

# ***DIPTFORD AND NORTH HUISH***

## ***PARISH NEWS***

***JANUARY 2024***

***No. 636***

If you know anyone who would like to receive the Parish News – contact  
Val Haddy 01548 821418 or email [valjohnhaddy@aol.com](mailto:valjohnhaddy@aol.com)

There are many new residents within Diptford Parish – who are all welcome to join the mailing list  
for the Parish News – find out what is going on in the village and come and  
join in this vibrant community

### Three Rivers Mission Community Services January 2024

Date & Liturgical Colour	07.01.2024 Epiphany	14.01.2024 Epiphany 2	21.01.2024 Epiphany 3 <i>Week of Prayer for Christian Unity</i>	28.01.2024 Presentation of Christ in the Temple
	Isaiah 60. 1-6 Ps 72. [1-9] 10-15 Ephesians 3., 1-12 Matthew 2. 1-12	1 Samuel 3. 1-10 [11-20] Psalm 139. 1-5 & 12-18 or 1-9 Revelation 5.1-10 John 1. 43-end	Genesis 14. 17-20 Psalm 128 Revelation 19. 6-10 John 2. 1-11	Malachi 3. 1-5 Ps. 24. 7- end Hebrews 2. 14- end Luke 2. 22-40
Diptford with North Huish	11am Morning Prayer	11am Holy Communion	11am Morning Praise	11am Holy Communion
Ermington	11am Holy Communion	11am Morning Prayer	11am Holy Communion	11am Morning Prayer
Harberton	9:30am Holy Communion	9.30am Morning Prayer	9:30am Holy Communion	9:30am Morning Prayer
Ugborough	9:30am Morning Prayer	9:30am Holy Communion	9:30am Morning Prayer	9:30 Holy Communion 4.30pm Messy Church
Halwell	As Above	3.30pm Evening Service	As above and below	As Above and Below
Moreleigh	As Above	As Above	As Below	3.30pm Evening service

Further information can be found on the Mission Community website [www.3rivers.org.uk](http://www.3rivers.org.uk) or at  
[www.achurchnearyou.com/8942](http://www.achurchnearyou.com/8942)

The play park has been reopened as the necessary tree works have been carried out. Repairs are planned to the Play Equipment as there needs to be some work carried out to ensure that the equipment continues to be safe in the interim.

To help with the running costs of the Play Park, as a Parish Council, we are trying to raise a large sum of money to enable us to add to the existing equipment and keep on top of any repairs required.

Everybody can help us by using EASY FUNDRAISING whenever you purchase something online. To use the EASY FUNDRAISING, just go to it on your browser and search out DIPTFORD AMENITY TRUST . Once you have added the DIPTFORD AMENITY TRUST, then it should ask you every time if you wish to make a donation. The donation does not cost you anything other than your time. PLEASE SUPPORT US WITH THIS, EVERY PENNY COUNTS. If you have any query regarding this, please contact the Parish Clerk Ali Kohler at [diptfordpc@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:diptfordpc@yahoo.co.uk).

**easyfundraising**

**Sign up, shop,  
and earn us a  
free £1 bonus  
donation**

**Scan, join, shop: To unlock the Bonus  
for Diptford Amenity Trust**

TESCO Morrisons WAITROSE Sainsbury's  
ASDA Iceland Etsy M&S  
Booking.com TUI ASOS ebay

**Download the  
easyfundraising App**

Download on the  
App Store GET IT ON  
Google Play

### Carols Around The Tree

Thank you to all who generously donated to Young Lives vs Cancer  
CLIC Sargent at the Diptford Carols Around The Tree on Christmas Eve.

A total of £188.58 was raised for the charity.

Thank you to the Parish Hall Committee for providing the refreshments  
and all who helped organise the event.



**Our lovely Christmas tree this year**

**Thanks to the Crocker, Lethbridge and Foster families for sourcing and erecting it. The village tree gets better year on year and creates a lovely centre for the village at Christmas.**

Photo credit – Ralph Image



## SUPPORT WITH ENERGY BILLS

This could be beneficial to members of our community. If you know someone who could benefit and may need some help applying, please do what you can to help.



Lower income households could benefit from free energy efficiency upgrades to their homes this winter with SHDC support. Please help spread the word of our Homes Upgrade Grant, available to **homeowners with an annual income of less than £31k**, who have heating that isn't mains gas and an EPC rating of D,E,F or G. We are working with partners South Dartmoor Community Energy to survey eligible homes across the District and provide energy efficiency measures, personalised to the needs of the property. If you know of any residents who may be eligible for support, please ask them to [apply online to SHDC](#).

## DIPTFORD AREA OIL CO-OPERATIVE

Competitive Prices & Reliable Service  
**heltor**  
Heating Oil & Fuel Specialists

**CALL TODAY FOR LATEST HEATING OIL & AGRICULTURAL FUEL PRICES**  
Specialists in domestic, agricultural & commercial fuel deliveries, replacement of tanks, lubricants, AdBlue, haulage and distribution.

- Fuel, AdBlue and lubricants at competitive prices.
- Reliable and efficient service.
- Friendly and professional service.
- We supply kerosene and gas oil additives.
- Next day, and same day deliveries available, where possible.
- Local staff in depots, not call centres.
- Family run business.
- Tanks and fuel points available.

Newton Abbot  
Telephone 01626 832357  
Huxton  
Telephone 01404 45505  
Plymouth  
Telephone 01752 663900

Heltor Head Office  
Old Newton Road  
Heathfield, Newton Abbot  
Devon, TQ12 6RW  
[www.heltor.co.uk](http://www.heltor.co.uk)  
[admin@heltor.co.uk](mailto:admin@heltor.co.uk)

Castrol AdBlue

Heltor in Newton Abbot are now our supplier of choice for the Oil Co-Operative and are proving to be reliable and better matching the original brief we had with Watsons. They are prepared to support the group need for regular top up or fixed amount deliveries at competitive pricing. Basically the arrangement we originally had with Watsons.

Also to support sporadic urgent requests that sometimes arise with group members, without ridiculous spot charges/prices.

Please see flyer attached or website [www.heltor.co.uk](http://www.heltor.co.uk) for more details. I am monitoring and agree prices, as previously,

to ensure we retain the lowest possible pricing.

**If you are interested in joining the Diptford Oil Co-Operative please contact Steve Hill on 01548 821272 or email [mr.sjhill@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:mr.sjhill@yahoo.co.uk)**

**Would YOU like to add a contribution to the monthly Parish News?**

**If so, contact Val Haddy on [valjohnhaddy@aol.com](mailto:valjohnhaddy@aol.com)**

**or Sue Franklin on [sue@jassy.org.uk](mailto:sue@jassy.org.uk)**

### **January 2024 Gardening**

A total of 12 'living fossils' have been planted at RHS gardens Wisley and Rosemoor, as part of a global conservation effort to protect the critically endangered Wollemi pine tree (*Wollemia nobilis*). Once thought extinct until a chance discovery in 1994 in a remote gorge in the Wollemi National Park in Australia. The wild trees are increasingly vulnerable to disease and narrowly escaped being destroyed by wild fires during 2019 and 2020.

[If this plant could be 'bulked up commercially', it might be suitable as another Christmas Tree species, especially in our 'softer climate'!]

At this time of the year the weather is likely, to prevent many of us from doing very much in the garden. Take time out to sit and ponder in the 'potting shed'. Dream a little, evaluate a lot and plan for the future. Choosing particular plants for the garden long term, especially for the wild life and the benefit to the soil. There will be occasional clear bright drier days when you will be able to get outside and get things done. Have a go but not too energetically or you will certainly feel the strain later. It would be a good time to tackle the borders that can be safely reached when the shrubbery is not so prolific and the path is more easily reached.

How about a bit of work to remind you?

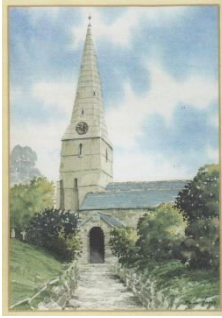
- ❖ Shred all prunings & clean old herbaceous material.
- ❖ Continue clearing up when conditions allow. Avoid walking on wet soil as this could cause soil compaction.
- ❖ Have you planned next year's ornamental displays & vegetable plot?
- ❖ Time to order or purchase seeds.
- ❖ A job to do in the shed, sterilise & wash all the containers, pots & trays.
- ❖ Have you really given those tools you used at the end of autumn a thorough clean & wipe-down with an oily rag?
- ❖ Sow half-hardy annuals under protection.
- ❖ Dead-head winter flowering plants.
- ❖ Prune blackcurrants & other fruit bushes.
- ❖ Heel in bare-rooted trees & shrubs when they arrive.
- ❖ Plant out new fruit trees & bushes as conditions permit.
- ❖ Carry out formative pruning on new trees & shrubs.
- ❖ Check store fruit, even the jams and preserves!
- ❖ Winter prune fruit trees & bushes.
- ❖ Keep up with the protection of plants in the greenhouse.
- ❖ Make certain the heaters are working properly. Double layer the 'bubble-wrap' or cover with newspaper or hessian sacks. Keep a small area well wrapped rather than trying to heat the whole of the greenhouse.
- ❖ Keep the debris off the lawn, especially leaves, twigs and wormcasts.
- ❖ Service mowers & other equipment before the spring rush!
- ❖ If you have any organic material left spread it around on the borders & beds.
- ❖ Check stakes & ties to prevent strangulation & over growth constriction.
- ❖ Plant broad beans, sow early vegetables under glass for protection.
- ❖ Prune wisteria, just like a grape vine!

Rest when you feel a bit tired, there is always tomorrow. Take a cup of tea with a dash!

Enjoy the season 2024!

Zephyrus





### **CHURCH CLEANING**

**Would you like to keep our lovely Church sparkly?**

**You will be very welcome to come along to**

**St Mary's Church, Diptford**

**Saturday 6 January then 3 February**

**From 9.30 am til 11 am**

**Steve Partridge is now organising our cleaning sessions**

[partridge.steve@btinternet.com](mailto:partridge.steve@btinternet.com)

### **ST MARY'S CHURCH DIPTFORD**



**Diptford Church has a happy band of volunteers to help decorate the Church with floral arrangements.**

**We would like a few more people to call on.**

**If you would like to help – no experience necessary, you would be most welcome.**

**It does not have to be on a regular basis, just as and when you are able.**

**Please get in touch with Mary Sams if you are able to assist.**

**01364 72435**

#### **Diptford with North Huish Parochial Church Council**

**Is still looking for a Treasurer, if you are interested please contact Rev D. Sayle**

**01548 821199 for details**

#### **St Mary's Diptford**

**Help with Brass Cleaning- would you like to help and be added to the Brass Rota? Clean a piece of Brass in your time; this would be for Christmas and Easter only.**

**Please contact Val Haddy on 01548 821418 to be added to the rota Thank you.**

#### **Diptford St Mary's Church Bells**

**Be prepared for some 'noise' on Friday evenings! The Church Bells will ring out again! Please come along and contribute to the heavy metal 'music'. Watch this space for dates and times.**

**Cheers,**

**Ham Sampford (01548 821419) [Captain]**

**Diptford Parish Council    Ali Kohler, Parish Clerk    [diptfordpc@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:diptfordpc@yahoo.co.uk)**  
**Parish Council Meeting**  
**December 2023**

Easy Fundraising has now been set up to help with fundraising for the Amenity Trust. (See Page 2)

If you are purchasing anything online sign into the Easy Fundraising website and then go to the website for the company you wish to purchase from. It means that the Amenity Trust get a donation but it does not cost you anything. This means we get a monetary donation every time you shop which can be for groceries delivered from all the big retailers or a one off purchases from others.

We can also accept one off donations direct to the Amenity Trust to help us with the fundraising for new play equipment. Any donations will be gratefully received and can be paid into the following bank account

**Account Name: Diptford Amenity Trust**

**Sort Code: 30-98-69**

**Account Number: 00196602**

Councillors David Hancock and Guy Pannell (SHDC)

To read the District Councillor's Report, please see the following:

**See appendix 2** <https://www.diptfordparishcouncil.org/meetings.php>

**The Parish Council would like to thank all those involved with the Christmas Tree at Diptford.** Their help with sourcing, decorating and providing lighting on the tree has given the village a lovely Christmas Tree this year again.

Highways notice – TTR02454307 for works at **Gara Bridge** from 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2024 to 29<sup>th</sup> March 2024 has been posted on the Parish Council Website.

**Community Policing** – The Parish Hall Committee has agreed to let the Community Policing Team to have free use of the Parish Hall for surgeries. Dates to be announced.

**Diptford Parish Councillors would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.**

**Date of next Parish Council Meeting – Tuesday 9 January 2024 at the Parish Hall**



**Friends of Diptford School (FODS)**  
**Sharing school news with the Parish**

Xenia Ball Chair of FODS [xlball28@gmail.com](mailto:xlball28@gmail.com)

**FODS would like to wish everyone in Diptford and surrounding area a wonderful Christmas and New Year. Thank you for your support in 2023 and we look forward to the community joining us at events in support of our School in 2024.**

## **Nature Notes for December 2023 [JANUARY 2024 EDITION]**

It has been a rather wet and windy December that has removed leaves and twigs from the trees. There has been much flooding around Devon, and often leaving no direct train link from Salisbury to Exeter. Locally trees have come down blocking roads, various hedge banks have collapsed and added to the wintry chaos.

There was a very cold snap early in the month, but it only lasted for about a day, before the rains returned. BBC weather has said on several occasions that particular areas of Devon have received more than the expected amount of rain for the time of year, but just in a day or so. The ground seems to be saturated, with the river running very high for several days at a time. Surface runoff must be high and groundwater must be topping up.

Wintry forms and shapes of trees adding to the scene of winter atmosphere. Heavy, water laden clouds and dull skies all contributing to a dismal feeling. Occasional bright sunshine lifts the spirits.

Found a Peacock butterfly [*Inachis io*] in the log store. Must have been sheltering from the rain at the time. Moved it further back into the dry. Not sure whether they hibernate or not! The potting shed no longer has any overwintering Herald Moths. Seems as if the 'South Hams Spiders' have eventually finished them off. These spiders are becoming a real nuisance as they have taken to coming indoors into the warm and drier conditions of the house interior. Probably come in on the logs and found a quiet corner to spin their festoons of webbing. Did encounter one of the black, bead spiders with a potential nasty suck! This was in the house downstairs by the toilet. It crawled into the piece of toilet paper offered and then fortunately went for a swim! [*Steatodes paykulliana* is said to be a European relative of the American Black Widow]. This species has been increasing in numbers as climate change takes hold. A resident of drier rocky conditions of southern Europe. In our climatic conditions most would normally be eliminated by cold, wet weather of a more typical Western European winter! But now they appear to be surviving in numbers. Slow moving and menacing shiny dark 'beads'. They are an ambush spider, not needing to run or hide, knowing their venom will protect them from most dangers. Have seen the results of bites on humans looking quite unpleasant and long lasting and painful. [The bites, not the humans!].

Still many woodlice around the bottoms of containers. Bit late for the hedgehog to come for a takeaway. However, did see a hedgehog in the garden one cold night about 10 p.m. prospecting for food. Was most unusual find. It was a good size considering the time and season. Was also very active. Hope it survived its late visit. Many worms around the pots so the 'hog may have been looking for a chance feed on an unsuspecting worm.

Birds have been very grateful for full feeders and extra food thrown out for them. Any larger morsels are quickly taken up by the Rooks and Jackdaws.

The scent of the Mahonia Charity from the yellow flowers has been drifting round the garden as a delightful sweet surprise. So strong has this fragrance been that even during the cold snaps bumble bees have frequented the flowers to collect the free presents of nectar and pollen. [Winter Jasmin] 'Jasmin nudiflorum' has been a bright attraction for insects in the front garden, and despite the cold weather stacks of gnats have collected above the flowers awaiting their turn to sample the delights. Many Ladybirds collecting in the folds of the bark on the apple trees, will they survive a hard winter in such exposed locations? Have seen many very small grey ghost moths outside, with some venturing into the house for protection from the colder weather. They seem to collect above the skirting board, perhaps it is considerably warmer here, especially near the radiators!



### The Ex-Dairy Farmer



**OVEN READY**

**SLOW MATURING, FREE RANGE**

**Chickens & Ducks**

now available all year round

Discounts for larger orders

Sausages usually available

Text/Telephone

**ROB 07929160071**

[stanboroughfarm@hotmail.com](mailto:stanboroughfarm@hotmail.com)

*Great for a family Sunday roast  
and topping up the deep-freeze*

## TOTNES TV & ELECTRICAL

Established 1992

APPLIANCE REPAIRS . AERIAL INSTALLATION

ELECTRICAL CONTRACTING . PART 'P'

REGISTERED

TESTING & INSPECTIONS . CERTIFICATION .

P.A.T. TESTING

**ANDY GARNER / CHRIS HATCH**

103d High Street, Totnes Devon TQ9 5SN

Domestic Installer

Tel: (01803) 867298 **EIC NIC**

**hmad architects**



- Experienced, friendly and local RIBA chartered architectural practice based in Mid Devon, working across the South West.
- Specialising in the adaptation of listed buildings, residential extensions, renovations and low energy design new builds.
- Call Luke McAdam for a chat about your project and how we might be able to help:

PROUDLY PROVIDED ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES TO THE CHURCH  
OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, RATTERY

01392 459777 - MAIL@HMAD.CO.UK  
WWW.HMAD.CO.UK

## SEASONED LOGS FOR SALE

Available in nets or dumpy bags

**£5/ net or £110/ dumpy bag**

**Free delivery to Diptford**

**Call Graham on 07813 169035**

**Sole Care**  
A Mobile Foot Service



Nail Cutting | Corns | Callus | & More

Providing routine foot care treatment in the comfort  
of your own home. Please get in touch for more  
information and to book a home appointment.

Katherine Monk Dip FH MCFHP MAFHP  
07881 229691



**MINT MASSAGE**



**The Start Bay Studio - Yoga, Field  
& Sea, Torcross TQ7 2TG**

**The Stables, Etheridge Farm,  
Diptford TQ9 7NQ**

[www.mintmassage.co.uk](http://www.mintmassage.co.uk)

[mintmassage@icloud.com](mailto:mintmassage@icloud.com)

07967629451

## Ian Kirton Plumbing & Heating



**077100 94424**

**01548 821 847**

[inkirton@btinternet.com](mailto:inkirton@btinternet.com)

OFTEC registered

for service and installation of oil appliances

General plumbing, heating systems and  
bathrooms

Any plumbing jobs considered

## Social Media in the Village

We have our Village Website

[www.diptfordvillage.co.uk](http://www.diptfordvillage.co.uk)

Parish Council website

[www.diptfordparishcouncil.org](http://www.diptfordparishcouncil.org)

Facebook Diptford Sustainable  
Community

WhatsApp Diptford Support  
Network

## COMMUNITY INFORMATION

### DIPTFORD PARISH HALL

#### BOOKING ARRANGEMENTS

TO MAKE A BOOKING FOR DIPTFORD PARISH HALL  
Now with NEW CHAIRS and up to date small kitchen!  
contact

[DiptfordPH@yahoo.com](mailto:DiptfordPH@yahoo.com) or via the village website [www.diptfordvillage.co.uk](http://www.diptfordvillage.co.uk)

Chair of Trustees

Diptford Parish Hall. [DiptfordPH@yahoo.com](mailto:DiptfordPH@yahoo.com) 07944 098174

### COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

THE NOTICE BOARD IN THE SQUARE IS FOR COMMUNITY NOTICES ONLY

NO COMMERCIAL ADVERTISING WILL BE ALLOWED

WE WOULD ASK ALL ORGANISATIONS NOT TO 'HOG' THE SPACE AVAILABLE

This additional facility has been installed by Diptford Parish Council  
with funding from our County and District Councillors

There is a combination lock – details of which have been given to voluntary organisations within  
the village

### DIPTFORD PARISH LANDS ELEEMOSYNARY CHARITY

#### Diptford Parish Lands Eleemosynary Charity

We would like to make you aware that there are funds available for people living in the  
parish of Diptford to access in times of need.

Confidentiality Guaranteed

Contact: Cllr Peach, Cllr Crocker & Cllr Hill

See [www.diptfordparishcouncil.org](http://www.diptfordparishcouncil.org) for contact details

### HIGHWAYS CONTACTS

To report any Highways problem, either report direct on Devon County  
Council website – [devon.gov.uk](http://devon.gov.uk) (Report a Problem) or telephone the Call  
centre on 0345 155 1004

This applies to faulty streetlights, potholes and problems of visibility though landowners  
are encouraged to keep road signs on their land clearly visible and to cut roadside hedges  
on an annual basis out of the nesting season. There are exemptions from the timing if  
there are road safety issues.

**Editor : Mrs Val Haddy, School House, Diptford Tel: 01548 821418**

PLEASE NOTE THAT all copy MUST be received before the 25th of the preceding month

Contributions may be submitted by e-mail to [valjohnhaddy@aol.com](mailto:valjohnhaddy@aol.com)

Contributions subject to change due to availability of space

If you have pictures which could be used in the News – please email to [sue@jassy.org.uk](mailto:sue@jassy.org.uk)

Diptford & North Huish Parish News is published monthly by Diptford Parochial Church Council. Every care is  
taken in compiling the Parish News and no responsibility can be taken for any action arising from information  
given therein. All information is believed to be correct at the time of publication.