

DIPTFORD AND NORTH HUIISH

PARISH NEWS

JANUARY 2023

No. 624

If you know anyone who would like to receive the Parish News – contact Val Haddy 01548 821418 or email 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

Date & Liturgical Colour	01.01.2023 The Naming and Circumcision of Christ	08.01.2023 Epiphany	15.01.2023 Epiphany 2	22.01.2023 Epiphany 3 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity	29.01.2023 Presentation of Christ in the Temple
Readings	Numbers 6.22-27 Psalm 8 Galatians 4.4-7 Luke 2.15-21	Isaiah 60.1-6 Psalm 72.[1-9] 10-15 Ephesians 3.1-12 Matthew 2.1-12	Isaiah 49.1-7 Psalm 40. 1-12 1 Corinthians 1.1-9 John 1. 29-42	Isaiah 9. 1-4 Psalm 27.1-4-12* 1 Corinthians 1.10-18 Matthew 4.12-23	Malachi 3.1-5 Psalm 24.7-end Hebrews 2.14-end Luke 2.22-40
Diptford with North Huish	11am Morning Prayer	11am Baptism service	11am Morning Praise	11am Holy Communion	11am Benefice Communion
Ermington	11am Holy Communion	11am Morning Prayer	11am Holy Communion	11am Family Service	As Above
Harberton	9.30am Holy Communion	9.30am Morning Prayer	9:30am Holy Communion	Morning Prayer	As Above
Ugborough	9.30am Morning Prayer	9.30am Holy Communion	9.30am Morning Prayer	9.30am Holy Communion	As Above
Halwell	As Above	3.30pm Evening Service	As Below	3.30pm Moreleigh Evening Service @ Halwell Church	As Above
Moreleigh @ Halwell Church	As Above	As above	As Below	As Above	As Above
Harbertonford	As Above	As above	3.30pm Evening Service	As above	As Above

Further information about Church services and events can be found on the Mission Community website www.3rivers.org.uk or at www.achurchnearyou.com/8942

Firstly, we'd like to say a huge thank you to the Foster, Crocker, Lethbridge and Gifford families for erecting our wonderful village Christmas Tree in the Square and to the Baker family into whose electricity it has been connected again. It has been a beacon of loveliness and very much appreciated by all who have passed it.

Also our thanks to the Parish Hall committee for the refreshments provided at the Carol Singing around the Tree on Christmas Eve.

Thanks to your very generous donations to Young Lives vs Cancer (formerly CLIC Sargent) a total of £167.47 has already been sent on to the charity.



<http://www.ralphyimages.com>

Recycling & Waste Collections

South Hams recycles this Christmas
www.southhams.gov.uk

 southhamsdistrictcouncil  @Southhams_DC

Collection day	New collection day
Mon 26th Dec	Wed 28th Dec
Tue 27th Dec	Thur 29th Dec
Wed 28th Dec	Fri 30th Dec
Thur 29th Dec	Sat 31st Dec
Fri 30th Dec	Tue 3rd Jan
Mon 2nd Jan	Wed 4th Jan
Tue 3rd Jan	Thur 5th Jan
Wed 4th Jan	Fri 6th Jan
Thur 5th Jan	Sat 7th Jan
Fri 6th Jan	Mon 9th Jan
Mon 9th Jan	Tue 10th Jan
Tue 10th Jan	Wed 11th Jan
Wed 11th Jan	Thur 12th Jan
Thur 12th Jan	Fri 13th Jan
Fri 13th Jan	Sat 14th Jan

Have you seen the NEW Diptford Village website yet?
www.diptfordvillage.co.uk

Councillor Dan Thomas (DCC)

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

See appendix 1 <https://www.diptfordparishcouncil.org/meetings.php>

Councillors Peter Smerdon and Guy Pannell (SHDC)

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

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

Recycling and Waste Collections over holiday period

See PARISH NEWS PAGE 2

Parish Council

Diptford Playing Field

Our District Councillors Guy Pannell and Peter Smerdon have generously granted £250 each from their locality grant budgets towards providing outdoor exercise equipment for the Playing Field. Currently, we have applied for a Community Wellness Grant and are looking for other grants to help find the money needed for this exercise equipment which should benefit the health and wellness for those in the community

Highways

The Lengthsman has been busy carrying out work on the damaged drains at Glebeland which has been causing excess water on the road for some time now. The works carried out has resolved the issue of the flood water. A grateful thanks to the Lengthsman John Widdecombe and to Cllr Parker-Davidson for their work to finally resolve the issue of excess water especially at this time of year with the winter temperatures.

