



Sydenham  
Summer 2021  
Newsletter



## Editorial

Hello and welcome to our Late Summer issue. Lockdown has created lots of difficulties for many of us. I confess I'm personally one of the difficulties, with seemingly little to write about, I have not put pen to paper for too long!

For that reason, we invited villagers to submit articles of interest and I'm delighted that Yvonne Dean immediately filled a couple of pages with a lovely description of the house she and Roger are about to move into – Roger has been converting it for a couple of years – by now they may have gone! Yvonne was one of the original team writing the Newsletter back in early 2000. Best wishes Yvonne, Roger & Lucy and thank you.

And thank you to those who have sent in the many pictures which we have printed in this issue. They are a lovely record of our beautiful surroundings.

Relative village newcomer Sara Luff has written about her Iyengar Yoga Classes and updated us on the weekly meetings and added a little about the new neighbours in Forge Cottage who I have yet to meet.

Jane Parry from Coopers Yard has written a particularly relaxing article about Sunday afternoons '*Walking and Talking*' – *The Janet and Jane Guide to Wellbeing*, which is so welcome, thank you ladies!

We are lucky to have a splendid village network with the Parish Council run Sydenham Mail keeping us up to speed with news and notices of problems, difficulties, special occasions and events, and the team do a fantastic job which has helped me significantly while I have neglected the Newsletter!

Congratulations to Jacky Barr on completing her first year as our Rector. We feature her on our front cover and report on her 'Ramble' on page six; and more congratulations to Kieran and Sandra Roche on the arrival of daughter, Lara.

Lastly, after twenty years in the role, with much regret this issue is my final one.

The new Editor is not really a newcomer – in a different role in the first issue back in January 2002 Rachel was a 'News Gatherer' for the village. With husband Nathan they had just returned from honeymoon in New Zealand – we sent them our best wishes! – I personally send my good wishes to her again.

Rachel will produce the Autumn issue and will advise her contact details in due course. Meanwhile I will continue to run the monthly OSR 200 Club (reminder – subs are due for the 2022 year in October).

Best wishes Rachel and thank you to the Newsletter team over the years, Paul Stancliffe with us since day one and Fi Kermack for the last ten years providing excellent support. Thank you also to Sydenham villagers and friends for sending copy – you have been wonderful too.

As usual, love & best wishes,

**Roy xx.**

## Church News

### St Mary's Church Services

We plan the following services with Christmas services still being discussed

#### September

Sun 5<sup>th</sup> 9.00am Holy Communion – *Revd Joan DeVal*  
Sun 19<sup>th</sup> 6.00pm Evensong – *Revd Jacky Barr*

#### October

Sun 3<sup>rd</sup> 10.00am Family Harvest Festival – *Revd Joan DeVal*  
Sun 17<sup>th</sup> 6.00pm Evensong – *Revd Jacky Barr*

#### November

Sun 14<sup>th</sup> 10.45am Special Outside Remembrance Service – *Revd Joan DeVal*  
Sun 21<sup>st</sup> 6.00pm Evensong – *Revd Joan & Revd Jacky*

## Church Update

I think that the United Parish Rector, Jacky Barr, in her first year as a Rector, has done a remarkable job – particularly with Lockdown and trying to keep everything going. She has four churches under her wing with St Andrew's in Chinnor being the principal church, each week holding regular Sunday services, but the three other churches also contribute to the United Parish. Here in St Mary's Sydenham, we are very fortunate to have the experienced Minister Rev Joan DeVal, who handles most of our services.

Jacky has written the following, so that we are up to date on the general rules:

Dear St Mary's,

I don't know about you but I'm feeling somewhat conflicted by the removal of the Covid-19 legal restrictions. Part of me is joyful about it but another part is concerned by the huge increase in the number of daily cases being reported. And so, I'm proposing a phased approach to lessening the restrictions.

Please be assured that our first priority will always be to protect the safety of everyone in the Parish.

As a community in Christ we now need to move forward without the set legal restrictions. The Government, and the National Church, have deemed that Church leaders are best placed to know their own communities and environments, and the situations where there will be many people together who do not normally meet and the places where they will come together. Any place where multiple people can gather is still going to be an area of risk.

The virus isn't going away, and even those who have accessed both doses of the vaccine may still be at risk from contracting or spreading any variant of

Covid-19. Those still waiting for a second dose, or who – for whatever reason – have not been vaccinated (and we are here to love, not judge) are at greater risk. God calls us to love our neighbour as ourselves, to protect the widow and the orphan, and to love one another as God loves us.

Please pray for peace and wisdom as the country begins the slow process of attaining a degree of the normality lost over the past 18 months.

**Face masks** while being aware that the law has changed, we, along with many other public arenas (such as the GP surgery, hairdressers, and smaller capacity shops), will continue to ask for face coverings to be worn while you are inside our churches and moving around within close proximity of other people. We believe that this measure is an important step in safeguarding everyone.

**Hand sanitisers** will remain in situ and we ask that you continue to use them as you enter and leave, and of course at other times you feel necessary.

**Track and Trace** we will no longer ask you to physically sign in but please do use the NHS app and the QR code to register your attendance in the church.

**Social distancing** this will be left to your own discretion while in church. You will no longer be directed to your seat. We must be personally responsible and consider the obvious and hidden risks to both ourselves and others. Please be respectful of each other's personal space and ask if someone is comfortable with you sitting close to them, offering a handshake or hug - before you move in!

