

Cheddington Village Newsletter

No. 550 – March 2025

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PARISH COUNCIL NEWS.

NEXT MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL.

The March Monthly Meeting will be held on Wednesday 5th March 2025 at 7pm in The Pavilion, Cheddington Recreation Ground, High Street, Cheddington LU7 0RG. For those residents who do not know, to find 'The Pavilion' just follow the path alongside the tennis courts until you reach the white building.

The Agenda will be posted on the Cheddington Parish Council Facebook page, on the Cheddington.org website and on the Notice Board at The Green, with 3 clear days' notice before each the meeting. If you wish anything to be discussed at the meeting, please advise the Clerk well in advance of the Agenda being finalised.

The Parish Council carry out the day-to-day running of the village so if you have any queries please contact the Clerk, Roz Roberts on clerk@cheddington-pc.gov.uk or on 07885 442643 and leave a short message with your name and contact number.

Please note that all correspondence is emailed directly to all the Parish Councillors for comment or for their information.

FACEBOOK PAGE. Please note the aim of the Cheddington Parish Facebook page is to relay information to the residents of Cheddington. It is **not** a public forum page.

PLANNING MATTERS. As reported and discussed at the 5th February 2025 PC meeting.

To Consider Applications Received via Buckinghamshire Council: -

No applications were received.

To Consider Determinations Received via Buckinghamshire Council: -

24/03697/APP – 66 Church Hill, Cheddington, Buckinghamshire LU7 0SY– Householder application for demolition of conservatory and porch and erection of single storey front and part single storey, part two storey rear extensions – **Approved 23.01.25.**

PICNIC BENCHES AT THE REC.

The Parish Council have recently installed 4 new picnic benches at the Rec. It may still be a bit cold to have a picnic but hopefully the weather will warm up soon!

NEW NOTICE BOARD AT THE GREEN.

Finally, the 'public' notice side of the new notice board at The Green can be used!

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION 2025.

The next scheduled elections in Buckinghamshire will be held on Thursday 1st May 2025.

This will be to elect 97 Councillors to Buckinghamshire Council and Councillors to town and parish councils (if contested).

Would you like to be a Parish Councillor for Cheddington?

What Do Councillors Do?

- Local councillors are the champions of their community who invest time in local projects and issues to the benefit of residents and the neighbourhood.
- Councillors attend to the local needs of residents, local groups and businesses, make decisions on local services, collaborate with Buckinghamshire Council to adhere to local needs, and progress vital projects to invest in the future of the community.
- Raise matters that the Council can consider and formally decide to act about at meetings.
- Attend Council meetings and regularly monitor emails circulated by the Clerk.
- Make informed contributions which influence the debate on the business that needs to be decided at those meetings.
- Participate in the Council's decision-making process, which is subject to strict rules and guidelines.
- Represent the Council externally.

What Do Councils Do?

Councils lead on community services such as allotments, footpaths, public seating and litter bins, but also larger projects such as the running of local transport, leisure services, youth services and climate change initiatives. These activities are funded by a local tax, called a precept which is determined annually by the parish council.

How Long Does It Take?

NALC's Local Councillor Census Survey found that councillors put aside on average, three hours a week for council work. Council work often includes attending meetings, engaging with residents, and speaking to local groups and bodies on behalf of the council.

Can I stand for Election?

You must be:

- A British citizen, or a citizen of the Commonwealth, or the European Union
- 18 years of age or older
- Live in an area that is served by a local council
- Nomination papers must be hand delivered to a Buckinghamshire Council Deputy Returning Officer at The Gateway, Gatehouse Road, Aylesbury HP19 8FF weekdays between 10am and 4pm from Tuesday 18th March 2025 and no later than Wednesday 2nd April 2025 at 4pm. Previously the Clerk has taken all of the completed nomination papers to the Council offices for checking.

The next Residents' Association committee meeting will be on Wednesday 12th March at 7.15pm in the Methodist Church Hall. Please come along to tell us of any issues.

So, if you are interested, please contact the Clerk, Roz Roberts for the paperwork at clerk@cheddington-pc.gov.uk or leave a message with your details on 07885 442643.

FANCY A CHAT AND A CUPPA! Come Along to The Methodist Church on Fridays from 12 noon – 2.30pm if you fancy a chat and a light lunch. This is a Churches Together initiative in conjunction with the Parish Council. If you can help in any way/wish to volunteer, please contact ccraft@gmail.com or 01296 661068.

Remember Open Doors is also on from 10.30am if you fancy a chat, a cuppa and a cake before lunch on a Friday!

THE PAVILION – AVAILABLE FOR HIRE! If you are looking for a lovely venue for a child's party/adult party/group meetings/reading groups/wine tasting class, for a small exercise class or whatever please contact the Bookings Clerk, Roz for further information on or call 07885 442643.

The current cost per hour is £13.50 p/h for residents and for out of the village £16.50 p/h.

