

Sydenham Newsletter



March/April 2012

Editorial

Our editor Rachel has been away leaving the remainder of the Newsletter team to gather the local news and reports and encourage everyone to send in their copy.

Let's see what you think of the result: In addition to what has already passed us by, it covers the next couple of month's activities which feature Easter, always a busy time, not only for the Clergy, but those associated with dressing St Mary's with flowers. Rosemary and Adèle are our key arrangers and need support on Good Friday to make our Church look special. However it doesn't stop there, for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Celebration weekend they are planning a Flower Festival, coinciding with all the other Jubilee activities which John Ashfield has written about. If you fancy your hand at flower arranging then give Rosemary a call. **Men and women** will be invited to do an arrangement! The Jubilee weekend is going to be hectic starting with the traditional Fayre on Saturday, then the Big Lunch on Sunday and the Beacon Lighting on Monday. Wow, it sounds very exciting and John and his team are seeking volunteers to support the various events. Please contact the team if you feel like helping on either day.

If you missed Lucy's packed out quiz night, failed to get to the pancake races or the FUP Murder Mystery supper evening at Grimswick Abbey with Thame Player's or lastly the excellent Plested's Sausage Sizzle then you missed four entertaining events, but you will be able to read about them exclusively in this issue! But there is always something exciting coming up in Sydenham and we have tried to mention future activities in the Diary. Make a note now and then you won't be disappointed again!

The first exciting date could be helping with the Village Clean up on Sunday morning 25th March - come along to the Green and get involved, and bring your wallet or purse so you can join us in the Crown afterwards. We have a new young family moved into Greenways in Sewell's Lane, and of course the newsletter wouldn't be the same without a write up from our WI ladies. There are new rules relating to Blue Card Badges and NHS Care Records - look them up on the village website. Lastly from his many friends, a brief 'Get Well Soon' message to Ray Harris who has been hospitalised for the last month.

There will be a lot going on throughout May in the build up to the Jubilee weekend, with this in mind we would like all copy for the next issue to be with the editorial team by 22nd April. Please send it to rachel_blake@btconnect.com.

Enjoy the read and remember GET INVOLVED!

Roy

Views expressed in this Newsletter are not necessarily those of the Sydenham Newsletter Team or other contributors. The publication of content in the Sydenham Newsletter is at the sole discretion of the Editorial Team.

Church News

Dates for your Diary in March & April

St. Mary's Church Services

March

Sunday 4th	10.00am	Holy Communion* - <i>Revd. Joan DeVal</i>
Sunday 11th	10.00am	Matins* - <i>Mark Humphrey</i>
Sunday 18th	4.00pm	Mothering Sunday Family Service - <i>Revd. John Kinchin-Smith and Margaret Poole</i> followed by refreshments in the OSR
Friday 23rd	9.00am	Morning Prayer - <i>Ministry Team</i> (all welcome)
Sunday 25th	6.00pm	Evensong* - <i>Margaret Poole</i>

NB The services on 18th and 25th have been switched to accommodate Mothering Sunday

April

Palm Sunday 1st	10.00am	Matins* - <i>Revd. Joan DeVal</i>
Monday 2nd	8.00pm	Stations of the Cross at St Andrew's, Chinnor
Maundy Thursday 5th	8.00pm	Commemoration of the Last Supper, Footwashing and Holy Communion at the Nativity of the BVM, Crowell
Good Friday 6th	10.00am	Good Friday Service - <i>Revd. Peter Wainwright and Margaret Poole</i>
Easter Sunday 8th	10.00am	Family Service followed by short Holy Communion* - <i>Revd. John Kinchin-Smith and Margaret Poole</i>
Sunday 15th	6.00pm	Evensong* - <i>Mark Humphrey</i>
Sunday 22nd	4.00pm	Family Service - <i>Revd. Peter Wainwright and Margaret Poole</i> followed by refreshments in the OSR
Friday 27th	9.00am	Morning Prayer - <i>Ministry Team</i> (all welcome)
Sunday 29th	10.00am	United Parish Holy Communion at St Peter & St Paul, Aston Rowant

NB The services on 1st and 8th have been switched to accommodate Easter Sunday

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

Flowers for the Church

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 17th March. All ages and abilities welcome. So please come. I look forward to seeing you all to get it done quickly.

Lily's in Memory of a Loved one

We plan to do the same as in previous years and have lilies decorate the Church at Easter in memory of a loved one. If you would like one or more, the cost is £5 a stem and please give the money to me or put through my letterbox in an envelope by 25th March, clearly marked what it is for, or give to Adèle Stancliffe at Horseshoe Cottage. **Thank you.**

We will be **arranging the flowers** for Easter during the afternoon of Good Friday at around 2.30pm. **Please come and help** - the more the merrier and we can then do it quite quickly. **Thank you.**

This year is a very special one Celebrating the Queen's Diamond Jubilee

We thought we would have a Flower Festival in St Mary's beginning on Friday 1st June at 5.00pm to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee weekend and be ready for our Jubilee Service on Sunday and for all the celebrations. We need your help please and I will be round asking various groups of men and women to do an arrangement.

