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THE QUARTERLY MAGAZINE OF DINTON with FORD & UPTON PARISH COUNCIL

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SUMMER 2012

DINTON FIRE ENGINE - Milton Keynes Museum

A group of Parish Councillors and Parishioners recently visited Milton Keynes Museum to visit the Dinton Fire Engine (c1890) which is stored there and to present the museum with the lamps which belong to the Fire Engine. We were really pleased to see the interest that the Director of the Museum has shown in the Fire Engine and his hopes to restore the original hoses, which is a very specialised job. For those of you who have not visited the museum, it is a fantastic day out for adults and children alike. Run largely by volunteers the museum has reconstructed shops and streets, a Victorian school room and sitting room, and a large transport hall, with a beautifully restored tram, gypsy caravan and other means of transport. Volunteers are currently working on installing a reconstructed telephone exchange. The museum is at McConnell Drive, Wolverton, Milton Keynes, MK125EL; tel: 01908 316222 and the web site is www.mkmuseum.org.uk

CUDDINGTON and DINTON SCHOOL

Planning permission has now been granted for Cuddington and Dinton School and a contractor appointed. With these two important steps the school are now a lot closer to putting the fire behind them and in fact are aiming to have the Junior children return to the site for the new academic year in September. By the time the children return to school in September, the school will have the classrooms and major utilities in place. It is also expected that building on the new hall will be well underway.

MOVEABLE VEHICLE ACTIVATED SIGN (MVAS)

The MVAS Project reached a successful conclusion in April with formal project sign-off from Bucks CC. The sign-off signifies that Bucks CC has accepted the MVAS solution as an additional traffic calming measure alongside their existing options and Bucks CC has already made MVAS available to Town and Parish Councils across Bucks.

The success of the project is entirely due to the hard work and commitment of the Ford Project Team and volunteers – it is the culmination of several years of campaigning on their part. We're sure that all of the Parish will join the Parish Council in both recognising the achievement of the Ford team and in extending our congratulations. The Parish Council is pleased to have confirmed their on-going support for the use of the MVAS in Ford. The successful end of the project represents a significant milestone both for the Ford team and for other communities across Bucks - but it does not mean the end of Ford's traffic calming efforts. Over the coming months the team will continue to manage and deploy the MVAS around Ford and our Neighbourhood Policing Team will continue with their visits to Ford to enforce the speed limit.

PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITE

www.dintonwithfordandupton.org

Have you seen the parish council website lately? It's a good way of keeping up to date with what is happening in the parish. You can view the Parish Council minutes and see up to date information on events taking place in the parish.

CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT 2012

I would like to start by saying a real big thank you to our Clerk, Keith Gray and to all the members of the Parish Council; Jon Horn, Colin Minton; John Owen and our three new members: Giles Kidner, Martin Usherwood and Barbara Green for their hard work during the year. We now have parish councillors living in Dinton, Ford, Upton and Gibraltar. Their willingness to help has been fantastic, including turning out to plant daffodils in sleeting rain in November. I would also like to thank our Financial Officer, Mike Thompson, who attends virtually every Parish Council meeting and manages our finances so well and also our Tree Warden, David Hobden, who does a fantastic job on our behalf and will be telling you more shortly about the work he carries out in the spinney. Thank you also to Sylvia Eaton and Janet Morgan who so kindly helped serve refreshments this evening. I can report that our finances are in a healthy state; at just over a £1.00 per household per week, we hope we provide good value with the work we do on behalf of our parishioners. During the year, in addition to our regular expenditure on additional grass cutting, emptying of litter bins and regular cleaning of the glass 'bus shelters; we have repaired the entrance to the parish field and had all three brick 'bus shelters refurbished. It would have been great to have replaced them but the cost could just not be justified. Jon Horn also carried out some repairs to the matting in the younger childrens' playground: thank you Jon. We have also bought additional litter bins, salt bins and a dog bin. It was probably thanks to us buying the extra salt bins that we had such a mild winter.

We continue to want to communicate as much as possible with parishioners. The parish council web site, now organised by Jon Horn and Colin Minton, has a notice board which we would like to be used as much as possible by local organisations. There is also a village web site, managed by Barrie Lynch which includes photographs and the parish archive which is maintained so well by Carole Lynch. We have provided a new notice board for Gibraltar this year and refurbished the Upton Notice Board. We also provide 4 editions of The Bigg Issue each year which is delivered by Jon Horn, often helped by Colin Minton. We would really like people to communicate with the Parish Council as much as possible; Parish Councillors' e.mail details are on the back page of the Bigg Issue. A few nice things as well as complaints – PLEASE! We were able to use the web site earlier this year to ask for parishioners' opinions on the Aylesbury Vale Plan and although the response was limited this means of communicating could possibly be developed more in the future.

We have also given support to a number of parish organisations during the year. We gave a grant to the Cricket Club for their new sewage system for the pavilion, the Marquee Group help with the insurance for bonfire night and a small grant to the royal wedding tea party. We also took responsibility again for Remembrance Day ceremonies at Dinton and Ford War memorials.

Planning applications continue to take up a considerable amount of time, with 28 being dealt with this year. We always try to inform neighbours of local applications and the whole parish, where we believe this to be important, as we did this year with regard to the Cuddington and Dinton School plan and by giving regular updates on the Wind Turbine application which is expected from Lower Waldrige Manor Farm shortly. It is expected that we will publicly display those plans when they come in. We made a detailed submission of objection regarding H2 but unfortunately this, along with many other similar objections had little impact on planners. There will be major implications for the parish when the A418 is diverted at Hartwell for building works to take place.

