



Out & About
The Offords Gazette
April – May 2020
wishes you well
this Easter

Out & About went to be printed before **Coronavirus** struck. We anticipate that many if not all events advertised will be cancelled.

OFFORD DARCY & OFFORD CLUNY PARISH COUNCIL MESSAGE CONCERNING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Dear Resident

Your Parish Council is keen to ensure that all its residents are safe and supported during the weeks ahead. We would encourage everyone to offer help to those who are self-isolating, especially the over 70s. A friendly call, help with shopping or collecting prescriptions and more may be welcomed, observing current advice such as keeping a 2 metre distance and hand washing as you go.

The Offords Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/TheOffords> and the Parish Council website, <https://offords-pc.gov.uk> can provide details of all support available in the Offords.

IMPORTANT: If you would prefer to receive regular updates via a notice through your door, please can you, or a friend, let us know your name and address by either of the following ways:

- Call your Parish Council helpline, 07597 988763. It's open 7am to 7pm. Outside these hours, please leave a message.
- Email: clerk@offords-pc.gov.uk

In the same way please use these trusted communication routes to request help with:

- Shopping
- Prescription collection
- Any other questions, problems or concerns

Some of the best sources of COVID-19 guidance are available on the [Public Health England](#), [Department of Health and Social Care](#), and [NHS England](#) websites.

What is Out & About?

Out and About (O&A) is the Offord Village Gazette. It aims to share village news and useful contacts. It started as a newsletter from the church decades ago and grew to serve all village groups and organizations.

Who writes the articles?

You do! Articles are accepted from organizations and individuals so long as they are not political or offensive. We welcome photographs, news stories and poems from villagers.

How is O&A funded?

Most of the cost of production is covered by the revenue from advertising. This is supplemented by an annually reviewed grant from the Parish Council. Accounts are professionally audited – Contact re account management – mandyeayrs@btinternet.com

Can I advertise in O&A?

Adverts are welcome from all local businesses and services. Currently it costs £15 for a full page or £8 for a half page advert in a single issue. Contact - sue_dorrington@hotmail.co.uk

Is there an editor?

There is an editorial team made up of volunteers. New members would be warmly welcomed. Contact- lizsimpkin@msn.com

Who compiles the magazine?

When all content has been sent to Simon at Easiprint Ltd, he puts it all together and sends it back to our proof readers (Margaret and John) for approval. We rely on Simon to fit everything in and we think he does a great job.

Out and About is delivered free of charge to every home in the Offords and to advertisers. This is possible because a willing team of volunteers brave the elements come rain or shine to bring it to your door. They are the unsung heroes and include: Sue Dorrington, Elizabeth Flint, Talvia Gatward, John Kirby, Carol Molloy, George Munro, Margaret Pullen, Sheila Reece, John Storey, John Temple: Ann Weitzel & Janet Bedingfield.

Some others prefer to be reticent! We thank them all.

Please let us know if you would be able to cover a round if needed. There are occasions when the regulars go on holiday or are ill. Contact - John Simpkin who distributes the magazine to the delivery team if you could offer help - johnsimpkin@hotmail.com

Annual Church Report From Rev Jes Salt

Dear Friends,

At this time of year, as well as wishing you all a Happy Easter, it falls to me to present our annual report. This report is to illustrate how All Saints Offord D'Arcy and Offord Cluny has sought to meet its primary objective which is the promotion of the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to the doctrines and practices of the Church of England.

Management

The parish church of All Saints is run by the Parochial Church Council (PCC) along with the Priest in Charge (PinC), Rev Jes Salt. In addition to the Priest in Charge, the members of the PCC for 2019 were as follows; John Simpkin and Sue Dorrington (Churchwardens), Liz Simpkin (Secretary), Mandy Eayrs (Treasurer), Stephen Eayrs, Helen Manning, Jenny Murby, Helen Northrop, Cynthia Rowbury, and John Storey.

Services

Our morning service pattern remained unaltered during the year. The 9.30am Sunday service remains our staple service. We hold our All Age service on the first Sunday of each month and celebrate Holy Communion on the second and fourth Sundays. There is a service of Morning Prayer on the third Sunday and a traditional Matins where there is a fifth Sunday. Attendance at our morning services is invariably in double figures but this increases significantly to more than twenty for the All Age service, when we are often joined by representatives of the Offord Guides and Brownies.

We continue to hold a Songs of Praise service on the evening of the second Sunday of the month, when we sing hymns chosen in advance by members of the congregation, learn a little about their background and significance and afterwards enjoy light refreshments and a glass of wine. This service continues to be popular, and also attracts a number of new members. The congregation for this service is always around twenty.

We continue to celebrate the major Christian festivals, and there were good attendances at our Easter and most of our Christmas services. The Christingle services continue to be very popular with nearly two hundred attending the two services on Christmas Eve.

Grateful thanks to all who support our services and, in particular, to those who programme and operate our music box, which provides us with such good quality musical backing to support our worship. Thanks also to Rev Miles Falla and Ann Brittain who regularly lead and preach.

School and Uniformed Organisations

We continue to maintain and hopefully improve still further our links with the children and young people in the village.

Our relationship with Offord School grew significantly during the year. The PinC continues to take an assembly each week at Offord School, along with Brandy, and the school regularly visit church and hold assemblies here for special occasions. A particular highlight was hosting the evening Key Stage 2 Christmas Concert; the church was full with parents and friends supporting the children on what was a memorable evening.

We also continue to enjoy good links with the uniformed organisations – Rainbows, Brownies and Guides. They regularly attend our All Age services and keep us informed about their activities, and it is a privilege to share in their ongoing project supporting Godmanchester Foodbank.

Social Action

All Saints also continues to support the Foodbank through regular donations of food. Two members of our congregation act as volunteers and are heavily involved in supporting Foodbank's activities collecting and distributing food to those in need.

Occasional Services

We had the joy of hosting one wedding during 2018, but no baptisms. Sadly, during 2019 we also said goodbye to some friends who had resided in the village, with 8 funerals or thanksgiving services taking place during the year.

Confirmation

It is a joy to once again be able to share the good news that one of our regular congregation reached the point in their faith journey where they felt able to be confirmed, and this took place at a memorable service at our sister church, St Mary's Buckden, where former Archbishop Rowan Williams presided.

Social events

As in previous years we ran a varied programme of successful and enjoyable events in 2019. The purposes of these events is twofold; they contribute greatly to raising the funds necessary to support the ongoing ministry of All Saints and, secondly and as importantly, they help us connect with our community. As ever, one of the

highlights was the Summer Fete and we are again grateful to David and Debbie Gillbanks for the use of the garden of The Limes. We enjoyed good weather and a happy time was had by all. We also continue to run our coffee and bacon butty mornings, which are proving very popular, bingo evenings, a plant sale and in the run up to Christmas our Christmas Tree Festival and Craft Fair (a particular success this year) and the big band concert.

My thanks to the team for organising events that proved so popular. A similar programme has been arranged for 2020, which we hope will continue to increase All Saints profile in the village as well as raise necessary finance.

St Peters

We continue to enjoy good relations with our sister church at St Peters and held three services there during the year, including a 'mid-summer' evening communion as well as the usual Carol service.

Out & About

At the end of 2019, Bob and Carolyn Bargh handed over the reins after more than 25 years of managing and editing, during which time the magazine has been transformed. It is only right that in this report we acknowledge and thank them for all that they achieved.