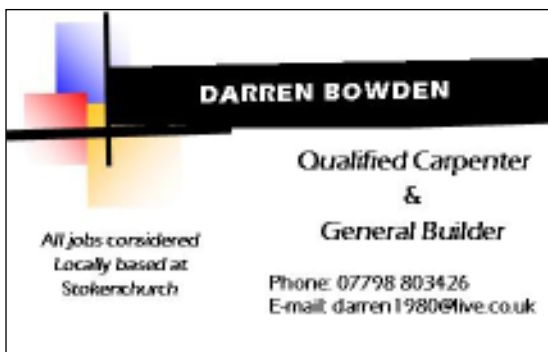
Rosemary Carter

Hunger Lunch

The Hunger Lunch on 27th February in aid of The Steppin' Stone Centre raised an amazing total of £352.50, as well as four very large boxes of dry and tinned foodstuffs. Thank you to everyone who contributed, to those who made soup, and to those who so kindly washed up afterwards.

There is a letter of thanks from Ian Callaghan at the Centre in the church in Aston Rowant.

Rona Knight



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Friends of the United Parish – Murder Mystery at Grimswitch Abbey

Twenty three Sydenham residents dressed up for the fundraising supper evening at the Village Centre at the end of February splendidly put on by Thame Players. It was a full house and a very enjoyable evening which raised over £700.

Future Events:

- **Sydenham Quiz Night** - July 14th in the OSR.
- **An evening with the Oxford Welsh Male Voice Choir** on September 22nd at Aston Rowant Church.

Pancake Races

Shrove Tuesday fell on 21st February this year, and for pancake day we had a pretty equal mix of twenty two adults and twenty three children who attended the after school races up Brookstones with pancake tasting in the OSR afterwards.



The girls this year far outnumbered the six boys who attended, but only Alistair Nolan, the Archer twins Matthew and Jonathan and a stranger in the camp Brendon were bold enough to race and were in great form. We tried to involve the majority of the seniors and mainly succeeded but half a dozen or so were on duty preparing teas or supervising the races, so in the main it was left to the young mums who were cajoled or bribed, eating their last 'Quality Street' before Lent, into racing who made great efforts.

We again featured the Police v Clergy race with PCSO Jacky Madden in attendance for a rematch with the Revd Peter Wainwright following last years tightly matched race, Jacky though struggled this year as she was handicapped having to race wearing all her police uniform including body armour, radio, truncheon, handcuffs, taser gun and steel toed boots, but despite her wonderful efforts, she was disqualified for dropping her pancake!

Siobhan, Pauline, Adèle and Gilly were well organised in the kitchen serving the pancakes, teas and soft drinks and Paul was busy with the camera recording the event for the newsletter and Sydenham archives. Rosemary again supplied a huge amount of batter mix for which we were very grateful and other pre-made pancakes were provided by Adèle, Alison, Heather, Pauline and Siobhan.

Unfortunately Paul's camera decided to misbehave and we have failed to get any pictures of the wonderful occasion so let your imagination run wild!

Thank you all for turning out in support of the annual event which raised £60 for St Mary's Church funds. Next year Lent is even earlier so we will resume the races on 12th February, start your training routine now!

Roy

Parish Council

Planning

P11/E2385 Slade Farm

Demolition and erection of replacement stables and ancillary groom accommodation.

P11/E2086 Cattle Market Site, North Street, Thame

Demolition of existing buildings and construction of new supermarket (Class A1) with ATM and substation and community centre (Class D2), associated access, car park and landscape works. Details circulated to all villagers to allow individuals to comment directly.

Damage to verges

At the Parish Council Meeting on 2nd February it was noted that the grass on the village green down Brookstones was suffering from vehicles parking on the grass. Can cars and pre-school parents vehicles park on the road and not on the grass verges please?

Blue Badge (Disabled Parking) scheme

As a result of national changes to the Blue Badge scheme (for disabled parking) there are adjustments to the process for Blue Badge applicants in Oxfordshire. For full details please visit the PC website at www.sydenhamvillage.net and view the first item of 'News and Events'.

Village Environmental Services

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NHS Care Records

The NHS in England is introducing the NHS Care Records Service to improve the safety and quality of patient care. Every individual in Oxfordshire aged 16 years old and over will receive a patient letter at the beginning of April 2012. For full details please visit the PC website at www.sydenhamvillage.net and view the second item of 'News and Events'.

