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Out & About

THE OFFORDS GAZETTE

October - November 2019

ALL AGE REMEMBRANCE SERVICE

Sunday 10th November
at 10:50am

at All Saints Church, Offord Cluny.

All Groups & others who so wish
meet at 10:30am at the War Memorial
for laying of wreaths

Service will be conducted
by Father Peter Taylor



Summer BBQ Photos



From Rev Jes Salt

Dear Friends,

I am writing this on a bright warm summer day, but by the time you read it summer will be gone and we will be into the season of mists and mellow fruitfulness.

Weather-wise, of course, it was a summer of extremes. We had some of the hottest days ever recorded (including apparently **the** hottest), but also with storms, strong wind and heavy rain. Perhaps a metaphor for the turbulence in some of the events in our national life.

Reflecting on the uncertainty of Brexit and its implications recently, a friend of mine, who is a historian, wisely remarked that in future years people will look back on the current situation simply as an event of history. Life will simply have readjusted to whatever the new reality then looks like.

Three thousand years ago the author of the biblical book of Ecclesiastes reflected on the cyclical nature of life when he wrote “what has been will be again, what has been done will be done again. There is nothing new under the sun”. But these apparently cynical and world-weary words mask the underlying positive message of both that book and the Christian faith generally which is that our loving God ‘is the same, today, yesterday and for ever’, and seeks to give us ‘life in all its fullness’ – not always easy but always deep and rich.

Continuing with the theme of the cycle of life (and without referencing a certain popular musical and film), we have three significant services in October and November which we would particularly like to invite you to. On the 6th October we have our annual Harvest Thanksgiving Service, which we are holding at a slightly later time of 11.00am, and which will lead into a ‘bring and share’ lunch in the Village Hall. Then, on a more sombre note, we will be remembering and giving thanks for the departed at our All Souls service on 3rd November and then participating in the nation’s Remembrance Day on 10th November.

As usual this issue of Out and About includes details of all our church services and activities. You would be very welcome at any or all these, but I would particularly commend to you our two informal services. Songs of Praise which is held at 6pm on 2nd Sunday of each month (followed by a glass of wine and nibbles) and our service of Morning Prayer on the third Sunday, followed by coffee.

I look forward to welcoming you.

Best wishes,

Jes

Rev Jes Salt

Priest in Charge, Buckden and the Offords

Tel 01480 819377 Email: jes.salt@btinternet.com

Services at All Saints - All are welcome here

October 2019

Sunday 6th

11am Harvest Festival –
a family Service for all ages

Sunday 13th

9.30am Holy Communion
6pm Songs of Praise

Sunday 20th

9.30am Morning Prayer

Sunday 27th

9.30am Holy Communion

November 2019

Sunday 3rd 9.30am Family Service

6pm All Souls Service

Sunday 10th

10.30am Laying of wreaths at
Offord Cluny war memorial
10.50am Remembrance Service
6pm Songs of Praise &
Remembrance

Sunday 17th

9.30am Morning Prayer

Sunday 24th

9.30am Holy Communion
Church open all weekend for
Christmas Tree Festival

We continue to offer a range of services with more relaxed morning services on the first and third Sundays of each month. On the second and fourth Sundays there is normally Holy Communion following the modern format from Common Worship. When there is a fifth Sunday, the more traditional service of Matins follows the Book of Common Prayer.

On the second Sunday in the month there is an informal Songs of Praise starting at 6pm until about 6.45pm. Anyone can nominate a favourite hymn in advance and we end with refreshments and time to talk. This has become a very popular service and social event!

We hope that we are providing meaningful services for all and look forward to welcoming new and familiar faces.

2019/2020 will be very significant for All Saints Offord, as we strive to replace the roof and to remodel the interior to provide basic facilities including a toilet. Your views matter to the Church.

All Saints Church - Fund Raising and Social Events

We aim to provide enjoyable events for all the village, whilst raising the funds that are needed to keep the church going in Offord.

Harvest Lunch Sunday 6th October, 12 noon – 2pm in the Village Hall. All are welcome. Please bring a plate of food to share.

Bacon Butty & Coffee Morning Saturday 2nd November 10am - 12noon in the Village Hall

Bingo Friday 15th November 7.30pm in the Church Rooms

Christmas Tree Festival and Craft Stalls Saturday and Sunday 23rd & 24th November in All Saints Church and the Village Hall from 12noon – 4pm

Christmas Band Concert Friday 6th December 8pm in All Saints Church

Carol Singing Round the Offords Friday 13th & Sunday 15th December

All Saints Church Offord Cluny - Contact Details

Priest in Charge: Rev Jes Salt 01480 819377
jes.salt@btinternet.com
The Vicarage, Church Street
Buckden, PE19 5TL

Church Warden John Simpkin 01480 819664
Mobile: 07904 617973
warden.offord@yahoo.com

Church Warden & Webmaster Sue Dorrington
offordallsaints@gmail.com
Mobile: 07724 553101

Fundraising & social events: John Storey
johnlstorey35@gmail.com
Stephen Eayrs
stepheneayrs@btinternet.com
Bob Bargh
bargh2012@btinternet.com
Helen Northrop
helen.northrop1@btinternet.com
Mandy Eayrs
mandyeayrs@btinternet.com
Elizabeth Simpkin
lizsimpkin@msn.com

Church Website: allsaintsoffordcluny.wordpress.com

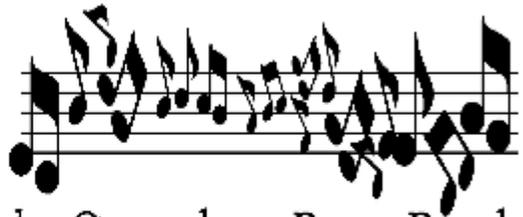
Facebook Page:



All Saints Offord



An Evening of Christmas Carols



with the Cottenham Brass Band

- *On Friday 6th December 2019, 8.00pm*
- *At All Saints Church Offord Cluny*
- *Wine, Mince Pies & Raffle*
- *Proceeds to All Saints Church*
- *Tickets £7.00 from*

Carolyn 01480 810237 or 01480 811148



Offord Women's Guild

Members meet every Tuesday at 2.30pm to 4 pm in the Church Rooms, Offord Darcy. There is no meeting on 22nd October as it is school half term. We will be having a meal out on 26th November and we finish on 3rd December for Christmas break. We resume on 4th February with the following week being the AGM.