Financial Report

Total receipts on unrestricted funds were £26,754 of which £8301 was unrestricted fund raising (a slight decrease of 1.7%). Receipts from regular giving were £8,004.04 of which £4743 was gift aid. We have set up a restricted fund for monies for the roof repairs and this stands at £11,175 but includes the insurance pay out and income from the sale of the remaining small amount of lead not taken in the theft! The amount in fees received (£2,872) has decreased slightly this year but does not include some fees which were not received until after the year end. The amount received in interest from the Eayrs Trust (£979) has increased a little. All receipts and payments are detailed in the Financial Statements; these can be made available on request. The planned giving through envelopes and banker's orders has increased by 26% this year as the majority of the regular congregation continue to give via the of Gift Aid envelopes. The amount of collections has decreased slightly as a consequence of this. £18,150 was spent from unrestricted funds to provide the Christian ministry from All Saints Church, including the contribution to the diocesan parish share which largely provides the stipends and housing for the clergy. This sum also includes the running costs of the Church Rooms (£3,167).

The net result for the year was a deficit of receipts over payments of £1,680 on unrestricted funds. Adding bank and deposit balances brought forward at the beginning of the year, the balances carried forward at 31st December on

unrestricted funds totalled £27,427.26, of which £5,361.25 has been set aside to meet the costs of maintaining the Church, maintaining the Organ and a contribution to the heating fund. This is carried forward as designated funds.

Reserves policy

It is PCC policy to try to maintain a balance on unrestricted funds which equates to at least six months' unrestricted payments. This is equivalent to £9400. It is held to smooth out fluctuations in cash flow and to meet emergencies. The cash balance held on unrestricted (including designated) funds at the year end, together with the amounts payable to and by the PCC, is within this target. The balance of £34,835.95 in the restricted fund is retained towards meeting the cost of replacing the Roof, Restoration and Upkeep of the Church.

In Conclusion

Our ministry and other activities at All Saints would not be possible without the contributions and support of our church members and volunteers from the village. Please accept my gratitude and the PCC's thanks for all your help and support.

At All Saints, we are blessed with a keen and committed congregation, and it is great to see so many happy to stay behind and socialise after services, as well as being so committed to supporting the church in what we are doing. Sadly, we are still small in numbers, so 2020 will clearly be a challenge as we intend to make real progress with repairing the roof, as well continuing to advertise the significance of the Christian message. However, we believe in a God who cares for his creation and wishes others to recognise that care. May He continue to do through us 'immeasurably more than we could ever hope or imagine' in 2020 and beyond.

Rev Jes Salt,
Priest in Charge, Buckden and the Offords

All Saints Church - Fabric Report 2020 - including church roof update

There has been no change to the contents of the church during the past year.

The drainage system on the north side of the church was improved last summer by the provision of new drains from the existing gullies on the north side of the building, running to a new soakaway in the churchyard. The new system appears to be working satisfactorily. These drainage works really needed to be tackled before any other work is carried out to the church building.

In this connection, the PCC also had plans to reorder the west end of the church by installing a WC and providing facilities for serving refreshments. It had been hoped to continue with these proposals whilst at the same time dealing with the need for a replacement roof following the theft of lead in November 2018. However, each of these jobs on its own would involve significant expense and would require grant funding to cover the bulk of the cost and it became apparent that we could not raise sufficient funds to do both jobs at once. The replacement of the roof is clearly the more important task and so, although the PCC still wishes to carry them out, the internal reorganisation (reordering works) will have to wait for a while yet.

As far as the roof is concerned, the contractors who did the drainage work provided a rough quotation which was rather less than we had been expecting and so we are now waiting for a revised specification (based on a detailed inspection recently carried out) which will enable competing quotes to be obtained and will also allow applications for grants to be made. It will also be necessary for a "faculty" (the church equivalent to planning permission) to be obtained. This is because we need to abide by the General Synod's wish to make the Church of England carbon neutral by 2030 and any roof works will need to incorporate appropriate insulation, which in turn means that what we are putting up is different from what was there before. It is intended that the new roofing will be steel rather than lead. Consent may be needed from other bodies and, while no opposition is expected, all this will take time.

In amongst all this, last November the church architects carried out the "QI" or quinquennial inspection – a survey of the church and churchyard which is carried out every five years at all churches within the Church of England. There are repair works which need to be done, a lot of them fairly minor, and a group of PCC members is reviewing the report with Revd. Jes Salt, to plan a programme of works.

As we said last year, we intend to keep everyone informed about the roof repairs as matters progress, but given the number of bodies involved the process is inevitably slower than we would really like and so no news doesn't mean that nothing is happening behind the scenes – it almost certainly is! Please feel free to speak to a Churchwarden or a member of the PCC for up to date information.

John Simpkin & Sue Dorrington - Churchwardens

Services at All Saints - All are welcome here

April 2020

Sunday 5th Palm Sunday
9.30am Family Service for all ages

Friday 10th Good Friday
9am A time of quiet reflection

Sunday 12th Easter Day
9.30am Holy Communion
6pm Songs of Praise

Sunday 19th
9.30am Morning Prayer

Sunday 26th
9.30am Holy Communion

May 2020

Sunday 3rd At St Peters
9.30am Family Service for all ages
Followed by the annual Church Meeting,
starting with refreshments at 10.30am

Sunday 10th
9.30am Holy Communion
6pm Songs of Praise

Sunday 17th
9.30am Morning Prayer

Sunday 24th
9.30am Holy Communion

Sunday 31st
9.30am Matins

Throughout the year, we offer a range of services across each month and there are 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. This is an opportunity for anyone to nominate a favourite hymn in advance and we end with refreshments and time to talk.

The Annual Church Meeting (APCM) will held at St Peters Church on Sunday 3rd May, starting at 10.30am after the Family Service. All are welcome to attend and this will include a review of the current service pattern. Does it meet the needs of the village or is there a better way? Elections will be held for the roles of Church Warden (x2), PCC members, Parish Treasurer, PCC Secretary and Electoral Roll Officer. All those on the Electoral Roll may vote. If you wish to enrol before the meeting please contact the current secretary Elizabeth Simpkin - lizsimpkin@msn.com

Collection Boxes

Thank you to all of you who have an All Saints Collection Box at home. If yours is now full of coins please take your box to Jenny Murby at 2 The Haycroft, or contact Bob Bargh 810237 or John Storey 810763

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.

Bacon Butty & Coffee Morning Easter Saturday 11th April 10am - 12noon in the Village Hall **with Easter Egg Hunt in All Saints Church for the young ones** at 11am

Plant Sale Saturday 9th May 10am – 1pm (or until sold out!) at the Village Hall

Bacon Butty & Coffee Morning Saturday 6th June 10am - 12noon in the Village Hall

Summer Fete Saturday 27th June 1pm – 4pm

BBQ Sunday 6th September 12noon – 3pm at 17 Elm Drive

Bacon Butty & Coffee Morning Saturday 12th September 10am - 12noon in the Village Hall

Bacon Butty & Coffee Morning Saturday 7th November 10am - 12noon in the Village Hall

Christmas Tree Festival and Craft Stalls Saturday and Sunday 28th & 29th November in All Saints Church and the Village Hall from 12noon – 4pm

Christmas Band Concert Friday 4th December 8pm in All Saints Church

Carol Singing Round the Offords Friday 11th & Sunday 13th December

All Saints Church Offord Cluny - Contact Details

Priest in Charge:	Rev Jes Salt 01480 819377 j.es.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 johnstorey35@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

Out & About Cover Photos

We would love to utilise the fabulous full colour glossy cover of future editions of Out & About to show off photographs from villagers. Whether they are from village events or simply photos of the village, we would love to show them off. If you have any photos suitable for us to use as cover images, please email them to simon@easiprint.ltd and we will choose one each month.

Offord Village Hall 300+ Club (Offord Recreation Hut)

Registered charity no. 302653

The 300+ Club has been part of the village for many years (I have been organising it for about 20 years) and it raises funds for the maintenance of Offord Village Hall. Approximately half the money collected goes to provide cash prizes and the remainder is used for the running of the hall.

The hall is well used by a variety of groups and individuals as can be seen in the Village Hall report and so more money is needed to keep up with the maintenance.

The new year for the draws begins in March and we have had a drive to recruit more members which has resulted in an increase in numbers. We will therefore be increasing the prize money and funds for the village hall will also increase.

Thank you to all the members who regularly contribute (some longer than I have been organising it) and also to those who help to collect and recruit. Good luck to everyone.

We can always add new shares if you have not joined and wish to do so. Please contact Helen Bosworth on **811892** or Jenny Murby on **811474** for further details.

WINNERS

JANUARY

£20 No. 320 Aggy Finch
£10 No. 156 Marion Meeks
£ 5 No. 110 John Gatward

FEBRUARY

£ 20 No. 081 Patrick Ruddy
£ 10 No. 311 Jean Weedon
£ 5 No. 114 Sarah Hogben

The next **GRAND DRAW** will take place in **June** 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.

DAY'S OF BUCKDEN

Paul, Amanda and Jason would like to welcome you to our friendly shop.

Fine fayre on sale with local meats from Norfolk, Suffolk and Somersham. We also sell local fruit and veg in our new trial to promote village shopping (buy more under one roof) along with fresh Bonnetts bakery bread daily, a good selection of home cooked meats, pies and pasties, simple every day cheeses and luxury pork pies with real jelly!!



***Open Monday to Friday 8:00am -5:30 pm
Saturday 8:00am -3:00pm***

High Street, Buckden

Phone: 01480 810272

Offord Gardeners' Association

At the time of the previous edition we were not able to tell you who our February Speaker would be. I am very pleased to say it was a very educating talk by Mickfield Hostas who holds the national collection of Hostas in the UK. It was a brilliant talk and everybody now knows how to better look after their Hostas. We do not have a monthly meeting in April as we have the Annual Spring Show on the 4th April; as usual, entries are invited from all OGA Members as well as from all residents of the village. We look forward to seeing you there either as exhibitors or to look round the show and enjoy tea and cakes. It opens to the public at 2:30pm

Our garden meeting in May is in the form of a garden visit which will be to two local gardens.

We would thank all members, both old and new, for joining us for another year and we hope you enjoy our events and Speakers

Enjoy Your Gardening

John 811148

Offord Women's Guild

At the recent AGM held on the 4th February, there were no additional people willing to join us and, following a discussion, it was decided to suspend the group. We will not meet again until Tuesday 2nd June. If no more members are recruited the four current members remaining will decide how to distribute the funds and the Women's Guild will be sadly closed.

Talvia 811148

Thursday Club

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

On January 23rd we held a New Year's Party instead of our usual Christmas Party in December, which we had to cancel due to the election - the hall was needed for voting. Nonetheless, we had a full traditional Christmas dinner, with desserts, crackers and games. It was a really good evening and quite welcomed after the sometimes hectic Christmas period.

This was followed in February by a fish and chip supper, with a few games of Beetle Drive to round off the evening. We also had the pleasure of welcoming a new member.

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 you would be made very welcome.

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

"Waise the Woof"

Some of you may have heard about our plans for a dog show to raise funds towards the new church roof. Regrettably, in the current situation, we have had to postpone the idea but hopefully not abandoned it completely. When the situation allows we hope to have the biggest, bestest, funnest, dog show and "Waise the Woof" for All Saints, Offord Cluny

We wish you, your families and your dogs good health over the coming months and look forward to seeing you at the dog show ... hopefully next Spring

Sharon Levy

Offord Village Hall



The sun is shining, and the nights are getting lighter, it's time to come out of hibernation and join in with an activity or class. It is always surprising how many people only use the Village Hall when it comes to election time. We have a great variety on offer at the Village Hall and have added yet another new class, K fit Pilates which will start on Wednesday mornings from 11am – 12pm after Easter. These are the regular clubs and activities held here each week:

WHAT'S ON EACH WEEK IN OFFORD VILLAGE HALL

- Monday –** 10am - 11am Keep Fit4life Exercise Class
6pm - 7pm Karate Club for children 4 – 11 years
7:30pm - 8.30pm Pilates
- Tuesday –** 10:15am – 12:15am - Feet to the beat (Line Dancing)
5:30pm – 6:30pm Rainbows & Brownies
WI second Tuesday of month at 7:30pm
7:30pm -10pm The Offord Players (when in production)
- Wednesday –** 11am -12 noon K Fit Pilates (starting 22 April)
2pm – 4:00pm - Tea Dance
7:15pm – 10pm Indoor Short Mat Bowls
- Thursday -** 12 noon – 2:00pm Thursday Club
Lib Dem surgery first Thursday of month at 7pm
Parish Council first Thursday of month at 7:30pm
Garden Club third Thursday of month at 7:30pm
Senior Citizens fourth Thursday of month at 6:30pm
- Friday –** 9:15 am – 11:30am Offord Tots
- Sunday –** 7.00pm – 10:00pm The Offord Players (when in production)

The hall is for hire most weekends for birthday parties and private functions. Our Bookings Secretary, Helen Bosworth, is on 01480 811892.

Our accessibility project is under way and it has been decided to split the project into three parts. This will cause less disruption for users and make the job more manageable. We are in the process of getting quotes to begin the first part of this project which is to re-configure the Fire Exit doors at the far end of the Hall and the construction of a permanent ramp with handrails. This will make it more user friendly for wheelchair users and those with mobility issues. To enable us to do this and keep the hall maintained to our high standards we need to raise funds.

Our last fundraising event was the film 'Bohemian Rhapsody'. This was a good night out and the music of Queen filled the hall, taking us back to 1985 and 'Live Aid'.

Our fundraising programme is varied, and it is hoped that you will find something that you would like to come and join in with. This is a great community facility so come and make use of it. You can meet old friends and make new ones too.

FUNDRAISING EVENTS IN OFFORD VILLAGE HALL FOR 2020

Bingo Friday May 29th 7:30pm Free admission and refreshments

Film Night Friday July 17th Mamma Mia Here we go again – Singalong 7:30pm

Tickets £5

Bingo Friday September 11th 7:30pm Free admission and refreshments

Beer Festival Saturday September 26th Tickets £20 to include 5 drinks and live entertainment.

Quiz Night Saturday October 10th 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.

Ceilidh Saturday October 17th 7:30pm Dancing to 'Hannibal's Heroes.'

Ploughman's supper included in the ticket price of £12.50

Bingo Friday November 6th for the British Legion Poppy Appeal.

Film Noir Friday November 20th Alfred Hitchcock's 'The Birds' 7:30pm Tickets £5

Swing into Christmas with the HuMS Big Band! Saturday December 19th at 7:30pm. Ticket will include live music, supper, glass of mulled wine and lots of festive fun!

All details subject to any changes necessary.

Helen Ellis

Secretary Offord Village Hall

From Monday March 23rd Offord Village Hall will not be running its usual clubs and classes. It has been decided by the trustees that due to the Government's advice on social gatherings the hall should temporarily close. The situation is being monitored and when the advice changes we will re-open.

**John Gatward
Chairman Offord Village Hall**

The Offords WI

The Offords WI launches a new programme of events in February. Each month we have a speaker or a craft activity and look forward to an interesting and varied year. You can keep an eye on what is going on by looking out for the posters displayed in the village and here in the Out and About.

Please come along and join, or just visit to give it a try. There are some interesting talks listed below and a phone number to call if you want to ask any questions. We also offer a range of outings through the year and hold a summer tea afternoon. We have a competition each month, either a craft or an item of interest, and points are awarded for an annual cup. But no-one is pressured to enter and it's all very relaxed. There is something for everyone.

The WI is organised by a committee at local group level and new members are welcomed. New people bring new ideas and will help The Offords WI to continue beyond its Centenary year.

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 14 April Where does your poo go! (speaker Marcia Davies – Anglian Water)

Tues 12 May Dementia Friends (speaker Jan Payne)

For further information call
Carol Temple on 01480 812879

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 be 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 and Saturdays from 10am – 12 noon, and on Thursdays from 10am – 2pm 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. If you have not visited recently why not come and see the newly developed church.

Saturday April 25th	Table Top Sale
Sunday April 12th	St Neots Passion Play
Saturday May 9th	Christian Aid Plant Sale
Saturday November 21st	Table Top Sale

For all Church matters please contact the Church Secretary, Jenny Gibbs , for further information on 01480 214503.

Web Site www.stneotsurc.co.uk

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

With the change of clocks to British Summer Time it's a good opportunity to review all that is in store in St Peter's this year. Please note a change of date for the Big Clean from the last edition of Out and About. We've moved it a week earlier to avoid a clash with other events in the village. If you would like to help wielding a duster, dustpan or brush please get in touch.

2020 Events

Saturday 18 April 9.30am

Big Clean - Note - Change of Date

Sunday 3 May 9.30 am

All Age Family Service – This service led by All Saints church will have Angel Voices from Buckden to aid our singing. One of the few opportunities we have each year to enjoy St Peter's as a church rather than a concert or exhibition space.

Thursday 11 June 7.00 pm

AGM

Saturday 27 June

The church will be open for the afternoon during the All Saints Church summer fete.

Sunday 28 June – afternoon

100th Anniversary of the War Memorial
The Friends will be commemorating this memorable occasion by organising an exhibition and a talk in the church.

Sunday 28 June 6.00 pm

Festal Evensong performed by Tapestry. This will be a very special service of wonderful choral music.

Friday 24 July 7.30 pm

The Three Musketeers (performed by This Is My Theatre) A welcome return for this talented group of young actors.

Saturday 12 September 10am to 4pm

National Heritage

Sunday 13 September 1pm to 5pm

Open Days

Sunday 18 October 12pm to 4pm	Autumn Craft Fair
Wednesday 11 November 10.45am	Armistice Wreath Laying
Sunday 6 December 4pm	Carols by Candlelight Service

All events and services will be publicised further in Out and About, posters will be on all village notice boards and the St Peter's website will also have details <http://www.stpetersofforddarcy.co.uk>. This site can also be used by anyone wishing to become a member of the Friends.

Visiting the church

As you will have noticed, The Friends don't plan events for the early months of the year, the lack of heating being a factor. For security reasons the church is kept locked. However, should you wish to visit the church during this time please do get in touch via our website. We can arrange to let you in and show you around. A key to St Peter's can also 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.

As a reminder, 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.

We look forward to welcoming you into St Peter's.

Jenny Griffiths
 Friends of St Peter's Church
 01480 811126

March has been a very busy month at Offord Primary School that seems to have centred mainly around books. The new library has been planned for a number of months and the new book-shelves were finally installed in what used to be the old entrance hall following a painting spree at half term. The made to measure book-shelves have been designed to hold both non-fiction and fiction books for all ages and interests.

A competition was held to choose quotes from famous people about the importance of reading that could adorn the walls. Emma, Oliver & Mia won the book token prizes and got to see their quotes by Neil Gaiman, Dr Suess and JK Rowling helping to make the library a welcoming place to choose and share books.

With the help of staff from Norfolk Children's Book Centre all the stock has been sorted, classified and labelled. New books and old classics now adorn our book-shelves and the children are excited to read and share the new finds they are discovering on the book shelves. We used the proceeds from selling bookplates to put in the new books to mark this occasion. (Bookplates are still available if you wish to buy one as a legacy for current and future pupils).

To keep with the book theme for the month, the children and adults dressed up on World Book Day. Many characters came to school that day including Mary Poppins and Burt, many David Walliams characters, The Mad Hatter, Alice in Wonderland, Stig of the Dump and Luna Lovegood and Harry Potter. Everyone in the school has been to the theatre this month too. The younger members went to Cambridge to see "Room on the Broom" while the older children headed to Peterborough to see the stage show of "Billionaire Boy".

The highlight of the month, however, was the grand opening of the library. Children's author, illustrator and comedian, Olaf Falafal, visited the school. His hilarious talk to the children explained how he comes up with his ideas and illustrates his books. He then helped the children formally open our brand new library – a centre point for great learning to happen at Offord Primary School.



A selection of the book characters that came to school on World Book Day.



Please help fill our new library shelves

To celebrate the opening of the new library here at Offord Primary School we are offering you the chance to have a legacy by sponsoring a book.

For £5 your sponsorship will be commemorated with a bookplate which will be placed inside the front cover of the book.

If you would like to sponsor a book and leave a legacy which will benefit our children for many years to come, please return a note with the information below to the school, along with your payment (cash or cheques payable to The CAM Academy Trust).

Your name

Contact details (email address or postal address)

The exact wording you would like written on your bookplate (i.e. 'Fred Bloggs', 'Fred & Jane Bloggs', 'Bloggs family' etc.)



Bookplate £5 each

Feet to the Beat - The Offords Line Dance Group

Welcome to the first Out & About report of the Offords Line Dance Group who celebrated their third birthday in February.

You may wonder what a group of about 26 ladies, and men, do in Offord Village Hall every Tuesday morning - we learn to line dance - and we have our great teacher, Izzy Brogan, who inspires us with her enthusiasm and patience to learn choreographed dances in a repeated sequence of steps, and, yes, we do dance in lines.

Izzy set up Feet to the Beat in February 2017 with a group of very apprehensive and nervous people, most of whom hadn't a clue what line dancing was. We soon got hooked and now have a core group of dancers not only from the Offords, but from The Paxtons, Godmanchester, Brampton, Buckden, St Neots and further afield. We were all delighted when, a few months ago, Izzy declared that we were no longer beginners but we are now improvers, which means we learn slightly more complex dances. As Izzy reassures us – we have learnt all the steps but they are just in a different order.

Our class is a friendly and sociable set of dancers and we like to have to have fun and enjoy ourselves. Line Dancing is suitable for all ages with one of our group in her mid-eighties. To demonstrate this, it has been proved that dancing can help fight off the loss of brainpower as we age and brain scans show that it works better over a period of 18 months than spells of cycling or Nordic walking.

As well as organising the weekly classes, Izzy has socials in the Village Hall six times a year; we do line dance demonstrations (including one to Offord Guides); there are charity fund raising socials; and other events.

For those who are free on a Tuesday morning and would like to see what it's all about, then please come along to the Village Hall at 10.15 am to watch and hopefully join in, you will be made very welcome. The class lasts for two hours but we do have a coffee break.

'An Offord Line Dancer' on behalf of Izzy Brogan Tel: 07709 344144

PS We don't wear western style clothing or boots but dress in casual clothing and often wear dance trainers.



Flair



Unisex Salon

Tel: 01480 810417

**72 High Street, Offord Darcy
St Neots, Cambs, PE19 5RH**

M A T R I X
IMAGINE ALL YOU CAN BE

**How To Keep Your Colour Looking Cool At Home
With Colour Correcting Shampoos**

NEW IN 'DARK ENVY'

For those cool brunettes



**Colours require a patch test at least 48 hrs prior to treatments
Book a free consultation with one of our stylists today**

MATRIX
IMAGINE ALL YOU CAN BE



Flair Hairdressers

GOLDWELL
CLOSER TO STYLISTS. CLOSER TO HAIR.



**A Deep Down *DRY* Clean for all
Carpets and Rugs**

- Immediate use as soon as cleaned!
- Substantial benefit to asthma sufferers!
- No colour run and no shrinkage!

Upholstery Also Cleaned

***Stop Press.....Leather Upholstery
now Cleaned***

Call BRYAN on: 01487 840310 or

Mobile 07766576381

JEZ ASHCROFT LTD

All your decorating needs including:

**Coving,
Decorating (Internal),
Drylining & Plastering,
FREE ESTIMATES**

Please Call

Tel: 01480 812461

Mobile: 07708031493



YASIR WINDOW CLEANER



Windows and frames cleaned the old fashioned way!

With 8 years' experience

For windows and frames 4/5 bed only £9/10 – 2/3

bed only £7/8

Gutters and fascias also cleaned

We clean 4 or 8 weekly CALL

Natasha on 01733 713402 or

07447 496376



The SOCIETY of
CHIROPODIST'S
& PODIATRISTS

June Lee

Chiropodist / Podiatrist

Bsc(Hons) HCPC Registered, MChS

Nail Cutting, Corn/Callus Removal, Ingrowing Toe Nails,
Verrucae, Biochemical Complaints, Generalised Foot Pains,
Diabetic Foot Care

Home Visiting Service Only

Over 14 Years NHS Experience

Friendly & Professional

Tel: 01480 214392 / 07947 371107

ABSOLUTE PLUMBING

Plumbing and Maintenance Service

- ❖ Plumbing
- ❖ General maintenance
- ❖ Floor/wall tiling
- ❖ Painting/decorating/plastering
- ❖ Kitchen/bathroom fitting
- ❖ Drain clearance

30 years' experience, fully insured, references available

For friendly, efficient service,

Contact Andrew Hills

Tel: **01480 812549**

Mobile: **07946 515456**

E-mail: absoluteplumbingno1@hotmail.com

Buckden Day Nursery Manor Farm Day Nursery

Welcome home
For Children From 6 weeks to 5 years

- Dance Classes •
- Hartbeeps •
- Monkeynastix •

To find out more **call us today** for either;

Buckden Day Nursery: 01480 810816
16, Mill Road, Buckden, Cambridgeshire, PE19 5SS
e-mail: info@buckden-day-nursery.co.uk
web: www.buckden-day-nursery.co.uk

Manor Farm Day Nursery: 01767 681805
76, London Road, Sandy, Bedfordshire, SG19 1DZ
e-mail: info@manorfarm-day-nursery.co.uk
web: www.manorfarm-day-nursery.co.uk

Nursery Spaces Available

Ofsted

Fitness Classes at Offord Village Hall

Every Monday

**Fit4Life exercise class for
active seniors at 10am**

Pilates at 7.30pm

For more information contact me, **Janine**
RSA/YMCA qualified Fitness Instructor

01480 810370 / 07790 655637

janineskyrme@btinternet.com

JODI & SON FINCH Electrical

CALL TODAY
07771 613848

ALL OF YOUR ELECTRICAL REQUIREMENTS TAKEN CARE OF:

- Internal and External Lighting
- Surveys
- TV Points
- Sockets
- Re-Wires
- Portable Appliance Testing
- General Repairs and Maintenance
- Data Cabling
- Landlord Certificates
- Showers, cookers and heating
- Telephone Points
- CCTV
- New Fuseboards

FOR A FREE, NO OBLIGATION QUOTE, CONTACT JODIE ON:

t: **01480 731599**

m: **07771 613848**

e: **jfinch.elec@gmail.com**

City & 
Guilds



D.K.TILL & Son in Law

COAL AND SOLID FUEL MERCHANTS

Family run business for 40 years
Coal, Logs, Charcoal, Gas, Compost

TEL: 01223 232947 David Till
07523 044521 Kevin Crisp
Email: dktil@hotmai.co.uk

Forget-Me-Not 
Garden care

Julie Sargeant

RHS Qualified Gardener

M: 07816 636366

E: forget.me.not.garden.care@gmail.com

Free quotation

-  Lawn care
-  Border planting
-  Planting advice
-  Soil testing, improving & preparation
-  Seasonal tidy up & hedge trimming



No job to small



OFFER

£149
RRP £185

MS 170

A promotional graphic for the STIHL MS 170 chainsaw. It features a photograph of the orange and black chainsaw. An orange triangular banner in the top left corner contains the word "OFFER" in white. Below the chainsaw, the price "£149" is shown in large black font, with "RRP £185" in smaller orange font underneath. The model name "MS 170" is printed in black to the right of the chainsaw.

NEW STIHL GROUND CARE



GARDEN MACHINERY • HARDWARE • COUNTRYSIDE STORES



E RANGE NOW IN STORE

RE

01480 473452
River Lane
Great Paxton
PE19 6RD

SATURDAY 25TH APRIL 2020
ST NEOTS UNITED REFORMED CHURCH
HIGH STREET ST NEOTS



COME AND POP IN AT OUR TABLE TOP SALE FROM
10:00 TO 14:00
REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE ALL DAY
LUNCH SERVED FROM 12:00 TO 14:00
INFO - STNEOTSURC@GMAIL.COM - 07754 478918

A1 CHIMNEY SWEEP AND MAINTENANCE

Fully insured,
Professional and
Certified Chimney
Sweep for all your
chimney works
and maintenance

**QUALIFIED HETAS
ENGINEER**

**CHIMNEY SWEEP
ACADEMY REGISTERED**

Tel: 07508 051920

Web: www.alchimneysweepandmaintenance.co.uk

Email: alchimneysweepandmaintenance@gmail.com



HCCN Huntingdonshire's Best Kept Secret - Transforming Cancer Care in the Community

Hunts Community Cancer Network (HCCN) is a partnership between an NHS funded nursing service and a charity. We support people (over 18) across Huntingdonshire through their cancer diagnosis, treatment and recovery. We are there for the person with cancer and for their partners and family.

Our team of skilled HCCN Oncology Nurses visit people at home, at work, in the hospital or somewhere neutral for a cup of coffee if necessary! They help to reduce the amount of time spent sitting in clinics and in hospital admissions. They keep our patients symptom-free. They help them to hold on to a feeling of normality through difficult times.

HCCN the Charity aims to help people who are recovering from or living with cancer to play an active part in managing their health. We offer programmes to support lifestyle changes, focusing on exercise and nutrition, education and wellbeing. All are needed to promote long term health.

We support people with the emotional side of coping with cancer, including counselling, where 1 to 1 support is needed. Programmes of gentle massage, art therapy and sleep courses are all designed to help heal the emotions.

The Charity offers a range of exercise activities including Yoga, Tai Chi, Boules and Walks & Talks. We have a number of social drop-in groups that meet regularly. We also have available nutritional advice.

We know that doing things together helps the healing process, as does knowing that you matter, that you aren't alone and that you are not the only one to feel this way.

As your local volunteer-led charity, we are wholly dependent on your support to enable the nursing service to do more for our patients in the community. For example, we fund specialist training in ancillary and valuable skills and therapies which can help with side effects of chemotherapy, plus we provided them with mobile phones to stay in touch with patients remotely. We are reliant on your generosity to fund the much-needed activities for people living with cancer in our local community. To find out how you can help visit www.hccn.org.uk/fundraising.

It not just about the money - if you'd like to get involved, we would love a donation of your time. To find out how you can help visit www.hccn.org.uk/volunteering. It is only with the enthusiasm of our marvellous volunteers that we can deliver our services in your local community.

Could you be a volunteer? For more information contact Jan by jan@hccnthecharity.org or 07510 570066

Do you or someone you know need our help or the help of the nursing service? Then please contact Amanda on 01480 416410 or hccn@hccnthecharity.org.

A FREE TREATMENT
AND FREE LAWN
HEALTH CHECK



Now celebrating our 19th year in business

- An Independent Lawn Care Company
- Free Programme Proposal
- Creating healthy, vibrant lawns
- We rate 5/5 on all our reviews



'for that lawn you've longed for'

ProLawnCare



01480 812393



@prolawncareuk



facebook.com/prolawncareuk

email: info@prolawncare.co.uk web: www.prolawncare.co.uk

ProLawnCare

“FREE” MOSS TREATMENT FOR YOUR LAWN



Moss Control Application - Free

Let us treat the moss in your lawn for FREE when we apply our special fertiliser, at the regular price.

You'll be amazed how quickly it works - grass will **green up** and **moss** will die off.



Special Fertiliser Application - Regular Price

Your lawn will really benefit from a feed now.
Help improve both colour and vigour of your lawn.

We are your Local Independent Lawn Care Company with thousands of satisfied customers. Please visit www.prolawncare.co.uk/testimonials

**Call Deborah on 01480 812393, text OFFER to 07720072446
email info@prolawncare.co.uk This 2 for 1 offers closes in 10 days.**



Platinum Tours have 17 to 53 seat coaches available for private hire.



Pick up points in
St Neots,
Great Paxton,
The Offords,
Godmanchester
and Huntingdon

Future Day Trips

**Wednesdays 22nd
April and 3rd June**
Evening at
Peterborough
Greyhounds, including
a 2-course meal. £27

Saturday 2nd May
Melton Mowbray
Cheese Festival £20*

Thursday 14th May
Day out in Hunstanton
£15 for one, £22.50
for two!

Monday 15th June
Day out to Milton
Keynes, including a stop
at Ikea £15

Thursday 23rd April
Highclere Castle -
Home of Downton
Abbey £35*

Wednesday 6th May
Day out in Sheringham
£15 for one, £22.50
for two!

Friday 22nd May
Day trip to Stamford on
market day £15

Wednesday 29th July
Sandringham Flower
Show £29*

Tuesday 21st April
Hever Castle
celebration of tulips
£35*

Thursday 30th April
Morning in Ely
with a stop for lunch
in Upware £15

Sunday 10th May
"Sensational 60's" at the
Milton Keynes Theatre
7:30pm £50*

Tuesday 26th May
Day out in Skegness £15
for one, £22.50 for two!

Tuesday 11th August
Day trip to Cromer
including ticket to the
End of the Pier show
£37.50*

*Price includes entry ticket

To request a brochure, private hire quote or to book online visit
www.platinumluxurytours.com or call **01480 810560**

Offord Summer Classic Golf Day



Friday 28th August 2020

Full English Breakfast

18 Holes of Golf

Hot Lunch

Trophies & Prizes

Stableford - Full Handicap

All Levels Welcome

**Contact Tony Gardiner for Booking Details
07885 417315 or t.gardiner@btconnect.com**

Offord Golf Days Since 2004

News from your District Councillors

HDC Budget

The Budget for 2020/21 was approved by the full Council on the 26th February despite some concerns voiced by Liberal Democrat councillors .

The Council Tax increase of 2.6% is effective from April and means a band D property pays an extra £146.00 per year.

HGV'S

The Offords are experiencing an increased number of HGV going through the village and over the Offord Bridge. Godmanchester is experiencing similar problems with HGVs using the ancient bridge into Huntington. We have set up a Godmanchester HGV Watch to report vehicles that are breaking the law. This could be started in the Offords if there were enough willing volunteers.

It is hoped that once the A14 has been fully opened and the Sat Nav systems have adjusted themselves that this problem will be reduced.

Car Parking

The new Car Parking strategy is still being rolled out across the district and should be completed shortly when all of the new "pay stations" are in place.

Probably in the Autumn the conservative party at HDC have said there will be a review of the full impact of the increased changes for car parking.

It would be helpful to hear of your experiences of the effect the charges are having especially in St. Neots.

As always we work for you year round

We are constantly dealing with requests to address issues on planning, parking, highways and a variety of other issues both from individuals and Parishes and we are always prepared to help as we are able. So please do not hesitate to contact us whenever necessary.

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



Hilton Day Nursery

A new day nursery for children from 3 months to 5 years. Part of the Davidson Roberts childcare group.

FLEXIBLE SPACES AVAILABLE

Excellent links to the A14, St Ives, The Hemingfords, Papworth, Cambridge and the surrounding area.

To find out more **call us today**

01480 830351

Church Hall, Potton Road,
Hilton, Cambs. PE38 9NG
e: info@hiltodaynursery.co.uk
w: www.davidson-roberts.co.uk



PAXTON HILL GARAGE

Paxton Hill Garage is situated at the top of Paxton Hill between Great Paxton and St. Neots.



cater for all your motor engineering needs including MOT's, Servicing, Air Conditioning, Tyres, Brakes, Exhausts, Recovery Service, Courtesy Cars, Vehicle Collection and Return.

**PAXTON HILL GARAGE, UNIT 11 HARLEY INDUSTRIAL PARK,
PAXTON HILL, ST NEOTS, PE19 6TA
TEL: 01480 217806, 07946 300380, 07974 024863
EMAIL: KEITH@PAXTONHILLGARAGE.CO.UK**



Offords Neighbourhood Watch - Spring 2020



Neighbourhood Watch isn't just about keeping an eye out for suspicious behaviour and reporting incidents. A key part of the organisation is being a good neighbour.

This isn't just the responsibility of the Neighbourhood Watch Team, it is up to everyone in the village. Being a good neighbour means helping with any of the following activities:

- running errands
- shopping or collecting prescriptions
- doing household tasks or gardening
- lifts for appointments and activities
- organising coffee mornings
- preparing emergency meals
- visiting people
- helping with technology issues
- making sure they know about the various scams
- giving carers a break for a few hours
- help with pets

Even dropping in for a cup of tea and chat once a week can make a big difference to someone who is elderly or of restricted mobility. Please do your bit to improve the community spirit in the village.

There are a number of ways to contact the police if you have any information or see a crime in progress: -

To report an emergency or ongoing incident, call 999.

To report suspicious activity in your neighbourhood, call 101

To report information anonymously, call crime-stoppers on 0800-555111.

To report incidents via email, send to huntscoops@cambs.pnn.police.uk

To pass information regarding rural burglaries email:

burglarycrackdown@cambs.pnn.police.uk

We need someone to cover Andrew's Close; if any residents on the new development are interested in helping, please get in touch.

Something to think about, being an active member or being on a road within a Neighbourhood Watch area can save you money on your home insurance.

If you would like to help, please contact me or come along to our next meeting in the Church Rooms, 19:15 on Tuesday 2nd June.

You can contact me on 811839 or at offordswatch@gmail.com if you want to join the team or would like more information.

Peter Riley

GreenThumb

LAWN TREATMENT SERVICE

PRICES FROM

£5*

PER MONTH



Our wonderful customers like our service so much, that over 40% of new customers joined us through their recommendation which, if you think about it, that's a recommendation in itself.

If you've been thinking about enjoying a great lawn this year – green, lush and weed-free, why not contact us today and let us bring your lawn to life.

Simply call: 01234 709345 or
visit: [greenthumb.co.uk](https://www.greenthumb.co.uk)



*Based on a lawn size of 40m²

SMALL FEET

For Reception,
Key Stage 1 & 2
Ages 4 to 11 years!

HUGE MOVES

**NEW STARTERS WELCOME
LEARN A NEW SPORT
MAKE NEW FRIENDS**

**4 WEEK INTRO COURSE
JUST £40 PER CHILD
INCLUDING FREE UNIFORM**

OFFORD CLUNY

Offord Cluny Village Hall

Monday's 6:00pm

NEW BEGINNER COURSE STARTING

THIS MONTH

Only 20 Places Available

www.childrenskarate.co.uk

T: 01954 716454

M: 07859 165756

Let us transform the quality of your lawn!

Aeration,
Scarification,
Overseeding
& More



Our specially tailored treatment programme will ensure your lawn is in excellent condition all year round

Weed Free ■ Lush Green ■ Moss Controlled

 **Greenleeves**
Lawn Treatment Experts

FREE Lawn Analysis Call: 01767 651 639

Email: hunts@greensleeves-uk.com or visit us at: www.greensleeves-uk.com

Do you have a few hours to spare? Do you hold a clean driving licence?

THE HIGHWAYMAN COMMUNITY CAR SCHEME needs drivers

To help provide transport for people that are unable to use conventional public transport or to make essential journeys by any other means.

As a volunteer driver you use your own car and receive a mileage allowance.
Additional insurance cover is provided.

How it works:

The coordinator phones around to see if any drivers are free for calls that have come in. Calls are booked in advance normally allowing at least 3 to 5 days' notice for the coordinator to locate a driver.

You are under no obligation to take the drive that you are phoned about, whatever you take on assist people in your community to get to where they need to be without any unnecessary worry.

If you can help us provide this valuable service to local people or require further information please call

Jacky on **07786 520540**



Highwayman Community Car Scheme
supported and advised by

Cambridgeshire County Council and Care Network Cambridgeshire

Turn to us for help
and support

In your time of need, we'll take care
of all the funeral arrangements

T.L. Cobbold Funeral Directors

13 New Street, St. Neots PE19 1AF

01480 476136

We have been serving the local community of St. Neots for over 60 years.

In that time we have provided only the highest levels of professionalism and quality.

Call us 24 hours a day

- Dignity Funeral Plans with Trust Fund
- Full range of Memorials available
- Free legal advice
- Free client parking



Dignity
CAREFUL FUNERAL SERVICES

Quality Bespoke Secure Storage

Space for all your storage needs...

Easy to open & fast to access. High security with PIN codes, megapixel CCTV cameras & individual room alarms. Choose as little or as much space as you really need. Clean, dry, ventilated & condensation free. Store just about anything for any length of stay, with no long term commitment. Friendly & helpful service with packaging available. Open to customers everyday 7am-7pm. Viewings arranged by appointment.

MoreSpace

• Home • Document • Commercial

Located at Manor Farm, Graveley, PE19 8PH. Mention OFA11 to receive £5 discount on your first months rental.



www.morespacestorage.co.uk

Call 01480 830130 to reserve yours today



Offord
Pre School

WITH
REGULAR
FOREST
SCHOOL
SESSIONS

Offord Pre School is an Ofsted registered setting, located in the grounds of the village primary school. Open from 7.30am until 4.30pm during term-time and 7.30am until 6.00pm in the school holidays.

We are able to offer funded places for 2, 3 and 4 year olds as applicable.

Offord Pre School has its own secure garden and uses the school field and orchard for forest school activities. With excellent links to the A1 and A14 and around 10 minutes away from St Neots and Huntingdon railway stations.

We welcome children from Offord and the surrounding area.

Tel: 01480 811977

Millers Close, Offord Darcy, Cambs., PE19 5SB.

Email: info@offordpreschool.co.uk



Applepips
Holiday
Club

Flexible out of school childcare that works for you

Applepips Holiday Club offers fully qualified, Ofsted registered childcare for 4 to 11 year olds within a stimulating and fun environment, conveniently placed in a separate, purpose built building in the grounds of Offord Primary School.

- Open during all school holidays (closed Bank Holidays)
- Open from 7.30am to 6.00pm every weekday
- Regular or one-off bookings taken
- A wide range of indoor and outdoor activities available
- We also run as a before and after school club during term-time
- Ofsted registered – we accept childcare vouchers and childcare tax credits can be claimed

If you need flexible holiday childcare, then please call:

Tel: 01480 811977

Email: info@applepipclub.co.uk

Applepips, Millers Close, Offord Darcy, Cambs PE19 5SB

www.davidson-roberts.co.uk



OPEN
ALL
YEAR





THE
BEAUTY ROOM

49 Church Street, Buckden
01480 812803

**The Eaton's
Home, Garden & General
Property Maintenance Company**

- Internal Painting & Decorating
- External Painting & Staining
- Gutter Cleans, Repairs & Replacement
- Supply & Fit UPVC Fascias & Soffits
- Fence Repairs or Replacement
- Patio's, Paths & Driveways
- General Property Maintenance

- **Age UK Registered - CRB Checked**
- **Cambridgeshire Registered
Trader Scheme**
- **Liability Insurance**

Mobile: 07718 957281

Tel: 01480 406130

Email: d.morizzo@ntlworld.com

**Used postage stamps
required for a
local charity.**

The Huntingdonshire Society for the Blind can recycle your used postage stamps, and has a representative living in Offord Cluny.

Please drop them in at 127 High Street or phone 811892 for collection.

Just cut or tear off envelope leaving some paper around the stamp.



Whether you are celebrating a special occasion, having a romantic meal for two or a family Sunday roast, The Horseshoe Inn fits the bill!

Make your reservation now.

Try our Seasonal daily specials

Also we always have at least 3 quality real ales on tap changing every week!

Please check out our website for forthcoming events and opening times.

The Horseshoe Inn & Restaurant

90 High Street Offord d'Arcy PE19 5RH

01480 810293

www.theoffordshoe.co.uk info@theoffordshoe.co.uk

K Fit Pilates is coming to Offord!

With a focus on stretch, strength, mobility and control, Pilates exercises can help you ease back ache, improve posture and strengthen the core muscles in a gentle and calm environment. K Fit has been established in St Neots for over 8 years and is very excited to reach the Offord community.

Class Details:

Wednesday mornings at Offord Village Hall

11am-12pm

These classes will be held as 6 week courses through term times, with the first course starting after the Easter holidays from Wednesday 22nd April.

Course price: £45

These classes will be held with a maximum of 12 participants to ensure there is enough floor space and good quality teaching. Prior booking is essential; please get in contact to reserve your space.

Katrina Hyland

Head of K Fit

07967100603

Kdanceandfitness@gmail.com

www.kdanceandfitness.co.uk





W&H PEACOCK

AUCTIONEERS & VALUERS



Auctions Every Thursday

Viewing: Wednesday 8.30am - 8.00pm
and morning of sale from 9.00am

- Modern & Antique Furniture
- Clocks
- Ceramics & Glassware
- Pictures
- Bicycles
- Household Electrical Items
- Building Materials
- Garage & Garden Tools
- Retail Stock
- Horticultural Equipment
- Produce
- Machinery
- Garden Furniture & Effects
- Commercial Equipment



**Full
Collection
Service**

AUCTION ENTRIES INVITED

Entries are accepted Friday, Monday & Tuesday
between 8.30am and 5.00pm or by prior arrangement.

St Neots Auction Centre 75 New Street, PE19 1AJ

sn@peacockauction.co.uk
www.peacockauction.co.uk

01480 474 550

John Sinclair Electrical

ELECSA

Approved Contractor
Part P

www.elecsa.co.uk

Domestic & Commercial

- * Household Electrics**
- * Lights & Sockets**
- * Showers & Cookers**
- * Rewires & Additions**
- * Fuse Boxes**
- * Security Lighting**
- * Competitive Prices**
- * 25 Years Experience**
- * Alarm Systems & CCTV**

Part 'P' Registered
Call John for A Free Estimate
Tel: 01480 273927
Mobile 07815 903467

A warm and relaxed welcome is guaranteed from all of us



Why not ask us about
holding a ceremony
at our premises?

Complete funerals
from £2,995 with
no hidden extras.

We don't tell you what
you need, we listen
to what you want.

Gate Lodge, Cemetery Road
St Neots, Cambridgeshire PE19 2BX
Telephone **01480 471001**

10-10A Princes Street
Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire PE29 3PA
Telephone **01480 412938**

email info@kingfisherfunerals.co.uk or visit www.kingfisherfunerals.co.uk

Advertise in

**Out &
About**
THE OFFORDS GAZETTE

Please note our advertising charges. This magazine is issued every **two**
months and the **cost per issue** is:

Full page - £15.00 Half page - £ 8.00

For further information or to place orders for advertising
please phone **Sue Dorrington** on **07724 553101**

Or email sue_dorrington@hotmail.co.uk



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.

MOBILE LIBRARY SERVICE

ROUTE H15

3RD MONDAY OF EVERY MONTH

OFFORD DARCY - BRAMLEY DRIVE 15.55 – 16.15

OFFORD CLUNY – ELM DRIVE 16.25 – 1640



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

Stop press – Covid 19

Do you need help with shopping etc.

In addition to the **Parish Council** (see inside front cover) additional help is being set up in the village during this pandemic. **Offord Community Support Group on Facebook** is a group of your neighbours who are happy to help with shopping, prescription collection etc. You will get a leaflet through the door to tell you who your street contact is.

The **parish council** website and Facebook page will also have details of support <https://www.facebook.com/TheOffords> and the website <https://offords-pc.gov.uk/>

Budgens will do their best to help customers who are ill or elderly and cannot get to the shop for basic supplies. You can ring them on 01480 819602 and they will not charge you for delivery. **A1 Garage** will also collect and return your car if you need repairs or servicing whilst you are stuck at home. 01480 812218.

Although Church Services have had to be suspended, Jes and the congregation are still here and ready to help you. Contact details for the church are in this magazine and please do not hesitate to call Sue Dorrington, on 01480 716306 if you need assistance, particularly those of you who do not have access to the internet.

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



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

ACTIVITIES
INCLUDE

- 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:

VENUES

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

CM Decorating

For all your Interior &
Exterior Decorating Needs



- Wallpapering
- Artex & Coving
- Ceramic Tiling
- Colour Scheming
- General Maintenance

Russell Manning
Providing Quality Service
Since 1980

Phone: 01480 810594

Mobile: 07889 154994

Email: cmdecorating@aol.com

www.painteranddecoratorhuntingdon.co.uk

Diary Dates

Tuesdays	5.30-6.30pm 5.30-7.00 pm 6.15-7.45 pm	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 (Village Hall)
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)

Saturday 11 th April	Bacon Butty & Coffee Morning, 10am at the Village Hall Easter Egg Hunt, 11am at All St Church
Tuesday 14 th April	WI Anglian Water (Marcia Davies)
Saturday 18 th April	St Peters Big Clean, 9.30am
Thursday 23 rd April	Senior Citizens AGM meeting
Saturday 9 th May	Plant Sale, 10am at the Village Hall
Tuesday 12 th May	WI Dementia Friends (Jan Payne)
Thursday 28 th May	Senior Citizens meeting
Friday 19 th May	Bingo, 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

**ADVERTISE
HERE**

For further information or to place orders for advertising
please phone **Sue Dorrington on 07724 553101**
Or email **sue_dorrington@hotmail.co.uk**

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	Sarah Wilson	412747
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

Whilst every effort is made to ensure information in this publication is accurate, we cannot be held responsible for any errors.
The views expressed in this publication may not necessarily reflect those of the Editor.

Directory of Advertisers

Page

34	A1 CHIMNEY SWEEP & MAINTENANCE	07508 051920
28	ABSOLUTE PLUMBING	01480 812549
46	APPLEPIPS OUT OF SCHOOL CLUB	01480 811977
47	BEAUTY ROOM	01480 812803
29	BUCKDEN DAY NURSERY	01480 810816
62	BUDGENS	
43	CHILDREN'S KARATE	07859 165756
58	CM DECORATING	01480 810594
45	COBBOLETS FUNERAL DIRECTORS	01480 476136
13	DAYS OF BUCKDEN	01480 810272
31	DK TILL COAL MERCHANTS	01223 232947
25	FLAIR UNISEX SALON	01480 810417
31	FORGET ME NOT GARDEN CARE	07816 636366
64	GRAVELEY GARAGE & MOTORCYCLES	01480 830462 & 831058
44	GREENSLEEVES	01767 651639
42	GreenThumb LAWN TREATMENT SERVICE	01234 709345
40	HILTON DAY NURSERY	01480 830351
26	HOME-N-DRY	01487 840310 & 07766 576381
32	IBBETTS	01480 473452
29	JANINE'S PILATES	01480 810370
26	JEZ ASHCROFT LTD	07708 031493 & 01480 812461
30	JODI FINCH & SON ELECTRICAL	07771 613848 & 01480 731599
51	JOHN SINCLAIR ELECTRICIAN	01480 273927 & 07815 903467
27	JUNE LEE PODIATRIST	01480 214392 & 07947 371107
49	K-FIT PILATES	07967 100603
52	KINGFISHER FUNERAL DIRECTORS	01480 471001
45	MORE SPACE	01480 830130
46	OFFORD PRE SCHOOL	01480 811977
57	OFFORD TOTS	07855 068756
55	OFFORD VILLAGE HALL	01480 811892
40	PAXTON HILL GARAGE	01480 217806
37	PLATINUM TOURS	01480 810560
36	PRO LAWN CARE	01480 812393
56	SCHOOLS OUT	01480 811180
47	THE EATONS HOME & GARDENS	01480 406130
48	THE HORSESHOE INN, OFFORD DARCY	01480 810293
50	W&H PEACOCK AUCTIONEERS	01480 474550

We have a new village shop! In case you hadn't noticed!!!!

It opened on 30th January and was packed with customers by the end of the afternoon. There was great excitement from customers of all ages. A young mother declared, "I have lived in Offord all my life and I've seen shops come and go but we've never had anything like this before. Offord's really going up in the world!" An older gentleman was delighted with the wide range of ready meals for one. "Much better than batch cooking" he said. A small boy said he'd like to buy doughnuts after school every day! Some students call in to use the real milkshake machine on their way to the school bus.

There's a bakery and hot food for sale everyday (bacon baps/sausage rolls and lots more).

You can buy a lottery ticket if you're feeling lucky

There's a cash machine which doesn't charge you

Grab a Costa coffee whilst you browse the great deals and changing offers. Enjoy quality produce and brands such as Grasmere sausages and pies.

All in all, nobody need ever leave the village these days.

BUDGENS Offord supports GODMANCHESTER FOODBANK

Our Foodbank is part of the national network run by Trussell Trust. It serves Huntingdon and the surrounding area including The Offords. It relies on donations of non perishable food and money to help members of the local community to deal with a sudden crisis.

Over the last year 43 tons of food were donated. This is equivalent to 10,000 meals for a family of 2 adults and 2 children.

We supported 40 families during the summer holidays when they were missing the free school meal provided in term time and provided 180 Christmas hampers to nominated families.

Please support our Foodbank by placing food donations into the basket in BUDGENS here in Offord. The Guides have decorated it with helping hands so you can't miss it in the shop doorway.





MOT WHILE U WAIT

CLASSES 1 2 3 4 5 7



Opening Times
Monday - Friday
8.00am - 6.00pm
Saturday
8.00am - 4.00pm

- Servicing to all makes of vehicle
- New bay for servicing motor bikes
- Tyres and Exhausts supplied and fitted
- Free courtesy cars
- Air Conditioning Servicing & Re-gassing
- Comfortable waiting area with FREE Tea/Coffee

Produce this advert
to get £4.00 off
the current price of
your MOT

GRAVELEY GARAGE TEST CENTRE LTD

ESTABLISHED SINCE 1970

01480 830462 / 831058

enquiries@graveley-garage.co.uk

www.graveley-garage.co.uk

HIGH STREET, GRAVELEY, ST NEOTS, PE19 6PL