Please keep looking at the Sydenham websites

Click www.sydenhamvillage.net. The 'Home' page has links to the Parish Council, Neighbourhood Watch, St Mary's Church, Pubs & Restaurants and Local Cinemas & Theatres.

The Parish Council page includes Parish information, minutes of monthly meetings and latest agendas, news & events, information that is posted on the notice boards, useful contact details and Sydenham Newsletters in full colour.

We would like to receive feedback about these pages - please let us know if you have suggestions for other content that you would like to see. The Parish Council can be contacted at parish.council@sydenhamvillage.net, or via the contact form on the website - we look forward to hearing from you!

SODC

Planning

P11/E1736/LB

St Mary's Church, Sydenham

Re-building of church wall on a 'like for like' basis

Permission GRANTED

P11/E2150

St Mary's Church, Sydenham

Re-building of church wall on a 'like for like' basis

Permission GRANTED



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WI News

The activities just go on and on!

2012 is set to be a very busy year. Not only are we delighted to welcome 5 new members but our monthly calendar is full of varied and interesting speakers (thanks to the hard work put into this by Gilly). We also have a number of additional events planned to keep us entertained and active! All will be revealed at the AGM to be held on Thursday, 22nd March at 7.45pm in the OSR. Come along if you would like to find out more.

The February meeting had Sydenham WI up before the magistrates and I will let Jane Errington give you some of the details of what it was like to be in the dock – see below. Top marks for her listening skills! We have also launched a ‘Have you got a’ service so when members next find themselves needing, for example, a pinch of some rarely used spice for a one off recipe or to borrow a lasagne dish for 20, they can e mail their request to fellow members who will come (hopefully) to the rescue.

For further information on the Sydenham WI, please call me on 352990 or email fiona.patrick1@btinternet.com *Fiona Kermack*

Two magistrates from the New Oxfordshire Bench gave the WI a very informative lecture in the Village Hall on Thursday 16 February 2012 on the function of magistrates. Tim Pocock, Chair of the Bench, and Philip Tootill put members through their paces by involving them in a quiz on statistics.

Some of the details we were given included:

- 1 There have been magistrates in England since 1361.
- 2 Last year they celebrated their 650th anniversary.
- 3 In 1919 Ada Summers was appointed the first woman magistrate.
- 4 There are 30,000 magistrates in England and Wales, reducing to 20,000 in the current cuts.
- 5 There are 356 magistrates courts, reducing to 260 in the current cuts.
- 6 In England and Wales there were 4,150,000 crimes reported last year.
- 7 675,000 offenders were charged, summoned and brought to court last year.

A lively question and answer session followed and it was agreed that a visit to the New Oxfordshire Bench would be arranged in the near future. Krzysia Gossage gave the vote of thanks.

Village Bits & Pieces

Sydenham Voice Update

Village Spring Clean

Just a reminder that this years Spring Clean will now take place on Sunday 25th March at 11 a.m. Litter pickers, safety tabards and rubbish sacks will be available for adults and children from the bus shelter on the village green. We should be finished in time for those who fancy a pint in the pub! We look forward to seeing plenty of helpers!!

Diamond Jubilee Weekend in Sydenham

Committee Chairman John Ashfield writes:

It was very considerate of Her Majesty to arrange her Diamond Jubilee celebrations around Sydenham Fayre. This took a lot of lobbying and we should all thank the PC and their political connections!!

As you will know the Jubilee weekend is over the 4 days from 2nd to 5th June and celebrations are planned nationally and are being encouraged locally. The details are available on the Diamond Jubilee website www.thediamondjubilee.org but to précis the suggested plans are:

	Nationally	Sydenham
Saturday 2nd June	Queen will attend Epsom Derby	The Fayre
Sunday 3rd June	River pageant and suggestion for national community lunch - The Big Lunch	Proposed - Village Roast - The Big Lunch
Monday 4th June	Concert at Buckingham Palace and suggested National Beacons	Proposed - Beacon in the evening
Tuesday 5th June	Service of Thanksgiving at St. Pauls and carriage procession	Nothing proposed

What is planned for Sydenham?

The Fayre Committee is well under way in organising the Fayre and has moved the evening event to support **The Big Lunch** on the Sunday instead.

There is also a proposal to light a Beacon on the Monday evening as part of the National Beacon event.

In addition you will know that Jenny Morgan is working on commissioning a Commemorative Stone.

There is a suggestion to have a Village Jubilee Project - which would be an opportunity for villagers to work together on a specific project to commemorate the Jubilee and help improve the village at the same time. Lots of help is needed for this and the Sydenham Voice Team will be communicating further very shortly. Keep your eye on your Sydenham Voice e-mails!

How will we fund the Weekend Celebrations?

