

Didcot Diary

April 2018



Didcot Diary— April 2018



NEWS

Welcome to the April issue of Didcot Diary.

The Town Council has had several events this last quarter including the planting of a ornamental Oat tree in Smallbones Rec, The Mayor's Ball, the annual Litterpick. We also had an auction of the old 'Welcome to Didcot' signs for the Mayor's charities.

February also marked the two year anniversary of the Power Station Collapse and the Council held a minutes silence and the Mayor of Didcot laid a wreath.



New Bus Shelter

In February we had a new bus shelter erected at Ladygrove.

Is there somewhere in Didcot that you think could really benefit from having a bus stop? Let us know because the Town Council has money to pay for a bus stop each year. Now April is here we have a new budget available so get in touch if you know a suitable place for a shelter.

Contact the council on council@didcot.gov.uk for your suggestions.



Tree Planting

On Friday 23rd March 2018 an ornamental Oak Tree was planted in Smallbone Rec to commemorate the end of World War 1.

The mayor, Cllr Jackie Billington planted the tree and gave a short speech followed by readings from children from Stephen Freeman School. Members of the Royal British Legion were also present.

Thank you to the children of Stephen Freeman School and the Royal British Legion for attending.



Litter pick 2018

On Saturday 24th March 2018, the Town Council held it's annual Litter pick in three locations in Didcot; Ladygrove, the Cockcroft area and around the Civic Hall.

We had a huge turn-out from residents and families eager to help clean up their neighbourhoods, to members of the Cadets and The Didcot Rugby Club. In total we had roughly 70 volunteers!

The day started with a lovely sweet treat of doughnuts, supplied by Tesco, Didcot and then the hard work began!

It wasn't the nicest of days weather wise, but that didn't stop everyone getting involved. Sporting high vis and gloves, the volunteers filled their bags with litter found strewn all over the place, including two abandoned shopping trolleys and a commode!

It was lovely to see everyone getting involved, cleaning up rubbish that shouldn't be there, nonetheless, it isn't there anymore! All in all we extracted 2 vans full of litter from these areas.

A special thanks to Didcot Community Church for making their facilities available as a retreat from the rain. So from all of us at Didcot Town Council, thank you for all your help that day. You definitely made a big difference.



Sale of Didcot Signs

After the replacement of the 'Welcome to Didcot' and 'Twinned with Meylan' signs around Didcot, the old signs were given to the Mayor, Jackie Billington, to auction off in aid of her Mayor's Charities.

There were 7 sets (one 'Welcome' and one 'Twinned' sign as a set) available.

There was an incredible amount of interest and an extremely positive response from the whole town in owning a small (but heavy!) piece of Didcot history, and the final total raised for all 7 of the sets of signs was just over **£1750**, split between Crohn's and Colitis UK (Oxfordshire branch) and Didcot Air Cadets.



Mayor's Ball 2018

My Mayoral Ball was held recently in aid of my two charities Crohn's and colitis (Oxfordshire) and Didcot (2410) Air Cadets. My consort for the evening was my daughter, Molly Phillipps.

There were over 100 people attending, including several other Mayors and Chairs from around Oxfordshire. I also had invited special guests to attend, Jack Cummings and his wife. Last year, Jack took part in the Invictus games and won a bronze medal in the 50 meter breaststroke. An absolute amazing achievement and well deserved. It was a privilege to have him attend my ball and I gave him a bottle of his favourite tipple, disarrono !

The evening started off with guests arriving from 6.45pm. They were greeted at the door with a glass of bubbly. I also had a photo booth in the foyer of the Civic Hall, for those that know me I LOVE a photo booth!



Soon after 7pm, Everybody made their way into the main hall and was seated at their tables. My evening then started off with a local singer, Helena Selby, who I had first heard her beautiful voice at an event I attended last year at the RESTORE premises in Didcot.

Helena sings in a range of musical styles, including trad-jazz, pop and show songs. Currently a pupil of Christine Cairns, Helena performs at local fairs, celebration events and as a community musician for institutions.

For my Ball she sang Georgie Boy, You don't have to say you love me, Feeling good, When you tell me that you love me and Cabaret.

I then had a ceilidh band called The Quiet Men take to the stage, this was Rather fitting as it was St Patrick's Day!

Mayors Ball 2018

By now people were enjoying the starters of farmhouse pate or melon with a selection of breads. Then it was onto the main course choice duck confit, fish pie or stuffed aubergines. A selection of desserts, including fresh fruit platter and Irish cream cheesecake was then enjoyed by all. This was finished off with tea, coffee and some amazing cupcakes. The catering and all table decorations, appropriately green for St Patrick's Day, were provided by my good friend and fellow councillor, James Hart, Delicious of Wantage and Didcot.