Please note that from the 1st April 2025 charges will increase to £14.00 p/h for residents and out of village £17.00 p/h.

Remember the Recreation Ground is also available on request for large, organised events so why not use both venues.

FIX MY STREET. For any issues in respect of damage to pavements, graffiti or fly tipping, please report these via <https://fixmystreet.buckinghamshire.gov.uk>.

CHEDDINGTON ALLOTMENTS. We have a few vacant plots so if you want to get fit and enjoy some outside time, with lovely people, get an allotment!

Allotment Warden Vacancy

The Parish Council has a vacancy at the Cheddington Allotments for an Allotment Warden. If you are interested in this voluntary allotment administration role, please contact the Parish Clerk for more information.

There is an active working group at the allotments so if you are an allotment holder, I am sure they would be delighted if you would like to join and assist.

If you require any information/be added to the waiting list in respect of having an allotment, please contact the Parish Clerk who will direct your enquiry to one of the allotments working group members.

Contact details. The Parish Clerk, Roz Roberts can be contacted by email at clerk@cheddington-pc.gov.uk or on 07885 442643.

Please note the Clerk's role is a part time-position and she may not respond immediately to your query/message.

Have a search on Facebook for Cheddington Parish Council and like us!

OUR MP's NEWS.

I am delighted to write for this month's edition of the *Cheddington Village Newsletter* as your Member of Parliament for Aylesbury and the villages.

I have continued to be out and about across the villages I represent over the past few months, meeting residents and hearing your priorities.

I have been holding "Meet and Greet" sessions in the villages that form part of Aylesbury constituency, so far in

Ivinghoe, Edlesborough and Cheddington. These informal coffee mornings are fantastic opportunities for me to hear residents' feedback and ideas on how I can best support their community, and I really enjoyed the session we held at Cheddington Village Hall.

Parliament returned in January and the Government has been getting on with the work of change. In this column I will highlight two priorities that I think will make a real difference to residents here in Cheddington.

First, we have set out our plans for the NHS, including the plan to clear the backlog of almost 70,000 patients waiting more than 18 weeks for NHS treatment in Aylesbury constituency. With so many people waiting for treatment, it is more urgent than ever that we reform our NHS so it will always be there for you when you need it.

Our Elective Reform Plan sets out a whole system approach to hitting the 18-week referral to treatment target by the end of this Parliament.

This includes opening Community Diagnostic Centres on evenings and weekends so that many more people will be able to access tests and checks while going about their daily lives, and the NHS will also increase the number of surgical hubs, which help protect planned care from the impact of seasonal and other pressures.

The plan will drive forward progress on the government's first steps commitment to deliver 2 million extra appointments in its first year, equivalent to 40,000 every week. The reforms will put patients first, harness technology to support staff and help the NHS to do things more efficiently.

I am pleased that we have provided the biggest boost to GP funding in years – an additional £889m on top of the existing budget for general practice – and set out reforms to cut red tape and bring back the family doctor. We have also made the biggest investment into hospices and end of life care in a generation ensuring that hospices can continue to deliver the highest quality end of life care possible for their patients, families, and loved ones. The Government has announced a £100 million boost for adult and children's hospices to ensure they have the best physical environment for care, and £26 million revenue to support children and young people's hospices.

I am taking a leading role in delivering these reforms as the government's National Health Mission Delivery Champion.

Second, we are taking action on the record levels of illegal sewage dumping we inherited from the last Conservative government.

Our new Water (Special Measures) Bill introduces a significant increase in enforcement powers to end the disgraceful behaviour of water companies and their bosses. Water executives will no longer line their own pockets whilst pumping out this filth. If they refuse to comply, they will face severe penalties including criminal charges.

This Bill is a major step forward in our wider reform to fix the broken water system. The Labour Government will outline further legislation to fundamentally transform how the water industry is run and speed up the delivery of upgrades to our sewage infrastructure to clean up our waterways for good.

Continued on Page 6



cheddington.org.uk
the village web site



Our village Scout Group is a fantastic asset to the community, providing fun, adventure, and valuable life skills to our young people. However, we have reached a point where we **MUST** recruit for 2 pivotal roles to ensure its future. Without either of these roles the future of the group will be in jeopardy.

Could you be our next:
Group Lead Volunteer
 or
Trustee Board Chair?

Group Lead Volunteer

Central to everything we do, Group Lead Volunteers are our inspirational facilitators, supporting our teams in making sure everything at Scouts is fun, safe and inclusive. Can you help take 1st Cheddington to new heights?

This is a management role, and we need someone who can provide leadership, motivation and guidance to our adult volunteers. A large part of this role involves managing and supporting adult volunteers, including those working directly with young people. For any adult volunteer in scouting, Group Lead will be a regular port of call for support.

You don't need any prior experience of Scouting to apply for this role, we'll make sure you're fully trained and supported.

