

Didcot Diary

December 2016



Didcot Diary— December 2016



NEWS

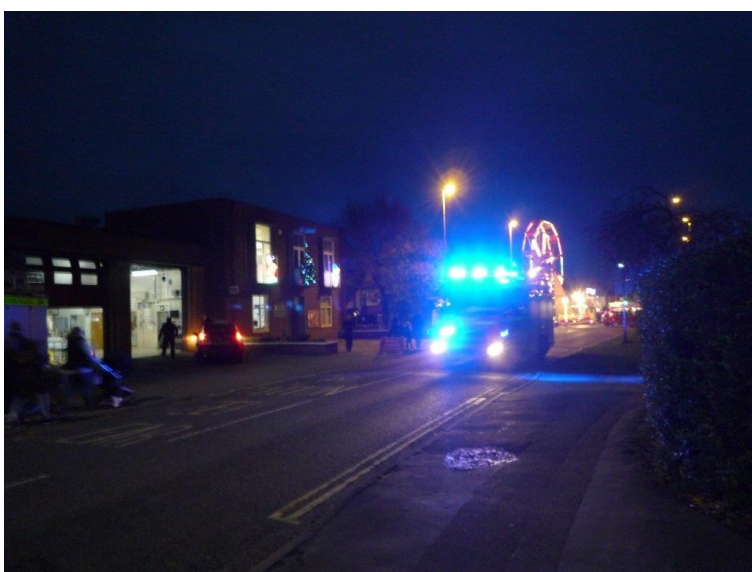
Welcome to the December issue of Didcot Diary.

Didcot has been very busy, especially during November.

The annual Remembrance Parade took place on Sunday 13th November 2016 (see page 3).

We had the Street Fair on Thursday 24th November, where lots of stalls, fair rides, and a parade along the Broadway took place organised by The Street Fair Committee volunteers.

Also we had the food festival over the weekend of 25th - 27th November at the Cornerstone, organised by Christine Wallace.



Pages

- 2 News
- 3 Remembrance Parade
- 4 Parks & Gardens, Recycling, Christmas Refuse Collection, Didcot Town Council Christmas Opening
- 5 Tree Planting, Sustrans Cycle Route, Cashless Parking
- 6 Mayor's Sponsored Walk
- 7 Ridgeway Winter Newsletter & 2017 Litter Pick
- 8 Christmas Tree & Mayor's Charity Dinner

Remembrance Parade 2016

On Sunday 13th November 2016 the annual Remembrance Parade took place in Didcot, leaving Edinburgh Drive car park and finishing at the Memorial by the Civic Hall.

The Oxford Caledonian Pipe Band lead the parade, followed by 11 EOD Regiment along with Ed Vaisey MP, Didcot Town Mayor, Didcot Council, and members of the Royal British Legion. Various clubs and societies also took part in the parade.

Paul Gander officiated the service, assisted by Fran Childs and Rev Kevin Jones CF the Army Padre. Abbey Brass Band played and Didcot Choral Society sang.



Mrs Elizabeth Paris, Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Oxfordshire, led the wreath laying followed by the Mayor with the Town wreath.

After the service refreshments were served at the Civic Hall where work by Year 6 children from Stephen Freeman School on WW1 was on display.

Didcot Town Council gives Grant Aid to the Royal British Legion to support the event



Parks and Gardens

The weather broke in September with heavy rain but the temperatures have remained good for the time of year. After a summer of flowers in Broadway gardens, around the Civic Hall and at the cemetery, we have now removed the faded blooms and planted winter pansies and bulbs. All the shrubs are getting an end of year trim in readiness for winter.

Recycling

There has been some confusion over the recycling recently. As of 1st November South Oxfordshire District Council are no longer accepting recycling rubbish in the green bins unless they are in clear plastic bags or loose in the bin. This is to stop contamination of the recycling.

You can purchase clear bags from most supermarkets in Didcot.

Christmas Bank Holiday Refuse Collections

Normal collection day	Revised collection day	Which bin
Friday 30th December 2016	Tuesday 3rd January 2017	Grey & food
Friday 6th January 2017	Monday 9th January 2017	Green & food (no garden waste)
Friday 13th January 2017	Saturday 14th January 2017	Grey & food

Didcot Town Council Office Christmas Opening

The Council Offices will close at 12pm on Friday 23rd December and reopen on Tuesday 3rd January 2017.

If you have an emergency during this time please contact South Oxfordshire District Council on 01235 422422.



Tree Planting

On a lovely sunny day, Friday 25th November 2016, The Mayor, Councillor Steve Connel along with members of the Royal British Legion planted a Commemorative Oak tree for World War 1.