The Parish Council may provide some funding but The Fayre Committee has also agreed to give financial support, it is suggested that the Jubilee celebrations become a retrospective beneficiary from the Fayre. Also that the annual Fayre raffle could be extended to now cover the Jubilee as well, with the draw being made on the Sunday instead of the usual late Saturday afternoon.

Who will organise these events?

The proposal is to organise the Big Lunch and the Beacon lighting in much the same way as the Royal Wedding Street Party last year. So we need volunteers to get involved in both the Big Lunch and/or the Beacon event. This is a unified celebration with the Fayre and so ideally we need different people to help with both these events so that we are not asking the same people to do too much.

What do we need?

We need Ideas and Volunteers - Volunteers to help organise the celebrations and ideas as to what you would like to happen at both these events. When we have these we can start to plan what we are going to do.

Next steps

With the financing secure and last year's Fayre committee offering to stay involved for another year we do have a good start but we need more people to ensure we reflect the community and do something fun for us all. It is under 3 months to the Jubilee weekend! To volunteer or submit your ideas please contact one of the people below as soon as possible.

Carol Carney on 352275 or email carolcarney1@btinternet.com

Gordon McLeod on 353366 e-mail gordonmcleod42@aol.com

John Ashfield on 351906 e-mail john.ashfield@btconnect.com

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Sewell's Lane

Phil Archer has been working with Janet Potts of the Parish Council in getting the Countryside Services to clear and widen this bridleway at the end towards the Icknield Way. The work has now been done and the path is now vastly improved. It is worth a walk if you have not been up there.

Footway to Chinnor

We have been putting pressure on Oxfordshire Highways in conjunction with the Parish Council to improve the very poor and narrow surface in the footpath from the Emmington junction to Chinnor. We have also asked for better disabled access for those with mobility scooters. After a lot of correspondence OCC are now going to investigate the surface by scraping off the vegetation on a section to see how far the tarmac surface extends. If this does not provide a solution then they will get a quote for repairs.

Meeting Dates

Please note the following dates
for your diary:

27th March 22nd May 31st July 25th September 27th November

Meetings are informal and take place in the church vestry, they start at 8pm.
New team members are always welcome.

YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING TEAM

Chinnor Area



Insp Martin Ford



Sgt Steve Hookham



PC Mick Goodenough



PCSO Jacky Madden



PCSO Michelle Jacques

The neighbourhood policing team works on issues identified by local residents and businesses.

To contact them call

the new non-emergency number 101

Alternatively, email them on:
ThameNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk



Neighbourhood Policing
Working in partnership to make our community safer

Listening Learning Leading

www.thamesvalley.police.uk

Neighbourhood Watch

We've had about 40 people sign up to receive the updates from Thames Valley Police about crimes in the area. If you would like to sign up, but haven't yet, just email: watch@sydenhamvillage.net. Please let us have any suggestions.

Thanks, *Sydenham Voice*

Sydenham Pumpkin Competition 2012

The planning is almost complete for this year's competition and the big news is that we have widened the competition to include Giant Tomatoes. Gordon McLeod has sourced some heritage seeds and has made them available as well as the Pumpkin and Sun Flower seeds. They are being polished ready for planting during April and the plants will be available in early May. This year we will keep the Jubilee and Olympic theme in both our choice of seed and category. More details will be released in the next newsletter but the proceeds will go to the church fabric fund and the plants will be available to purchase in May or reserve by calling Ann Ashfield on 01844 351906.

Sydenham Cricket goes International

Ann and I had the good fortune to follow England Rugby as they wove a tortuous path in New Zealand at the World Cup during September of last year. This was our way of celebrating a significant wedding anniversary and it proved unusual and fun for all the reasons we had not predicted, somewhat similar to our marriage. We were in Queenstown for the dwarf throwing incident but as we had to be in bed early for a day of thrills and spills we missed the main part of the competition. In hindsight I think it was just as well as they were working up the height scale quite quickly.

We had the night before attended a dinner with the Chairman of Sydenham Cricket Club in Christchurch - New Zealand and had a good time with some new friends. Christchurch was badly damaged by a series of earthquakes last year. We had booked to stay for three weeks and make it our base however our hotel was destroyed as was much of the business district with tragically a significant loss of life. We moved with England to Dunedin, a town further south and much smaller, but decided to make contact with our friends from Christchurch and meet with them and visit Sydenham CC to exchange a mole or two. They were pleased that we had made the effort and we had an enjoyable few days in their company. The city has been badly damaged and the people are trying to rebuild it but as you can imagine there is a lot of sadness and uncertainty about the future. The pitch and the club house escaped major damage but it will be some time for the club to regroup and continue its progress.

