



*Sydenham*  
Christmas  
& New Year  
2019/20  
*Newsletter*



## Editorial

A very warm welcome to our seasonal Christmas Newsletter, a little late in the month but we try and follow the Parish Council Meeting to keep you updated with the latest village news! On this occasion there is some good news relating to traffic calming, the big puddle has been resolved outside the Old Byre house and big news on the development at The Grove.

The season started off well at the St Mary's Christmas Market on the first Saturday in December in the OSR and a good turn out from village families and neighbouring friends and the team who run the event. There were no major changes and the basic theme running through the two hour gathering really revolved around the soup kitchen. Local members made three varieties of delicious home made vegetable soups which were served hot with Rosemary's home made crusty bread, extravagant desserts followed and with a full house, over £300 was taken for food.

Christmas songs enhanced the occasion and seasonal stalls selling their wares, a very successful book stall, a tombola stall, 100 Squares, children's games, lovely silk scarves, and delightful presentations of jewellery and simple seasonal items together with a good raffle and a Christian Aid stall enabled the takings to exceed the thousand pound mark, a great achievement helping the St Mary's Fabric Fund.

A special big thank you to the small team led by Siobhan, but supported by enthusiastic soup makers and other generous friends and villagers giving time and goodies and to the village and general public for turning out again, a fantastic result!

This Sunday we have the Carol Service at 4pm, a great event and following last year's idea, commencing with mince pies and a glass of Sherry. Do come along and listen to the seven readers and the lovely choir led by Dr Chris Hood. The choir are involved a couple of days later at Emmington and on the Friday evening they sing hosting the Countryside Carol Service. There will be no service here on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> but as in former years we hold a gathering around the Christmas trees planted on the Green. This must be the tenth consecutive year that Gordon has supplied and planted them, trimmed them with lights and additionally hung the illuminated Christmas Cross on the Church Alter Window! Thank you dear friend.

You may have noticed that scaffolding is being erected on the church and this is to replace the damage to the woodwork on the church spire. The recent very wet weather has prompted us to bring forward this decision, rain coming through the bell tower roof above the pulpit was dramatic but fortunately it was on a Monday! This is an expensive event, with the scaffolding having to be built around the four sides of the spire. I'm very pleased that Mark Kermack has agreed to coordinate the work and hopefully it will be completed reasonably quickly.

***Donations towards the tower repairs will be gratefully received made out to St Mary's Church Fabric Fund.***

There is no update available on the Rector Vacancy but we hope to advise you in the New Year.

Our Curate, the Rev'd Dr Jacky Barr has also been in the wars and is recovering from having her tonsils removed: she assures me that the operation is taken in it's stride by youngsters but when you are older in life it is much more painful and takes longer to recover. We send our love and thoughts to Jacky who is now on the mend. She did however manage the United Service at St Andrews on the first Sunday in December hosting the Bishop of Oxford, the Right Reverend Steven xxxxxx in a very successful and humorous gathering which pleased everyone involved, really well done Jacky.

Following Kevin Parker and Yvette's move from Wheatsheaf Barn, quite quickly a lot of activity was noticed and I'm very pleased to reveal the arrival of the young Roach family. Welcome Sandra and Kieran and young Josh. Lovely to have them here and they told me more about themselves on page 7 and Kieran has agreed to reading one of the Christmas lessons in this Sundays Carol Service.

It's also a busy time for the two pubs; Tina and Pete have sent their update a few days earlier this month and our collective apologies for missing the November deadline. Sharon and David are also busy with regular music nights taking place and both pubs are hosting local clubs and organisations taking advantage of the Christmas get togethers! We are so lucky to have two pubs and with lovely staff working behind the bar or in the kitchen – often not fully appreciated. I'd like to thank you all and hope you have a very busy Christmas but then an opportunity of relaxing – congratulations to both teams!

