DEFIBRILLATOR AT VILLAGE HALL. Match funded, in conjunction with the Department of Health and Social Care Community AED Grant Team, the Parish Council is delighted to advise that it has acquired another defibrillator which is now operational and located at Cheddington Village Hall.

FYI the village now has 3 defibrillators located at: Cheddington Methodist Church – side wall – The Green, High Street, Cheddington LU7 0RJ.



The next Residents' Association committee meeting will be on Wednesday 14th February at 7.15pm in the Methodist Church Hall. Please come along to tell us of any issues.

The Pavilion, Cheddington Recreation Ground, High Street, Cheddington LU7 0RG.

Cheddington Village Hall, Church Lane, Cheddington LU7 0RU.

If any resident is interested in the Parish Council organising another defib refresher course, please contact the Clerk.

REPLACEMENT FENCE AT THE RECREATION GROUND. After liaising with Network Rail, the Parish Council is delighted finally to confirm that the old chain mail boundary fence at the railway edge of the Recreation Ground is being replaced. Hopefully by the time you read this the works will have been carried out.

LITTER BINS. The new litter bins have now been installed which has made our 'handyfolk' very happy. Can we please request **again** that these are not used for the disposal of dog poo bags! There are enough dog waste bins dotted around the village which are professionally emptied by Buckinghamshire Council. Not for free, each householder, via the Precept contributes to this service.

WARDEN NEEDED FOR CHEDDINGTON ALLOTMENTS! If you are interested in this voluntary allotment management role, please contact the Parish Clerk for more information.



There is also an active working group at the allotments so if you are an allotment holder, I am sure they would be delighted if you would like to join and assist. Again, contact the Parish Clerk for more information.

FANCY A CHAT AND A CUPPA!

Come along to The Methodist Church on Fridays from 12 noon – 2.30pm if you fancy a chat and a light lunch. This is a Churches Together initiative in conjunction with the Parish Council. If you can help in any way/wish to volunteer, please contact ccraft@gmail.com or 01296 661068.

Remember Open Doors is also on from 10.30am if you fancy a chat, a cuppa and a cake before lunch on a Friday!

THE PAVILION – AVAILABLE FOR HIRE!

If you are looking for a lovely venue for a child's party/adult party/group meetings/reading groups/wine tasting class, for a small exercise class or whatever please contact the Bookings Clerk for further information/to arrange a booking on cpcpavilionbookings@gmail.com or 07885 442643.

Cost per hour is £12.50 for residents and out of village £15.50 per hour.

Remember the Recreation Ground may also be available on request so why not use both venues for an event.

FIX MY STREET. For any issues in respect of damage to pavements, graffiti or fly-tipping, please report these via

<https://fixmystreet.buckinghamshire.gov.uk>.

CHEDDINGTON ALLOTMENTS. If you require any information/be added to the waiting list in respect of having an allotment, please contact the Parish Clerk who will direct your enquiry to one of the allotments working group members.

The Parish Clerk, Roz Roberts can be contacted by email at cheddingtonparishcouncil@gmail.com or on 07885 442643.

Please note the Clerk's role is a part time position and she may not respond immediately to your query/message.

Have a search on Facebook for Cheddington Parish Council and like us!

BUCKS COUNCILLORS NEWS.

Food waste – Don't bin – Recycle it!

Buckinghamshire Council is asking residents to think twice before throwing food waste in the bin and to recycle it instead.

Currently around a third of the waste thrown in the regular rubbish bin in Buckinghamshire is food waste. This equates to around 28,000 tonnes of food every year, an average of 2kg per household per week. It is enough to fill Big Ben more than one and a half times each year. Not only does this cost local taxpayers more than £600,000 a year in disposal costs, disposing of food waste in this way also damages the environment as it produces double the amount of carbon emissions compared to recycling food waste.

BetterPoints. Get better health and wellbeing with BetterPoints. Buckinghamshire Council is reminding residents that there is no better time to get active with BetterPoints. The free health and wellbeing app has been helping thousands of people in the county to move more and make simple but effective lifestyle changes to improve their health and wellbeing. Now could be the perfect time for new users to start as a range of extra incentives have recently been added.

BetterPoints is an easy-to-use mobile app that motivates users to be more active and offers incentives in the form of points which can then be converted into vouchers to spend in local shops or given to local charities as a monetary donation.

Tree-mendous programme of tree-planting continues in Bucks. Buckinghamshire Council is making great progress in its 'Bucks Tree Mission' to plant half a million new trees (one for every resident), as part of its efforts to address climate change and boost the natural landscape of the county.

In the last twelve months, we've created new woodlands at Wing Woods near Leighton Buzzard and at Grange Farm and Bury Farm in the south of the county.

The site at Wing Woods, which is managed by Forestry England, includes 109,000 new trees with a further 23,000 trees being added in the coming months. Species planted include native trees such as common beech, common oak, silver birch and black poplar.

