

# Didcot Diary

October 2016





# Didcot Diary— October 2016



## NEWS

Welcome to the October issue of Didcot Diary.

The Council has had a busy summer with lots of events taking part in the parks, including fishing competitions, circuses and fairs to name a few. Also Broadway Allotments celebrated 100 years and threw a party to celebrate!

## New Town Clerk and Deputy Town Clerk

Didcot Town Council has a new Town Clerk—Kathy Fiander.

Kathy joined the Town Council in July 2015 as Deputy Town Clerk and moved into the Town Clerk role in June 2016.

Prior to working for Didcot Town Council Kathy worked for South Oxfordshire District Council in a variety of roles.

The new Deputy Town Clerk is Tom Hudson, who joined us on 1st June 2016. He has previously worked in a number of District and County Council roles, primarily relating to housing and social care, as well community and strategic development in the voluntary sector.



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## Ladygrove Lakes

This autumn we have had a significant problem with blue-green algae in the lakes. The Town Council had the water tested by the Environment Agency which showed 428,980 cells per millilitre; the warning threshold is 20,000. Our level was twenty-one and a half times the threshold! These algae can, but do not always, produce toxins which are harmful to wildlife, dogs and humans. It is not possible to tell by looking at the algae whether it is producing toxins so we had to close the lakes as a precautionary measure. In humans it can cause skin rashes after contact or if the water is swallowed then you can vomit and suffer diarrhoea, fever and muscle/ joint pain.



Algae photosynthesise during the day using sunlight to grow and produce oxygen as a result of this natural process. At night the algae then respire and use up the oxygen. If there is too much algae, it will reduce the oxygen in the levels in the lake, causing suffering to the fish who can suffocate through lack of oxygen. We have had the lake's dissolved oxygen measured over a period of days to check that we have enough to keep the wildlife

in the lakes happy.

One of the fishing club's aims this year is to look at installing an aerator in the small lake which usually has the problems with low oxygen. The club will use its funds to pay for this improvement which will help keep the water well aerated throughout the year.

Repairs are due to the banks of the lake where there is natural erosion from wave action. We are in the process of getting quotes in to get this work completed. The finished back filled areas will be planted up so that the plants roots stabilise the soil beneath.

## 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 started preparing the ground for the winter pansies and bulbs. All the shrubs are getting an end of year trim in readiness for winter.

## Remembrance Parade Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2016

We will be tidying the Garden of Remembrance ready for the Service of Remembrance on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> November, which takes place at 3pm at the Civic Hall. There is an updated order of service this year provided by the Royal British Legion.

The parade takes place, starting at 2.45pm from Edinburgh Drive car park where the parade musters from 2.30pm. The roads from Vicarage up to Ernest Road are closed for the duration of the parade and service, starting at 2.30pm and finishing at 3.45pm. This is to ensure space for the parade to take up the full width of Broadway and for the public to participate as well.



The parade will be led by the Caledonian Pipe Band along with a contingent from 11EOD Barracks followed by the Mayor, councillors, service cadets and local groups. It is an important day to remember all those who have made the ultimate sacrifice and to support 11EOD Regiment.

### Broadways Allotment—100 year Party

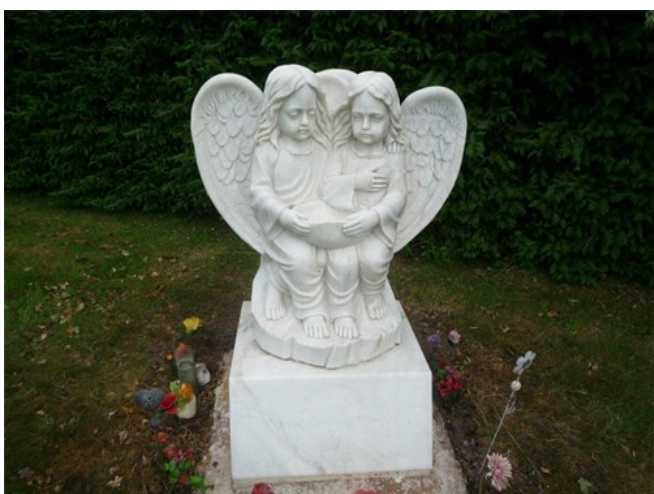
The Allotment holders marked the Centenary of Broadway Allotment site with an open day and party celebration on Saturday 16th July. The summer weather was warm and dry and many visitors came to see what the reality of having an allotment is like.

