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Village Voice



February 2024

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Waterperry Gardens

There are few better places to celebrate the arrival of spring than Waterperry Gardens in Oxfordshire, where the historic ornamental gardens provide the perfect setting for the Galanthus. These wonderful little heralds of spring carpet the old orchard and riverside walks at this time of the year, and winter aconites are also likely to bring a smile to visitors' faces, providing new hints of colour in the garden (normal garden entrance fee applies).

Waterperry boasts beautiful displays of double and single-flowered snowdrops all around the 8-acre gardens and is the perfect excuse for a walk in the gardens followed by a visit to the Teashop to warm up - a lovely way to spend time with friends and family.

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

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baps: 11.00am - 2.00pm
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11.30am - 1.30pm

Stadhampton Christmas Fayre at St John's

A **BIG thank you to everyone** who supported the **village Christmas Fayre** in December

All the wonderful stallholders, visitors, and local companies who supported us by providing a raffle prize - The Oxford Collection, Cotswold Park Hotel, Coach & Horses, Spire & Spoke, The Red Lion, Aston Martin Museum, Hollywood Bowl, Laser Combat, The Beauty Room, Willow Cabin Beauty, M&S @ BP, Partyman, Treacles Tearoom, Asda, Taking the Lead, Julie Pattison, The Hair Shed, Pretty as a Peacock and not forgetting, kind locals who donated gifts too - THANK YOU.

We raised some much needed funds for the church hall which no doubt will contribute towards its maintenance (and heating!).

Happy New Year to one and all. The Christmas Fayre Committee.

VILLAGE VOICE ADVERTISEMENT RATES

Proportion of Page	Size of advertisement	Price per issue
1/8	44mm deep x 61mm wide (no logos)	£4.00
1/4	91mm x 61mm	£8.00
1/2	91mm x 124.5mm	£16.00
1 full page	186mm x 124.5mm	£32.00

Flyers - delivery only. £20 flat rate. Flyers go out with the magazine and need to be with our distributors in time. We distribute to 450 houses.

Deadlines - Please send files to stadhampton.vv@gmail.com by the 15th of the month. If you need any help with artwork please contact Keith Hodges (printer) at Colourplus on 01865 890271 or at print@colourplus.co.uk.

Publishing dates - There are ten issues a year. Published monthly with two exceptions; July/August and December/January are double issues.

Notices - for village/community groups and events are free of charge. Other organisations at Editors discretion.

Personal announcements - about births, weddings, anniversaries are free of charge to villagers.

email: Stadhampton.vv@gmail.com **Tel:** 01865 891187

Disclaimer—The views and opinions expressed in the articles published in the magazine do not necessarily reflect the views of the Editor or Publisher - Stadhampton Parochial Church Council. All articles submitted for publication are subject to editing.

Tons Together WI



In January, 17 of us went out for our annual New Year dinner to The Lamb in Chalgrove. A big thank you to Katie & team at The Lamb for the wonderful food and warm welcome. Highly recommend a visit.

Sadly, long-standing WI member Deirdre Mann passed away in December. She was a big character and will be very much missed. Love to all her family and friends.

We're back in the hall on Thursday 8 February for a Mardi Gras Pancake Cook off! Come and have a pancake party with us.

Do you live in Little Milton, Great Milton, The Haseleys, Stadhampton or surrounding villages, new to the area, want to meet new people, make new friends? Then join Tons Together WI and meet like-minded, local women of all ages in an informal, friendly group. Everyone welcome - Visitors £5 or become a member for £46. **We meet every 2nd Thursday of the month 7:30pm, The Pine Lodge, Little Milton OX44 7PZ** Too shy to come by yourself? Contact us & we'll find you a WI buddy. Details & news on the Pine Lodge page at www.littlemilton.org.uk

Report Flooding Impact

Oxfordshire County Council have asked for details of which households were affected by the recent flooding. If you suffered flooding, Stadhampton Parish Council would like to hear from you what could have been done to help the situation.

Were you affected? What would have been helpful to have in place?

Please will you let us know by emailing the Chairman at cllrneilfitzgerald@stadhampton.org

Talking Point....

During February we enjoy the annual celebration of Valentine's Day

Of course, love and a loving relationship takes many different forms. In our society we see a wonderful diversity of expressions of love which reflect the joyful differences between us and how we interact and live with one another. Whether you are gay, straight, married, in a civil partnership, living with someone you love, single or anywhere in between any of these labels, you can enjoy the celebration of love that is Valentine's Day.

