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ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The Annual Parish Meeting, to which parishioners are most warmly welcome, will be held this year on Tuesday 14th April in Dinton Village Hall. This year the guest speakers will be Sarah Allwood, of Buckinghamshire Community Action, and Beverly Trevitt, of the Buckinghamshire Foundation.

Sarah will be talking to all of us on the subject of Parish Plans. These are intended to set out a vision for the future of the community, through which residents can voice their opinions on what actions they wish to see taken in their local area in the future. Beverly will speak about the Foundations new grants programme, Grassroots.

As usual we look forward to hearing reports on their work from County, District and Parish Councillors, and representatives' of all our Parish organisations, we very much hope to see you!

ANNUAL PARISH LITTER PICK



We will be having our annual litter pick in Dinton Parish on Saturday 28th March. If you can help, please meet us at 10.00am outside Dinton Village Hall. Plastic bags provided but bring your own gloves.

Thank-You to those volunteers who picked up litter in Ford on 14th March 09. Les Sheldon will be arranging a litter pick in Upton, if you could help him, please phone him (see back page for contact details). While we appreciate help for this annual event, can we please ask everyone to pick up litter all year round!

NEW Sports Equipment ...

The new sports wall has now been installed in the site of the old playground next to the parish field. The line marking still has to be completed, but we need warmer and drier weather for this to be successful, so it will be at least March before this can be done. In the meantime please feel free to play on the area and enjoy the facilities.

We will hold a formal opening ceremony in early spring, once the line marking is completed. All are welcome to attend – the date will be published locally and in the Bucks Herald. We hope a representative from Wren will be able to attend. Wren is the organisation which provided a grant which funded the majority of the project. We will also invite representatives from the various community donors who made the project happen thanks to their generosity. If anyone would like to dedicate a commemorative tree to mark the event, please contact the Clerk to the Parish Council or any Parish Councillor to discuss.

The Spinney...

We hope to continue the replanting of The Spinney with a further 150 saplings which have been provided by AVDC with the Parish council paying half the cost. There has been some vandalism of the saplings that were planted last year, and we would ask all those who use the Spinney to take care and avoid newly planted areas and report any acts of vandalism

Chestnut Avenue**Tidy up**

The great tidy up started on Saturday 24th January with the aim of clearing the area between Dinton Lodge and Chestnut Farm of litter, scrub and dead elder.

We were delighted with the response we got, 5 parish councillors helped by Ron Hart, Shaun Brogan, Keith and Sylvia Mitchell, Guy Tilden Walker, Adrian Coole and Andrew Wild, managed between them to remove a substantial amount of scrub and litter.

For those parishioners who may feel that they missed out on a great community activity don't worry! We have another two working parties arranged on the 21st February and 21st March.

If you would like to help to restore Chestnut Avenue to its former glory, please contact Diana Coole or Helen Wild for further details.

DINTON CHURCHYARD

Thank you once again to all those who have given up their time over the past year to help keep Dinton Churchyard neat and tidy.

Our working parties will start again on Saturday 11th April at 10.30am. The work is simple mowing, weeding, strimming and general tidying up; you choose what you want to do. We meet on the second Saturday of each month, weather permitting. As an extra incentive, refreshments are provided on the Saturday morning.

If you would like to help please contact Andrew or Helen Wild on 01296 748679.

SALT HEAP

In other parts of the Parish a lack of salt and grit has not been a problem. Despite a nice new tidy Salt box being provided by the Parish Council at the foot of New Road, some very untidy heaps of grit were left by Bucks Contractors on the verges.

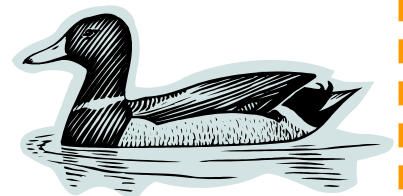
During the very icy weather just after Christmas much of this was found to be extremely useful. BCC Highways have issued a works order to remove the excess and tidy the area, but in the meantime, while winter persists, parishioners are most welcome to find use for some of this salt for their own paths and driveways.

GRITTING THE C63 At long last, and after much persistence, Bucks County Council have reassessed the danger posed by ice on the C63, which runs between the A418 and Four Winds crossroads, and this stretch of road has now been added to the gritting schedule.

FORD WAR MEMORIAL A quotation to repair the Ford War Memorial has now been accepted, this work has been made possible by the kind donation of a Dinton resident. We hope that the work to be done at Ford, and the restoration of the lettering on the Dinton War Memorial last year, will preserve these monuments against wind and weather for many years to come, so that the names of those who gave their lives for us will never be forgotten.

POND NEXT TO CUDDINGTON & DINTON SCHOOL

Does anyone know anything about the ownership and history of this pond? It is currently filled with rubbish and is very neglected. If you have any information regarding this pond please contact Lorraine Gooch (see back page for contact details).