We have also secured over £264k from the Forestry Commission's Local Authorities Treescape Fund. The fund aims to restore tree cover in non-woodland areas affected by disease, habitat loss or ageing tree stock. We will be working with partners including Earthwatch and ReLeaf Marlow on these exciting planting projects.

Businesses in Bucks boosted by investment. Buckinghamshire Council has awarded £1.6m to help boost support for businesses and entrepreneurs in Buckinghamshire.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

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Weekly Hatha Yoga classes.
Monthly Gong Baths
Relaxing Day Retreats in Cheddington

Hatha Yoga, working with alignment and linking the breath with movement.

Monthly Gong Baths, a form of sound meditation. Participants are bathed in the sounds and vibrations created by the Gongs, crystal bowls and other instruments.

Relaxing Day Retreats incorporating Yin and Restorative Yoga and Sound Baths - Yin Yoga targeting connective tissues and Restorative yoga, a deeply relaxing form of yoga.

My classes are suitable for all levels including those new to Yoga as postures can be modified to suit the individual.

Weekly Hatha Yoga at Cheddington Pavillion, LU7 0RG

Monday 9.15am - 10.45 am Monday 6.30pm - 8.00pm

Tuesday 6.00pm - 7.30pm Wednesday 9.15am - 10.45am

Monthly Gong Baths on a Friday at 8.00pm

Relaxing Day Retreats held throughout the year, see website for dates.

www.juliecampbelliyoga.co.uk

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The funding is from central government and will help support a range of local businesses and entrepreneurs as part of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF).

Keeping roads safe this winter. When temperatures plummet, Buckinghamshire Council's trusty fleet of gritters rolls into action, salting key roads across the county, to make them safer for motorists. But did you know that the council also provides salt bins for people to freely use to make their roads and pavements safer during cold and icy weather?

The bins are filled with salt and are available at multiple locations across the county for drivers and pedestrians to treat public roads and pavements in their local area. The bins are filled and topped up during the winter season with a mixture of salt and sand. They are located in targeted areas known to be affected by icy conditions which the gritting routes don't cover.

Salt bins are provided for residents to use on public roads and footways only, and should not be used to clear private drives.

Changes to household DIY waste disposal.

Residents in Buckinghamshire will be able to dispose of small amounts of DIY waste for free at Household Recycling Centres (HRCs) this year. The changes have been brought in by central government and will make it easier for people to freely dispose of small amounts of waste created at home from DIY projects such as re-tiling, renovating a bathroom or digging a pond in the garden.

Following the change in law regarding the disposal of household DIY waste, the council is reintroducing a digital e-permit for DIY waste. Any resident wanting to dispose of household DIY waste at a HRC will need to have an e-permit printed out or on a portable device, such as a mobile phone or tablet, before they visit. This only affects residents who wish to bring household DIY waste.

The DIY e-permit will allow residents to dispose of one load of DIY waste each week for free. One load of DIY waste is no more than 100 litres of loose DIY waste, or one large item no bigger than 2m x 0.75m x 0.7m such as one bath tub, one door or one kitchen unit. Staff will scan the permit and check the resident's address, after which the e-permit will expire. It can be renewed after seven days, to allow residents to dispose of another load of DIY waste for free. Anyone wishing to dispose of more than one load of DIY waste in a week will be able to do so but will be charged, using the same price list which has been in place for the past four years.

Council enforces higher penalties for fly-tipping in Bucks, Those caught fly-tipping in Buckinghamshire face the consequence of paying a higher penalty for their crime following changes to the law which have been adopted by the council.

Earlier this year the government increased the maximum Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN) for fly-tipping from £400 to £1,000. The penalty for Failure in Householder Duty of Care, has also been raised from £400 to a maximum of £600. This penalty relates to people who have waste removed by a third-party waste carrier. By law householders have a duty to check that the carrier they are using is legally authorised to carry out the work and will do so responsibly. If the waste they have given the carrier is found dumped illegally, the householder is deemed to have failed in their Duty of Care regarding their waste and can be liable for prosecution.

Council plan to balance the books for the next three years. Buckinghamshire Council has

published its medium-term financial plan which details how it will balance its budget for the next three years. In an acutely challenging financial context for local government, the council has worked hard to identify the savings needed to balance the books until 2027 and where spending reductions will be needed over the next three years. It's also produced a detailed budget proposal for 2024/25 including how much it's proposing to spend on major projects and services, following consultation with residents.

However, the council is still facing very significant extra financial pressure because of rising costs and demand particularly for services that help the most vulnerable, such as social care, providing temporary accommodation for people who have become homeless and home to school transport (particularly for children with special needs). All of these are critical services that people depend on, and which are statutory, meaning the council is legally obliged to fulfil these services.