This position could also be considered on a 'Job Share' basis with duties split between a couple of people if willing volunteers are found.

Trustee Board Chair

Our Trustee Board Chair is dedicated to making sure Scouts runs smoothly, safely, and legally.

We're looking for safe pairs of hands, 'i' dotters and 't' crossers. Sound like you?

As Chair, you'll be part of a dynamic team working together to make Scouts operate like a well-oiled machine. From checking meeting places are in tip-top condition to helping make decisions relating to the group, you'll make sure everything is set up properly, so that young people have the best experience in Scouts. Trustees see the big picture, make decisions and work together. As a team, you'll ensure that everything's being done safely and legally, as well as connecting Scouts with your local community. Oh, and it's fine if you've not been a Trustee before. We'll support you, making sure you learn everything you need to know, as you go.

Both these roles are essential for the group to continue running.

No previous experience of Scouting is required but a willingness to be involved with a dynamic well established Scout group with a dedicated team of leaders behind it is essential. For a no obligation conversation to discuss either opportunity in more detail please email admin@cheddingtonscouts.org.uk with your details to express your interest and we will give you a call back.



THE CHEDDINGTON WI

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Finally, I'm pleased the Government is introducing contactless ticketing at Cheddington from 2 February onwards, fulfilling its promise of simpler, better value train travel for passengers. Many who live in Cheddington are frequent rail users – whether for work, for school or to socialise – and so the impact of these measures will be hugely positive.

I look forward to serving the people of Cheddington in 2025. I am here to listen and to help you. The best way to reach me is on laura.kyrkesmith.mp@parliament.uk. I am also sending out a regular E-newsletter to update residents on my work. You can sign up for the mailing list via my website, www.lauraforaylesbury.org. Thank you.

FARMING AND FOOD

by Julie Gaymer (julie@mentmoreparkfarms.co.uk)

The weather does not affect many industries in the way that it affects farming and fishing. However, with global warming, much more serious events are taking place affecting the whole of society here and abroad. Flooding and fires naming just two. Every one of us needs to do what we can for our beautiful world. Just in our locality is a start. When we see heaps of rubbish dumped in gateways we feel very angry and sad. Plastic bags of dog poo are not uncommon! There's no excuse for this. Please report fly tips on fix my street.

British arable farmers have been struggling to get crops planted this autumn and winter. Wheat is a major crop in the UK providing bread flour but also being used in Weetabix, Shreddies and animal food. Barley is grown for malting for beer and feed. We grow oats for porridge and breakfast cereals. Oilseed rape has numerous uses and various flavours are added to the oil. These can all be found at Meads Farm shop. Meanwhile the harvesting of potatoes, sugar beet and carrots plus winter vegetables has been very tricky indeed. When you are out walking the dog on the muddy tracks in driving rain think of these people working to provide our food. Currently lambing has begun and it's a challenge to keep livestock warm and dry.

The Big Farmland Bird Count has taken place in February and is a good way of recording the effect of our conservation schemes currently being initiated by farmers and gamekeepers on their land. This annual event encourages farmers and landowners to record the bird species and numbers on their farms. The British Trust for Ornithology is an interesting charity not as prominent as the Royal Society for Protection of Birds. However, it is a website of great interest, the BTO. In particular the breeding bird survey. They produce maps of bird populations, density and trends. Mammal monitoring too. They are project partners with the RSPB and JNC (Joint Nature Conservation Committee).

BEACON VILLAGE COMMUNITY LIBRARY.

Run by the community, for the community. **General enquiries:** info@bvcl.org.uk. **01296 387890**. **Committee enquiries:** secretary@bvcl.org.uk.

Opening hours are:

Monday Closed
Tuesday 2.00pm – 5.00pm
Wednesday 10am - 12pm and 2pm - 5pm
Thursday 2.00pm – 5.00pm
Friday 2.00pm – 7.00pm
Saturday 10am – 1pm

I have recently been whale and dolphin watching in the Atlantic Ocean in Madeira. Marine life is monitored by the JNC. In the tropics up to ten species of whale are seen and I understand they all communicate with each other. It was a wonderful sight to see these majestic creatures.

Whilst in Madeira my daughter and I trekked in the mountains walking in steady rain to see the waterfalls. They were magnificent! And we were accompanied by numerous small finches who seemed to enjoy our company. They were catching tiny biting insects which we discovered also liked our human flesh! Very itchy.

The flowers in Madeira are beautiful too. The botanical and tropical gardens in Funchal are worth visiting. We did enjoy them. The enormous cacti were quite spectacular and the topiary garden beautifully designed. It was nice to have some warm winter sun for a few days in early February.

As I write from Thurlestone in Devon on February 14th...it rains! But...driving around in this milder county near the sea we have been pleased to see sheep and their lambs contented in the fields around. Spring is on its way!

LETTER TO THE EDITOR.