I have been Chairperson for 15 years and we need new members as we have an aging membership. I am thinking about standing down as Chairperson next year.

For further information please call Talvia on 811148

Offord Village Hall 300+ Club (Offord Recreation Hut)

Registered charity no. 302653

WINNERS

JULY

£20	No. 208	Simon Young
£10	No. 189	Liz Heaviside
£ 5	No. 226	Sally Fry

AUGUST

£20	No. 152	Kerry Cartwright
£10	No. 076	B Thackery
£ 5	No. 010	Peter Mailer

The next **GRAND DRAW** will take place in **December** and the monthly draws will be taking place at Village clubs and events. There are still a few shares available if you would like to join.

Contact Helen Bosworth on **811892** or Jenny Murby on **811474** for further



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Full page - £15.00 Half page - £ 8.00

For further information or to place orders for advertising please phone **Bob Bargh on 01480 810237** or email **bargh2012@btinternet.com**

Offord Gardeners' Association

Our annual Summer Show was held on 17th August in the Village Hall. Last years show was cancelled, so this year was better with 250 exhibits entered, which was about 100 exhibits down on other years. Considering the hot and dry weather we were pleased with the standard of the entries. Trophies awarded were:

Ted Randall Shield - most points overall, M Quarrington
Floral Arrangement Bowl, T Gatward
Old Offord Shield - fruit and vegetables, R Bargh
Culinary Craft Salver - Cooking, M King
Lilian Levy Memorial Trophy - Best in Show, S Enticknap
Stephenson Cup - Handicrafts, M Cook
Frank Squires Shield - Best Fuschia, S Enticknap

We would like to thank all the entrants for supporting the show, as well as all who came and enjoyed the tea and cakes and looking at the exhibits in the afternoon.

October Meeting - Our regular monthly meeting is held in the Village Hall on 17th October. The Speaker is to be confirmed and the members' competition is Autumn Colours.

Our November meeting is our AGM and the Speaker is Zsusa Serer on the subject of Christmas Decorations and Traditions with a Hungarian Theme, with the members' competition, Seasonal Decoration on a saucer

New Members are always made welcome. For further information please call John 811148



More photos inside back cover...

Thursday Club

The club had a private visit to an NGS garden in Somersham; originally a field, it is now a glorious garden. A few members attended.

Roxton Chapel's Open Day when the thatch was being replaced. Afternoon tea and a demonstration by the thatcher proved to be a pleasant afternoon. Twelve members also travelled to Peterborough for an evening of greyhound racing and dinner.

Thursday Club meets every Thursday in the Village Hall from 12 to 2pm. It is a social club for any gender and any age. Visitors are very welcome. £1 a session entitles you to light refreshments and a convivial two hours.

If you would like further information, please contact Doreen Rowbury 811025 or Sheila Reece 812238

Offord Senior Citizens Club

In July we held our Annual Garden Party. Ideally, we were hoping to hold it in the garden of one of our members but the inclement weather found us in the Village Hall. However, with a wonderful choice of cakes, endless cups of tea and coffee and a good raffle, a lovely afternoon was had by all.

At our August Harvest meeting members enjoyed an excellent ploughman's supper followed by dessert and coffee/tea. Members provided a wide variety of harvest produce, which was then auctioned amongst the members who were entertained by the auction process and some sharp bidding.

Our meetings are held on the fourth Thursday of the month in the Village Hall, Offord Cluny at 6.30pm. If you would like to come along and join us, you would be made very welcome.

For further information call Marlene Alderman on 01480 810609 or Sue Barimore on 01480 810763.

Offord Village Hall



It is September again and although the sun is shining, there is that autumn feel in the air. Over the summer the Committee Room has been decorated and it looks very smart and fresh. We are hoping to eventually replace the carpet too depending on whether the budget will allow.

As you will be aware, the Village Hall is run by a committee of volunteers who give up their time to make sure it remains in good working order to be a centre for the community to use. On the first Monday in September four volunteers took advantage of the sunshine and set about trimming hedges, sweeping the High Street footpath and the car park. The maintenance of the outside must be considered as well keeping the inside in good order too.

As previously mentioned, our next major project is to improve the accessibility of the hall for everyone. An architect has drawn up plans to alter the entrances and exits to make them easier for those using a wheelchair or with mobility issues. It will also bring the hall up to date when these improvements are done. However, this is a major project and requires more funds than the hall currently possesses. Once the costing has been done, grants will need to be applied for before the work can begin.

The most recent fund-raising event was the Ceilidh on July 13th. Once again, we followed the instructions of Patti, the caller for The Parson's Nose, and were able to dance all night a series of dances as if we were professional and knew the steps! It was a very enjoyable evening and thanks to Patrick and his wife we also enjoyed the Ploughman's supper they had prepared for us.

As I am writing the final preparations are being made for the Beer Festival. Last year it was very successful and promises to be so again with an even greater selection of beers and ciders to sample and more food, including a Hog roast!

