

WELCOME TO PIDDINGTON

This leaflet has been put together by the Parish Council to help you get to know the village, what goes on here and who to contact if you need help. The village is a small, closely knit community; we have a lot to offer. We hope you find this information useful, but if you feel we have left anything out, or got anything wrong, please let Andrew Coleman at andrew.coleman@piddingtonpc.com know so that it can be updated. Thank you.

Piddington online

Piddington Village Website

Piddington has an excellent website that is updated regularly with information about forthcoming events, minutes of meetings, and so on. Everything contained in this leaflet and much, much more is available on the website. Check it out at www.piddingtonvillageoxfordshire.org.uk

Other ways to connect with Piddington online

Like the Piddington Facebook page at www.facebook.com/piddingtonoxfordshire

Follow Piddington village news on Twitter at www.twitter.com or send us a tweet. If you don't have a Twitter account, sign up and find us by typing our 'handle' in the search box – @Piddingtonoxon

Broadband

Fast broadband is available from:

Gigaclear www.gigaclear.com/, which is a service that brings a fibre optic connection into your home

Village Networks <http://www.vnworks.net/>, which provides a wireless-based system

Fibre-to-the-cabinet services from several internet services providers.

Parish Council

Your Parish Councillors are:

Francesca Darby (Chair) – francesca.darby@piddingtonpc.com; 01844 238294

Mike Nixon (Vice-Chair) – michael.nixon@piddingtonpc.com; 01844 239209

Andrew Coleman – andrew.coleman@piddingtonpc.com; 01844 237582

Pam Feltbower – pam.feltbower@piddingtonpc.com; 01844 237523

Lynda Galloway – lyndawillis.sunflower@gmail.com; 01844 327584

Ken Howard – ken.howard@piddingtonpc.com; 01869 320950

Mario Terzino – mario.terzino@piddingtonpc.com; 01844 238154

The Parish Clerk is:

Anne Davies – piddington.parish.clerk@googlemail.com

The Parish Council meets at 7.30 pm on the third Tuesday of every month in the Village Hall. Half an hour is set aside for members of the public to ask questions or raise concerns. It would be really nice to see you at one or more of our meetings. The Council also has a new initiative to contact people via email. If you wish to join, please contact Francesca Darby (francesca.darby@piddingtonpc.com).

The Parish Council is there to help you, so please feel free to contact any of your councillors if you need to.

Parish magazine

A free monthly parish magazine, *Parish Matters*, will be delivered to your door. Always read the Piddington pages as they will help to keep you up to date with what is going on. The magazine also contains many adverts for useful local services.

Another free monthly publication, called *Bicester Villages Postal Advertiser*, is also delivered to all households. It consists entirely of adverts for local businesses.

Post boxes and public telephone

There are two post boxes in the village: one in the stone wall at the centre of the village in Lower End and another opposite the Church in Thame Road.

At present (November 2016) there is a public telephone box in the centre of the village close to the Ludgershall Road turn. However, this box is no longer functional and is scheduled for removal by BT.

Noticeboards

We have three village noticeboards: one in Lower End by the gates to the allotments, one in the centre of the village next to the telephone box and a third opposite the Church. There are also noticeboards in the porch of the Village Hall and at the Church. It is always worth checking the noticeboards to see what is going on; events outside the village are also often advertised on the village noticeboards.

Rubbish and recycling

You should have been left with a brown bin, a green bin and either a blue bin or a blue box. The brown bin is for grass cuttings, hedge clippings, weeds, small branches, leaves, pet straw/sawdust, plants and flowers, and food waste. The blue containers are for plastic bottles/containers, pamphlets/leaflets, newspapers and magazines, directories and brochures, mixed paper, card, and drinks and food cans. Any other non-recyclable household rubbish goes in the green bin. You can leave old batteries or small broken household appliances in a plastic bag on top of any of your bins, but Cherwell does not take glass, which you are encouraged to dispose of at bottle banks. The Council will only take a bin if the lid is down and they will not collect anything else put beside it. If you have a damaged bin, or if one is missing, the Council will repair or replace it free of charge. If you need an additional blue or brown bin, there is a charge of about £30.00. Contact Cherwell District Council on 01295 227003.