We don't know much about St Valentine who lived in the 3rd Century in Rome, but one legend maintains that Saint Valentine performed weddings for Christian soldiers who were forbidden to marry by the Roman emperor; and another legend claims that as he prepared for his execution, he wrote his jailer's daughter a letter signed "Your Valentine". The day of St Valentine's death on 14th February afterwards became associated with romantic love and was evermore connected with the lovebirds and flowers of early spring.

Christians believe that love and relationships are a gift from God, who is the source of all love. God created human beings as an expression of His love and loved us so much that he sent His Son Jesus to die for us. Of course, we know that Jesus also told his followers to "love one another, as I have loved you". None of us is perfect, but as Christians, loving others is the goal by which we strive to live.

Love comes in all shapes and sizes in our society today and if St Valentine was still alive, I'm sure he would be delighted at the outpouring of love on his feast day! We experience loving relationships in lots of ways, including through deep and lasting friendships, through their close and extended families, as well as through the romantic love that comes from being with a partner.

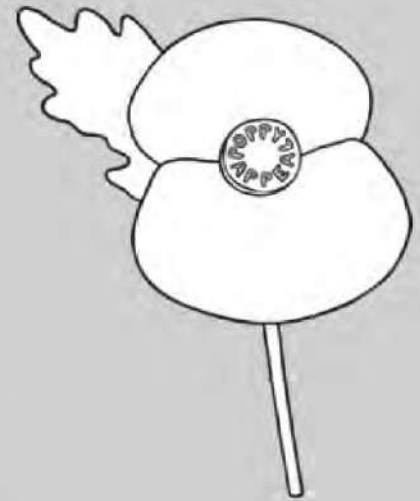
So, whoever you are squeezing this Valentine's Day may you be blessed not only in one another but in the love that God has for you!

Rev'd Teresa Stewart-Sykes

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

Many thanks for your kind donations to the 2023 Poppy Appeal. Our district raised a total of **£2,426.17**.

We really appreciate the local shops who collect on our behalf and the school staff and parents for their support. Thank you to the parishioners who give up their time to collect from the houses in our villages.



Sue White

Stadhampton History Book

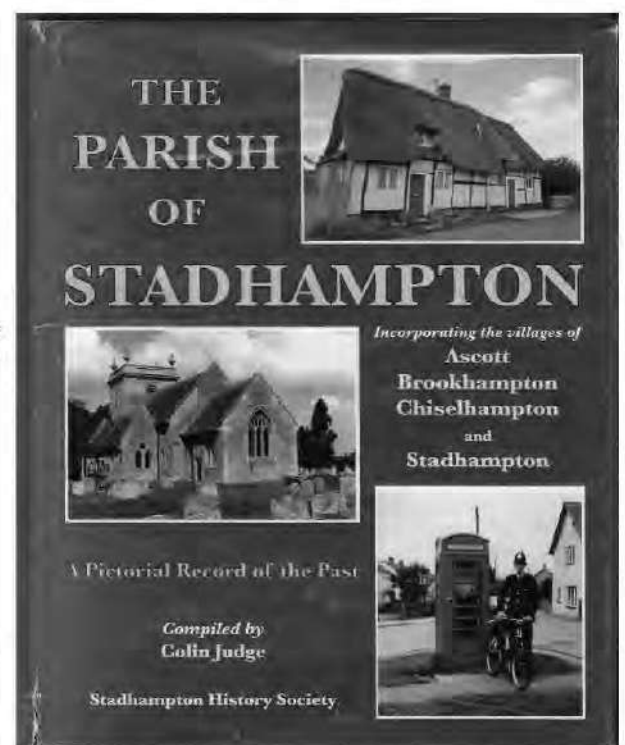
I was a member of a history group in Stadhampton which contributed to the millennium history of the parish.

It has seemed to several people in Stadhampton that the original book is valued and that others would like to have a copy. As they are now hard to find we are looking into getting the book reprinted.

Following on from this some of us wonder if it would be an interesting project to get together and do an update. Perhaps a small book recording the life and changes in Stadhampton over the past 25 years?

Any thoughts/ideas would be very welcome. We shall be looking for volunteers, if you are interested please get in touch with me.

Frances Campbell, Tel 01865 890922
francescampbell127@gmail.com





John Howell MP writes

Even before the Christmas decorations were down, or perhaps before they went up, speculation on the date of the General Election has been hotting up. It could actually be as late as January 2025 but, whatever the date, the campaigning is already underway. Not just in the battle for media attention and getting messages out, but also in more subtle ways. In Parliament the increase in emails on specific issues referring to the next Party Manifesto is noticeable. In parliament the use of mechanisms to promote specific issues, such as Early Day Motions and Westminster Hall debates appears to be increasing.

