

# *Sydenham Newsletter*



*February 2015*

# Editorial

Welcome to the first Newsletter of 2015, we send our best wishes for a Happy New Year and an opportunity to share the happenings of the Christmas season and to advise you of forthcoming attractions, particularly as the traditional 40 days of Lent activities commence after school on Tuesday 17th February with Pancake Races down Brookstones! Following the Editorial we move straight onto the Church services timetable and with Easter being early this year we have included not only the Easter Church Services for your diary dates, but associated items of interest - pancake races, a choir concert on 7th March and Mothering Sunday a week later. We have covered the lovely Christmas events that took place; the highlight for me being the children's crib service with Sydenham families gathered in St Mary's on Christmas Eve with over a hundred in attendance. A few days earlier, as our cover picture shows, two of our younger villagers had a good view of the carol singing on the Village Green - from the tree planted to mark Charles and Diana's wedding!

We are sad to record the death of Tanya D'Onofrio (nee Archer) who lived at Kingston Stert for the last 40 years. Her obituary is a fascinating story of a full and varied life.

The ladies of the WI continue to enjoy themselves and report on their entertaining Christmas gathering and the January meeting featuring an interesting talk on bee-keeping. Whilst not meant to be 'owned' by the WI, the ladies have also commenced a 2hr monthly Coffee morning on the second Thursday each month where anyone can come along for a change of scenery, to chat, enjoy tea & coffee and home made cakes or the opportunity to 'natter' with friends. There were a couple of dozen at the inaugural meeting including three chaps and a couple of babies. Read about it and join in the next one on 12th February.

Another highlight of Christmas Day was the lunchtime family gatherings in the two pubs whilst the turkeys were cooking. The now traditional '100 Club' special draw featuring £100 and a £50 prizes took place in the Crown and were gratefully received by the lucky winners. The '100 Club' was formed several years ago and is the main fundraiser of the Old School Room. This year we have over 150 members, and after paying out monthly prize money gives the OSR an annual income of £900. The AGM for the OSR will take place on Tuesday 24th February so do try and come along to support the event.

At the start of several past New Years, Paul Stancliffe has summarised the events of the previous year's Newsletters. Not only has he done so again for 2014, but he has gone back ten years and we republish his 2004 summary - very interesting and so much has happened in the ten years! It prompts Fi Kermack to ask "could we do a regular feature of the early issues" - I think this is an idea worthy of consideration as there are now many new villagers who may learn something of Sydenham history.

The next Newsletter will cover the months of March and April. If you have any reports or would like to tell the village of your activities, this is your opportunity. We try and cover all the events but would welcome new support; is there anyone interested in joining the team? Do please get in touch. Please let the team have your news, views, reports and diary dates by Friday 27th February for inclusion or email me on royharry@aol.com.

Roy

## *Dates for your Diary in February, March & April*

### **St. Mary's Church Services**

*Services from the 1662 Book of Common Prayer are marked \**

#### **February**

Sunday 1st	10.00am	Holy Communion - <i>Revd. Joan DeVal</i>
Tuesday 3rd	8.00pm	Local St Mary's Church Meeting in the OSR
Sunday 8th		No Service
Sunday 15th	6.00pm	*Evensong - <i>Mark Humphrey</i>
Sunday 22nd	10.00am	Songs of Praise - <i>the Church Wardens</i>

#### **March**

Sunday 1st	10.00am	No Service in Sydenham
Sunday 1st	10.00am	United Holy Communion at Aston Rowant - <i>Revd. Peter Wainwright</i>
Sunday 8th		No Service
Sunday 15th	4.00pm	Mothering Sunday - Family Service - <i>Revd. Joan DeVal &amp; Jo Whitfield</i> followed by Tea & light refreshments in the OSR.
Sunday 22nd	10.00am	*Sung Matins - <i>Revd. Simon Baynes.</i>
Sunday 29th		No Service in Sydenham but a 9.30am HC at Chinnor with Dr Kuhrt or 10.00am Holy Communion at Aston Rowant - <i>Revd. Des Foote</i>

#### **April**

Thursday 2nd		Last Supper
Friday 3rd	10.00am	*Good Friday Service - <i>Revd. Peter Wainwright</i>
Sunday 5th	10.00am	* Easter Day Family Service followed by short Holy Communion - <i>Revd. Brian Griffiths</i>
Sunday 12th		No Service
Monday 13th	7.30pm	Induction of our new Rector <i>Revd. Margaret Thorne</i> by <i>Bishop Colin</i> at St Andrew's Chinnor - please do come along and welcome her.
Sunday 19th	6.00pm	* Evensong
Sunday 26th	10.00am	Songs of Praise - <i>the Church Wardens</i>



