

# Childrey and Sparsholt Newsletter



## In this month's issue:

- Childrey Fest
- Easter Street Fest - Sparsholt
- Community Policing Update
- Childrey Fete News
- Cake glorious cake!!!!
- 'Come and be the Audience' -
- Sainsbury's Active Kids vouchers
- Fibre broadband now available!
- Calling all quizzers
- Childrey pond – a village amenity
- Foodie Fundraiser
- 'Bringing St Mary's into the 21st

Volume 14 Issue 3 April 2015

## Diary dates: April 2015

Date/time	Event/venue	Notes	Contact
2nd April 7:30pm	<b>White Horse Garden Club</b> The Thomas Hughes Memorial Hall, Uffington	Entry £3. 'Bordering on insanity'. Timothy Walker. Making a border with year round interest.	Pamela Preene 01367 820251 parrottspreene@aol.com
3rd April 2:00-5:00pm	<b>Teas and home-made cakes</b> Sparsholt Village Hall	Good Friday get together	Angie Brown 751210
4th April 12 noon	<b>Easter Street Fest</b> The Star Inn, Sparsholt	The event supports The Air Ambulance	www.thestarsparsholt.co.uk
7th April 2:30pm	<b>Childrey &amp; District Tuesday Club</b> Childrey Village Hall	David Castle - 'Old Wantage'	Pat Eglinton 751663
13th April 7:30pm	<b>Childrey Parish Council</b> Childrey Village Hall	All welcome.	Debbie Lewis-Pryde 751923
14th & 28th April 12:30-12:50pm	<b>South West Mobile Library</b> By the pond	Books, talking books. Book ordering service available	Libraries Customer Services 01865 810240
16th April 7:30pm	<b>AGM of the Parochial Church Council</b>	Childrey Methodist Hall. All welcome.	Linda and John 751297 or 751809
18th April 10:00am-1:00pm	<b>Pop up tea shop</b> Childrey Methodist Hall	Fundraising for our village pre school, Little Ducks	Suzy Alder 07774686877
19th April 11:00am	<b>Sparsholt Sunday Footpath Walks</b> Meet at Meadow Cottage Westcot Lane	Led by Andrew Taylor. All welcome.	Barbara Williams 751617
23rd April 2:00pm	<b>Whist Drive</b> Childrey Methodist Hall	£5.00 including refreshments. Prizes and raffle. Proceeds to charity.	Jenny O'Hara 772502
24th April 7:30pm	<b>Pop up Foodie event - St Georges</b> Childrey Village Hall	Tickets £20 for 3 courses and a Licensed Bar	See article for contact details
<i>Forthcoming dates:</i>			
9th May 9:00am	<b>Coach trip to Malvern Spring Show</b> Thomas Hughes Memorial Hall	~£30 including coach and show ticket. Journey takes 1.5 hours. Leaving Malvern at 4:30pm. Payment due by 8th April	Alison Corley 01367 240389 alison.corley@btinternet.com

www.childrey.org.uk & www.sparsholtandwestcot.org

## Save the date - Childrey Fest Saturday 4th July

Forget Glastonbury, this year to celebrate Summer we are staging a live music festival on the Childrey Playing Field. Kicking off in the afternoon we are planning a great line up of live music, kids entertainment, stalls, bouncy castle, variety of food stalls and bar. So save the date, dig out those wellies and we hope you can all join us on the day. More details to follow so look out for the posters.

*Mike Hadley  
On behalf of Childrey Festival Committee*

## Any unwanted Sainsbury's Active Kids vouchers?

The Ridgeway Primary School are once again saving Sainsbury's Active Kids Vouchers for PE equipment for our children. We would be grateful if you could collect them for us. Vouchers can be dropped off at the school or at my house, 9 West Street, Childrey. Many thanks for your help!

*Debbie Davies  
School administrator*

## Easter Street Fest - Sparsholt

The Star Inn, Sparsholt, is holding an Easter Street Fest on Sunday 5th April from 12noon 'til late. The event supports The Air Ambulance.

- Live music
- Children's Easter egg hunt
- Amazing charity prize raffle
- Pop up style street food
- and much, much, more...

More information can be found at [www.thestarsparsholt.co.uk](http://www.thestarsparsholt.co.uk) or at [www.sparsholtandwestcot.org/content/star-inn-notice](http://www.sparsholtandwestcot.org/content/star-inn-notice).

## Fibre broadband now available in Sparsholt & Childrey!

Sparsholt & Childrey residents & businesses can now order fibre based broadband, which promises faster internet connections of up to 80Mb. More information at <http://www.sparsholtandwestcot.org/content/fibre-broadband-now-available-sparsholt-westcot>.

## Community Policing Update

With uncertainty over timescales for the implementation of the Civil Parking Enforcement by the VWHDC, Wantage town centre parking enforcement continues under the mantle of the Wantage Neighbourhood Team.

Motor vehicles on public rights of way continue to cause problems for residents out for a walk or ride in the countryside so I have researched a short explanation of them for your guidance;

### Footpaths

This public right of way is meant for pedestrians only. You are allowed to walk your dog as long as it is under your close control and does not stray off legal lines of a public footpath, as this may constitute an act of trespass. Also ensure that you clean up your dog mess. Prams, pushchair or wheelchairs can also be used on a footpath.

### Bridleways

These are meant for walkers, horse riders and cyclists. Cyclists are expected to give way to walkers and horse riders. Motor cars, mini motors and motorcyclists are not allowed on bridleways.

### Byways Open To All Traffic (BOAT)

These byways are normally marked "byways" and are open to motorists, cyclists, horse riders, motorcyclists and pedestrians. As with public tarmac road networks, motorists must ensure that they are legally authorised to use BOATs (i.e. registered, taxed, insured and MoT'ed). Under-age or banned drivers, mini-motos, non-road-legal scramblers & quad bikes are not allowed on BOATs. I will continue to patrol 'BOATs' and other rights of way that residents tell me are causing them issues, and where I have evidence of offences these will be dealt with.

### Restricted Byways

Restricted Byways are created under the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006. They are open to the traffic mentioned above in BOATs, but exclude motor vehicles, motorcycles, mini motors, quad bikes and non-road legal scramblers.

"Have Your Says" near Childrey shop will start again with the warmer weather, hopefully very soon!

*PCSO Howard Pack C9600 - Thames Valley Police*

[www.childrey.org.uk](http://www.childrey.org.uk) & [www.sparsholtandwestcot.org](http://www.sparsholtandwestcot.org)

## Calling all quizzers ... save the date

On 20th May at 7:30pm Childrey Village Hall will be the venue for a quiz and fish and chip supper night. So for all those who like to exercise the little grey cells...or just fancy some fun and a good night out save the date for this event supporting Little Ducks, our lovely local pre-school. Whether you are longing to take on the only connect wall or the big black mastermind chair, are a closet egg head, brain of Britain or pop master or are more at home with blockbusters, junior trivial pursuit or buzz and tell (spot the parent with cBeebies consuming children!) there will be something for everyone. Call your fellow quizzers and save the date for this evening of fun and friendly competition. There will be a bar to lubricate the evenings cogitation and prizes to be won. Tickets will be £10 and will be available from the village shop or from the organisers from 1st April.

For more information call Linda Jones on 07769117760 .

*Suzy Alder*

## Childrey Fete News

Childrey Manor will again be playing host this year to St Mary's Church Fete on Saturday June 20th from 3.00 to 6.00 pm. Please come and join in with all that is going on.

We have all the Favourites - Cream Teas, Barbeque, Bar, and games for young and old. Look out for details of the baking competitions in the next newsletter.

WANTED:

- books in good condition (Nicky 751470 will collect)
- jam jars (Mo Cox)
- helpers – for set up/dismantle and during the fete (Caroline 751814)

Do please put the date in your diary and ask friends and family – the success of the afternoon is down to the generosity and support of the villagers and their neighbours.

*Nicola Middleton*

*On behalf of the Church Fete Committee*

## The Childrey pond – a village amenity

On Sunday 1st March, after an abortive earlier effort due to the terrible weather, a small band of villagers turned up to tidy the edges and clear the overflow of the pond. Thank you to Peter, Bryan, Nikki, Pat and Linda for your efforts. However, we now realise that the scale of the job is more than a few people can achieve in a couple of hours. Over the nine years since the renovation, the vegetation (planted specifically to help keep the water clear) is being overwhelmed by invasive species and this needs to be removed. This will require a much bigger physical effort. This is where you can help.

For those of you that are new to the village, or need reminding, there are pictures on the village website showing how the pond has evolved over the years. In the recent past the pond constantly leaked water and sometimes turned into a smelly, muddy puddle with green weed and slime, which even the ducks shunned. In 2006 it was renovated with the help of several grants and is now an attractive pond surrounded by healthy vegetation instead of concrete walls. The water level now remains good even in the drought periods. It is a much photographed local landmark which we should all be proud of. It is maintained by the village for the village, so we do appreciate your involvement.

Over the next few months, we are going to seek professional help to identify the areas that need work and establish what needs to be removed, and then the fun will begin! We plan to have another big effort later in the autumn. Look out for information about this community day and we hope that you will all join the fun, which is likely to involve mud, and might even involve boats and beers!

*Hilary Boardman*

*On behalf of the Childrey Pond Committee*

## Cake glorious cake!!!!

Don't forget to make a date with Childrey's first pop up tea shop which opens its doors on Saturday 18th April at 10am in the Childrey Methodist Hall. Celebrate Spring and bring your friends and family to sample the foodie delights that await you. In true bake off style the bunting will be out and the tea and cakes will be lavish so please come and support your local pre school whilst indulging yourself.

*Suzy Alder*

## Foodie Fundraiser

Following the success of the wine and cheese evening in February we are carrying on with the 'food theme'. To paraphrase Shakespeare, "Cry food for Childrey, England and St. George". April is not only the month of Shakespeare's birthday but also the festival of the patron Saint of England. Come and join the merriment as we hold a pop up English Party to celebrate both events with food, fun and frivolity on Friday 24th April at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. Tickets £20 for 3 course supper, musical items and fun readings. Licensed bar. Proceeds to St. Mary's and raffle proceeds to Oxfam for Vanuata Appeal). Tickets available from:

Linda (lindasoames@home.3b.co.uk Tel: 751297)

John (martin@perrenwellstation.freerve.co.uk Tel: 751809)

The Childrey village shop

Sue Worth (dinnerpartyblues@hotmail.com - Tel: 751563) .

*Sue Worth*

## 'Come and be the Audience' - Update

It was lovely to see so many of you willing to come and support the evening for the King Alfred's music students to record their A2 performances. Thanks of course to the students and everyone at King Alfred's for giving us such an enjoyable evening with some outstanding and varied music. While it must have been a very nervous time, we understand that the pupils really enjoyed it - they thought the audience was very supportive and they would like to come again! We look forward to more musical events with them.

## 'Bringing St Mary's into the 21st Century Appeal'

We are delighted to report we have almost reached our fund raising target and are within £500 of our goal. Thank you to everyone who has so generously supported and encouraged us. However, we're not quite there yet so please don't stop now. We hope to start the building work in late spring.

*Linda and John  
St Mary's Churchwardens*



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