

# ICKFORD INFORMER

July 2016

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

## An update on the Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan

Following last year's Issues and Options Consultation, Aylesbury Vale have now released a new draft plan ready for the next stage of public consultation starting on 7th July. During the previous consultation, Ickford Parish Council objected to Ickford's classification as a 'larger village'. In the new draft plan, a new 'medium village' category has been made, and Ickford has been downgraded from a 'larger village' to a 'medium village'. In addition to this, rather than a set number of homes being allocated (100-120 in the previous draft plan), villages in the medium category will be allocated a housing growth of 19%, equating to 55 homes for Ickford.

A series of consultation events will be held over the summer, where you can view the plans in detail and ask questions of officers. The nearest will be held at Haddenham Village Hall Social Centre on Monday 11th July from 11am to 8pm. Otherwise, full details of the plan and how to comment will be available on the AVDC website from 7th July. Please visit <http://www.aylesburyvalecdc.gov.uk/vale-aylesbury-local-plan-draft-plan> for more information.

### ICKFORD PARISH COUNCIL

*We are seeking a local resident to take on the role of Village Custodian for Ickford – this is a paid position & typically requires a commitment of 2-3 hours per week.*

*The role is key to the upkeep, maintenance & smooth running of our village. Responsibilities include; checking & clearing public areas (hedges, footpaths, ditches); litter clearance; general maintenance, minor repairs to play equipment as & when required.*

*If you take pride in your environment & are interested in this position, please apply to Nicola Dawson, Parish Clerk on 01844 338130 / [ickfordpcclerk@gmail.com](mailto:ickfordpcclerk@gmail.com).*

### Ickford Summer Party at the Village Hall

Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2016 starting at 7pm



Come and join us for night of Jazz played by the Chris Wightman Jazz Band from Brill.

There will be a Cocktail bar, mini beer festival and of course wine and Pimms.

Supper will be a two course buffet (including a pig roast) and puddings

Tickets to include supper are £15 each

Please come along on for another great party in our fabulous hall and of course it will be a glorious hot summer's evening

Dress for the occasion !!

Contact Will Richards on 339705 or [will.richards5@btinternet.com](mailto:will.richards5@btinternet.com)

## Candlelit Supper on Friday November 25<sup>th</sup>

7.00 for 7.30 pm at Ickford Church.

Early booking advisable

Please contact Meryl 339608 or Gill 338807

Please be aware that any views expressed in the Informer are not necessarily the views of the editors

## ICKFORD SCHOOL

On June 1<sup>st</sup> 2016, Ickford dropped the 'Combined' from its name and became simply Ickford School an Academy within the Ickford Learning Trust and independent of Local Authority control. This is a significant step for the school, taken with the support of parents and Governors and one which we believe to be in the best interests of the children, those currently at the school and those who will join in the future.

The process of conversion took several months and required many hours of additional work and I am extremely grateful to Graham Partington my Bursar and to my Administration Officer Lauren Addis without whom the process would not have been completed. They worked tirelessly alongside our Project Manager to ensure that we met the deadline for conversion and they continue to work hard to ensure we start this new venture on a sound footing. So much has changed at the school in the past six years and this renaissance as an Academy is a fitting end of one journey and the beginning of another.

We are, without doubt, an outstanding school and I write that in full confidence that I can provide an abundance of evidence to substantiate this judgement. The quality of teaching is superb across all year groups and the learning environment is clean, bright and suited for purpose. Our children excel in the core subjects of English, Maths and Science and our curriculum is enriched by high quality teaching of French, Music, PE, Art and Computing and on top of this, their behaviour is exemplary.

This year alone our sports teams have won tournaments in all age groups and in a range of activities including, netball, athletics, badminton, hockey and multi-skills and this week, having won at Regional Level, our Netball and Badminton Teams will compete at County Level for the first time.

Our children love to learn foreign languages because they are inspired by the enthusiasm and expertise of Dawn Basnett our Assistant Headteacher who not only teaches French to the whole school but also runs German and Spanish extra-curricular clubs. Furthermore, it is not only modern foreign languages that engage the children but also the ancient and many of Year 6 are challenged with a weekly Latin lesson.

The purchase of a 3-D printer has enabled the children to develop their design skills and given them the facility to actually see their designs through to finished product. It is early days but already they have made chess sets, jewellery and numerous personalised objects that they can take home and keep. When they are not designing objects to print, they can write computer programmes using real programming language or they can make their own computer games using on line software.

Part of my role has always been to get the best team of people involved in facilitating the children's learning and in Emma Shackleton and Ali Stow (both parents) I have formidable music teachers. Every child learns to read music from the first week they begin school and by their third year, they are all learning to play the violin. Just how well they do this was manifest for everyone to see when we held our first Summer Concert on June 24<sup>th</sup> an occasion that surpassed even my high expectations with beautiful singing, solo instrumental performances and class ensembles that had the audience rising as one in ovation and overwhelmed with pride.

Memorable occasions have been abundant this academic year. A personal highlight I shall not forget was taking children to Oxford one Saturday evening to hear the beautiful and prodigiously talented Nicola Benedetti play the violin accompanied by the Oxford Philharmonic Orchestra and the delight on the children's faces when Nicola came and spoke to them at the end of her performance. This was a highlight but there have been many events and outings this year, too many for me to include here but all memorable in their own way.

The academic year, as always, appears to be going very quickly but I still have the upper school children's production of Romeo and Juliet to look forward to and, knowing Mrs Honey, our Director, I am confident that this will be belated Summer Fayre on July and our own sports day on July Oxfordshire and Music Festival to take part in, nonetheless, very worthwhile.

If it is felt that I am overly apologies. This is an an invitation to anyone who evening of Wednesday July 6<sup>th</sup> parents and guests. John



another fantastic evening. We also have our 8<sup>th</sup> to which everyone is more than welcome 14<sup>th</sup>. With other athletics competitions in Buckinghamshire to attend and a Bernwode it is indeed a very busy time of year

effusive in this short report, I make no outstanding school and I am happy to extend would like to come in and visit on the when we have an Open Evening planned for Ronane Headteacher

## POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER SURVEY ON POLICING AND CRIME

Hello

The Police and Crime Commissioner Anthony Stansfeld has launched a survey seeking feedback from residents of the Thames Valley on policing and crime. The results of the survey will help inform the next Police and Crime Plan which is due to be published in March 2017.

The survey will give the residents of your Parish the opportunity to feedback any concerns or issues about policing as well as what they think Thames Valley Police should be prioritising for the next five years with regards to crime and I am writing to ask whether you would be able to support us in publicising the survey to your community.

The survey is hosted on the Police and Crime Commissioner website [www.thamesvalley-pcc.gov.uk/survey](http://www.thamesvalley-pcc.gov.uk/survey). It should take no more than 10 minutes to complete and is open until 30 September 2016. Anyone who is either living or working in the Thames Valley is eligible to complete it.

The survey also seeks the views from victims of crime with the aim of improving the victims experience.

**The Police and Crime Commissioner for the Thames Valley would like your views on policing and crime.**

**This Summer, the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner is seeking views from the residents of Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire on policing and crime.**

## ICKFORD INFORMER

The Ickford Informer comes to you via the goodwill of many people. The volunteers who request, assemble proofread (when we have time) and produce the final product. Those who go down to the school on a monthly basis to print, fold and staple it and those deliverers who drop it through your letterbox and the parish council who provide the finance.

Obviously email is an excellent way of acquiring content but if that is not possible then ring me, Barbara Kolbert, on 338851 and we can discuss alternative methods.

Perhaps you would like to let us have a book, theatre or cinema review, a gardening or household tips column. The Informer is only as good as what we can put in it. Small personal (not commercial)ads are also welcome

If you feel you would like to help in any way even if it is only occasional, then please contact me at [barbara@kolbert.net](mailto:barbara@kolbert.net).