## **The New Rector**

The Revd. Maggie Thorne has now finished her former ministry in Oxford enabling her to make contact with the local Clergy and sit in on meetings and planning discussions for the future. She will become our Rector the week after Easter following her induction at St Andrew's led by Colin, Bishop of Dorchester on Monday 13th April. We very much look forward to welcoming her and a further update will be included in the next Newsletter. *Adèle*

## **Christmas Church Decorations**

I would like to thank everyone who helped to make the Church so pretty and festive for Christmas. It looked really lovely *Rosemary*

## **Carols Round the Tree 21st December**

What an excellent turnout with many village families and friends gathered around Gordon's Christmas trees on the green. We estimate sixty people, but unfortunately Chris Hood was unable to join us to conduct the choir due to a chest infection. Half an hour singing carols and then for many onto the Crown for further enjoyment - thank you all for turning out to the memorable event and £50 was raised to help maintain the trees and lights for future occasions.

## **Countryside Service**

A couple of hours after the Carols Round the Tree, we assembled for the annual Countryside Service. We had been notified of Chris Hood's incapacity 24 hrs earlier and thanks to St Andrew's Organist Graham Smallbone's networking skills, came up with a very able stand in, namely Sarah Fairall from Monks Risborough. With half an hour's practice on the old barrel organ, Sarah, accompanied by her husband Charlie, and two children Michael and Hannah (who rang the Church bells alongside Gilly), collectively saved the day.

## **Crib Service 4pm - Christmas Eve**

It was quite amazing walking into Church to a packed family congregation, including Grannies and Grandpas with Revd. Des Foote leading the service of prayers and readings, all read by local children, thanks to Hilary Lamb's involvement - thank you Hilary. We counted seventy five adults and thirty five children and many were involved seeking and finding the knitted figures to go into the beautifully simple illuminated Crib. A really lovely occasion - thanks to everyone involved for creating such a great atmosphere.

## **Midnight Holy Communion**

Later on Christmas Eve many families and friends turned out for a delightful service led by Revd. Julian Dunn and we were all back home and tucked up in bed by 12.30am ready to start the exciting events of Christmas Day. *Roy*

## Choir News

The choir was again very busy over the Christmas period. Our pictures were taken in St Mary's Vestry before the carol service here in Sydenham and at St Nicholas, Emmington where we are on the left with the St Andrew's, Chinnor choir on the right. We also sang on a visit to Hempton Fields, joined in with the carols round the trees on the Green and sang for the Countryside Service and the midnight service on Christmas Eve.

We're now busy rehearsing for the concert on 7th March in the church - see details opposite. Hope to see lots of you there!

*Siobhan*

### **HUNGER LUNCH IN AID OF THE PORCH STEPPIN' STONE CENTRE**

A hunger lunch will be held on Monday,  
23rd February from 12.30 to 2pm  
at The Old Vicarage, Aston Rowant

All are welcome; cash donations and gifts of dry  
and tinned foodstuffs will be gratefully received

Rona Knight 351 315



# Sydenham Choir Concert

On **Saturday 7th March** at 7.30pm in St Mary's Church we are putting on a concert in aid of Village and Church Funds.

The Church Choir will sing a selection of music we have learned over the last few years and we have invited some guest performers.

Is there a theme? Well it's not long after St Valentine's Day, so there might be a love interest. It is also close to St David's Day, suggesting a Welsh item, and it is Spring— with Lent and Easter approaching.

If that is not enough to raise your interest, there will be wine and canapés in the interval. I hope it will be a nice relaxed evening for everyone to enjoy.

No pressure except to remember to book your tickets through Siobhan 01844 353278 or Gilly 07789 584252

Adults £6, Concession's £5 and Children under 12yrs £3.

*Chris Hood*

## **Mothering Sunday**

I thought all you boys and girls would like to help, so we will be making flower posies at my house, Chapel's End at 3.00pm on Saturday 14th March. All ages and abilities welcome. So please do come.

I look forward to seeing you all.