The bins are collected alternate weeks on a Wednesday, brown and blue bins one week, green bins the other week – please put them outside your gate. Collections can be very early, so make it a Tuesday evening routine.

If you have any bulky items, such as large appliances or broken furniture, or a large amount of waste, contact the Council on 01295 252535.

A full list of council services is available on its website – www.cherwell.gov.uk/

Recycling centres

The closest council recycling sites are at:

Ardley Fields, Brackley Road, Ardley OX27 7PH (between Middleton Stoney and Ardley)

Raban's Close, Raban's Lane, Aylesbury HP19 8RS

Bottle banks

These can be found at Bullingdon Prison (turn into the prison then take the first right-hand turn), near the Costcutter store in Ambrosden, Tesco and Homebase in Bicester, and the main tip at Ardley. For a full list of recycling sites, see www.cherwell.gov.uk/

Dog waste bins

There are four dog waste bins in the village – one opposite the Church near Vicarage Lane, one at the junction with Ludgershall Road and Thame Road, one in Lower End near Shady Lane and one in the Jubilee Reserve (Widnell Lane).

Allotments

There are allotments in Lower End. If you are interested in an allotment, please contact John Galloway (jmg.galloway@gmail.com; 01844 237834).

Churches

St. Nicholas Church, Piddington, has regular services – have a look on the noticeboards or in *Parish Matters* for times of services. We are part of the Ray Valley Benefice and the Rector responsible for the parishes in the benefice is Rev. Steve Hayes (hayesfamily@freeuk.com; 01869 247813). The current Churchwarden for St. Nicholas Church is Margaret Hutchings (margaret@bestnet.eclipse.co.uk; 01844 238724). *Parish Matters* also gives a full list of contacts and information about other denominations. The Church is usually open during daylight hours if you would like to visit. Behind the door is a brief tour explaining its history.

Roman Catholic Services are held at St. Barbara's, Ambrosden (Fr John Batthula, jbatthula@googlemail.com; 01869 253277).

Methodist Services are held at Bicester Methodist Church (Rev. Steve Mann, 01869 323030).

Bell-ringing

There are five bells in the tower and a small band of ringers. If you would like to learn to ring (or know what you are doing) please contact Morwen Ashton on 01844 238510.

Village Hall

The Village Hall is in Ludgershall Road. It has a large car park and there is a play area with climbing frames and ropes at the back of the hall for children under the age of twelve. The Village Hall is a focal point of the village and is run by a committee of volunteers (the Piddington Village Hall Management Committee, or PVHMC). Village Hall events are publicised on village noticeboards, in *Parish Matters* and on the Piddington Village Website. Various clubs and societies use the hall regularly and it is available for private hire for all occasions – call 07922 040550 or email piddingtonvillagehall@gmail.com with enquiries or to make a booking. You can find more information on the Village Hall pages of the Piddington Village Website (www.piddingtonvillageoxfordshire.org.uk/village-hall.html).

Pop-up pub

A pop-up pub is held in the Village Hall on the last Friday of every month from 7 pm until 11 pm. It is the ideal place to meet new people and catch up with old friends. Real ale is always available on draught and, while stocks last, so is Piddington's very own cider.

Friends of the Village Hall

It is helpful for the PVHMC to have a list of volunteers they can call on, for example when putting on an event. If you would like to be on the 'Friends of the Village Hall' list, please call 07708 480 076 or email piddingtonvillagehall@gmail.com

Apple Day

In October 2015, Piddington's first Apple Day was held at the Village Hall. People throughout the village brought along spare apples from their trees and then washed, chopped, scrapped (finely chopped) and pressed them to yield pure apple juice. Much of this was then fermented to produce Piddington cider, which has been available at the Village Hall's Pop-up Pubs and other events. Any remaining apples were taken away to be pasteurised and bottled. The bottles have then been sold at many village events. The second Apple Day took place in October 2016 and it is now established as an annual event, although, unfortunately, it could not take place in 2019 owing to a shortage of apples. If you have any questions or

ideas, or would like to get involved with Apple Day or making the cider, please contact David Cook (david.gwithcott@btinternet.com; 01844 238368).

