

The Village News

Siddington

February 2022

www.siddington.com

Editor: Alison Wagstaff



Spring around the corner?

Although we may feel as if we're still in the depths of winter in this month, nature starts to show signs of increased activity in February.

St. Valentine's Day on the 14th is the day, according to folklore, when birds pair up, and it's likely that we'll become more aware of the dawn chorus as birds sing to defend their territories and attract a mate.

There will be snowdrops and aconites in the garden and perhaps a few early daffodils. The hedgerows are full of hazel catkins and we should see the new leaves of the elder, one of the first hedgerow trees to burst into leaf.

For hardy gardeners who might venture outside to do some tidying up before the new growth appears, there are '**Five things to do in the garden in February**' on page 7.

With thanks to Siddington Parish Council
for their generous financial support

Parish Council News – Meeting 25.01.22

Full draft minutes of the meeting may be viewed on the council website.

www.siddingtonparishcouncil.org.uk

Scheme of Delegation to the Clerk

The scheme was enacted on 7th January due to the ongoing Covid situation. This delegates authority to the Clerk, in consultation with the Chairman and Vice Chairman, to take any actions necessary (with associated expenditure) to protect the interests of the community and ensure council business continuity. This is informed by consultation with the members of the council (by Zoom, email, phone, or other remote means where necessary). The scheme is due to be reviewed at the end of January. The Council met on Tuesday 25th January, but in order to keep the meeting short, the meeting was with the sole purpose of approving the budget and precept for 2022/23.

Parish Council election costs

Cotswold District Council is proceeding with its plan to charge Town and Parish Council for the costs of their elections. However, this will now have a phased introduction, with councils being charged 50% of costs of a contested election in 2023 and 100% of costs for contested elections from 2027. This will give councils more time to budget for these costs. Siddington Parish Council's likely cost in 2023 will be approximately £1,000.

Planning matters

Planning applications at Cotswold District Council (decisions made by the Clerk following consultation with members of the Council)

- 21/02416/FUL
Applicant: C & R Legal Ltd, c/o agent Mr Mike Smith,
Mike Smith Architecture, Drummond House, 19 Gosditch, Ashton
Keynes, SN6 6NZ
Proposal: Erection of detached dwelling house on land east of
Birch Cottage, Parkway, Siddington
Consultation expiry date: 10th January 2022

The Parish Council objected on grounds of access, boundary treatment, ecology and design. (The Parish Council's full objection may be viewed on the CDC planning portal at www.cotswold.gov.uk).

OBJECTION

- 21/04411/BLC

Applicant: c/o agent Mr David Cant, Bruton Knowles, Olympus House, Olympus Park, Gloucester, GL2 4NF

Proposal: Retiling a single roof slope above the East Elevation and external works to replace a UPVC soil stack in heritage cast iron, realigning a cast iron gutter, lead work, fitting new rooflights and re-pointing at

Church Farmhouse, Church Avenue, Siddington, GL7 6EZ

Consultation expiry date: 23rd December 2021

NO OBJECTION

The agenda and Covid requirements for attendance at meetings will be published on the website and on the notice board outside the post office in due course as meetings are called. Meetings usually take place in the Committee Room at the Village Hall.

Robert Cowley – Parish Clerk
siddingtonclerk@gmail.com

Hedgehog highway



Last month's Village News mentioned the importance of leaving gaps in garden fences so that hedgehogs can travel between gardens without having to go on the road, risking getting run over. This image from May last year shows a hedgehog using the tunnel I opened up through my garden wall in Parkway. Proof if needed that if you leave a gap (5" or 13 cm diameter is recommended) then that makes it easier for hedgehogs to get around.

Huw Jones, Parkway

Siddington Village Hall Trustee Vacancies

We currently have two vacancies for Trustees to help us manage and run the Hall, which is a vital part of community life in the village. The Trustees, who are all local residents, are members of a small charity set up to oversee and manage the running of the Hall. This is a voluntary, unpaid role which enables local people to put something back into village life on behalf of all the residents. We urgently need two new members to join our friendly and enthusiastic team.

No specific skills are needed – just a willingness to give some of your time helping out on a practical level to keep this vital village facility going. There is a Trustees committee which meets once a month to oversee activities. So, if you would like to join us, please contact our Chairman Denys Young on 07768 471273 or e-mail denys.young@btinternet.com who will be happy to provide further information.

Congratulations Phoebe!

Congratulations to Siddington's Phoebe Paterson Pine on becoming a Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE) in the 2022 New Year Honours. Phoebe received her MBE for services to archery, having won gold at the Tokyo 2020 Paralympics in the Women's Individual Compound Open on 30 August, her first gold medal at her first Games.

Village News distributors

Have you ever considered how your Village News arrives through your letterbox? The Village News editors are supported by a team of 16 delivery volunteers, coordinated by Marion Carruthers. Each volunteer has their own round, and some have been delivering the Village News for many years. The Editors would like to thank Marion and her team for the work they do to keep everyone up-to-date with parish information.