It means that to balance the budget, the council has put forward solutions to ultimately reduce costs, including:

- investing in additional children's homes to reduce the heavy cost burden of external placements
- making savings in Adult Social Care through providing help for some residents, where it fits their need, to live more independently
- rationalising the council's office space, such as closing the King George V site in Amersham
- investing in more housing and temporary accommodation units to bring down the spend on costly nightly-paid accommodation

Residents were asked their views during the autumn on where they wanted the council to prioritise spending the budget and this feedback is now reflected in the financial plans.

The budget proposals include spending the following amounts over the next four years:

- £105 million on the highways network
- £25 million on supporting housing and homelessness
- £14.7 million on climate change and flood management projects
- £37.6 million on economic growth and regeneration projects

Overall, the plan proposes that the council spends £656.4 million on capital projects over the next four years.

The council raises the money needed to pay for these projects and services through grants and income streams. The biggest of these by far is the income from council tax, which makes up 80% of how council services are paid for. Because the cost of providing services has risen so significantly due to added demand and high inflation, the council can only balance the budget by raising council tax again next year. The budget proposals put forward a 2.99% rise in the base rate of council tax, with a further 2% rise to be spent on Adult Social Care, meaning a total rise of 4.99% or an extra £1.69 per week for the average Band D property.

Underpinning this overarching financial plan are a number of key principles, including how it will allow the council to keep delivering on the priorities residents have asked for, while not making over-ambitious savings or excessively using reserves in the process.

Councillor Derek Town

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

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FARMING AND FOOD

by Julie Gaymer (julie@mentmoreparkfarms.co.uk)

Farming & Countryside News.

It is a beautiful day today. The 15th January. Oscar, our black labrador, and I found it a very frosty morning indeed for our walk, but a lovely red sunrise, and not a cloud in the blue sky. Such welcome weather following prolonged wet. Farmers will be relieved if this weather continues this week enabling us to catch up and drill some more winter wheat in January. After that we hope the weather continues to be kind for the spring drilling season. Its also a time for machinery maintenance. Making everything ready for the busy times ahead.

Grain lorries come and go, taking our crops away and bringing in other farmers grain for cleaning and storage. Straw bales leave here for the west country and the power station.

Stock farmers are busy getting ready for lambing preparing pens in the sheds and moving the sheep. Some people have early lambing inside beginning this month.

On the administration front there is always plenty to organise. Tomorrow, we have a First Aid course for everyone on the farm. We have every 3 or 4 years. Very essential. We also have our Red Tractor inspection which is an annual event. I think the general public are now very aware of the Red Tractor on British goods in the supermarkets. Quality that can be relied on.

Early in the new year we start preparation for the summer, recruiting our harvest workers. They are such an important part of our forward planning. Generally, we have 12 additional people living on site. Mostly from farms and universities in the UK and Ireland. Sometimes they return to us and that is a great help as they know their way around!

Back to the weather! Storm Gerrit and Storm Henk! The flood impact has been huge. Farmers all over the country have had vast areas covered by water and still have flooded fields as I write. Imagine the potential crop losses as well as the impact on farmers with vegetables being picked right now for the supermarkets.

Talking vegetables ... Market Research company Kantar reports from the supermarkets that consumers appetite for the traditional Christmas dinner was particularly strong this year, with volumes of parsnips, sprouts and potatoes up 12 per cent, 9 per cent and 8 per cent respectively, and festive meats up 6 per cent.

Weather again and...according to a report in the Farmers Guardian, the Meteorological Office, 2023 gave both Wales and Northern Ireland their warmest years on record. However, the UK saw 11 per cent more rain than the average. The year included the UK's sixth wettest March and July, plus sixth wettest October. Farmers are saying 'they need a common-sense revolution. If ditches and drains are regularly managed, flooding would be less of an issue. Farmers should be allowed to play their part. But we are constantly stopped from doing our jobs'. This farm has surface water from Stag Hill, Mentmore, flooding around our drive entrance every time it rains due to blocked road drains. I wonder if any of you spotted the unfortunate Post Van stuck there recently?

NOTICES

HELP WANTED. I'm looking for a paid volunteer to go to the swimming pool with me to do my exercises. They would be needed for 4 hours, 2 days a week, between 10:00 and 14:00. Perhaps ideal for someone with children at school or this position could be shared. They will be needed to go into pool for approximately an hour, during that time they will do a couple of passive exercises with me, the rest of the time they can swim.

For more information please contact: David on 01296 668776

PACE. Join us for our inaugural, fun-filled 'Winter Waggle' sponsored dog walk in the grounds of the stunning Waddesdon Manor Estate. Cast off those February blues, breathe in some fresh air with your furry best friend, and clear your mind ready for spring.

With a choice of 3k and 5k routes around Waddesdon Manor, Waddesdon, Aylesbury HP18 0JH, registration takes place at the Welcome Pavilion, between 11.00 – 11.30 am and the walk starts at 11.30 am.

Free parking available.