I had made contact with SCC - NZ last year when as a part of my speech at the AGM and having little of interest to say I had contacted other SCCs around the world with a view to twinning and getting a pace bowler or magic batsman



Masque Players Presents

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to augment our squad. In Australia both Melbourne and Sydney have SCCs as well as Durban in South Africa. There are two that I know of in greater London, SCC which is Sydenham SE26 and also in the same location Beckenham and Sydenham CC who play to a slightly higher standard than the moles. In fact that is the only thing that unites the Sydenhams, they are all suburbs of large cities and play serious cricket to a high standard. We can't share the urban aspect of their lives but I feel we could contain them on a turner down at Lewknor. The challenge has been laid before them all. They were interested in twinning with us and we are now embarking on a programme of sharing coaching tips and updates on the season.

We had our end of season awards night at the Crown on February 12 and Graham Harris, Chair of SCC - NZ sent us this note. "It was a pleasure to meet with John and Ann in Christchurch. I wish all of you the best for a happy and successful season in 2012. I wear my tie with pride, and Linda wears the sun hat for watching the games, they always cause comment and amusement when I relate the tale of the mole. There is always a welcome for you in Christchurch. Yours, Graham Harris."

We now have an international sporting body in Sydenham with branches around the globe. If you want to be part of this unfolding story and perhaps play for the team, please contact Mark Kermack.

John Ashfield

News from Ladybird Pre-School, Sydenham

The Ladybird children returned from their half-term break full of energy and now that the worst of the winter weather is (hopefully) behind us, this term they are focusing on all things to do with Spring!

We've had some enthusiastic bird-spotters among the children as they looked at the different birds that visit our gardens and made some lovely hanging mobiles to illustrate their favourites. The children have also been appreciating the spring flowers that are starting to pop up in our hedgerows and bringing some examples in with them. We are looking forward to the rest of this term with Mothers' Day coming up and exploring all the themes of Easter.

Celebrations have very much been on our minds this year. The children had great fun around Chinese New Year, learning all about the customs and history of the holiday. They also made lovely Chinese lanterns which were hung around the pre-school and (with parents' permission) ate their first Chinese food at their very own restaurant.

Before half-term, the children were able to show their Mums and Dads just how much they appreciate them by making some beautiful Valentine's cards and taking home pretty Valentine's cakes. We'd particularly like to thank Rebecca Wood, a Sydenham resident, for baking so many lovely cakes for the children.

Despite the sometimes wintry weather during February, the pre-school ran all of its sessions with most children attending, which is good news and also down to the dedication and commitment of our wonderful staff.

As we are a charity, we rely in part on the wonderful generosity and donations of our local village and community and we'd like to ask for your support once again. Following the success of our Our Bags2School collection last year (where unwanted clothes and shoes are converted into much needed funds), we will be holding another collection on 27 April. If anyone has any old clothes they wish to donate for the collection please let us know! We are also planning a disco for the children and parents of Ladybirds, which we are hoping will be very popular. We will let you know about this soon.

On a final note, if anyone is interested in enquiring about the pre-school or toddler sessions we run do ring Pauline Croxford (Supervisor) on 01844 353538 or 07803 807777.

Victoria Roe

Old School Room AGM

Following the Chairman's and Treasurer's reports, the new Committee were elected at the meeting on 6th February. Thanks were expressed to Debbie Nolan, Heather Mullins and Jane Burke for their excellent committee work over the last three years. We welcome Linzi Cooper as Secretary and Meryn Griffiths as Treasurer, and new committee members Yvonne Dean and Ken Hardiman.

The committee is made up of nominees from the Clergy, the Church Wardens, the Parish Council, the WI, and Ladybird Pre-School together with four elected members. The three Trustees are Adèle Stancliffe, Mark Kermack and Roy Harrison.

The newly refurbished Old School Room (OSR) remains one of the main focal points of the village hosting the Ladybird pre-school, meetings, wedding reception's, supper's, demonstration's, party's, quiz night's, stitch' n bitch, band practice and a host of associated activities. We have excellent facilities with central heating, a modern kitchen and dishwasher and many other attractive features. It is maintained to a high standard and bookings can be made through the Bookings Secretary Pat Hardiman on 354019.

Roy



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Lucy Potts Fund Raising Quiz Night in January

Wow ... Talk of a full house! We were actually at maximum official numbers but managed to squeeze in together and have a wonderful evening's entertainment with an excellent hot chilli supper. I suspect Janet and Nick had a three line whip in place to get so many friends and villagers to attend Lucy's fundraising effort for her World Challenge trip next year to Madagascar.

Twelve teams participated in a friendly atmosphere and on this occasion, the quiz was either easy or we had such a talented audience, that half of them were vying to be winners and only 6 points separated the first seven teams! I suspect it was the latter - and of course it was a family quiz and we had younger members attending!