"PUBLIC INTEREST. In response to the grateful and moving responses to our "pledge" published in the November 2024 Cheddington Village Newsletter in favour of the named Charities in the event that our land is sold for development STC to developers.

We would like to thank the many sincere expressions of gratitude and in particular from SHELTER for their generous comments, we take this opportunity to assure those parties that our "pledge" will be of significant magnitude to be worthy of their generous praises.

We will take note that no "political" bias for or against the development of the said land itself by the commentators of our action and thus will not nor can be construed or influenced as "political" whether developed and sold or not, and will be sold (if sold) expressly for the good of the unfortunate as pledged, hopefully temporary difficulties, and for their generous and loving creative people aiding the causes in favour of the said Charities, and of course, more particularly for the victims of unfortunate circumstances and to whom the proceeds of the pledge will have been expressly dedicated.

For the avoidance of doubt it is affirmed that this initiative is not for "personalised " gain necessarily, as we are approaching our eighty's and not in need in any event of huge wealth, but in the genuine mainly "altruistic interests" in favour of people in need.

Yours sincerely, Harry and Sandy Hart"

Editor's note: To the best of the knowledge of the CRA no planning application has yet been submitted for the proposed development. Once it is, residents will have the opportunity to support it or express their concerns, before it is approved or denied.

NSPCC CHILD PROTECTION HELPLINES

If you are concerned about a child at risk of abuse call, free of charge, on

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or if you are a child looking for confidential counselling and advice call Childline on

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NOTICES

REPAIR CAFÉ. Our next Ivinghoe & Pitstone Repair Café will be held on Saturday 22nd March between 9.30 – 12.30 at the **Pitstone Pavillion**. Bring along broken items to be fixed by volunteers! Tools & equipment, electrical goods, electronic devices, clothing, fabrics, jewellery, household items, toys & games, wooden items & bicycles & more! There is no charge for fixing but donations are welcome.

Amazing refreshments available, also for a donation!

Since our first café in February 2023 we have successfully repaired over 850 items!

We are now able to recycle Contact Lenses & Packaging, Empty Medicine Blister Packs & Oral Care Waste & Packaging, drop them off at one of our cafes!

For further information or enquiries have a look at our Facebook page: Ivinghoe & Pitstone Repair Café.

Or send us an email: ivinghoerepaircafe@gmail.com.

Or give Kim a ring on 07778279109.

CHEDDINGTON PLAYScheme.

SAVE THE DATES 28th JULY – 1st AUGUST 10am – 3pm

Follow us on Facebook for all the latest information.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED – AGE 16+ GREAT FOR UNIVERSITY STUDENTS. DBS Check is required.

For Further information, please email playscheme.cheddington@gmail.com

St. GILES PARISH CHURCH



Dear Friends

When I look back on the last time I wrote to you it was September. I wrote about dark nights getting longer, folk being isolated. Now its nearly over, spring is on its way. Clocks go forward at the end of the month.

Another year is celebrating itself in Spring, with snowdrops, crocuses, daffodiles, as we yearn towards an early summer and warmth.

Our heads and hearts look forward to it, before that we have Easter, and before that Lent.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, 5 March. (We have 4 services dotted around the Benefice that day.) It lasts 40 days. Lent is primarily identified with the time Jesus spent in the desert fasting, praying, and being tempted. That's why we hear so much about folk giving up things for the period of Lent. Alcohol or chocolate, however, if you don't drink much alcohol or eat a great deal of chocolate is not really cutting it is it? What it's really about is making a difference to your life during this time. For example you might want to commit to taking a couple of hours out each week to concentrate on you, thinking about life, where are you going? Is this what you are really about for the next 30 years? Something that is a bit different from the norm and something that does take commitment.

The Benefice (our 8 Churches) are running a couple of different sessions on Wednesday Evenings during Lent, they both begin on Wednesday 12th March. Dom our fab Rector is running a Zoom course on the Nicene Creed (it's 900 years old this year). Dom has put together some very specialist speakers for these evenings and it should be really good for those of you who have a good understanding of the Christian faith and wanting to go deeper.

Whereas Annie and myself are running Wednesday evenings at Wingrave Church at 7.15 for 7.30pm for those wanting to grasp a little of the Christian faith, we are asking you to dance with us as we talk to each other about where we are coming from and where we might hope to go.

We have food involved and general friendship and chat, we really, really do hope to see you there.

You see, all this before Easter and perhaps before your tulips have blossomed, and when Easter comes, well who knows what we are up to. I look forward to spending my ever emerging year with you, lets go.