Quiz Night is on October 5th and is a popular event which has attracted a few new teams from outside the village. I think I am right in saying, however, there is one team that seem to be unbeatable. The village equivalent of the Eggheads need a challenge. So, get a team together and see if you can be the ones to beat them.

On Friday October 18th we are holding another 'Film Noir'. The classic film 'The Maltese Falcon' is being shown. Based on Dashiell Hammett's novel of the same

name, Humphrey Bogart stars as private investigator Sam Spade and Mary Astor is his femme fatale client. Come and find out about the search for this intriguing statue. There will be a licenced bar at this film night.

Start the Christmas celebrations on **Saturday December 14th by coming to 'An evening of Festive Fun'**. There will be a variety of entertainment including comedy, sketches, a Christmas Quiz, music and song. Supper is included in the ticket price of £5.

In addition to the fund-raising events, which are held to not only raise money for the hall but to be enjoyed by the community, there is a range of clubs and classes that are run from the hall weekly, monthly and annually. You can keep fit, Line-dance, Tea-dance and do Pilates or yoga to relax. Join a club or organisation by going to the Bowls Club, WI, Garden Club, Senior Citizens, The Offord Players, Thursday Club or Book Club. Mums and Dads can take their children to Tots, Brownies and Rainbows. All these activities are available and within walking distance of most people in the village.

The hall is, of course, also available for hire for birthday parties, weddings, funerals and meetings, etc. All enquiries to the Bookings secretary, Helen Bosworth who can be contacted on 01480 811892.

If you feel that you would like to become actively involved in helping to maintain and run the village hall, contact John Gatward, Chairman, and come to the AGM on Tuesday November 26th at 7:30pm. Trustees are always needed, and new ideas always welcomed.

A reminder of the events coming up:

Quiz Night Saturday October 5th 7:30pm for a prompt 7:45pm start. Tickets £5 per person. Teams a maximum of 6 can be made on the night. Bring your own food and drink. Only nibbles provided.

Film Night 'Film Noir - The Maltese Falcon' Friday October 18th 7:30pm Tickets £5
Licenced bar available.

'An Evening of Festive Fun' Saturday December 14th 7:30pm and includes supper
Tickets £5

All dates and events are subject to change.

Helen Ellis
Secretary Offord Village Hall



Could you volunteer?

The trustees of Offord Village Hall are looking for someone to take on the role of Bookings secretary. This is a voluntary role and therefore unpaid.

Our current Bookings secretary has recently retired from her full-time job and would like more time to spend with her family and for travelling.

The job could be split into two parts:

Book-keeping, which requires the monthly invoicing of hires and the recording of receipts and payments into a computerised accounting programme.

Bookings, which involves communication with regular and ad hoc hirers and the issuing of contract documents and maintenance of the Bookings diary.

Full training will be provided and the current trustee responsible for these tasks will be available to assist with the handover.

Our hall has a Management Committee of friendly trustees who would be pleased to welcome either one or two new people to take on this task. If you are interested in joining us, please contact the Chairman, John Gatward, telephone 01480 811148 or email rgatward@btinternet.com



Bacon Butty & Coffee Morning

**Saturday 2nd November
10 am to 12 noon
in the Village Hall**



**An Evening of
Festive Fun**

Sketches, Comedy, Christmas Quiz,
Music and Song

Saturday December 14th

7:30pm

Supper included in the ticket price of £5

Christmas Raffle

Tickets from Alan 811126 or

John 810049

All proceeds in aid of Offord Village Hall

Offord Village Hall present a Film Noir'



Friday October 18th at 7:30pm

TICKETS £5

Available from Alan 811126

John 810049

Licensed Bar

All proceeds to Offord Village Hall

Must
remember
to put on
the calendar



Offord Village Hall

Quiz Night

Saturday October 5th

7:30pm for a prompt

7:45pm start

Tickets £5 each

Includes nibbles only. Remember to bring your own food,
drink and glasses

Available from John 810049

Alan 811126

Maximum team size 6

(Teams can be made on the night)

All proceeds to Offord Village Hall

The Offords WI

In November 2019, The Offords WI proudly celebrates its Centenary. As well as our usual varied programme of talks and visits, we shall be marking the occasion with a Centenary Celebration Evening. There will be a buffet supper and entertainment from a Magician.

As well as our current 26 members, we shall be inviting partners and former members to enjoy this event to mark a wonderful achievement for our villages.

During the year we have enjoyed a tour of Ely Cathedral and a guided walk around the historic Warden Abbey Vineyard. This was followed by a wine tasting that all enjoyed. There was a summer Tea Afternoon at The Limes and everyone who came enjoyed playing croquet and other garden games.

Our Open Meeting this year was a talk by Lucy Lewis, a former Bomb Disposal Officer. This attracted 42 visitors from other WI groups and several male partners and husbands. We provided drinks and a buffet and it was a great success.

We welcome new members to the group – we are small enough that you can get to know everyone and each member brings something different to the mix. We love finding new talents, but you don't have to be an expert in anything to enjoy our WI. We all learn from each other.

There are two special interest groups: Book Club and Craft Group which meet separately.

Our next outing is a trip to Pidley Ten Pin Bowling with a lovely lunch.

The WI is currently held on the **second Tuesday** of the month in the Village Hall, Offord Cluny. The meeting begins at 7.30pm with official business and then the speaker or demonstration starts at approximately 8.00pm.

Tues 8 Oct

Women in WWI – speaker Jenny Griffiths

Tues 12 Nov

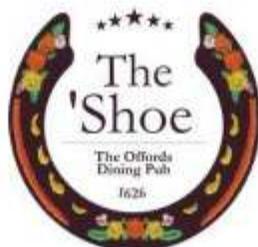
Centenary celebration

For further information call
Carol Temple on 01480 812879



The Offords WI





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St Neots United Reformed Church

Come and visit the United Reformed Church which is on the High Street in St Neots. Access without steps is at the rear of the building near to Argos . Parking is available in Tebbutts Road behind the Church.