Our thanks to all who took part but it was the Ashfield's team 'In a Pickle' who this time won the spoils with Yvonne's 'Roger Roger' and Eleanor's 'Quantum of Knowledge' running them close. The supper break gave us a chance for a breather and the raffle and a lovely easy meal which Janet and Carol had prepared and dear Rosemary (who hates quizzes) wanted to do her bit and supervised as the youngsters passed huge dishes of chilli to each table. All agreed it was an excellent choice.

Hi, I just wanted to thank everyone who took part and supported me at the quiz night in January. With your help I raised £833! This is a huge amount and I am delighted! Thanks again to Roy, Lloyd and Rosemary and I hope you all had fun! Lucy X

Thank you all for attending, the next quiz night will be for Gilly's group 'Friend's of the United Parish' on July 14th when we again hope to have a full house with a summer Ploughman's Supper.

Roy



Village Centre

Plested's Sausage Sizzle

Sydenham Supporters of local Chinnor butcher Plesteds and our two pubs were amongst the large audience one cold Monday evening in mid February watching Paula from the Inn at Emmington and Max from the Crown share the preparation and cooking of a two course meal at the Village Centre.

This was the second part of the evening activities as we were there to see Chubby Plested and his team skilfully butchering whole lamb and then pork joints followed by the full works of making sausages.

The evening was a fund raiser named Sausage Sizzle and more than twenty Sydenham residents enjoyed a pleasant enjoyable and entertaining evening.

Chubby and Kevin jointed the lamb and expertly prepared a rack of lamb for Paula and Max to use as part of their main course. This was swiftly whisked off by Sharon to the kitchen for cooking in the oven while members of the audience then watched the art of sausage making. One or two volunteers were encouraged to first make yards and yards of sausages then tie them into normal links of three. A very funny experience with much laughter trying to tie the links correctly.

Meanwhile wonderful smells were emanating from the kitchen where previously prepared varieties including the famous Oxfordshire and Chubby's special Chinnor Royals were being cooked by Sue ready for the audience to devour during the break, and be washed down with wine samples generously supplied by R&N Chateau Wines and cheese from the Oxfordshire Cheese Company.

The spotlight then turned to the two celebrity guest chefs who prepared and cooked the two course meal of a trio of fish as the starter, prawns rolled in a smoked salmon base, fillets of sea bass on a fennel comfit with roasted pepper and black olives and freshly cooked scallops on black pudding topped with julienne Granny Smith apples. The main course followed with the rack of lamb served with a selection of freshly roasted Mediterranean vegetables and a rosti potato.

Following the demonstration, the sausages were bagged up into very large bundles and raffled, together with an auction for a meal at each of the two pubs kindly given by Paula and Max together with a third meal from the landlord of the Dashwood Arms in Piddington. Chubby and Sharon very generously provided the meat and sausages and Paula and Max gave their time to support the evening.

Everyone enjoyed the occasion and the banter between the chefs's and their followers. In total the sum of £526 was handed over to the Village Centre who were delighted with the fantastic evenings entertainment. Thank you to everyone for turning out.

Roy

Concert Update – 30th of June Event

Hi! I just wanted to let you know that plans are coming together for the concert in St Mary's Church Sydenham which I plan to host on the 30th of June in aid of my World Challenge fundraising trip to Madagascar next year . I am delighted to say that Dr Chris Hood has been talking with my Dad and the Sydenham choir have agreed to sing, supported no doubt by many of the other musicians who will be attending. Fiona Bruce has also kindly agreed to introduce the evening and the music, so I hope this will be a great village affair! More details on how to acquire tickets will appear in the next Newsletter, please keep the date free in your diary!

Lucy P X

On the Move – Karin Ort & Peter Jones

Peter, James and I will be leaving Long Barn on Saturday to go to the house in Mill End. After this we will be busy getting Long Barn ready for our tenants, Dave and Anna Froker from the US, who will be moving in on April 1st! They are a really nice couple and they are really looking forward to living in the village. They have already tried Max's food!!

We will not be disappearing completely! In fact we will be driving through the village on a regular basis to the studio and we hope to still come to various events if we can. So please continue sending us the newsletter!

We have really enjoyed living here, but ultimately Peter really needed to be back next door to his work place, and he has won me round!

All the best to our many friends in Sydenham. Thanks a lot Xx

Karin

Welcome to the newcomers!

Annette and Mike Richards have moved into Greenways, Sewell's Lane with their two young daughters Elise aged 5 and Amber only 9 months and two cats Snoopy and Duke. A couple of days in and they have already found the Dr's surgery and Stoke Mandeville hospital as poor Elise missed her footing and badly split her chin requiring gluing! I'm pleased to say she is well on the mend and starts at Mill Lane School next week. With Mike working in High Wycombe, the family have moved out of Hayes in Middlesex to sample life in the country and are thrilled to find our lovely village. A big welcome to you all.

