

WHAT'S IN THIS SPRING EDITION

CHURCH NEWS	3
PLANNING	4
PARISH COUNCIL INSIGHTS	5
WI	11
OUT AND ABOUT	13
OSR 200 CLUB	14
SYDENHAM SILHOUETTES	18
WATERPERRY GARDENS	21

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hello AND WELCOME S



The Daffodils are Blooming.

One thing to always look forwards to, is when the avenues of daffodils come into bloom through the village. Despite the drainage work in the Autumn, the hardworking volunteers who planted hundreds of bulbs can now see the result of their efforts. Note the very evenly spaced ones on the left as you approach the white gates into the village as my daughter was very precise in their placement!

A key part of every edition, is the comprehensive report of what the Parish Council have been doing is included. They are stressing the importance of our contribution to the next stage of the Neighbourhood Plan, where people can express a view on potential sites – the deadline is the 26th May!

They have also been busily focusing on general maintenance and upkeep of the village and its vicinity, including the extensive flooding that seems to be happening more and more down Thame Road. Excitingly, there is also news of a Village Party too, so dust off your dancing shoes and save the date – 5th July.

For your chance to find out more about what they are doing, ask questions and discuss your thoughts then take a moment to join them on the 16th May.

The Sydenham Social Calendar is getting busy with all these events, where in addition, in honour of VE Day there is going to be a concert on the 10th May with our very own Sydenham Choir. It is promising to be a wonderful occasion with music, refreshments and raffle.

This leads nicely on to the annual Sydenham Fayre which is also rapidly approaching at the beginning of June – if you can spare some time, help with the planning or gather donations then please do reach out to a member of the team.

And before I sign off, I must apologise as I made an error in the previous edition, where the Crime Scene Examiner article contributor was actually Anne Oakley – apologies to you.

Moving on to the next edition.

Thoughts are to aim to get this out in June and so if you have an ideas or want to make a contribution, please either share your news as they happen, or at the very latest by the 16th May to rachel@curvemarketing.net.

Thank you





SYDENHAM FAYRE - VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

The Sydenham Fayre committee is busy planning this year's event, but as a small committee, they are struggling to organise all the stalls they would like to have at the event on 7th June.

They desperately seek volunteers to help organise and run stalls (such as tombolas, kids activities, etc).

Sadly, without this help, they may be unable to run some activities this year. If you can help, please get in touch: sydenham.fayre.june@qmail.com



church PNEWS

Easter is a special time in Sydenham with a clutch of services to suit everyone.

Wednesday 16th April - Compline Service at 7pm - a time for peaceful reflection and prayer.

Friday 18th April 10am - Stations of the Cross

Easter Sunday 10.30am - A family communion service - join in the Easter egg hunt and wear your Easter bonnet (not compulsory!)

BEING NOTICED IN SYDENHAM

The St Mary's noticeboard, thanks to the skills of P & J Joinery has a new fresh look. Doors to keep out the weather and new sign writing has replaced the rather tired old one. Do keep an eye on it for forthcoming village and church events to ensure you don't miss out!

Fi Kermack





planning IN SYDENHAM

P24/S3028/FUL

18 Holliers Close Sydenham OX39 4NG

Minor Amendment: No. 1 - dated 30th November 2024.

Retrospective application for proposed front, rear and loft extensions to existing dwelling, and subdivision of extended dwelling into two separate dwellings. (As amended by plan received 30 November 2024 to demonstrate four parking spaces).

SODC decision - permission granted.

P24/S3682/LDE

The Inn at Emmington Sydenham Road Sydenham Chinnor OX39 4LD

CERTIFICATE OF LAWFUL DEVELOPMENT FOR EXISTING USE OR DEVELOPMENT.

A Lawful Development Certificate is sought to confirm that planning permission P13/S1431/FUL for the 'Erection of a two-storey extension and single storey extension' was implemented by the carrying out of a material operation in accordance with Section 56(4) of the Act.

SODC decision - certificate refused

P25/S0756/HH AND P25/S0757/LB

Fuchsia Cottage, Sydenham Road, Sydenham OX39 4LJ

Proposed installation of one air source heat pump.

For consideration at next parish council meeting.

parish COUNCIL INSIGHTS

SYDENHAM NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Call for Sites Application and Survey.