Seasoned plot holders showed newcomers around and gave a run-down of what it entailed to work an allotment and how much quality home grown produce they could expect to grow from a typical plot.

As a result the Town Council had new enquiries from this open day about taking on an allotment.

Much can be learnt from visiting a well worked site, including the benefits of companion planting to help growth and reduce pests and diseases.

A celebration cake with fresh drinks welcomed everyone to site and even young children got the chance to see the produce grown by other youngsters.



### Baby Memorial Clean-up

The Co-op Funeral Care have donated their Stone Mason's community hours to cleaning up the Children's and Baby monument at Kynaston Road Cemetery.

They have done an excellent job and it is really appreciated by all the community as this monument represents all those children and babies that have an unmarked grave.



## Didcot Deep Clean

South Oxfordshire District Council organised a deep clean in Didcot between 1 – 12 September 2016, eight days in total.

Ladygrove was nominated by the public as needing a deep clean especially the Ladygrove Loop pathway.

Didcot Town Council would like to thank South Oxfordshire District Council and Biffa for the big clean up.

We have set the date for the next annual Didcot Town Council Litter-Pick: Saturday 4th March, 10am and 1pm. Keep your ears out for further info





## Didcot Town Council John Eldridge Award

Two simple words that make a big difference

We're asking people to nominate a Didcot based group or individual who has given their time and effort for the benefit of others, whether it is charity work, volunteering for a club or society or just being a good citizen and going that extra mile to help the people of Didcot.

For a nomination form see our website or contact the council offices and we can email/post one to you.

## South News

Lots of people like to keep up to date with the latest news from South Oxfordshire District Council through the Outlook magazine. Now South Oxfordshire want to give you more news more often and so there will shortly be available a new magazine called South News which will be available to all residents in the district and sent out every 2 months straight to subscribers email inbox.

If you want to receive copies of South News simply email [communications@southandvale.gov.uk](mailto:communications@southandvale.gov.uk) and they will add you to the subscribers list. Your email will not be use for anything other than sending you the magazine.

To find out more visit [www.southenoxon.gov.uk](http://www.southenoxon.gov.uk)

## Transport news – The Oxford Comet

The Oxfordshire Comet is a new bookable transport service introduced by Oxfordshire County Council that will allow people without suitable access to public transport to make journeys they want.

For use by individuals and groups wanting to meet friends in town, attend an appointment or just pop to the shops this not for profit services can be booked for any type of trip and is available from 10:15 am to 2:30 pm Monday to Fridays. (Excluding bank holidays).



For more information call 01865 323201 to register and they will create an account for you or visit [Oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/Oxfordshire-comet](http://Oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/Oxfordshire-comet)

## Grant Aid

Didcot Town Council awards grants to local charities and organisations. If you would like to apply for a grant you can download an application form from the website.

Here are a few words from the Young Dementia Group who received a grant last year.



## Didcot Coffee and Chat Group

The Coffee and Chat group in Didcot started meeting in January 2016. The group meets once a month at the Cornerstone Arts Centre and is attended by carers of people with young onset dementia (aged between 35-65) who live in Didcot and the surrounding area.

The group has been regularly attended by between four and six people each time and has now become established as a part of carers' routine.

The group meetings are organised and facilitated by one of our support workers and the objectives are for carers to get away from their caring roles for a few hours, to meet with other people in similar circumstances, to share experiences, learn from each other and give/receive mutual support.

Here are some of the aspects of being a carer that the group has discussed in the first seven months:

- The challenges of leaving a partner alone when going out.
- How to engage a partner when lacking motivation/wanting to stay in bed.
- Strategies for coping with memory loss, obsessive behaviour and sleep disturbance.
- Issues for teenagers caring for a parent with young onset dementia.

At the June meeting we did a six-month review of the group and below are three comments that were made by carers, indicating the value added.

***"I am able to say things to this group that I haven't told anybody else because I feel like they understand what I am going through."***

***"Sometimes it can be a bit scary hearing things that may happen to Mum but I think it's important to be prepared and learn from others."***

***"It's so reassuring to hear that others have had to deal with similar things and you feel they really understand. Definitely want to keep meeting up."***

We would like to thank Didcot Town Council for their grant towards getting this new group started. Their support is greatly appreciated and is helping us to make a difference to carers of this relatively rare condition.