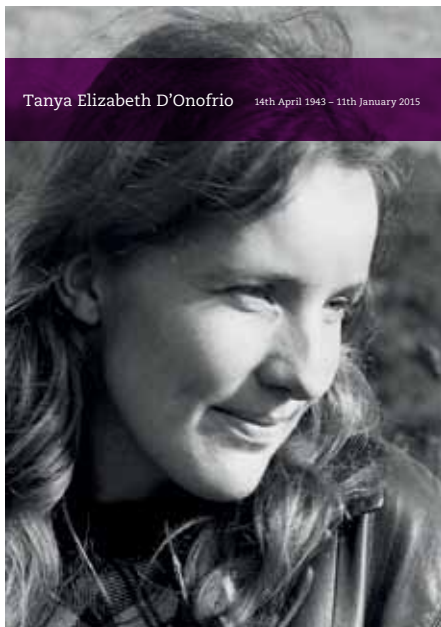
*Rosemary*

## **Pancake Day Races**

**Tuesday 17th February 2015. From 3.30pm**

Easter is early this year with Lent starting on Ash Wednesday 18th February. Here in Sydenham, along with many others, Pancake Races will take place the previous day Tuesday after school, outside the Old School Room. I'm sure the usual team of friends will be making delicious pancakes to serve afterwards in the OSR but for the races we would love children, mums and Grandparents to come along with their frying pans and a ready-made pancake to compete in the events. We will have sweeties for everyone who competes followed by hot pancakes, refreshments with tea and coffee and soft drinks served in the OSR afterwards with all contributions going towards the church funds. The event is fun with informal racing for all ages - do come along and have a great afternoon.

*Roy*



Tanya Elizabeth D'Onofrio

14th April 1943 – 11th January 2015

## **Tanya D'Onofrio (nee Archer)**

**14th April 1943 – 11th January 2015**

Tanya was born near Camberley where Marianna (Masha) was living with her parents while William was away in the war. In 1945 William, Masha, Melena (4½) and Tanya (2) sailed to South Africa for William to manage the fruit farm.

On the family's return to England in 1951, William, Masha, Sebastian and Roderick, went to start their market garden at the Mill House, Sydenham, while Melena and Tanya stayed with their grandparents in Surrey. The two girls continued to live with their grandparents throughout their school years.

Tanya gained a teaching qualification in Maths and Music at Westminster College near Oxford, did her teaching practice

at St Andrews School, Chinnor and stayed there as a Teacher. In 1965 she was accepted for a job at the Anglo-American School in Moscow. She and a friend travelled extensively throughout the Soviet Union during their 3 years there.

After that Tanya went to teach at the International School in Rome. While living in Rome she met Ugo. She also formed a close friendship with Nancy Shuckburgh, the wife of the ambassador in Rome, with whom she played recorder ensembles. They continued playing after the Shuckburghs retired to their house on Christmas Common until Nancy died.

Tanya and Ugo were married at Oxford Registry Office on August 28th 1969 before returning to live in Ugo's flat in Rome. Alyoscia was born at Shepherds Close, Kingston Stert in 1971 but after almost three more years in Rome the couple decided to live in England. They joined Masha and William at Shepherds Close shortly before Tancredi's birth in 1974. Natalia was born in 1978. When Shepherds Close was sold in 1984, Tanya and Ugo built and established their home at Icknield Nurseries. Tanya was kept busy teaching at St. Andrews and Aston Rowant Schools during the day, teaching Italian and Russian in the evenings, as well as running the market garden and raising a family. After Ugo's death in 2002, Tanya continued part time teaching at St. Andrews, where she worked past normal retirement age.

Tanya was diagnosed with leukaemia in June 2014 and died peacefully in the Churchill Hospital. She leaves Alyoscia, Tancredi, Natalia, three grandsons and three granddaughters.



# The Parish Council



The position of the new broadband cabinet on the Village Green just to the left of the present BT green cabinet has been agreed: Openreach are now hoping to bring forward the installation so that those connected to the new cabinet could have improved speeds from late Spring of this year.



The connections to the properties at the Inn at Emmington end of the village have been discussed with the Openreach Oxfordshire and Berkshire Co-ordinator, who is in charge of the work. The method and timing of these connections are yet to be determined.

*Paul*

## Planning

### **P14/S4052/FUL and P14/S3461/LB - Old Byre House, Sydenham Road**

To convert brick built storage barn into residential use, to comprise bedsitter, bathroom and kitchen. No external work, all internal.

*No strong views.*

## Our January Meeting

The key subjects discussed at the January meeting were the playing field, speeding on the B4445 and election procedures.

Regarding the playing field a grant application has been made to the SODC requesting funds to support the replacement of the agility trail. Ideally, we would like to be in a position to install some more challenging equipment, particularly for the older children in the community later this year. We were hoping to receive notification of the grant by mid-February, however in light of recent events at the SODC offices this may be a little later. Will Munday has been laying the hedge on three sides of the Playing field and there are also plans afoot to complete a general tidy/clean-up once the weather gets warmer.

We are also actively looking into the possibility of creating a pinch point on the B4445 and are looking to liaise with Chinnor Parish Council to see if we can make this actually happen. An initial meeting has taken place on site with OCC Highways Dept, but the hope in the very near future is to complete a viability survey including costings to determine the practicalities of achieving this.