One thing to mention was the weather... Bearing in mind this was the middle of March just coming into spring, it had started snowing, quite heavy! I was hoping that we may have been snowed in as it was coming down thick and fast!

During the evening, the band were instrumental (!) at getting my guests up onto the dancefloor doing typical Irish jigs! It was an absolute laugh -we didn't know which way we were going, which leg we should lead with, but the most important thing was, we were all having a great laugh and a fabulous evening. There were times even when the men had to lift up the women that caused great amusement as you can imagine!



Mayors Ball 2018

As the evening wore on it was time for me to do a raffle. I think my ball will be remembered for the raffle, because I hadn't actually bought enough books! I had to send my son, Josh Phillipps, and my mayor's Cadet, Matthew Phillips, out to the local co-op to pick up some more books. Bearing in mind it was very snowy outside they literally had to go out in a gale! They returned, book less, so I sent them off again to Tesco's and Sainsbury's all to know avail! By then though, we had worked a way around the lack of raffle tickets, and I still managed to raise over £600 from the raffle alone.



I made a short speech during the evening thanking all those that kindly donated raffle prizes, with a particular mention to my very good friend Sue Rosso and her daughter Nina, who had obtained several raffle prizes to be used in my raffle, I presented them both with flowers. I also gave special thanks to my Mayor's cadet, Matthew Phillips, and I presented him with a personalised tie pin and certificate to thank him for being with me over this past year.

I also had invited guests from both of my charities attend my Ball and they spoke about the work that they each do to help in the community with their charity.

Finally, the evening was drawing to a close and I had one final surprise for my guests, I took to the stage with the band and I performed on stage with them playing my flute! I haven't performed in public for well over 30 years!



Huge thanks must go to the great team in the council offices particularly Teresa Tye who has been a fantastic assistant in helping to get my ball off of the ground, along with the rest of the Council Office staff, and not forgetting the staff within the Civic Hall who were present on the night and did an amazing job, ensuring that my ball ran smoothly.

Mayor Jackie Billington

Word from the allotments

The Town Council provides over 400 allotments across five sites in the town. In what will be a regular feature, we have asked allotment holders to share what is happening on the allotments. Contributing to this edition we have:

BROADWAY ALLOTMENTS

Broadway is a family-friendly, open allotment site with over 80 plots in the centre of town, next to the Civic Hall.



Many recent newcomers to the site come from the new estates at the eastern end of town. They have shared with us new gardening ideas and plants – often from other parts of the world. Recent examples have been globe artichokes from Italy, climbing ‘French’ beans from Madeira, Achocha from the Andes (pictured top right) via Nepal and chickpeas from Syria.

In 2016 we celebrated its centenary with a party on the site. Each year since then we host Didcot Allotment Society’s open event where you can meet allotment holders from all five of Didcot’s allotment sites and have a guided tour of the site (see www.didcotallotmentsociety.com for details of this year’s event and the society’s AGM which is open to all).

DAS is working with the Council to ensure that plots on offer meet your needs bearing in mind the time that you have available for enjoying your allotment.



Didcot Allotment Society



Bank Holiday Refuse Collections

Normal collection day	Revised collection day	Which bin
Friday 11th May 2018	Saturday 12th May 2018	Green, food and garden waste
Friday 1st June 2018	Saturday 2nd June 2018	Grey and food
Friday 31st August 2018	Saturday 1st September 2018	Green, food and garden waste

Missed Collection

Your food waste and recycling/rubbish are now being collected by different vehicles. This means that your collections are being carried out at different times of the day. For example, your recycling/rubbish bin may be emptied in the morning from 7am, while your food waste may be collected later in the day any time up until 6pm.

These changes are being made following the introduction of a new vehicle fleet, which will help us to improve collection services. Please ensure your bins are left out from 7am until 6pm and do not report a missed collection unless they have not been emptied by this time.

To report a missed bin call 03000 610610 by 5pm the following day.



Grant Aid

Each year Didcot Town Council makes grants available to local organisations who support people in Didcot. These are recent reports of how they have used that money. If you would like to apply for grant funding from the Town Council please visit www.didcot.gov.uk/Grant-Aid for more details.

Grant Aid Report—Didcot Food Festival 2017



I would like to take this opportunity to thank Didcot Town Council for the grant of £2000 which enabled us to have all the elements in place that we needed to make the second Didcot Food Festival a resounding success.

I am delighted to say that the event was a HUGE success and the feedback that Jeanette and I have received from exhibitors and the public alike has been amazing. For the past 2 years we have approached potential chefs/exhibitors but already we have had numerous enquiries from people saying they would like to be considered for next year's event...this is wonderful!

If the council could support us in the same or increased way next year I am sure we would once again be able to stage an event that the whole town and indeed people from further afield could enjoy once again.

Could you please be so kind as to show this letter to the members of the next council meeting and pass on my grateful thanks?

Thank you
so much!

Kind
regards

Chris



Grant Aid Reports—Christmas Lunch

Christmas Day was wonderful, thankfully it all went without a hitch. There were 52 people including helpers and we took three dinners to someone's family who was in hospital. For the first time ever we had full attendance in that no-one was unable to attend due to illness. We also managed to get two attendees there who have Dementia and their carers/family were unsure whether they would actually leave their house on the day. I made sure I sent very compassionate volunteers for their pick-up. This year I did not have the convenience of the Patient Bus Transport which meant I had to get around 20 attendees to and from the venue. Transport for the attendees is the most difficult thing to organise but fortunately the volunteers I had who were prepared to do lifts did a sterling job. We had pick-ups/drop-offs in Wallingford, Harwell, East Hendred and Sutton Courtenay as well as Didcot of course

The attendees had a lovely lunch as always made by my chef James Hart then we watched the Queen's Speech and played bingo after that. The attendees left around 4.30 each with a lovely hamper. They all had an amazing time as did my fantastic helpers

This day would not be possible without the generosity of people and organisations such as Didcot Town Council.

My thanks to Didcot Town Council for their kind donation once again to this worthy cause

Kindest regards

Anna



Didcot Summer Fayre 2018

This year a Summer Fayre will take place in Edmonds Park. The event will be on Saturday 4th August 2018. The Fayre is in conjunction with the Play to Give Charity and Didcot Town Council.

Food stalls, craft stalls, entertainment, bouncy castles and lots more will be available during the day. In the evening local bands will play on the centre stage.

The event will commence at 12pm until 9pm.

We hope it will be a fun day for all.



Annual Charges 2018/2019

As of April 1st the Town Council's fees are as follows:

Allotment Charges	£29
Concessions	£19
Cemetery fees	
Note: for all non-Didcot residents there is a 200% additional payment on all fees	
Exclusive Right of Burial	
Person whose age at time of death exceeded 16 years	£285
Person whose age at time of death did not exceed 16 years	Free
Cremated remains plot	£115
Interments	
In a grave (in respect of which an exclusive right of burial has been granted)	£410
Cremated remains (in respect of which an exclusive right of burial has been granted)	£210
Person whose age at time of death did not exceed 16 years	Free
Late afternoon burial fee	£40
Headstones and memorials	
Headstones and memorials (ground level tablet/open book and footstone) including first inscription	£110
Additional inscriptions	£50
Memorial bench fee (not including bench costs)	£70
Cancellation/amendment/administration for reserved plot	£70
Pitches	
Adults	£55
Juniors	£16
Fishing permits	
Adults	£21
Adult concessions	£10.50
Juniors	£10.00
Juniors Concession	£5
Park Events Commercial Hire Per Day	£235

Need a hand or some
publicity?



Shout Out to Oxfordshire!



BBC Radio Oxford is launching a new feature for community groups and charities wanting to make an appeal. Do you want more members or volunteers, need donated items or a helping hand, or want more people to use your community service?

All you need to do is email ShoutOutOxfordshire@bbc.co.uk or call 03459 311444 and we'll send you details of how to record an appeal.

We also publicise local events too! Email RadioOxfordEvents@bbc.co.uk with details of yours.



Your Life, Your Stories.
Your voice since 1970.

BBC RADIO OXFORD
95.2 FM | Digital | bbc.co.uk/radiooxford

SOBELL
H O U S E
INVITES YOU TO GO

BACK
TO
THE 80'S

THE
MOONLIGHT STROLL
RETURNS TO THE STREETS OF OXFORD

SATURDAY 23RD JUNE
9.00pm
St Edward's School, Oxford



Registered Charity Number 1115666

Sign up online:
www.sobellhouse.org/moonlight-stroll
or call 01865 857007



supporting



WE'VE LAUNCHED OUR LOTTERY PAGE

Buy Your Tickets From Our Page - We Get 50%

- We now have a SO Charitable Lottery page!
- Support local causes and win prizes of up to £25,000!
- 50% of all tickets sold from our page go to us!
- PLUS 10% goes to other good causes in South Oxfordshire!
- Tickets only cost £1 per week!
- Support us and win prizes - WIN WIN!

To Start Supporting, Visit:
www.SoCharitable.co.uk

And Search For:
OPA



Supporters must be 16 years of age or older