Siddington C of E Primary School



'To have fun, do our very best and look after everyone in a caring Christian community'

The new year has started with our termly prayer space afternoon. The Reverend McKenzie offered a blessing and prayer at the beginning and end of the afternoon. The adults supported the children to make crosses and create an outside prayer space, while focusing on our term's value of Respect. One of the children said, *'It is the most peaceful I have ever felt'*.

This week the children have had cricket workshops from the All-Stars Cricket club, with a focus on teamwork and fitness. A year 4 child said, *'There is no I in TEAM. We have to work together to do our best'*.

The year 5 and 6 children have two trips planned. The first is to 'We are the Curious' in Bristol and the second is to Skill Zone in Gloucester, where they will be learning how to keep themselves safe in a variety of situations. Our Reception, Year 1 and 2 classes are visiting the Cotswold Wildlife Park in preparation for their Animals and Living Things topics next term.

The school has a Vision in Action Group, and the class representatives from this group are working on a new Sustainability project. They will be auditing the school's sustainability and suggesting some new ways that the school can become more environmentally friendly.

Mrs Cook – Headteacher

Siddington Cricket Club

Alan Fuller was elected the new the Chairman at Siddington Cricket Club's recent AGM, as Malcolm Moseley has decided to step down after several years in the position. Malcom remains the club's President. All other officers were re-elected; Secretary Alan Poole, Treasurer Matt Ulyett, Fixture Secretary Jon Hughes, Club Captain Joe Rendall and Vice-Captain Sam Harper.

Lancaster bomber crash 1945

On the 10th of February 1945 a Lancaster I ME 750 bomber crashed in fields to the south west of Nursery View. The aircraft had taken off from South Cerney airfield on a practice flight in preparation for an attack on Caen in Normandy.

Witnesses saw the aircraft emerge from cloud in a dive, on fire and with pieces of the structure breaking away. There had been snow fall, squally showers, thunder and hail around the time of the accident, and these conditions, combined with the pilot's lack of experience, were considered to be the cause of the crash. All of the Canadian crew were killed and are buried in Brookwood Military Cemetery, Surrey.

- Pilot – Flying Officer Earl Douglas TAIT, service number J/39632. Aged 20, son of Arthur and Carrie Tait of Marysville, New Brunswick.
- Navigator – Herbert George CHRISTIE, service number J/41488. Aged 21, son of George and Barbara Christie of Toronto, Ontario.
- Wireless operator - Flight Lieutenant W.Op./Air Gnr. Arnold Joseph SNETSINGER, service number J/44733.
- Bomb aimer/front gunner - Flying Officer Kenneth Mark PRIDHAM, service number J/40515. Aged 22, son of Cecil and Emma Pridham of Agincourt, Ontario.
- Rear gunner - Flying Officer William Henry MATHESON, service number J/45935. Aged 24, stepson of Henrietta Matheson of Campbellton, New Brunswick.
- Flight engineer – Sergeant D. MACKENZIE.
- Mid-upper gunner - Sergeant Alvin Walter HEARD, service number R/279247. Aged 19, son of Mervin and Hazel Heard of St. Marys, Ontario.



Five things to do in the garden in February



1. Now is a good time to sow Sweet Peas seeds to allow them to develop long roots. Plant two seeds per pot in compost and put on your window sill to germinate. This usually takes 10-14 days.
2. Divide large clumps of Snowdrops and winter Aconites once they have finished flowering, and replant to start new colonies.
3. Pot up containers with hardy spring bedding plants, such as Primroses, Wallflowers and Forget-me-nots.
4. Prepare vegetable beds for sowing by weeding thoroughly, then cover with a thick layer of compost.
5. Check if old seed packets are worth keeping by sowing a few seeds on damp kitchen paper to see if they germinate.

Whilst we take every care to ensure that the data in this publication is accurate, neither the editor nor its editorial contributors can accept and hereby disclaim any liability to any party to loss or damage caused by errors or omissions resulting from negligence, accident or any other cause.

Next month's editor

Louise Elstow

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St Peter's Church News



February Services

Sunday 6th February 11.15am Family Service

Sunday 20th February 11.15am Holy Communion

Sunday 27th February 11.15am Morning Praise

Church spire illumination is only £5 per evening to sponsor, in memory of a loved one, anniversary, birthday or just for yourself. Contact Michael Painter

Tel: 07977 409260

Email: spireview25@gmail.com

Vicar: Rev'd Jennifer McKenzie

The Vicarage, Silver Street, South Cerney, GL7 5TP

Tel: 01285 860221

Email: vicar@churnsidechurches.org.uk

The Vicar's day off is on Friday.

Church Office:

Open Tuesday & Thursday 9.00am – 1.00pm

Tel: 01285 862632 - Answer phone at other times.

Email: office@churnsidechurches.org.uk

Churchwardens:

St Peter's, Siddington: Allen Howe 643574 & Michael Painter 07977 409260

All Saints, Preston: Alister Painter 650624