Baby Sitter Available

My name is Hannah Isherwood and I am offering my baby sitting services to the village. Please get in contact if you are in need of a babysitter Monday evenings, Tuesday evenings or weekends. I have experience with children and am comfortable looking after all ages. If you are interested please contact me on 01844 352369. Thank you, *Hannah x*

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Masque Players Spring Production

The next production in West Wycombe is Noel Coward's *Still Life*. 'Still Life' explores betrayal and adultery through three separate love stories set in a railway station. One of these was immortalised in the post-war screen version, starring Celia Johnson and Trevor Howard, which is regularly voted one of the most romantic films of all time.

The Inn at Emmington

Don't forget, Thursday night is Steak night at the Inn. £27.50 for two juicy rump steak meals plus a bottle of house wine. Don't be a slave to the stove, take a night off and treat yourself for once! Paula and Jerry look forward to welcoming you. It's a lovely friendly atmosphere, go on spoil yourselves! See the main advertisement on page x for further contact details.

A letter from Afghanistan

Following on from the letter I wrote when I returned from my tour of Afghanistan my friend Robin Davies has asked me to pass on his thanks to all in Sydenham for continuing to send the shoe box of goodies to him and his colleagues. Robin is currently training the Afghan National Army (ANA) on how to operate a newly acquired armoured vehicle. This is the new prestige project of the ANA, costing nearly \$1Bn (don't worry its US taxpayers money not ours), and Robin will no doubt be feeling the strain of managing expectations and the unique frustration of working with the lovable but hapless Afghans. It is for this reason and many more that your packages will be so welcomed by him and all the British soldiers who share his billet.



The photo attached is of me in full combat gear, minus helmet, just returned from a trip into town in our armoured land cruisers. This was the most war-like picture I could find of a six month tour that had me driving a desk not an armoured vehicle. Your packages were always a great morale boost and were well received by my friends too. I can't over emphasise how nice it is to receive post out there, even if it is just a letter or a magazine like *Private Eye* or *Country Life*. It can turn a really bad day into a very good one in an instant.

Robin will no doubt finish his tour in the next month so a letter addressed to him in the next package asking for a new name to send to will ensure that the British mission in Afghanistan doesn't run out of jelly babies just yet.

Thanks again, Daniel Hughes.

Garden design

Landscape Gardening company, Rowlandscapes, is based in Chinnor and the surrounding area. With over 20 years of experience, it offers the full range of landscaping services from driveways, patios and brickwork through to planting schemes, design consultation and lawn care.

Under the direction and site management of company owner Rowland Lacey, Rowlandscapes specialises in the conception and construction of Mediterranean-inspired spaces: architectural planting schemes comprising mature trees and herb borders alongside quality stone paving and feature walls.

Rowland began landscaping in his early twenties and has always based his business in the Chilterns. His architect father passed on a lifelong fascination with the Chilterns countryside and its local craft and design traditions, after coming to Stokenchurch as an evacuee in the war.

After beginning his landscaping career, Rowland travelled and then spent a period of time in corporate sales: returning to landscaping with both international design references and business experience, to build a successful brand which is based on an eye for detail and excellent customer relations.

As well as his infectious enthusiasm for Mediterranean garden design, he also has a keen interest in local materials and heritage conservation - having recently managed a Gertrude Jekyll garden - and brings this specialist knowledge to his clients.

Rowland is married to Sophie, a freelance copywriter and Mum of two - Jackson 10, and Millie 6, new pupils at Lewknor Primary School. They live in Chinnor, close to the Ridgeway where they indulge their family passion for nature and local history. See their ad in this issue for further information.



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Watlington Gardening Club News

Several Sydenham villagers are members of this thriving club which has a busy schedule.

Here are some dates for your diaries:

- **Carol Gubier** will talk about “Fuschia Growing through the Seasons” on **Wednesday 4 April** at 7.45pm
- **John Graham** will talk about “Making Woodland Gardens” on **Wednesday 2 May** at 7.45pm.
- **Janet Cropley** will talk about “Summer Flowering Bulbs” on **Wednesday 6 June** at 7.45pm
- **July** is our members Summer Social.
- We have a **coach trip planned for June** to Cottesbrooke Hall, Northampton for their Plant Finders Fair and to see the garden. Details will be available at our meetings or contact our Chairman, see below.
- **Our meetings are always on the first Wednesday of the month at 7.45pm in Watlington Town Hall.** Visitors and guests are most welcome for a small charge. Annual Membership £12.

For further information contact our Chairman Cheryl Barnes, 01491 614928 or email: crbarnes2000@btinternet.com



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Please keep looking at the Sydenham website

Click www.sydenhamvillage.net. The 'Home' page has links to the Parish Council, Neighbourhood Watch, St Mary's Church, Pubs & Restaurants and Local Cinemas & Theatres.