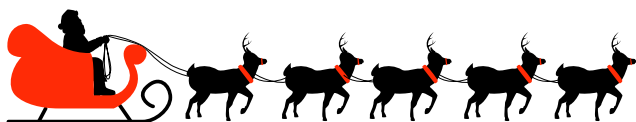
We hope you enjoy the issue, I would like to thank the small team of Fi Kermack who takes most of the pics and Paul Stancliffe who are both actively involved, and of course to the village groups who send in their news for circulation. Mike Pease our printer in Thame is very supportive and we are very fortunate.

The next issue will be only for February 2020 – it seems ages away but will come around very quickly. The deadline for News, Reports, Updates and Gossip will be February 9<sup>th</sup>. Thank you to you our readers,

This month we had a thank you from California and of course send our love back – the electronic PDF ensures that the Newsletter is circulated world wide with families and friends in America, Australia, Hong Kong, Japan and New Zealand.

A very Happy Christmas everyone!

***With love Fi, Paul and Roy***





# SYDENHAM CAROL SERVICE

SUNDAY 15<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER

4pm

Come along and sing all your favourite  
family carols

There will be refreshments at the  
start (not in the OSR afterwards)

We very much hope to see you there.

Merry Christmas!

# Church News

## St Mary's Church Services

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



### Christmas Services

- Sun 15<sup>th</sup> 4pm **Village Carol Service** – Rev'd Joan and Rev'd Dr Jacky  
– Seven lessons and Carols.  
*Preceded by Mince Pies and a glass of Sherry*
- Thur 19<sup>th</sup> 6pm **Super Sydenham Santa Sleigh & Elves** – Village  
house to house collection with Santa commencing at  
The Inn and finishing at The Crown.
- Sun 22<sup>nd</sup> 5.30pm **Carol's Round the Tree on the Green** – Half an  
hour singing popular Carol's – Followed by Mince Pies  
and Mulled Wine in the Crown (a lovely & enjoyable  
family fun evening.)
- Tues 24<sup>th</sup> 4pm **Family Crib Service**– Rev'd Joan  
11.30pm **Midnight Holy Communion** – Rev'd Joan
- Christmas Day No Service in Sydenham.  
8am & 10am Holy Communion at St Andrew's Chinnor.
- Sun 29<sup>th</sup> No Service in Sydenham.  
10am United Parish Holy Communion at Aston Rowant.
- Jan 6<sup>th</sup> 4pm Christingle –Rev'd Joan and Barbara Bigland

*Please come along and enjoy fellowship and lovely singing  
and we wish you a very happy Christmas*

### Pastoral Letter from Rev'd Brian Griffiths

**'Christmas traditions'.** Well hello dear readers. I'm guessing you're reading this editorial at the beginning of December in which case you've still got a few weeks to go until Christmas itself. However, my own personal Christmas started way back in October when I had my first mince pie. I love mince pies, indeed, I'm thinking of starting a new society called *'The Society for Eating Mince Pies All Year'* (MPAY). Anyone want to join? Why mince pies are limited to Christmas I don't know. Google tells me that mince pies were originally made of meat, fruit and spice, all inspired by Middle Eastern cuisine and brought back by the Crusaders. They eventually morphed into our non-meat version - yummy.

I wonder what Christmas traditions are special to you? There's tons of them. There's the Christmas tree, decorations, turkey, the trimmings, mulled wine, nativity plays, mistletoe, hanging up stockings, Pantomimes, the Queen's speech and even Father Christmas on the garage roof. I celebrate all these although I do draw a line at the garage roof!



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*(Testimonial from Yasmin, a Risborough Carer - April 2018)*

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**[www.risboroughcarers.org.uk](http://www.risboroughcarers.org.uk)**

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**Wenman Road**

**Thame**

**Oxon OX9 3XA**

Many Christmas traditions are obviously linked to the Church, such as carol singing. Some traditions which at first sight don't seem to be connected with Church indeed are. For example, there's Christmas tree decorating. Apparently, the great church reformer, Martin Luther, was the first person to decorate a tree with candles and bring it indoors. His idea was to show his children what stars looked like at night in the forest. It didn't become popular in Britain until the nineteenth century, when Queen Victoria's husband Prince Albert introduced the custom from Germany.