Best Pam (Rev Str Pamela Reeves)

MARCH

Sun 2nd	09.00 am	B.C.P.	St Giles
	10.30 am	Family Service	St Giles
	04.00 pm	Holy Communion	St Mary's
Ash Wede	10.00am	Communion	St.Giles
Thurs 6th	9.15am	Mid-week Communion	St.Giles
Sun 9th	10.30 am	Holy Communion	St Giles
Sun 16th	09.00 am	Holy Communion	St Mary's
	10.30 am	Holy Communion	St Giles
Sun 23rd	10.30 am	Morning Worship	St Giles
Mothing Sun 30th	10.30 am	Joint Service with the Methodists	St.Giles

APRIL

Thurs 3rd	9.15am	Mid-week Communion	St.Giles
Sun 6th	09.00 am	B.C.P.	St Giles
	10.30 am	Family Service	St Giles
	04.00 pm	Holy Communion	St Mary's

CHEDDINGTON METHODIST CHURCH. MINISTER: REV NOREEN DALEY-LEE (01525 240083).

We welcome everyone to come along to our church to share in our worship and other activities. Services begin on Sundays at 10.30 am unless otherwise stated.

SERVICES FOR MARCH

2	3pm	Rev Hee-gon Moon
9		Rev Noreen Daley-Lee – Family Service
16		Rev Charlotte Church – Service of Holy Communion 3.30 pm Messy Church
23		Mr Arthur Sara
30		Mr Pete Honeyball – Joint Service with St Giles at the Methodist Church

A MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER

LENT

Some of the major themes for Lent: Forty days, desert, repentance, discipline, fasting and prayer all have their place in this movement. It is a pilgrimage towards Easter and is one of the most complex of the Christian seasons.

Some people see it as a dreary and dour season. For others it all began when Jesus spent some time in the wilderness. Among the Gospel writers, Mark expresses it most succinctly. Jesus has just been baptised by John in the River Jordan, when the Holy Spirit descended on him like a dove and immediately drove him out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness for forty days; tempted by Satan; was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him. (Mark 1:12 – 13).

Continued on Page 10



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Perhaps the wilderness could be a good place for it is a place of encounter and revelation. 'Wilderness' recalls the place where the People of Israel were 'tested' for 40 years after their exodus from Egypt. Moses also went on a 40 day fast in the wilderness of Sinai (Deuteronomy 9.18) and Elijah a similar fast near Mount Horeb (1 King 19.8). Those were not times of temptation but times of testing. Matthew and Luke present Jesus as one who has passed the test, with his integrity and relationship with the Father intact. The desert becomes a place of growth and grace.

But for others Lent was influenced by the nineteenth century hymn, 'Forty days and forty nights':

Forty days and forty nights
thou was fasting in the wild;
forty days and forty nights
tempted, and yet undefiled.
Sunbeams scorching all the day;
chilly dew-drops nightly shed;
prowling beasts about thy way;
stones thy pillow, earth thy bed.

We also think of 'giving up' or abstaining from certain foods and drink during Lent which echo Jesus' own fasting in the wilderness, leaving him hungry, thirsty and vulnerable to the temptation to turn stones into bread at the end of the 40 days.

However, some scholars and liturgists see more to Lent than sojourn in the desert at the beginning of Jesus's ministry, but a journey to the cross and the empty tomb when it climaxes with those who are baptised at Easter. I am so pleased that Kyle and Jasper will be baptised at Cheddington Methodist Church on Easter Sunday.

Others also believed that in a season that is certainly complex, the wilderness experience is very much part of the tradition. It is a matter of putting the emphasis as much on Lent as following Epiphany as upon Lent preceding Easter. It is even more complex to establish a 40-day season. If Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, we reach Day 40 on Palm Sunday. If we begin on the first Sunday of Lent, sometimes called Quadragesima, we reach Day 40 on Maundy Thursday. But if we eliminate Sundays, because every Sunday celebrates the resurrection, we are back to 40.

With all its complexities we are called to embrace the different layers of Lent whether we think of it as a pilgrimage or journey in the desert that results in encounter, revelation, growth, grace or tradition.

Noreen



"THE TOAST" – FOR PARENTS, CARERS and LITTLE ONES.

For all parents/carers of pre-school children and babies, join us in the Chapel schoolroom on **Monday mornings** 9.30 – 11.00 during term time for a gentle start to the week. There are toys, activities and refreshments (including toast!) and a warm welcome. Contact Cathy Craft email: cathy.e.craft@gmail.com for more information.

OPEN DOORS – Friday morning 10.30 am – noon at the Methodist Chapel. This is an opportunity for all to meet/socialise each Friday morning and have a cup of tea/coffee and biscuits. Contact Stuart Minall email: stuartpminall@gmail.com for more information.

THE SINGALONG CAFE will be held on **Tuesday 11 March 2.30–4.30 pm** at the Methodist Chapel. It will be led by, Karen, Cathy and Trevor who are all accomplished musicians. Do come along and join us and bring a friend or two, particularly those who might otherwise be at home

alone. Refreshments will be included thanks to two willing volunteers.