The Pantry

A small group of villagers organise a seasonal community market and coffee shop called ‘The Pantry’ at the Village Hall. It features local crafts, locally sourced products, local beers, etc., and is popular with villagers and people from further afield. If you’d like to help, please contact Margaret Pearce on 01844 237688 or by email at maggie@piddingtonvillageoxfordshire.org.uk. You can find more information on the Piddington Village Website (www.piddingtonvillageoxfordshire.org.uk/the-pantry.html) and on The Pantry’s own website (piddingtonpantry.wordpress.com/).

Jubilee Reserve and the Pocket Park

Just outside the village, on Widnell Lane, you will find the Jubilee Reserve, which includes Widnell Park and the playing field. This area belongs to the village and is gradually being improved by the Parish Council. It is an ideal area for walking dogs, playing ball-games or having a picnic. There are several picnic tables and a couple of benches to rest at. It is on the route of the five-mile Piddington Circular Walk. For a more restrained stroll try the Pocket Park at the end of Lower End, which has a comfortable bench for anyone wishing to admire the view.

Other useful services

The list below is not exhaustive, and will be amended from time to time on the Piddington Village Website. You can find contact details for many businesses and services in *Parish Matters* and *Bicester Villages Postal Advertiser* (www.postaladvertisers.co.uk/bicester-villages.htm).

Minor Injuries Unit

There is a First-Aid Unit at Bicester Community Hospital (01869 604024). The First-Aid Unit sees all minor injuries, but has no X-ray facilities. This service is open outside normal working hours only: weekdays from 6 pm to 11 pm, and from 8.30 am to 11 pm on weekends and bank holidays.

Emergencies

Water, 0845 9200 800

Electricity, National Power Cut Helpline, 105; Other emergencies, 0800 072 7282

Emergency number: 0845 770 8090

Cherwell District Council, 01295 227001

Bicester Police, 101 (though always dial 999 for an emergency)

Hospital A&E departments – John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford, and Horton Hospital, Banbury

Doctors

Alchester Medical Group (branches in Bicester, Langford Village and Ambrosden), 01869 248585;

alchester.medicalgroup@nhs.net; www.alchestermedicalgroup.co.uk

Bicester Health Centre, Coker Close, Bicester, 01869 249333; <http://www.bicesterhc.co.uk/>

Montgomery-House Surgery, Piggy Lane, Bicester, 01869 249222;

<http://www.montgomeryhousesurgery.co.uk/>

Age Concern transport

Age Concern Bernwode have a volunteer scheme that covers Piddington providing transport to hospitals, clinics and doctors’ surgeries. They ask for a donation of £5 per return journey plus parking costs. Contact Julie or Tony Hollingworth on 01844 238478 for more information, to book transport or to volunteer as a driver.

Dentists

Bicester Dental Care, 98 Sheep St, Bicester, 01869 252788 Bicester Dental Clinic, Bicester Causeway

Dental Practice, 23 Causeway, Bicester, 01869 252394

Greytown Dental Practice, 42-47 Sheep Street, Bicester, 01869 241122
Health Centre, Coker Close, Bicester, 01869 249066
Market Square Dental, 16 Market Square, Bicester, 01869 235261

Vets

Bicester Veterinary Centre, Victoria Road, Bicester, 01869 252077
Hart Veterinary Centre, Browning Drive, Kings Meadow, Bicester, 01869 323223

Newspapers

Micmac News, Brill, 01844 238511. Can be delivered daily.