Get your ticket now:

Early bird tickets 22nd November – 8th February

£10 adult / £5 child

Tickets one week before 8th – 15th February

£12 adult / £7 child

Any tickets bought on the day - £15 adult / £10 child

Dogs go free.

www.thepacecentre.org/event/winter-waggle/

For many of the children at Pace just achieving independent mobility is a huge achievement and takes years of practice. Whether it's taking one step, or learning to use a motorised wheelchair, the challenges they overcome to be independent are enormous. YOU can help them achieve their goals and transform the lives of children with a neurodisability like cerebral palsy by putting on your own walking shoes and joining us for the 'Winter Waggle'. Taking part not only gives you the opportunity to explore this beautiful countryside estate, but you will also be helping us to provide life changing support to the babies, children and young people who access Pace services.

Thanks so much for your support.

CHEDDINGTON METHODIST CHURCH.

Minister: REV NOREEN DALEY-LEE (01525 240083)

We welcome everyone to come along to our church to share in our worship and other activities. Services begin on Sundays at 10.30 am unless otherwise stated and, although there no government requirements currently, we are wearing masks in church.

SERVICES FOR FEBRUARY

4 3pm Rev Noreen Daley-Lee

11 Mr David Neville

18 Rev Noreen Daley-Lee – Communion Service
3.30 pm Messy Church

25 Mrs Lynda Hart

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

**CHEDDINGTON NEWSLETTER ADVERTISING
RATES**
with effect from 1st MARCH 2024

Boxed display rates (based on A4 size paper)

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1/2 page (13 x 19 cm landscape) -
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MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER.

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ as we look forward to 2024. It's in Him that we live, move, and have our being (Acts 17:28). I pray that you have that awareness of being both His creation and His child.

In ancient Roman religion and Greek mythology, Janus is a mythical god. Janus was the god of beginnings, transitions, gates, doorways, passages, duality, and endings. He oversaw the beginning and ending of conflicts. Visually he had two faces on one head; and these two faces looked in the opposite direction of each other. One face looked backward, and the other face looked forward. It is orthodoxly thought that Janus is the root from where we get the word January, the name for the first month of the year. But we are not polytheistic; we do not believe in many gods. So, for us, this mythical Janus helps to bring to light some historical and cultural ramifications for the month of January. It is necessary for us to look back and reflect on God's work and Providence in our lives in 2023 and also look ahead for 2024 where we begin and end some things.

My prayer for you in 2024 goes like this:

I pray that the God of the Alpha, will help you to walk in His strength to put an end to somethings. As you press towards the mark, of your high calling, forgetting those things which are behind (Philippians 3:14). God of the Omega help you to end those things within your control that distract and deter you from God's plan and purpose for your life.

I pray that 2024 will be a year that takes you to another level. The God of forward thinking enable you to see within you a gift, ability, calling, vocation, or aspiration that you believe will catapult your life forward. God of the Alpha help you not to worry about how He would manifest that which is within you. But focus on allowing yourself to go forward that is beyond your level of expectation.

I pray that 2024 will be a year for 'increased discipleship'. Allow this year to be a personal commitment to God to magnify your walk with Him through a greater commitment to Christian service, Bible study, ministry participation, personal witness, and stewardship. Allow yourself to give more to God than what we request. Commit to give God more of you in 2024.

I celebrate God's provision over your life and family during 2023, but I'm also excited about God's will being manifested in your lives in 2024. With all that's going on in the world today, we do still believe that your life is in God's control – the Alpha and Omega – and it will flourish and be sustained by His authority! May the Lord exceeding abundantly above all that we can ask or think (Ephesians 3:20) in 2024 as we raise our commitment to Him both individually and collectively as a Church.

Happy New Year!

Noreen



"THE TOAST" – FOR PARENTS, CARERS and LITTLE ONES. For all parents/carers of pre-school children and babies, join us in the Chapel schoolroom on **Monday mornings**

9.30 – 11.00 during term time for a gentle start to the week. There are toys, activities and refreshments (including toast!) and a warm welcome. Contact Cathy Craft email: cathy.e.craft@gmail.com for more information.

THE SINGALONG CAFE, will be held on **Tuesday 13 February 2 – 3.30 pm** at the Methodist Chapel. It will be led by Karen, Cathy and Trevor who are all accomplished musicians. Do come along and join us and bring a friend or two, particularly those who might otherwise be at home alone. Refreshments will be included thanks to two willing volunteers.

OPEN DOORS – Friday morning 10.30 a.m – noon at the Methodist Chapel. This is an opportunity for all to meet/socialise each Friday morning and have a cup of tea/coffee and a biscuit/cake. Contact Stuart Minall email: stuartpminall@gmail.com for more information.

BOOKS and JIGSAWS. A collection of paperback books and jigsaws are available for buying or borrowing for which a small donation would be appreciated. Do come and have a look to see if there is anything of interest to you. The schoolroom is usually open 9.30 – 11 am on Monday mornings during term time or Friday mornings 10.30 – 12 noon. If you have paperback books, in good condition, or jigsaws that you would like to pass on do bring them along.