BOOKS and JIGSAWS. A collection of paperback books and jigsaws for buying or borrowing; if you are able to make a small donation that would be appreciated. Do come and have a look to see if there is anything of interest to you. The schoolroom is usually open 9.30 – 11 am on Monday mornings during term time or Friday mornings 10.30 – 12 noon. If you have paperback books, in good condition, or jigsaws that you would like to pass on do bring them along.

WARM SPACES. The Methodist Schoolroom will be open on **Fridays 12 noon to 2.00 pm** for a soup lunch for all those who would like to meet together. Donations of tins of soup or bread, tea/coffee or biscuits can be dropped off at the Chapel on Fridays from 10.30 am. This is a Churches Together initiative in conjunction with the Parish Council to whom we are most grateful for their financial support. All enquiries to ccraft@gmail.com or 01296 661068.

LOOP SYSTEM. For those people with hearing aids, we have an induction loop system installed and working in the chapel.

SCHOOLROOM BOOKINGS. For all enquiries, please contact Janet Banham email: j.banham@btinternet.com.

SOCIETIES



1st Cheddington Scout Group

Group Details. 1st Cheddington is a thriving Scout Group, offering challenge and adventure to young people of all ages, helping them learn to take responsibility for themselves and for others while having fun and taking part in a wide range of activities. The Scout Group continues to grow and plays an active part in village life. We have four sections, all of which are open to both boys and girls:

- Beavers (6 to 8 years) – Mondays 18:30 – 19:30 / Thursdays 18:15 – 19:15
- Cubs (8 to 10½ years) – Tuesdays 18:30 – 20:00 / Wednesdays 18:30 – 20:00
- Scouts (10½ to 14 years) – Thursdays 19:15 – 20:45 / Fridays 18:30 – 20:00
- Explorers (14 to 18 years) – Mondays 20:00 – 21:30

Meetings are usually held in our headquarters on Station Road unless otherwise advertised by leaders.

Hut Hire. Our refurbished hut is now available for hire at preferential rates for Scout Members or Cheddington Residents. We also now have Wi-Fi available at the hut! Please check out the Cheddington Scout Group Facebook page for more details.

For further information about any of the sections, to put your name down on our waiting lists (we recommend at least a year before they are old enough so that places can be made available), to hire the hut or any other enquiries please email admin@cheddingtonscouts.org.uk

**Copy date for the next issue:
March 15th**



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REVOLTING BEHAVIOUR AT CHEDDINGTON VILLAGE HALL.

Spirit Youth Group is busy rehearsing for its summer show – Roald Dahl's Matilda The Musical Jr – which will be staged at Cheddington Village Hall on 28 and 29 June.

The Group, which celebrates its 30th year in 2025, is pulling out all the stops to bring this magical story alive. This junior version of Matilda is based on the multi-award winning West End show written by Dennis Kelly with music and lyrics by Tim Minchin. It features all the popular songs from that musical, accompanied by a live band.

In this heartwarming tale, a young, highly intelligent girl from an awful, dysfunctional family is packed off to a school run by a tyrant called Miss Trunchbull. The schoolchildren encounter many miseries and plenty of adventures before Matilda leads a revolt and finally finds the love and companionship she deserves.

There are 35 local children involved in the show between the ages of 7 and 16, with a host of adults supplying fabulous costumes, sound, lighting, scenery and some very special effects.

Spirit is hoping to top last year's very well received production of Beauty and The Beast. Previous musicals include Treasure Island, Alice in Wonderland, the Wizard of Oz, Oliver!, Bugsy Malone and Peter Pan.

The Group meets at the village hall every Wednesday evening and has six Leaders (four women, two men), all with theatre experience.

This, year, as part of its 30th anniversary celebrations, Spirit (formerly Cheddington Youth Drama) is hoping to attract as many past members of the Group as possible to see their forthcoming production and attend a short reception before the show. If you are an ex-member, please contact Colin Bryer on 07817 847099 for details. If you are a parent or friend of an ex-member, please let them know.



Monday 17th March – The Story of Halton House.

We welcome guest speaker Trixie Brabner, archivist and tours coordinator at Halton House. Trixie will tell us story of Halton House which was built in the early 1880's for Alfred Freiherr de Rothschild principally to entertain Victorian high society. Alfred had no legitimate children and on his death in 1918, the house was bequeathed to his nephew Lionel Nathan de Rothschild. He detested the place and sold the contents at auction in 1918. The house and estate were later purchased for the RAF by the Air Ministry. Today it is used as the main officers' mess for RAF Halton and frequently used as a set for film and TV productions. Trixie's talk will end with the arrival of the RAF to the Halton estate. We meet at 8 p.m. at the Methodist Church by the Green in the village High Street. Visitors are welcome.

Forthcoming Programme:

April 14th – Al Capone. Speaker: Roger Mason

May 19th – Trench Humour in the First World War. Speaker: Stephen Barker.