**FORD TRAFFIC**

You may have been aware that Police have been visiting Ford with a laser device on several occasions; cars have been stopped and checked and drivers given advice on speed issues, some tickets have also been issued. Please remember Ford now has a 30mph speed limit and act accordingly.

CUDDINGTON & DINTON C of E SCHOOL

We had a series of lovely Christmas events before term ended on 19th December. We held a school book fair in early December so Christmas presents could be bought. This raised much needed money for new books for our school library. Our Christmas Play of "The Grumpy Sheep" was performed in Dinton Church to a packed audience.

Then in the last week we had our annual trip to the pantomime in High Wycombe and parties to finish.

School started back on 6th January

and we were pleased that all of the building work had been completed on the Dinton site. We now have additional art areas, new



Church of England School

cloakrooms and a much brighter and warmer site due to decorating and new heating.

During January the school was visited by Perform drama and three classes in

Dinton had a Drama4All workshop.

On Monday 7th February we had our first family assembly of the New Year in Dinton. The service was held in the Church and as usual everyone, parishioners as well as parents, were welcome to attend. The assembly started at 9.10am.

The school was very sad to be saying good-bye to Jetta Bendell at half term when she retired. Jetta has been the school's Caretaker/cleaner in Dinton for the last 19 years and will be much missed by children, parents and her staff colleagues. We wish her well in her retirement.

LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK

The Parish Council considered the three proposed options for future housing growth in Aylesbury as set out in the consultation document issued by AVDC and we raised specific concerns about matters that we felt had not been addressed in the document.

Our major concern was that if the Southern Arc became the preferred option for future housing growth there would be a substantial increase in traffic not only the A418, but also the C63 which runs through Ford. We were also concerned that extra traffic flows might lead to poorer air quality in some areas of the Parish.

We had further concerns about the lack of detail in the document regarding utilities, in particular electricity provision, water, sewage and flood management.

We therefore considered the Southern Arc and the combined East and Southern Arc to be our least favoured options.

The Eastern Growth Arc was our preferred option, taking into account the need to provide local employment and to minimise additional traffic movement through our parish to other areas of employment. The Eastern Arc Growth with its proximity to Aston Clinton Industrial area and road links to the A41, M25 and also the Eastern Link road would seem to be the sensible option to locate the major housing growth.

SCHOOL TRAFFIC UPDATE

The police are continuing to monitor speed and parking on the C63 outside of Cuddington and Dinton School. Parents are being sent a letter asking them not to park on the blind bend and to park at the Church.

In addition, the Parish Council is currently consulting with Highways regarding ways of improving safety on that stretch of road.

ASTON MULLINS BRIDGE

At considerable cost, Buckinghamshire County Council is to replace a bridge on Chapel Road, Ford, because its condition is now cause for concern. Being of a smaller capacity than bridges immediately up and downstream, it has also been identified as a potential flood nuisance.

The work is expected to commence this Summer!

DINTON with FORD & UPTON PARISH COUNCIL

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TWO MILLION REASONS TO CATCH THE BUS!

Arriva the Shires and Essex and Buckinghamshire County Council have unveiled a £2m investment in new buses for Aylesbury to kick start what promises to be a stellar year for public transport in the area.

Bus operator Arriva the Shires and Essex have invested the millions in new buses for Line 280 which links Aylesbury to Oxford via Haddenham, Thame and Wheatley and Line 300 operating between Aylesbury and High Wycombe via Stoke Mandeville, Butler's Cross, Great Kimble and Princes Risborough.

The new vehicles, six single deck buses for Line 300 and seven double deckers for Line 280 all have the latest environmentally friendly low emission engines, offer easy access for the less mobile and for parents with buggies, there's CCTV for customer security whilst leather seating will bring a touch of class to Line 280.

Local communities and potential converts to bus travel will be able to see the new buses for themselves and pick up timetables and travel vouchers at a series of public road-shows during the week commencing 2nd February.

For more information contact Brian Drury on 01582 587000. For media enquiries outside of office hours Arriva can be contacted via its media pager service on 0762 392 0615.

Arriva and Buckinghamshire County Council are having a launch event for the new vehicles in Market Square, Aylesbury between 12 - 2.30pm on Monday 26th January.

SCHOOL SUMMER BALL—20TH JUNE 2009— DINTON SCHOOL FIELD

Friends 4 CADS—the parents' association for Cuddington and Dinton School will be holding their annual Summer Ball on Saturday 20th June 2009 on the Dinton school field. This is a black tie event and includes an evening of good food, fine wine and entertainment such as a DJ, casino, auction and raffle. Tickets are on sale from Saturday 7th March at 11am from the Dinton school site and cost £49.50 per person. This popular event raises funds to support and enhance the experience of children at the school. For further information contact Susan Osborne on 07970 878595 or the school office on 01296 748264.

FIRE ENGINE SHED

By the time this magazine goes to press the old Fire Engine Shed in the corner of the churchyard wall should have its new door in place, and we are very grateful to the Fete and Marquee Group for helping to make this work possible.