Early Day Motions (EDMs) are motions that formally call for debate in the House of Commons but there is no timeline, simply at an 'early day' and few ever get debated. They are often used on behalf of campaign groups. The reality, known by all involved, is that they rarely achieve anything. In any one Parliamentary session there will be well over a thousand EDMs tabled, and at an average cost of several hundred pounds each, this is a substantial cost to the taxpayer. Given that they are ineffective, along with many colleagues on both sides of the House, I decided some time ago that I would not sign EDMs. Instead, there are many other, more effective, ways for an MP to raise an issue or lobby government. Whilst EDMs can only be signed by MPs, we now have e-petitions which can be signed by anyone. These have much more success in raising awareness of different issues and some do get debated.

There is also a note of caution on Westminster Hall debates. An MP uses a Westminster Hall debate to raise issues of concern to them. They are formal debates recorded in Hansard, but there are not votes. However, they do get a response from a Minister. So, whilst the debate is important to the MP holding it, the attendance of other MPs is neither critical nor representative of the wider support for the issue. Sometimes it is just not possible to attend.

I have already made public that it is not my intention to put myself forward as a candidate for the next General Election. I have served the Constituency since initially being elected in 2008 and have been returned to Parliament in four subsequent elections. I continue to take an interest in the views of constituents and, with the support of my team, assist those constituents wanting help. However, I am now in the happy position of being able to sit light when an email tells me that the senders vote at the next General Election depends on my reply to their email. Such emails often spring from campaign groups and, whilst I will continue to reply with my view, it is really the views of the various Parliamentary Candidates for the Constituency that should be of greater interest. I will have moved on to pastures new.

john.howell.mp@parliament.uk

Military Get Up

The military get up is a great alternative to the press up. Not only does it work the Triceps (on the back of the upper arm) and the Pectorals (chest muscles) but it also uses the core muscles to keep the body straight.

Starting position is lying prone on the floor resting on the forearms and the toes. The body (ears, shoulders, hips, knees and ankles) are kept in a straight line. From this position move the right arm so that the hand is where the right elbow was. Keeping the body straight, push up on the right arm to lift the shoulders away from the floor. As left arm comes off the floor move the left hand to where the left elbow was and assist in lifting the body until both arms are straight. Take the weight of the body on the left arm and lower the straight body until the right forearm can be placed on the floor in its original position. Place the left forearm on the floor in its original position to complete one repetition. Repeat for the required number of repetitions alternating which hand leads each time you push up.



To reduce the intensity, adjust the starting position so that the body is resting on the forearms and the knees but keep the rest of the body straight throughout. I would start by doing 2 sets of 10 reps and build up from there. To make it harder slow the time it takes to do one repetition. If you wanted to make it harder still try holding one leg off the floor!

This a great exercise that works the core and the upper body. If you find that your technique is starting to become poor reduce the intensity.

If you have any questions about this or any other fitness related topic please contact me on nige.fitnessoxford@outlook.com

Nige

Save the Date

Stadhampton Summer on The Green

6th July 2024

2 – 9pm

You'll recall at last years Summer on The Green, we promised to plant **2,024 spring bulbs for 2024.**

Thanks to all our planters who, on a cold November morning, came out and did exactly that!



This spring should see a lot more daffodils around the entrances to the village and at other key locations – we look forward to seeing them bloom into action in the coming months.

Last years earnings are detailed to the right and you can see the Church and the PTA were able to raise some very useful funds.

The daffodils were paid for with the proceeds of the 2022 Summer on The Green.

Summer on The Green 2023

Income

Stalls & activities run by Committee	£855
Contributions from food/drink vendors	£260

Stalls run by partners for their own fund raising

- Tea Tent (Church)	£389
- Nerf, Tombola (PTA)	£470

Total Income	£1,115	£859
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Costs	-£1,355
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Money raised 2023	-£240
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JOIN THE CONVERSATION!

Take a look at proposals and draft policies for our new Joint Local Plan to address local challenges and unlock future opportunities, including:



Climate



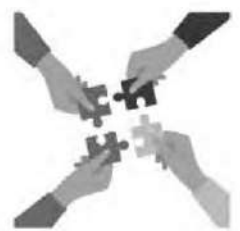
Housing
and jobs



Environment



Community
facilities



And more!

View the documents, find out more information on local events and complete the survey before 11.59pm on 21 February 2024:

www.southandvale.gov.uk/JLP



You can also access printed documents at your local library, the district council offices, the Beacon in Wantage, Cornerstone in Didcot, or the Great Western Park District Community Centre in Didcot.

