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Childrey & Sparsholt Newsletter



DECEMBER 2015

Issue 14 Vol.11

www.sparsholtandwestcot.org

www.childrey.org.uk

Contact for newsletter articles: Claire Turner - 751275 or
childreyandsparsholtnewsletter@yahoo.co.uk

Please submit articles by the 18th of the month.

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Diary Dates for December

Date & Time	Event / Venue	Notes	Contact
28 th NOVEMBER 10am-12 Noon	Clean and Tidy-Up St. Marys Church, Childrey	We would be delighted to welcome any volunteers to help – hot drinks from the new kitchen should be available.	Linda : 751297 John : 751809
3 rd December 11am.	White Horse Gardening Club Thomas Hughes Memorial Hall, Uffington.	AGM followed by 'Damson + Gin'. A talk by William Parry of Wessex Wild Plum Co. Tasting and products to buy.	Pamela Preene 01367 820251 parrottspreene@aol.com
4th December 12.30pm	Tear Fund Lunch Appleton House, West Street, Childrey	By kind invitation of Sue & Julian Worth. There will also be Tear Fund Christmas Cards on sale.	All most welcome.
12 th December 7 to 10pm	Sparsholt & Westcot Christmas Get Together. Griffin Hall, Sparsholt	Complementary glass of wine. Drop in anytime between 7 and 10 to have a glass of mulled wine, chat to friends and listen to live music. All residents welcome.	Angie Brown 751210
20 th December 10 to 12:30	Uffington Christmas & Farmers Market	The market will feature a range of craft stalls selling lots of lovely Christmas gift items as well as our usual high quality food stalls. Thomas Hughes Memorial Hall, Uffington.	
26 th December 11am.	Sparsholt & Westcot Footpath Walkers	Boxing Day walk led by the Williams'. Everyone welcome! Contact Barbara for details of where to meet and for more information.	Barbara 751617
<p>DON'T HAVE A RUBBISH CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR Bin collections will take place on the following dates,</p> <p>Wednesday 30th December Green bin and food bin (no garden waste) Wednesday 6th January Grey bin and food bin. Tuesday 12th January Green bin, brown bin, and food bin.</p>			

Ridgeway School Open Evening

Wednesday 2nd December 2016

The Ridgeway School, Childrey, is delighted to announce it will be holding an Open Evening for current and future parents on Wednesday 2nd December from 6-8pm. Brighten up a cold winter's evening by coming along to see the work children do in each of the classes, see their academic work and talk to the teachers about their topics and activities. Learn more about the school's approach to music and arts, sport, the environment and innovation. Meet and speak to some of our year 6 students about the many clubs they are part of: from the Eco-club to the netball club, the computer club to the football club, the choir to the chess club to name but a few. Tea, coffee and cakes available whilst you explore the school, read displays and meet the teachers and students who make the school such a great place to learn.

For more information contact the office Tel 01235 751254 or email office.3231@ridgeway.oxon.sch.uk

We look forward to seeing you there!

Sarah Staunton-Lamb,
Ridgeway School Governor.

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Childrey & Sparsholt WI Christmas Dinner for Childrey & Sparsholt WI members is being held at Childrey Manor on Tuesday 15th December. Please arrive 7pm for 7:30 (Members Only). Contact is **Pauline Higgs** on 751544.

t: 01235 752248
f: 01235 751097
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Chat from the Clerk

Next Meeting Dates:

Childrey Parish Council Monday 11th January 2016 starting at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. clerk.childreypc@aol.co.uk
Firstly I would like to say "well done", which seems totally inadequate, to the Childrey Village Hall Committee who have done a fantastic job of raising the necessary, huge, amount of funding to refurbish the Village Hall. It looks amazing and I am sure will be enjoyed by all the Village.

Sparsholt Parish Council usually held on a Tuesday at 7.30pm at the Griffin Memorial Hall, please check Sparsholt notice board/website for the meeting date or email the clerk on clerk.sparsholtpc@aol.co.uk
Clerk to both parishes: Debbie Lewis-Pryde 01235 751923.

Both Parish Councils reserve the right to change the meeting dates, times and venues, please always check the notice board for correct information – Agendas are published three clear working days before each Parish Council meeting. Planning meetings will be inserted periodically to allow the Parish Council to discuss and respond before the VOWHDC deadlines and the Agenda will be published on the notice board 3 working days prior to the meeting. Planning applications can be viewed on the VoWHDC planning register.

Fix My Street www.fixmystreet.com is a very useful tool if you want to report anything from a pothole, to a broken

street light, to a bin not being emptied, to fly tipping! Please use this as it does seem to work and the more times a problem is reported the quicker it gets fixed!

Please note that Cabinet have decided on **Withdrawal of All Bus Subsidies** and the funds to the Dial a Ride. Childrey Parish Council responded against this proposal before the consultation and will send a further response to this latest decision.

If you feel strongly about this, then I suggest you add your views by contacting your County Councillor Yvonne Constance as there may be scope to influence the decision before the final February budget is agreed. Yvonne Constance is not only the County Councillor but also the District Councillor for both parishes. DC & CC Constance can be contacted by email on yvonneconstance@tiscali.co.uk

Christmas Tree Recycling will take place once again on the Childrey Playing Field. Christmas Trees must be deposited in the sectioned off area just inside the gate **before the collection date of Tuesday 12th January 2016**. Please do not leave your trees after this date as they will not be collected and this will be considered fly tipping!

After the recent high winds please check all trees and bushes on your property and on your boundary, for dangerous, dead branches and trees that may fall on a passing person or car.

Finally I would like to wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy, healthy New Year!
Debbie Lewis-Pryde.

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Bonfire Night

A big thank you from the Playing Field Trust for the tremendous support everyone showed again on bonfire night this year.

We had some luck with the weather improving during the day and the smoke blew in just the right direction!

The Trust is now beginning to plan some more facilities for the playing field and again any thoughts / suggestions you may have please e-mail to childreyandsparsholtnewsletter@yahoo.co.uk

The Playing Field Trust

Father Christmas is visiting Childrey.....



Don't forget that Father Christmas will be visiting Childrey village Hall from **3-5pm on Saturday 12th December**. Tickets are on sale now at a cost of £5 for children (adults free entry). You can get your tickets on the door or by contacting Suzy Alder on 07774686877 or 751892.

Children's ticket includes tea (sausage & mash), a visit to Santa's grotto and a present to take home. To amuse the grown-ups there will be tea, coffee, cake, mince pies and mulled wine on sale. There will also be a Christmas raffle.

Suzy Alder

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Sparsholt & Westcot Christmas Get Together,

12th December 7 to 10pm at Griffin Hall. All residents of Sparsholt and Westcot welcome to come along anytime between 7 and 10. In addition to the opportunity to have a chat with friends and neighbours whilst having some mulled wine, The Roundheels, from Westcot, will be playing two sessions of their folk and Americana style music during the evening. If you missed The Roundheels playing at the Star in August, it is a second chance to see them performing in the village and for those who were at the Star a chance to see them again.

Angie Brown.

Community Policing

PCSO Howard Pack C9600

Thames Valley Police MERRY

XMAS and HAPPY NEW YEAR! in advance, to all Childrey and Sparsholt residents, from the Wantage and Faringdon Neighbourhood Policing Teams. 2016 looks like being a year of 'Challenges and Changes' for everyone, so, please keep safe and enjoy the Festive season.

Five top tips on personal safety for a crime-free Christmas:

When Christmas shopping, be aware of how much you are carrying with you. iPods, digital cameras, mobile phones and extra cash to buy presents mean you could be the ideal target for thieves

Don't leave your bag unattended. Keep your purse safe in an internal pocket, and don't carry your PIN number with you.

Don't leave your drink unattended. It takes a matter of seconds for someone to tamper with your drink.

Consider getting a **Personal Safety Alarm?** Don't allow threats of crime to intimidate you into never going anywhere alone. Just be aware of what's going on around you and be confident that you can keep safe.