The main service is held on a Sunday at 11am each week, and you will sure of a warm welcome. There is a prayer lunch on the first Tuesday in a month at 12.30pm. Bring your own lunch, coffee and tea will be provided.

The Church is open on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays from 10am – 12 noon, when coffee and tea, scones and biscuits are on sale. The 'Tree of Hope' is open on Thursdays and Saturdays for the sale of fairly traded goods, Christian books and greeting cards. Do come and see our beautifully redeveloped church.

Saturday 12th October URC Quiz Evening

Saturday 16th November Table Top Sale

Any other detail either go to www.stneotsurc.co.uk or contact below

Please contact the Church Secretary, Jenny Gibbs , for further information on 07789 240332. Or e-mail neat-and-tidy@talktalk.net

Buckden Methodist Church

Minister: Rev. Pam Siddall. Tel: 01480 819228.

Stewards: Angie Barnes (810102)
Bob Baxter (8100920)
Carol Swepstone (810053)

Sunday Service 10.30a.m.

Regular Activities each month:

Coffee Mornings: 1st, 2nd and 4th Fridays 10.00-11.30a.m.

Soup and Sweet Lunch: 3rd Friday 12 noon

Study Lunch: 2nd Monday 12.30p.m.

Quiet Time: 2nd Tuesday in the Wesley Room 9.30a.m.

Bible Study: 4th Tuesday in the Wesley Room 9.30a.m.

The Friends of St Peter's Church, Offord Darcy

After a quiet couple of months the Friends, at the time of writing this, are looking forward to a busy September with the concert by Tapestry on their return visit, singing their enjoyable mix of music, and the annual Heritage Open Days. Hopefully some of you were able to come along to one or both events. The Friends also hosted a tour arranged through the Churches Conservation Trust when the Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Historic Churches Trust visited St Peter's towards the end of the month. We ended September with a spoken communion service, following the Book of Common Prayer as would have been used before the church was made redundant. We had the privilege of being able to use the original communion cup, dated 1569.

We can now turn our thoughts towards the cooler season leading towards our year end activities.

Autumn Craft Fair - Sunday 20 October 12pm to 4pm

The stall holders are booked and everything is in place for another of our successful craft fairs. We have a good selection of stalls, some familiar regular ones and some new, visiting us for the first time. In addition we offer the ever popular home made soups, cakes and hot drinks. Do visit, enjoy some refreshment and start some early Christmas shopping.

Entry is free to the craft fair and free parking is available all afternoon on the adjacent archery field.

Armistice Wreath Laying - Monday 11 November 10.45am

This is our customary wreath laying ceremony at 11am on the 11th November when the Friends together with the Parish Council lay a poppy wreath on the Offord D'Arcy War Memorial, the fine stained glass window and brass plaques in the church. We remember those from Offord D'Arcy who died during the two World Wars and especially the two men whose war graves are in St Peter's churchyard.

Carols by Candlelight Service - Sunday 8 December 4pm

It's time to put this date in your diary for this service of lessons and carols telling the Christmas story, a fitting start to the festive season.

Full details of each event will be published closer to the date, on the village notice boards, in Out and About and other local outlets.

Visiting the church

The driveway to the church is privately owned, with limited vehicular access. Visitors to the church should leave their cars at the road end of the drive. There is space for two Blue Badge Holders close to the church gates.

For security reasons the church is kept locked but visits and guided tours can be arranged via our website: <http://www.stpetersofforddarcy.co.uk>. A key to St Peter's can be obtained from Deborah Gillbanks of The Limes, who is the CCT's official keyholder. We encourage you to sign the visitor book. Visitor numbers are important. There is a wall safe by the door for donations towards the upkeep of the church. Tax payers please use the Gift Aid envelopes.

Jenny Griffiths
Friends of St Peter's Church
01480 811126

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The Offord Players

It was great to see new faces in and at our successful May production, Chorus of Disapproval. New members on stage, backstage and new faces in our audiences too.

So, on to our next production. And for this we have decided to revisit one of our most entertaining shows of recent years, 'Holiday Snap', a tale of comic predicament and mistaken identity. Set in a double-booked time-share in Portugal this will give both our new members and old timers (!) the opportunity to shine in the sun, sea, sand and...!

The production takes place in the Village Hall from Thursday 14th to Saturday 16th November. Our website, www.theoffordplayers.co.uk has the latest information and is also the most direct way of purchasing tickets.

We are always seeking new members, so many different talents and skills are needed to produce a polished performance and it's not just about the people treading the boards. Please make contact via our website or call John Kirby on 01480810049. I can assure you of a warm welcome.

Sarah Hogben

Chair and Director

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A comedy by
Michael Pertwee
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Offord Cluny and Offord Darcy Parish Council Report

Change of Parish Council address

Council has changed its address to the Village Hall in Offord Cluny and there's a dedicated post box outside the hall.

Summer Sports

The summer sports were a success again this year despite the necessary portaloos being vandalised at the beginning of the holidays. The newly installed CCTV should help to solve that problem.

Village Survey

The Parish Council survey results are in and, whilst the number of responses was not great, they did provide clear preferences on several important issues. The council's interpretation of the results are as follows:

The Millennium Green

The Millennium Green is appreciated, and people are keen to work in volunteer groups to help maintain and improve it. The preference is to make the MG more wildlife and wildflower friendly rather than make it a more formal park. There is a 50/50 split on the need for more paths and we will need to explore this further as some areas cannot be accessed by those with mobility challenges and we feel this shortcoming does need to be addressed.