Following the January village meetings, when the Neighbourhood Plan team explained why the updated Plan will include site allocation, the process of calling for sites will start from 1st April 2025 and remain open until 26 May 2025.

Information about how to submit potential site(s) can be found on the village website: http://www.sydenhamvillage.co.uk/neighbourhood-plan.html

As part of the consultation process for updating the Sydenham Neighbourhood Plan, villagers are asked to take part in a survey to give your views on the updating of the plan.

The survey can also be accessed via the Sydenham Parish website (www.sydenhamvillage.co.uk) and will be open until Monday 26 May 2025.

Please do take five minutes to complete this, the more contributors the better - this is YOUR village plan, so we need your views. If you prefer a hard copy of the survey, please contact Toby Roe (tobyroe@roecomms.com).



VILLAGE SUMMER PARTY!

Sydenham Parish Council (SPC) is organising a family summer party for villagers to take place in the OSR on Saturday 5th July. There will be a BBQ, Live Music and Bar!

This will be a ticketed event, and we expect it to sell out quickly, so be sure to buy yours when they go on sale! Please add the date to your diaries and look out for more information via Syd Mail very soon!



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amrj.artist@gmail.com





ANNUAL PARISH MEETING - 16TH MAY 2025

All villagers are invited to the Sydenham Annual Parish Meeting, which will be held on **Friday**, **16th May 2025**, at 7p.m. in The Old School Room.

There will be complimentary wine, beer, soft drinks and snacks and **The World-Famous** Sydenham Village Quiz!

The Annual Parish Meeting is one of the village social events of the year. We want to encourage everyone, especially those newer to the village, to come along and meet more of your neighbours, villagers and Parish Councillors.

What happens on the night?

The first part of the meeting is an opportunity for villagers to find out what the Parish Council and the various groups in the village are doing - and for villagers to put forward and discuss their views on what they would like to see the village doing in the future.

We then move on to Dave's Village Quiz! Think about making up a team, possibly with a neighbouring household, in advance - but we also make them up on the night. There will be prizes!



COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH (CSW)

Thank you to those who have volunteered for our Community Speedwatch initiative following our shout out in Syd Mail.

We will soon be activating our speed watch team when the evenings get a bit lighter.

There is still time to volunteer! If you can spare up to an hour a month, please consider putting yourself forward to help keep our roads safe. You will complete several short training sessions online (six two-minute videos), including recording the necessary details and how to ensure safety at the roadside.

Please get in touch with the Parish Clerk at **parishcouncil@sydenhamvillage.co.uk** to register your interest.

SPEED SIGNAGE

SPC has spoken to OCC about line painting in the village (especially at the pinch points). This was done in December however the paint is coming off and becoming very faint. We have been told that this will be added to a future programme of works.

We are getting quotes for the replacement of the village gates which are old and in a poor state of repair.

We are also getting quotes to replace the wooden posts on the side of Sydenham Road down from the playpark (one of which has been knocked out of the ground by a vehicle).

FLOOD ALLEVIATION WORKS - THAME/CHINNOR ROAD

OCC is working on the large-scale issue of flooding all the way to the Towersey turn and is liaising with Sydenham and Chinnor Parish Councils to look at measures that will aid drainage between the Emmington junction and the streams behind Copse Farm.

This includes recreating ditches, clearing blocked culverts, and installing a new underground pipe and new culvert.

The major part of this project will start in the autumn after the nesting season, when saplings along the roadside can be cut back to allow access to the ditches. Some minor works can take place over the summer. The whole project is likely to take up to 18 months.

Please understand that there is likely to be some disruption while the various project stages are undertaken. We will notify you once specific dates are confirmed.



LACK OF PLANNING ENFORCEMENT

Sydenham Parish Council (SPC) has raised concerns about a worrying lack of planning enforcement by SODC.

The issue was raised by SPC at the March Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils (OALC) Chairs meeting. Whilst one member of the committee agreed with our observation of a lack of enforcement within SODC, there was no support to further investigate the issue from an OALC perspective.

SPC will be following the matter up with the Head of SODC.

DEFIBRILLATOR DISCONNECTION COMPLAINT

As reported in the last newsletter, SPC has pursued a complaint with SSE about the costs and handling of the disconnection of the defibrillator.