With the general election in May this year, it is also time for Parish Council elections. Sadly, we are saying farewell to Paul Stancliffe (the current and long-term Chairman) as after being a councillor since 1979 including 29 years as Chairman, he has decided it is time to hand over the reins. The Parish Clerk is due to receive more information including nomination packs for prospective candidates (including interests and Code of Conduct) imminently. Nominations from prospective candidates must be submitted no later than 4pm on Thursday 9th April, but preferably sooner. Likewise all councillors wishing to continue must also be nominated. A 'Statement of Persons Nominated' will be issued the next day to let everyone know whether it will be an uncontested election or that there will be a poll. If you want to chat to one of the current councillors about what is involved, then please do so at any time.

I look forward to - hopefully - seeing you at the next Parish Council meeting (always the first Thursday of the month at 8pm in the OSR). *Rachel*

## SODC

### Planning

#### **P14/S3481/FUL - Sydenham Grange, Thame Park Road**

Demolition and replacement of existing cattle yards with new portal steel frame buildings (previously approved under application ref P08/E0318)

*Permission GRANTED*

#### **P14/S3087/LB - The Thatched Cottages 2 Sydenham Road OX39 4LT**

Installation of gas boiler in the kitchen with an external flue.

*Permission GRANTED*

## **Fire Damage at South Oxfordshire District Council Offices, Crowmarsh. A week on from the fire.**

As so many of our services are now back up and running it's easier to tell you where there might be delays or disruptions rather than listing services that, apart from things possibly taking a little longer than normal, aren't hugely affected.

But please bear in mind with all services that we're operating from temporary offices with fewer staff than normal so there may be one of two unforeseen teething problems and if that happens please bear with us.

If you have an enquiry that isn't urgent it would be a great help if you could hold off getting in touch for a week or so.

### **Planning**

This is the main service affected. If you had an application registered with us we're currently predicting a fortnight's delay in deciding it. If you need to apply for planning permission, it would be a great help if you could delay submitting it for a few weeks, so we can deal with urgent issues. We are extending the deadline for comments on planning applications by X days, which was the length of time our systems was down for. You can now view and comment on planning applications online. It will take our planning officers a few days/a week to get back up to speed with the applications, so please hold off ringing about your application until the end of next week unless it's urgent. All planning submitted either by post or online between Tuesday 13th and Thursday 15th January were definitely lost in the fire. Please resend your application, and make it clear on your application that you had sent it before.

It's not yet clear if we still have applications that we received on Monday 13th January, so please stand by for an update. If any of this will cause you a major problem, please call 01235 540546.

### **Waste and recycling**

We are not currently able to take bookings for bulky waste collections. Whilst we restore our booking system, you could take your item to one of the county council's waste recycling centres.

### **Elections**

You can still register to vote, we just can't confirm your registration until our systems are fully restored. Please don't worry though; this will not stop you being able to vote in the elections in May.

You can also still apply for postal and proxy votes, it will just take us a little longer than usual to process these so please bear with us.

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Another busy month leading up to Christmas with our usual jollities and heart-warming friendships. The WI got involved with the St Mary's Christmas Market (as reported in the last issue) then it was full steam ahead to our Christmas party where the theme was 'masks' and our pictures show the variety of personalities. See if you can guess who is who!! Terenia has written an account of the very successful evening. Come January, we firstly held the Sydenham Social Coffee Morning in the OSR which was a lovely success – Gilly tells us all about it. At our New Year's meeting we had a visit from Steve Moll who buzzed with enthusiasm when delivering his fascinating talk on the incredible world of the honeybee. Adèle tells us more in her report.

As you can see, we have rather a good time at our meetings and all are welcome. It's a lovely opportunity to get to know ladies from the village and beyond. Just come along to a meeting to see how you get on. The February meeting on the 19th will introduce us to 'lady pirates' so don your eye patches, wooden legs and don't forget your parrot. The March meeting is the Sydenham WI AGM on the 19th. Do come along. Contact Anna via [anna@kairosyoga.org](mailto:anna@kairosyoga.org) for more info.

*Fi*

## **The Festive WI Christmas Dinner**

A most enjoyable start to the festive season spent with WI friends and an opportunity to eat, drink and be merry. Our theme this year was masks, and the girls came wearing a wonderful selection ranging from glamorous Venetian to most amusing. Our surprise entertainment was 'The Launton Bell Ringers' who played a beautiful medley of Christmas carols interspersed with amazing facts about hand bell ringing in general and the history of their group which had celebrated their diamond jubilee by having a bell cast (at a cost of £500). Did you know for example that a lot of bells originated from those used to summon the servants in grand houses? Playing these bells was described as a 'Bit like massaging your head and rubbing your tummy simultaneously in opposite directions'. Dinner was delicious and at the high standard set in previous years and was served onto a beautifully decorated festive table. A selection of seasonal poems was read after the meal. Last but not least we were lucky enough to have a visit from Father Christmas who was on fine form dispensing general witticisms and good cheer. Our thanks go to the committee for organising the evening.