Village Maintenance and Support for Fellow Residents

The response to helping maintain the village by volunteering to join work groups and for residents to volunteer to support fellow residents with a variety of needs was 100% positive.

Transport and Village Facilities

There was a unanimous desire to escape the confines of the village on foot and on bicycle via better cycle paths and foot paths in all directions. Fortunately, there was an equally strong desire to stay in the Offords and enjoy more village events based on the Millennium Green and the Village Hall.

Traffic flows and calming measures were viewed both positively and negatively, although the chicane outside the Village Hall was universally disliked.

Communications

There was a very strong desire for better communications and the only medium not mentioned was ink and quill. Email, leaflet drops and notice boards were the three most popular sources of information but Facebook, WhatsApp, Out and About and the Parish Council website were also strongly valued.

Next Steps

We will use these survey results to shape our focus over the coming year and, as always, we would greatly appreciate any feedback from residents. If you missed the survey in the last issue please contact me and I'll get one to you.

Trees & Hedges

Now that the nesting season is over, works can recommence on trees and hedges around the parish. The Parish Council is assuming more and more responsibility for keeping the parish looking at its best so help from residents is very much appreciated. Residents have an obligation to keep any hedges/trees which are overhanging the footpath cut back because many parish paths are narrow and overgrown hedges and trees can make life very difficult for those with pushchairs, wheelchairs or mobility scooters.

Wildflower Verges

Twenty years ago, a volunteer group of Offords residents planted daffodils at each end of the High Street and they have brightened the entrances to the Offords each Spring ever since. The Parish Council recently considered extending the daffodils but are now considering a slightly different approach which would cost less money, provide a greater display of flowers for a longer period and benefit the environment.

This is a link to one of the organisations promoting the idea and advising local authorities, <https://plantlife.love-wildflowers.org.uk/roadvergecampaign>. It provides a great deal of information for anyone interested.

The Parish Council will be exploring the options over the coming months and we would be delighted to hear comments, questions and suggestions from any interested residents.

Sheep in St Peter's Churchyard

It has been suggested that a flock of sheep in the closed Churchyard at St Peter's would not only keep maintenance costs down but would also create a bucolic setting for the Church ... what do you think?

Website

The website and Facebook page are the most immediate ways of communication we have. To get the latest news directly into your inbox please sign up to the newsletter on the website. I'm happy to put any organisation information on the site and dedicated pages are possible. I also need photographs – old and new – to build the site into a proper community information hub.

Community Speedwatch

The Community Speedwatch group is now active and have carried out many sessions. If you're interested in becoming a part of this team, please contact Cllr Tina Dawson or Cllr Peter Riley.

Dog Fouling on the Millennium Green

Dog fouling continues to be a problem. The CCTV cameras should help. Once identified the dog owners will be prosecuted.

Vandalism on the Recreation Ground

As mentioned above, we have had vandalism on the Recreation Ground both to the portaloo and the junior goals. The newly installed CCTV should help, but if you have any information as to who might be responsible, please let me know so that I can pass on the names, etc, to the police.

Allotments

There are currently no allotments available, but we are keeping a waiting list. If you wish to be added to the list, please let me know.

Potholes/Faulty Streetlights, etc

Often parishioners come to meetings with details of blocked drains, potholes and faulty streetlights. I am happy to report these to the County but as meetings are only monthly this is probably not the most efficient route to getting the work done. There is an excellent fault reporting section on the County Council website – www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk which means your concern is reported immediately and you receive feedback on what's happening.

Flooding

Areas of the parish have flooded recently due to blocked drains. This is the responsibility of the County Council but its new criteria is that the flooding has to

remain in place for 48 hours for it to be considered a problem. We supply photographs to support our reports so if anyone has a problem near them please take a photo and forward it to me.

Meetings

The Parish Council meets on the first Thursday of the month, ***except August***, at 7.30 in the Village Hall, Offord Cluny. The Leisure & Amenities Committee usually meets on the fourth Monday of the month at 7pm in the Church Rooms, Offord Darcy, and Planning as and when it's necessary. Agendas and Minutes can be found on the noticeboards and on Council's website. Hard copies can be obtained from me.

All meetings are open to the public and there is an opportunity at the start of each meeting for members of the public to speak.

Jackie Stanbridge, Clerk to the Council.

clerk@offords-pc.gov.uk

www.offords-pc.gov.uk

07597 988763

Ian Weitzel (**Chairman**)
Ronaldsway, Littleworth End
Offord Darcy
St Neots
Cams
PE19 5RA
01480 811697
ian.weitzel@btconnect.com

John Gatward (Vice Chairman)
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Offord Cluny
St Neots
Cams
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David Holdsworth
20 Orchard Way
Offord Darcy
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01480 810614
davidholdsworth@talktalk.net

Parish Councillors 2018 - 2022

News from your County Councillor

Trying to make sense of a confusing situation

It is very difficult to write a sensible article about local council issues at a time of such national uncertainty. We simply do not know what might happen between the date of writing this article and its publication and distribution for early in October.

We might be in the middle of an election campaign; we may be preparing to leave the EU without a deal; we might have decided to leave with a deal but we do not know what that might mean for our economy.

Nothing to do with The Offords, you may be thinking. But it is. Day-to-day life will still go on, of course, but we cannot know what services will be provided, who will pay for them, or what we might have to start doing for ourselves. It may be difficult to get the medicines we rely on; food may be in short supply or much more expensive. There may be higher unemployment or we may be unable to recruit the people needed to do the basic tasks on which we rely.

It is very unsettling for us all and, however we voted in the EU on June 23rd 2016, we did not honestly think it would turn out the way it is doing.