MEN'S GROUP. This usually meets on **the first Friday** of each month at 10.45 am to noon. Contact Chris Shephard on 661849.

WARM SPACES: The Methodist Schoolroom will be open on **Fridays 12 noon to 2 pm** for a soup lunch for all those who would like to meet together. Donations of tins of soup or bread, tea/coffee or biscuits can be dropped off at the Chapel on Fridays from 10.30 am. This is a Churches Together initiative in conjunction with the Parish Council to whom we are most grateful for their financial support. All enquiries to cathy.e.craft@gmail.com or 01296 661068.

LOOP SYSTEM. For those people with hearing aids, we have an induction loop system installed and working in the chapel.

SCHOOLROOM BOOKINGS. For all enquiries, please contact Janet Banham email: j.banham@btinternet.com.

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For all enquires please contact **Team Rector Howard Robson 01296 688593; Team Vicar Andrew Krauss 07508 213154.**



Well, here we are in (another!) New Year. When I was a child I always felt New Year's Day to be a bit of let down – by then all the fun was over. Of course, when I was a child, I thought like a child and I reasoned like a child, but now I'm grown up, hopefully my thoughts are more ordered. So, what might we say about the "New Year"?

No doubt we will have said to others, perhaps many times over, "have a Happy New Year"; we say it quite readily even to people we don't really know. In the ancient worlds of which the Hebrew Old Testament and the more multi-cultural New Testament were both part of, words denoted action. That meant you only said something if you intended to follow it through. Yet how many of us actually intend ensuring someone else's new year is happy? Family apart, I'm guessing not really.

It is worth reflecting on this because the Christian gospel makes it very clear that the Almighty does follow through on what He said he would do; which is why John's gospel has at its beginning the stirring phrase "The Word became flesh and dwelt amongst us, full of grace and truth".

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12



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Word denoting action meaning Jesus coming among us and if we've been anywhere near a church over Christmas we will have heard that passage read. I especially like the notably accurate translation which says that Jesus, the Living Word, encamped among us; meaning Jesus moved about. Everything Jesus said and did tells us of God and His loving purposes for us. His ministry was, is, one of encounter and engagement following through on the great promise of the Old Testament that God does not forget us.

So, as we begin 2024, please don't pack Jesus away with the decorations and the tree; allow Him to grow up and move amongst us.

With every blessing,

Rev'd Howard Robson.

The Journey of Lent. With Easter being early this year Lent will be upon us already by the middle of February. The forty days of Lent are, of course, symbolic. In the Hebraic idiom that permeates most of the biblical writings it simply means 'a long time' – a time long enough for something reasonably to be expected to change and develop within people embarking on a Lenten journey. The journey of Lent specifically moves from the wilderness, where we famously hear of Christ resisting temptations of various types, to the city of Jerusalem where the events leading up to the crucifixion and resurrection would take place. Clearly there is a big difference between wilderness and city, which itself points towards the need for change and development along our Lenten journeys now.

Unlike the more communal expectation of Advent, Lenten journeys may often seem rather more focused on individually set tasks, aims and disciplines that are specific to one person's choice. Perhaps this might involve their sense of what may need developing in their response to Christ's call, or distractions that might need avoiding. Whatever the reason, it is equally important to remember the broader context in which Lent is embedded. We have our own discipline and journey to focus on, certainly, but we also know that we often need the cooperation of others to empower and aid us along the way. Sometimes sharing in a Lenten commitment is a good way of emphasizing this. It reminds us that our journeys are all intertwined with one another, especially if followed with the same ultimate hope in mind.

Many people express this aspect of Lent by meeting together more frequently during this period – the classic 'Lent group' for example, which often involves studying, discussing and praying together on a pre-agreed theme of common interest. As in previous years we will be having a Benefice Lent Group for this purpose, which this year will focus specifically on the theme of journeying together, and wherever people feel that they are on their own journey I wish you all the very best for this rich and often underestimated season – a season well worth in-

habiting as fully and meaningfully as we feel able.

Prayers and best wishes to all

Andrew Krauss.

St Giles Parish Services

February

Thurs 1st	9.15am	Mid-week Communion	St.Giles
Sun 4th	9.00 am	B.C.P.	St Giles
	10.30 am	Family Service	St Giles
	4.00 pm	Holy Communion	St Mary's
Sun 11th	10.30 am	Holy Communion	St Giles
Ash Wednesday 14th	8.00pm	Communion	St.Giles
Sun 18th	9.00 am	Holy Communion	St Mary's
	10.30 am	Holy Communion	St Giles
Sun 25th	10.30 am	Morning Worship	St Giles

March

Sun 3rd	9.00 am	B.C.P.	St Giles
	10.30 am	Family Service	St Giles
	4.00 pm	Holy Communion	St Mary's
Thurs 7th	9.15am	Mid-week Communion	St.Giles

SOCIETIES

REPAIR CAFE – Our next Ivinghoe & Pitstone Repair Café will be held on Saturday 24th February between 9.30 – 12.30 at the Pitstone Pavillion. Bring along broken items to be fixed by volunteers! Tools & equipment, electrical goods, electronic devices, clothing, fabrics, jewellery, household items, toys & games, wooden items & bicycles & more! There is no charge for fixing but donations are welcome. Amazing refreshments available, also for a donation!