Drop-in events:

Sandford-on-Thames: 20 Jan

Wallingford: 25 Jan

Thame: 30 Jan

Abingdon: 3 Feb

Faringdon: 6 Feb

Shippon: 24 Jan

Henley-on-Thames: 27 Jan

Wantage: 31 Jan

Crowmarsh Gifford: 5 Feb

Didcot: 10 Feb

South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse

Joint Local Plan 2041



Ann Gibb

We are sad to announce the death of Ann Gibb on 14 December 2023. Ann moved, with her family, to Cratlands Close in 1981 and was an active and vibrant member of the village community for over 40 years. She will be fondly remembered and greatly missed by her family and many friends.

In accordance with her wishes, Ann was buried at Westmill Woodland Burial Ground on 8th January.



Isla and Rona - Ann's daughters

Stadhampton & Chiselhampton 200 CLUB

December 2023

1 st Prize	214	Phillip White	£50
2 nd Prize	100	E&W Jacobs	£20
3 rd Prize	70	Amy White	£15
4 th Prize	89	Andrew Tuckwell	£10
5 th Prize	217	The Molloy's	£5

January 2024

1 st Prize	67	Colin Allmond	£50
2 nd Prize	78	Su Stoodley	£20
3 rd Prize	118	G&E Fulker	£15
4 th Prize	52	J Wigmore	£10
5 th Prize	96	Mr & Mrs A Parslow	£5

There are still a few remaining numbers so if you'd like to take part please give me a ring.

Cheryl Wilson 01865 400272

This months
Sudoku — answer
can be found on
page 25

	5	1						
7					5		1	
6			2					
	8	7		9			2	
		6	5	7	3			
	1			6		4		
	3	8		2	6			5
		5	1		4			8
						9	4	

Report from your OCC Councillor....

Happy New Year; it's been a damp start to the year for many of us, so here's a brief **flooding update** from the County Council:

The county council's fire and rescue service, highways teams and emergency planning teams were active in helping communities suffering from flooding, and social care teams have been ensuring that vulnerable people are helped if needed, although clearly it's our local residents and communities who are most vital in responding to such events.

The government made an announcement about financial support for residents and businesses affected by the floods, and the expectation that councils will deliver this, although at the time of writing we're awaiting details of how this will work.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-payments-for-communities-affected-by-flooding>

The main official source for advice on how to prepare for flooding and who to contact is at <https://www.oxfordshirefloodtoolkit.com>

Another useful place for information on road closures is <https://twitter.com/OxonTravel>

The county council are not responsible for providing sandbags to residents because of rising water - only when a property or properties are at an immediate risk of flooding from water from the public highway. As such, they hold a limited supply. Residents are advised to follow the Environment Agency's updates and if they are in a risk area to make their own arrangements.

Residents can call the Environment Agency's flooding hotline for advice and support at any time, seven days a week, on **0345 988 1188**.

Residents can check their flood risk, sign up for free flood warnings and keep up to date with the latest situation from the Environment Agency at gov.uk/check-if-youre-at-risk-of-flooding.

The county council's [news webpage](#) also contains helpful information on river levels: <https://news.oxfordshire.gov.uk/river-levels-in-oxfordshire/>

A4074 safety

There have been a worrying number of incidents on the A4074 Berinsfield-Shillingford stretch. I have raised this a number of times at the county council, and have requested an urgent meeting with the cabinet member responsible. While there is a long-term project to improve the whole A4074 corridor, it's clear urgent action is needed to make this stretch safe for all road users, although as ever funding for improvements will be a challenge.

Cllr Robin Bennett

And from our District Councillor

Oxfordshire Inclusive Economy Partnership Charter

At the Cabinet meeting of 15th December, the council's commitment to Oxfordshire Inclusive Economy Partnership's (OIEP) charter was confirmed with three initial pledges:

- As a buyer we pledge to assess and account for the social value that a supplier can offer the local community, alongside our assessment of the economic value/financial cost of the contract.
- As a buyer, where compatible with procurement law and subject to best value requirements, we pledge to buy goods and services from purposeful local organisations, including SMEs, social enterprises, and cooperatives wherever possible.
- As a supplier we pledge to support our employees to volunteer on local community projects.

The decision will give formal backing to undertake projects that will support achievement of corporate objectives, including improved economic and community wellbeing. Pledges under the "Support Local and Social" will help to reinforce and focus the council's work to engage local SMEs with procurement opportunities. This should lead to positive outcomes in helping independent small businesses to thrive.

