

# ***DIPTFORD AND NORTH HUISH***

## ***PARISH NEWS***

***FEBRUARY 2024      No. 637***

**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 February 2024**

Date & Liturgical Colour	02.02.2024 2 Before Lent	11.02.2024 Second Next Before Lent	14.02.2024 Ash Wednesday	18.02.2024 Lent 1	25.02.2024. Lent 2
	Proverbs 8: 1 & 22-31. Psalm 104. 26-end Colossians 1: 15-20 John 1: 1-14	2 Kings 2: 1-12 Psalm 50. 1-6 2 Corinthians 4: 3-6. Mark 9: 2-9	Joel 1. 1-2 & 12-17 Psalm 51. 1-18 2 Corinthians 5. 20b-6.10 John 8. 1-11	Genesis 9: 8-17 Psalm 25. 1-9 1 Peter 3. 18-end Mark 1. 9-15	Genesis 17: 1-7 & 15-16 Psalm 22: 23-end Romans 4: 13-end Mark 8. 31-end
Diptford with North Huish	11am Morning Prayer 4.30pm Brick Church	11am Holy Communion	7pm Benefice Service of Holy Communion	11am Morning Prayer	11am Holy Communion
Ermington	11am Holy Communion	11am Morning Prayer	As Above	11am Holy Communion	11am Family Service
Harberton	9:30am Holy Communion	9:30am Morning Prayer	As Above	9:30am Holy Communion	9:30am Morning Prayer
Ugborough	9:30am Family Service	9:30am Holy Communion	As Above	9:30am Morning Prayer	9:30 Holy Communion 4.30pm Messy Church
Halwell	As Above	3.30pm Evening Service	As Above	As Below	As Below
Moreleigh	As Above	As Above	As Below	As Below	3.30pm Evening Service
Harbertonford	As Above	As above	As Above	3.30pm Evening Service	As Above

**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)**

## An Important Spring Clean!!!

As many people now know, the maintenance of the churchyards in Diptford and North Huish will be taken over later this year by South Hams District Council, but in order to prepare for this we are hoping to hold a.....



**Spring Cleaning Day**  
**at St Mary's Church Diptford**  
**on**  
**Saturday 9 March 2024**  
**at 10:30 – 1:00pm**  
**(weather permitting!)**



Part of this process will be to 'map out' the churchyard. We are inviting all members of the community to help with a variety of cleaning/tidying tasks as well as the mapping of the graves. We are keen to welcome younger members of our community (with an adult to supervise please!) to with the help of listing the names from the gravestones.

Afterwards we plan to provide some warm refreshments such as bacon sandwiches and drinks at lunchtime to reward the hard work of volunteers!

The churchyard is an important feature of our village community, so please volunteer a few hours of your time to help make it a more attractive feature.

**Every member of the community will be most welcome!**

**For more information contact:**

**Ruth Parker Davidson on 01548 821529**

**Steve Partridge on 01364 73343**

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

**Easy Fundraising** has now been set up to help with fundraising for the **Diptford Amenity Trust**.

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**

### Parish Council Meeting January 2024

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>

**Amenity Trust** – have received some donations over the Christmas period which are gratefully received, but more fund raising is required if we are to replace and add to the play equipment. On-going repairs are continuing, weather permitting.

**Highways** – a big thank you to our Snow Warden who has supplied bags of grit on areas not covered by existing grit bins.

**Highways notice** – TTRO2454307 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.

The Parish Council would also like to thank those involved with the Christmas Tree for the village, it looked wonderful as always.

**February Parish Council meeting, at which all Parishioners are welcome, is Tuesday 13 February 7pm in the Parish Hall**

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### DIPTFORD W I

January's meeting was on a cold and wintery night and only a handful of members were able to attend. Those that did enjoyed catching up over hot drinks and chocolate.

The business side of the evening largely concerned initial arrangements for the soup, sandwiches and cake open event, in the Parish Hall on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> February.

The film showing, planned for the second part of the evening, ran into technical problems and was abandoned! We hope to solve the issue and show My Sailor My Love at a later date.

**The next meeting is at 7.30pm on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> February when our speaker will be from Breakthrough Transformation Trust.**

**So as not to clash with FODS running of the Diptford Arms on Saturday 24 February, we have postponed our planned soup lunch until a later date.. Watch this space!**

**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)**

**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

## **DIPTFORD AREA OIL CO-OPERATIVE**

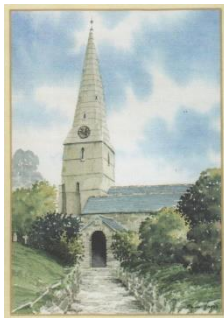


Heltor in Newton Abbot are now our supplier of choice for the Oil Co-Operative and are proving to be reliable and better matching the original brief we had with Watsons. They are prepared to support the group need for regular top up or fixed amount deliveries at competitive pricing. Basically the arrangement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



### **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 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**

## February Edition 2024 [January Nature Notes 2024]

Heard the Tawny Owls [*Strix aluco*] early in the night 'Tu-whit' and 'Tu-whoo'. Then much later at almost morning heard Foxes yelping from the Avon Rise field direction. Like an episode of a murder mystery from Sherlock Holmes, very atmospheric! The bejewelled plumage of the Starlings [*Sturnus vulgaris*] are back in large flocks of up to twenty birds. Strutting and squabbling on gawky gait, these 'wind-up' mechanical birds take over the garden until one suddenly flies off and all the others move within an eye-blink. The winter plumage is a glory to see especially the adult males with their more intense dark under feathers, showing off the star spots of their 'jewel' plumage.



Blackbirds [*Turdus merula*] both male and female are back in the garden especially after the cold snap. Even the Robins [*Erithacus rubecula*] have put in an appearance, however timid. More wrens [*Troglodytes troglodytes*] have appeared flitting amongst the 'undergrowth'. Their loud shrill voices stopping the other birds calling whilst they turn towards these 'heavyweights' of the sound world. Decibels, far louder than their size suggests, attracts attention.



A pretty female Bullfinch [*Pyrrhula pyrrhula*] spent a pleasant half an hour in the front garden picking out seeds from the Dandelions. The approximate size of a Sparrow, but with a black cap and dull chest, not the bright pink of the male. The sturdy beak soon made short work of the seeds. Having finished off the Dandelions it took flight to find its next meal.

Several groups of Blue Tits [*Parus caeruleus*] carefully worked their way along apple twigs removing aphids from the curled leaves. Better than a spray!

Woody, the Wood Pigeon, has come back with a mate to share the picking from the feeders. They waddle across the grass to wait for the shower of seeds caste out by the sparrows and other small feeders. Clearing up the fallen bounty until they can barely fly off to drink from the bird bath. When they land on the bath it wobbles on its plinth, as they are so heavy.

Found numerous what looked like '*Conocybe tenera*' fungi on the front lawn. Small and short yellowish-brown conical caps with cinnamon brown crowded gills and spores. Usually gone after a frost or heavy shower of rain. The Rooks and other birds have removed great clumps of moss from between the roof tiles. These clumps were quite dry considering the amount of rain there has been in the first two weeks of the year. Ground generally saturated and pooling. The ground water must have been topped up by now! Reservoirs must be full by now!

Mentioned the scented plants already in flower, now here is a first. A Primrose is in bloom in the garden, and the Daffodils by Dorsley Farm on the way to Totnes are about to burst. Amazing enough mthat Morrisons at Totnes have Hot Cross buns for sale before the Christmas period has ended, but for Nature to have significant flowers out of season!

Have heard the frog or Toad, 'singing' by the pond trying to attract a mate or encourage others to kep clear of its territory! Perhaps there will be significant spawn this year. The last few year there has been little or none in the pond! Not much other activity in the pond, even the fish have gone to the depths to keep away from the surface cold. Occasionally there have been stacks of gnats when the sun has finally come out. Orb spiders have spun nets up until the frost and the one-day-snow! Nature Notes January 2024.





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

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

FODS are delighted to announce the return of the Diptford Arms again.  
Do come along and enjoy the evening with us and help to raise money for our village's School.

**ALL WELCOME!**

# **DIPTFORD ARMS**

**DIPTFORD VILLAGE HALL**

**SATURDAY 24 FEBRUARY**

**DOORS OPEN AT 4.15PM**

**KIDS WELCOME UNTIL 9PM**  
(ACCOMPANIED AT ALL TIMES)

**FOOD BY PRE-ORDER**  
FORMS WILL BE AVAILABLE FROM  
SCHOOL OFFICE BEGINNING OF FEB

**PUB QUIZ!**  
SIGN UP ON THE NIGHT

**SIX NATIONS RUGBY LIVE  
ON THE BIG SCREEN**  
SCOTLAND vs ENGLAND  
Kick off 4.45 PM

## February 2024 Garden Notes

It may just have escaped your notice that BBC Television Weather News has now reached its 70<sup>th</sup> Year [January 2024]. To add to the records, last year [2023] was the warmest yet, amongst a whole series of warming years in the last ten. Global warming has really made an impression, whilst government leaders have been talking about the impending effects of sea-level temperatures rising, [including the effects of 'el nino' and 'la nina'], ice melting at the poles, overall average world temperatures rising, and so the depressing list of weather facts goes on. There are still many who 'believe' the scientists might have 'got it wrong'! If you take the long view, across millions of years, then perhaps these figures fit into the pattern of the earth's changes over those millions of years. After all the earth has been round for a few millions of years, across several epochs and numerous geological eras and periods. The insects will cope with change!



How about a bit of work for the month of February 2024?

- The best place to be at this time of the year is in the greenhouse!
- No need to be in too much of a hurry even in this protected environment, the sun is still low in the sky and the light waves will only encourage seedlings to be 'drawn' or extenuated.
- Continue shredding all clean prunings & old herbaceous material for the compost heap.
- Heard a lady talking on Tony Buckland's gardening programme about the benefits of mulching using her own compost. She emphasised the weed suppressant effect, moisture retention, & mineral replacement. A most interesting interview took place as she had come from South Africa many years ago & she felt she was more knowledgeable now about 'British' gardens & gardening than she was about gardening in South Africa. The variations in style and location in South Africa was considerable, it must be understood.
- When conditions allow continue tidying up [but not too tidy, remember your friends need somewhere to live & work!] & preparing beds & borders.
- You have sat down in the warmth & planned this year's garden? An extra drink will be needed to get the little grey cells to activate & give inspiration to your efforts!
- Order seeds & plants if not already completed.
- Have you completed sowing those half-hardy annuals?
- Avoid walking on wet or sticky soil, you know how easily the soil compacts & stops drainage.
- Time to prune currant bushes & place a good pile of compost around the plants. {A bit of compound organic fertiliser under the compost would help replace the minerals used last year & encourage the plants to grow strongly to produce more flowers & fruit this year.
- Plant new replacement tree & bushes when the conditions permit.
- In the greenhouse sow; tomatoes, peppers & other tender plants together with some early vegetables to give them a head start.
- You could try sowing some tender annuals too.
- Be aware that it could still be quite frosty & you need to take appropriate precautions. Bubble wrap [left over from Christmas] is ideal to quickly cover plants and seed trays.
- Do not water from the top onto trays & pots. Put containers in a water tray to soak through the soil. Remove after a couple of hours.
- Ventilate except in cold weather. The Victorian gardeners used to tap clay pots to see if they 'wrang' checking the need to water or not! Not so easy with plastic pots! But remember plastic pots retain moisture and the soil is therefore colder than with clay pots.
- Have you kept the grass clear of twigs & leaves? You could aerate the lawn & remove some of the thatch now. A warming job for a dry chilly day.

Enjoy the season. Zephyrus

### **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]

## **MOBILE LIBRARY SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT – CESSATION OF SERVICE**

**The Devon mobile library service will be ending on Thursday 29th February 2024.**

**Devon County Council made the decision to end the service in autumn 2023 and we are now preparing for the end of the service.**

**We are working with Devon County Council to best support customers through this transition.**

**Each regular mobile library customer will be emailed and telephoned by library staff during January and talked through alternative arrangements to help them continue to access books. These alternatives include our Home Library Service, the Good Neighbours scheme, using our static libraries and our BorrowBox app for digital downloads.**

**Our mobile library assistants will be updating customers on the regular mobile library stops and will redirect customers to the alternative arrangements.**

**The County Council has launched a grant fund to support local community library spaces and you can find out more by following this link: Community Library Support Fund - Communities ([devon.gov.uk](https://devon.gov.uk))**

Books can be returned to the mobile libraries up until that date. Afterwards they can be taken back to your nearest Devon library building – you can find addresses and details [here](#) or you can call 0345 155 1001 for more information. We'd like to reassure you that there will not be any fines for returning items late.

To continue to borrow books and use library services from 1<sup>st</sup> March 2024 we need your consent to change your record in the Libraries Unlimited system, to enable you to borrow from a library building and/or online.



To make this change you may:

- visit a library
- email [info@librariesunlimited.org.uk](mailto:info@librariesunlimited.org.uk)
- call 0345 155 1001

Please get in touch with us before 1<sup>st</sup> April so that we can update your record.

We very much hope you will be able to use another one of our services to access your books. These include:

**The Home Library Service** where dedicated volunteers can choose and deliver books to your home, including large print and audiobooks. This service is free.

And the **Good Neighbours Scheme** which is a membership for friends, neighbours and family wishing to choose and deliver books to those not able to get to the library. You can call them on 0345 155 1001.

**THE LAST CALL SCHEDULED FOR DIPTFORD IS SADLY  
TUESDAY 27 FEBRUARY FROM 10.10 AM TO 10.45.**

I am sure that many of us have used the Mobile Library Service over the years,. And that lots would like to say a big thank you to Heidi, and prior to her, Steve, for giving us such a friendly and efficient service. We will miss it.

The Clewer Initiative and The World Council of Churches  
in partnership with the Mothers' Union  
**The Diocese of Exeter Mothers' Union**  
invite you to join them on an online 'Lent Journey'



Starting Monday 12<sup>th</sup> February for 6 weeks.  
7pm for a 7.15 start, finishing by 8.15pm

Based upon Paul's letter to the Galatians with its great theme of bondage and freedom, the course offers an opportunity for us to prayerfully consider together how we can make a creative contribution to the campaign against Modern Slavery.

Led by Revd Tracey Voysey and Heather Sayle  
For Zoom details or more information please email Revd Tracey on her [revdtracey@gmail.com](mailto:revdtracey@gmail.com)

## WORLD DAY OF PRAYER



Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2024 at 2:00pm in St Dunstan's RC Church, Church Street, South Brent.

This ecumenical service, to which everyone is welcome has been prepared by the Christian women of Palestine, **written before the October invasion**, and so very relevant.

Everyone is very welcome to come and pray, with the rest of the world for all Palestinian people.



### DIPTFORD PLAYING FIELD

The latest safety report from South Hams District Council on the playing field has highlighted more items than we have previously seen reported.

The Parish Council has already instructed repairs to be made to some of the items, in particular, the Multi Use Activity Frame, and we hope this will shortly be carried out. The seriousness of this report means the temporarily closing off of the Multi Use Activity Frame. The Playing Field Working Committee will shortly be meeting with a view to arranging a 'Work Day' at the playing field, and if you would like to get involved, in whatever way, please contact Ralph Mortimore in the first instance at [ralphyimages@mac.com](mailto:ralphyimages@mac.com)

The Playing Field Group is still seeking a Chair to replace Mike Cox who has signified that he wishes to stand down ANYONE????

Just a thought, is there any scope for any individual or local business to 'sponsor' a piece of equipment or the repair of some?

Cllr Sue Franklin

### The Ex-Dairy Farmer



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bathrooms

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## 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**

An independent charity

Do you know that there are funds available for people living in the parish of Diptford to  
 access in times of need?

Confidentiality Guaranteed

Contact: Reverend David Sayle at [parish\\_sayle@me.com](mailto:parish_sayle@me.com)

### 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)

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 taken in compiling the Parish News and no responsibility can be taken for any action arising from information  
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