The Parish Council page includes Parish information, minutes of monthly meetings and latest agendas, news & events, information that is posted on the notice boards, useful contact details and Sydenham Newsletters in full colour.

We would like to receive feedback about these pages - please let us know if you have suggestions for other content that you would like to see. The Parish Council can be contacted at parish.council@sydenhamvillage.net, or via the contact form on the website - we look forward to hearing from you!

News from Newington Nurseries

One of the most beautiful spring-flowering bulbs is the Dog's Tooth Violet (*Erythronium dens-canis*). Not a violet in fact but a lily. The dainty purple flowers droop from arching stems above mottled foliage. The petals are curious in habit in that they curl back towards the stem so giving the impression of a turban. In the USA, Dog Tooth Violets are also known as Fawn Lilies as the leaf markings resemble the coats of young deer. There is also the less enchanting name of Trout Lily as some consider the patterns on the leaves to resemble the scales of trout.

'Erythros' comes from the Greek language and translates as red, referring in this instance to the purple-red of the flower. 'Dens' and 'canis' are Latin in origin, meaning tooth and dog or canine respectively. The shape and colour of the bulb in fact resemble a dog's tooth. Unlike most other bulbs, *Erythronium* bulbs are not protected by an outer membrane so do not retain moisture for any length of time. Consequently, they must be planted quickly so as to avoid water loss.

Cultivars of *E. dens-canis* to look out for are *E. d-c* 'Rose Queen', a lovely, early-flowering plant that produces offsets fairly quickly, and *E. d-c* 'Snowflake' which multiplies at a slightly slower rate. The American cousins that do well in British gardens are *E. californicum* 'White Beauty', considered to be one of the best white hybrids. It's vigorous and freely produces offsets which in turn form generous and eye-catching clumps. *E. 'Harvington Snowgoose'* is similar but taller and produces heavily-mottled foliage.

Also look for *E. 'Pagoda'*, a large and easy plant with tall stems producing sulphur yellow flowers mid-spring and *E. revolutum*, a graceful species from the mountains of California that produces rosy-pink flowers above heavily mottled bronze and green foliage.

Erythroniums like to be planted in light, well-drained yet slightly moist soil in a shady position, ideally in a woodland environment. If that isn't possible, they can be planted under shrubs or trees. Plant bulbs between August and October; get them into the ground as quickly as possible as they do not like to dry out. Nor do they like to be divided so ensure that they are planted where you intend them to stay. Between six and eight months later, you should be treated to a fantastic display of elegant and charming blooms or 'little turbans'.

Anne Hendry

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SPRING MORNING

Where am I going? I don't quite know.
Down to the stream where the king-cups grow—
Up on the hill where the pine-trees blow—
Anywhere, anywhere. I don't know.

Where am I going? The clouds sail by,
Little ones, baby ones, over the sky.
Where am I going? The shadows pass,
Little ones, baby ones, over the grass.

If you were a cloud, and sailed up there,
You'd sail on water as blue as air,
And you'd see me here in the fields and say:
"Doesn't the sky look green to-day?"

Where am I going? The high rooks call:
"It's awful fun to be born at all."
Where am I going? The ring-doves coo:
"We do have beautiful things to do."

If you were a bird, and lived on high,
You'd lean on the wind when the wind came by,
You'd say to the wind when it took you away:
"That's where I wanted to go to-day!"

Where am I going? I don't quite know.
What does it matter where people go?
Down to the wood where the blue-bells grow—
Anywhere, anywhere. I don't know.

From When We Were Very Young
by A. A. Milne



Dates for your Diary

March

- 14th Stitch 'n' Bitch, OSR, 8.00pm
- 18th Mothering Sunday
- 22nd WI. AGM. 7.45 OSR
- 25th Village CleanUp 11am on the Green
- 27th Sydenham Voice Mtg 8pm. Vestry
- 28th Stitch 'n' Bitch, OSR, 8.00pm

April

- 4th Watlington Gardening Club talk on Fuchsia's. 7.45pm.
Watlington Town Hall.
- 6th Good Friday
- 8th Easter Sunday
- 11th & 25th Stitch 'n' Bitch, OSR, 8.00pm
- 27th Ladybirds Bags2School unwanted clothes collection.

Stitch 'n' Bitch

The group is still going strong and we enjoy meeting every other Wednesday in the Old School Room. It's not just for knitters - we welcome anybody who likes to do any kind of stitch craft. We learn so much from each other that it's always interesting. We would really like to see some new faces, so please do come along and join in the fun.

Yvonne

Be noticed!

Do you want to reach the residents of Sydenham, Emmington and Chalford? If so, then there is a menu of advertising and advertorial opportunities available – from full page, half page and quarter page advertisements, advertorials, inserts and special features.

*For full details of rates, please contact Fiona Kermack via
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