Severe Rainfall and Flooding

Parish councils should already have this information but, if residents make contact with concerns about flooding during severe rainfall, the following information may be helpful:

- The county council has a regularly updated flooding information page which contains all the links and advice residents should need including:
 - The county council's Flooding Toolkit (which our districts part-funded) called "What to do if you're flooding?"
- The Environment Agency's flooding helpline (24 hours a day, 7 days a week) is: Telephone: 0345 988 1188; Text: 0345 602 6340
- If residents want to report flooding they can do so via the following link:
<https://www.oxfordshirefloodtoolkit.com/emergency/report-flood/>

The key message for residents is that they should take necessary precautions to protect their properties. If the council is notified that a Flood Warning has been put in place in your area, it will notify both district councillors and the relevant town or parish council(s).

Eller Georgina Heritage

What's on

Regular Events

MONDAYS			
TUESDAYS			
WEDNESDAYS			
THURSDAYS	Tons Together WI (2nd of month)	19:30	Pine Lodge
FRIDAYS	Pilates (beckyalanfitness.com) Cinema Club (usually 4th of month)	10:15 20:00	Village Hall Village Hall

Upcoming Events

Thursday 8 February at 19:30 - **Mardi Gras Pancake Cook-off**
@ WI, Little Milton Hall

Coffee mornings in the Village Hall:

- 17th February
- 30th March
- 20th April
- 25th May



6th July - **Summer on the Green** SAVE THE DATE

February Waste Collections

GREY BINS - Tuesdays 13th and 27th February

Grey weeks - food waste, rubbish, small electrical items in a carrier bag next to bin

GREEN BINS - Tuesdays 6th and 20th February

Green weeks - food waste, recycling, batteries, garden waste, textiles in a tied carrier bag next to bin.

Plastic bags can now be used for food waste. **Cooking oil** can be recycled in the food caddy (use a plastic bottle if you like)



In February

Stadhampton services during February

Sunday 4th	9:30am Family Service
Sunday 11th	9:30am Holy Communion
Sunday 18th	9.30am Family Eucharist
Sunday 25th	10.30am Team Service @ St Katherine's, Chiselhampton

Parish Council meetings

At the January meeting, Stadhampton Parish Council was pleased to elect Councillor Fitzgerald (Fitz) as the Chairman for the duration of the current council year.

The next meeting will be held on **Monday 19th February**. This is a short agenda with a focus on planning applications, and therefore subject to cancellation, so please check the website on the day.

The following meeting will be on Monday 18th March, with a full agenda. Every meeting includes a short public participation time at the start if you wish to raise any issue of Parish Council business.

There remains a vacancy on the Parish Council and if you are interested in this role, please get in touch with the Parish Clerk at clerk@stadhampton.org or 07717 134606

<https://www.facebook.com/StadhamptonPC/>

Stadhampton Parish Council now has a Facebook page, which will be used to post details of the meetings of the Parish Council, which are held in public with an opportunity for resident to speak before the formal meeting starts.

We will also post items of interest to the local community and details of any changes to the Parish Council facilities and consultations.



December was a busy time in school with all of our usual festive fun. We enjoyed Carol Singing around the Village, our whole school Christmas Lunch and of course, the delightful Key Stage 1 Nativity.

We even had a visit from Santa who flew over our school in a helicopter!

The Term finished with the school hall full of family and friends joining us for our Carol Service.

FOSPS (Friends of Stadhampton Primary School) worked tirelessly to host another fantastic wreath making evening (enormous thanks to Julie Hill for working her creative magic), as well as a brilliant Winter Fayre. Both events were well attended and were successful fund-raisers. A huge 'Thank You' to everyone for making the last few weeks of term so enjoyable.

We started the new term with a bang as Otter Class took a trip up to London to perform at the O2 Arena as part of the Young Voices choir. The children were part of an eight and a half thousand strong choir, singing a variety of songs, performing dance routines and sharing their British Sign Language skills.

The whole event kicked off with a sight-seeing tour in central London, followed by the final leg of our journey to the O2, via the river taxi.

We were joined by many of the parents from Otter Class-all of whom agreed-it was an amazing experience for the children and a fantastic show. One parent even went as far as to say it was 'Better than Madonna!!'

Congratulations to everyone who took part - we were so proud of you.



Otter Class

In December Otters enjoyed learning about Christmas through our RE topic in which they explored the Christmas story. The children learnt about the teachings of Jesus and other figures in Christianity, increased their knowledge and understanding of key Christian beliefs and explored the similarities in different religious beliefs.

This term, as part of our English learning, the children have been writing sentences inspired by the tale of Hansel and Gretel. The children watched the making of honeycomb and enjoyed tasting it along with gingerbread and jelly beans.



Dragonflies

Dragonflies have been very busy rehearsing for Nativity in December. It was very exciting wearing costumes and performing for our families and to the whole school. We were learning how to project our voices on stage and remember what to say at the right time. We worked hard and had a lot of fun rehearsing.