Are you interested in making new friends? Learning new things? Lively discussion? Interesting outings? Engaging with forward thinking campaigns? In which case Cheddington WI could be just the thing! We meet on the first Thursday of every month in the Village Hall and we are

always keen to welcome new members.

Forthcoming Programme:

6th March, The Enigma – Breaking the Unbreakable by Frank Falcon

29th March, Charity Fund Raising Coffee Morning at the Methodist Hall from 10.00, all welcome.

3rd April, Singing for Fun – by Sue Cox

For more information, please contact Liesl on 07716 778118 or Nicola on 668347 or email cheddingtonwi@gmail.com.

On 29th March WI are holding a Charity Coffee Morning, at the Methodist Hall, 10.00 onwards.



NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH.

Suspicious Activity. NHW has been informed of individuals attempting to gain access to motor vehicles around the village and of people taking parcels from doorsteps. If you witness any such activity, please don't just post on social media please inform the police by dialling 999 if a crime is currently taking place or 101, or on the Thames Valley Police website with as much detail as possible, and inform NHW so that we can alert the community police and your coordinators.

NHW membership. If you have moved house within Cheddington and believe your previous NHW coordinator may not be aware, can you please let us know by emailing your name, previous and new address to neighbourhoodwatchcheddington@gmail.com We can then ensure the coordinator for your new road has your details and will forward you any cascade emails.

BRIDGE CLUB. Would you like to join a friendly group of 10 to 20 other players who meet twice each month for a social morning of playing Bridge? If so why not join us at the Bowls Club on the second and fourth Thursday in each month at 9.30am. We have several newly joined beginner members and don't take things too seriously, so you won't be the only 'newbie' and will be made very welcome. For more details contact Duncan on Tel 07713 041333 or email duncan.wick@gmail.com.



FLOWER CLUB is normally held on the third Wednesday of the month in the Methodist Hall at 7.30 pm. We hold workshops, organise demonstrators and outings throughout the year. The next meeting is 19th March – Christine Long.

Interested in joining? Please contact Kay Clements (Chair) on 01296 668781 for more details.

SPORTS & FITNESS

VILLAGE WALKING GROUP. A group of us get together every other Wednesday morning for a walk in our lovely countryside. We generally meet at 9.30am a different spot each time and walk for 4 – 5 miles at a relaxed pace with plenty of time to chat and admire the views. Lifts can be arranged if necessary. We are usually back in the village by midday. New walkers are very welcome. For more information contact Mary Peacock on 662620, Nicola Barron on 668347 or email cheddington-walkers@gamil.com.



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the village web site

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To place an advertisement or if you have any queries please contact the Advertising Manager:

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BADMINTON CLUB. We play social badminton (with a competitive edge!) between 8pm and 10pm every Thursday evening in the Village Hall. New members are always made welcome. Membership is available for £3 per session. For further details give Kim a ring on 07778279109.

JUNIOR BADMINTON CLUB. New junior members are always welcome, places are secured on ability and not age. Turn up at 6pm and Ray, our Badminton England coach will determine the most appropriate group for you. Ray can be contacted on 662148 for further details about Junior Badminton.

DAYTIME BADMINTON. Come along on a Monday morning between 10.45 and 12.45 for social daytime badminton, no membership necessary. The cost is £4 per session. For further details contact

Kim on kim.key@hotmail.co.uk or 07778279109 or just turn up!

Cheddington Tennis Club.

GOOD NEWS. Due to the exceptionally high winds in February, the netting posts around our third court were significantly damaged. We had to close the court briefly whilst repairs took place but thanks to the generous support of Sport England, we were able to get it back up and running before too long.

COACHING. Bex Stanley is our LTA registered coach. She runs our coaching for adults and children, on a group or individual basis.

CLUB NIGHT. Throughout the year on (most) Tuesday evenings, we hold a relaxed club night for members of all abilities, starting at 7pm. It's also a great opportunity for potential members to come down and try us out for free.

DAYTIME TENNIS. If you're around during the week (Mondays & Fridays, 10am to midday) and fancy playing some social tennis, we have a thriving daytime group.

MATCHES. For those keen to play slightly more competitive tennis, we run a number of teams in the Aylesbury Vale League.

NOT TOO LATE TO JOIN US. If you'd like to get fit, have fun and improve your game, please contact us at: <https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/CheddingtonTennisClub/Membership/Join>

NIFTY FIFTIES PLUS, has been established in the Village for over 25 years. We meet at the Village Hall, each Thursday from 10.00am to 12 noon. There are exercises to suit older people of varying abilities, some seated and some standing. This is followed by a break for a cup of tea or coffee and a chance to socialise. Next, a chance to participate in indoor sports activities, including table tennis, indoor bowls and occasionally soft ball tennis or badminton. The cost is £7 per ses-

SAMARITANS. We offer free and completely confidential help to the lonely, the distressed and the despairing. Anyone needing this help can ring Amersham (01494) 432000 or Milton Keynes (01908) 667777, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, including Christmas Day and Bank Holidays. The branch in Milton Keynes is moving so as soon as we have the new address you can resume the option to call between 10am and 10pm every day without an appointment. Samaritans also answer letters.

sion, plus a small quarterly membership fee.