Since our first cafe last February we have successfully repaired over 300 items!

For further information or enquiries have a look at our Facebook page: F Ivinghoe & Pitstone Repair Café

Or send us an email: ivinghoerepaircafe@gmail.com

Or give Kim a ring on 07778279109



FLOWER CLUB is normally held on the third Wednesday of the month in the Methodist Hall at 7.30 pm. We hold workshops, organise demonstrators and outings throughout the year. The next meeting is on 21st Feb – Quirky Containers workshop.

Interested in joining – please contact Kay Clements (Chair) on 01296 668781 for more details.

SAMARITANS. We offer free and completely confidential help to the lonely, the distressed and the despairing. Anyone needing this help can ring Amersham (01494) 432000 or Milton Keynes (01908) 667777, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, including Christmas Day and Bank Holidays. The branches are at 149 Station Road, Amersham or 161 Fishermead Boulevard, Fishermead, Milton Keynes, where you can call between 10am and 10pm every day without an appointment. Samaritans also answer letters.

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WOMENS INSTITUTE. Are you interested in making new friends? Learning new things? Lively discussion? Interesting outings? Engaging with forward thinking campaigns? In which case Cheddington WI could be just the thing! We are a friendly group of ladies who meet at 7.30pm on the first Thursday of every month in the Village Hall...and we are always keen to welcome new members.

For more information please contact Liesl on 07716 778118 or Nicola on 668347 or email cheddingtonwi@gmail.com.



History Society

Monday 19th February 8pm

Talk by Pat Neilan: The Story of the SS Thistlegorm

The SS Thistlegorm was a British cargo ship launched in April 1940 and defensibly equipped. The ship left Glasgow in June 1941 destined for Alexandria in Egypt with a cargo of military vehicles, equipment, munitions and two railway engines. She had to sail to Egypt via Cape Town because the Suez Canal was blocked. Whilst moored at a safe anchorage in October 1941 she was discovered and sank by German bomber aircraft with most of the cargo in the holds remaining intact. The wreck was first "discovered" by Jacques Cousteau in the early 1950s. In the early 1990s recreational divers started to visit it. Sitting at depth of 30 metres it's a virtual underwater museum and now one of the most visited dive sites in the Red Sea. Pat's talk will cover the ship, details of the cargo and wreck itself with pictures. We will look at its current state and efforts to protect it. We meet at 8 p.m. at the Methodist Church by the Green in the village High Street. Visitors are welcome.

Forthcoming Programme:

18th March: The Women's Land Army of the First World War

Speaker: Helen Frost

Hear about the quite incredible contribution made by this often forgotten, overlooked 'army' of women who, during the great war years were recruited mainly from towns and cities to work on the land; many for the first time in large numbers.

15th April: History of the Royal Bucks Hospital, Aylesbury.

Speaker: John Flewin

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Crime in Cheddington and Cooks

Wharf is low. The Police say that this is due to the work of Cheddington NHW.

89% of residents are kept informed by 33 NHW Street Coordinators. They are made aware of local issues & the latest scams by receiving information from them by email (or by hand). NHW & Wing Police ask residents to report suspicious behaviour, theft or incidents to the police on 999 if live (or 101). A report about something that you think is insignificant could be linked to other similar reports. A Police presence may then be needed.

If criminals or cold callers target elderly residents, ring 999.

Are you new to the village? If you would like to be included or find out more then please send an email to neighbourhoodwatchcheddington@gmail.com.



or for those without the internet ring Gail on 0798 9779 402.

Please report: scam emails by forwarding to report@phishing@gov.uk. scam texts by forwarding to 7726

Cheddington NHW no longer sends its members Thames Valley Alerts. Please sign up for these using www.thamesvalleyalert.co.uk.

Gail Steed

Area NHW Coordinator



1st Cheddington Scout Group.

Happy New Year! The end of 2023 once again saw a large amount of activity across the group with some highlights being the Beavers Christmas Disco, Cubs bouncing around at Gravity and Scouts heading to Mr Mulligans for a round or two of mini golf!

Lots of activities are already planned for the start of 2024 beginning with the Scouts who will be attending the February Freezer Camp and training is already underway across all sections for the various Endurance distance hiking events. Good luck to everybody involved in these adventures!

Scout Hut Open Morning & Hire. On Sat 9th December we hosted an open morning to show off the refurbished hut. Thanks to those of you who attended, it was great to see many old and new faces and enjoy some mince pies whilst browsing from the local craft stalls that were in attendance. Everybody was impressed with how the hut is now looking and it is also now available for hire at preferential rates for Scout Members or Cheddington Residents. Please check out the Cheddington Scout Group Facebook page for more details.