Sustrans Cycle Route Sign on Ladygrove Park

A new Sustrans Cycle Route sign has been restored on Ladygrove. Hopefully, the new structure, which is on a much larger base, will now be resistant to any further attempts to push it over.



Cashless Parking

On 1st November South Oxfordshire District Council launched a new service for people to pay by mobile in district council car parks called Connect Cashless - this will replace the current RingGo service.

Mayor's Sponsored Walk

For those of you reading this who don't know me, my name is Steve Connel and I'm the current Mayor of Didcot.

Each year its tradition for the Mayor to pick 1 or 2 charities which are particularly close to their heart and try to raise both money and awareness for them. Mine are Turberous Sclerosis and South Vale Young Carers.

Below is a brief summary of the 6ish hours from the walk.

On the morning of the 12th November I woke up with a very bad cold to the sound of the rain battering against my bedroom window. Every logical part of my brain told me to delay it a week, but as anyone who has ever been involved in fundraising knows logic rarely wins especially when charities are relying on you.

So I took the train to Reading station and live streamed the start to friends, family and sponsors on social media.



Every mile my trainers seemed to be absorbing more and more of the water from having to walk through the deep puddles and at close to half way I realised my intended route was flooded so I would have to take the longer route and walk much of it on the road/grass verges.

To keep people up to date I took and posted pictures with major signs I went past.

Almost exactly at the point I reached the sign for Oxfordshire the rain began to stop and I looked up at the hill towards Aston Tirrold and Blewbury. Every step seemed to be getting harder and the only reason I was keeping going was for the charities as I just wanted to sit down and rest.



Finally I walked around the corner to Didcot station and was greeted by former Didcot Mayor Axel MacDonald and my Wife Sarah Connel.

Although we haven't made a final count as the money is still coming in from our just giving page, directly to us and through my mayoral PayPal account we believe we have broken £600.

Thank you to everyone who has supported me and I look forward to announcing my next fundraising event soon.

Steve

Ridgeway Winter Newsletter

The Ridgeway Newsletter is a quarterly newsletter about events taking place on or near The Ridgeway. Including events involving large numbers of people, as well as articles about local people and local heritage.

Enjoy a good read of [The Ridgeway National Trail](#) newsletter which features:

- Ten year old boy becomes a Hero - walking the entire Ridgeway for charity
- Ridgeway Wildlife corridor - the Trail plays a role in helping wildlife movement
- Events listing - art fairs, guided winter walks, fundraising challenges and more
- Help maintain The Ridgeway - see the task diary and read about an app to help with reporting problems
- Explore The Ridgeway on horseback – take part in TREC events and volunteer to monitor circular rides
- Literary walk - follow in the footsteps of great writers inspired by the Ridgeway landscape
- Whiteleaf Cross is scoured to a gleaming white and the Grosvenor memorial near East Ilsley is restored

If you are interested in The Ridgeway you are welcome to send material to include in future newsletters.

Here is a [link](#) to the website or www.nationaltrail.co.uk/ridgeway

Didcot Residents Have Had Enough of Rubbish

Figures released by the UK's biggest anti-litter campaign, Keep Britain Tidy, have revealed:

That council taxpayers in the UK fork out £1 billion a year to clean the streets.

Over 30m tonnes of litter are collected from our streets each year.

Thanks to the growing presence of dropped food, the UK rat population now stands at approximately sixty million

People can be fined £80 for dropping litter. Last year 44,000 people were prosecuted

Like everywhere else in the UK, Didcot has its fair share of litter problems. But we hope that the residents of Didcot at least have people prepared to help the Town Council do something about it.

In order to plan this “spring clean” we want you to let us know where you think a team of litter pickers would be most effective. If you want to nominate an area or location then email us the place and if possible send a photograph to events@didcot.gov.uk

Christmas Tree

For a number of years the Town Council has faced a recurring problem. Each year the Christmas tree outside the Civic Hall is vandalised. This year was no different, and for a while half the lights were not working. Thankfully, a kind member of the public saw this and in a festive gesture of goodwill took it on herself to bring some colour and joy back to the display. Janet Kent visited the Changing Lives charity in Lower Broadway, purchased some baubles and decorated the tree. We hope that you have all seen how lovely it looks. Our heartfelt thanks go out to Janet for her display of optimism and Christmas spirit.



Didcot Annual Ball

The Mayor's Charity Dinner will take place on Saturday 4th March 2017. It will take place at the Civic Hall and start at 6.30pm.

The event promises to be a fantastic evening with a antipasto/carvery/desert table and dancing until the early hours.