On a more cheerful note, it was really gratifying to see that there is a wonderful community spirit in the parish. An example was a fantastic response from over 60 parishioners to litter picking in the Parish with around 70 bags of rubbish being collected. We are to have some great Diamond Jubilee celebrations in the Parish which you will hear about shortly. We have provided 600 daffodils which have been planted in the parish this year. Everyone is being encouraged to plant a tree in this Diamond Jubilee year and we would like to ask everyone to consider donating the cost of a reasonably mature small leaf lime tree to plant in Chestnut Avenue where the existing chestnuts are under severe threat from disease. The existing chestnut trees will remain in situ and the new trees will be planted between them in the areas cleared with the help of Bucks County Council. This should allow the avenue to continue even if the Chestnut trees have to be removed because of disease. . If you would like to donate we would be grateful to hear from you.

We have a fantastic community which cares deeply about the Parish and we are very lucky in that respect. The purchase of the 7*public house was an example of that. So thank you to all of you.

I cannot finish without mentioning one very special person who is not with us today; Chris Robinson. As everyone knows Chris sadly passed away this year. Chris was someone who was at the heart of our Parish, not only having been a Parish Councillor himself, but in everything he did. He continued working with the Parish Council to help and support us in any way he could; he attended many of our meetings and was always there to give us help and advice. We miss him terribly and I know that all of you do too.

Lorraine Gooch

DINTON FETE & VILLAGE HALL

Plans for this year's fete are well in hand now and the main raffle prizes decided upon.

Please start saving any chipped crockery; bric-a-brac and start dividing up plants for sale.

Don't forget to write to us if you are a local group or organization that has a project and would like to apply for a share of any profits we make.

We always run a very popular Tombola stall of jars of sweets and it has been suggested to me that some people would be prepared to fill a jam jar with sweets for inclusion. Any donations would be very gratefully accepted.

As well as bric-a-brac we are going to re-introduce a nearly new clothes stall this year. Have you any designer clothes you have worn once and couldn't possibly be seen in again!?

We are very lucky to have been promised a Lancaster fly-past this year – weather permitting and at a time to be advised.

We hope you will support us with the sale of raffle tickets and look forward to seeing you on Monday 27th August.

VILLAGE HALL

At the AGM on 15th May all the officers were re-elected for a further year and hire prices to remain the same for another year.

The hall continues to be booked on a regular basis as well as weekend parties etc. At the moment we have a healthy bank balance but we haven't received a gas bill since it was installed last November, so this may not last for long! The heating is still proving a success and was well worth the upheaval

and expense.

We are about to install a replacement 'push bar' safety door at the back of the hall to comply with health and safety regulations.

A Quiz Night on Saturday 27th October is planned and hopefully will be more profitable than the Spring Quiz which only made £240, probably due to the Easter holidays.

Sylvia Eaton



DOG FOULING

The Parish Council has agreed to install another dog bin on Upton Road. The Clerk has been asked to purchase a recycled bin which is much cheaper than a new dog bin.

We are still having problems with dog mess around the parish, from a small minority of dog owners, and request that all dog owners pick up their dog's mess and use the dog bins provided.

DIAMOND JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

The jubilee weekend was celebrated by a tea party in the village hall on Sunday afternoon which was well attended by many parishioners of all ages. The hall was beautifully decorated with red white and blue. Chantal Heath ably organised this event with the help of her "Fete teas team".

A raffle and donations raised approximately £500 for Great Ormond St hospital and the church flush fund.

On Monday night about 350 parishioners attended a picnic concert in marquees on the parish field. The band started with a rendition of the national anthem and then played many popular songs which kept the dance floor packed until the end of the evening.

Thank you so much to all those people who worked so hard to make our parish celebrations so successful.

DINTON with FORD & UPTON PARISH COUNCIL

www.dinton.org or www.dintonwithfordandupton.org

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John Bercow MP

01296 741 240

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Bell Ringing Tower Captain

Andrew Wild - 01296 748679

Church of England Minister

Rev'd Peter Rich: 01296 748068

Church Wardens

Raymond Medhurst - 01296 428498

Jean Moore - 01296 748063

Churchyard Working Party

Andrew & Helen Wild - 01296 748679

Cuddington & Dinton School

01844 291206

cuddingtonoffice@cds.bucks.sch.uk

Dinton Cricket Club

01296 748162

Haddenham Health Club

0844 477 8575

Girl Guides (Sue Napier)

01296 748554

1st Stone Brownies

01296 655692

Marquee Hire (Alan Weston)

01296 748287

Parish Magazine (Dinton)

Mike Thompson - 01296 748561

Police Station (Waddesdon)

PC Dean Kingham - 101

Pre-School, Dinton Village Hall

Valerie Partington - 01296 747495

Village Hall Bookings (Dinton)

Ruth Chelmick - 01296 747381

Hotline against Fly Tipping

0845 330 1856

Parish Good Neighbours Scheme

Jo Troup - 01296 727735

Valerie Aslett-Clark - 01296 747499

CHESTNUT AVENUE DIAMOND JUBILEE PROJECT

In celebration of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, this autumn we will be filling in several gaps in Chestnut Avenue with 30 new trees.

The current chestnut trees are unfortunately suffering from two different diseases so when they die, or become unsafe, they will be replaced with similar new trees.

These new trees are called *tilia cordata* and are a small leafed lime tree. We have already received a number of pledges to buy a tree at a cost of £50.

If you or your family would like to make a similar pledge please speak to a member of the Parish Council or email me (owendinton@aol.com) and a tree will be reserved in your name.