Christmas Fund Raising. We would also like to say a huge thank you to everybody in the village who supported our Christmas tree collection this year and to all the helpers who collected almost 150 trees across Cheddington, Slapton & Mentmore in record time.

Many thanks to Rob from RML Tree & Garden Services who donated his time for free to dispose of the trees in an environmentally friendly manner. Please look them up on Facebook for all your Tree and Garden needs!

The Christmas Quiz was also a big success this year with a large number of entries. Several entrants managed to get all the answers correct, so congratulations to The Cowley Family, Sue Baker, Samantha Hallam, Claire Ireson, Ray & Sara Cousins and Graham Boylan! If you would like a copy of the answers (for a small fee) please email Kim.Key@hotmail.co.uk.

Together the Christmas fundraising raised over £1000 for the group which will be used to purchase new equipment. Thank you for your support!

Volunteers Required! As you can imagine, all sections are extremely popular, and we have significant waiting lists. We are urgently looking for volunteers to assist with running the sections (especially Cubs!). Volunteering as part of the Scouting movement can be an extremely fulfilling and enjoyable experience (and if you are a leader you will not be charged the normal subscription fees for your child).

If you, or anybody you know, is willing and able to get involved with any age group as a leader or in any other

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capacity such as fundraising, administration or executive leadership, please contact us at admin@cheddingtonscouts.org.uk.

We can also offer the opportunity for Young Leaders (aged between 14 and 17) to support a younger section whilst developing their own skills – they can already be an Explorer Scout keen on starting their own leadership journey or a young person outside of scouting who is working towards the voluntary element of their Duke Of Edinburgh Award.

Group Details. 1st Cheddington is a thriving Scout Group, offering challenge and adventure to young people of all ages, helping them learn to take responsibility for themselves and for others while having fun and taking part in a wide range of activities. The Scout Group continues to grow and plays an active part in village life. We have four sections, all of which are open to both boys and girls:

- Beavers (6 to 8 years) – Mondays 18:30 – 19:30 / Thursdays 18:15 – 19:15
- Cubs (8 to 10½ years) – Tuesdays 18:30 – 20:00 / Wednesdays 18:30 – 20:00
- Scouts (10½ to 14 years) – Thursdays 19:15 – 20:45 / Fridays 18:30 – 20:00
- Explorers (14 to 18 years) – Mondays 20:00 – 21:30

Meetings are held in our headquarters in Station Road.

For further information about any of the sections, or to put your name down on our waiting list (we recommend at least a year before they are old enough so that places can be made available) please see the contact page at www.cheddingtonscouts.org.uk.

Cheddington Scouts has a dedicated Admin email for any enquiries you may have, this may be for hiring the hut or general questions relating to scouting in the village. Please use admin@cheddingtonscouts.org.uk Please note DO NOT use this for registering your child to join - please follow as advised above.



SPIRIT YOUTH GROUP.

Cheddington Spirit Youth Drama Group offers opportunities for the young people in our community to experience the enjoyment and challenge of stage performance in a relaxed and friendly environment. Using games, exercises and improvisations we encourage our members to develop their confidence and stretch their imagination, providing them with a range of skills which prove useful in all areas of their lives. We meet on Wednesdays in term time at the Village Hall from 6.30pm to 8pm, and membership is open to young people aged 7 and over. If your child might be interested in joining the group, simply contact one of the leaders – Colin, Becky Curtis, Emily Nayler, Sally Ann Butcher or Ian whose number is 01296 660872.

Village Walking Group. A group of us get together every other Wednesday morning for a walk in our lovely countryside. We meet at the Green at 9.15 am and drive to a different spot each time and walk for 4 – 5 miles at a relaxed pace with plenty of time to chat and admire the views. Lifts can be arranged if necessary. We are usually back in the village by midday. New walkers are very welcome. For more information contact Mary Peacock on 662620, Nicola Barron on 668347 or email cheddingtonwalkers@gmail.com.

SPORTS & FITNESS

BADMINTON CLUB. We play social badminton (with a competitive edge!) between 8pm and 10pm every Thursday in the Village Hall. New members are always made welcome. For further details give Kim a ring on 07778279109.

JUNIOR BADMINTON CLUB. New junior members are always welcome, places are secured on ability and not age. Turn up at 6pm and Ray will determine the most appropriate group for you. Ray can be contacted on 662148 for further details about Junior Badminton.

Check out our new Facebook page Cheddington Village Badminton Club.

TENNIS CLUB.

NEW MEMBERS. We're your friendly local club and always keen to welcome new members. We have sessions to suit individuals and families of ALL ages and standards – from complete novices through to experienced league players. Come and try us out, we'd love to meet you!

COACHING. Bex Stanley is our LTA registered coach. She runs our coaching for adults and children, on a group or individual basis.