*Terenia Cooper*

## **The incredible world of the Honey Bee**

January's WI Meeting was held at John and June Hall's who kindly opened their home for us. The subject was "The incredible world of the Honey Bee" and incredible it was, most ably given by bee keeper Steve Moll. It was an enthralling presentation at which no one fell asleep and copious questions were asked. Did you know that bees leave an 8 to 9 mm gap so they can pass each other in a

corridor? - Each cell is a 5 mm hexagon, which is light and strong, sloping back at 13°? We were told about the entire life cycle and for example how a bee who has found a good source of pollen communicates this to the other bees in the hive, by doing a “waggle dance”. And did you know facts such as bees flap their wings to dry the nectar and reduce it down to 18% moisture with a wax cap on to store it and that they store pollen, their protein for the winter with a layer of honey on the top? – really clever!

The meeting ended with Steve producing various bee products if we wished to buy them, such as wax candles, beeswax polish and of course honey. In every respect this was an exceptional meeting and next time you are tempted to get rid of invading ivy, do please remember that its flowers are one of the most important plants for pollination!

*Adèle*



## **Sydenham Social Coffee Morning**

What a fantastic response to our first efforts to put on the facility to provide the setting for people in the village to meet with others and socialise. The OSR was buzzing with chit-chat on the 8th January morning! We think our inaugural gathering was a success, but an opportunity for many others to come along and join in. Thank you very much to all of you who supported us. We hope you enjoyed the chance to get out of the house, sit down with a cuppa and a slice of homemade cake/apple pie or a biscuit or two at giveaway price, and meet other people. If so, please spread the word to friends, neighbours, relations.

The next morning will be on 12th February, again 10am till 12noon. EVERYONE is welcome, men, women and children, for whom there are toys to keep them amused. All ages, young parents to OAP's, villagers and those from far and wide. Take the time to pop in for a quick coffee with/without cake! Or sit down for a couple of hours with friends, or a book, natter or just enjoy the buzz of others and the surroundings.

We very much look forward to seeing you next month, when there will also be a 'bring and buy' table.

Well done and huge thanks to this month' team of bakers and helpers. *Gilly*

## People and Happenings of 2014

After a combined December 2013 / January 2014 issue of the Newsletter, the February / March issue was the first produced in 2014. It featured the **Defibrillator team** on the front cover and contained a report on the successful fundraising and the opening ceremony, with further pictures. Also featured were the choir's Christmas activities and a centre spread of the cricket club's Burns night supper pictures followed by a full report including details of cooking the haggis - despite a very badly timed power cut! It was reported that the **Revd Kenneth Campbell** had accepted the vacant Rector's position, but unhappily he subsequently withdrew his acceptance. This issue also reported on **Peggy Pullen's** funeral on 20th January and included a brief obituary. Also included was news of the churchyard wall, which had been hit twice by skidding cars after flooding and freezing conditions on 11th January. The WI items included pictures taken at the WI Christmas party and a report of **Paul Rooksby's** talk on his "Trip round the World on £5". Finally **Pat & Ken Hardiman** announced the arrival of their fifth grandson, **Archie Ryan**, a son for **Amie & Craig**, on New Year's Day.

The cover of our April issue pictured the Pancake racing on Shrove Tuesday and a report and pictures of the Victorian "Murder Mystery evening" in Chinnor with the Sydenham contingent suitably dressed and **Rosemary Carter** winning the 'best dressed' authentic Victorian outfit. We reported that **Paul Stancliffe** had been presented with a High Sheriff award and pictured a selection of smiling Sydenham faces captured by **Anna Froker** on the centre spread. The WI reported on their previous year's activities and the departure of **Jean Harris** to the West Country in June and the sad loss of **Jan Burrows** in July. Finally the trip from the Inn to Cheltenham Gold Cup day organized by **Matt Moister** was included, as was the reopening night of the Crown, being run by **Roger & Yvonne Dean**. Our May / June issue pictured the WI fashion show and included reports of five of their varied activities. The Inn at Emmington reported that **Ken Hardiman** and **Dave Froker** with their band S.Y.D had played to a full house on Easter Saturday and the cricket club report included the news that **Dan Bradley** had become the new Vice Captain and **Gordon McLeod** had agreed to continue as strategist on pitch preparation.

The July / August issue reported that **Bradley Rex James Browning, Lisa & Will's** 10 week old son, was partying with one year old **Gilbert Weston**, and also the arrival of a grandson for **Sandra & Jeff Ludgate**. We also reported the deaths of **Marianna Archer** and **Doris Belgrove** but more happily the weddings in St Mary's of **Celia Errington / Owen Evans** and **Laura Sweeney / John Bird** from Chinnor. There was a full report and lots of pictures of Sydenham Fayre and of **Jeff Ludgate** and **Nigel Lamb** who had both come first in rounds of their respective high speed races. We reported that 'The ballad of Midsomer County' had been filmed in the village and that **Gordon & Pauline McLeod** had celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary earlier in the year.