Window cleaner

Richard Tracey, www.tricountywindowcleaning.co.uk, 07759 941922

Coal/logs

Finmere Fuels 01280 848228
Mr Prentice 01869 253279
Jason 07961 538035

Sweeps

Stuart Adams 01869 323481; 07595 660867
Chris Cherry 01296 730358
Andrew Peace 01869 369592; 07851 480755

Oil

Brill and Bernwode Oil Buying Club, admin@brillbuying.com, brillbuying.azurewebsites.net
Fuelcare 01295 220660
Merton Oil Buying Group 01865 331183; 07968 096338, oilbuyingclub.com/sites/merton/
Nolan Oils Bicester 01869 343477

Bottled gas

Nolan Oils, Bicester, 01869 343477, supply and fit 47 kg propane (LPG) cylinders

Libraries

Bicester Library, 01869 252181, bicester.library@oxfordshire.gov.uk
Thame Library, 01844 212288 thame.library@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Local shops

There are village shops in Brill, Arncott, Ambrosden and Launton, and the major supermarkets can be found in Bicester and Thame.

Post Offices

Merton Road, Ambrosden
Bicester Road, Launton, in the Costcutter shop

Market days

Bicester, every Friday
Thame, every Tuesday

Farmers markets

Bicester, second Saturday of month 8.30 am–1 pm
Thame, second Tuesday of month 8.30 am–1.30 pm

Public swimming pools

Bicester swimming pool and sports complex, 01869 253914

Thame swimming pool and sports complex, 01844 215607

Aylesbury Aqua Leisure, with seven pools, including an outdoor one, and a gym, 01296 488555

Local MP

Victoria Prentis holds regular surgeries in Bicester. Call 01295 262341 for an appointment, write to Victoria Prentis MP, The House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA, or email victoria.prentis.mp@parliament.uk

Oxfordshire County Councillor

Dan Sames, 01869 249768, 07771 857088, dan.sames@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Cherwell District Councillors

David Hughes, 07711 425284, cllr.david.hughes@cherwell-dc.gov.uk

Simon Holland, 01869 351636, cllr.simon.holland@cherwell-dc.gov.uk

Tim Hallchurch MBE, 01865 377099, 07802 202557, timothy.hallchurch@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Schools

Five Acres Primary School, Ambrosden, 01869 253193. School bus leaves from bus stop on Arcott Road.

Brill Church of England School, 01844 237710. School bus leaves from Village Hall car park.

Windmill Pre-school, Brill – takes children from two and half years, 01844 238859

The Bicester School (formerly known as Bicester Community College), 01869 243331. School bus leaves from bus stop on Arcott Road

The Cooper School, Bicester, 01869 242121

Lord Williams's School, Thame, 01844 210510

Waddesdon Church of England School, 01296 651382

Buses and other transport

A weekly bus to Bicester runs from the bus stop in Arcott Road every Friday. The bus leaves Piddington at 10.50 and arrives in Bicester at 11.05. It returns from Bicester at 1.20, arriving in Piddington at 1.32.

The fare is £2.50 for a single journey, £5 return. Unfortunately, it is not possible to use bus passes on this service. The buses are run by Charlton Services, 01865 331249.

Oxfordshire County Council run 'The Oxfordshire Comet' bookable transport service for those who can't access suitable public transport. For further information call 01865 792422 or see www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/oxfordshire-comet

There are several taxi firms in Bicester. A one-way trip from Piddington to Bicester costs around £15.

See also the entry about Age Concern transport for medical appointments above.

Food and drink

Howes Mobile Fish & Chip van calls at Piddington on Saturdays at various times and locations from around 4 pm. For details see howeandcofishandchips.co.uk/chippy/

Our closest pubs serving food are:

The Bull & Butcher, Ludgershall, 01844 238094, 07961 494088, www.thebullludgershall.com

The Pheasant, Brill, 01844 239370, www.thepheasant.co.uk

The Pointer, Brill, 01844 238339, www.thepointerbrill.co.uk

The Plough, Arcott, 01869 321228

Bicester and Thame have many restaurants and takeaways.