**UPCOMING SHOWS AT THE  
CIVIC HALL:**

**MARK STEEL**

**WHO DO I THINK I AM?**

**14TH OCTOBER 2016**

**JOURNEYS END**

**4TH NOVEMBER 2016**

**DICK WHITTINGTON**

**24TH DECEMBER 2016**

**JACK & THE BEANSTALK**

**27TH & 28TH JANUARY 2017**



**EVENTS IN DIDCOT**

**ARMISTICE MAROON FIRING**

**EDMONDS PARK**

**11TH NOVEMBER 2016**

**REMEMBRANCE PARADE & SERVICE**

**BROADWAY & CIVIC HALL**

**13TH NOVEMBER 2016**

**CHRISTMAS STREET FAIR**

**BROADWAY**

**24TH NOVEMBER 2016**

## Style Acre

Supporting people with learning disabilities



## Tea Room Volunteers

Get involved!



Can you help at our important Tea Room?

Our team is currently looking for volunteers to help with the everyday running of the Tea Room alongside the people we support.

We are looking for volunteers for a:

**Monday, Thursday or Friday**

Can you help us continue to provide the opportunities we do?

To find out more or for an application form, ask the managers, Jo and Tracy, in store or contact Chris, Style Acre Volunteer Engagement officer:

[cburrows@styleacre.org.uk](mailto:cburrows@styleacre.org.uk) / 01491 827593





**Free for  
Carers!**

## **National Carers Rights Day 'Caring Matters' Conference 2016**

If Caring Matters to you this conference is an important event for both carers and professionals.

### **Guest speakers include;**

**Dame Philippa Russell DBE**, Emeritus Chair, Standing Commission on Carers.

**Sarah Taylor**, High Sheriff of Oxfordshire

**Caroline Heason**, Head of Patient Experience, Oxfordshire OUHT

### **Expert Seminars including;**

Welfare Benefits Advice, Mindfulness, Assistive Technology, Rally Round for Carers, Singing for Health and others to be confirmed.

Over 20 information stands will provide advice, connections and support throughout the day.

**Date: 25th November 2016**

**Time: 9.30am - 4.30pm**

**Venue: Kassam Stadium, Oxford**

To book please visit:

<http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/carers-oxfordshire-11028787861>

Or call 01235 520463







Multiple Sclerosis Therapy Centre  
37e Innovation Drive  
Milton Park, Abingdon, OX14 4RT  
Tel: 01235 832023  
[www.osmtc.org](http://www.osmtc.org)

[ms.therapy@btconnect.com](mailto:ms.therapy@btconnect.com)

# Quiz Night

***Fri 14<sup>th</sup> October 2016***  
***Didcot Conservative Club***  
***7 for 7.30 start – 10.30pm***

£7 per person  
6-8 in a team



For team form contact:  
Sue Doran, [ms.therapy@btconnect.com](mailto:ms.therapy@btconnect.com)  
or: 01235 832023.

# Didcot and Wallingford Orchestra

Did you play an instrument when you were younger? Do you wish you still had a chance to play it now? Would you like to get out of the house for 2 hours on a Monday evening?

If so then the Didcot and Wallingford orchestra is for you! The Didcot and Wallingford Orchestra meets every Monday evening at 7.30 at the Northbourne Centre, Didcot. We are a small, friendly rehearsal orchestra and in the last year have played a range of music, from Bach to modern pieces.

Being a rehearsal orchestra means that if making a regular commitment is difficult for you then it is not a problem to just attend when you can; it's quite informal.

We would like more players of all instruments to come and join us. Please contact [didcotandwallingfordorchestra@gmail.com](mailto:didcotandwallingfordorchestra@gmail.com)

Or visit

<https://sites.google.com/site/didcotorchestra/>

for more information.





