

DINTON CHURCH TOILET PROJECT



What we want to do

- Install two toilets (one with disabled access) in the base of the church tower.
- Install a kitchenette for preparation of drinks and refreshments.
- Create a meeting room above these.
- Improve disabled access to the church by raising the level of the floor and replacing the steps with a gentle incline.
- Include new double door inside the main west door to help conserve heat and reduce draughts.
- The arch to be glassed in.

To achieve the above the "Serjeant" monument and smaller wall plaques now in the base of the tower will be moved into the main body of the church.

To keep the tower well maintained for all the above proposals the lead roof will be renewed.

The stages of the project are therefore:

Phase 1: Renew the tower's lead roof

Phase 2: Relocate the Serjeant monument and wall plaques

Phase 3: Install the toilets, kitchenette and meeting room

Why we are doing it

- To extend the use of the church not only for churchgoers but also for the whole community.
- Uses could include: meetings, children's activities, concerts, cream teas, possible office facilities.
- The church to be open more often.
- At weddings and funerals the most frequent question is 'Is there a loo?'

What does the project need?

For the success of this major project – your support is vital.

Provisional costings indicate that the total cost of the project could exceed £150,000

We have about £30,000 available, and aim to raise the rest by:

- Seeking grant aid from grant providers
 - Holding local fund raising events
 - Donations from parishioners
-

Dinton Church Flush Fund – First Progress Report Jan 2011

The project was launched at Dinton church in June 2010; much has happened since then. The project is in three phases:

Phase 1 involves replacing the lead on the tower roof. The lead is probably over 100 years old and is life expired. Some supporting timber work also needs renewing.

Phase 2 involves moving the large monument from the tower and resiting it within the main body of the church. Two smaller wall monuments also need to be moved.

Phase 3 covers the building of two toilets in the base of the tower, installing a small kitchen and building a new meeting room above these.

The aim of the above is to maintain the church as a place of worship but also to make it more available for community use.

We have received all the necessary Diocesan approvals to proceed with Phase 1. Work could have started in November, but has been delayed because bats might be hibernating in the tower walls (see separate article). Building work is due to start on 1 April. This is good news – tangible evidence of progress.

Diocesan approvals come in two stages and we have received initial approval for Phases 2 and 3. However, we are still considering where exactly to resite the monument within the church. Several possibilities are being considered – each has advantages and disadvantages.

We have held a number of fund raising events and more are planned. The next event is a jumble sale on 12 February. Please note for your diaries that we have booked the **Chiltern Wind Band for a concert in Dinton church on 9 July**. We have seen and heard them play – they are really good and the concert should be an extremely enjoyable event on hopefully a lovely warm summer's evening. Also watch out for a sponsored bike ride and book sale in the spring and possibly a ball later in the year.

During 2010 we have raised approximately £12,000 from fund raising events and donations. A large thank you goes to all those individuals and organisations who have been so generous. For those who have not donated so far, and wish to do so, it is certainly not too late. Please contact Andrew Wild if you need a donation form. The above sum, plus funds already available, means that we can pay for the roof repairs and are a long way towards covering the cost of moving the monuments. We have applied for grants for the roof repair, but do not yet know the outcome. We will also be applying for grants for phases 2 and 3. We have a small committee; if anyone feels interested in joining us, or maybe organising a one-off event, please approach any of the committee members.

Summary

Solid progress is being made, with the roof repairs due to start soon.

All the indications are that we will receive the necessary Diocesan permissions.

We have an active forward programme of fundraising events.

Fundraising is going well, but we have a huge target (approx. £150,000) so all contributions will be most welcome.

We would welcome any help that can be offered – we are doing this for the community.

DINTON CHURCH FUNDS

Dinton Church Flush Fund – a brief update April 2011

- In our first full year of fundraising (2010) we raised over £19,000 from events and donations. We would like to thank again all those who have made donations and all who have attended and helped at fundraising events.
- We now have total funds of nearly £60,000, which is enough to cover the costs for Phase 1 (tower roof repairs) and Phase 2 (moving the monument). Work on the tower roof is due to start on 4 April. We are still investigating the options for relocating the monument.
- We raised an amazing £850 at the jumble sale held in February. Thank you again to everyone involved.
- We are very pleased to have received a grant of £500 towards tower roof repairs from the Allchurches Trust, who are associated with our insurers, EIG.
- Our ultimate aim is to make Dinton church more accessible to the whole community. Our committee is small and we would welcome new members or volunteers willing to organise one-off events.
- There are several events planned for the coming months. These will be separately advertised. Please support them if you can.
- The committee members are Valma Thompson, Rosemary Jackson, George Lamb, Andrew and Helen Wild. We welcome your comments on any aspect of the project.