In contrast to the fun of Christmas, there's the period which I don't like when the traditions have to cease for another year. I take down the decorations, put them in the loft and adjust to mince pie starvation. However, it seems to me that the birth of Jesus is something to celebrate all-year round alongside the other great celebrations. The fact that He was born, that He came into the world to die for our sins, that He rose from the dead and that He is alive today is the full story which Christmas starts. As the angel said to the shepherds, ***"I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people ... a Saviour has been born, He is Christ the Lord"***. Surely this is a cause for celebration every day, not just once a year? If we did celebrate Christmas all year, I might have mince pies all year.

So, dear readers, have a Happy Christmas remembering the Saviour and enjoying your mince pies.

***With blessings from Revd Brian Griffiths***

***A thank you message from Anna Froker from California.***

Dear Roy,

Thank you, as always, for making sure that Dave and I stay connected via the Sydenham Newsletter! We both enjoy it greatly every time it arrives. When reading this most recent issue, we were of course both tickled to see our names in print!

I'm sorry that we didn't get a chance to see you when we were in the village, but even more sorry for the reason, which was your coincident surgery. I hope your recovery is progressing nicely, Roy, and that you are feeling well.

There will be another chance to run into each other at the pub, because Dave and I so enjoyed our (all too brief) visit to Sydenham, that we have already purchased plane tickets to come again next July. This time we'll be in the area for a week, so I expect our paths will cross!

Meanwhile, this week is the Thanksgiving holiday here in the states (as I'm sure you know), and we have much to be grateful for. We will celebrate with the large gathering of extended family that has been the tradition for my family since before I was born.

Best wishes for the upcoming party-and-event-packed holiday social season in Sydenham!

Love to you and Gilly, Mattie and Plum,

***Anna and Dave***



**Newspaper deliveries**

The Chocolate Box in Thame, who deliver to the village every day, welcome orders for daily or weekly newspapers

You can visit them at 47 North Street, OX9 3BH (facing you as you drive towards the Cattle Market). Or they can be contacted on 01844 212715.

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# VILLAGE ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

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Greetings from  
**Sydenham Women's Institute**

your local group of friendly, active women from  
Sydenham and surrounding villages

Our November meeting was a talk given by Dan Allen of The Victorian Military Society. The subject he covered was the role of Women in the Victorian Army during the 19th century.



So the women were not soldiers but females who followed their men folk wherever they were posted, could be Edinburgh or shipped off to further countries like India. The Officers' females were referred to as Ladies, sergeants' females were called Wives and the rest of the soldiers' females were called Women. This following included children as well.

They followed their men through horrendous battles and the living conditions

were terrible. If they were not married to their menfolk it meant if their 'man' was killed in battle they got no pension; only the married widows were recognised.



Some of the lower ranking soldiers' women helped as nurses, some worked in the officers' houses the rest cooked, washed the clothing etc. Such a hard life in the service of their country.

Much more was revealed and it was a very interesting and informative evening and enjoyed by us all.

*Thank you, **Pauline***

We are having our WI Christmas gathering and dinner in the Old School Room later this week and hope to share the report and pictures in the next issue.

New members are very welcome, do come along to one of our meetings held at 7.30pm on the third Thursday of each month in the Old School Room or sometimes at a members house.

For more information visit our website [www.sydenhamwi.com](http://www.sydenhamwi.com) or call Sandra on 01844354601.

## **Parish Council News**

### **Road works outside Old Byre House**

After the road closure and investigative works outside Old Byre house mid-November, the good news is that Highways now know why the area collects water. However, the not so good news is that to fully resolve the issue, they will need to install a new system, which will require a second closure. That said, the initial works undertaken which included replacing the pipe between the two gullies, has improved the situation.