Our September / October issue recorded the wedding of **Rachel Wilkins** to **Andrew Campbell** but also the sad death of **Iris Hillier**. Departures included **Jane & Ted Waldron** from Emmington, **Justin Harvey-James** and **Kate & Alan Buchanan** from the village, and **Linzi & Karl Cooper** had gone travelling for a year. The completion of both the churchyard wall repair, built by **Darren Windram**, and the sewer work which caused the two month road closure, were recorded. The centre spread pictured the WI party and games in **June & John Hall's** garden at Emmington, and also pictured was **James & Gemma Ward's** move by the Sydenham Removal Company.

The November issue pictured **Ann & John Ashfield's** pumpkin event with **Julia Gossage's** winning monster and recorded that **Nigel Lamb** had become the 2014 Red Bull Air Race World Champion. The Downton Abbey races were pictured and included villagers **Tara Glen, Tommy Quesnel, Emily Harbour, Gilly Harrison and Albert Chandler**. We also recorded the arrival of **Isadora Charlotte Simpson** at The Folly and pictured **Michael Plested**, the winner of the Conker Championship at the Inn at Emmington. Our Christmas / New Year issue announced the appointment of the **Revd. Maggie Thorne** as the new Rector and pictured **Tony Smith** at the Remembrance Day service in St Mary's. The choir outing to Charlton-on-Otmoor organized by **Chris Hood** was also pictured which included a meal at **Max & Louise Pettini's** Crown. And we recorded the arrival of **Sue, Mark, Chris and Molly Jones** to The Green and included a report of **Grace Chandler's** 2014 cycling trip around Mount Kilimanjaro.

*While producing the summary of 2014 above, we thought it might be interesting to see what was happening in Sydenham ten years ago - so here is the summary for 2004.*

## **People and Happenings of 2004**

Last year's Newsletters again record an eventful Sydenham year. January's issue recorded the wedding of **Andrew Chown and Maxine Higgins** in Tokyo, the previous October, as well as the death of **Eric Munday** on 9th December 2003. It also recorded the loss of **Abby Gorton's** shoe in the middle of the road, while accompanying the Village Centre Christmas Float, and finding it an hour later on the return journey! February's issue reported that **Joyce Gomme** had died at the age of 88 and that **Joan Wallington** had been confined to the house with a 'loose' hip, that **Wendy Margan** was recovering well after her hospital treatment and that **Alan Twitchett** was about to go into the Churchill hospital. It also recorded the arrival of **Karen Riley & Phil Harper** at 'The Beeches' with **Andrew, Charlie, Sean and Aimee**. The March issue recorded **Alan's** safe return after his first operation but that **Doug Newham** drove to Stoke Mandeville with a burst appendix! It also recorded that **Pete Jones** was in Stoke Mandeville, that **Jim Haines** had recovered well from a second cataract operation and that **Ivy Neave** had started driving again after a nasty fall. Also mentioned was **Richard and Andy's** move of the BMW business from the Mill House to Queens Road,



Thame, as well as the arrival of **Edward Castle's** beautiful red Morgan. And **Sian Williams and Mat Bowden** were congratulated on their engagement, having met at the Sydenham OSR Quiz night, the previous October.

The April issue recorded the deaths of both **Arthur Manning and Tom Martin**, the return of **Alan Twitchett** after his second operation and the arrival of **Jake Alexander**, a son for **Michelle and David Brooks** of 4 Park View. On the same day that **Jake** was born, **Leah Hutton and Phillip Mathews** moved in further along at 20 Park View. May's issue recorded the deaths of **Vera Drinkwater (nee Ludlow)**, **Freda Smith's** sister, as well as **Matt Hughes**, but on a happier note welcomed the **Lamb family** back from their lengthy trip to Australia and New Zealand. Welcomed to the village were **Pat & Ian Edwards** to The Old Sun and **Lynn Rockell & Richard Worrall** to Thatchings. And **Sian Williams and Mat Bowden** were married on 3rd April at The Oxford Belfry where 78 members of the National Association of Chimney Sweeps were having their annual dinner – what a lucky omen! The June issue recorded that within a couple of weeks of **Vera's** death, **Freda Smith's** remaining brother, **Ronald Ludlow** also died, and was buried in St Mary's graveyard beside his brother **Eric**. On the same page **Melanie Horwood and Kevin Blanks** were pictured after their wedding at St Mary's.