The council on which I represent you, Cambridgeshire, has major responsibilities: it provides care for the elderly and vulnerable; it provides support for young families with problems; it coordinates transport provision; it maintains the highways. This is paid for partly by what we pay as local council taxpayers and what the Council gets from business taxes and grants from central government.

For the last few years the grants from central government have been going down or disappearing entirely, which is why you have seen a level of performance which you have rightly found unsatisfactory. The country has been going through a period of austerity BUT, as I write, we have just been told by the new Chancellor of the Exchequer, that better times are coming.

I am not able to say how much extra money may come to Cambridgeshire. Perhaps by the time of the December edition of 'Out and About', I will be able to give you more details.

I would suggest, at this stage, that you don't build up your hopes too much. The funding shortfall has been massive, service cuts very severe, maintenance work far less than what is needed.

I will continue to work closely with your parish council to keep them as fully informed as I can at their monthly meetings on the first Thursday and I come to the Village Hall prior to the meeting so that you can tell me face to face what is on your mind.

Peter Downes, September 5th, 2019

News from your District Councillors

By now you'll know that your new District Councillor is Sarah Wilson. She'll be pleased to assist you where she can and her contact details, along with the details for Mike and the other Sarah, are at the foot of this report.

The District Council haven't met over the summer, but we've continued to serve you by picking up case work you've passed to us. You can pop along to the Councillor Surgery, held for 30 minutes before each parish Council meeting, or you can contact us direct, if we can be of assistance.

HDC Car Parking Changes and Charges

There is increased concern about the extent of car parking charge increases across HDC's car parks. In some cases, short-term parking has ceased and those using the car parks have to pay for a longer stay than previously required. Some car park charges have increased by 300%! To counterbalance these concerns, some are delighted to have the option to pay by phone or by card. We'd like to hear your views on the changes (charges, changes and new machines) so we can feed back to Council. We've also called for the process to be reviewed and brought back to Scrutiny as a matter of urgency.

A visit from Mayor Palmer – what questions would you like us to ask on your behalf?

James Palmer, the Mayor of the Combined Authority, will be visiting HDC's October meeting and will take questions from councillors. Do you have questions you'd like us to pose? He's responsible for the Transport Strategy - might you want us to ask what he's doing to assist you in getting a new rail bridge? Or might you like to ask him what he's prepared to do to ensure you have a reliable and useful bus service? Or perhaps you have a view about housing development or the new proposed rail link between Oxford and Cambridge, via St Neots? Do get in touch with your requests as soon as possible as he requires them to be provided in advance.

As always, we work for you year-round.

If you have any issues you think we should know about or could help with then please get in touch.

Sarah Wilson	Sarah.wilson@huntingdonshire.gov.uk	01480 412747
Mike Grice	Mike.grice@huntingdonshire.gov.uk	01480 383213
Sarah Conboy	sarah.conboy@huntingdonshire.gov.uk	01480 414900

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KNITTING CLUB SALE OF WORK - OCTOBER 26TH

Did you know that the Offord Knitting Club has been meeting for almost 8 years now - where has the time gone? Every year since our formation we have chosen a charity to support - these have ranged from the Salvation Army with hats, scarves and blankets, various hospitals and care homes with twiddle muffs for dementia patients, Guide dogs for the blind with items for them to sell on their stall and crocheted blankets for a local hospice to name just a few.

This year we have been very fortunate to receive several large donations of yarn and material from Offord residents and to this end we are planning a sale of work at 10am on October 26th in the Church Rooms. This year we will be supporting three charities close to members' hearts: Memory Pot, Assistance Dogs UK and the All Saints roof fund.

We would love to see you at this coffee morning type event and you will be sure of a very big welcome.

Please watch out for our posters nearer to the day.

We meet every Monday afternoon at 1pm -3pm in the Church Rooms - expert or beginners welcome - we meet all through the summer and are happy for you to bring your children.

Offords Community Watch - Autumn 2019



Slight change from Neighbourhood Watch in this issue in favour of Community Watch.

The Parish Council recently contacted Cambridgeshire County Council regarding the build-up of algae on the white suspension bridge over the River Great Ouse. Their reply, as we expected, was that due to restricted budgets they were cutting back on non-essential works.

As with many other councils around the country, general maintenance works are being cut back. As a result, communities who take pride in their villages are coming together to pick up the slack.

Following the success of our litter pick in the spring we thought we would tackle the bridge ourselves.

So, in response to the Facebook post and word of mouth, we had over 15 volunteers turn up on 25th August and 6 on 1st September to finish the job. I'm sure you'll agree the results are impressive and just show what communities can achieve by coming together.

A big thank you to all of those who came along to help. We had fun and took pride in the end result.

We will be organising more Community working parties in the future, so please keep an eye on The Offords Facebook page for more events; come and join us, it's a great way to meet other Offord residents.

Peter Riley



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1st Offord Rainbows & Brownies

Rainbows are the youngest members of the Girlguiding family, aged between 5 and 7 years. Brownies are girls aged 7 – 10 years. We meet on Tuesdays at 5.30 – 6.30 pm. The Leaders are Gemma Brown, Kate Jarman, Dani Cowell and Jennifer Shefford. Ann Weitzel is our Administrator and can be contacted on 01480 811697 or email: ann.weitzel@btconnect.com.



1st Offord Guides

The Guides meet on Tuesday evenings at 6:45 – 8:15pm. We currently have 12 Guides in our Unit aged 10 to 13 years and have spaces for new recruits.

If you are new to the village and would like to know more about being a Guide please email Ann Weitzel: ann.weitzel@btconnect.com.