Precept Information/Financial Planning

The details of the Precept demand for 2023/2024 were noted. The Band D parish rate will be approximately £59.71 which will be an increase of approximately £7.78 (in comparison to 2022/2023 figures)

Graveyard

There is currently no further update on the closure to burials in the Graveyard at this time. South Hams District Council and Rob Seukula have inspected it. A further inspection is due to be carried out by SHDC groundsman to check the condition of walls, boundaries, etc. Currently there is no space for burials or cremations in the Graveyard.

Christmas

The Christmas Tree is now in place and is looking lovely. Thank you to all who helped decorate the tree. A big thank you to the Baker family for allowing the Christmas tree lights into their electricity supply

Date for Annual Parish Council Meeting

This will be confirmed at the next parish council meeting in January

Any Other Business

The Parish Council would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Date of next meeting – Tuesday 10th January 2023 7pm.

All parishioners are welcome to attend a Parish council meeting. If you wish to speak you may do so at Open Forum at the start of all meetings. If you would like an issue raised on your behalf please contact any of your Parish councillors or the Clerk – see the website www.diptfordparishcouncil.org

Nature Notes January 2023 Edition [December Notes 2022]

An interesting month as a mild autumn, after an incredibly warm summer, suddenly switched fully into winter. The expected 'beast from the east' turned into 'the nightmare from the north'. A week of hard overnight frosts and then snow and continued as cold weather. Then back to milder conditions. The very hard frosts cleared away any soft growth, and ensured sufficient 'cold' units for future likely leaf buds to respond and some miraculously turn into flowers/fruit. A promise of fulfilment for later this year.



Birds have been active once they have warmed up, into fluffy feather balls. The two Pied Wagtails [*Motacilla alba yarrellii*] have spent much time and energy intimidating small birds and squaring up to larger birds such as Blackbirds [*Turdus merula*] and even Starlings [*Sturnus vulgaris*]. These small Wagtails are continually 'protecting' their food source. Two little Wrens [*Troglodytes troglodytes*] actively flitting around searching for any caterpillars, spiders or insects, especially in the crevices of stonework or the greenhouse supports. Flocks of Rooks [*Corvus frugilegus*] take over the garden clearing away all the other birds, until they have finished foraging. Dark intelligence at work!

The last flowering perennial plants received the shock treatment of a week or more of overnight frosts and they have collapsed to the ground. Tight buds on the Contorted Hazel, Magnolia, Oak, Ash and Beech seem to have become even tighter than before. Holly, earlier full of berries, have been completely stripped. Even the crab apple fruit, hanging on from the summer, have been targeted as a viable food source by hungry birds, and probably mice!

Not much sign of mice in the potting shed, as yet! Food is there for them, if they choose to investigate and open the 'packets'! The South Hams spinning spiders [*Pholcus phalangioides*] seem to be missing from the shed. Has that application of garlic and mint really worked? Some Herald moths [*Scoliopterix libatrix*] have returned to overwinter in dry, cold comfort. Hibernation through to spring.

The coal nuggets were frozen in the coal bunker. Even in here spiders, woodlice, and beetles had sought refuge. On taking out some coal two Ghost moths were disturbed, and they flew away to find a quieter resting place!

Early one morning about 4.30 a.m. a fox [*Vulpes vulpes crucigera*] was walking up the road barking, to announce its presence. Calling so loudly the noise woke me up. It seemed to make more noise outside those properties that had chickens! On reaching the entrance to the Avon Dean field it sat to have a scratch, and then leisurely walked up the track to cross the field. It stopped calling once in the field! Was it marking where possible 'dinners' might be found, as a future take-away? Or simply warning others to keep away from its territory? Foxy will be back to investigate further, especially once cubs are needed to be fed!

The pond is now frozen. Some floating weed has been set in ice. No activity to be seen on the surface or in the dark depths! All the waterlily leaves have sunk without trace to the bottom. They will slowly rot adding to the detritus refuge for insect life to survive the winter. This spring these little creatures will surface to be active participants in the life of the pond. Must clear the leaves out of the pond!

**In the bleak mid-winter, frosty wind made moan,
Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
In the bleak midwinter, long ago.**

This 'poem' was accredited to Christina Rossetti in 1872.