We will provide an update on future works and road closures once we hear from Highways.

### **Speed Reduction through the Village**

As detailed last month, the Parish Council has started to investigate the possibility of an additional pinch point along Sydenham Road. We are now in the process of getting some initial designs drawn up as well as investigating funding options through the County Council.

### **Leisure Survey**

Thank you to all the villagers who completed our leisure survey.

The results show there isn't an appetite for adult gym equipment in the playing field; therefore, this is something the Parish Council will not be pursuing.

Three village routes (footpaths and bridleways) were identified in the survey feedback as being the most popular as well as having access issues. These were Sewell's Lane, Thame Park and the bridleway in front of The Jays. Based on the feedback provided, we have started to investigate the costs and grants available to flatten the ground along Sewell's Lane as well as to improve accessibility to Thame Park and to replace the stiles with gates. However, nothing will be undertaken until the spring/summer months when the weather improves. Unfortunately, the issues with the drainage on the bridleway in front of The Jays has been investigated in the past and the cost of undertaking the required work is likely to be prohibitive.



### **Playing Field Benches**

We are delighted that the new benches are now in place in and outside the playing field – a big thank you to Shaun for assisting in installing them.

The new bench and refurbished village notice board will also be installed over the Christmas period. Thank you to Mat Belson, Geoff Isherwood and Heather Mullins for helping with this.

## **SSE Project**

Finally! SSE have started work on the project to underground the electricity supply from Kingston Stert to Holliers Close and there is a possibility it may be finished by Christmas, hurrah!



## **Neighbourhood Plan**

The Neighbourhood Plan committee are currently creating responses to address the questions raised by the Independent Examiner. It is anticipated that a referendum on the Plan will be in early 2020.

## **Sydenham Grove**

SOHA have written to the Parish Council to inform us that work on the Sydenham Grove site will start in April 2020, with completion due August 2021.

Demolition is due from mid January to mid February. Construction should begin by late February early March. Feltham Construction will undertake works. A site agent will be appointed by Feltham Construction.

A village meeting with representatives will take place in the New Year as soon as the contract with the demolition contractor and Feltham Construction have been confirmed.

## **Village Communications**

If you would like to receive Sydenham Mails (our village email communications), please email [sydenham.mail@gmail.com](mailto:sydenham.mail@gmail.com) to be added to the circulation list.

If you have content that you would like to be included in Sydenham Mail, please email the Sydenham Mail team [sydenham.mail@gmail.com](mailto:sydenham.mail@gmail.com). Updates are typically sent weekly and information is collated over the course of the week. The village Facebook page is also available for any urgent updates or requests.

To get in touch with the Parish Council directly, please email [parishcouncil@sydenhamvillage.co.uk](mailto:parishcouncil@sydenhamvillage.co.uk). Alternatively, you can call 01844 873690 – please leave a message and the Parish Clerk will get back to you. Our Parish Clerk works part time, but if you have any urgent issues, you can always speak to a parish councillor directly.

## **Next meeting**

Our next meeting will be on 8<sup>th</sup> January 2020 at 7.30pm in the OSR. Everyone is welcome to attend. Wishing all villagers a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

***Cheryl Belson***

## **Sydenham Fayre**

It's not too early to start thinking about the summer! The committee met in November to go through initial ideas for the event on 6<sup>th</sup> June 2020. We won't be meeting until February 2020 but we are looking for additional help and committee members – if you would like to be involved, please do get in touch [Sydenham.fayre.june@gmail.com](mailto:Sydenham.fayre.june@gmail.com)

## Planning

### **P19/S4132/LDE Wayside, Kingston Stert OX39 4NL**

Certificate of Lawful Development for the continued use of a timber business

**Parish Council recommendation: objection**

### **P19/S4390/HH Clemvelling, Thame Road, Sydenham**

Construction of single storey side extension, flat roof rear dormer and velux roof lights in association with loft conversion, removal of flat roof over existing utility room and replace with pitched roof, removal of existing glass conservatory roof and replace with flat roof. Internal alterations in association with structural changes.