**Congregational Singing** will resume behind our facemasks. Initially this will be for only one hymn in each service.

**Hymn books and service booklets** will be in use and there is no necessity to take home with you (but you can if you wish!)

**Readers and intercessors** from the congregation will again be invited to take part in our services from September onwards.

**Holy Communion** We will continue to offer communion in one kind only and we will re-instate coming forward to the altar to receive the sacrament. The priest celebrating will take all necessary measures to ensure that this is done as safely as possible. We ask that you wear your face mask as you move around the church.

**Daily opening of the Churches.** We will resume unlocking and locking duties and will open the churches daily again.

For some of you, it will be disappointing that we are not just abandoning all Covid measures; for others it will be alarming that we are dropping any of the measures. My prayer is that, for the majority, you will be content and reassured with a phased return until what we recognise as “normal church” is in place.

As Philippians 2:3 reminds us, ‘But in humility consider others as more important than yourselves’.

With all blessings, **Jacky**

## The Rector's Ramble – One Year a Rector!!

Thank you to everyone who came and supported me on the Ramble. (10 miles, by the way!)



It was a lovely day. The weather was perfect for walking: dry but not too hot.

It was great to see people at each of the churches and to have good company to walk alongside. Here is the scene at St Mary's and on the front cover



I am arriving at Sydenham to a lovely welcome.

We have managed to raise an incredible £735 for the United Parish. You are amazingly generous. I feel so blessed to be here in this Parish with you all. **Jacky**



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## John William Wilson Obituary

It was a beautiful day at Emmington on Wednesday August 3rd where a group of thirty friends and family met to lay to rest John Wilson late of Plough Corner. John was interred with his wife Pat, as he wished, led by the Rev. Jacky Barr. The service was held around the grave, and we all had the opportunity to reflect on John's life and contribution to us all.



John was born in Newcastle and met and married Pat whilst working in the shipyards as an upholsterer. When work dried up at the yards, they moved to work in the furniture business in High Wycombe and lived there for a brief time before moving to Sydenham. When Plough Corner was built, they moved into a new bungalow and lived happily there for many years. Pat died too young, and John was widowed for over 25 years. He carried on living at Plough Corner and moved to Pinewood Studios for his last career challenge – and dressed among other films, James Bond. When he became too frail to live on his own his family found him a place to live in Newcastle where he died surrounded by his family. John invited all the mourners to a last drink with him at his local the Inn at Emmington where Dave and team did him and us all proud. The only thing that was missing was John's dry humour and his ability to start a discourse on something controversial.

John was a member of Sydenham Cricket Club where many of the mourners had the great opportunity to recall moments of fun and terror. Fun as John was a popular member with the great gift of enjoying the company of young children, and terror, if we ever let him drive us to a match. John was also a debater of some skill and would often open the conversation with some outrageous statement and then enjoy the debate.

John had been unwell for several years and the people of Plough Corner were good neighbours and friends. The King family led by Kath and Mark were exceptional in their kindness and caring for him.

His family spoke of a genuine man who had suffered a tragedy, in the loss of Pat so young, but had kept her memory alive and rebuilt his life around his friends in the village and beyond. His family spoke of a popular and loving man that they will miss. The sense of humour again was a prominent part of what they enjoyed about him as well as his continued involvement in family life up to his last days.

The family wish to record thanks to Mr and Mrs Michael Holland for helping with the practicalities of the day and for keeping the church yard in excellent condition.

***John Ashfield***

# Summer

by Anonymous June 2021



**I love the brilliant bright blue sea -  
It's not so great if you get stung by a bee!  
Cool water trickles down my parched throat  
It's lots of fun to go on a boat.  
Fresh red watermelon is good to eat  
Deckchairs are my favourite seat!  
I love eating ice cream on the beach  
I love the sunset when it turns the colour of a peach.  
I love to see all the tropical fish  
Water-fresh seafood is my favourite dish.  
Warm sand tickles my toes,  
The smell of barbeques drifts up my nose,  
Sun lights up the sky,  
'Summer is the best' I sigh!**



## Ride and Stride 2021

**Saturday 11th September 10am – 6pm**

There is still plenty of time to mend punctures and get your bikes in tip top condition or to polish your walking boots or saddle up and discover the beautiful historic churches and wonderful heritage of our local area.

Grab a map, choose your route and see how many churches you can visit in the day. It could be 2 or 20 – the choice is yours! Funds raised go towards the upkeep of our lovely church.

Details can be found on the website, <https://ohct.org.uk/ride-and-stride/>  
Or contact me at [eleanor.j.church@gmail.com](mailto:eleanor.j.church@gmail.com)

*Recommended pitstops are:*

Spire and Spoke at Watlington, pub and cafe with best coffee in Watlington.

The Half Moon at Cuxham, best pizza locally and a lovely garden.

The Lord Nelson at Brightwell Baldwin, pub opposite the church with outdoor seating and happy to serve coffee and cake.

***Eleanor***

Please contact Eleanor if you would like to volunteer to meet and greet at St. Mary's Church.

Do come and support us – It makes a wonderful & enjoyable day.

***Roy***

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## **Parish Council update ‘Summer’ 2021**

### **Sydenham Neighbourhood Plan Adopted**

Great news for the future of the village – our Neighbourhood Plan was approved at the referendum by a majority margin of 155 votes to 5 in the referendum on 6th May 2021.