This term Dragonfly class have begun their new topic - Significant Women. During the next few weeks they are going to be learning all about the lives of women such as Grace Darling and Rosa Parks. There will be opportunities to learn all about biography writing and what these women did to make such an important contribution to society.

It is also their turn to go to Forest School where they will be making fires, toasting marshmallows and making dens-lots of fun despite the chilly weather.

Ladybird Class

During December we learnt the words for the songs in our nativity play. We had great fun practicing them and enjoyed our parents coming to watch. We also found out about the Christmas story and were very creative with all our Christmas crafts, cards, and pictures for our advent calendar which you can see on our school website.

This term Ladybird Class are enjoying exploring the story 'Pigs might fly – the further adventures of the three little pigs'. We have been finding out about the Red Arrows by watching a video of one of their displays and discovered how contrails are formed. We have watched a wing walker and decided that wasn't something we wanted to do. The three little pigs were trying to win the pie in the sky race and win all the pies, but the big bad wolf was trying to stop them!

Hedgehogs

We had a fun month in the lead up to Christmas! We made snowmen pots out of clay, watched the KS1 nativity, and learnt all about the nativity story in RE. We also spread Christmas cheer around the village singing carols!



This term Hedgehog class have started learning all about the Vikings! We are very excited to get stuck into our new history unit. In literacy we are exploring traditional tales through the book 'The Magic Paintbrush'. We are loving the book so far and we can't wait to write our own version, we all wish we had a paintbrush like Shen!





Morland House Surgery, Morland Close, Wheatley OX33 1DP

The usual surgery opening hours are Monday to Friday 8am to 6.30pm

Saturday mornings (excluding Bank Holiday weekends) 8am to 10.30am, for **prebooked** consultations only

Enhanced access hours are offered outside these times, please speak to one of the reception team on 01865 872448 for more information.

When the surgery is closed, please contact the Out of Hours service by phoning 111

**The surgery's in-house dispensary has closed permanently
WHEATLEY PHARMACY REMAINS OPEN**

There is no change to the process of ordering your repeat prescription.

**If you have not yet nominated a pharmacy to pick up
your medication, then please do so**

Check or alter your nomination via your NHS login - NHS (www.nhs.uk)
or contact our prescription clerk team via morland.dispensary@nhs.net
Tel 01865 872448 (option 3)

Group Consultation Clinics – We are excited to offer group clinics for certain health conditions, currently menopause and diabetes.

The benefits are many including a more thorough examination of your condition, having your questions answered, sharing issues with others going through the same issues, and spending longer with a GP.

For a wealth of information and guidance on managing a vast number of health conditions, symptoms, and treatment, please visit www.morland-house.co.uk

Also on the website are details of the new rules relating to accessing your medical records - see <https://tinyurl.com/3879mz6p>

Stadhampton Cinema Night



Nora and Hae Sung, two deeply connected childhood friends, are wrest apart after Nora's family emigrates from South Korea. Decades later, they are reunited for one fateful week as they confront destiny, love and the choices that make a life.

Showing Friday 23rd February
film starts at 8:00pm
in the Stadhampton Village Hall

Doors open at 7:00pm for those who would like to eat together beforehand.

This month's menu is 'A Surprise Supper'
to book, please contact Linda King by **14th February** at
linda@whereer.com



View from Views ...

For a change I won't bore anyone with a comment on the weather, I think we all know it has been wet, I have never known the river to be as high as it was on the 6th of Jan, nor have I known it to have been in flood for so long!!

There is no question now as to what we have to do with 2/3 of our planted ground which is literally a complete washout. Let's hope the respite in the weather in the middle of January, when I write this column, continues and we can get our planting done in good time and conditions to let the spring planted crops flourish.

Most of our land was drained by my predecessor but now, unfortunately, it is beginning to cause problems, exacerbated by the wet weather. We find that some drains are blocked with root fibres that can be cleared once they are found. This is a process not aided by the 60 plus years since they were laid. They are all mapped, measured in imperial, with most of the reference points either not there or in the same place. They rely on what we call Mole Draining. This is done by pulling a round 3" diameter cylinder through the ground about 18-24" below the ground crossing the drains at strategic angles to create channels for water to percolate into the drains. All these now need renewing. Those we have already, show how effective they are. This is just another job we will have to do, as well as making sure all other water courses are free running - mainly ones that come from water courses from other land, the law being the lower land has to take the higher.