*Extension of time applied for to allow discussion at next parish council meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> January*



## **Community Transport**

**Oxfordshire Comet** the bookable transport service for people who can't access public transport. The Oxfordshire Comet can be booked for any type of trip. Whether it's to meet friends in town, travel across the county, attend an appointment or pop to the shops. The service is available 10am to 2pm. Monday to Friday (not bank holidays). It easy to book with a pre-paid account over the telephone.

We can do one-off journeys, regular and group trips. We can also offer regular routes for local communities (similar to a bus route) that do not have access to existing public transport. The 16-seater vehicles are fully wheelchair and pushchair accessible, and our friendly drivers are only too happy to help. Just let us know if you need some extra assistance getting on or off the Comet, or with carrying shopping inside.

<https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/roads-and-transport/public-transport/accessible-transport/bookable-transport>

Please speak with the Comet Administrator 01865 323201 or email [oxfordshire.comet@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:oxfordshire.comet@oxfordshire.gov.uk) if you would like more information or to see if there is possibility of setting up a timetable service.





**Message in a Bottle** is a scheme offered by the Lions charity in Oxfordshire. It helps emergency responders or staff to know that you use medication or have medical needs, should they have to assist you. It's a simple scheme: the bottle contains your medical list and lives in your fridge, whilst the sticker goes on your door to alert emergency personnel. Be a good neighbour and promote the Message in a Bottle scheme to

your friends who use medication. The Emergency Services will look for the **GREEN CROSS SYMBOL** and find the information in the bottle which is kept in the fridge.

## *Lions. . . . Caring for the community*

Let the emergency services know your medical history.

The Lions, Message In a Bottle scheme is a simple idea designed to encourage people to keep their personal and medical details on a standard form and in a common location – the fridge.



The bottle is kept in the fridge, where the emergency services will be able to find it in the event of being called to your home. We will know you have a bottle by the two labels displayed on the inside of the front door or on the main entrance to your home and the other is for the door of your fridge.

This scheme is free to the user. Whilst it is focused on the more vulnerable people in our community, anyone can fall downstairs, so this scheme can benefit anyone, including you.

As a minimum it will save the Emergency Services valuable time identifying you and your emergency contacts. By telling whether you have special medication or allergies or

not, it is a potential lifesaver and provides peace of mind to users and their friends and families.

Bottles are free of charge and can usually be found in your local Chemist or Doctors Surgeries.

Thanks to a number of other organisations, you may also find that you can obtain one through your nearest :- Neighbourhood Watch group, Age Concern, Council Offices, Housing Associations, and many other places including Police stations.

If you are unable to find a Bottle, please contact your local [Lions Club](#).



**Scottish & Southern**  
Electricity Networks

**Priority Service Register:** - utilities companies, such as your electricity or gas or water companies, have schemes to help priority customers. Contact your utilities companies and ask about their priority scheme for:

- parents/guardians/families with very young children
- elderly customers
- disabled customers and those with acute medical requirements

How does this help? If, for example, there is a major power outage your electricity company will know about you and prioritise supporting you whilst you are without power. What can they do? They can assist with hot meals or baby feeding, with home care equipment, even provide generator power if necessary.

### **Why sign up for priority services?**

At Scottish Southern Electricity Networks (SSEN) and Thames Water, we aim to provide a reliable service for every individual in our region, 365 days a year. But if something does go wrong, our priority services teams are on hand to help. By signing up for our free priority services, you can benefit from extra help in electricity or water-related emergencies. Our goal is to provide extra peace of mind if you're of pensionable age; living with a chronic medical condition or restricted mobility; experiencing a change in personal circumstances; or raising a family with young children under the age of five.

No matter your needs, you'll have access to a dedicated telephone helpline, which you can call at any time of day. In the unlikely event your water stops flowing or your lights go out for a long period of time, we'll give you a call to discuss what's happened, what we're doing to fix it, and any additional support you might need, including an alternative supply of water or power.

You can also rely on us for proactive support. When we're planning maintenance to our power lines or pipes, we'll give you plenty of notice so that you can make alternative arrangements. We'll make sure to communicate in the format that best suits your needs and, if you want extra reassurance, help you set up a doorstep password so that you know it's us if we ever pop by to speak to you.

We'll keep any details you share with us safe and confidential.

To sign up today, visit [www.thameswater.co.uk/prioritieservices](http://www.thameswater.co.uk/prioritieservices) or [www.ssen.co.uk/PSR/Thameswater/](http://www.ssen.co.uk/PSR/Thameswater/)

Call 0800 0093652 option 3, or email [ecs@thameswater.co.uk](mailto:ecs@thameswater.co.uk).

To request registration forms, email [priorityforms@thameswater.co.uk](mailto:priorityforms@thameswater.co.uk)



## Bits & Pieces

### Village Newcomers

A week after Kevin and Yvette moved up the road to Chinnor, I visited the new incumbents in the Barn Conversion behind us at Wheatsheaf Barn to meet Sandra and Kieran Roche and three year old Josh. What a delightful welcome from them all, in particular Josh who insisted I visit his room to see where he slept! What a lucky boy to have such a grand bed but when I offered to sleep on the wall side he was not very pleased! He has just enrolled at Bledlow Pre School where I'm sure he will be a star!

The family have moved from South London and had previously visited Sydenham to visit work friends & neighbouring colleagues Sarah Dawson, husband Charlie and children Honor and Thomas and to check out the property market! I'm sure in due course when they have settled in it will be a wonderful purchase.

They are both sports enthusiasts and thrilled to be in the village, Hong Kong born Sandra already involved with the 'Thursday girl's night' team in the Crown, I'm not sure that is particularly sporty, but both play hockey locally, Sandra with Sarah and Kieran previously in the same team as James Ward. Word has it that he has been approached to play cricket for Sydenham when the new season commences!

Do say hello to them, I can see they will be another big asset and great fun.

### Seasonal greetings from Martin & Krzysia

Merry Christmas from the Gossages

In lieu of sending Christmas cards to our friends in the village, we will be making a donation to Rennie Grove Hospice in memory of Jane Kennett. Best wishes to all for a wonderful Christmas and a happy New Year.

***Martin, Krzysia, Julia and Kate***



### Sydenham's Super Santa Sleigh Returns!

Don't forget! Sydenham's Super Santa Sleigh is returning to the village Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December. Santa begins his journey at 6pm from The Inn at Emmington, before making his way through the village.

Santa still needs some help on the evening, as his elves are busy making toys in the North Pole. If you can help and volunteer

to be an elf for the evening, please get in touch with the committee who can liaise with Santa!



## OSR 200 Club Update

With our second and third draws taking place for December and January, we are well into the New Year 200 Club and the draws took place at the Inn on Monday evening; regrettably Buster was not available to assist! As a consequence Ray Thompkins held the reigns and did an outstanding job!

The results were as follows:

### December

£25	102	Abigail Church
£15	110	Amber Shankland
£10	89	Lucy Roe
£10	141	Julia Thompkins
£10	116	Alex Church
£10	60	Molly Jones
£10	1	Rosemary Carter
£10	198	Hannah Isherwood
£5	123	Andy Smith

### January

£25	169	Abigail Church
£15	100	Sandra Ludgate
£10	166	Mark Oliver
£10	59	Jon Church
£10	48	Lucy Potts
£10	212	Wobbly King
£10	95	Marianne Wallace
£10	64	John Wilson (Waddesdon)
£5	38	Kath Randall

*Thank you to all who assisted. We had 230 numbers available and the big Christmas Day Draw is still to come! This will take place at the Inn with the two big prizes of £50 and £100 available.*

*There is still time to buy additional numbers from Roy at £12 each before the **December 25th deadline.***

## Waterperry Gardens

Get into the festive spirit at Waterperry Gardens with Christmas shopping, festive events, Waterperry grown Christmas trees and hand-made wreaths.