Plan your journey home. If you use a taxi, ensure it is registered. If you have to walk home, try and walk with a friend, stick to well-lit and busy streets, and make sure someone knows the route you are taking.

Five top tips on home security for a crime-free Christmas:

Property-mark presents and valuables with your postcode, house number or name, then register on the Immobilise website (www.immobilise.com) Make a note of all model numbers and serial numbers of all electrical items. **Keep presents out of view** – placing presents in plain view of windows will

only draw attention to your house and its contents.

Be cautious when using social media such as Facebook – do you really want to advertise that your home is empty by showing you are somewhere else or having a countdown to your holiday?

Invest in a timer to open and close your curtains or turn on your lights or, better yet, ask a family member or neighbour to pop in and do it at random times of the day so a potential thief does not see an exact pattern.

Dispose of boxes and rubbish discreetly. Leaving boxes outside will give away the fact that you have new and valuable items in the house.

RURAL PATROL - On a recent patrol I came across a 4 x 4 vehicle parked approx 150 metres onto the Ridgeway, B4001, known locally as 'Sparsholt Firs' (near model aeroplane club). As this vehicle had driven onto the Ridgeway, which is a Restricted Byway, I wanted to have a chat with the driver. Unfortunately the driver didn't want to talk to me as when he and his friend walked out of the nearby field he had a 'huge' Bird of prey on his arm and was immediately confrontational, giving me no other choice but to request assistance. Officers caught up with these 2 and they were appropriately dealt with.

NEW POLICING TEAM MEMBER. Wantage Neighbourhood Policing has a new team member, PC STEVE CARDWELL has joined us as a Neighbourhood Officer for WANTAGE Town centre replacing PC RUSS LAND who has retired. Please use 101 to report any 'Non-Urgent' Crime related matters...**Report it so that we know about it.** If you'd like to receive FREE crime alerts and info about where you live by Email, Phone or Text then please contact me on 101 or when you see me on patrol and I will be happy to 'sign you up' alternatively please register at www.thamesvalleyalert.co.uk and please use www.thamesvalley.police.uk to visit our

Website. The 24-hour non-emergency number for Thames Valley Police is '101' or 999 in emergencies. Regards, Howard.



Celebrating Christmas at St Mary's

Saturday 5th December 10am – 12 noon

Calling all families! Come and join us in the Methodist Church Hall to make Christingles – think oranges, ribbon, candles, dried fruits and sweets! The Christingles will be distributed at the **Christingle Service at 3.00pm on Sunday 6th December** at St Mary's when there will be a collection in aid of the Children's Society. (For more information, google *Christingle – The Children's Society*.)

Sunday 20th December - Traditional Carol Service at 3.00pm in St Mary's.

Christmas Eve at 11.30 - Midnight Communion at St Mary's with Rector Leonora, the church will be candlelit on arrival.

Christmas Day Crib Service at 10.00am at St Mary's with the **Village Choir**. Let's make it standing room only again this year!

St Mary's New Treasurer. We are delighted to report that Brian Harding has volunteered to become our new treasurer. We are sure you will join us in warmly welcoming Brian into his new role and we look forward to working with him.

Churchyard. It is always good to see people walking through the churchyard for leisure as well as to tend the graves of loved ones. Volunteers have worked hard to tidy the far end of the churchyard recently and there is now a bin for all non-recyclable rubbish, especially plastics. Do please use the bin and help keep the compost corner tidy. Thank you.

St Mary's – Project Update. All is coming along very well at the time of writing with the kitchen and WC nearing completion. We are planning a grand **Clean and Tidy-Up from 10am – 12 noon on Saturday 28th November** to ensure everything is looking as beautiful as possible for the Christmas festivities. We would be delighted to welcome any volunteers to help – hot drinks from the new kitchen should be available by then!

Your further help is also required! We would still love to hear from you with any ideas you have for using the new facilities.

Contact the Churchwardens:

Linda	tel:	751297
lindasoames@home.3b.co.uk		
John	tel:	751809
martin@perrenwellstation.freeserve.co.uk		