Dinton Church Flush Fund – Phase 1 now complete August 2011

The toilet/tower project at Dinton church comprises 3 phases:

Phase 1 – tower roof restoration

Phase 2 – repositioning and restoring the Serjeant monument

Phase 3 – new toilets, kitchenette and meeting room

The work on Phase 1 is now complete. In addition to replacing the old lead with new, a significant amount of supporting timberwork had to be replaced. The work was undertaken by Berrill and Quanton, under the supervision of our architect, Alan Frost.

We are very grateful for all the support received so far from the community and also for grants specifically for the tower roof repairs from The Buckinghamshire Historic Churches Trust, The Francis Coales Charitable Foundation, The Allchurches Trust and Dinton Church Bellringers.

When the old roof lead was fitted, maybe 100 years ago, the roofers (and possibly others) marked the outline of their boots with a sharp knife cut into the lead. We have saved some examples, which we will put on show in the church. If you would like to see the new roof, please contact me (748679). The spiral staircase has many steps, which get quite steep and narrow at the top.

We now move on to the monument – more about this later.

Andrew Wild

DINTON FLUSH FUND – 2011 A YEAR OF PROGRESS

It has been a busy year for the project committee, with a wide variety of fundraising events taking place during 2011 including a jumble sale, book sale, sponsored cycle ride, tea party, 2 concerts, open gardens, a summer ball and a scarecrow festival. Total funds raised to date now stand at approx. £80,000 – a magnificent achievement, for which we offer our grateful thanks to all those who have helped the project in any way.

The tower roof repairs (i.e. Phase 1 of the project) were completed in May and since then we have been making plans for moving the impressive Serjeant monument from its current neglected position in the base of the tower, into part of the area now occupied by the vestry. Diocesan approvals come in 2 stages; we have obtained stage 1 approval and will soon be submitting a stage 2 application (a faculty). Dinton church is a grade 1 listed building, so English Heritage has to be consulted regarding our proposals. We hope they will find them suitable.

Once the monument has been successfully moved (during 2012 we hope), we will move on to the final (and largest) part of the project (Phase 3), the toilets and kitchenette. The final cost for Phases 1, 2 and 3 combined is likely to exceed £150,000.

The overall aim of the project is to make the church more usable as a community asset and help from the community towards this goal would be much appreciated. Could you help us by (i) supporting our fundraising events (ii) organising a one-off event (iii) joining our small committee or (iv) making a financial donation? If any readers have experience of obtaining funding grants, your advice would be most helpful.

2012 will be a busy year for “events”, including the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee, European Football Championships and the Olympic Games. We hope to be able to squeeze some entertaining events into this busy schedule. Please watch out for advance notices.

If you would like to help the project in any way, please contact Andrew or Helen Wild (748679), Valma Thompson (748561), Rosemary Jackson (748655) or George Lamb (748988).

A **Glimpse** of Dinton and **The Midsummer Ball** - what a busy June!

As may have been said before, the ‘**Glimpse**’ of Dinton on June 12 was through a curtain of almost continual rain but were we dejected, dispirited!? Well actually but no, a Dunkirk spirit rallied the local troops and a valiant £865 was raised for the project. Medals must go to all those who braved adversity to enjoy some really beautiful gardens, delicious teas and buy plants. Thankyou to Marie Helene Usherwood and to those who opened their gardens, made cakes and served teas, offered plants and bought and sold plants. Well done!

At last, on Saturday June 25, the sun shone and Dinton had a **Midsummer Ball**. It was a great evening, good food and music – and a marquee beautifully decorated by Caroline King and friends. Prizes for the Raffle and Balloon flight were sponsored, amongst others, by Blaise Brogan, The Dinton Hermit, The Bottle and Glass, Andy Napier and Brothers of Thame. The Champagne Balloon Flight for two was won by Mary Hobden. Big thankyou to Caroline and John King for hosting the event, Chris Robinson who led the Dinton Marquee Team and Giles Kidner who organised the band, and we mustn’t forget a great bunch of enthusiastic young people who did an excellent job of serving food and drink throughout the evening. As a result of the generosity of so many people, £2200 was raised for the Flush Fund.

Valma Thompson

Chiltern Concert Band Raise the Roof – July 2011



Over 70 people attended the concert at Dinton church on 9 July in aid of the Dinton Flush Fund. The Chiltern Concert Band were brilliant - playing a varied selection of popular classical pieces to a very high standard. The concert ended with rapturous applause after the finale of Nimrod, Jerusalem and the Fantasia on British Sea Songs. Over £800 was raised for the Flush Fund and thanks go to the Band and to all who helped, in particular Janet Morgan and Jean Moore. We hope the Band will play again for us again in the future; we will announce this well in advance.