CLUB NIGHT. Throughout the year on (most) Tuesday evenings, we hold a relaxed club night for members of all abilities, starting at 7pm. It's also a great opportunity for potential members to come down and try us out for free.

DAYTIME TENNIS. If you're around during the week (Mondays & Fridays) and fancy playing some social tennis, we have a thriving daytime group.

MATCHES. For those keen to play slightly more competitive tennis, we run a number of teams in the Aylesbury Vale League.

FURTHER INFORMATION. So, if you'd like to get fit, have fun and improve your game, please contact us at: <https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/CheddingtonTennisClub>.

NIFTY FIFTIES PLUS has been established in the Village for over 25 years. We meet at the Village Hall, each Thursday from 10.00am to 12 noon. There are exercises to suit older people of varying abilities, some seated and some standing. This is followed by a break for a cup of tea or coffee and a chance to socialise. Next, a chance to participate in indoor sports activities, including table tennis, indoor bowls and occasionally soft ball tennis or badminton. The cost is £7 per session, plus a small quarterly membership fee.

If you are over 50 years of age, you will be very welcome and your first visit will be free. For more information, please contact Chris on 01442 824350.

THANK YOU

POPPY APPEAL 2023. I would like to say a huge thank you to everyone in Cheddington and surrounding villages who contributed to, and collected for, the 2023 Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal. Our collection total was £2,905.47. Thank you for your on-going support for our Armed Forces community, past and present.

Keith Malcolm.

Poppy Appeal Organiser, Cheddington.



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Cheddington Dog Walker

Paws in Good Hands

My name is Julie, I am based in Cheddington, Buckinghamshire.

I offer dog walking and pop in visits in Cheddington and the surrounding villages.

Providing safe, reliable and trustworthy dog walking when you are unable to.

Your dogs health and happiness are my priority. Rest assured your dog will be in safe hands with me, I am dedicated to your dogs well-being.

For each walk there will be a maximum of two dogs (that are happy to walk together) or maximum of 3 from the same home.

I am fully insured, DBS checked and Pet first Aid trained with NARPS.

www.cheddingtondogwalker.com
cheddingtondogwalker@icloud.com
07508 5389325
Insta - cheddingtondogwalker

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Food Bank Collections 2024.

Thur/Fri/Sat - 7th/8th/9th March 2024

Thur/Fri/Sat - 6th/7th/8th June 2024

Thur/Fri/Sat - 5th/6th/7th Sept 2024

Thur/Fri/Sat - 5th/6th/7th Dec 2024

Bins will be outside Cheddington Methodist Church.

If you are struggling and are short of supplies, please call Babs on 07860 780127.

If you would like items picked up please call Carol 07931 344020

No fresh food. Please put items in plastic bags.

Bins will be outside Cheddington Methodist Church, 5 The Green.

If you are struggling and are short of supplies, please call Babs on 07860 780127.

If you would like items picked up, please call Carol 07931 344020.

No fresh food. Please put items in plastic bags.

Thank you .

FREE TO COLLECT.

Exercise Bicycle.

Computer Monitor.

Both in good clean condition.

Please ring 01296 668341.

NSPCC CHILD PROTECTION HELPLINES

If you are concerned about a child at risk of abuse call, free of charge, on

0808 800 500

or if you are a child looking for confidential counselling and advice call Childline on

0800 1111

or visit the website There4me.com

CALENDAR

FEBRUARY

7th Parish Council Meeting. 7pm. Pavilion

13th Singalong Café 2 – 3.30pm at the Methodist Chapel

14th Residents Assoc. meeting. 7.15pm. Methodist Hall

14th Flower Club. 7.30. Methodist Hall.

19th History Society. Methodist Hall. Church. 8pm

24th Repair Café. 9.30–12.30. Pitstone Pavilion

MARCH

18th History Society. Methodist Hall. Church. 8pm

Thur/Fri/Sat - 7th/8th/9th Foodbank collection. Methodist Chapel.

20th Flower Club. 7.30. Methodist Hall Chapel



cheddington.org.uk
the village web site

CHEDDINGTON NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH



Anything suspicious let the police know

RING 101

If it's a crime in progress

RING 999

To be a member please contact us on:



Cheddington NHW

Email—neighbourhoodwatchcheddington@gmail.com

**Copy for the next issue
by
February 15th**

AVDC Refuse Collection Dates

Weds 7th Feb. Green Refuse Bin & Food Waste Bin

Weds 14th Feb. Blue Recycling Bin & Food Waste Bin

Weds 21st Feb. Green Refuse Bin & Food Waste Bin

Weds 28th Feb. Blue Recycling Bin & Food Waste Bin

Garden Waste bins

Bancroft St, Berryfield, Brownlow Lane, Gooseacre, Hillside, Long Marston Road, Manor Road, Sunnybank, and The Baulk –
7th Feb, 21st Feb

Rest of Village – **14th Feb, 28th Feb**

**For the latest news see the ADVC website –
www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk**