

March/April 2010 — 50p

Tidmarsh with Sulham Parish Magazine



Editorial

Welcome to the March/April issue of the magazine...

Firstly a big 'thank you' to our volunteer distributors who, despite the icy conditions, managed to deliver the magazines to you all last month! These individuals really are the unsung heroes and the magazine relies on their continued enthusiasm for getting out and walking the lanes of our parishes!

I think it is safe to say that we are all pretty tired of the wintry conditions — if it's not snow, it's rain. The rivers and brooks are running high and mud is everywhere! The fields are a mess and the grazing animals are fed up with eating hay and desperate for some lush nutritious grass! I am sure we are all looking forward to the lighter nights and those lovely first days of Spring when we feel inspired to get out and make a start on the garden!

It is 'that' time of the year again! Therefore, enclosed with this issue is an envelope! I would be most grateful if you could pop a cheque in the envelope for £3 for the 2010 subscription and either put it in the post or drop it into my mail box at Mill Corner. Please do not put coins in the post as last year I received two envelopes that had had the coins removed and just an empty envelope was delivered! I hasten to add that this would certainly not have been anything to do with the lovely postman who delivers to Sulham and Tidmarsh who provides an excellent service, often over and above the call of normal duty.

Following the Summer Fete, we hope to do an eight page colour spread with lots of photographs so it is even more important that we have the funds to cover the additional cost of this. Last year the response was really fantastic and I really hope that we can count on your support again this year.

If you would prefer to simply set up a standing order for March each year for £3, our bank details are:

Barclays Bank
Account Number: 33147541
Sort Code: 20-71-06
Account Name: Tidmarsh with Sulham Parish Magazine.

Thank you!

This year the Summer Fete will be held here at Mill Corner Farm rather than on the Millennium Green. The advantage of this is we really do need to have water and electricity on site, plus, we will be able to hold the dog show — always a thoroughly popular event!

We are working on some new stalls as well and whilst I fully appreciate everyone is very busy, it would be lovely to have some offers of help either in the planning, new ideas, set up, or on the day. If you feel you could contribute in some way, please send me an email or call me.

Here's looking forward to some better weather!

Jenny Cope
jenny@candcsystems.co.uk

Dates for your diary

Art classes

Mondays and Wednesdays

Art classes are held in the village hall on Monday mornings, Monday afternoons and Wednesday afternoons. For further details, contact Christina Taylor Smith at artdynamics@btinternet.com or call 01491 671870.

Walking group

Friday 5 March, Friday 9 April and Friday 7 May

Meet outside Tidmarsh Village Hall at 9:30 am. The walks last approximately 1½ hours. They will be at an easy pace on paths over fields and woodland. All are welcome, including well-behaved dogs. There will be coffee and chat afterwards in the village hall (see below). On 5 March, we'll be discussing future walks.

Coffee morning

Friday 5 March, Friday 9 April and Friday 7 May

The Village Hall coffee mornings take place from 11 am to noon. Do come along for a chat. There's a village walk that takes place prior to this, weather permitting (see above).

Plant and cake sale

Saturday 13 March

There will be a plant and cake sale in Pangbourne Village Hall raising money for the *Aman Kapila Memorial Fund*. If anyone would like to donate plants or cakes, please contact Gillian on 0118 984 2729.

Bike ride

Tuesday 16 March

Would you like to go for an easy pace 1.5-2 hour bike ride? If yes, come and join a small group on Tuesday 16 March. The ride will be mostly off road on tracks with no difficult hills to tackle (you won't need a special bike) and will hopefully include a halfway refreshment stop! Meet outside St Nicholas church in Sulham at 12:30 pm.

Tidmarsh with Sulham Parish Council annual assembly

Wednesday 17 March

The meeting starts at 7 pm in Tidmarsh Village Hall and will include a report from the parish council chairman and district councillor. All parishioners are welcome.

Dates for your diary (continued)

St Nicholas churchyard tidy up

Sunday 21 March

There will be a churchyard tidy up at 2 pm. Many hands make light work! Please come along for an hour with garden tools if you would like to help.

“Brute Farce” revue

Saturday 27 March

This event is for pre-booked tickets only. Numbers will be limited, so reserve your tickets early to avoid disappointment. For more details, see page 5.

Village hall management committee AGM

Wednesday 21 April

The Tidmarsh with Sulham Village Hall Committee AGM will be held at 7:30 pm in Tidmarsh Village Hall. Anyone interested in joining the Committee is welcome to stay for the meeting that follows. New volunteers are always welcome and the level of commitment from members is their own choice.

Village design statement parish meeting

Thursday 10 June

Come along, be informed and get involved in a project which will have a positive effect on our parishes for years to come. For more details, see page 8.

Summer fete

Saturday 7 August

There will be more information in the next issue but put this date in your diary now!

Dates for your diary (continued)

A Revue Night
with
BRUTE FARCE
at
Tidmarsh Village Hall

Saturday 27 March 2010 at 7:30pm

Enjoy a night of comedy and music with entertainers who have performed at many fundraising functions around England, Scotland and Argentina.

Returning to Tidmarsh after some 13 years, we hope you will come and give your support for the future improvements of the hall.

Tickets £10

Includes a welcome drink and light refreshments in the interval

Reservations, with payment (cash or cheque) and contact details to:
Ann Robertson, Peacehaven, Tidmarsh, RG8 8ER
Cheques payable to "Tidmarsh Village Hall"

Tickets only available in advance, so
book early to avoid disappointment.

For all booking enquiries call Ann Robertson
on 0118 984 3163 or email ann_54@btinternet.com

There will be a raffle.

Soft drinks will be available for sale but please bring your own alcohol.

Dates for your diary (continued)

The Big Tidy Up!

As part of the Parish Plan the Environment Group are planning a litter pick

Sunday 28 March

Meet 9:30 am at Home Farm, Sulham Lane

We hope to pick litter along the roadside
along Sulham Lane and then Mill Lane ending at The Greyhound

Come and help to tidy up our hedgerows and verges

We will have kits with refuse sacks etc provide by
West Berks Council and Campaign to Protect Rural England

For further details, see www.thebigtidyup.org

PRIOR NOTICE FOR YOUR DIARY

TIDMARSH & SULHAM SUMMER SUPPER

Friday 25 June

FULL PARTICULARS IN NEXT ISSUE

Dates for your diary (continued)

Quiz Nite

Friday 14 May

7:30 pm for 8 pm

Tidmarsh & Sulham Village Hall

Tickets £7.50 in advance, £10 on the night

Includes Ploughmans and soft drinks
Bring your own bottle

Come along as a team or join a table on the night
CASH PRIZE - 10% of ticket sales to winning team/table

**Questions written and presented by
Professional Quiz Writer**

*All proceeds to St Nicholas Church, Sulham
for urgent repairs needed to vestry wall*

Pauline Ross Tel: 0118 984 5432
Gillian Alderton Tel: 0118 984 2729
Gill Haggarty Tel: 0118 984 4122

Dates for your diary (continued)

The Tidmarsh Pottery Project

A community event for people of all ages to come together, learn how to make a pot, then build and fire a kiln.

Day One: Workshop. *Saturday 29th May 10:00-12:00*

Learn a bit about pottery and then make your own pot.

Venue: Tidmarsh Village Hall.

Day Two: All Day Event. *Saturday 19th June 10:00-18:00*

In the morning we will build and fire the kiln. Bring a picnic lunch and spend the day around the kiln, or come back at 6.00pm with a bottle, for a drink and the grand opening of the kiln.

Venue: The grain-silo field on the right off Tidmarsh Lane (*by kind permission of Mrs D.M.Maris*)



Cost £5.00 per person (this guarantees you making one pot; depending on numbers there may be a possibility of making more than one at a small additional charge of £1.00 per pot. (This will cover all the cost of hiring the hall, providing the clay and firing the pots.)

If you are interested ring **Rebecca Cottrell 0118 9841214** and book yourselves in as there are limited spaces for the Workshops. But anyone can come and take a look at the Tee Pee Kiln in the field.

Parish matters

Village design statement parish meeting

at Tidmarsh Village Hall on Thursday 10 June at 7:30pm

An important action point in the Parish Plan is the production of a Village Design Statement (VDS). The West Berkshire Council web site and documents explain VDS as:

“Town and Village Design Statements are about encouraging development to be carried out in a way that is in harmony with its setting and makes a positive contribution to the local environment. By describing the qualities and characteristics that people value in their villages and surroundings, local communities can have an input into the planning process.”

Before a VDS is embarked upon, residents need to be aware of what it entails and the possible impact on any development within our community. At the meeting, speakers from West Berkshire Council, the Parish Council, and other parishes will detail the expected content of a VDS and its place in the planning process, with indications of how it can be helpful. **Come along, be informed and get involved in a project which will have a positive effect on our parishes for years to come.**

If you are interested in viewing Village Design Statements from other parishes which have already been produced and adopted by West Berkshire Council, go to the direct link on the West Berkshire Council web site:

www.westberks.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=4433

Village hall news

by **Ann Robertson**

It has been a quiet start to the year at the hall, but hopefully that will change with the first event in March, the Revue Night, promising an entertaining combination of comedy and music. If you still wish to join us for this event, there are still tickets available (see advert on page 4 for booking details).

Another event is the Village Hall Management Committee AGM, to be held on Wednesday 21 April. This is an opportunity for potential new members to attend and consider joining us on the Committee.

Please note that there has been a change of Booking Secretary. For new contact details see below.

Hiring the village hall

Tidmarsh village hall is available for hire for £10 per hour. For information on availability and booking, please contact Denise Randell on 07909 114 213 or by email at tidmarshvillagehall@hotmail.com.

Parish matters (continued)

Sulham Woods

by John Haggarty

If you have been out walking in Sulham Woods recently you may have seen large scale forestry operations in progress. The felling of timber has been taking place in the area to the south of Sulham Hill and to the east of Coltmoor Cottages, Nunhide Lane. This area of woodland is known as Beals Copse.

The Forestry Commission own a long lease on Sulham Woods which has been in existence since the early 1960s when they replanted the woodland with commercial non-native soft woods. Though Sulham Estate own the land, they have no control of the management or felling.

In September 2009 the Forestry Commission gave notice to the Estate that area of Beals Copse was due for some of the trees to be felled. This is part of the management of woodland and every 5-10 years the wood is thinned to allow other trees to mature and grow further. The Commission are also able to gain an income from the sale of the timber. The work was planned to start in September and last for four weeks.

The modern felling of timber takes place with large timber harvesters and six wheel drive self propelled trailers to take it to a point near the road where lorries can collect. It is a huge operation and the timber is not cut by hand or handled without a machine. Bearing these points in mind Sulham Estate made it clear that the work should be completed before winter and before the soil became too wet to travel over.

However it has been very disappointing to see that this has not been the case and work continued into January. The condition of the woodland in places has become a churned up mass of mud and debris. Where the extraction routes cross public footpaths these have been left impassable. The Rights of Way Officer at West Berkshire Council has written to the Forestry Commission asking for immediate remedial action.

It is unacceptable that a public body such as the Forestry Commission should conduct itself in such a manner. The woodland has numerous public footpaths for everyone to enjoy and the habitat is a haven for wildlife in this area.

If you would like to make your comments known to the Forestry Commission they can be contacted at:

Forestry Commission
S.E. Forest District
Bucks Horn Oak
Farnham
Surrey
GU10 4LS

Parish matters (continued)

Local survey work by the Environment Agency

During February and early March, the Environment Agency will be completing a variety of surveys in and around Tidmarsh, Sulham and Pangbourne.

These surveys will include thresholds of some properties at risk of flooding; in respect of this survey, each householder involved will be sent a letter, a minimum of 5 days, before the survey is due to take place.

Each member of the survey team will carry an ID card. The survey work is being carried out by Glanville Consultants and the letter will give a contact telephone number for this company together with a direct dial telephone number for the Flood Risk Mapping and Data Management Team based at Kings Meadow House in Reading.

Other surveys being carried out by the same company include road and path levels and channel surveys.

They will use this information to update their records to take account of works done to the rivers since 2007, improve their flood warning service, and review the river modelling for this area to improve their Flood Map.

If you have any general questions about this, please call 08708 506 506 and ask for Thames West External Relations.

Local planning applications

Below are details of recent planning applications made within the Tidmarsh and Sulham parishes. You can find more details on these planning applications, including their status, on the West Berkshire Council web site at:

http://publicaccess.westberks.gov.uk/PublicAccess/tdc/tdc_home.aspx

Application Ref.	Address	Proposal
10/00073/CERTE	Blackbirds Tidmarsh Road RG8 8ES	Use of land and buildings for the keeping, buying and selling of horses, and for stationing of a mobile home for staff.
10/00024/COND1	Sunny Brook Tidmarsh RG8 8ER	Application for approval of details reserved by condition 2 details of windows condition 3 details of coat of arms of planning permission reference 09/01558/LBC.
09/02579/CERTE	Green Gables Tidmarsh Lane Tidmarsh RG8 8HG	The storage of plant (including secure site plant stores and portable site office units), equipment and associated material and the hiring of these items.

Out and about

Local oarsmen enjoy a white Christmas

Undaunted by sub-zero temperatures and fresh snow, members of the Goring Gap Boat Club celebrated Christmas with their traditional Santa Row.

The keen rowers, suitably attired, were out on their home waters bright and early to enjoy the brilliant sunshine and flat calm water.

Dog walkers and local fishermen were treated to some energetic renditions of 'We Wish You a Merry Christmas' and 'The Eight(!) Days of Christmas', but the highlight of the day was the superbly balanced high-speed rowing.

By 10 am, friends and families had gathered at the boathouse to enjoy fresh bacon butties, mince pies and mulled wine.



If you would like to join us, whether you are a novice or have rowed before, please go to www.goringgapbc.org.uk for more information.



Girl power at Hall Place

by **Emma Sumbler**, Show Secretary, Hall Place Equestrian Centre

Hall Place Equestrian Centre is proud to announce the winners of the Rider Championships for 2009. Points for all three challenges were awarded for placings in every competition held at Hall Place from December 2008 to December 2009.



Chippi Cope and Superstar

The **Show Jumper of the Year** title was awarded to 11 year old **Chippi Cope from Tidmarsh** who is a South Berks Pony Club member and has been riding for just 3 years. Her mother Jenny said "Chippi is an enthusiastic rider and competitor but is also very responsible". Chippi is *over the moon* to have won this award and amongst her many plans for the future she wants to continue in the Pony Club and compete in more events in 2010. She also wants to get a bigger pony as

she is rapidly outgrowing 16 year old *Superstar* who is just 12.2h!

The **Dressage Rider of the Year** was awarded to Sarah Scott from Upper Basildon riding Phillippa Baker's warmblood stallion *Saddam* whose previous career was as a show jumper with the Goddard family. Sarah is a racing secretary for Harry Dunlop in Lambourn and combines career with running her own yard at Knappswood Farm in Upper Basildon. Sarah breeds and produces quality horses at Knappswood with many placings at county level in youngstock classes in 2009. Sarah regularly rides over to neighbouring Redmoor Row Farm and trains with Karen Crago who has guided Sarah and Saddam to reach their full potential. Sarah said "I hope to affiliate to British Dressage in 2010 and can't thank Hall Place enough for being so friendly and producing such well run competitions".

The third championship was kindly sponsored by Kevin Royle of RPE Events, the professional photographers who attend all competitions at Hall Place. Poppy Hitchen from Tilehurst won the award of **Junior Royle Rider**, gaining her points in a variety of disciplines riding *Frankly Sinatra*. Frank is a hugely talented 12 year old cob who all the ladies of the family ride, mum to hack and sister to show jump. He has been owned by the Hitchen family for just over a year and Poppy said "Frankie is the best horse in the world and I am very lucky to have him, but I would never have won this if it wasn't for my instructors Hailey Wilder and Clare

Girl power at Hall Place (continued)

Chance. My biggest highlight of 2009 was being placed in the UK Riders National Finals at Arena UK in Lincolnshire and I hope to qualify again in 2010".

Hailey Wilder, Centre Manager at Hall Place, was disappointed to have to postpone the

Christmas Show where these riders would have had a mounted prize giving and photo shoot. She has assured all the girls that this will be achieved at the next show.

For more information about Hall Place Equestrian Centre, go to www.hall-place.com.

Children's matters

Rainbows, guides and rangers

by **Helen Randall, Unit Guider**

1st Basildon Rainbows

We have had a busy start to the term with our usual air and share and games on our return after Christmas. Esme, Jasmine, Emily, Amia, Molly, Amelie, and Olivia all made their promise and we have said goodbye to Olivia and Olivia and wish them well at Brownies. We also welcome Honey and Freya, who have joined us this term.

We also held an evening themed "1st Basildon Rainbows have got talent". The Rainbows really enjoyed this and we certainly have some very talented members in our unit, with a violinist and several singers and dancers.

Plans for the rest of the term include cooking and crafts.

1st Pangbourne Guides

The term started with an evening of traditional games, which went down very well. We then had an evening of glass painting, which ended with a candlelight ceremony, where Nancy, Vanessa, and Beth all renewed their promise as Guides.

This year is very busy with our centenary celebrations which everyone is looking forward to, kicking off with a special Thinking Day event for the many local Guiding units this month.

Pang Valley Rangers

We have only had one meeting this term, where the Rangers planned the term. They hope to complete a special challenge to celebrate our centenary.

More information

If you would like information on the above, please do give Helen a ring on 01635 48765.

Restaurant review

The Sweet Olive, Aston Tirrold

by Richard Thomas

“Um delicious” said Rosemary, only to repeat herself a few minutes later. She was thoroughly enjoying her meal, as was I. The Sweet Olive continues to be our favourite restaurant, even though it is nearly 10 miles away.

The restaurant is run by two Frenchmen, Olivier Bouet and Stephane Brun, who came from The Beetle and Wedge at Moulsoford when it was in its prime. They really know what they are doing in this old public house, The Chequers. It is nicely welcoming and friendly but not too fancy.

I would describe the food as English with a French accent, or perhaps French with an English accent. Either way, the menu is interesting and the food delicious. Even their baguettes have interesting fillings if you are in a hurry to go walking on the downs, but we suggest you take your time to enjoy a memorable meal.

A lady on the next table said “We are spoilt for choice.” Indeed yes. We would have been happy with any dish shown on the daily menu, let alone the many day’s specials. I started with a delicious French fish soup with all the traditional trimmings. Rosemary had squid threaded with bacon and served with a green salad. It was at this early stage that she started expressing her delight.

For the main course we could have had casserole of roe deer or perhaps flash-fried saddle of roe deer (and serve the blighters right for constantly eating our garden!) but I couldn’t resist the lovely dish of veal kidneys in a creamy mustard sauce: one of my favourites and not often seen. Rosemary had Dover sole in tempura: a second starter actually, but she wanted to leave room for a baked Alaska with raspberry coulis! In fact, she would have done



better to join me in having a delicious really light treacle sponge with custard and vanilla ice cream. The baked Alaska gave rise to our only criticism in that the ice cream within was wrapped in cake rather than simply sitting on a slice, so making the dish somewhat heavier than it should have been.

Perhaps the only other criticisms I could make of The Sweet Olive is that if you eat in the bar area you don’t get a cushion to sit on, and the restaurant area (so-called) is a little cramped for space. However, don’t let that put you off. A cushion was fetched and in the evening the restaurant would be nicely cosy.

Our meal cost £80 including drinks, coffees and a discretionary gratuity: somewhat more than we would normally pay for a lunch out, but worth every penny. Do give The Sweet Olive a try, but not on Wednesdays or Sunday evenings. It is obviously not just us who thoroughly enjoy this restaurant: even on a Tuesday lunchtime the place was nearly full, so do ring 01235 851 272 for a reservation.

The Sweet Olive

Baker Street, Aston Tirrold, Oxon, OX11 9DD
Tel: 01235 851 272

www.sweet-olive.com

An Easter recipe

Simnel cake

Simnel cake is a traditional treat that is made to mark the end of Lent. The 11 almond paste balls represent 11 of the apostles; Judas is excluded as he betrayed Jesus. Simnel is the Latin name for fine wheat flour.



Ingredients

200g plain flour
2tsp ground mixed spice
175g butter
175g soft brown sugar
Grated rind of one orange
4 eggs
175g currants
175g sultanas
175g raisins
75g glace cherries quartered
50g chopped mixed peel
To finish 750g almond paste
Apricot jam, warmed

Method

1. Line a 19 cm cake tin.
2. Sift the flour and spice together.
3. Cream the butter and sugar together until light and fluffy.
4. Beat in the eggs one at a time.
5. Mix in the flour.
6. Roll out one quarter of the almond paste into a circle to fit the tin.
7. Put half the cake mix in the tin and then lay over the almond paste circle pressing down lightly.
8. Put the rest of the cake mix on top.
9. Bake in a moderate oven (150 degrees) for 3 hours or until a skewer inserted into the centre comes out clean.
10. Allow the cake to cool slightly in the tin then turn onto a wire cooling rack until cold.
11. Brush the cake with apricot jam and place a circle of almond paste on top.
12. Shape the remaining paste into 11 balls and place evenly around the top of the cake. Place briefly under a hot grill to lightly brown the balls.
13. Decorate with yellow ribbon and candy eggs and chicks as desired.

Sulham and Tidmarsh in WW2

Wartime changes in Sulham and Tidmarsh

by Jean Harland

The war brought many changes not just to Sulham and Tidmarsh but to many areas surrounding the two villages. Here are just some of them.

As previously mentioned the aerodrome at Theale was established in the early part of the war, but over in Woodley at the Miles Aircraft Factory more than 5,000 planes were built whilst those that had been damaged on active service were either repaired or rebuilt. It was here of course that the famous pilot of the Second World War Douglas Bader lost his legs in 1931.

Other airfields soon sprang up such as in Aldermaston in 1942. This was used by the USAAF and became a major troop-carrying airfield; today of course it is known as AWRE. Over in Greenham Common, near Newbury, this airfield also was used by the American Airforce.

Shinfield Park in 1941 became the home of The Royal Airforce Training Command on its Formation.

HMS Dauntless at Burgfield was a training camp for the Women's Royal Naval Service (WRNS) which continued until its closure in 1981.

Arborfield was the army garrison where many hundreds of soldiers passed through; likewise, Brock Barracks in Reading at the time the home of the Royal Berkshire Regiment. In Tilehurst, Raniket Camp became a 10-week training centre on first joining the army. Today many of these camps are no longer recognisable as most have been turned into large housing developments.

In Reading the BBC moved to Caversham Park in 1942 and from 1943 the Monitoring Service was operating there. Down in Streatley the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons moved there from Edinburgh for the duration.

But closer to home Basildon Park was used by the US Airborne Division as they trained for the D-Day landings and later on in the large grounds surrounding the park huts were built to house the Italian POWs.

On the farms in the area the Women's Land Army became a familiar sight and for many it was quite a change from working in a warm office or shop especially when in the wet and cold of winter they had to be out in all weathers in the fields harvesting mangolds and potatoes. Many had to learn to drive a tractor and milk cows and on some farms the big shire horses were still used. Quite a big change if you were a city lass. But they always seemed a cheerful crowd.

Several large businesses moved to the countryside such as Tate & Lyle who transferred their head office to Maidenhatch with some of their senior staff living in cottages in the grounds.

Many small businesses in the area were taken over for the making of munitions but the largest of these was at Goring Heath where large buildings were built in the woods so hopefully they could not be seen so easily from the air. This establishment employed hundreds of civilians, some going there when they reached school-leaving age. Special buses from

Sulham and Tidmarsh in WW2 (cont.)

Pangbourne and other villages in the area were laid on to enable them to work in this out of the way place. In Pangbourne a nursery was set up for children from birth to five and this allowed young mothers to do war work. The hours at the munitions factory were long and so the nursery remained open from seven in the morning until six in the evening.

Today all that remains in the woods are just some concrete bases where the sheds once stood.

Next time more changes that took place and just some of the people who came to live in our two villages.

Pangbourne Heritage Group exhibition

by **Lesley Crimp**

Following our very successful 'Pangbourne at War' exhibition five years ago, we are embarking on a new project. On 15 and 16 May in Pangbourne Village Hall, we will be displaying the amount of new research that has been undertaken in recent months, with the title 'Pangbourne - a Snapshot of a Century of Change 1830 to 1930'.

The dates are not arbitrarily chosen; during recent months we have been looking at how Pangbourne grew as a village, from the time when the Breedon family as landowners were influential in every aspect of land use and commercial development, to the break up of the estate in 1894, and the diversity of community life in the 1920s and 30s, as the whole country recovered from the First World War.

What is really exciting about this project is that no one has researched these years in detail before, and the pieces of the jigsaw are gradually being fitted together. We have used the word 'snapshot' because that is what we

have endeavoured to show; aspects of village life in film, photographs, maps, mementos and much more.

The WI are providing a tea room throughout both days of the exhibition, which will be an attraction in itself. Come and support our village venture; the hall will be open from 11am to 4pm on both days, and there will be plenty of people on hand to show you around. One of our hoped for outcomes is that many of you will have your own memories to share with us.

For further information, please contact Rosie Nurick on 0118 984 2565.

Gardening matters

Purley Horticultural Society

by **Marion Dabbs**

Trading

The Trading Store is now open and will be open every Saturday and Sunday between 10 am and 11 am until the last Sunday in October. Membership subscriptions for 2010 are now due and at £2 for a year is tremendous value. You can buy items at the Store (in Purley Memorial car park) at lower prices than most other sources and further savings can be made on garden purchases at *Collins of Pangbourne*, *BSB Garden Machinery* on Sulham Lane for new mowers, *Englefield Garden Centre*, *Glenville Nursery*, *Bradfield Southend and Newington Nurseries*, Newington on the A329 road, north of Shillingford. Please remember to show your membership card at the start of the transaction as tills have to be set to deduct discount in some outlets. Seed potato order forms and catalogues for Sutton's seeds will be available at the Trading Store.

Talks

A talk on "Growing and Exhibiting Daffodils and Narcissus" by Alex Burke will be held in

Purley Memorial Hall on Wednesday 17 March commencing at 8 pm. Alex was a member of the Reading & District Chrysanthemum Society and he together with other members were persuaded to introduce a daffodil show to the Show calendar in the early 80s. This attracted interest from a large area and resulted in the formation of the Mid Southern Daffodil Group in 1989 of which he is Secretary. They hold an "open" daffodil show on the last Sunday in March with 60 classes. New members are welcome from novices to experienced exhibitors. Please try and come along as this is the last talk before the Autumn.

Spring show

This will be held on Saturday 10 April in Purley Memorial Hall. Schedules are available at the Trading Shed.

More information

For more details about the society, please visit our web site at:

<http://www.purleyonthames.net/index.php?page=pbs>

March and April in your garden

by **Gillian Alderton**

March is the month in your vegetable garden to plant seeds for beetroot, carrot, French beans, salad onions, spinach, peas, and broad beans.

Other vegetables that you may wish to grow will have details of planting times on the seed packet.

Put compost or well rotted manure round your rhubarb plants for a good crop.

Later on as the soil warms up you can plant seeds for courgettes, runner beans, and squash directly into the soil. Protecting the young seedlings with a cut off plastic bottle will help protect them from insects and mice.

Prune your spring flowering shrubs and clematis as soon as they have finished flowering.

Gardening matters (continued)

Well rotted manure

Well rotted manure can be collected from Mill Corner in Tidmarsh. Fill your own bags. Perfect for mulching borders at this time of year. Contact Jenny on 07747 775 900.

The rare vagrant returns

by **Richard Thomas**

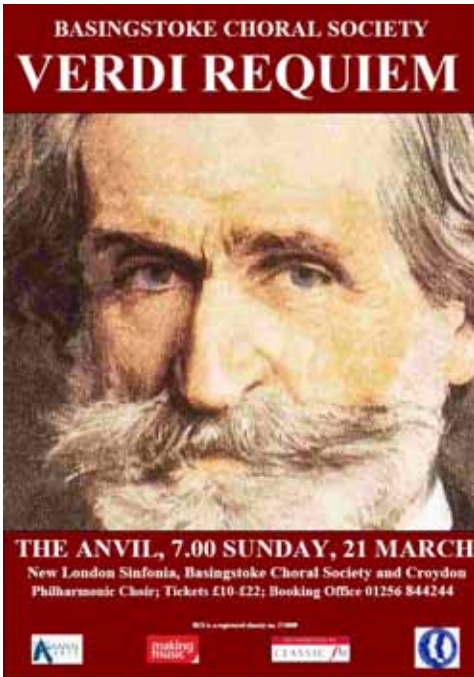
You may remember that I reported my surprise at us being visited by a Little Egret in March last year.

Well, it has returned. I saw it on the banks of the Sul brook on 11 January, in spite of it being a pure white, just like the thick snow over which it was flying. That snowy white background highlighted its long black legs trailing behind as it flew.



Little egret

Music matters



Basingstoke Choral Society

Basingstoke Choral Society will present Verdi's Requiem at The Anvil at 7 pm on Sunday 21 March.

For this powerful and emotional work, we will perform with the New London Sinfonia, under the baton of David Gibson, and will be joined by the Croydon Philharmonic Choir, making a choral group of over 200 voices.

Tickets, priced as usual from £10 to £22, are available from The Anvil booking office on 01256 844244. Under-16s and students are £5, and there are discounts for groups of 10+ people.

Church matters

Church of England

St Nicholas, Sulham

Regular services for St Nicholas are:

- **Family service** on the 3rd Sunday of each month at 11 am. Everyone of all ages is welcome.
- **Evensong** is held on the 4th Sunday of each month at 6 pm.

Services

Everyone is welcome at St Nicholas, St Laurence and St James the Less church services. For service details, please see the church noticeboards.

Contact details

Church contact numbers are at the back of this magazine. You can email the rector at Churchoffice@vodafone.net.

Roman Catholic church

Our nearest Roman Catholic church is St Bernadettes in Horseshoe Road, Pangbourne which has Sunday mass and childrens liturgy at 9 am and Tuesday mass at 10 am. Confession is by arrangement.

For more information, please contact Father Benedict at Douai Abbey on 0118 971 5300 or see www.douaiparish.org.uk/stbernadette.html.

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Please support our advertisers and, when you contact them, mention that you saw their advert in the *Tidmarsh with Sulham Parish Magazine*.

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Gillian Alderton0118 984 2729
Alison Boyland0118 984 5202
Jennifer Nutt.....0118 984 2370
Margaret Truscott0118 984 4194

Useful contacts (continued)

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Village hall committee

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