The music was accredited to Gustav Holst in 1906.

December Nature notes 2022



Ham

DIPTFORD W I NEWS

Sue Franklin Press Secretary sue@jassy.org.uk

Our annual Advent Fair was held in the Parish Hall on Saturday 26 November. Many stallholders attended and we were delighted that the whole community supported the event which raised a huge amount for our charity.

Our Christmas meal was well attended, and we enjoyed a meal at the Dartmoor Halfway on the way to Newton Abbot.

On 19 December, we changed the time of our Christmas Table Decoration making to the afternoon so as not to clash with the Carol Service in Church. Less ladies were able to come but Pat, Ann, Mary and Sue were joined by Debbie who has recently moved to the village. Suffice it to say that a lot of fun was had.

Next up, on Monday January 9 we will have a Film Night in the Hall to which all ladies are invited. Diptford Women's Institute's free film evening to enjoy a screening of "Mrs Harris Goes to Paris" at Diptford Parish Hall. This free 'taster session' is an opportunity to meet new faces and make new friends, for fun, support and companionship. We are looking forward to using the new projection equipment in the Hall.

- **Start: Monday 9th January 2023 at 7.30pm**
- **Location: Diptford Parish Hall**
- **Address: Diptford, Totnes, TQ9 7NY**

We always welcome new ladies to our friendly Group – we meet in Diptford Parish Hall on the second Monday of the month. If you are interested in joining us, either just come along to a meeting where you will be made very welcome, or contact Pat Sampford 01548 821419 or Ann Baker 01548 821 748



ORGANIC LAND FOR RENT FOR GROWING

We have a half-acre south facing, well worked and rabbit proofed.

The rent includes access to some space in the shed, some polytunnel space and shelter in the barn for hot drinks.

£25 per month (includes a contribution to our organic status)

Please contact 07539881884 for more details.

Church Cleaning



Church Cleaning at St Mary's Diptford

SATURDAY 14 JANUARY and SATURDAY 11 FEBRUARY

Can you spare an hour and a half each month to help clean
St. Mary's Church at Diptford

We meet around 9.30am. until 11am

Nothing is hard and fast, just come if you can.

More Volunteers always welcome!

St. Mary's is our Parish Church - let's make it Sparkle.

Mary (01548 821330)

JANUARY 2023 Garden Work

Well, here we are back at the start of a New Year, 2023. Have you listed all those accomplishments and the few failures. Promise yourself you will do better this year! Don't rush into the garden with all that physical effort. Sit back, relax, work out just what can be improved with a little thought, and a cup of something good to help stimulate the mind!

Are you 'thinking' what can be tackled in the garden?

- There must be some shredding left over to help fill the compost bin?
- If or when conditions are favourable continue to fork over or dig the beds and borders.
- You can spend an age thoroughly cleaning and oiling those hand tools. At least you can keep in the warmth of the shed!
- There must be some more pots, trays and containers to clean and sterilize.
- You can spend an age pondering over catalogues and brochures trying to decide just what you could purchase. That's another job for the warmth of inside the house!
- Avoid walking on wet sticky soil. In other words stay indoors!
- Dead head winter-flowering plants in the containers.
- Check plants for wind rock, or frost heave, and take appropriate action. Don't tie them in too tightly or you may strangle them!
- Plan this year's ornamental displays.
- A bit of clearing up when the weather permits would be useful. Remember you tiny friends as they need some shelter!
- Have you ordered the seeds for this year?
- A bit of pruning of Currants and other fruit bushes might be useful.
- When they arrive, heel in bare rooted trees and shrubs. You can prepare the soil for their final planting when conditions allow.
- Now is the time to winter prune fruit trees and bushes. You might want to trim down the roses if you have not managed that prickly task yet!
- In the greenhouse make sure the heater is working, it might need turning up a bit. Helpful to protect plant with a bit of 'bubble wrap' left over from Christmas.
- Ventilate when the weather is sunny and a bit warmer. You don't want stale, damp air in the greenhouse too long. That might encourage mildew.
- The grass is probably not growing yet, but wind-blown leaves can be collected up in the mower box by a high cut.
- Get the mower serviced before the need to cut more regularly in spring!
- Are you maintaining those beds and borders for the perennials?
- Don't spread out that great compost you have made when the soil is very cold or frozen. The mulch will only keep the frost in the soil by insulating it from the 'warming' sun.
- Sow some early vegetables under glass.
- Check stored fruit and vegetables.
- Plant your broad beans.