A big thank you to everyone who voted – Sydenham had a fantastic turnout of almost 60% – the average for most referendums in Oxfordshire is around 40%.

Our Neighbourhood Plan will now be adopted as an important part of the legal planning process and sits alongside the SODC Local Plan. The Plan should provide significant control over future development proposals for the village which will have to be considered relative to the policies in our plan.

Huge thanks to Mark Kermack and his team – Tara Glen, Toby Roe, Mark Oliver and Mike May for an enormous amount of hard work and perseverance over the last couple of years to bring this to fruition in record time.

### **Fibre Broadband to Properties with Openreach**

From the original inquiry, we had 44 households/businesses indicate that they were interested in signing up to high-speed broadband to their properties and this number has now grown to 52.

After much heartache and perseverance with Openreach and the Oxfordshire Digital Infrastructure Team, we have eventually arrived at a scheme which can bring fibre broadband to the properties in the village who have already declared an interest, as well as having the capability for connecting the majority of other properties in the village, if they are willing to sign up for high-speed broadband.

The scheme has now been submitted to the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) who are administering the scheme nationally and we are awaiting approval for funding, which we hope to get within the next couple of months. Just to emphasise that the current plan of the scheme is for it to be fully funded through DCMS/Oxfordshire County Council/Openreach without the need for contributions from households or businesses.

Assuming that DCMS give funding approval, the next step will be for households and businesses to sign up, as delivery of the scheme will be conditional on at least 52 properties signing up and the more we can get the easier it becomes to meet the funding requirement.

We have requested that the Sydenham scheme should be included in the Openreach fast track delivery process; however, realistically we suspect that delivery won't be before the first quarter of next year.

A big thank you to Mike May for persevering with this project!



## **Playing Field**

General maintenance has been undertaken in the playing field including replacing the bench, repairing the swing and putting new bark down – as you can see above, it's looking fantastic! We are awaiting a report from our annual ROSPA inspection.

Thank you to Dave Wilkins for all his hard work on maintaining the playing field and keeping it looking so nice.

## **Speeding on B4445**

Oxfordshire County Council have now completed the design of the traffic calming chicane for the B4445 on the Chinnor side of the Emmington Inn junction. We are currently in the process of obtaining quotations from contractors as well as investigating further funding to support the additional project costs.

## **Queen's Green Canopy Tree Planting**

Thank you for those who completed our survey about tree planting in the village.

The Queen's Green Canopy is a tree-planting initiative created to mark Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee in 2022. Everyone across the UK is being invited to plant trees from October 2021, when the tree planting season begins, through to the end of the Jubilee year in 2022.

The survey showed there was great support for the scheme and creating a small community wood in the allotment field. We'll be taking on board the comments received from the survey in relation to the location and also possible impact on the allotments.

We'll be getting in touch with those who indicated they would be willing to help with the project shortly.

## **Dog Waste Bins**

No Parish Council update would be complete without mentioning dog poo! Like many local Parishes, we have experienced problems with emptying dog waste bins. We have now switched to a different contractor who hopefully will provide a more reliable service.

# Have your say on Oxfordshire's future



The Oxfordshire Plan 2050 is a long-term plan that will set a framework for future planning decisions.

**We want your views on the policies we've suggested to help Oxfordshire:**

- Address climate change
- Improve environmental quality
- Create strong and healthy communities
- Plan for sustainable travel and connectivity
- Create jobs and provide homes

The consultation is open until  
**Friday 8 October**

[www.oxfordshireopenthought.org](http://www.oxfordshireopenthought.org)

**Printed copies are available from your local library or one of the following:**

- Banbury Town Council,
- Bicester Town Council,
- Cherwell District Council – Bodicote House,
- Oxfordshire County Council – County Hall,
- South Oxfordshire District Council,
- Vale of White Horse District Council – Milton Park,
- West Oxfordshire District Council – Woodgreen and Elmfield offices,
- Witney Town Council,
- Carterton Town Council,
- Chipping Norton Town Council.

**Please confirm with the location before visiting.**



If you do see a full dog waste bin, please contact the Parish Council. Don't forget you can put bagged waste in the public bins on the green and by the playing field, or take it home and put it in your black wheelie bin.

### **Footpaths**

Some good news! Oxfordshire County Council have recommended and agreed to undertake clearance of Sewells Lane during the autumn, which will make the bridleway much wider. Sadly, there isn't any drainage on Sewell's Lane, meaning it will continue to be muddy and wet during winter. However, by widening the bridleway and keeping vehicles to one side, it is hoped accessibility will be improved this winter.

### **Sydenham Grove Update**

The fit out of the houses is nearly complete and they are starting to undertake landscaping, working from the back of the site to the front. The access road will be the last to be completed and Feltham expect to have completed everything before the end of September. Good news is they expect very few large lorry movements from now on.

### **Village Communications**

If you have any 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 held on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> September at 7.00pm. The location is still to be agreed, but will be published, along with our agenda, nearer the meeting date.

### **Planning**

#### **P21/SO817/HH The White House, Sydenham, OX39 4NE**

Demolition of a garage. Construction of a 2 storey side extension, single rear extension and external works.

#### ***SODC decision – planning permission granted***

#### **P21/S1260/FUL Manor Farm, Brookstones, Sydenham OX39 4LZ**

Variation of wording of condition 5 to remove words 'and approved in writing by' in the sentence 'shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority' on planning application P18/SO967/FUL

#### ***SODC decision – planning permission granted***

# HOW SAFE IS YOUR **ELECTRIC BLANKET?**

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**We will collect your blanket from your house, take it to be tested and then return it to your house (we will post you a plastic bag and label prior to our collection).**

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**Or email: [communityengagement@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:communityengagement@oxfordshire.gov.uk)**



**P21/S1433/HH The Old Rickyard, Sydenham OX39 4LR**

Proposed single storey rear extension, additional dormer windows and external alterations

***SODC decision – planning permission granted***

**P21/S1458/FUL Wayside, Kingston Stert, Chinnor OX39 4NL**

Demolition of existing three bedroom detached dwelling house and outbuildings; Construction of new private self-contained seven bedroom dwelling house with landscaping.

***Parish Council recommendation: objects***

**P21/S1615/LB 1 Musgrave Cottages, Sydenham OX39 4ND**

Window repair and refurbishment

***SODC decision – planning permission granted***

**P21/S0083/FUL 18 Holliers Close, Sydenham OX39 4NG**

Proposed front, side and rear extensions to dwelling and sub-division of extended dwelling into two separate 1-bedroom dwellings. Re-submission of approved scheme (P/17/S4117/FUL) with associated external works.

***SODC decision – planning permission granted***

**P21/S1881/FUL 1 The Cottage, Brookstones, Sydenham OX39 4LZ**

Change of use of land from agriculture to residential garden

***SODC decision – planning permission granted***

**P21/S2079/LB Kingham House, Sydenham Road, Sydenham**

**OX39 4NB**

Replacement on a like for like basis of two first floor sash windows

***SODC decision – planning permission granted***

**P21/S2246/HH & P21/S2249/LB Old Thatched Cottage, The Green,  
Sydenham OX39 4LX**

Proposed demolition of existing conservatory and subsequent erection of a single-storey garden room to the rear of the property

***SODC decision – planning permission granted***

**P21/S2243/N4B Dutch Barn at Manor Farm, Brookstones, Sydenham  
OX49 4LZ**

Application to determine whether prior approval is required in respect of transport & highway impact, noise, contamination risk, flooding and locational considerations for the conversion of a disused barn last used for the purposes of agricultural into a dwelling house (Class Q(a)) and in relation to design and external appearance of the building (Class Q(b)).

***No response required, for information only***

**P21/S2992/HH Forge Cottage, Sydenham OX39 4LT**

Demolition of existing sheds and erection of an outbuilding

***Parish Council recommendation: no objection***

**P21/S2977/HH & P21/S2978/LB Forge Cottage, Sydenham OX39 4LT**

Double storey side extension

***Parish Council recommendation: response submitted***

**P21/S2912/HH - Burrows Farm House, Sydenham**

Installation of a swimming pool, with decking, to garden

***Parish Council recommendation: no objection***

**P21/S2980/HH Coopers Yard, Sydenham OX39 4NB**

Construction of 5x4m decking in eastern corner of garden

***Parish Council recommendation: no objection***

**P21/S1458/FUL Wayside, Kingston Stert, Chinnor OX39 4NL**

Minor Amendment: No. 1 - dated 23rd

July 2021

Demolition of existing three bedroom detached dwelling house and out buildings; Construction of new private self-contained seven bedroom dwelling house with landscaping (as amended to reduce the scale of the development and revise the layout)

***Parish Council recommendation: no strong views***

**P21/S3384/LB Forge Cottage, Sydenham OX39 4LT**

Replacement of thatched roof to match existing

***To be considered at the parish council meeting on***

***2<sup>nd</sup> September***

**P21/S3405/O (Outline) Park House Workshop, Park View, Sydenham OX39 4LQ**

Construction of one dwelling house

***To be considered at the parish council meeting on***

***2<sup>nd</sup> September***

*Right: Madeleine's hollyhock which measures 9ft 3ins, a personal best during the Olympics!!!!*



Greetings from  
**Sydenham Women's Institute**

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

At last, we're planning to be able to restart our meetings! We've put together a programme from now until Christmas which is pretty much 'in house' meaning, if necessary, we can cancel at short notice. But we're starting to plan outside speakers in the New Year. We were able to hold our annual Garden Party in July and then the annual walk (circular route from The Crown) in August and then after that:

16th September 7.30pm – cooking demonstration with our resident chef Rosemary (at her house, weather permitting, if not, OSR)

21st October 7.30pm – swishing\*\*, OSR

18th November 7.30pm – bring along your favourite poem, picture, book or memento, OSR

9th December 7.00pm – Christmas Picnic, OSR (not a picnic in the true sense of the word, but not the usual sit-down meal)

*\*\* Swishing refers to swapping an item or items of clothing or shoes or an accessory with friends or acquaintances. People hold 'swishing parties' either as a charity event or simply for the enjoyment of it (while recycling and saving money at the same time). Quote from Wikipedia!!*

If you would like to come along and just see what happens at a meeting, please email [sydenhamwi@gmail.com](mailto:sydenhamwi@gmail.com) – we'd love to see you!

### **Annual Walk, 20<sup>th</sup> August**

What a lovely walk today! I calculated we burnt 406 calories - might just have covered my cider in the Crown!!! It was great fun and the rain held off. We should do another one! Thanks to all who took part and the dogs!

**Siobhan**

### **'Walking and Talking'**

#### **– The Janet and Jane Guide to Wellbeing**

As much as they loved their husbands, Janet and Jane needed a break from them at the height (or should that be depth?) of lockdown. And so started a wonderful Sunday afternoon escape plan.

#### **What to wear and where to go?**

The great British weather meant it was often difficult to decide what to wear – light boots, heavy boots, or wellies? Shorts or trousers? Ruck sack or bum bag?



But eventually, armed with activity trackers and bottles of water, Janet and Jane set out every Sunday afternoon for a circular walk from the village green. Heading off in every direction over the weeks and months, Janet usually walked 15-16km while Jane, being more old school, managed 9-10 miles.

### **Taking in the views**

Walking through stunning countryside, they counted themselves so lucky to live in a place like this, taking in the glorious views as they (well,



Jane) puffed to the top of Chinnor Hill, Crowell Hill and Beacon Hill. They revelled in the seasons changing and the landscape evolving. They watched bare fields sprout crops they felt you could stroke. They delighted in pungent wild garlic, carpets of bluebells and hosts of golden daffodils, gambolling lambs and wonky calves.



On occasion though, they weren't always at one with nature. Down by Chinnor Lakes in the heady days of last year's hot summer, there was a lot of excitement with police cars and dogs – and very different views....as a young woman, barely clad in a black string bikini, walked towards them accompanied by a bare-chested and rather toned guy (although they hardly noticed him), Janet and Jane realised it was an illegal rave with hundreds of youngsters partying on the lake!

It wasn't always idyllic – and there were weeks when they could only trudge the wet roads in their wellies – as their aching calves and feet would attest the following day. And when a cow they visited didn't survive giving birth, they realised the fragility of nature.

### **Non-stop walking and talking**

As they walked, they talked, and talked, and talked.

They talked about COVID-19 – the vaccine trial, working from home, working on the front line (Harry, Janet's son is an NHS doc). They talked about mothers – two broken hips, one broken wrist, zero hospital visits – and laughed about seeing their ears on FaceTime. They talked about their brothers – and the impact on their kids' lives and education.

A farmer's daughter, Janet educated Jane on agriculture (who knew what haylage was?), and Jane explained how digital TV advertising works (spookily targeted). As one of Sydenham's expert bakers, Janet inspired Jane to bake a cake, while Jane encouraged Janet to be brave and walk through a field with cows. While now a master 'walker and talker', Jane's cooking skills haven't developed further, and so she is always delighted when Janet pops round with some home-made produce, most recently some jam made from a glut of fallen plums they found on a walk.



With life returning to normal, Janet and Jane are determined to keep walking and talking.

August 2021  
**Jane Parry**

### **And another interesting item**



We took some photos of the agricultural machinery which was moved near to the Shoe Tree when all the clearing was done on the allotment – and of the sunflowers in bloom recently.

John 'The Wood' kindly supplied the wood chip and Jenny, Chris and I have done our best to spruce up the area.  
**Madeleine**

# Footsteps

**Telling your child where and when to cross the road will keep them safe when you are together now, but how will they be able to cope when they begin to go out without you?**

Only by involving your child in the decisions you make about traffic, while you are together, will your child be better prepared for independent journeys, when that time comes.

Find out how using the Footsteps programme can support you in helping your child develop the decision-making skills needed to be a safer pedestrian.

Road Safety is not taught in schools – don't rely on someone else to do this. Your child is precious – don't let them become a road casualty statistic.

For further information and to download the Footsteps leaflet visit:  
[www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/footsteps](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/footsteps)  
[www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/roadsafety](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/roadsafety)



## **An early arrival**

We were elated to welcome Lara Oviedo Roche three weeks ahead of schedule at 14.41 on the 25<sup>th</sup> July at the John Radcliffe. Her brother, Joshua, had been quite premature so a 37-week-old, 5lb 10oz healthy full-term baby was a blessing; even if she did arrive too quickly for the doctors & nurses to gather in the delivery suite!

We are hugely appreciative of the well wishes, gifts, flowers, cards and cakes that have been delivered to our door in the days and weeks since. Mum and daughter are thoroughly enjoying maternity leave now and will be out and about the village as much as possible before the winter months kick in.

***Kieran, Sandra, Joshua & Lara***



## **Gordon Archer**

I'd like to thank our friends around the village for their kind messages of condolence for the passing of my Father, Gordon Archer. He has been fighting Sacoma cancer for 11 years and it finally caught up with him in the early hours of Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> August when he passed away in his sleep at the Churchill Hospital. Their care and support was immeasurable and comforting.

Gordon was recently on the Chinnor Parish Council and as a family we have mostly lived in and around this area since 1967. As a much-loved Grandad to Lizzie, Jonny & Matty and father-in-law to Sue, he and my mum, Rita, have been frequently seen around Sydenham for over 20 years now and have been strong supporters of all events.

***Phil Archer***



## Sydenham Cricket Club – The Moles Season Report

The summer has been full of cricket for the village club. To date we have played 13 matches, easily beating the number played during most regular seasons. I am very pleased to report that we have had a successful season winning more than we have lost. All our games have been very competitive with none of them resulting in one-sided wins or losses.



The team, as usual, has comprised of many villagers and those who have strong connections to the village. We really have been a true Sydenham 11 on many occasions. The spirit within the team really is second to none, everyone who plays for the team will vouch for the friendliness and camaraderie. This sense of togetherness has shone through during our matches this season where our fielding performances have outshone our batting performances. When we are on the field as an 11, we have performed so well as a bowling unit and other teams have not been able to resist the unique mixture of our bowling attack and quick-witted banter.

A particular highlight of the season was our mid-season tour and overnight stay. In late July we travelled to Marsh Baldon for a Saturday afternoon match before staying in Eynsham for the evening and playing on Sunday at Stanton St John just north of Oxford, unsurprisingly our performance on the Sunday was nowhere near the standard of our winning performance on the Saturday.

This year we also had a club outing to see 'real cricket' being played. In early June just as lockdown lifted, we were very lucky to travel to Edgbaston to watch England versus New Zealand in the second test match. Regrettably England were absolutely dismal, however this did make room in the day for us to really enjoy the other entertainment, namely the bar!

Date for the diary - Nov 13th

We very much look forward to our annual end of season dinner, which this year will look back on the previous two years of cricket owing to the cancellation of last year's dinner. If you would like to attend the dinner, please do email me and I should be happy to reserve a table for you.

Our final game of the season will see us hosting Ibstone on September 5th. On the playing side of things this proves to be a very tense match as many of our bowlers will be vying to be the leading wicket taker of the season. I look forward to publishing a full set of results and the season averages for our end of season dinner and copy will also be in the next Sydenham newsletter.

As always if you wish to play some cricket or come down to watch please do get in touch with me.

Best wishes,

***Dan Bradley***



# FOOTSBARN HOUSE

For over 30 years, Roger and I have enjoyed holidays in the West Country, particularly Devon and Cornwall. Roger has always wanted to build us a house and we've often dreamed of living in Cornwall, so when the opportunity came up last year to buy a barn renovation project in the beautiful village of North Hill, we jumped at the chance. The barn is over 200 years old and was originally part of the local landowners estate. We've been told that it was built by stonemasons rather than farmers which is why the stonework on the building is so straight and professional.

The village of North Hill is very similar to Sydenham in that it's a small village and is incredibly friendly and welcoming. The villagers regularly pop in to see how things are going and have even been known to bring cake to feed the builders. The barn has been an eyesore in the centre of the village for many years so the villagers are very excited to see it come back to life again. It sits next to the beautiful old church of St. Torney believed to be over 600 years old but sadly no longer in use.

Roger started work on the barn back in September and has been living in the building throughout. One of the first jobs was to replace the older parts of the roof and get some heating in the building. As there's no natural gas to the village, we had a calor gas tank buried in the front garden. We were lucky that drainage and electricity had already been provided by the previous owner and the perimeter wall which is listed, had also been rebuilt in recent years.

There were already architect's plans in place when we bought the barn which allowed permission to build extensions front and rear. The rear extension proved to be the perfect room for the kitchen. The morning sun streams in through it's two large lantern lights and bi-fold doors which open onto the newly built slate tiled patio. The front extension will be the new home for Bloobery Design upstairs with a workshop for Roger's building projects downstairs. With the building work complete, Roger and his team of builders are concentrating on finishing both extensions, ready for me to move down in a few weeks.

For the most part, work so far has gone incredibly smoothly. We often think Kevin McCloud would be very impressed! Roger has put together a team of excellent local builders, electricians, heating engineers, plumbers and plasterers. A local joiner built the new staircase which Roger then completed once it was in position. He's been renovating old doors and replaced the windows. Most of the openings were covered by old wooden doors and adding windows instead has really changed the look of the building from a barn to a house.

In addition to providing a home for us, an office and workshop, the barn will also have a two bedroom holiday let in the southern section. We're hoping to have work completed by next Summer so that we can start welcoming guests. Watch this space for our advert next Spring!

*Yvonne Dean*



*The rear of the barn has had an orangery extension for the kitchen/diner with the most amazing lantern lights.*



*The front extension will be the new Bloobery office with a workshop on the lower floor.*



*Stunning village setting with views across to Bodmin Moor*

## **The Old School Room – Iyengar Yoga**

Having moved to Sydenham in January this year, I am really loving life in the village, especially now things have opened, and people are out and about more. I am delighted to say that my yoga classes started at the beginning of July, and so far, they are going very well. It's lovely to be teaching classes again after the lockdowns of the last year or so, and the wonderful Old School Room is an ideal, clean space.

My students have been a real mix, from complete beginners to experienced yogis, and all are so friendly and enthusiastic.

The type of yoga I teach is called Iyengar Yoga, which is recognised worldwide for its focus on correct alignment in the poses. With regular, guided practice, it can alleviate postural problems, release emotional tensions and increase concentration and focus, helping relieve the mind and body of stress. It's fantastic for the respiratory and circulatory systems too!

I currently offer two classes, Monday mornings from 10am to 11am, and Tuesday evenings from 6.30pm to 7.30pm. Between the two I have around 18 students although numbers vary as the school holidays affect them. Come September I will hopefully have full classes again. If you would like to join us for a class, or if you would like more information, give me a call or message on 07814 590602 or email me on [sara.yogio5@gmail.com](mailto:sara.yogio5@gmail.com).

***Sara Luff***

**Newcomers to the Village** – Next door to us at Forge Cottage we have Duncan & Petra. Although they haven't moved in yet as they are working on the much-neglected cottage, I'm pleased to give them a welcome!

***Sara***

## **OSR 200 Club Summer Draw Winners**

Since the start of the 2021 year's charitable monthly draws, we have awarded seven winners of the 200 Club with cash prizes but have had to reduce the cash total to £90 with 5 lucky winners of £10, 1 winner of £15 and one of £25. This is due to a reduction from last year's membership of 230 down to 215. Each member pays £12 per number & as a Charity we retain half the annual receipts, and the other half is given as the seven prizes. The retained half goes to the Old School Room contributing to the maintenance of the hall.

Winners for June, July and August months have all been paid.

The lucky winners for June were: - Jeff Ludgate, Pauline McLeod, Hannah Isherwood, Mark Kermack, Nick Potts, Cecily Church and Ann Ashfield.

The July winners were: - Sue Blakely, Mike Harrison, Laura & Vince, Vicky Roe, Julie Harrison, Fi Cuthbertson and Molly Jones.

The August winners were: - Harry Ashfield Smith, Cyndy Thomas, Sandra Jones, Amanda Grosvenor, Holly Wills, The Kendall family, and Mark Oliver.

The 2022 annual subscription again commences with the October prizes, and we will be requesting payment next month payable direct to: - Lloyds Bank, account name, Sydenham Old School Room, sort code 30-98-56, account no. 604301 or Direct to the organiser: - Roy Harrison, Fuchsia Cottage, Sydenham, OX39 4LJ

Please advise Roy how many £12 numbers you require, it would be good to sell more numbers and increase the Prize money!

## **NEW Iyengar Yoga Classes with Sara Luff**



**Starting 5th July in The Old School Room, Sydenham**

**Mondays 10am to 11am**

**Tuesdays 6.30pm to 7.30pm**

**£10 per session**

**Suitable for beginners & more experienced students**

**Iyengar Yoga focuses on alignment and precision in the poses, promoting physical, mental & emotional health & wellbeing**

**Sara Luff has been teaching Iyengar Yoga for over 15 years in Buckinghamshire and moved to Sydenham Village in January 2021.**

**Due to COVID restrictions, pre-booking is necessary and numbers limited. If you would like to book a class or have any questions, please email [sara.yogi05@gmail.com](mailto:sara.yogi05@gmail.com) or call, text or whatsapp 07814590602**



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## Waterperry Gardens

There is plenty of activity at Waterperry Gardens at this wonderfully mellow time of the year. See the famous herbaceous border in all its late summer glory as it bursts back into life with Michaelmas daisies (asters) in September. You'll find a range of quality asters on sale in the plant centre with experts on hand to give advice about these wonderful plants.

This is also the time of year to start thinking about bulb planting for that glorious show of colour we all look forward to in the spring.

As the season moves into autumn, apples are at the forefront of our Orchard Manager's mind. Come along to Waterperry's Apple Weekend on 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> October. A great family weekend where you will be able to buy many of our different types of juices. Advice and information will be freely available on the day and we encourage you to bring along any unidentified varieties of apples that you may have growing in your garden for our experts to identify for you. Enjoy the craft and food fair with lots of local goodies to take home to enjoy with your juice or cider!

The end of October brings us the Halloween Hunt in the Gardens for half term – 16<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> October.

Call us on 01844 339226 or visit [www.waterperrygardens.co.uk](http://www.waterperrygardens.co.uk) for more information on all our events.

Waterperry Gardens. Open every day from 10 to 5.30pm.



### September & October at Waterperry

Visit our gardens to see our famous herbaceous border in all its late summer glory as it bursts back into life with a beautiful display of Michaelmas Daisies (Asters). The plant centre, housed within the ancient walled garden offers plant connoisseurs and budding amateurs alike the chance to buy unusual varieties of shrubs and herbaceous plants whilst our friendly and knowledgeable staff are always available to provide advice, information and inspiration.

**Theatre - Richard II: 10th & 11th September, 7.30pm** This fearless adaptation blends Shakespeare's text with visceral movement and live electronic music.

**The gardens are open in aid of the National Garden Scheme on Sun 19th September.**

**Apple Weekend: Saturday 9th & Sunday 10th October** A great family day out where you will be able to buy many of our different types of juices. Advice and information will be freely available on the day. Buy goodies at the craft and food fair, take a tour of the orchards & fruit sheds (£3 per adult or free with garden entrance and for season ticket holders) and take the children around the gardens to enjoy a seasonal game (garden entrance fee applies).

**Halloween Hunt in the Gardens: 16th – 31st October**

Complete the Halloween hunt in the ornamental gardens and win a prize! £2.50 per child, children must be accompanied by an adult for whom the garden entrance fee applies.

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

## ***The Crown Inn***

Sydenham Road

Sydenham

Oxfordshire OX39 4NB

Tel: 01844 351634 /

07817 593022

Email: thecrown.

[sydenham@gmail.com](mailto:sydenham@gmail.com)

*"We thank all our  
customers (past, present &  
future) for your valued  
custom"*



### **Opening Hours**

Monday - closed

Tuesday - Friday 4pm until late

*Food from 5pm until 8.30pm*

Saturday - Midday until late

*Food from Midday until 3pm, then 5pm to 8.30pm*

Sunday - Midday until 5pm

*Food from Midday until 3pm*

**Tina, Pete & Sparky xxx**

## **The Crown Inn News Update**

Goodness gracious, where on earth has this year gone? September is now quietly knocking on our doors, with a reminder of the darker, cooler nights which follow and of course the clocks going back an hour in October; that said, there is something quite nice about lighting a fire (indoors) for the first time, & hearing the banter of our customers....please, let us all hope that the Covid virus is more under control this winter, and we can remain open.