The Gallery, Gift Barn and Christmas Shop are a shopper's delight with great gift ideas for all the family this Christmas, from handmade ceramics and jewellery to Christmas decorations and linens, there is something for everyone. If you're looking for something different our Waterperry Gardening Courses make an ideal present.

Don't miss the Christmas Craft Markets, for a chance to buy local handmade crafts and festive food treats – 23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> Nov and 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Dec. Enjoy some pre-Christmas fun with the children with an afternoon helping Rudolph 'Find Santa's Reindeer', running from the 23<sup>rd</sup> Nov through to the 23<sup>rd</sup> Dec, family fun and Christmas excitement!

The spectacular Waterperry grown Christmas trees will be on sale from the beginning of December, along with fantastic Waterperry hand-made and hand-tied Christmas wreaths. Let the Teashop at Waterperry take the strain out of cooking and pre-order festive treats like Christmas Cake, Mince Pies and more, call 01844 338087 or email [teashop@waterperrygardens.co.uk](mailto:teashop@waterperrygardens.co.uk)

Enjoy your Christmas shopping this year and visit a truly unique and festive Waterperry Gardens – Your One Stop Christmas Shopping Trip!



## Christmas at Waterperry

### Christmas Markets at Waterperry Gardens

**Sat 23<sup>rd</sup> & Sun 24<sup>th</sup> Nov and Sat 7<sup>th</sup> & Sun 8<sup>th</sup> Dec, 10am till 4pm**

Get into the Christmas spirit at Waterperry Gardens by browsing the Arts and Craft Stalls - gorgeous handmade gifts and festive food and drink!

### Find Santa's Reindeer! 23<sup>rd</sup> Nov – 23<sup>rd</sup> Dec

Help Rudolph find his friends lost all around the gardens and then collect your Christmas treat. £2.50 per child. Children must be accompanied by an adult paying garden entrance fee.

**Pre-Order your hand-made Christmas Goodies!** Let the Teashop at Waterperry Gardens take the strain out of cooking and pre-order our hand-made festive! Latest date for placing orders 15th December, last collection 24th December by midday. To book pop in to the Teashop, ring 01844 338087 or email [teashop@waterperrygardens.co.uk](mailto:teashop@waterperrygardens.co.uk)

**Christmas Closure - We will be closed from 25<sup>th</sup> Dec through to 1<sup>st</sup> Jan 2020**

**For more information please visit [www.waterperrygardens.co.uk](http://www.waterperrygardens.co.uk)**

## Pub News

### The Crown Inn

To start with we feel we must offer our humble apologies for missing the previous newsletter, where does the time go? (We wonder constantly)! It just seems incredible to us that we are now already well into December, marking for us nine months of Sydenham life, whereby we would like to say a big huge "thank you" to everyone for making us feel so very welcome and indeed offer another "thank you" to everyone for your valued custom here.

Looking back since our Spring arrival here, there have been some fantastic highlights: Sydenham Fayre, Aunt Sally Friday evening matches - whereby our team were league runners up, then the Halloween Quiz. So special "thank you's" to Mark Jones our skipper for your tireless organisation to fill the fixtures, plus Phil Archer, our vice for standing in; to Warren & Jo for lending us his vintage Ford, along with the skeleton for our Halloween prop; to Gordon for donating the 57kg pumpkin & Sue Jones for the pretty gourds: to Dan Bradley, moles captain. Thank you to everyone who has played or participated, & lastly to Harry Ball for his assistance in the removal of the collapsing monster pumpkin.

Christmas lunches & dinner parties are now in full swing, with lots more bookings yet to fulfil, so we are feeling very festive, humble & indeed honoured,

hosting these special occasions. Our diary is looking quite full but there are still a few spaces left for those last-minute parties or gatherings on our Christmas menu or indeed normal menu, maybe a buffet if you prefer. Please don't forget that we offer a food takeaway service too, anything on our main menu can be ordered, Sunday roasts too. Just phone and we'll give you a collection time.