Have a go at some root cuttings: Acanthus, Echinops, Phlox, and Oriental poppy are all good to try out. Choose strong roots of average thickness, but don't remove more than a quarter of the root system. Cut roots into 3-12 cm lengths depending on thickness. Trim off any minor rootlets or 'hairy' growth. To ensure they are inserted the right way up, make a horizontal cut across the upper and an angle cut at the lower end. Insert the cuttings vertically into a compost with some coarse sand added for drainage. Space 4cm apart with their tops just below the soil level. Cover with grit, and then water lightly. Label and place in greenhouse or against a sheltered wall. Await the green shoots of success in mid spring. Pot on into suitable containers. When large enough plant out into final positions! Congratulate yourself heartily, or commiserate!

PAINTER & DECORATOR

Rob Wild

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Email: wildec@outlook.com

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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: John Foster : 01548 821654

The Eleemosynary Charity is a historic local charity created earlier last century to benefit 'poor parishioners and to provide grants to youngsters preparing to enter a trade or employment'.

There are two grant giving opportunities:

1. For low income households or those on benefits to help with health care or travelling costs involved in receiving medical care.
2. Grants towards an individual's education, training, or apprenticeship.

The Trustees now wish to broaden the eligibility of the opportunity for people to apply for these grants and invite applications from residents within Diptford Parish.

In relation to financial assistance with furthering their education, training, or apprenticeship grants of up to £800 may be made to individuals to assist with educational equipment, trade clothes and tools and specific travel costs and other associated fees towards their education. Applications are invited from any local parishioner under the age of 21 who is undergoing or preparing for education or a training scheme that provides a suitable life skill or employment qualification. Regular University or College course and accommodation costs do not qualify, but other supplementary one-off costs could be considered. Successful applicants will need to show evidence of the benefit and grant expenditure.

The Application Form for both types of grant simply covers the following headings:

- Full name: and name of parent for applications from children under 16.
- Address: (applications can only be accepted by residents of Diptford Parish).
- Email & Telephone:
- Reason for the application providing any evidence of need, the benefit, and details of what the grant will be expended on:
- A proposed breakdown of grant expenditure with associated cost evidence.

The merit of all applications will be assessed by trustees of the Eleemosynary Charity Trust on the individual's financial need and their personal benefit from a grant.

For further information or to submit a Grant Application form, please contact the Chairman of the Eleemosynary Charity Trust (parish_sayle@me.com).

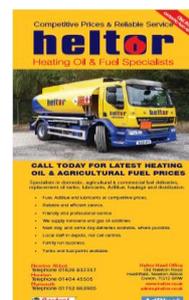
CHANGES TO DIPTFORD AREA OIL CO-OPERATIVE

As you are surely all aware the reliability, customer service & performance of Watsons Oil Has seriously gone downhill in the past couple of years. We have all given them the benefit of the doubt on several occasions, but since selling out to the national chain & closing the local office they are no longer my supplier of choice. I have given them every chance to improve, not least because many people in the group have credit accounts with them. However, I can no longer support them as our group supplier. I have spoken with other possible suppliers & have determined that with your support we should move our purchasing power to a reliable local family business.

After discussion with Heltor, in Newton Abbot I believe they can provide our group with a more reliable service, which better matches 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 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



If you know of anyone who would like to receive the Parish News, particularly your neighbours who are new to the village,

Please contact Val Haddy at

valjohnhaddy@aol.com

You will need to complete a Data Protection form and provide your details and agreement.

The Parish News is primarily sent via email but there is a charge to cover printing and postage if you would like to receive a hard copy

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

FODS NEWS

Jo 07977219689

The next meeting of the FODS Committee is Thursday 19th January 7.30pm at the Church House Inn, Rattery.

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!**

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www.diptfordvillage.co.uk

Chair of Trustees

Diptford Parish Hall. 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 is as a result of the first meeting of the Diptford Sustainable Community and 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

THE MOBILE LIBRARY

VISITS DIPTFORD EVERY 4 WEEKS

TUESDAYS 10.15 – 10.45

January 17 February 14 March 14

HIGHWAYS CONTACTS

To report any Highways problem, either report direct on Devon County Council website – 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 21st of the preceding month

Contributions may be submitted by e-mail to 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

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.