All proceeds from the Ball will go to the Mayor's Charities; Turberous Sclerosis and South & Vale Young Carers South & Vale Young Carers.



More details will be available from the Information Centre shortly.



**UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE
CIVIC HALL:**

DICK WHITTINGTON

24TH DECEMBER 2016

SUPERSTARS OF WRESTLING

28TH DECEMBER 2016

NEW YEARS EVE PARTY

31ST DECEMBER 2016

JACK & THE BEANSTALK

27TH & 28TH JANUARY 2017

**MASSIVELY MULTIPLAYER ON STAGE
ROLE PLAYING GAME (MMORPG)**

11TH MARCH 2017



Didcot's Annual Litter Pick Saturday 4th March 2017

**Volunteers wanted and
suggestions where to clean**



Refreshments provided after for all volunteers

If you would like to take part or nominate an area to clean email:
events@didcot.gov.uk or tel 01235 812637

**DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO
WILL BE ALONE ON
CHRISTMAS DAY?**



Please let them know about my:-

**FREE
CHRISTMAS LUNCH**

at

DIDCOT DAY CENTRE

BRITWELL ROAD

DIDCOT

FROM 12-5 P.M.



on

CHRISTMAS DAY

Places must be booked in advance

Please contact:-

Anna Gatrell

07789428795

Didcot & District U3A meets on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 2:00 pm in the Didcot Civic Hall. Please arrive 15 minutes before the start time to ensure you are all seated for the 2pm start.

Tuesday 17th January
Andrew Steel will give a talk entitled
"Banff National Park Canada"



Wallingford Museum Bookshop

As usual, Wallingford Museum will close for its winter break (Dec, Jan and Feb) to carry out refurbishment and prepare exciting new exhibitions for next year. These will feature 'Pettits: past to present', 'Wallingford Castle' and 'The Way to Wallingford'.

The Museum will re-open on 1st March 2017.

Please remember that the highly successful Museum bookshop, with its constantly changing stock of good second-hand books (both fiction and non-fiction) will remain open during December, January and February.

You might just spot that perfect Christmas present !

The bookshop will be open on Fridays and Saturdays from 10.30am to 1.00pm.