Girlguiding in the Offords

If you would like more information about joining Rainbows, Brownies or Guides please visit the Girlguiding website: www.girlguiding.org.uk, or contact Ann to book a trial session.



Girlguiding is designed to encourage the girls to try new things, learn about themselves and things around them, to make new friends and have fun in a safe environment.

Here in the Offords we are lucky to be able to offer opportunities to all sections: Rainbows, Brownies and Guides. We are in need of some adult help at all of our groups to enable us to keep the units open and fully functioning.

Please help us to ensure that all the sections of Guiding in the Offords continue to offer the girls fun, friendship and adventure by volunteering to join the leadership team. If you would like to know more about becoming a Leader or a regular helper please contact our administrator, Ann. You don't have to commit to every week and you don't have to wear a uniform or undertake the leader training unless you want to. If you would like to talk more about helping with Girlguiding in the Offords then please contact our District Commissioner, Ann Weitzel, ann.weitzel@btconnect.com.



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News from Offord Primary School

It's a new term and a new start for us all.

Offord Primary School became an Academy and joined The Cam Academy Trust on 1st September. This means that Offord Primary School will now have the opportunity to benefit from the freedoms and flexibilities of academy status. Offord is the seventh primary school to join the Trust. The school will now work closely with other primary schools in the Trust, but will remain as a feeder school to Hinchingsbrooke.

Kate Ruddock, previously deputy head at Hartford Junior School, has been appointed as the new full time head. She was already working with staff and governors, both before and during the summer holidays to make sure that everything was ready for the children's return. Villagers will probably have noticed activity at the school over the summer holidays. This has included the installation of a new boundary fence to provide additional security for the children and the whole school has been spring cleaned and spruced up. Staff and volunteers gave generously of their time to work alongside contractors to declutter the school and create a bright and welcoming environment. They were very well supported in this by a team of staff from The Cam Academy Trust. As Chair of Governors, I would like to say a huge "Thank you" to all who helped and especially to our loyal parents who put their trust into Offord Primary School.

The governors and staff at Offord Primary School are proud to be joining The Cam Academy Trust. We look forward to the opportunities ahead, which will create a great school for our local children. We welcome our new leader, Kate Ruddock, and thank the Trust for their support throughout the academy conversion process.

Stephen Munday, CEO of The Cam Academy Trust, said: "We are delighted that Offord Primary School has become an Academy as part of The Cam Academy Trust this September. It joins our growing number of successful primary schools who are working closely together to ensure excellent education for all pupils and to support each other effectively in this. The Trust will work closely with the school so that the local community can be confident and pleased that its local school is providing the high-quality education that we all want."

The Cam Academy Trust is a local academy trust that brings together a strong group of schools that work closely together within the Cambridge and Huntingdon area. The Trust was founded by Comberton Village College and also includes Comberton Sixth Form, Cambourne Village College, Melbourn Village College, Gamlingay Village Primary and Everton Heath Primary School. Two of the Trust's schools, Comberton Village College and Cambourne Village College, are also designated Teaching Schools and lead partners of the Cambridge Teaching School Network.

Liz Simpkin - Chair of Governors



1st Great Paxton and
the Offords Scout Group

cubs

Cubs – Great Paxton school at 6.15 pm to 7.45 pm
on Tuesdays

OFFORD VILLAGE HALL HIRE

Offord Village Hall is available for hire for all types of functions:

Wedding Receptions, Christenings, Private parties etc.
The Hall has disabled access and facilities and comprises of:
a large main hall with a stage, refurbished kitchen, bar,
separate committee room and a car park.

The hall is licensed for music.

Daytime rates are priced per hour (minimum 2 hours)
with reduced rates for regular users.

Weekend evening rates available on request.

For further details please contact

Helen Bosworth on 01480 811892

Email: droffo144@gmail.com

NEED A VENUE FOR... A BIRTHDAY PARTY OR CLUB MEETING?

**The Church Rooms in Offord
Darcy are available for hire at very reasonable rates.**

The hall is heated with kitchen and toilet.

To book or for further details, please call

Denise Heath on (01480) 810008 or

George Munro on (01480) 810132



schools

OUT

at One Leisure

Wondering what to do for childcare this school holiday?

Come and join the fun at One Leisure
'Schools Out' is an Ofsted registered holiday
club for children aged 4 - 13 years

- 
- Swimming • Arts and Crafts
 - Indoor and Outdoor Multi-Sports
 - Dance Mats • Leo's Funzone
 - Video Games • Roller Skating
 - Cooking • Themed Activities

Open all school holidays (Closed bank holidays)
Monday to Friday from 8.00am to 6.00pm
Further details can be found on our website



Schools Out is held at the following sites:



Barford Road, Eynesbury, St Neots, Cambs. PE19 2SA
Westwood Road, St Ives, Cambs. PE27 6WU

Tel: 01767 688713

email: info@schoolsout-cambs.co.uk • www.schoolsout-cambs.co.uk



Offord Tots is a fun, play-led activity group for babies, toddlers and pre-school children

We meet once a week on a Friday during term time at

Offord Cluny Village Hall

Between 9.15am and 11.30am

We have an exciting collection of toys for all ages, craft activities, snacks for the little ones, as well as tea and coffee for the adults, all for

£2.00 per family – all welcome

For more information please contact Nikki - nikkivenning@hotmail.com

We can also be found on Facebook so please take a look for updates and news on upcoming crafts and events

Songs of Praise Evening

For all ages

2nd Sunday of the Month

Starts at 6pm

All Saints Church

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Diary Dates

Tuesdays	2.30 pm 5.30-6.30pm 5.30-7.00 pm 6.15-7.45 pm	Women's Guild (Church Rooms) Rainbows (Village Hall) 1st Offord Brownies (Village Hall) 1st Great Paxton & the Offords Cub Scout Pack (Gt Paxton School)
Wednesdays	6.45-8.15 pm 7.30-9.00 pm	1st Offord Guides (Offord School) Bowls Club
Thursdays	12-2.00pm	Thursday Club (Village Hall)
Fridays	9.15-11.30 am	Offord Tots - term time (Village Hall)
Saturdays	10-11am	Kids football training (Offord Recreation Ground)

Sat 5th Oct Senior Citizens Tea Afternoon, 2.30pm - 4pm, Village Hall
Quiz Night in the Village Hall, 7.30pm

Sun 6th Oct Harvest Lunch, Village Hall, 12 Noon - 2pm.