# Cafe in the Park

Every Tuesday and Thursday  
until 21st July  
3:30 - 4:30pm  
In the pavilion



Refreshments and toilet facilities available

**Children/Grandchildren  
of the village are  
invited to come and put  
their handprints onto  
the bus shelter!  
Sunday 17th  
July 10am to  
12noon**

The School and Pre-School already have slots  
Please contact [crystalbetteleys@gmail.com](mailto:crystalbetteleys@gmail.com) if you  
would like more info

**Making Ickford Brighter**

## RENDEZVOUS

FOR COFFEE AND CAKE  
AT ST. NICHOLAS CHURCH, ICKFORD

*Last Rendezvous for the summer - 12th July*



ALL ARE WELCOME  
TO DROP IN EVERY  
TUESDAY 10.30 - 12.30

## Ickford Little Stars

**Toddler and Carer Group**

St Nicholas Church  
Welcome you to Little Stars.  
A friendly, informal setup  
will run every Friday  
morning, starting Friday  
10th January.

10am - 11.30am

All under 5s together with parents and  
carers are welcome to join us for craft,  
singing and activities.

Refreshments will be provided.

For more details please contact Meryl (339608) or Gill (338807)

*Last Little Stars and  
Children's party 15th July*

## **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.**

### **CHURCH GARDEN FETE – 30<sup>th</sup> May**

Well, it didn't rain. In the morning the sky was overcast, the breeze was 'brisk' and there was the odd suspicion of a drizzle but we pressed on regardless, setting up stalls in Betty Baxter's beautiful garden, and we were rewarded in the afternoon by a drop in sunshine and a brave whole event worthwhile. The breeze, the odd ray of sun, the odd crowd of visitors to make the Children were running round there was a competition the white elephant as to most money (the white whisker), teas with cream constantly in demand (see nearly two hours I was nonstop. We were delighted church funds and are truly we received – setting up, important, taking down to all those who helped us - we really couldn't do it without the support you give us.



afternoon by a drop in sunshine and a brave whole event worthwhile. with their painted faces, between the cakes and which could make the elephant won by a scones and cakes were photograph) and for writing raffle tickets to raise over £1300 for grateful for all the help selling and, very again. A big thank-you

### **CAFÉ SERVICE – 5<sup>th</sup> June - COME TO THE ARK**

We started the service at the back of the church, with coffee, tea and drinks and a vast variety of cakes and biscuits. The adults could chat and there was an activity table for the children to create face masks for themselves. Then we all moved to the front in the pews while Anita told the story of Noah and his ark. By now we were all wearing face masks of animals, most of which Anita had created before the service. We sang songs with God's creation in mind, including "Who Can Sing a Rainbow" – whereupon Anita produced a banner of rainbow colours from the pulpit to the Rector's stall, and we all had ribbons to wave. Ending with a short prayer, it was a jolly service with 18 adults and 10 children – a reward for Anita's inventiveness and she plans another such service at the beginning of September.

## **Ickford Community Action Group**

I would like to form a Community Action Group of Ickford residents who would like to be more involved in the village and building our community. This group will be completely separate from the Parish Council and any other existing village organisations, and will benefit all different residents of the village. Ideas so far include organising village events, small community projects, a system of offering support and company for the elderly or the sick. You can get involved in as much or as little as you like, and pick and choose projects depending on your interests.

I would like to organise a meeting soon to gather ideas and start making plans, so if you can spare an hour of your time now and then and would like to put your skills and passions to use by offering a helping hand to our community, please get in touch by email on [lou\\_arnold\\_6@hotmail.com](mailto:lou_arnold_6@hotmail.com), or by phone on 339613. Louise Arnold

# St Nicholas Unwrapped Summer Exhibition 2016



## This year....

We'd like to try something different, something creative and  
FOR ALL AGES.

Any Ickfordian is invited to represent the church, or aspects / details of the church, visually in any way whatsoever, towards an exhibition in the church on 28th - 30th August.

No expertise is necessary just a willingness to have a go and see what you can do! Children and young people are very welcome to join in, in addition to family collaborations and work by individuals.

Ideas or subjects may be from inside or outside the church, whole views or details. Any medium or combination of media may be used >

pencil, pen and ink, acrylics, any paper form, collage, montage, mosaic, clay work, wool work, any form of carving on any material, embroidery, tapestry, calligraphy, models, etc etc etc.

Anything goes this year, but this is a wonderful opportunity for PHOTOGRAPHERS to be creative with their cameras as well!

SO...START NOW AND SEE WHAT YOU CAN DO. GO ON AMAZE  
YOURSELF.

For details and enquiries, phone Anita 339952

## FRIENDS OF ST NICHOLAS FORTHCOMING EVENTS

1. Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> August—Ploughman's lunch at the church
2. Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> September—Visit to the Hospital of St Cross and Cathedral in Winchester. The cost will be £41.50 to cover the costs. It will include the hiring of a coach, local guide throughout, a light lunch and transport from The Hospital of St Cross to the Cathedral. The numbers can not exceed 19. The coach will leave Ickford at 9.30am. If you wish to join the trip, please contact Keith Tattersfield on 339507
3. Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> October—Visit to the Bugatti Restoration Showroom in Ickford. The cost will be £10 per head to include tea or coffee and cakes. Maximum numbers will be 20 and will commence at 11 am. If you wish to join the trip, please contact Keith Tattersfield on 339507
4. Friday 18<sup>th</sup> November—Return visit of The Opera Dudes in the Village Hall
5. Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> December—Christmas at St Nicholas at the church



in Ickford

Our speakers for the June meeting were George and Cate Bennet from Sandy Lane Farm at Tiddington. We were all impressed by the ingenuity and sheer hard work that goes into organic farming and the marketing of the products.

Two of our members joined the Buckinghamshire federation outing to the Hindu temple at Neasden. What an amazing building! We ate a vegetarian lunch in the adjoining restaurant and were allowed to stay for a short service, although the sitting on a marble floor was not as comfortable as we would have liked. The next federation excursion will be to Gray's Inn in London for a look behind the scenes.

At our next meeting we are looking forward to a talk by Chris Goard about how women featured in Ickford in past times. At our meetings later in the year we have a former mental health nurse talking about her experiences, then a talk about Trading Standards should also be informative and entertaining.

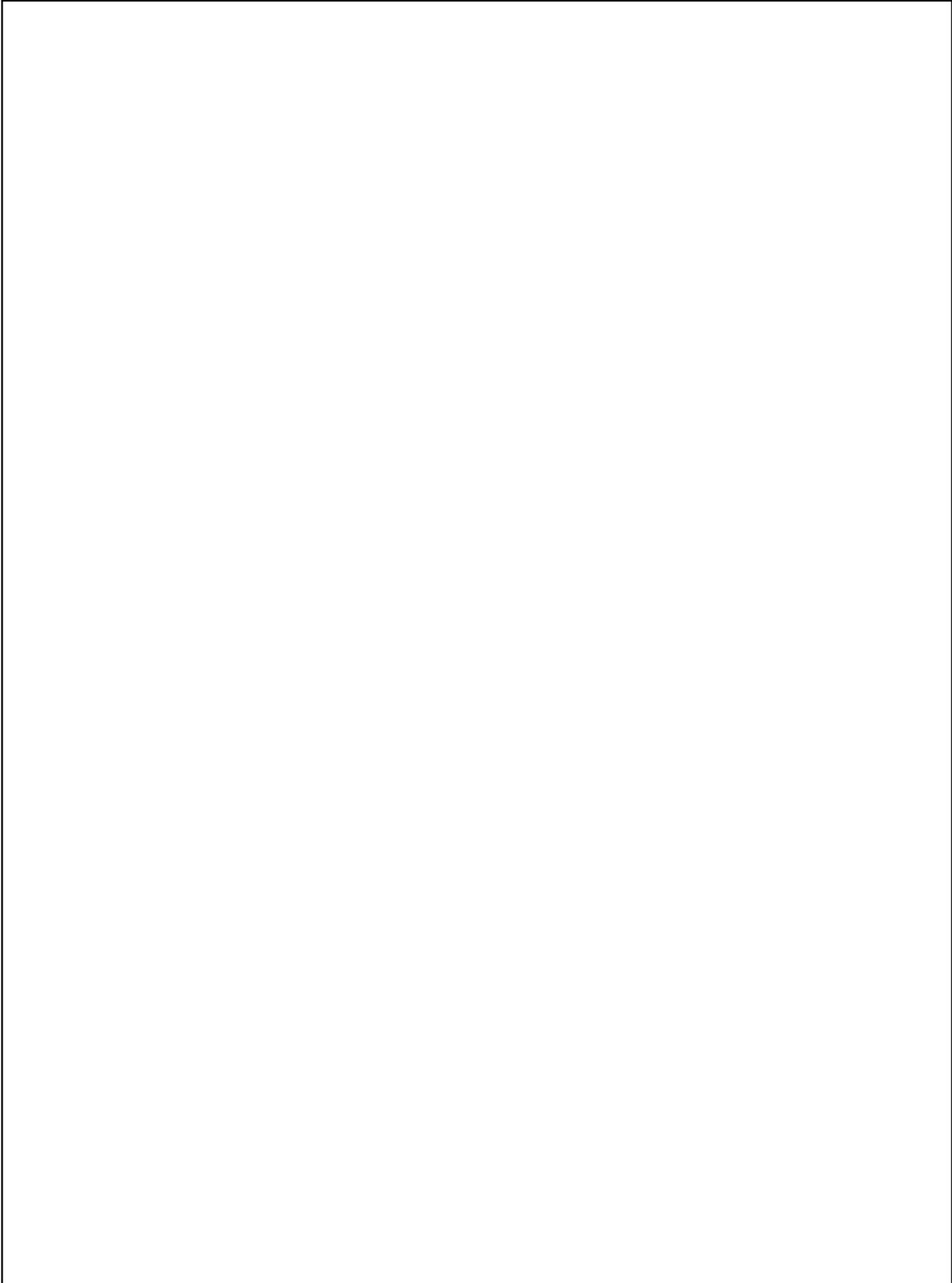
We are already planning the Christmas Market event in the Village Hall at the end of November, and we're still waiting for the summer to arrive.

Don't forget you can come to hear our speakers even if you aren't a member. The cost is £5 (to bring visitors into line with the subs paid by members.)

Our next meeting will be Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> July. Doors open at 7:30 for refreshments and chat, and our speaker will be at 8 pm.

If you haven't been before, come and join in for the evening, your first visit is free.





## Additional Housing Management Service

Vale of Aylesbury Housing (the Trust) is offering an exciting new service to residents living in our age designated bungalows.

Our new Additional Housing Management (AHM) service offers a monthly visit to your home by one of our Independent Living Advisors to provide help, advice and assistance in accessing services, which will enable your continued independence, health and wellbeing.

We can help you with a range of services plus we're able to:

- Offer advice and guidance to aid your independent living;
- Assist you to manage your home and arrange repairs, aids and adaptations etc;
- Give you access to the different methods to pay your rent and make sure you are in receipt of all the welfare benefits you may be entitled to;
- Signpost you to support services to assist with reading letters, paying bills, dealing with nuisance calls, door step selling etc;

- Provide advice on personal safety and security;
- Link you with local resources, volunteers and community services and help you to access services within your local community; and
- Provide information and demonstrations with First Contact - our home lifeline service.

### Who is eligible for the AHM service?

Anyone over 55 years of age who is living in Trust age designated accommodation can use the service.

### How much does the AHM service cost?

The scheme costs £5.11 per week. If residents qualify for Full Housing Benefit it won't cost anything.

### I'm interested, what's next?

Please contact the Independent Living team on either 01296 732600 or [IndependentLivingAdvisors@vaht.co.uk](mailto:IndependentLivingAdvisors@vaht.co.uk) for further details. If you would prefer a member of the team can visit you at your home.

**Please call: 01296 732600 or  
Email: [IndependentLivingAdvisors@vaht.co.uk](mailto:IndependentLivingAdvisors@vaht.co.uk)**



## Ickford Village

Walking round the village the other day I was aware of how nice it was beginning to look despite the most unsummer like weather! The hanging baskets outside the school are very colourful as is the Millennium garden, many thanks to Jenny Butler for the latter. Thanks also go to Colin and Sue Smith, the Laub family and whoever has cut the grass behind the allotments.

## Footpaths

A number of parishioners have commented on the poor state of some of the footpaths in the village particularly those that have become overgrown with vegetation.

The PC is only responsible for two of these, the one from Golders Close to Sheldon Road and the one from Golders Close which exits onto Woringhall Road.

Apart from these two the maintenance of all other paths is the responsibility of the landowner. The PC is aware of who some of the landowners are but others are not clear so we are in the process of trying to establish who they are so that we can ensure that all are passable in future.

Whilst on this topic it is worth reporting that one civic minded parishioner volunteered to trim the path leading from Bridge Road to the field behind it which eventually ends up in Church Road.

This he was happy to do until he encountered our old friend dog excrement, not only in all its natural noisome beauty but also thoughtfully contained in plastic bags!

Not surprisingly he is not keen to repeat this exercise.

The dog owners of Ickford should be thoroughly ashamed of themselves. PJ

.....

## St Nicholas. - Help Wanted.

Could you spare a little time, now and again, to help keep the church well cared for and welcoming? We need some more volunteers to join our church care and flower rotas and your help would be very much appreciated. Further details from Ann Crees on 338956 .

Music.

If anyone could play the organ / keyboard occasionally at our services please contact Stephen Johns on 338189.

## Report from the Parish Council

**Finance** : The Annual Accounts for the year 2015/16 have been agreed by the Parish Council and sent to the external auditor. A copy of the accounting statement is available to view on the village noticeboard or on the Ickford Community website.

**Defibrillator** : We are very pleased that our new Defibrillator has now been installed onto the front of the Pavilion. Many thanks to Alan of Otmoor Electrical Ltd for installing this and connecting it to the electricity supply. We will soon be running a First Aid training session for any residents who would like to learn more about how to use this amazing life saving device – further information about this will be communicated soon.

**Recreation Ground & Pavilion** : We are looking for your ideas and feedback for how we can make improvements to the recreation ground and pavilion to make it a more usable space for all of the community. Please fill in the survey in this Informer (or the online version on the Ickford Community website) to help shape our plans for the future.

**Recreation Ground Driveway** : In recognition of the disruption to the village caused by the recent installation of fibre-optic internet, Gigaclear recently repaired the large pot holes in the recreation ground driveway. We are very grateful to Gigaclear for this much needed work.

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> July, 7:30pm, in the Village Hall annex. Please come along and have your say!

## ICKFORD PHOTOGRAPHIC CLUB

Following a mix up with the dates we did our photo shoot at the church on Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> May. I have never known us to be so quiet, we were all in our own little world with our cameras as happy as Larry. Thank you Michael for opening up for us. The images were reviewed at our subsequent meeting and we now feel we would all like to go back to take even more photos, will advise dates later.

I have spoken to several people recently who have all said “ I’ve only got a point and shoot camera, I don’t have a posh camera” . Please do come along , its not about the camera, its about the photo you take with it., I’m lucky that Barbara encourages me to put my prints up around the house, but the vast majority were taken with my point and shoot which was in my pocket when I needed it!

The next meeting will be on Tuesday evening 26<sup>th</sup> July meeting at 7.30 in the car park of the Kings Head pub OX4 4YB next to the lock at Sandford on Thames ( just south of the Oxford ring road near Sainsbury ) just for a general social meeting ,bring your camera and we can have a meal afterwards.

The topic will still be “ interesting cloud shapes “ as none of us actually shot what was asked for! Then we will be shooting photos of “water”.

Peter