Sir James Dyson, of Vacuum cleaner fame, is also a very big farmer - owns as much land, if not more, than the Monarchy - known as "Beeswax Farming". He is producing Strawberries 12 months of the year, under glass, in a completely sustainable way, all rainwater is collected and used for irrigation, he has anaerobic digesters that provide the electricity, and all berries are picked by robot. What the produce is like is up to those who eat them but it does illustrate what the future could hold for food production. It does take those with his resources to lead the way and experiment. If we are to survive in the future with the increase in population, and less labour or willingness to do these mundane jobs, then these practices will have to be developed. You could argue if this is the way we should be going? But it does have some merit.

I don't know if anyone has noticed how much more Mistletoe there is in trees around lately. This parasitic growth has mainly been prevalent in apple orchards and in Herefordshire, but now appears to have spread over the whole country, particularly noticeable here along the roadside at Adwell between Wheatfield and Lewknor. I read that this is due to there being more Blackcaps now overwintering in Britain, possibly due to climate change (global warming). Apparently, these birds like Mistletoe berries but not their seeds which get wiped off on other trees. Unlike Mistle Thrushes (hence the name) and Fieldfares who I guess eat the whole lot and spread the seeds in other ways.

Another possible sign of global warming - we saw a couple of hares (on the 7th January), cavorting as they are known to do in March, Partridges paired up around Christmas time - untimely early. In spite of the reports, we hear that nature in this country is depleted, I would defy anyone to come here and say that, the other day we counted at least 20 tits and others around our feeders, and whenever I walk our fields there are always flocks of unidentifiable birds flying around, I suspect Sky Larks, Buntings, Fieldfares, Starlings and many other species. When mentioning Starlings there certainly do not seem to be so many about although, I understand plenty around the Otmoor reserve. There was a report on Farming Today a few days ago where a farmer was having to erect netting around his cattle feeders because Starlings were nicking all the best bits of the cattle food, I can remember in my student days, being responsible for a group of Barley beef animals and having the same problem. At the time this was the latest system - its now not accepted anymore as the beef it produced was lacking in all sorts of ways, flavour, texture and many other ethical issues.

So, with the storms we have been having, just as was predicted some 30 years ago, the above habit of the Blackcap could be caused by global warming. So, if this is the case are we taking it seriously enough, our politicians certainly don't seem to be in spite of their rhetoric, the recent Cop conference statement may have some effect, unfortunately it hasn't so far, but let's hope. Unfortunately most of the measures we need to take will cost us all money, something we have to accept if we are to save the planet. In the past we have had our energy and food far too cheaply, now we need to accept that it should cost us more to fill our cars, or feed ourselves and become more realistic on what to spend on the necessities of life.

Our new Minister, Steve Barclay, came to Oxford for the annual Farming Conference, and as usual with Ministers, gave a paper saying, how marvelous we farmers are and he would do all he could to support us. We have heard this record so many times before that we await with bated breath. Some things sound good but they often do and then fizzle out in delivery. All the Shadow Minister said was they would support green energy.

Charles Peers

This months
Sudoku solution to
the puzzle found on
page 15

3	4	9	8	5	7	2	6	1
8	6	2	4	3	1	5	7	9
5	7	1	6	2	9	8	3	4
7	5	4	2	6	8	9	1	3
1	9	8	3	7	5	6	4	2
6	2	3	1	9	4	7	8	5
4	8	5	7	1	2	3	9	6
9	1	6	5	8	3	4	2	7
2	3	7	9	4	6	1	5	8

