



Sydenham  
Autumn 2020  
Newsletter

## Editorial

Welcome to the Autumn issue of the Sydenham Newsletter. In the current climate we have stopped our usual regular issues as there has been little to report and these quarterly issue have seemed appropriate with up-to-date news. Thank you to all who have contributed!

All our lives have certainly been changed by Covid and Lockdown – not being able to gather together, but we did make an effort on Remembrance Day, Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> November, with around 90 villagers gathered with social distancing around ‘The Queens Garden’ to celebrate and remember the fallen.

The garden gives Gilly an opportunity to put something good back into the world, she loves the outdoor life whatever the weather and I’m delighted to see the end result! Gordon has purchased and kindly loaned us a Soldier silhouette to keep guard, something the Parish council might consider for each end of the village next year! This year there were many fallen leaves to bag and remove before new plants to keep the garden updated and Gilly has made an excellent job of it. She has also just finished a 21 day fundraising challenge in aid of The Thames Valley Air Ambulance 21<sup>st</sup> Anniversary. Many of you will remember her being hospitalised for five months six years ago, following a bad riding accident when her horse died and she suffered a major brain injury, and was flown to the JR by Air Ambulance – despite her injuries she has completed her 21 tasks 21 times in 21 days and raised nearly £1200 for the Air Ambulance team!

Rev’d Joan Deval our St Mary’s Minister, led the excellent short Remembrance service and she has also written the November Pastoral letter which is especially lovely! The usual team of individual supporters, Fiona, Siobhan, Lloyd and Gilly with Joan’s guidance all helped and ensured all was correct.

Rector Jacky has taken on a busy role and task as United Parish Rector in ensuring we all keep abreast of the latest Diocese rules during Lockdown and holds regular Zoom meetings with parish representatives, Wardens Fi Kermack and myself.

I would like to thank Mark Kermack for his leadership and involvement in the repairs to the Church Spire – what a lovely job his team have done. Mark has also taken on the updating of the Old School Room and made an excellent job of that as well, having it repainted inside and out, the signs repainted, new curtains purchased with the guidance of Siobhan and the whole job seen through a new pair of eyes which has given the Hall a new perspective! Once Lockdown has lifted we look forward to welcoming villagers back, using the facilities and bringing life back to the building. Steve the decorator has done a great job and deserves big thanks.

Whilst on that note can I ask the person who has removed the long Step ladder from the cupboard to return it? It was jolly useful and we are missing it!

It is also time to update the management of the OSR as I am stepping down after many happy years and Mark will make an excellent Chairman.

Rather surprisingly on Monday this week I received a call from elderly resident Pamela McBride asking if I could run her and her old dog to the Vet in Thame as the dog was bleeding severely, but she couldn't find anyone to take her! She actually contacted Chinnor Friends of the Village who mentioned my name. I took Pamela and the dog in, but sadly a Tumour on the leg had been bitten and chewed and Pam's lovely pet was put to sleep. The point being in these difficult times please look out for your neighbours and friends, particularly us wrinklies! Pam has been out of the house only four times this year!

Thanks to our village leaders we've put together a good issue: The Church articles read well, The Parish Council have updated us, thank you Cheryl, thanks to our MP John Howell, Sydenham WI Chairman Siobhan, despite not being able to meet each month, Cricket Club Captain Dan, Pub Landlords Dave and Sharon at The Inn at Emmington and Tina and Pete at The Crown, Both pubs are trying their best to serve our wonderful village – please continue to support them, by using their take-away weekend offers.

A big thank you also to my fellow Newsletter Team of Fiona and Paul – we are so pleased Paul has returned from isolating in Cornwall throughout the first lockdown. He makes a massive difference in ensuring we have the right balance, the spelling is correct and adds pictures generally sent in by Fiona and puts it all together.

Effectively due to the timescale and the lockdown, this might be the last issue before Christmas but somehow we will keep you informed. Sydenham Mail is terrific and gets the messages out whenever – so they too deserve a big thank you.

Realistically we don't do too badly here in Sydenham whether it is the guys emptying the Dustbins, Adie our excellent Postman, and numerous delivery drivers dropping off goods. Lockdown makes life more difficult but we are actually doing quite well – thanks to everyone!

If we don't do another issue, let's hope we get out of lockdown on December 2<sup>nd</sup> – have a great time building up to Christmas, we will manage a Carol Service out on the Green and hopefully Santa will come around the village in the Sydenham Float. Be strong and have a wonderful warm Christmas.

Thank you all for your support throughout the year – it's your village so please look after yourselves and your neighbours – keep an eye on them in these difficult times, particularly the elderly needing transport, shopping, or just an opportunity for a natter!

Best wishes from the team, Fiona, Paul & me. Happy Christmas to you all xx.

**Roy**

# Church News

## Lock Down

Church activities are much reduced due to Covid 19 but events still happen which I feel we need to remember!

The Rev'd Dr Jacky Barr has stepped up from being our Curate following three years in training and is now the new Rector – and what a task she continues to have in her first year of office. Apart from Covid, two major deaths come to mind with the recent anniversary of the death of local Police Constable Andrew Harper, and only very recently the tragic road accident on the A40 with the death of Chinnor resident Zoe Powell and three of her children. Jacky is in close contact with the family.

I'm really pleased to say Jacky is doing an excellent job and has the support of the full United Parish Team of four churches. **Roy**

## A message from the Rector

Dear United Parish

This is a quick note to let you know that we in the ministry team will be keeping you all in our prayers during this second lockdown. I'm aware that it is going to be a struggle for some of you and for lots of different reasons.

In some ways, there is a sense of we know how to do this now, we've been through it before, but it's still going to be hard. Please do access all the help that is available. If you find you need someone to talk to, or have a particular practical problem, then please do call any of the ministry team. Even if we can't help you ourselves directly, we will do our best to figure out who can help.

Although the churches won't have Sunday services at this time, you will be able to either read or view the UnitedParish@Home services. You can find these in the booklet that came with the Parish magazine or on Facebook or on our website. The churches are open for private prayer on a Sunday and Wednesday. I will continue to record a Wednesday communion service.

We will also begin a daily Bible reading. The ministry team will take it in turns to read a passage from 1 Samuel. If you are not able to view the readings on the website or on Facebook, I enclose the schedule of daily readings for you to follow.

There is also a letter from Brian and Gill Skinner who are co-ordinating a prayer link. Please do contact them if you have a specific prayer request. All requests will be treated with the utmost sensitivity and confidentiality.

With all my Love and Prayers.

**Jacky (Rector to the United Parish)**

## Ministry Team Phone Numbers

**Jacky** (01844) 352027 or 07769 825 305      **Joan** (01844) 353404

**Margaret** (01844) 281042      **Brian** (01844) 355953      **Des** (01844) 355945

**WEBSITE** [www.chinnorunitedchurches.co.uk](http://www.chinnorunitedchurches.co.uk)

**St Mary's Sydenham**    *Open for private prayer on*  
Sundays 9am – noon, and Wednesdays 3pm – 7pm

**November Pastoral letter – Rev'd Joan DeVal  
writes:**

As I write this letter in the middle of October the country faces further lockdowns in an effort to curb the spread of Covid and the village of Chinnor mourns the tragic accident resulting in the cutting short of four young lives.

In the Gospels Jesus frequently tells his followers “Do not be afraid” - not because there is nothing to be afraid of – but because – he adds “I am with you”. We wash our hands, wear our masks and keep a social distance from each other, not out of fear but because we care. We walk together. Shalom – the peace we are promised does not mean freedom from sickness, disability or tragedy. Moses retained his possible stutter and Paul could not pray away his thorn in the flesh but both found their true health in the faithfulness of God’s presence and love.



November is the month when we look back in remembrance. On November 1<sup>st</sup> – All Saints Day, we remember those who we miss at our tables but whose lives remain entwined with ours. We remember and thank God for their lives and for the fact that our lives are richer because their lives touched ours. We often light a candle in their memory which helps draw renewed comfort and strength for ourselves as we also look forward in hopefulness and trust.

The following Sunday is Remembrance Sunday when we visit memorials to those who gave their lives in war. Whatever our view of war, for every war has two losers; we bear testimony to peoples’ resilience and courage in the face of evil. We remember not to apportion blame but with gratitude and the prayer that we will use the memory for good purpose as we challenge prejudice, learn to live with difference and seek ways of faith, hope, love and justice.

During these past months I have been re reading books on my bookshelf and this week I was struck by some words written by Henri Nouwen. He reminds us that “God is a God of the present who reveals to those who are willing to listen carefully to the moment in which they live, the steps they are to take towards the future”. Jesus said, “Do not worry about tomorrow – tomorrow will take care of itself”. Today will be shaped by the decisions we make today and those decisions will be based on yesterday’s experiences.

God bless you as we walk together into the unknown, with the faithful love and presence of God.

An Ancient Sanskrit Poem:

“Look well to this day – for it is life – the very best of life  
in its brief course lie all the realities and truths of existence  
the joy of growth, the splendour of action, the glory of power.  
For yesterday is but a memory and tomorrow only a vision  
but today if well lived,  
makes every yesterday a memory of happiness  
and every tomorrow a vision of hope.

## Remembrance Sunday Service

Rector Jacky is very keen to ensure as much as possible is done at these difficult times to keep to regular normal activities whenever possible. St Mary's Church were keen to hold an outside service to celebrate the 75<sup>th</sup> Remembrance Sunday and following tight planning and instructions on social distancing by Fiona, went ahead perfectly on a lovely morning led and organised by our minister Rev'd Joan Deval.



Gilly ensured that the Queen's Garden was dressed to perfection and Gordon supplied 'the soldier' representing the fallen from WW11. The parties involved worked hard before the event to ensure it worked to the usual standards expected in our village and was very successful. Lloyd in particular put in time with recording & ensuring the sound equipment worked well. The reduced Sydenham choir under Siobhan's leadership sang well and were supported by Lloyds recorded singing & music particularly, as the 'congregation' were unable to sing due to Covid instructions – which meant the singing was heard throughout. 'The Last Post' and bugle recordings were very special. I counted around ninety people and it was so lovely seeing everyone from all sides of the village gathered together, faces that have been shielded for many months with lockdown. Thank you to everyone who turned out!



The general feeling is that the outdoor Remembrance Service was so successful it should be repeated next year!

**Roy**

## David Munday

### ***Val Munday writes :***

David Munday died in June after a long illness. He lived almost all his life in Sydenham, firstly in Crossways Cottage with his parents, Eric and Joyce, his older brother Graham and his twin brother, Andrew. His family were among the first villagers to move into Sydenham Grove, and he lived there until we married and went to live in Box Cottages.

He was a member of the first intake of students at the Wenman School, Thame and went on to Littlemore Grammar School. He and his twin Andrew were apprenticed at Molins Ltd at Saunderton, where they qualified as Mechanical Engineers.

David left engineering for a while and worked at the National Film Archives, Rank Film Laboratories, and in the Dubbing Theatres at the BBC.

He returned to engineering after our children Tom and Peter were born. He worked on various contracts in engineering design for several companies including Instron, Chubb Fire Security and, most enjoyably, at RAF Brize Norton for JATE (the Joint Air Transport Executive). The boys remember Families Days and flights in a Hercules transport plane. Most recently David worked for Plating Equipment in Aylesbury.

David had many interests. He was a keen photographer and took the photos for the Sydenham millennium book, 'A Moment of Time'. He was interested in local history and the cycle of the farming year, and he felt it important to listen to and record for posterity the memories of the old people of the village.

He was very keen on folk music and made many recordings in folk clubs, some of which he used for a folk programme on Radio Oxford. He worked with a number of local bands, including SYD, helping with the sound production and recording. He followed F1 racing, enjoyed holidays in Aldeburgh, Suffolk, and was very kind to cats.

The boys and I would like to thank all our family, friends and neighbours for their care and concern over the last few years. Thanks to everyone who showed their kindness and respect when David made his last journey through the village, his home for 70 years.

## **St Mary's Spire**

As you will no doubt have seen the repair works to the spire are now complete. Our picture (*right*) shows the scaffolding just before it was removed and our front cover shows the finished result.



We took the opportunity to replace broken tiles on the roof and mend any failed leadwork. Due to the generosity of some villagers (including the provision of a new window thanks to Maurice Horwood) and several grants, we have just managed to raise sufficient funds to cover the cost without having to use the limited emergency fund that St Mary's holds. This is particularly important at the moment as the small income from collections has effectively ceased due to the current restrictions on services. An old church like ours requires constant maintenance in order to maintain its fabric.

The spire now looks very smart and will darken down as the oak and cedar starts to weather.

**Mark Kermack**

### **Old School Room – refurbishment**

As the OSR cannot be used at the moment, the Trustees have taken the opportunity to carry out necessary refurbishment. The outside has been re-decorated along with a new sign, the old iron railings repaired and the OSR name sign refreshed.

The internals including the floors have been fully redecorated and now look splendid. A larder/fridge replaces the old fridge (thanks to Ken for his invaluable assistance in repositioning the units) and new curtains have been hung (thanks to Siobhan and Lloyd for organising). The hall now feels very fresh and when we can, will be very attractive for future letting.

We are really looking forward to being able to use the OSR again for Sydenham village get-togethers.

**Mark Kermack**

## **VILLAGE ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES** **DOMESTIC DRAIN SERVICES**

Proprietor: Dennis Cook  
Est. 1979

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## Getting to know your drains

Village Environmental Services is more than just a service – it's a complete service. Anything to do with drains and Mr Cook is your man! Drain clearance, CCTV drain surveys and drainage consultancy. His family run company of 42 years is National Trading Standards Approved and has impressive results.

## VILLAGE ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

Vetted and approved by Trading Standards	✔
Monitored for customer service	✔
Audited by a Trading Standards professional	✔
Qualified, insured & reference checked	✔
Overall Customer Rating	★★★★★

He has been an advertiser in the Sydenham Newsletter for many years and we would like to reward his support with our support.

Our roving reporter dug deep to find out more:

### Is it a good idea to have drains surveyed when selling your home?

If you want to be in control of your house sale, then yes. You then know the state of your drains, can give assurances to the purchaser that they are in order and avoid any nasty and time-consuming haggling. If your drains need putting right then you have the choice to get them mended or be in a position of authority with knowing the price and not be held over a barrel later on!

### What about when you are buying a new house ?

A word of warning – if buying a pre 1970's home the pipes may be made of pitch fibre which is subject to failure especially when fat, grease and hot water are regularly poured down the drain. I can take a look for you with my CCTV camera so you are at least aware of any likely problems, or not.



### What if I have a blocked or leaky drain at the weekend?

No problem – Village Environmental Services work 7 days a week and don't even charge extra for weekend work. There's no call out charge either. A Sunday roast would be welcome though when he's sorted it (only joking!).

***Report by Doug Deap (aka Fi)***

### Peter Quinton – Eggs & Potatoes are being stolen from Peter.

Over the last few weeks, someone has been taking eggs and potatoes from the display box at his property on The Green each morning without paying! Peter believes this is happening between 9am and 1pm whilst he is working up at his Sewell's Lane field. Can villagers please be vigilant and speak to Peter if you see anyone leaving without paying into the Honesty Box. – Thank you.

***Peter & Ron***



## Parish Council News

Despite the nights drawing in and not so much positivity in the country right now, we have some good news from the Parish Council to share with you.

### Undergrounding of Overhead Cables finally complete!

No more power cuts – cross fingers!

As villagers may be aware, Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks (SSEN) have completed their £316,000 project of undergrounding the overhead cables which supply power to the centre of the village.

The success of this project is down to the tireless work of Sydenham Parish Council's Michael May. The village west of Slade Farm has been blighted by power cuts for many years due to trees and branches falling on the overhead power cables. When Mike first wrote to SSEN back in 2013, it was after a 17-hour power cut and 16 power cuts over the previous two years.

Over the course of the next 7 years, Mike has undertaken regular meetings with SSEN to refine the scheme, facilitating communications between SSEN and landowners to put new cables under their land, remove the overhead cables



across the Mill House garden and Millpond as well as several vulnerable lengths near trees, agree a new crossing of the stream and a new ground based switchgear enclosure – all the time while minimising disruption for villagers. Despite major delays due to issues with Oxfordshire County Council, Mike has persevered!

The new underground cables had been installed over many months and during the last week of August SSEN installed 16 temporary mobile generators to power the village – in place of each existing transformer – while the overhead power lines were removed and the underground ones connected.

It's been a very long road, but we are delighted with the outcome. A huge thank you to Mike for managing this project, which is a major permanent improvement for the village.

With the electrical work complete, remedial work to the verges has been carried out. Temporary fencing has been placed around the rebuilt areas to try to ensure that they are not eroded during the winter months.

*Our picture opposite* shows the changed view at Kingston Stert, where the supply as it goes under the high voltage pylon lines, near the Folly, is now below ground all the way into the village.

## **Village**

The roadside hedges and those around the playing field have been cut, and the ditches will be cleared through the village before the winter months. The broken/missing manhole covers on the village green have also been repaired.

We would like to say a big thank you to Chris Morgan and Dave Wilkins for volunteering to cut the grass in the village. This has helped to reduce maintenance costs and is hugely appreciated.

### **Village Footpaths**

More fantastic news! All six stiles across the Thame Park footpath have been replaced with gates, making the route accessible for all.

The route was identified in our village survey as one that villagers would like to be more accessible, so we are delighted that we have been able to get these updated through the assistance of a grant from TOE (Trust for Oxfordshire's Environment).



A small village working party are now working on rebuilding the bridge over the ditch out towards Thame Park to complete the accessibility of this route.

Work on Sewells Lane bridleway is also due to be undertaken imminently to improve access over the winter period. In addition, we are currently looking into the costs of undertaking remedial works on the bridleway in front of the Jays, which becomes impassable in wet weather. The hope is work can be undertaken in the Spring.

### **Speed Reduction Chicane Installation**

In more good news, the speed reduction chicane near to Slade Farm along Sydenham Road, has been approved and will be installed from 23<sup>rd</sup> November. A road closure will be in force from 23<sup>rd</sup> November for 5 days with the road being closed at The Inn at Emmington and there will be no access through the village during this time.

### **Speeding on B4445**

The September accident near the Inn at Emmington, where a car collided with a telegraph pole cutting off the telephone and broadband to the Inn and Thame Road properties, has further highlighted the problem with speeding at this location. Luckily no one was seriously injured, but we are pressing ahead to find a resolution. We have requested that our County Councillor helps to progress this with Highways.

Thank you to Heather, Alison and Cheryl who have been using the mobile SID to monitor speeds on the B4445 in



the mornings and evenings as part of this project. The police speed van is also now regularly taking up residence in the layby on the B4445 to further help deter speeding in the village.



### **Sydenham Playing Field**

Government guidelines state that the playfields can remain open during the current lockdown, which is great news.

After a thorough inspection of the playing field, RoSPA have sent through their findings and we're pleased that there are only some very minor actions to be carried out. Big thanks to Dave Wilkins for all his hard work in the playing field.

*Pictured left is the new 'Will Munday' seat.*

### **Village Book Swap**

It's been great to see so many villagers using the book swap facility in the bus shelter on The Green. We have now upgraded the facility to a set of bookshelves to make it more of a permanent feature and allow it to continue into the winter months. Please do keep sharing and swapping books, puzzles, games and DVDs!



### **Support during Lockdown and Covid-19**

We are asking villagers to look out for their neighbours and anyone locally that you know to be vulnerable during these times. If you or your family need any assistance during this time, please do contact the Parish Council who are coordinating the local effort. You can email the Parish Clerk on [parishcouncil@sydenhamvillage.co.uk](mailto:parishcouncil@sydenhamvillage.co.uk). Alternatively, you can leave a message on 01844 873690 (please ensure you leave your name and contact number).

### **Village Communications**

Just a reminder, 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**

The Parish Council will next meet on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> December at the earlier time of 6.30pm and we will be meeting virtually. Anyone is welcome to take part and if you wish to join in, please contact the Parish Clerk who will be able to send you the Zoom meeting instructions.

***Cheryl Belson***

## **Planning**

**P20/S0322/HH & 323/LB Forge Cottage, Sydenham Road, OX39 4LT**

Provision of external flue to rear (retrospective).

***SODC advise that applications have been withdrawn by applicant***

**P20/S2632/HH & 2633/LB 2 Holliers Close, Sydenham, OX39 4NG**

Remove existing garage/timber store. Construct new store and open fronted carport. Replace existing window in side elevation to bedroom one with inward opening French doors.

***SODC decision: planning permission granted***

**APP/Q3115/W/20/3250547 Manor Farm, Brookstones, OX39 4LZ**

Conversion and alteration of existing barn to form dwelling with parking and amenity space.

***Planning Inspectorate decision: Appeal dismissed***

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

Certificate of Lawful Use for the continued use of a timber business.

Replacement windows.

***Parish Council recommendation: supports***

**P20/S2575/FUL 18 Holliers Close, Sydenham OX39 4NG**

Proposed front, side and rear extensions to dwelling and subdivision of extended dwelling into two separate one bedroom dwellings. Re-submission of approved scheme (P/17/S4117/FUL) with associated external works.

***SODC advise that the application has been withdrawn by applicant***

**P20/S3824/HH Thoraby Cottage, Sydenham Road, OX39 4LN**

Demolition of porch and detached garage. Single storey extension.

***Parish Council recommendation: supports***

**P20/S3167/FUL Wheatsheaf Barn, Sydenham Road, OX39 4LR**

Garden shed to rear of property.

***To be considered at the parish council meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> December***

## **Advertising – a new career!**

If you or anyone else you know would like to advertise, what better place than the Sydenham Newsletter. For details please contact Fi Kermack via

[fiona.patrick1@btinternet.com](mailto:fiona.patrick1@btinternet.com)

Better still, would you like to help Fi sell some advertising?? Think about it – it's a new skill, sets a challenge, great for the CV, opens doors and the world becomes your oyster! Training given! Let Fi know...

## **Sydenham Choir**

The choir has not been able to hold its weekly practices since February, nor were we able to hold our annual concert in September and we've cancelled our choir outing in November! However, the good news is that choir members were allowed to sing at services (until this new lockdown where all services have been cancelled) and so we were able to enjoy some music, even if the rest of the congregation had to sing along in their heads. Some of us have joined in with online singing, which, although not the same as getting together with others, means that we have been able to do some singing.

***Siobhan***

## **Ride 'n' Stride 2020**

Many thanks to everyone who participated in this year's Ride and Stride.

A grand total of £522 was raised towards the restoration and maintenance of St. Mary's and other historic Oxfordshire churches whilst having fun exploring our local heritage.

Despite not being able to enter the churches this year due to corona virus, it was a very successful day. In perfect weather we had 24 riders and striders from our village including some very young children, some new adults as well as many regulars including Gilet, Jaune & Gilly who has been participating for about 12 years. With true community spirit, villagers willingly gave up their time greeting and offering refreshment to a record number of visitors, many commenting that St Mary's was by far the most welcoming and popular church in the area!

***Eleanor***

Don't know why but we've never done Ride and Stride before?????? We loved it; everyone must do it next year! There's no pressure and you can do as little or as much as you want, however you want. We did twelve churches and although some were closed it didn't matter, just looking round the churchyards and having time to sit and think was so lovely and interesting. So see you all on the R and S in 2021!

***Jenny & Madeleine***



## Sydenham Christmas Window Wonderland!

We want to bring some Christmas cheer to the village after a very difficult 2020 so we are asking villagers if they'd like to take part in our Christmas Window Wonderland. The aim is to decorate windows and gardens and convert the village into a Christmas wonderland for everyone to enjoy from 18<sup>th</sup> December.

Anyone in the village can take part and displays can be made in windows or gardens. They don't need to be Christmas themed or too complicated, as long as if they are family friendly! We also hope to award some prizes for the best window displays too (so watch this space!).

To take part, simply prepare your window or garden display from 18<sup>th</sup> December. We're hoping to make a map of those taking part to share with villagers so they can explore all the wonder displays. If you would like to be included in this, then please email Cheryl Belson at [redbarrington@hotmail.com](mailto:redbarrington@hotmail.com)

Look forward to seeing some fantastic displays this December!

### **Gilly's 21 challenges – A thank you for saving her life.**

#### **21<sup>st</sup> anniversary of the Thames Valley Air Ambulance.**

We have an amazing lady in our midst (but we know that anyhow!) Gilly, as a thank you to the Thames Valley Air Ambulance for saving her life, set about raising money for her 21/21/21 challenge – to do 21 things in 21 days to raise money for the Thames Valley Air Ambulance's 21st Anniversary. Gilly's idea. And a busy lady she has been too!



As many of you will remember in January 2015, Gilly was air lifted to hospital with a traumatic brain injury following a serious riding accident which dramatically changed her life.

Here are her 21 self-set 'to do' list which commenced on the 10<sup>th</sup> October and finished on the 31<sup>st</sup> Oct. At the time of writing, Gilly has raised £1,112 of her £500 target which is at 222%. Her Just Giving Page is still open though for late donations – just follow this link: <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/gilly-harrison>

### **Gilly's 21 things and how she got on:**

1. Up and down 21 steps/stairs without holding on – “made me feel much more confident and really helped my balance (and my bottom)”
2. Iron 21 shirts – “move over Mrs R”
3. Eat with my left hand (knife hand) and cut my food 21 times – ‘beforehand I was a bit lazy but now take me to the Ritz!’

4. Paint 21 cards or pictures
5. Bake 21 biscuits
6. Vacuum carpet for 21 mins “actually did every room in the house – it was very satisfying and the Hoover is now back in the cupboard having a rest”
7. Wash 21 windows
8. 21 bits of gardening – weeding, picking up leaves, tidying, deadheading etc
9. Smile 21 times – not a difficulty for Gilly!
10. Throw away 21 items (Roy – make sure you put your stuff away!!)
11. Sing 21 songs.
12. Polish 21 shoes (but will do the extra one to make it up to 11 pairs)
13. Walk 21 miles
14. Cycle 21 miles
15. Pick up 21 bits of litter (very commendable)
16. Tell Roy I love him 21 times (his reaction has been lovely!)
17. Bounce the ball that my sister gave me 21 times  
(as pictured)
18. Catch the same ball 21 times (see pic)
19. Talk to 21 people – lucky people
20. Polish 21 pieces of furniture
21. Complete all these tasks in 21 days



**Fi**

## **The 2020/21 OSR 200 Club Annual Subscriptions**

***If you wish to continue your support, subs for the New Year which commences with the November Draw are due - Please pay Roy.***

Following notification in the Newsletter and Sydenham Mail members have been invited to rejoin the 200 Club. The first two Draws took place on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November involving many guests at The Inn at Emmington.

Thank you to all involved including Buster, Ray, Tina and landlord David. The winners are shown below.

As a reminder the Charitable monthly draws take place throughout 2021 and of course the two special Christmas day draws of £50 & £100. Each number costs only £12 and if you wish to join please advice and let me have

Cash or cheque to me at Fuchsia Cottage ASAP. Tel 01844 353887.

The Old School Room is our Village Hall – it is used by many groups at a very competitive rate and is newly decorated, has modern equipment and is on your doorstep! Pat Hardiman is the booking Secretary and can be contacted on 01844 354019. It will re-open soon – come & see the new decorations!

**Roy**

## OSR 200 Club Draw Winners for November and December.

### November

£5	24	Cyndy Thomas
£10	200	Harry (Inn at Emmington)
£10	78	Spencer Jones
£10	185	Charlie Dawson
£10	195	Bodie Stewart
£10	81	Hilary Lamb
£10	92	Cecily Church
£15	107	Albert Chandler
£25	101	Madeleine Stewart

### December

134	Eeyore (Mark King)
50	Jenny Morgan
133	Cyndy Thomas
143	Annabell Hughes
118	Maria Woodward
148	James Simpson
176	William Ashfield Hughes
170	Eleanor Church
139	Sue Archer

*Thank you to everyone for continuing to support the OSR. There is still time to join the 200 Club and win either £50 or £100 in the Special Christmas Day Draw at 1pm – hopefully to take place at The Inn at Emmington. Only £12 per number for the opportunity and join for one of the monthly prizes*

***Please pay Roy and join!***



### **Sydenham Cricket Club – The Moles – Season review**

We were so pleased to have the chance to play matches this summer, indeed by the end of the first lockdown period we were all itching to get out and swing the willow. *What a season we had!* Eight matches scheduled and all eight played in full, no weather interruptions, no dropping out due to lack of players – *and we*

***won six*** of our ***eight*** matches – our most successful season in recent memory.

We also had some brilliant matches, indeed our first and second matches both went right down to the very last ball to decide who would take the spoils, Sydenham losing in the first game to Thame but then winning against Old Berkeley. We were fabulous with both bat and ball this year – our lowest score of 131 came against Ibstone in a game that we would ultimately win by 34 runs, our top score being 249 vs Haddenham and then 237 in the last game of the season vs Sonning. On the bowling side of things we were ruthless with our opposition, regularly taking early wickets and bowling teams out using a wide variety of players. Cricket is made up of three key elements, fielding being the third but by no means the least important. We still have a little work to be considered '*the complete team*' – our catching letting us down on occasion – Jack Blakeley will happily fill you in on the details should you wish to find out...

One of the most pleasing parts of the season was the commitment of the players and the community spirit that the team developed. We used 17 players across eight matches – 9 of whom live in the village, the other players all live very nearby and have strong links with Sydenham.

Sadly our end of season meal scheduled for November 7th at The Crown has been postponed, but we will re-schedule and look forward to next season.

*All the very best to everyone, **Dan Bradley***

## Sydenham Pumpkin, Squash and Sunflower Competition.

It's difficult writing about the 2020 competition without bringing in the fact that it was held in unusual circumstances. Firstly, Sydenham Cricket had the unique opportunity for an unbeaten season going into June and then they started playing again. El Nino was disrupting the usual weather patterns and scoring goals for Barcelona. It rained extremely heavily at the start of the growing season and then mid-season was hot and dry. With Paul Stancliffe and James Ward out of the Sunflower competition the gate was open for a new winner. Should we allow Aston Rowant grown Pumpkins to enter this year as they were beneficiaries of better draining soil and closer to The Sun but further away from The Crown? We were lucky that Head Judges Carole and Mark were prepared to go into a bubble that allowed us to rely on their skills and counsel in this difficult time.

The competition could only be virtual and judged by photographs other than for the big one. This was measured using the Jim Wood protocol at Cape Cottage under close supervision from the two finalists and the Judge bubble. It was nip and tuck as yet again, Julia Gossage stole the prize from her mentor and coach, Gordon McLeod. Gordon said he was proud of Julia and the growing team from Aston Rowant. The largest Pumpkin was 18.5 stones whilst the pretender to the Crown was 18.1. Therefore, not a record year but a very good one. Julia grew her pumpkin at home and Gordon entered a very respectable specimen grown on the allotments. Head Judge Carole said the competition was always close, but Julia had managed to hold on to shape and form and the Pumpkin was finished well. She received her prize with good grace and congratulated Gordon for his help on getting to the top of the extreme vegetable world in South Oxfordshire.



The sunflower competition and the Best Pair were won by the Ashfield family. Two large multi headed plants the longest being 1.78 SKR or 102 II. This was the first time that the hosts had won and much celebration in a socially distanced manner broke out when the results were tabulated.

The Judges did award a special and new prize to Dan Bradley for his wonderful, yet unruly cluster of Pumpkins, also grown on the allotments and Dan has been awarded the inaugural Cluster Cup for best cluster in show.



Decorated Pumpkins were in abundance and the judges award several prizes for innovation and content. It is fair to say that the adaptation of the exhibits demonstrates a grasp of innovation that left the Judges feeling that competition was in safe hands going forward.

The competition raised £110 for the St. Marys Church Fabric Fund.

***Ann Ashfield***



## Scam Warning

Thames Valley Police are urging people in Oxford to remain cautious after an elaborate scam has resulted in victims losing a total of £15,000. A man, described as being of Mediterranean appearance, in a dark coloured car, has been approaching people asking for directions to Heathrow Airport. He claims to be a fashion designer with Giorgio Armani and that he has excess stock he is unable to take back to Dubai with him due to the high cost. He asks people to lend him money to cover the cost of his car hire on the promise that the money will be paid back. He encourages the individuals to provide their bank account details and will then drive them to the bank where the money is withdrawn and handed over. The contact details passed over to the individuals turn out to be false and no money is ever paid back.

This scam results in a significant financial loss and poses a risk to the victim's safety by agreeing to get in a car with a stranger. Where personal details including bank details have been handed over, this also leaves the victim open to identity fraud.

Thames Valley Police are also urging the following:

- Never agree to lend a stranger money, no matter how elaborate and believable their story may be.
- Never agree to purchase or accept items from a stranger – These items may be stolen and you could be implicated as being involved in handling stolen goods.
- Never reveal personal details to a stranger, especially banking details.
- Never agree to get in a stranger's car, no matter how friendly and trustworthy they may seem.

Contact your bank immediately if you think you've fallen for a scam and report it to Action Fraud. Always call 999 in an emergency. Further information, visit the Take Five to Stop Fraud campaign (<https://takefive-stopfraud.org.uk/>).



## Sydenham WI

As with other clubs, groups and organisations, our WI has not been able to meet this year. However, we have been able to have monthly, Covid-safe walks along the footpaths and bridleways around the village. On two of these occasions we went on to have socially distanced suppers in The Crown, which was lovely. Sadly, our plans for a November walk have had to be cancelled. At some point.....we'll be able to get back to our monthly meetings with excellent speakers and have some fun!

**Siobhan**

## Pub News

### The Crown Inn

Well here we go again, our takeaway commences this weekend. Friday & Saturday evenings from 5pm

Please pre-order with us by email, facebook, phone or text message, before 3pm on the day you require your takeaway.

Collection point is again around the back of the pub by the kitchen door;

Cash & Card Payment accepted.

See our menu at

[https://mcusercontent.com/1e2ddc5c6f62d91487c209283/files/c81755d9-3566-4boe-8011-338eeb89c5b4/Takeaway\\_Menu\\_November\\_2020.pdf](https://mcusercontent.com/1e2ddc5c6f62d91487c209283/files/c81755d9-3566-4boe-8011-338eeb89c5b4/Takeaway_Menu_November_2020.pdf)

We are also still delivering fruit & vegetables on Fridays, so should you require anything please order with us on Thursday before 3pm.

Many thanks for your valued custom.

***Tina, Pete & Sparky***

### The Inn at Emmington

So, here we are Lockdown 2 the sequel..... this time its confusing!! As we sit here writing this update pubs are closed, gyms are closed, oh and that's about it, so unless you're an alcoholic fitness fanatic you're probably carrying on as normal!! Hopefully, 3 more weeks and we should be open again at the beginning of December for a socially distanced but I'm sure still enjoyable and potentially more relaxing and even more meaningful Christmas this year.



**Christmas at Waterperry Gardens** Get into the festive spirit at Waterperry Gardens with great gift ideas for all the family this Christmas, from handmade ceramics and jewelry to Christmas decorations and linens, there is something for everyone. If you're looking for something different our Waterperry Vouchers make an ideal present.

Enjoy some pre-Christmas fun with the Snowman Trail\* in the gardens from the 3rd Dec through to the 23rd Dec, family fun and Christmas excitement!

The spectacular British grown Christmas trees will be on sale from the beginning of December (or bring your wellies and choose your own Waterperry Grown Christmas Tree!), along with fantastic Waterperry hand-finished Christmas wreaths.

**Pre-Order your hand-made Christmas Goodies!** Let the Teashop at Waterperry take the strain out of cooking and pre-order festive treats like Christmas Cake, Mince Pies and more, email [teashop@waterperrygardens.co.uk](mailto:teashop@waterperrygardens.co.uk) or call 01844 338087 for more information.

**Waterperry Gardens will be closed from 25th Dec till 1st Jan 2021 inclusive**

**\*Please keep an eye on our website for any changes to our planned events**

**[www.waterperrygardens.co.uk](http://www.waterperrygardens.co.uk)**

Firstly a huge thank you to everybody who has supported us over the past few months since our reopening. Although it seems an age ago now, we had a very successful Summer particularly with the Eat out to Help out Scheme and it was great to welcome so many people back into the garden during August in particular. Although this scheme finished after the August Bank Holiday, we kept several food offers going throughout September and October with our burger night, pie night, steak night and fish and chip night all proving popular – we will be restarting these in January 2021 after the Christmas turkey rush!

During November and the closure of all hospitality venues we will be offering take-away food on Friday and Saturday nights. On 'Fish Fridays' we will offer our beer battered cod and chips or scampi and chips with peas for £10 per person served between 4pm and 9pm. Orders to be placed by calling The Inn on 01844 351367 and collection will be in 20 minute slots with food to be paid on collection by card or cash. On Saturdays we will be serving our homemade burgers to take away – beef, chicken or vegetarian with chips and onion rings again at £10 per person. Also served between 4pm and 9pm with collection from The Inn so plenty of time to eat before or after The Sydenham Online Quiz!!!

Once we open at the beginning of December we will start our Christmas menu on Friday 4th December and will be serving this every evening, Sunday lunch times and selected midweek lunch times. Hopefully we will be able to serve people in groups of 6 but space may still be limited so bookings will be essential once we all know what is happening. We have also moved our outdoor marquee closer to the building and are installing sides and lighting thereby ensuring plenty of room for drinkers as well as diners in what is traditionally a busy month. We will ensure there are plenty of well spaced tables so if we re-open and households can't mix on the same tables there will still be adequate room for everybody to spread out and enjoy the festivities in a safe and orderly manner.

With the rules and regulations changing frequently, please follow our facebook page for all up to date information as it is difficult to be specific at the moment. Our Christmas menu will also be on our website by the end of this week.

Once again thank you all for your support over 2020 and here's to a more normal and virus free 2021 !!

*Best wishes, **David, Sharon, Alice, Ed, Pickles xxx***

Sharon and David Maisey, The Inn At Emmington, Sydenham Road, Sydenham, Chinnor, Oxfordshire, OX39 4LD, Tel; 01844 351367  
[www.theinnnatemmington@btconnect.com](mailto:www.theinnnatemmington@btconnect.com)

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## **Take-away available at the Inn this Weekend!**

We will be offering the following take away food from this weekend.

### **Fish Friday @ The Inn**

Our very own beer-battered cod and chips or scampi and chips with peas for £10 per person. All fish direct from Billingsgate, freshly cooked to order and served with The Inn's famous chips!

Available on Fridays between 4pm and 9pm.

### **Burger Saturday @ The Inn**

Choose from our homemade beef burger, chicken burger or vegetarian burger served with chips and onion rings for £10 per person. For an additional £1 include melted cheese and crispy bacon as your burger topping or for real hungry carnivores an extra £2 gets you cheese, bacon and a slice of black pudding!

Served with chips and onion rings for £10 per person. For an additional £1 include melted cheese and crispy bacon as your burger topping or for real hungry carnivores an extra £2 gets you cheese, bacon and a slice of black pudding!

Available on Saturdays between 4pm and 9pm

On both days, we will be serving and have food available for collection from The Inn in 20-minute slots.

Call 01844 351367 this week to leave your order and time you wish to collect or email [theinnemmington@btconnect.com](mailto:theinnemmington@btconnect.com) and we will confirm your order with you.

We are happy to serve children's portions at a reduced price, please advise when calling

Payment by cash or card on collection

## **Leigh Bowyer**

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Well spaced tables inside the pub. Regular cleaning,  
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**Dinner** Monday to Friday 6.30pm to 8.30pm  
Saturday food served all day 12.30pm to 8.30pm  
Sunday food served from 12.30pm to 5.00pm

December hours may vary - please call for details  
Weekend takeaways available

CAMRA Good Beer Guide 2021  
3 changing real ales and scrumpy ciders  
Car parking - Dog friendly pub  
Ground floor bedrooms



Seven modern en-suite bedrooms  
Chiltern Hills or garden views  
Rates include full English breakfast

The Inn at Emmington, Sydenham Road, Sydenham, Oxon OX39 4LD  
[www.theinnatemmington.co.uk](http://www.theinnatemmington.co.uk) [theinnemmington@btconnect.com](mailto:theinnemmington@btconnect.com)