We are hopeful that there will have been an Aunt Sally match, between the Inn at Emmington & ourselves on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> August, then our first ever golf day which is on Thursday the 26<sup>th</sup> August.

After a wet April, May 17<sup>th</sup> then saw indoors of pubs being allowed to open, with our spaced out tables becoming fully booked, then, on a busy Sunday, 6<sup>th</sup> June, my (Tina) appendix decided to rupture with complications, which has meant that Pete has had to run the pub himself through June, July & most of August.... so at last, as we write this piece, we feel that normality may be returning. Our famous roast dinners will return on the first Sunday in September, & we are thankful that we have had no power cuts since the improvement work was carried out. We also thank the Sydenham Pub Company for your support through these difficult times.

Also following our recent kitchen inspection from the Environmental Health Department of Oxfordshire Council, we are pleased to announce that we passed with flying colours and have our Level 5.

We are having a Halloween quiz on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> October, with prizes for best dressed, best dressed team, the winners, and of course the losers.... please book your table early to avoid disappointment.

The Boxing Day quiz will also be going ahead as normal.

We thank you for your valued custom, ***Tina, Pete & Sparky***

## **The Inn at Emmington**

It's now just over four months since we opened our doors again following the Winter lockdown and so much seems to have happened in that time. With our newly built covered outdoor dining area and large garden, the initial six weeks of trading when it was 'outside' only, turned into an extremely busy period – it did take some getting used to and two inches of snow on the first morning was not ideal for alfresco dining but it was great to feel the buzz, and hear the laughter of people enjoying themselves and socialising once again! A huge thank you to everybody who supported us during this time.

By May, we opened inside again although with such a nice outdoor space many of you are still choosing to sit outside although the weather hasn't always been that favourable.

Once into June, Euro 2020 / 2021 kicked off and our outside space came into its own with outside seating for 40 people watching England on the large screen. None of the Wembley crowd troubles here with everybody in good spirits and well behaved! Such a shame that the final ended the way it did but there's always next time when it really could be coming home.....(I feel like we've said that before!).



In July, we hosted a Bedfordshire police charity cycle lunch for 40 police cyclists who were on a three day charity cycle to Tamworth to unveil the newly built memorial for police officers killed on duty. The July weather couldn't have been worse and we put the heating on for them before they arrived so they could dry their clothes out on the radiators before their 60 mile cycle in the afternoon. Hot beverages were the order of the day

rather than cold drinks but the event was particularly pertinent for the village as Andrew Harper's parents were involved in the unveiling of the new memorial.

July and August have also brought people out into the garden again when the sun has shone and our bedrooms have been busier than ever with staycations

and people constantly attending weddings and parties that have been postponed over the Winter period.

Whilst not ideal for business a 'lockdown' does give you time to think and re-evaluate the business, time that you never normally seem to have in this industry. So, if you weren't already aware we now open from 12 noon serving lunch every day apart from Mondays when we still open at 4pm. Our lunch menu has snacks such as paninis, sandwiches and jacket potatoes as well as our full menu if you were looking for something more substantial. We stop serving food at about 2.30pm midweek but remain open for drinks in the afternoon before starting food again at 5.30pm. At weekends, we serve food from 12 noon all day until we close. Whilst booking is not essential, Thursday and Friday nights often fill up quickly so if you want to guarantee a certain time, please do give us a call to make a reservation. We have a different food offer on each night, see below for details but still serve our full menu alongside.

As the Summer starts to draw to a close, we are wondering what this Autumn and Winter period will hold – sometimes that really depends on what paper you read and what you believe! Suffice to say, we need to be ready for every eventuality so are currently planning on making our outside area 'English weather proof' to expand our capacity and allow people to still sit and eat and drink outside. Watch this space.....

Finally, thank you to everybody for their support over the past few months – we hope you have liked some of the changes we have made to our operation, they may not be to everybody's liking but you can't stand still in life.....

***David, Sharon, Alice, Ted, Pickles and Dogs xx***

***Opening Hours:*** Monday 4pm to 11pm, Tuesday to Saturday 12 noon to 11pm  
Sunday 12 noon to 6pm

**Special Food Nights** (our main menu is also served as well)

***Monday*** – 'Burger Night' – any burger from our menu with extras plus a drink  
for £15

***Tuesday*** – 'Pie Night' – a short crust pastry pie served with chips or mash,  
vegetables and gravy plus a drink for £15

***Wednesday*** – 'Cheese and Wine Night' – a baked camembert or cheeseboard  
with a bottle of wine for £20

***Thursday*** – 'Steak Night' – an 8oz Ribeye served with mushrooms, chips,  
grilled tomato and onion rings with a drink of your choice for £20

***Friday*** – 'Fish Night' – beer battered cod and chips or scampi and chips served  
with homemade tartare sauce, mushy or garden peas and a drink of your choice  
for £15

***Weekends*** – our lunch menu and main menu served all day

Sharon and David Maisey, The Inn At Emmington, Sydenham Road, Sydenham,  
Chinnor, Oxfordshire, OX39 4LD Tel; 01844 351367

# THE INN AT EMMINGTON

PUB & RESTAURANT  
LARGE BEER GARDEN  
BED & BREAKFAST  
01844 351367

Large spacious garden  
Bookable covered dining and seating area



## OPEN

Monday	4pm-11pm
Tuesday-Saturday	12 noon-11pm
Sunday	12 noon-6pm

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



Al fresco covered dining  
Daily food offers and specials  
Takeaways available

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)