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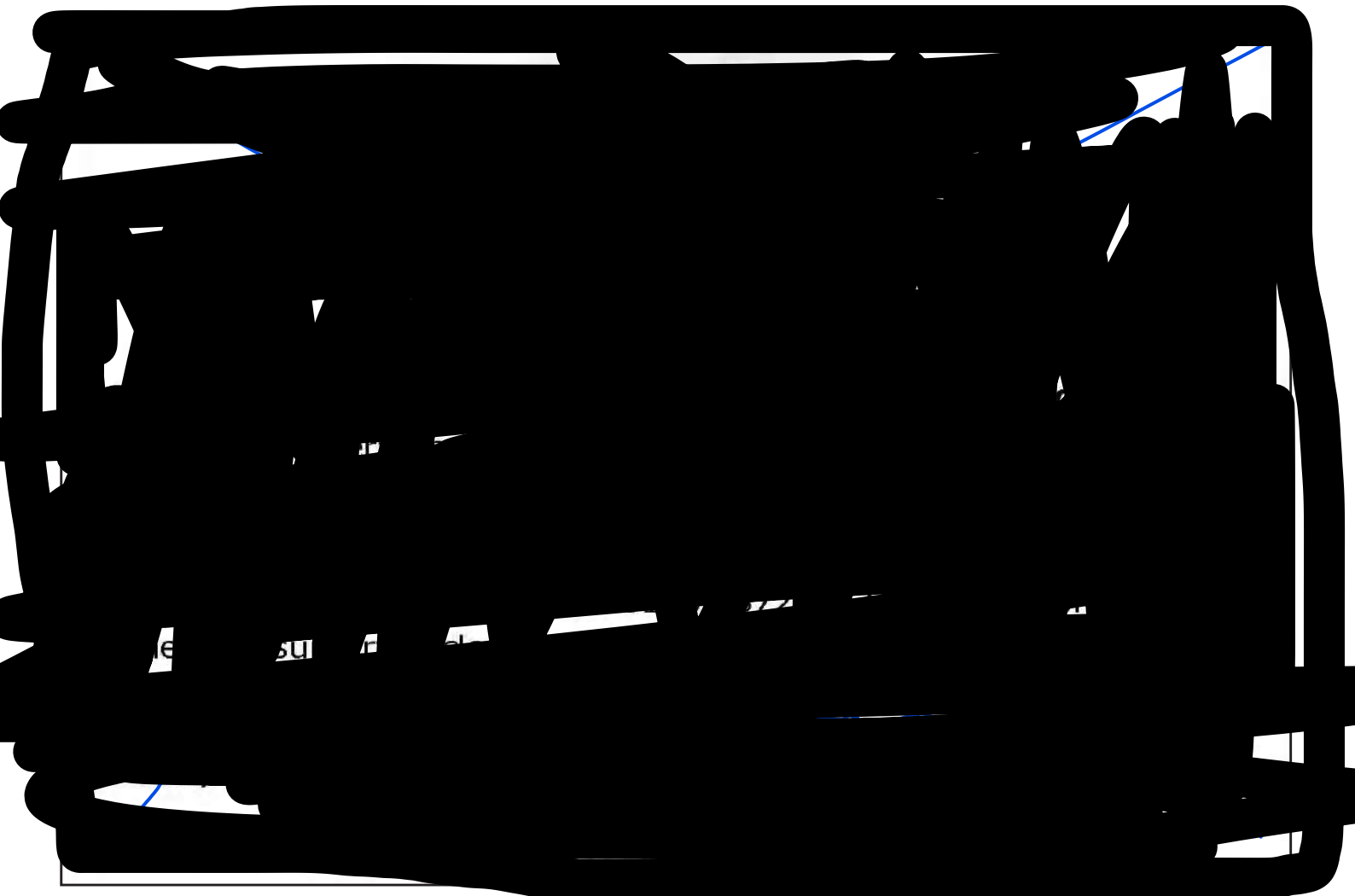
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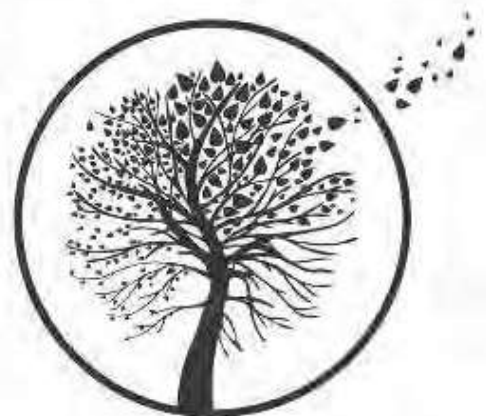
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Stadhampton Cinema Club	Ken King	ken@whereer.com	890829
Pavilion	Sue White	suzanne.white11@btinternet.com	890880
Village Ambassador	Edwina Humm	edwinahumm@talk21.com	890977
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Village Hall Booking Clerk	Jen Anderson	stadhamptonvillagehall@gmail.com	07818 114044
Women's Institute	Kath Stacey	littlemiltonwi@oxfordshirewi.co.uk	
Village Voice parish magazine	Liz Eales	stadhampton.vv@gmail.com	07789 303966
	Viki Matthews	stadhampton.vv@gmail.com	07572 430339
Colourplus (Magazine Printer)	Keith Hodges	keith@colourplus.co.uk	890271
Stadhampton News (weekly email)	Ken King	ken@whereer.com	890829

Cover Photo: Bunting at the Christmas Fayre made from photo of last year's competition winning drawing by Olivia Angell-Manning

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Stadhampton with Chiselhampton PCC				
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Ch/wardens	Stephen Dawson		07729 902427	890079
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Secretary	Jen Anderson	Jennifer.anderson42@icloud.com	07818 114044	
Treasurer		treasurer.stadhamptonpcc@gmail.com		
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Councillors	Omar Bayoumi	cllromarbayoumi@stadhampton.org		
	Bob Campbell	cllrbobcampbell@stadhampton.org		890922
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Clerk	Bev Field	clerk@stadhampton.org	07717 134606	
Newington Parish Council Officers				
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