Dinton Christmas Bazaar – November 2011

In the festive glow of a brightly decorated Dinton Village Hall parishioners enjoyed lunch and Christmas shopping - entertained by seasonal music performed by Will Farmer on his keyboard.

This long established event –well, it was well before my time and I've been here over 40 years - yet again proved successful raising £1120 for the running costs of our churches.

The Luxury Hamper, containing amongst other local goodies, a Starveall Turkey and Quinta dela Rosa Vintage Port, was won by Chloe Lambert and the runner up basket was won by Mrs Jill Gasking. A big **Thankyou** to all of you who have helped make this possible by donating, cooking, selling, decorating and coming along to buy so generously. What a team!!

Valma



Dinton Flush Fund – Progress Report for 2012

2012 was a year of progress tempered by a degree of frustration. The Committee always envisaged that the project would take quite a long time to complete; 2012 has confirmed that.

Our hope was that, by December 2012, moving the monument would be complete, or at least dates for the work would have been agreed. Because Dinton church is Grade 1 listed (in other words it is an historic building of primary importance), we are required to consult English Heritage regarding any proposed changes. For the moving of the monument and the associated changes to the vestry, we had constructive discussions with English Heritage in early 2012 and we subsequently asked our architect to draw up plans for new wooden screening for the smaller vestry. This took some time. When the plans were received, we submitted a “faculty” application to the Oxford Diocese in August 2012. (A “faculty” is the church’s equivalent of planning permission). It was frustrating to have to wait 11 weeks for a reply which, when eventually received, asked us to liaise further with English Heritage and the Church Buildings Council. This we did, and both bodies confirmed that they were happy with the plans. On 3 January we were pleased to receive confirmation that the faculty application had been approved.

Fundraising continued in 2012, but at a somewhat slower rate than in 2011. Successful events included a Spring Sale, Open Gardens and an Auction. We were grateful to receive donations from the Jubilee Tea Party and Dinton Fete. The 2012 scarecrow festival was not well supported, so is unlikely to be repeated. Very special thanks go to Viv Robinson and Jenny Walker for allowing donations to be made to the Flush Fund in memory of Chris Robinson and Tim Walker.

The result of the above is a total of £95,000 raised since the project was launched in 2010. Just over £20,000 has been spent on the tower roof repairs. We are therefore in the happy position of having funds in hand to pay for the moving and restoration of the monument and we can now liaise with our chosen contractor to arrange a suitable date for the work to proceed.

Grateful thanks go to all who have helped the project in any way during 2012. There will be further fundraising events in 2013 - please look out for the notices. A date for your diaries is Saturday 18 May when the Chiltern Concert Band will be returning to Dinton Church at 7.30 p.m. to play a selection of popular classics. Their previous performance was superb, so this is an event not to be missed - please note the date in your diary.

Please contact me if you need any further information regarding the above. Andrew Wild

On 20th October a Grace and Favour Auction was held in Dinton Village Hall in aid of the Flush Fund which aims to install toilets in Dinton Church.

A wide variety of services and items totalling 39 lots had been donated for auction ranging from a master class in flower arranging to a chauffeur driven jaguar to the airport.

Delicious homemade food offers were really popular; these included a 5 kilo gammon joint, cakes, steak pies, and Moroccan-style lamb.

There were serious offers such as writing of a will in your own home; computer repair & tutoring sessions; a mentor for selling on ebay.

Then there were more luxurious items such as body massage and beauty treatments.

Demonstrations of cooking meals by our local pubs got some excited bidding as did the exceptional offer of tickets to the Rock the Moor Concert next year.

The auctioneer was brilliant as was 'Mabel at the Table' who kept the tally; and the bar staff who kept busy all evening.

Thank you to all the people who offered these wonderful items and thanks also to the people who came and bid for them and made it such a success.

£2,600 was raised. What a great evening!!

GRACE AND FAVOUR AUCTION Saturday 20th October 2012

At 8pm Saturday October 20th there will be an auction in the Village Hall to raise money for the Flush Fund. There will be a licensed bar with snacks for sale.

It would be wonderful if you could donate a spare Ming vase or Vermeer to be auctioned. However, failing that, please donate services and favours. For example:-

Do you have a highly sought after skill - either as a professional or good amateur?

If you are a solicitor could you donate the writing of a will in a villagers home?

Perhaps you have the IT skills to remedy someone's problematic home computer, or perhaps you are a great chef and could take a masterclass of 6 useless cooks?

Could you (with your friends) donate the cooking of a small dinner party in the hosts own home or offer to bake cakes for a party.

Have you got something, tangible or intangible, which other people would really like?? Could you donate a weekend at your holiday cottage? Perhaps you know someone famous and could get the gift of a personal item for auctioning.

We already have some great items such as a large gas fired barbecue grill for a home garden BBQ party; the offer of some garden design advice and an afternoon of gardening; a large gazebo for the weekend; a car valetting in your own drive etc.

This is going to be a great fun evening but a wide variety of lots is needed for the auction and your offers would be very much appreciated. We intend to circulate a catalogue of all the lots and bids will be accepted prior to the event so even if you cannot come along you can still purchase.

**Please contact one of the organisers by phone or email
Rosemary and David Jackson 748655 jacksonrj@btinternet.com
Helen and Andrew Wild 748679 wilddinton@waitrose.com
Valma Thompson 748561 valma.thompson@btinternet.com**



**Welcome to Dinton Open Gardens
on Sunday July 1st 2012**

And we welcomed over 200 visitors to 8 gardens in Dinton on a cool but sunny first day in July. The gardens were exceptional and the hard work taken to achieve this was much appreciated. From entry fees, plant sales, delicious teas and donations over £1800 was raised for the Flush fund.

A big thank you to all who made this possible.

With a fair wind, as they say, the monument moving should be accomplished this autumn/winter so the base of the tower can be prepared for the main part of the project.

DINTON SCARECROW FESTIVAL 2012

SUNDAY 16TH SEPTEMBER
2 to 6 pm in Dinton Village Hall
Refreshments will be served all afternoon

Make your own Scary Scarecrow and come and view the others
at the Village Hall or in gardens around the village.

There will be a prize for the best scarecrow in each group:

A) Children under 12 years **(B)** Children and Adults over 12 years.

Scarecrows must be life size (or larger) and must have some grass or
straw in their construction. Straw will be available in Dinton Churchyard
from 28th August.

Entry Fee: £1.00 per Scarecrow.

Prize Giving: 5.30p.m.

For theme please see Chloe's column in the Bucks Herald or contact the
organiser (see below).

.....

ENTRY FORM

I/ We wish to enter a Scarecrow in Class A (under 12) / Class B (over 12).

On 16th September at 1.00 p.m. my Scarecrow will be in the grounds of
Dinton Village Hall/ outside my house (please delete as appropriate).

Name.....Phone no.

Address.....

Send your completed entry form plus £1.00 entry fee to Andrew Wild,
Stonemead, High Street, Dinton, HP17 8UW (01296 748679), **by 8th**
September (in order to get on the village scarecrow map).



In aid of Dinton Church Flush Fund

UPDATE ON DINTON FLUSH FUND EVENTS

Open gardens on Sunday 1st July from 2pm – 6pm

Now we have 8 fabulous gardens to see, plus wonderful tea and cakes in the Village Hall.
Free car parking in Dinton Field where you get your map of the village

Scarecrows on Sunday 16th September from 11am

By popular request the Scarecrow theme will now be:-

Witches, warlocks and wizards.

Scarecrows can either be displayed in the Village Hall garden or in Dinton gardens. Maps showing where the scarecrows are and refreshments will be available at the Village Hall. Please enter by 10th September by completing your entry form. These will be displayed on the websites. Please download and return by hard copy or email, entry £1.00.

Grace and Favour Auction Saturday 20th October 7.30pm for 8pm start in the Village Hall

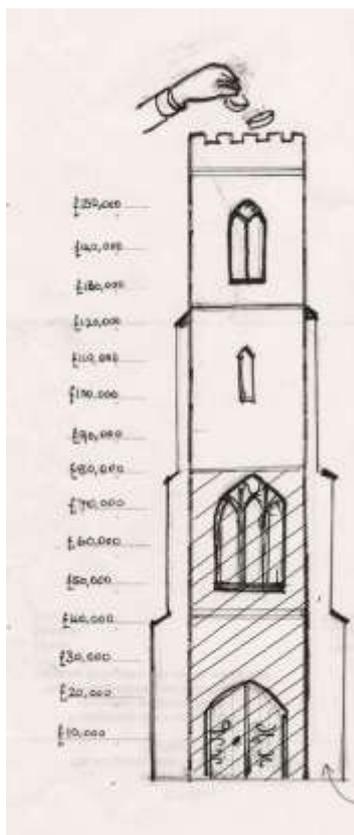
There will be a licensed bar and snacks available. Further description of the auction is on the websites. This is going to be a great fun evening but a wide variety of sale items are needed for the auction and your offers would be very much appreciated. We intend to circulate a catalogue of all the lots and bids will be accepted prior to the event so even if you cannot come along you can still purchase.

Please contact one of the organisers by phone or email Rosemary and David Jackson 748655 jacksonrj@btinternet.com ; Helen and Andrew Wild 748679 wilddinton@waitrose.com ; Valma Thompson 748561 valma.thompson@btinternet.com ;



Super Spring Sale and the Flush Fund

'...and the rain, it raineth every day...'



And it certainly did on April 30th. On what had become a typical April day for this year people gathered in a warm and welcoming Village Hall to support the Dinton Flush Fund. Thank you to all who braved the cold and dismal weather to provide, buy and sell bricabrac, toys, books and produce – all sustained by some excellent refreshments. An amazing £630 was raised for the Fund! A long day but well worth it.

Events, donations from individuals and Dinton Fete, and small grants have now raised about £83000, even more after this weekend! The second stage, the moving of the Serjeant monument, can be carried out as soon as the Architect completes accurate plans. The plans are required by the

Diocese to grant the Faculty for the work to proceed. If these plans are received soon stage 2 could be completed this year.....

Thank you for all the support you have given.

The Dinton Flush Fund Committee

Super Spring Sale on 28th April in Dinton Village Hall

The weather was cold and dismal but we were all warm and welcoming in the Village Hall for the sale.

We decided to charge an entrance fee and from this deduced that we had about 70 visitors who came with one thing in mind – to spend spend spend. We raised about £630.00 for the Flush Fund. A wonderful amount considering the weather.

Thank you so much for everyone who donated their once loved items, toys, and books etc.

As usual the refreshments and sandwiches went down a bomb and the home made cakes were the most popular item.

The helpers did so well and we were all so tired but we are all determined to get those toilets installed before being caught short.

Flush Fund Committee

Empty Room Transitions In support of the Flush Fund
An Evening Of Contemporary American Folk Music with
ROD PICOTT
with Doug and Telisha Williams



Saturday 26th October
Dinton Parish Church
Dinton, nr Aylesbury
HP17 8UG
doors 7.30pm

Tickets £12 in advance and available from
Mike Trotman - 01296 748 268
Valma Thompson - 01296 748 561
To purchase online and for more information go to:
www.empty-rooms.com

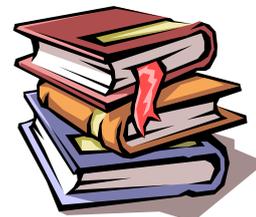
Rod Picott performing at Dinton's magnificent 12th century parish church on Oct 26th 2013

Support by **Doug & Telisha Williams**, who also played with him.

The son of a welder from rural New England, Rod Picott is a masterful songwriter and soulful singer who carries with him as fine a suitcase of songs as you'll find anywhere. Slaid Cleaves, Ray Wylie Hubbard and Fred Eaglesmith have recorded Rod Picott songs. A former construction worker who hung up his tools when he released his debut CD in 2000, Picott has carved a career for himself with a run of 6 beautifully crafted self released CDs over the last 13 years and a well earned reputation as an engaging, emotion fueled performer.



*Looking for a good read?
Then come along
and browse at*



BUMPER BOOK SALE

Saturday 22 June 2013, 10.30am – 4.00pm

Dinton Village Hall - Admission 50p

Light Lunches and Teas to enjoy....

Hats and Handbags for the discerning...

Cakes Tombola Surprise!

Proceeds to the Dinton Flush Fund

Further details:

MarieHelene Usherwood, Helen Wild, Valma Thompson



2013

THE CHILTERN CONCERT BAND

Play a **“Magical May Miscellany”**

**Dinton Church, Saturday 18 May, 7.30 p.m.
(Doors open at 7.00 p.m.)**

Tickets £12

Available in advance from

Andrew Wild (01296 748679) Valma Thompson (748561)
Rosemary Jackson (748655) Janet Morgan (748645), or on the door.
(Price includes a drink on arrival and light refreshments in the interval).

In aid of Dinton Church Flush Fund. Bar and raffle.

Empty Room Transitions In support of the Flush Fund
An Evening Of Contemporary American Folk Music with
ROD PICOTT
with Doug and Telisha Williams



Saturday 26th October
Dinton Parish Church
Dinton, nr Aylesbury
HP17 8UG
doors 7.30pm

Tickets £12 in advance and available from
Mike Trotman - 01296 748 268
Valma Thompson - 01296 748 561
To purchase online and for more information go to:
www.empty-rooms.com

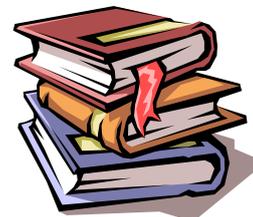
Rod Picott performing at Dinton's magnificent 12th century parish church on Oct 26th 2013

Support by **Doug & Telisha Williams**, who also played with him.

The son of a welder from rural New England, Rod Picott is a masterful songwriter and soulful singer who carries with him as fine a suitcase of songs as you'll find anywhere. Slaid Cleaves, Ray Wylie Hubbard and Fred Eaglesmith have recorded Rod Picott songs. A former construction worker who hung up his tools when he released his debut CD in 2000, Picott has carved a career for himself with a run of 6 beautifully crafted self released CDs over the last 13 years and a well earned reputation as an engaging, emotion fueled performer.



*Looking for a good read?
Then come along
and browse at*



BUMPER BOOK SALE

Saturday 22 June 2013, 10.30am – 4.00pm

Dinton Village Hall - Admission 50p

Light Lunches and Teas to enjoy....

Hats and Handbags for the discerning...

Cakes Tombola Surprise!

Proceeds to the Dinton Flush Fund

Further details:

MarieHelene Usherwood, Helen Wild, Valma Thompson



2013

THE CHILTERN CONCERT BAND

Play a **“Magical May Miscellany”**

**Dinton Church, Saturday 18 May, 7.30 p.m.
(Doors open at 7.00 p.m.)**

Tickets £12

Available in advance from

Andrew Wild (01296 748679) Valma Thompson (748561)
Rosemary Jackson (748655) Janet Morgan (748645), or on the door.
(Price includes a drink on arrival and light refreshments in the interval).

In aid of Dinton Church Flush Fund. Bar and raffle.

FLUSH FUND 2014



Dinton Church Flush Fund – almost there (July 2014)

The good news for the toilet and kitchen project is that we hope work can start in early 2015 in order to complete the project. But we still have a funding gap to fill – see later.

Phase 1, the tower roof, was completed in 2011 and Phase 2, the Serjeant monument, in 2013. That leaves Phase 3 to be completed, i.e. 2 toilets (one for disabled use), a small kitchen and serving area, a meeting room above these facilities and improved disabled access through the west door of the church. All along, our aim has been to improve the facilities, not just for church users, but also for the wider community.

We have been fundraising in three ways. Firstly, we have received donations from the public, mainly from residents within the parish, who have been extremely generous. Secondly, we have arranged a variety of fundraising events and some residents have themselves kindly arranged such events in favour of the Flush Fund. Thirdly, and more so recently, we have sought and received grants from those trusts and charitable organisations which support projects such as ours. Total funds raised since the project started are in the region of £130,000 – a remarkable achievement, based very much on the support of the community, for which we are extremely grateful.

Phase 3 is expected to cost about £85,000 and although we have most of the required funds in hand, we still have a funding gap of about £15,000. We have placed a provisional order with the builder to start work in January 2015 and will continue fundraising for as long as necessary. Donations from the public are still most welcome.

Please contact Andrew Wild (748679) if you have any questions regarding the project.



DINTON OPEN GARDENS 22 JUNE 2014

Once again we were very fortunate in having warm and sunny weather so all the plans that the garden owners and the tea ladies had made were realised. The mild winter, rainy spring and spell of recent warm weather had brought plants on and so the nine gardens were ablaze with colour and this, together with the excellent spread of sizes (4 large, 3 medium and 2 cottage) and variety of designs, gave our visitors a real treat on their walk around the village gardens.

From comments passed to us at the end of the day - and at the ' owners and helpers walk around ' and ' closing party ' on the Monday evening (the party kindly given by Philip and Jennifer Rimell) - and also from those visitors to whom we spoke afterwards, everyone went home very happy. There were no 'incidents ' or complaints.

In plain figures, we received 706 visitors, which included 25 non paying - some 100 less than at the previous opening in 2010 - but an increase in the entrance fee to £6 (was £5) for the nine gardens meant that we were able to send a record contribution cheque to the National Gardens Scheme of £4403. This included a handsome £268 from the Plants Stall run by Marie Helen Usherwood and generous donations of £49.

Once again, there were many appreciative remarks about the very attractive arrangements - and service and quality of - the teas (always a major factor in such an afternoon). The Church was also open all afternoon. The teas took £1680 (another record, we believe) and another £20 from various sources at the Church - so a total of £1700 was made for the Church Flush Fund. Valma Thompson, the organiser, and co organiser, Patricia Withers, expressed their deep appreciation to everyone in the village who made and donated cakes and refreshments - over 70 cakes were received and used - and to all the helpers who worked tirelessly through the warm and very busy afternoon.

The garden owners are also very grateful to the Parish Council for the free use of the Parish Field for car parking. The car parkers - led by Andrew Wild - were also complimented on their efficiency and, as in 2010, such efforts meant that the possibility of roadside parking was avoided.

Two weeks prior to the opening the garden owners committee delivered a circular letter to all houses in the village to explain the reasons for the event - as it is our experience that the opaque advertising of the National Gardens Scheme means that the true nature of the charity is, understandably, not known to the general public (100% of the entrance fees goes to the N G S who then distribute it to , mainly, the prime U K Cancer Support Charities e.g. Macmillan Cancer Support -of which we are the largest single donor- Marie Curie Cancer Care, Help the Hospices and, this year, Parkinson's U K) This letter also expressed the committee's appreciation for any inconvenience caused by the expected large numbers of people walking down the High Street and it is very pleasing to report that not a single reply - or indeed complaint - was received in response or , indeed, afterwards.

A major factor in attracting visitors to this event is the safety - and relatively short distance - with which they can walk through our village to the gardens and the committee are also very appreciative of the efforts of the Parish Council to have the verges tidied, the Parish Field mown and to the many householders who had put colourful displays of flowers outside their houses to make the High Street and Westlington Green area so welcoming to the visitors.

Harry Bingham



DINTON OPEN GARDENS 2014 NATIONAL GARDEN SCHEME

Nine private gardens will open on Sunday 22nd June 2014 2pm to 6pm for the National Garden Scheme.

Combined entry £6 . Children free.

Teas and toilets at the Village Hall.

All proceeds from the teas go to St.Peter & St.Paul Church Flush Fund Appeal. The church will be open all afternoon.

All the gardens are within easy and safe walking distance of the village hall. Each visitor will receive a village map and a short description of each garden.

100% of the entry money is sent to the N G S (www.ngs.org.uk - where all the gardens are shown) which then distributes it to the main U K Cancer Support Charities - MacMillan Cancer Support (to whom it is the largest individual contributor Marie Curie Cancer Care , Help the Hospices etc - and also, the current 'guest' charity, Parkinsons UK.

Whilst we are just a very small part of a large organisation (over 3800 gardens will open this year for the N G S) - and we do not do it very often - we do try and emphasise how grateful we are to every single visitor, because it is the number of £6' s that eventually make the essential contributions (this year we have been told that MacMillan could not continue in its present form without the support of the NGS.

So we very much hope that those people in Dinton & Stone who are free on the 22nd will feel inclined to come for a sociable afternoon (lots of talking!) and support us - and the Flush Fund !!!!



BIKE RIDE MAY 2014 REPORT

Dinton Church Flush Fund Committee would like to thank all the cyclists, marshals, sponsors and refreshment providers who participated in the Bike Ride on May 10th.

The event was great fun and we had good weather but sadly the scootathon did not take place as our youngest villagers were struck low with the chicken pox!

The amazing sum of £1800 was raised and this great success moves us another step closer to the target funding required to get the toilets built; and proves yet again what supportive and generous neighbours we have in our villages.'

Flush Fund Sponsored Bike Ride 10th May 2014

The Bike Ride took place on Saturday May 10th on a lovely sunny day, but with a strong headwind. The adult cyclist completed a 10 mile circuit starting at the Dinton Village Hall via Ford, Marsh, Bishopstone and Stone while the children's route was from the village hall to Westlington, up to the church and back to the hall a circuit of 2 miles.

Fifteen cyclists completed the adult circuit and five the children's one.



The undoubted star of the adults was Henry from Henley who completed the circuit on his original Victorian Penny Farthing but all the other entrants did very well completing the circuit in good time.

The Marshalls were all in the right place and highly visible and the refreshments afterwards were delicious.

Thanks to your generous donations the Flush Fund Project will enter a new phase in 2015 when we will start the building works on the toilets and kitchen.

A big thank you to everyone who took part.



Sponsored Ten Mile Bike Ride

Saturday May 10th, 2014

In aid of Dinton Flush Fund to pay for kitchen & toilet facilities in the church

Leaving Dinton Village Hall, HP17 8UQ at 10.30am our scenic route goes through the villages of Ford, Meadle, Marsh and back through Bishopstone and then Stone and Upton and eventually past Dinton Church and back to the Dinton Village Hall.

For information contact Rosemary Jackson, Innisfree, New Road, Dinton
tel: 01296 748655 email: jacksonrj@btinternet.com

Entry will be £3.00 per cyclist or £6.00 per family to pay for the administration costs. Please get your family and friends to sponsor you.

Young Bikers and Scootathon - there will be a two mile circuit through Upton with a marshalled crossing at Chestnut Avenue

Miniscootathon - the route for mini bikes and scooters starts from the Village Hall at 11am down to Westlington and back

The routes for the two events for children are under consultation with parents

GREAT REFRESHMENTS in the VILLAGE HALL!!

Sponsored ten mile bike ride

Saturday 10th May, 2014

The event is in aid of the Dinton Flush Fund to pay for kitchen and toilet facilities in the church.

Administration

Participants will be asked to complete an entry form with their contact details. Entry will cost £3.00 per cyclist or £6.00 per family. This is to pay for the administration costs.

Completed entry forms to be returned to Rosemary Jackson, Innisfree, New Road, Dinton (01296 748655) jacksonrj@btinternet.com

Entrants will be given a sponsorship request form and asked to get their family and friends to sponsor them and to sign for gift aid where appropriate.

Registration Will be at 10am on 10th May at Dinton Village Hall, HP17 8UQ. Entrants will be asked to pay the entrance fee and be allocated an official number to wear and the route explained.

Route

This is a circular route approximately 10 miles in length on public roads with a cycle track along the main A418.

1 Cyclists will start at Dinton Village Hall, turn right at Dinton church and go past the Biggin Pond and at the Four Winds crossroads with Portway go across the junction and towards Ford.

2 The route goes in a southerly direction through Ford and onward past Waldrige Manor Farm. Cycle straight past the Owlswick turn on the right and into Little Meadle turning left at the T junction at Lower Stockwell Farm. This is signed to Kimblewick and Marsh and is a long straight road travelling eastwards.

3 At Kimblewick road bends sharply right and then left. There will be a marshall with drinking water available if required. Cycle straight on to Marsh continuing past the Prince of Wales Pub and on over the bridge at Marsh.

4 At the T junction turn left for Bishopstone. Continue through Bishopstone on the Bishopstone Road past the Harrow and at the staggered crossroads with the Haddenham Portway Road straight across into Stone.

5 Cycle up the Bishopstone Road past Stone Church and turn left on the A418. Here, there is a cycle path which crosses the road before the roundabout at St Johns Drive. This cycle path may be used all the way to the Upton Road.

6 Turn left into Upton Road and proceed through Upton towards Dinton Church.

7 At the T junction with Chestnut Avenue cross straight over into Upton Road Dinton. Continue back to the Dinton Village Hall.

8 Cyclists must beware that there may be small children cycling and scooting in the village and coming to the village hall from the other direction.

The routes for the two events for children are under consultation with parents and the proposal is as follows-

Young bikers and Scootathon

Registration for the young bikers will take place at Dinton Village Hall at 10.15 am. They will get their official number and sticker.

1 The ride will start from the church at 10.45am. The riders walk through the churchyard and over the green to be escorted over Chestnut Avenue at the Old Forge. From there they will bike past the school and through Wallace Farm to the T junction.

2 Turn right at the T junction with the Dinton Road and cycle into Upton. The road bends sharply to the left and continues past the notice board. There will be a marshall at the top of the road before the A418 to turn the young bikers around for them to proceed back again through Upton and past the Wallace Farm turning and along towards the church.

3 The marshall will then escort the bikers over the crossroads with Chestnut Avenue and cycle back to the Village Hall. They could go on down to Westlington Green turn left and ride to the stile at the end of the lane and then back to the Village Hall.

MiniScootathon

Registration for the scootathon will take place in the Village Hall at 10.30 am before the start at 10.45. There is no entry fee for this but supporters will be asked to sponsor children and to line the route to cheer them on. The ride for scooters will start at the Village Hall and turning right into the High Street, scoot down to Westlington. At Westlington Green turn left and scoot to the stile at the end of the lane.

On the return, there will be a refreshment point at Greendale for squash and biscuits. The return route goes past the Flower Cottages and turn left up New Road with a right turn down Stars Lane, and then left back to the Village Hall.

All routes have marshalls at perceived danger spots, parents are requested to supervise children at all times.

Prizes

Please register at the start in order that all entrants can receive a named certificate of achievement.

Car Parking

This will be in the Parish Field in Upton Road and will be well signed. Please keep cars away from the Village Hall

Refreshments

Before and after the event participants and helpers will have use of the toilet facilities at the Village Hall and can also leave coats.

Any purses or keys etc may be left with the event organisers for safekeeping.

Tap water at the Village Hall can be used to fill up water bottles. Water will be available half way round the 10 mile route.

Great refreshments will be available in the village hall from 11am. Please leave a donation.

Marshalls

Marshalls will be wearing hi-visibility jackets and will be in evidence on the route and will be there to support the safety of the riders crossing the main roads and to offer first aid or advice.

There will be directional signs at strategic places en route.

Marshalls will also carry mobile phones in order to alert the event organisers in case of difficulty.

First aid First aid will be available from the marshalls and in the village hall