Thanks to the determination of our brilliant Parish Clerk, Heather Mullins, we have successfully negotiated some compensation with SSE. The disconnection of the redundant supply will be arranged once Sydenham Fayre has happened.

PLAY PARK

Dave Wilkins is looking into purchasing another piece of play equipment for the play park - exact details to be announced soon! SPC is currently applying for a grant to fund the new equipment.

VILLAGE WEBSITE AND PC EMAILS

SPC is currently seeking quotes for an upgrade to the village website alongside new emails for Parish Councillors to bring this into line with best practice from other councils. We have purchased a .gov website domain - and will let you know of changes in due course.



VILLAGE REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE

- The tree clearance from Thame Park has been carried out in the brook and the
 contractor is looking at pollarding the willows in line with good practice. Thanks to
 Mike and Annie May for clearing a lot of debris from the next 500m stretch.
- Potholes on the way of out of the village (towards Kingston Stert) have been reported to Fix My Street.
- The ditches in front of the play park are going to be cleared again as they have silted up.
- The ditches between the Old Vicarage and the bridge have been cleared and OCC can now jet the pipes as the final part of this project.
- Tree work on the Stert end of Sydenham Road has been approved by the landowner, and a quote to be obtained.

AND FINALLY...

We hope that you are all enjoying the lovely daffodil display on Sydenham Road from Box Tree cottages towards Emmington end. This was a result of the hard work of volunteers in the autumn - so thank you again! Gaps in the daffodil planting will be noted whilst they are in flower to help with future bulb planting.



sydenham WOMENS INSTITUTE

WI NEWS

The meeting in March was the (obligatory!) AGM. Perhaps not the most interesting of our meetings, but one that has to happen.

So, in true Sydenham style, we quickly got through the business: the financial report, the secretary's report and the president's address and then moved on to the real part of the evening, a wine and cheese party (we do seem to do a lot of eating and drinking!).

We had a wonderful selection of cheeses, biscuits, fruits and celery and a choice of wines (and sparkling elderflower). It was a great opportunity to chat to others, as usually we're in such a rush that we don't have the chance to do it. It was actually a really enjoyable evening.

Our April meeting should be fun: The History of TV Quiz Shows, covering the good the bad and the ugly and some very dodgy dealing along the way!

It's Thursday 17th April at 7.30pm in the OSR. Why don't you come along?

Siobhan Mckee







What's On this fruil May





EASTER TRAIL: until 21st April BIG FASTER BUNNY HUNT IN THE GARDENS

FREE EVENT: until 27th April SPRING GREENS EXHIBITION IN THE GALLERY

> **CELEBRATION: 10th & 11th May** THE MUSEUM HAS BEEN OPEN 25 YEARS

> > WORKSHOP: 17th May WILLOW GARDEN STRUCTURES

FREE EVENT: 10th-18th May OXFORD ART WEEKS

EVENT: 24th May - SAXIFRAGA DAY

TRAIL: until 1st June - GNOMETASTIC

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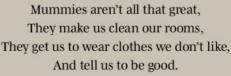




MOTHER'S DAY

A lovely gathering of people from across the village and beyond took place on Mothering Sunday. As the sun was shining, it was a wonderful chance to get together with various readings taking place including this wonderful poem written by Flo and Aava.

Mummies Aren't All That Great - Written by Flo and Aava



Mummies aren't all that great,
They make us eat all our veg.
They wear make up, but don't let us,
And force us to make our bed.

Mummies aren't all that great,
They make us go to school,
They make us do our homework too,
And give too many rules.

Mummies aren't all that great,
They give us early nights,
They force us to brush our teeth
Until they're really white.

Mummies aren't all that great In fact, they're somewhat bad. And yet, with all of those things said...

They're still much better than dads!!!











FLIPPING GOOD!

The Pancake Day races in Sydenham held on Shrove Tuesday were a flipping good do!

Contenders of all ages raced up Brookstones tossing pancakes - real and virtual whilst the McKee kitchen team prepared fresh ones, made by a host of volunteers, to enjoy with the traditional lemon and sugar in the OSR. Thank you to Rosemary for the pretty table decorations.

Although not as widely supported as usual, we all had a good time.

Fi kermack ~

VILLAGE LITTER PICKING - SUNDAY 27TH APRIL - MFFT AT 10 30 AM

The Parish Council has arranged the Spring Litter Pick for **Sunday**, **27th April**. We will meet on the Green by the Bus Shelter at **10.30** am.