www.wallingfordmuseum.org.uk

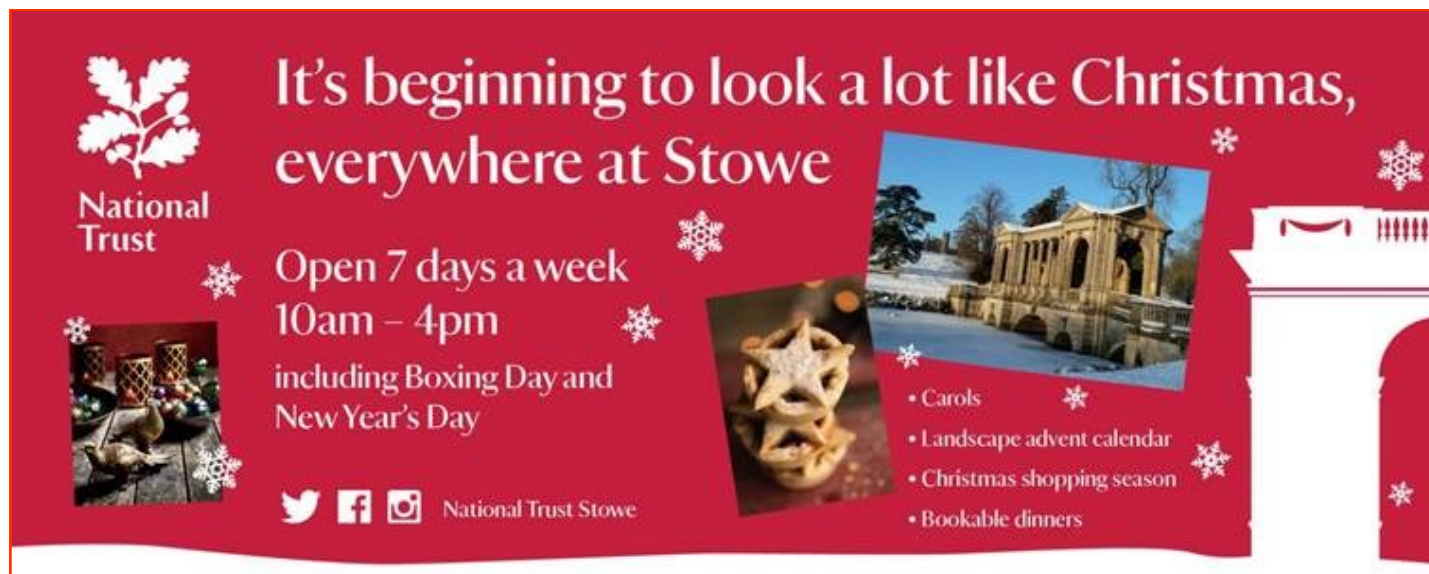


**DIDCOT FARMERS' MARKET on 2nd
SATURDAY of each month**

**Orchard Centre, Didcot OX11 7LL
8.30am until 1.30pm**

*We are passionate about our food - once you try it, you'll be too!
You can be sure you are buying good, honest food straight from the
producers.
Try us & you'll see nothing compares to the flavour & quality of the freshest,
local, seasonal food.*

We look forward to welcoming you!



The poster features a red background with white snowflake icons. On the left is the National Trust logo (a leafy branch) and the text 'National Trust'. Below it is a small image of a dog and some festive items. The main text reads: 'It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas, everywhere at Stowe'. Below this, it says 'Open 7 days a week 10am - 4pm including Boxing Day and New Year's Day'. At the bottom left are social media icons for Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram, followed by 'National Trust Stowe'. On the right, there is a photograph of the Stowe House in winter, a close-up of a Christmas stocking, and a list of activities: '• Carols', '• Landscape advent calendar', '• Christmas shopping season', and '• Bookable dinners'. A white silhouette of a classical building is on the far right.

National Trust

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas, everywhere at Stowe

Open 7 days a week
10am - 4pm
including Boxing Day and
New Year's Day

• Carols
• Landscape advent calendar
• Christmas shopping season
• Bookable dinners

National Trust Stowe



Advance Notice

'Treasures Beneath our Feet'

James Mather will talk to The Wallingford Historical and Archaeological Society (TWHAS) about local metal detecting finds from Oxfordshire and Berkshire dating from modern times to the Bronze Age. His most significant find, "The Watlington Viking Hoard", with its amazing selection of King Alfred the Great coins, is covered comprehensively from its discovery to display at the Ashmolean.

By the end of James's presentation, attendees will have seen many beautiful images and have a clear idea of the contribution responsible metal detecting can make to the nation's heritage. James has been detecting for over 25 years, and is a member of the 'Archaeology in Marlow' local society.

This talk will be held on **Wednesday 11th January, 7.45 for 8pm, at St Mary's Church, Wallingford.**

Visitors (£4) are most welcome.

www.twhas.org.uk



www.crimestoppers-uk.org

If you have information about crime or criminals and are scared to talk to the police you can call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Calling Crimestoppers is a safe way you can help fight crime in your community because it is completely anonymous. You will not be asked anything about yourself, just what you know.

Crimestoppers have an interpretation service. Please ask for 'language line'.

Crimestoppers is a charity, not part of the police or the government.





Oxfordshire Befriending for Life



**Friendship for people with
life-limiting conditions**

**01235 849427
www.oxbel.org.uk**



A journey of learning and discovery

Berkshire
Buckinghamshire
Oxfordshire



Wild at Heart: Love is in the air

Tues 14th, Wed 15th and Thurs 16th February, 2017

10:00am - 3:00pm

Visit Sutton Courtenay to find out what our amazing wildlife is up to this February. Wrap up warm to explore the reserve then join us inside by the fire to enjoy some crafts. Suitable for children aged 4 - 11 years. **Booking Essential.** £4 per child, accompanying adults free.

For those with **pre-school** children we run Nature Tot sessions every month. A great opportunity for you and your little one to have fun in natural surroundings. Activities include; mud painting, mask making, bug hunting and much more. **Booking essential.**

For all bookings please head to our website **bbowt.org.uk**

Get in touch

Email: sceec@bbowt.org.uk Phone: 01235 862024

Where to find us

Milton Park Estate, off the A34, 3 miles north of Didcot
Sutton Courtenay, Sutton Courtenay Road, Abingdon, OX14 4TE

Supported by



An RWE company

See what's happening at our other education centres at College Lake near Aylesbury and Woolley Firs near Maidenhead:

www.bbowt.org.uk





Didcot Mayor's Charity Dinner

Saturday 4th March 2017

6.30pm Civic Hall, Didcot

Tickets £35

**(Antipasto/Carvery/Dessert table
and entertainment)**

CLlr Steve Connel, Mayor of Didcot is hosting the annual

Civic Hall Charity Dinner

All profits go towards the Mayors Charities; Tuberous Sclerosis
Association and South & Vale Carers



**Tickets available from Didcot Town Council,
Britwell Road, Didcot, OX11 7HN**