On moving in here we decided to try & trade without a website, direct contact with people being our preference, we also wanted to keep the pub as a quaint village pub, offering affordable wares, a little friendly place for folk to eat, drink & be merry, whilst making new memories & indeed friends; this of course requires a dedicated team, which we are very lucky to have, so therefore a big "thank you" goes to Dom, Joolz, Chelsea, Jonny, Matt & Lizzie Archer, Emily, Harry Ball, & Harry & Izzy Grafham who make up our current team here. Congratulations are also due to Harry Grafham on passing his tractor test, leaving us all now in wonder as to how he may arrive to work!

Our Christmas opening hours will be posted on our board outside this week, with a Sydenham mail to support this and anything else that may be going on. We will be open as per usual pub hours on Christmas Eve, Christmas Day however, will be midday until 2pm drinks only, with Boxing Day back to usual & the Boxing night quiz in the evening.

**Merry Christmas from Pete, Tina & Sparky**

## **The Inn**

So we're nearly there with the big day almost upon us.....no, not Brexit, but Christmas of course and not only the end of another year but another decade with 2020 just round the corner – the ideal time to look back and reflect and look forward to events in the early part of next year.

December has as usual been a busy month so far and the festivities kicked off at the end of November when we started our festive menu hosting several local groups and family parties. Friday 6th December saw London covers band Leech play at The Inn for the 3rd time playing a varied selection to a mixture of diners and drinkers – thank you to everybody who supported us with this event and at the other live music events we put on during 2019. It is not always easy to find bands that offer a broad appeal so it is always nice when these events are enjoyed and well supported.

At the time of going to press we were looking forward to hosting Towersey Morris Men's Mummers Play which takes place at The Inn each year raising money for local charities.

In the last two weeks of December we still have some spaces left for dining whether it be a Christmas meal or eating from our normal menu with the remaining two Sunday Lunch dates also available but filling fast.

Friday 20th December sees us once again hosting 'The Big end of Work Party' (for those of you in normal jobs!) with the pub opening at 1.00pm and live music from popular local band MFU in the evening from 8.30pm. This is always a busy night so arrive early and please call to make a table reservation should you be looking to eat before the music starts. As its Christmas we expect to see you up dancing and not just propping up the bar!! Christmas jumpers are a must on this evening!

Over the Christmas period itself, we will be open from midday on Christmas Eve; between midday and 3pm on Christmas Day and from midday until 7pm on Boxing Day. So if you're out for a walk or want to bring the relatives out for a drink, please do pop in. The fire will be roaring and the bar will be open and we will continue stocking a wide range of local Christmas ales as we have all month - XT25, Rebellion's Winter Royal and Vale's Good King Wenceslas to name a few. Between Christmas and New Year our opening hours will be slightly different to normal and are posted up outside the pub.

On New Year's Eve, we will again be hosting our end of year 'house party'. An informal and friendly evening and great way to see in the new decade with family, neighbours and friends – free nibbles on the bar, our own music and something sparkling at midnight to drink. This year's optional fancy dress theme is to come as a pop star or musician, (anyone from Abba to ZZTop) so why not make a guest appearance, admission free.

We will be closed for the first few days of January and then back to normal opening hours on Monday 6th January. After a couple of weeks of saving money and not drinking why don't you blow away those January blues on Friday 17th January when the band Broken Bones are back by popular request. Guaranteed to make some noise and get 2020 off to a rocking start. The New Year will see us changing our menus and holding a regular quiz night as well as our regular live music events so there really is something for everyone.

All that remains is for us to thank you for your custom over the past 12 months and to wish everybody a very Merry Christmas !!

***Love David, Sharon, Alice, Ed, Pickles x and dogs***

Sharon and David Maisey  
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