The process usually lasts until midday. We have procured litter picking grabs, hivis jackets and waste sacks from SODC. These will be available on the Green.

We will also have signs to advise traffic to be cautious. The routes are towards Emmington, Brookstones, Kingston Blount and through the allotment area. The Crown will be open for refreshments afterwards.

Please let us know if you are available to help.

Jane Errington - 07710 679669 and John Ashfield - 07831 533196

The 2025 OSR 200 CLUB

Thank you as ever to those who support and contribute to the 200 Club in aid of the OSR. And here are the latest winners – congratulations!

MARCH 2025

£25 – Josh Roach | £15 – Janet Potts | £10 each for Eleanor Church, Martin Gossage, Carl Hamp, Harry Potts, Jeff & Sandra Ludgate and Ray Thompkin.



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and friends who have lost someone close to them.

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- online mandatory training (apx. 8 hrs).

We do not recommend this work for those who have experienced a significant bereavement in the last two years.

Training will take place from September to December 2025 and it is essential that all training is attended.

Closing date for applications: 30 June 2025

If you are interested in finding out more or applying, please contact us on:

W: sobellhouse.org/bereavement-volunteer

E: pallcarevolunteerservices@ouh.nhs.uk

T: 01865 225944/01865 225868





WE'LL MEET AGAIN

The Sydenham VE day concert is fast advancing - Saturday 10th May at 7.30pm.

We have a packed programme of war time popular sing alongs, guest appearances by Vera Lynn and Gracie Fields and other war time favourites, sketches and readings plus special effects to help us all relive and celebrate the end of the Second World War in Europe. Tickets to include a buffet, refreshments and a raffle ticket are priced at £15pp. We also encourage the audience to dress in the period (but not mandatory!).

To order tickets, please email: sydenhamchoir@outlook.com or call 01844 352990. Book early to avoid disappointment.

Fi Kermack





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Sobell House Hospice (NHS, part of OUH) are currently recruiting Bereavement Volunteers. Since the end of widespread covid, there has been a steady increase in demand for bereavement support. Pending successful recruitment of Volunteers, the aim is for Sobell House Hospice to provide open access to bereavement support for everyone in your neighbourhood, whether or not they have received palliative or hospice care.

Can you help? If you are interested in finding out more or applying, please contact them on:

T: 01865 225944/01865 225868 | E: pallcarevolunteerservices@ouh.nhs.uk W: sobellhouse.org/bereavement-volunteer

Sydenham Silhouettes RACHEL BLAKE

I thought it was about time that Rachel Blake, as Editor of the Sydenham Newsletter, had a bit of the limelight herself and submit to being the subject of Sydenham Silhouettes.

Needless to say I had to twist her arm to let me write about her!

When it comes to understanding what makes Rachel tick, think mountain bikes, triathlons, hiking and fresh air – get the picture? Rachel exudes energy, enthusiasm and pure joie de vivre! Born and brought up on the Kent coast, where her parents still live, she attended a school in Canterbury which had the privilege of holding their special religious services in Canterbury Cathedral. Rachel played clarinet in the school orchestra and guitar (but the latter not in the cathedral!).

Whilst still at school Rachel started working, as a holiday job, at the local branch of Laura Ashley in the Home Furnishings Department where she learnt how to measure up and make curtains, hang wallpaper and a host of other useful skills including how to help people spend their money! When it came to her 18th birthday Rachel's parents wanted to buy her a special and lasting gift such as a watch or jewellery but all she wanted was a mountain bike. This set her on a course that she is still on today!

University at Plymouth was a blast studying Environmental Sciences, a subject considered rather 'unusual' at the time.

Sydenham Silhouettes CONTINUED

Major highlights were field trips every
Monday (also attended by fellow student,
Nathan (now her husband) and when the
surf got up in Plymouth bay word quickly
went around, and lecture rooms were
hastily abandoned! Some serious study was
no doubt fitted in between sporting
activities culminating in her dissertation for
which she went to a remote part of
Southern Ireland, herself and nine men,
camping with no running water or
facilities! Yes, Nathan went too, their
dissertations coincidentally overlapping.