July's issue recorded the official retirement of **Maurice Barks** and the weddings of **Sarah Early/Stephen Wassal** and **Alex Rooksby/Leo Marsh**. **Yabu Liri/Ellie Crompton** were due to get married on 10th July and **Harry Grafham** was christened on 27th June. We welcomed **Krista & Simon Henderson** with **Antonia and Catriona** to The Old Byre House following **Roger & Louise Wakefield's** departure to North Devon. The August issue congratulated **Ruth Moore** and **Julienne Newham** on their 80th birthdays and sent good wishes to **Ivy Neave** after she had damaged her shoulder and to **Paul Stancliffe** after a heart operation. Also recorded was the death of **John Monks**, formerly of The Jays, and the sad news that **Sosh Quainton** had died on 7th August. The September issue included obituaries for both **Sosh** and **Jean Ford** who had died on 22nd August. It also reported that **Audrey Manning** was improving after her stroke.

The October issue featured the wedding of **Caroline Reading & Chris Hood** and **Steve Willis'** ridgeway walk. In the November issue we were sorry not to have pictures of **Charlie Harper** and her brother **Andrew** dressed up for Halloween, but did have a picture of the Chinnor School girls netball team of 1955 showing **Kathleen Chown** in front centre. December's issue contained an obituary of **Betty Quainton**, who had died on 17th November and news of the arrival **Elsa**, a daughter for **Wendy & Derek Mitchell** and sister for **Leo**. It also showed **Doug Newham** representing Bomber Command at the Cenotaph parade in Whitehall and included a resumé of his experiences in the war. It also contained reports of the Church Wardens Supper and the Christmas market to complete another Sydenham year.



# **Masque Players**

**Present**

**There Goes The Bride**

**By Ray Cooney & John Chapman**

**16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> April 2015**

**Tickets £9.00 & £5.00**

**07810 838327**

**West Wycombe Village Hall**

**Curtain Up 20:00**

**[www.masque-players.co.uk](http://www.masque-players.co.uk)**



## Bits & Pieces

### The Chinnor Village Centre Christmas Float

Once again the regular Sydenham driver was Harry Grafham, and together with his dad Paul did the honours of driving the float through the village on the last Tuesday before Christmas, and I'm delighted to confirm the house to house collection raised £360. This is an outstanding amount and all proceeds help with the upkeep and administration of the Centre. The total amount collected from Chinnor and surrounding villagers was up about £200 on last year and raised over £3,000.

This year the float featured attractive decorative lit reindeers and the updated audio music system was excellent. Sadly due to the bureaucracy of Health & Safety and Insurance issues we are no longer able to ride on the float which in the past has always made it more enjoyable, particularly for the children - I suppose this is called progress!

Roy

### Beautiful Hyacinths!

A hyacinth fairy left a lovely bowl of hyacinth bulbs on my doorstep just before Christmas. Unfortunately, there was no label so I can't thank the fairy in person. You can see how beautiful they are now that they've come out and the scent is just wonderful. Thank you so much, whoever you are - your kindness is very much appreciated!

Siobhan x

### The OSR 100 Club Christmas Draw

Some time after mid-day the numerous gathering in the Crown was brought to order courtesy of hosts Yvonne and Roger to find out who the lucky winners were of the annual Special Christmas Draw. For the fourth consecutive year the regular Seasonal team of Jayne O'Flanagan and Lynne Kingston independently handled the proceedings and a little embarrassingly for me picked out the two lucky numbers 19 and 70. The second prize of £50 to my wife Gilly and the £100 to our great friend and

semi-villager and choir member 'little John' Wilson from Waddesdon. Once again thank you to all the contributing members to our major OSR fundraiser.



**Helping Hands**  
The live-in care specialists

Est. 1989



## Do you need a Helping Hand?

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Our **Sydenham care team** has been providing award winning quality homecare since 1989 and can help with: personal care, housekeeping, help getting around or even to provide a break to an existing family member or care-giver.



To find out how we can help you,  
call: **01869 722 737** or  
visit: **www.helpinghands.co.uk**

# Village Environmental Services

**Blocked Drains Cleared ~ CCTV Drain Surveys**  
**Fencing ~ Grounds maintenance**  
**Reasonable Rates**

No extra charge for evening, weekend or Bank Holiday call-outs  
24 hour polite, courteous service

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Approved member of Trading Standards 'Buy with Confidence',  
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## The OSR Annual General Meeting

Tuesday 24th February at 8.00pm

Whilst we have quite good financial reserves, it will be obvious that without Ladybird pre-school our income has fallen substantially. Additionally we decided to purchase new folding chairs and get rid of the heavyweight ones – this has created much more space, utilising the vacated Ladybird storage areas and we were also able to relocate the Sydenham Fayre equipment.

We currently have regular weekly sessions of ‘pilates’, circuit training and ‘kettle bell’ training, and the less frequent Church, Parish and WI meetings but further bookings would be most welcome. (Children’s parties, wedding receptions, quiz nights, and even bingo!)