### 'God's House at Ewelme'

Dr John Goodall, FSA, Architectural Editor of Country Life magazine, will talk to The Wallingford Historical and Archaeological Society (TWHAS) about God's House at Ewelme. He wrote a magnificent book on it, published in 2001, and is also author of the equally magnificent The English Castle (2011). God's House at Ewelme was founded in 1437 by Alice and William de la Pole, then Earl and Countess of Suffolk. The almshouse and school that they founded still operate under the original endowment and the buildings that accommodate them remain intact. This talk will consider the history and life of this remarkable institution in the 15th century.

This talk will be held on **Wednesday 12th Oct, 7.45 for 8pm, at St Mary's Church, Wallingford.**

Visitors (£4) are most welcome.

[www.twhas.org.uk](http://www.twhas.org.uk)





## A real alternative choice

### Qualifications and support to get you into work

Going to College or into Sixth Form isn't for everyone, so  
where else can you get the skills local employers want?

At SOFEA!



In Partnership  
with  FareShare  
Thames Valley

**For more information, please contact us:**

SOFEA, Charity Number : 1155783

Richard Kennell, 1E, Trident Business Park, Didcot, OX11 7HJ

Tel: **01235 510774** Email: [richard@sofea.uk.com](mailto:richard@sofea.uk.com) Web: [www.sofea.uk.com](http://www.sofea.uk.com)



### **'Create a Cartoon' Night at Wallingford Museum**

Following the great success of our previous event in May, this October's 'Night at the Museum' will be another FREE bookable 'Cartoon' event for children.

Here's what it's all about:

**From 6.30 - 8.30pm on Friday 28th October**, twenty children (suggested age range 7-11) will have a chance to try their hand at creating their own cartoon characters in Wallingford Museum with help from some local artists and inspiration from things they can see in the museum.

Steve Head, whose special '300 years of Cartoons' exhibition is on display at the museum until end-November, will talk to the children about how cartoons began and help them to look closely at what makes a cartoon special and get their ideas fired up!

Then it's time for the children to 'have a go' for themselves with help on hand from local artists who are kindly offering their assistance. All the necessary materials for drawing and colouring will be supplied - so all that's needed is lots of lovely creativity!

(Please note: children must be accompanied by a responsible adult - at least one adult to two children - but the adults won't be prevented from joining in too!) We're all aiming to have a fun evening.

This event has been generously sponsored for the Museum by The National Association of Decorative and Fine Arts Societies (NADFAS), which works to advance decorative and fine arts education and appreciation.

For further details and booking, please contact Judy Dewey, 01491-651127, preferably before 20th Oct!

[www.wallingfordmuseum.org.uk](http://www.wallingfordmuseum.org.uk)



Berkshire  
Buckinghamshire  
Oxfordshire



## Family Fun: Creatures of the Night

*Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup>, Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 21<sup>st</sup>*  
*October 10 – 3*

Find out what animals are snuffling around or swooping through the dark night sky. Join us to discover the mysterious mammals that come out at night.

Cost: £4 per child, accompanying adults free.

**Booking Essential.** Please go to our website [www.bbowt.org.uk](http://www.bbowt.org.uk) and follow the links to book.

**Get in touch**

Email: [sceec@bbowt.org.uk](mailto: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](http://www.bbowt.org.uk)







*Blood and Transplant*

# Save a life – give blood

Wednesday 12 October

13:00 to 15:30 & 16:15 to 19:30

THE CIVIC HALL  
BRITWELL ROAD  
DIDCOT

For more information  
visit [blood.co.uk](http://blood.co.uk) or call  
**0300 123 23 23**



WLE CUTA41PP 05595



## Didcot Citizens Advice

“Dales”, 9-15 High Street, Didcot, OX11 8EQ

### Opening Hours

	AM	PM
Monday	10.00am – 1.00pm	1.30pm – 4.00pm
Tuesday	10.00am – 1.00pm	Closed
Wednesday	10.00am – 1.00pm	Closed
Thursday	closed	1.00pm – 6.30pm
Friday	10.00am – 1.00pm	1.30pm – 4.00pm

### Telephone Service

We can provide information on most issues over the phone and arrange an appointment if necessary. In some instances we will direct you to another agency who can provide the advice you need.

### **Oxfordshire Adviceline**

**03444 111 444**

Monday – Friday

Information and fact sheets are also available on our website:

[www.citizensadvice.org.uk](http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk)

Part of Oxfordshire South and Vale Citizens Advice

Registered Charity Number 1150766

Registered Company Number 08322240