If you are over 50 years of age, you will be very welcome and your first visit will be free. For more information, please contact Chris on 01442 824350.

Local author's Book for Charity.

Dunwalkin. Ben Robinson and Michael Portillo aren't the only ones to visit "Villages by the Sea" and embark on "Coastal Journeys". Marsworth resident, Paul Barber, did the same nearly two decades ago. In 2006/7 an eleven-month continuous circumnavigation of Britain's "outer coast" saw Paul, his partner and Havoc their dog clock up in excess of 5000 miles on their ultimate beating of the bounds. A bit further than The Salt Path (Raynor Winn).

The story now comes to life in the form of a book "dunwalkin" (small d and no g!) Seventeen years in the writing. Having taken that long, perhaps it really ought to be better! That comment some how hints at the book's style, "left field", part memoir, part travel guide.

The book recalls their experience, acknowledges the support they received (have you heard of Hash House Harriers?) Curious? Buy the book!

It speaks of public generosity, being weighed down by donations. At the time £50,000 was raised for Guide Dogs for the Blind and the RNLI.

Traversing some gorgeous scenery and the odd eyesore, enduring all weathers and hardships. Domestic friction was not uncommon. The account is a warts and all record of the experience and self-analysis.

Over 400 pages made scholarly by referencing others who trailblazed before writing their own accounts (John Merrill, Shally and Richard Hunt, and poignantly Spud Talbot-Ponsonby). What ear worms took root on monotonous sections the "Tracks of My Years" gives this account an added dimension. Beautifully and amusingly illustrated by two local artists, it also includes Havoc's Own Walkies Album of black and white photos.

Paul says "the fondest memory for me was the people we met along the way. We were truly touched by other people's lives. They were unable to commit personally to such a venture but their contribution was to assist us en route. All money raised from the sale of this book will be donated to Guide Dogs. I am not looking to make anything – just pleased I've told the story."

Continued on Page 16



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The initial first two print runs are sold out. Time to put the book on Amazon and raise more money for Guide Dogs.

Paul is Tring born and bred, having moved away to the southwest during his early adult years. He is now back and has been living in Marsworth for the past 10 years, working for a local farm and is often in Wendover carrying out his firewood deliveries.

To purchase/order or to get in touch with Paul please visit his website:

www.dunwalkinbook.online

or

Facebook:

Dunwalkin - Paul Barber

Your purchase will aid bonds between man and animals, allowing sensory impaired individuals to lead independent, dignified lives. The book is also now available on Amazon, priced £15. Signings available if required.

Paul is happy to deliver illustrated presentations and talks to local groups so please get in touch if interested.

COMPOST AREA AT ST GILES.

This is a polite reminder that the compost bin is only for organic waste and unsuitable for plastics and wreaths which contain metal. These should be disposed of at home. All non-organic waste has to be taken home by our volunteer so your ongoing co-operation would be very much appreciated.



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Inclusion of an advertisement in this Newsletter does not imply endorsement by the Residents' Association and purchasers of any goods or services advertised are advised to satisfy themselves of the suitability of the advertiser for their needs.



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CALENDAR

MARCH

5th Parish Council Meeting. Pavilion. 7pm
6th WI meeting. Village Hall. 7.45
11th Singalong Café. Methodist Hall. 2.30pm
12th CRA Meeting. Methodist Hall. 7.15pm
17th History Society. Methodist Hall. 8pm
18th Closing date for Parish Council nomination papers
19th Flower Club. Methodist Hall. 7.30.
22nd Repair Café. Pitstone Pavillion. 9.30 – 12.30.
26th to 29th Stewkley Players One Foot in the Grave.
Stewkley Village Hall. 8pm
29th WI Coffee morning. Methodist Hall. 10am

APRIL

3rd WI meeting. Village Hall. 7.45
14th History Society. Methodist Hall. 8pm

MAY

1st Elections in Bucks
19 History Society. Methodist Hall. 8pm

JUNE

28th/29th Spirit Group's Matilda—The Musical. Village Hall.

JULY

28th Playscheme starts

Copy date for the next issue:

March 15th

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June: Thurs/Fri/Sat – 5/6/7

Sept: Thurs/Fri/Sat – 18/19/20

Dec: Thurs/Fri/Sat – 11/12/13

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Garden Waste bins

Bancroft St, Berryfield, Brownlow Lane, Gooseacre, Hillside, Long Marston Road, Manor Road, Sunnybank, and The Bauk – **5th and 19th Mar** Rest of Village – **12th and 26th Mar**.

For the latest news see the AVDC website – www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk