

# ICKFORD INFORMER

March 2016

Ickford Village website <https://ickfordcommunity.wordpress.com>

## Report on Ickford Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2016.

**Grass Cutting Contracts & Devolution Agreement:** Bucks County Council (BCC) have proposed an agreement for the Parish Council to take over responsibility for cutting the grass verges, weed spraying, clearing overgrown footpaths, hedge cutting and notices, road sign cleaning and a range of other maintenance issues. The Parish Council obtained grass cutting (only) quotes and concluded that the grant available from BCC falls short by about £1,200 per annum. It was resolved that the PC would not sign up to the Devolution agreement with Bucks County Council at this time. Grass Cutting of the recreation ground is the responsibility of the Parish Council and following competitive quotes the contract was awarded to Cartwright Landscapes

**Gigaclear:** The installation of the fibre optic cables is an arrangement between Gigaclear and Bucks CC who are responsible for the highway and footpaths. Although this is clearly not directly a Parish Council responsibility, following representation from several residents, our clerk, Nikki Dawson, arranged to mediate between the various parties. As a result of this

- A new contractors team was put in place and so far this team seem to be very courteous & as tidy as possible considering that they are digging up the roads!
- A Health and Safety rep would be on site daily and BCC approved site & providing regular site visits
- Re-scheduled works to limit disruption to school traffic - areas (in Sheldon Road) affected for parking have been scheduled for half term & Bridge Road is being rescheduled for Easter holidays
- Re-seeding to grass verges will take place at the end of the works to the village - weather should be more accommodating for successful growth

Discussions continue; the Parish Council thanked Nikki for stepping in and sorting out this contentious and sometimes emotional issue in her usual tactful and diplomatic manner.

### **Other Items in brief:**

(See meeting minutes, Community Notice board, or Website ([www.ickfordcommunity.wordpress.com](http://www.ickfordcommunity.wordpress.com)), for more details)

**New Councillor :** Local resident Keith Green expressed his interest in becoming a councillor and the PC voted unanimously in favour of him becoming a co-opted Member. We all wished Keith good luck in his appointment, some even added that he is going to need it!

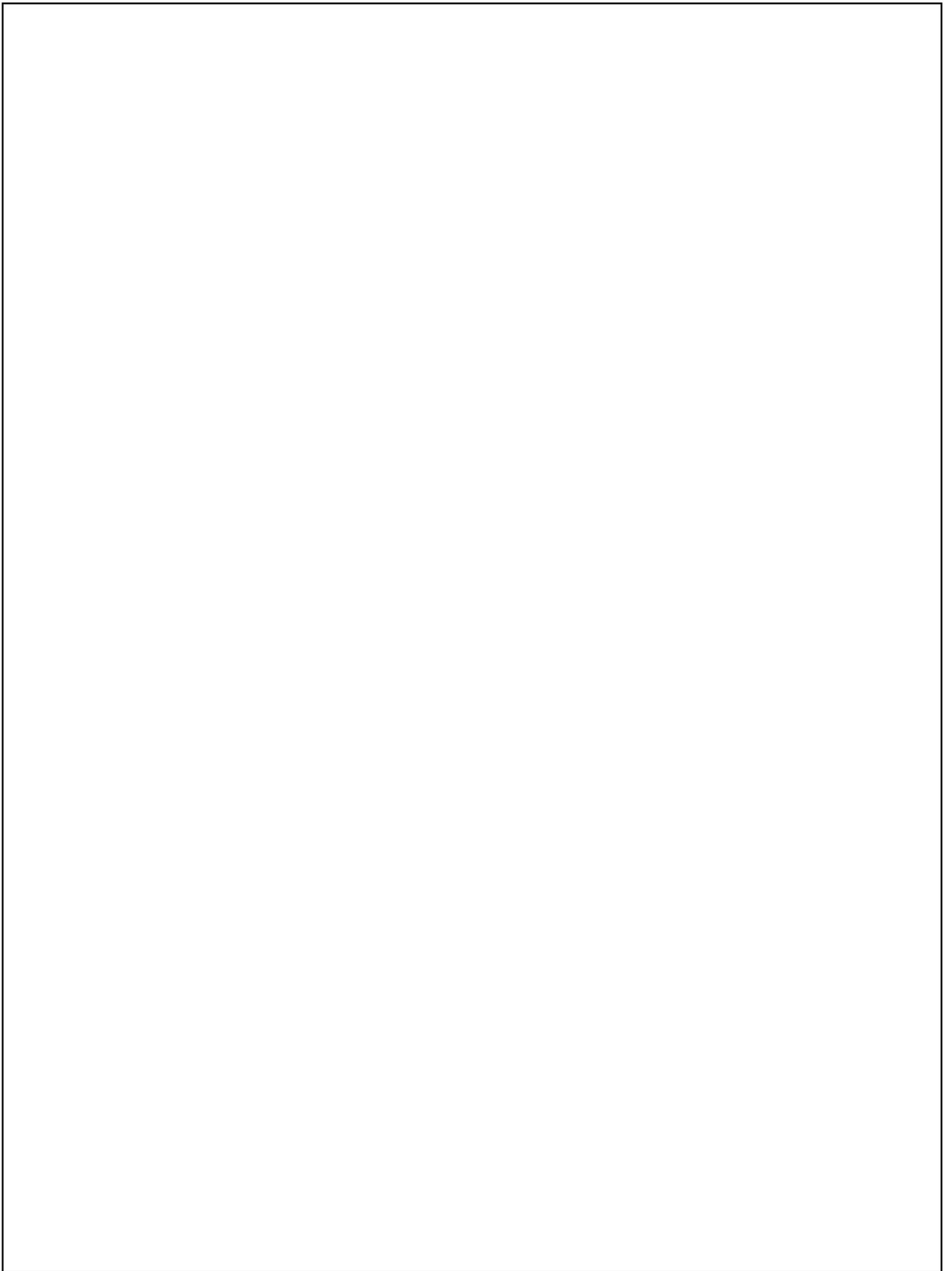
**3rd Quarter Finance Review :** There is a projected overspend for this financial year due to several projects carried over from the previous year, including the speed signs and defibrillator, however, money for these types of projects was carried over in reserve to cover this.

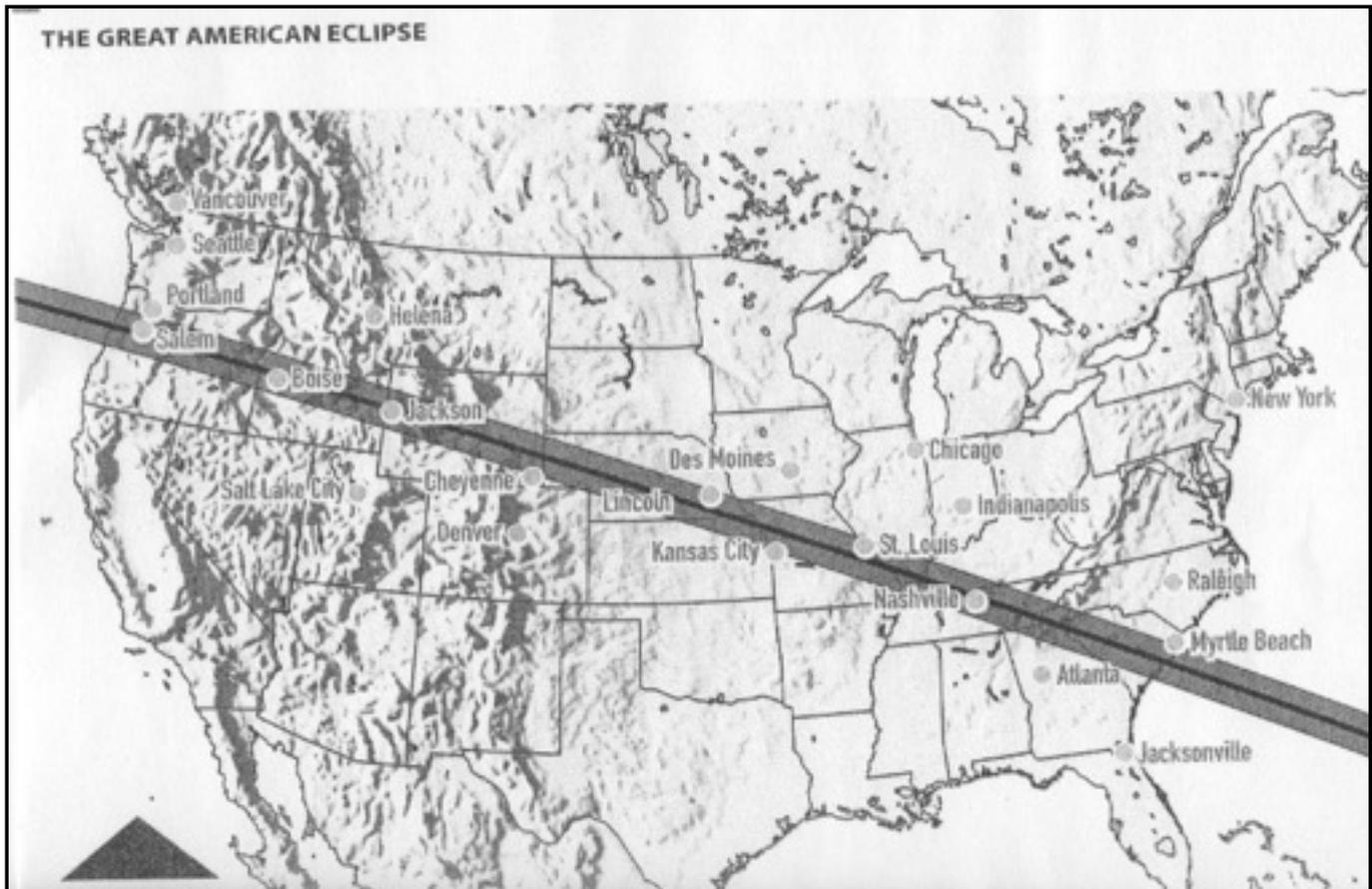
**Neighbourhood Watch Scheme:** It was agreed by the PC that it would be a good idea to reinstate this scheme & investigate it in conjunction with other schemes such as a "community warden" that has a wider remit including looking out for any vulnerable residents within the community, liaison with the Police, Schools and Youth clubs. PC to follow up with previous organisers of the Neighbourhood Watch scheme.

**Recreation Ground Trees:** Although most of the works have been carried out, it appears that some items have not been completed, these to be queried with the contractor.

**Surface Water Drains:** Under Wормinghall Road, advised that all issues need to be logged on to the "track it" system on the Transport for Bucks website. Contact details to be added to our community website.

**March Meeting:** Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> March 7:30pm in Village Hall annex. Please come along and help to contribute to the Parish Council discussions.





## **Total Eclipse of the Sun 2017**

If you've never experienced a total eclipse of the sun, that quiet, spooky few minutes when everything goes quiet and the darkness falls, not total darkness because you're only in the moon's shadow, 2017 will be a good opportunity for you.

If you've got friends in America get onto them now and ask if you can come to stay in August next year. The eclipse will travel in a path from Oregon to the Carolinas on August 21<sup>st</sup> 2017.

## **PARISH COUNCIL SURGERY**

The last parish council surgery was held on February 27th. Although we did have people come and bring issues to us (as well as sharing the tea and cake) we felt that we could no longer justify the expense of hiring the village hall annexe for the response we were getting. Should anybody have any issues that they would like to have discussed at the next parish council meeting then they should write to the clerk at [ickfordpcclerk@gmail.com](mailto:ickfordpcclerk@gmail.com) and should it be necessary they can be put on the agenda for the next parish council meeting. Alternatively, at every Parish council meeting (always held on the 2nd Tuesday of the month apart from January and August) 15 minutes are made available for any issues parishioners may have. Again, if necessary, they can be put on the agenda for the following meeting.

## **DOG FOULING**

There have been several complaints received about dog fouling in the village. Some people are not clearing up after their dogs on the playing field which could result in reverting to the rules a few years ago when dogs were not allowed on the field. There are dog bins at 2 of the entrances so there is really no excuse, just keep an eye on your dog and clear up after it. The mess could be walked in by someone who comes to your house later.

Other dog mess has been found quite often on Wормinghall Road. If this has been left by your dog then please clear it up.

Another concern has been raised about dog mess on the footpaths in fields. If there is livestock in the field then there is the danger of transmitting disease to the livestock requiring potentially expensive treatment .

There is a statutory fine for dog fouling so if you see an offender please record it if possible.

It's a problem that gets on lots of people's nerves - the scourge of dog owners who don't clear up after their pets. So, what can be done to rid streets and parks of their mess?

The signs are easy to spot - the flattened deposit bearing the imprint of a shoe, the anxious parent quickly steering their offspring to one side, the man repeatedly wiping his foot on the verge as if kick-starting a decrepit motorbike.

Few things irritate people quite so much as the abandoned deposits produced by the UK's eight million dogs. It is often suggested that between them they produce 1,000 tonnes of the stuff each day.

In reality there shouldn't be a problem - you own a dog, it eats, it poos, you clean it up.

Failing to do so is anti-social, smelly and can spread diseases, including [toxicariasis](#).

Dog mess is one of the most common causes of complaints to local councils and 4 out of 10 people consider it a problem in their local area, says the campaign group Keep Britain Tidy.

After a decade of decline, the number of areas affected by dog mess is on the rise, it says.

Almost one in five of the recreation areas it surveyed had a problem.

But given the decades' old nature of the problem, what are the radical solutions that could be tried?

There are various options available to penalise offenders.

1. The obvious name and shame (with photographic evidence)
2. Spray it with bright paint so that the offending owner is reminded each time they pass it
3. Clear up someone else's uncleared poo when you clean up your own.

**Any other ideas?**

## **GIGACLEAR**

We can't fail to miss the presence of Gigaclear in the village and, personally, I am looking forward to it being up and running. However, this has nothing at all to do with the parish council and any issues should be raised with Gigaclear themselves, either with the crew or the main office.

## SELL OUT AS ICKFORD ROCKS TO THE SOUNDS of the SEVENTIES!

Venue Village Hall

30<sup>th</sup> January 2016

90 people rolled back the years, raided their wardrobes to find groovy gear and put on their platform shoes to step back in time for our 70's night at the Village Hall!

339 handmade meat balls, over 500 individually produced starters (remember those cheese and pineapple on sticks?), 200 pints of beer and 52 bottles of wine later it was as quoted by many, 'the best night we have had in the Hall for 25 years' !

It's what village life is all about - getting people of all ages together and having fun- and that's what happened!

As well as dressing up in 70's clothes we also now know what those who have less hair now used to look like - and also how they danced.

And it wasn't just a 'trip down memory lane' as far dancing was concerned. The magnificent three course meal also harked back to those seventies culinary

delights too when the height of sophistication was a prawn vol-au-vent, savoury biscuits with pâté, cheese and pineapple, and mini sausages (all on sticks of course!)

Delicious spicy meatballs and tagliatelle followed to 'stoke us up' for more energetic moves on the dance floor.

And if folk were still hungry Apple Pie, Cheese and of course Black Forest Gateau was served- thanks to all the Chefs as their hard work was certainly appreciated.

The highlight of the evening was the amazingly versatile band 'Wig Wam' who played everything from the Osmonds to Status Quo! As soon as they struck their first chords the dance floor was packed with around 80 people dancing to all those great 70's hits - and we all knew the words- and stayed dancing until the bitter end!

Wig Wam you were fantastic!

Thanks have to go to so many people for making it happen but also to everyone who supported the evening- it was a sellout raising £1,200 for the Village Hall

Now we keep being asked what we are doing next - we have some ideas so watch this space!





## Rising Sun Ickford

01844 339238

[www.risingsunickford.com](http://www.risingsunickford.com)

15<sup>th</sup> Century Pub with Exposed Timbers and Log Fire, Serving Real Ales, Lagers and Quality Bottled Wines, Traditional Pub Food Served Wednesday to Sunday  
Good Beer Guide Listed

Find us on Facebook and Follow us on Twitter (@IckfordRiser)

Check out our Menus on our Website [www.risingsunickford.com](http://www.risingsunickford.com)

**Lunch** served Monday-Saturday Noon-2pm  
**Evening Meals** served Wednesday-Saturday 6.30pm-9pm

2 Courses for £9.95 lunchtimes served Wednesday to Friday  
(Full Menu also available)

**SUNDAY LUNCH** served Noon until 3pm ~ A choice of **Roasts** and non-roast options such as **Fish, Vegetarian, Salads, etc**

**Children's Menu Available**

**Take-Away Service** 6.30pm-8.30pm (Wednesday to Saturday)

**Private Functions** Catered For

**Outside Bars and Catering**

**QUIZ Night Every Tuesday 8.15pm**

Treat Mum to Lunch  
at the Rising Sun  
Ickford on  
Mother's Day  
6<sup>th</sup> March  
Bookings now being  
taken



### Progressive Supper

Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> April

Make a note in your diary

Only £15 per head

We need hosts, volunteers to make desserts and bring raffle and tombola prizes.

Contact Peter or Liz Jordain 01844 338518 or [peter.jordain@gmail.com](mailto:peter.jordain@gmail.com)



Friday 22nd April 7.30pm  
Tiddington Village Hall

Ickford School PTA

## QUIZ NIGHT

includes *Bar & Raffle*

Submit teams of 4-6 people  
tickets £8 per person  
Entry price includes light supper

Team captains please contact Lauren Addis  
at the Ickford School Office to register your team  
and buy your tickets in advance  
on 01844 339261 before 15th April.

## THE WORLD'S BIGGEST QUIZ

On 7<sup>th</sup> February, The Rising Sun took part in the World's Biggest Quiz to raise money for Ickford & District Darby & Joan. We raised a total of £201.80. As of 24.02.16 the overall total raised so far for charities is £125,653.79. A total of 1027 pubs took part, with 26,675 participants. The event, organisers, PubAid supported by JustGiving, are also trying to break the Guinness World Record for the largest multi-venue quiz but results are still being submitted.



## CHURCH SERVICES

The times and dates of all services in St. Nicholas Church are published every month and placed on the noticeboard outside the church and in the noticeboard on the wall outside the village shop.

### MOTHERING SUNDAY - 6<sup>th</sup> MARCH Family Service - 10 am

Cakes for Mums  
Crafts for Kids  
Everyone Welcome

### THE ELEMENT OF FIRE - 1<sup>st</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup> February

A celebration of Earth, Air, Fire and Water, as used in the Bible, was portrayed in the church in symbolic displays and images. On each of the four large window sills was a display to symbolize one of the four elements. For Air there were draped materials to typify clouds and sky which shimmered. For Earth bean plants were growing in pots, packets of seeds, gardening tools and books were represented and a scarecrow kept watch overall. The children at Little Stars had great fun creating a realistic Noah's Ark with lots of stuffed toys as the animals and a beautiful rainbow overall to represent Water. The Fire was created in two displays - a mass of twigs and red paper artistically arranged to depict the burning bush and against the pulpit a tall creation of gold twigs and sticks against a scarlet material background which looked like rising flames. Anita had painted banners for each element which hung from the pillars and a brilliant altar frontal was designed and made specially, drawing together the four elements.

Profits from the concert on February 3<sup>rd</sup> are going to the Samaritan's Well project (which we have supported for the past two years, contributing to three new wells). To highlight this, our font was filled with water and a terracotta urn placed inside to depict the Samaritan woman at the well.

### FOOD BIN FOR THE STOREHOUSE

By the middle of February the Food Bin inside the door of the church was full and overflowing so Anita and I loaded up the car and drove off to Aylesbury. We carried umpteenbags of tins, jars, bottles, packets - anything that a household would need. To that we added sleeping bags, warm clothing, curtains, cutlery - again all useful to families, particularly in winter. We reached the Storehouse just before 10 am which is the time it opens and already there was a queue outside waiting to enter, having shown their written permission from Social Services. We came back with an empty car and already the bin is filling again. Please help us to keep up our deliveries - there is very clearly a great need.



### **CONCERT BY PAULA TAIT on 4<sup>th</sup> February**

We were pleased to welcome back to St. Nicholas PAULA TAIT, an accomplished musician with her harp, Arabic flute, wooden whistle and kalimba. Her chosen poetry, music and songs, all with the theme of FIRE, were spell-binding and we listened in rapt silence as she created with words and music the power and colour of Fire. It was a fascinating musical event, much enjoyed by everyone in the church.

Afterwards wine and canapes were served and we had the opportunity to talk to Paula about her work and to take a close look at all her musical instruments. Proceeds from the concert are in aid of the Samartian's Well Projects in India and towards the upkeep of St. Nicholas Church.

### **RESULTS OF THE WINTER QUIZ**

The latest quiz was won by Trina and Terry Baker from Shrewsbury with a total of 97 correct answers out of a total of 100. £56 has been paid into church accounts and there will be another quiz in May.

### **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

Saturday, 23<sup>rd</sup> April

Progressive Supper

Monday, 30<sup>th</sup> May

St. Nicholas Church Annual Garden Fete  
at Church Farm Cottages by kind permission  
of Mrs. Betty Baxter.

## **FRIENDS OF ST NICHOLAS**

### **MARCH 2016**

Our programme for 2016 has not yet been finalised but will be discussed at our next committee meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> March.

However, we did decide to delay our A G M until the warmer weather and it will probably be held in May along with a social function.

The Friends have paid for the refurbishment of the church porch which completes all the major work for the time being

Keith Tattersfield [Chairman]

### **Car Parking (again or still)**

I was walking my grandson in his pushchair along Bridge Road the other day and found myself having to walk on the road as the pavement was blocked by a car. If you don't think it's safe for your car then it certainly isn't safe for pushchairs and wheel chairs.

**PLEASE THINK OF OTHERS WHEN YOU PARK**

## Footpaths

We are really lucky in Ickford to have several footpaths. Our previous parish council did a good job in eventually making a circular route round the village, and we have more adventurous routes to Shabbington, Worminghall, Waterperry and Oakley.

Footpaths are important for our welfare. I don't have the name of the research project, but if Chris Patten quotes it, that's good enough for me, which highlights the health benefits of owning a dog with regards to reducing stress levels. (I sometime wonder if he's right when it's cold and wet and you still have to go out.) People living alone find dogs a blessing in keeping them company and also deterring unwelcome guests. Dogs need to be walked which means we need somewhere to walk them.

But you don't need to have a dog to go for a walk. It gets you out of the house, you meet other people, and you get to see what's going on, all good for us mentally.

However, our footpaths are not always so easy to use. Sometimes you can get the "Glastonbury experience" by just walking around some of our footpaths. The walk to Worminghall has something of the battle of the Somme about it in Winter. As with all public areas they suffer from land erosion and need maintaining.

It is the responsibility of land owners to mow and maintain the footpaths, and most of our land owners do that very well, thank you for that. One of our worst and most difficult paths is the one behind Farm Close. Local residents have cleared this from time to time but our parish council would like to establish just who the owners of this strip of land are. If you know, please contact us at the Ickford Informer, or Nikki, the clerk to Ickford Parish Council. Thank you.



At our last meeting Brightwell Vineyard came to talk to us about growing vines and producing English Wine. It was an open meeting so our visitors joined us in sampling the produce.

The history of English wine is surprising in that we have been fooled into thinking that we are too cold and rainy a country to even think about making anything decent. A rumour, no doubt put about by our continental friends. The truth is very different. Our wines are as fine, if not finer, less sugary and well balanced if properly managed. The skills and vineyards we lost in the past, partly due to Henry VIII, are now slowly returning.

At our next meeting Meryl will be using her skills in floristry to show us how to make spring posies, just in time for Mothers Day.

If you've not already joined the WI, our meetings are on the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday every month in Ickford Village Hall at 7:30 pm. You will be welcome.

## **PARISH MEETING**

Every year the Parish is required to hold a meeting for all parishioners to meet together to discuss anything concerning the parish. It is not a parish council meeting and there is no agenda. The Chair of the parish council will chair the meeting and the minutes will be taken by the clerk, but other councillors will just be members of the public on this occasion.

The meeting will be held on 17th May and is a really useful way of everyone having a chance to find out what is happening, or to make suggestions of how our village can be improved. It is a time to make plans and for us all to come together to make a better future.

Hopefully all village organisations will be represented so you can see what has been done in the past year and what plans there are in hand.

If you have any suggestions you would like to make, or ideas of how to do things better be ready to put the date in your diary and to come along.

### **ICKFORD PHOTOGRAPHIC CLUB**

The first proper "working" meeting was last week where we played around taking photos of my grandson's model cars at different apertures to illustrate how to vary the depth of field. Auto settings are fine but it's sometimes more interesting to take a bit more control to get the results you want.

At the next meeting which will be on Tuesday 22nd March at 7.30 at 31 Golders Close we will have a practical evening using Studio Lighting. If your camera has a hot shoe for a flash gun bring it along and have a try, it really is easy and great fun. You can also bring on a memory stick two photos illustrating depth of field. ( or email to [peter@kolbert.net](mailto:peter@kolbert.net) by Saturday 20th ) and we can all see how you got on.

See you all then.

Peter

### **Queen Elizabeth II.**

Our Queen will be 90 on April 21<sup>st</sup>.

Come and join our birthday celebration party

- in Ickford Village Hall on
- Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> April
- from 3 – 5 pm.

It's the day after the Village Progressive Supper so why not make a weekend of it!

### **Rubbish bins.**

Sorry to mention dog poo again, but we have been asked to ask those nice sensible, responsible dog owners who have cleaned up after your lovely dogs, if you could also try to use the doggy bins instead of the litter bins, especially the ones on the play area near the children's play equipment. Thanks a lot.

### **Thank you to our Advertisers**

We hope you found our Ickford Information booklet useful. I'm sure there are some things already out of date or not quite as good as they could be, but please let us know and we can print amendments.

Our advertisers have helped us to produce the booklet and we would like to think that you will support them with your custom.

Next year we would like to produce an even more useful edition so if you have any suggestions or missed out with your organisation or club this year don't worry, hopefully we will be back.

### **Your Ideas are important.**

Please write to us about any suggestions for Ickford, comments on articles or any events you are thinking of organising.

Contact us at

Barbara@kolbert.net.

### **Staff Wanted**

The Rising Sun are looking for full or part time front of house bar staff. There are lots of options available: lunchtimes, late afternoons, evenings - you may only want to work one or two shifts a week or one day/evening at the weekend.

If you are interested, or would like more information, please contact Jan or Paul or pop in for a chat.

Telephone: 01844 339238

Email: [info@risingsunickford.com](mailto:info@risingsunickford.com)