However, when it came to graduation, this was still the time before David Cameron was hugging trees and Environmental Sciences was not a discipline offering huge job opportunities. Luckily Laura Ashley was waiting in the wings for Rachel to graduate and after a period working in her previous branch, she was promoted to a job in Head Office.

This move took Rachel into the field of merchandising, helping the buyers to promote their collections but two years in London proved to be long enough for her. She was lured to move to an out-of-town location in Eton Wick not least by the fact that one, Nathan (an apparently recurring theme!) was based in Windsor. Life took on a more international flavour for Rachel

when she secured a job in Marlow with a marketing company organising incentive events for big corporates. She rather modestly describes her role as "counting people on and off of buses"! In effect she was responsible for all communications leading up to and during an event. One such she recounted being a massive IT exhibition in Barcelona where, for the Gala event, they took over the main railway station, had a steam train bringing in all the performers who then poured themselves out of the train in a 'Cirque de Soleil' style extravaganza!

In 2001, after a couple of moves, she and Nathan – Yes they did get married! – arrived in Sydenham attracted by the proximity of the Chilterns with its possibilities for mountain(sic) biking, the only slight issue being that the move into their new home coincided with Rachel's big Barcelona exhibition – so guess who had to manage the move?! Nowadays Rachel is running her own marketing business, being mother to a 15-year-old daughter and fitting in editorship of the Newsletter between these and her sporting activities. We leave her as we found her, at the age of nearly 53 going on 21 looking forward to the next triathlon!





THE CHEF AT THE CROWN INN

SYDENHAM

CLASSIC MENU

FOOD SERVED WEDNESDAY - SATURDAY 12:00 - 15:00 / 17:00 - 21:00 SUNDAY MENU SERVED 12:00-18:30

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Waterperry GARDENS



The Gardens at Waterperry are springing back into life with over 10,000 daffodils in our daffodil meadow and fritillaries in our wildflower meadow. The National Collection of Porophyllum Saxifrages are at their best during early spring, it is the perfect time to visit the gardens.

Inspirational at any time of year but even more so in the spring when life returns with a vengeance. Pat Havers, Head Gardener said 'this is her favourite time of the year. A month of promise, there is an energy to gardens and the Gardeners'.

There is always something to see or do at Waterperry with the gallery, gift barn, garden shop, plant centre, museum, and teashop. The plant centre and garden shop are a garden lovers paradise, with a large selection of quality plants, garden sundries, tools, bulbs, seeds, Waterperry apple juice, and cider.

You will find a full programme of year-round events at Waterperry Gardens, from horticulturally themed weekends to outdoor family theatre, concerts, opera, art festivals, and always something fun for the children to do in the holidays.

Join us during the Easter holidays with the Big Easter Bunny Hunt running until the 21th April and Gnometastic during May half-term - Waterperry Gardens makes for a perfect day out!



Handmade SOXFORD RETURNS

From Thursday 12 June to Saturday 14 June, Handmade Oxford returns to breathtaking Waterperry Gardens. Now in its fifth year, this much-loved craft festival has become a highlight of the Oxfordshire summer, celebrating creativity, inspiration, and the finest handmade treasures from across the UK. Located in Waterperry Gardens – venue for the BBC series Make it at Market, season 2 and 3 – this annual festival of crafts will showcase ceramics, jewellery, sculpture, fashion, furniture, homewares, art and textiles.

The three-day show will also include a full roster of craft demonstrations, learning workshops and live music alongside artisan food from local producers. A Celebration of Craftsmanship Handmade Oxford showcases the incredible talent of over 175 makers, each a master of their craft.



From stunning jewellery and contemporary furniture to intricate ceramics, glasswork, and textiles, every piece tells a unique story of passion and craftsmanship. This is a rare opportunity to meet makers, hear their stories, and discover one-of-a-kind treasures you won't find anywhere else.

Craft isn't just for admiring - it's for experiencing! Visitors can take part in interactive workshops and live demonstrations led by the artisans themselves. Whether it's weaving, block printing, or the art of French beading, guests can immerse themselves in the craft-making process and develop new skills.

Tickets On Sale Now! Don't miss out on this unforgettable event! Tickets are on sale from www.handmadeinbritain.co.uk with prices starting at £25 for a VIP ticket or £18 for standard entry. Entry also includes entrance to Waterperry Gardens*.

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