Other income comes from the annual grant from the Parish Council, always a generous donation from the Fayre committee and the monthly ‘100 Club’ fundraiser. Whilst the halls are looking reasonably good, in the spring we really ought to have a working party to re-paint and bring it back to its sparkling best. If you can spare an hour on Tuesday 24th at the AGM, a more detailed account will be presented by our treasurer Jim Kendall and we look forward to seeing you there.

*Roy*

## The Inn at Emmington

With all the decorations packed away after a successful Christmas and New Year season, it’s the time of year where the natural slowdown of January is a bit of a welcome relief. Well, welcome or not, it hasn’t actually happened! To help celebrate our 4th year and to kick off our fifth, S.Y.D. played another fantastic gig to a full house - thanks to everyone who made it a great night.

We’ve enjoyed a bit of a rest by not being open at lunchtimes in January which has allowed us to recover from December, work on new menus, celebrate a big birthday, recover well from a bit of surgery, spend more fun time with Winnie, fix a few things around the Inn and see some friends and family. And we thought February was a short month!

February will bring our first CHEESOLOGY\* of 2015 on Sunday the 8th from 4.30pm. Let’s hope it’s as good as the last one where we had many people who brought bits and pieces to share. Everyone is welcome and if the weather is cold, Jerry just might make some of his delicious mulled wine! All the best.

*Paula and Jerry*

\* **cheesology** n. event held at various times of the year at the Inn, always on a Sunday afternoon, where everyone is welcome and encouraged to bring a piece of cheese and/or any other sharing bits of food, like chutney they have made or pickles or olives, and the pub supplies bread and biscuits and various other bits. It’s a big sharefest and we have had, on occasion, in excess of 20 different cheeses to try.

# Thame Weekly Shopping Trip

The Village centre offer a fantastic service for anyone wanting to visit Thame, whether it is shopping that you need or an appointment to the dentist or to do your banking or to catch up with friends and family.

We will pick you up at your door about 10.30am and we will bring you back home about 1pm. This personal door to door service is available every Tuesday for all at a competitive price of £3 pp. Places are limited; to book please contact The Village Centre on 01844 353733, Registered Charity Number 1007949

*Kathy & Katya*



## THE CHARCOAL-BURNER

The charcoal-burner has tales to tell.

He lives in the Forest,

Alone in the Forest;

He sits in the Forest,

Alone in the Forest.

And the sun comes slanting between the trees,

And rabbits come up, and they give him good-morning,

And rabbits come up and say. "Beautiful morning" . . .

And the moon swings clear of the tall black trees,

And owls fly over and wish him good-night,

Quietly over to wish him good-night . . .

And he sits and thinks of the things they know,

He and the Forest, alone together –

The springs that come and the summers that go,

Autumn dew on bracken and heather,

The drip of the Forest beneath the snow . . .

All the things they have seen,

All the things they have heard:

An April sky swept clean and the song of a bird. . .

Oh, the charcoal-burner has tales to tell!

And he lives in the Forest and knows us well.



*From "Now We Are Six" by A. A. Milne*

We are re-introducing the Poem Corner – if you have a favourite Seasonal Poem please submit it.

## Diary dates for February, March and April

### February

Tuesday 3rd	St Mary's local Church Meeting 8pm OSR
Thursday 12th	Coffee morning in the OSR 10.00am till 12noon
Saturday 14th	Valentines Day
Tuesday 17th	Pancake Day races OSR/Brookstones from 3.30pm
Tuesday 24th	OSR Annual General Meeting 8pm

### March

Saturday 7th	Point to Point at Kingston Blount. 1st Race 1.00pm
Saturday 7th	St Mary's Choir Concert
Thursday 12th	Coffee morning in the OSR 10.00am till 12noon
Sunday 15th	Mothering Sunday Family Service at St Mary's 4.00pm

### April

Friday 3rd	Good Friday
Saturday 4th	Point to Point. Traditional Easter Saturday Races at Kimble. 1st Race 1.30pm
Sunday 5th	Easter Sunday
Monday 13th	Induction of Rector Revd. Margaret (Maggie) Thorne, 7.30pm St Andrew's
Saturday 18th	Point to Point at Kingston Blount. 1st Race 2.00pm

**THE SWAN**  
AT TETSWORTH  
Restaurant

*We would be delighted to welcome you to our new and exciting French restaurant. A 20% discount will be applied to your final bill, with this Sydenham Newsletter.*

Swan Restaurant  
[restaurant@theswan.co.uk](mailto:restaurant@theswan.co.uk)  
01844 281182

Sunday to Thursday 10 - 6  
Fridays & Saturdays 10 - 11

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