Tue 8th Oct WI - Women in WWI

Fri 18th Oct Film Night in the Village Hall, 7.30pm

Sun 20th Oct Autumn Craft Fair, St Peter's Church, 12pm - 4pm

Thu 24th Oct Senior Citizens Meeting

Sat 26th Oct Knitting Club Sale of Work, Church Rooms, 10am

Sat 2nd Nov Bacon Butty & Coffee Morning, Village Hall

Tue 12th Nov WI - Centenary Celebration

Thu 14th - Sat 16th Nov TOPS "Holiday Snap"

Fri 15th Nov Bingo, Church Rooms, 7.30pm

Sat 23rd -Sun 24th Nov Xmas Tree Festival, All Saints Church/Village Hall,
12noon - 4pm

Thu 28th Nov Senior Citizens Meeting

Fri 6th Dec Christmas Carol Concert Evening, All Saints Church, 8pm

Sat 14th Dec Evening of Festive Fun, Village Hall, 7.30pm

Please check noticeboards for more information

Whilst we try to ensure accuracy, we cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions

Village Groups & Organisations

Applepips Out of School Club	Joanne Corbishley	01480 811977
Archery	Marc Bax	381172
Bowls Club	Carolyn Bargh	810237
Brownies	Ann Weitzel	811697
Church Events	John Storey	810763
	Bob Bargh	810237
Church Rooms hire	Denise Heath	810008 & 07956 570592
Community Police	c/o St Neots	456111
	Police Stn	0345 456 4564
Cubs/Beavers	Andy Ottley	07704 857636 info@paxtonscouts.org.uk
District Councillor	Sarah Conboy	414900
District Councillor	Mike Grice	383213
District Councillor	David Underwood	411293
Friends of St Peter's	Liz Howes	812899
Guides	Ann Weitzel	811697
	juliehilljohnson@gmail.com	01480 812549
Neighbourhood Watch	Peter Riley	811839
Offord Cluny & Offord		
Darcy Parish Council	Ian Weitzel	811697
Parish Clerk	Jackie Stanbridge	07597 988763
Offord Gardeners' Assn	Janet Bedingfield	810091
Offord Sch, Headteacher	Kate Ruddock	810308
Chair of Governors	Liz Simpkin	07976 792463
Offord PTA	Claire Faux	810308
Offord Pre-School	Joanne Corbishley	01480 811977
Offord Tots	Nikki Mitchell	07872 986326
PCSO	Richard Braddick	07921 094801
Rainbows	Ann Weitzel	811697
Senior Citizens	Marlene Alderman	810609
The Offord PlayersS	John Kirby	810049
Thursday Club	Doreen Rowbury	811025
Village Hall hire	Helen Bosworth	811892
Village Hall 300+ Club	Helen Bosworth	811892
Women's Guild	Talvia Gatward	811148
Women's Institute	Carol Temple	812879

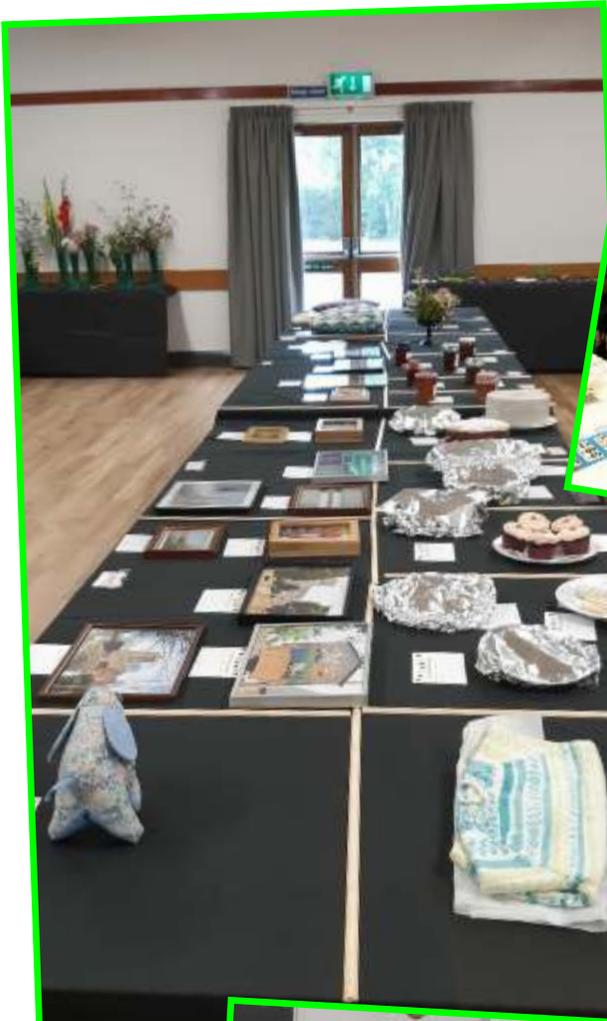
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The views expressed in this publication may not necessarily reflect those of the Editor.

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Offord Gardening Club Club Summer Show





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