

Appleford Pressings



Appleford on Thames Parish Council
 Appleford Neighbourhood Watch
 Appleford on Thames
 @ApplefordPC @ApplefordVillage



Parish Council (PC) Clerk: applefordpc@gmail.com
 PC Road Working Group: applefordpcworkinggroup@gmail.com
 Appleford Pressings: applefordpressings@gmail.com
 Village Hall: applefordvillagehall@outlook.com

Welcome to an interim edition of the Appleford Pressings

2020 is proving to be a year of change, at all - global and local - levels. Amidst the uncertainty, we hope this brief but informative village update will keep you abreast of many of the local changes and ongoing activities.

First things first: we appreciate that this is a difficult time for many. Please do not hesitate to reach out to the contacts suggested in this update if you are in need of extra help. They are prepared to support as needed, anonymously if desired.

Eight months since our first Covid-19 lockdown and we are about to be released into Tier 2, as the UK government works with scientists and the NHS on potential vaccine roll-out. With social lives on hold, we hope that you are able to benefit from, and support local efforts to maintain our beautiful local countryside.

Appleford-on-Thames, in the heart of the government's South Oxfordshire 'Science Vale', is simultaneously (un)fortunate to be receiving significant local investment, such as the proposed relief road, and associated housing (17,000+). Regular PC working group meetings via Microsoft Teams support village discussion on this topic, in addition to the Public Parish Council Zoom meetings.

Please let us know if you would like to be involved with anything mentioned, including future editions of the Pressings.

Appleford Parish Council ask for your continued support in keeping our village, the Pressings and our community in good health and high spirits at this challenging time.

**GREG O'BROIN (CHAIR), VICKY SHEPHERD (VICE-CHAIR),
 ANDY GUINN, ANNE DAVIES (RETIRING CLERK - 31/12/2020)
 WE NEED TWO NEW MEMBERS, AND A PARISH CLERK ASAP:
 NO PARISH COUNCIL = NO LOCAL REPRESENTATION**

Please email applefordpc@gmail.com to learn more, and to help

Village Noticeboard, Website & Facebook

Parish Council are working to update these, to include:

Local (Covid) Support

Please check-in with your neighbours and fellow villagers to offer support or encouragement, as needed

Neighbourhood Action Group (NAG5) Safety Corner - full details on website & noticeboard

Details of how to obtain financial support and vouchers for food banks, etc.

The Silver Line

A free, confidential, helpline providing information, friendship and advice to people aged 55 and above 24/7: 0800 4 790 80 90

Help to Heat Scheme

Call 0800 015 5174 to learn whether you, or someone you know, might be eligible for free gas connection or central heating

Police Contact - 999/ 101

The police request that you only call 999 in an emergency, otherwise 101 or online reporting via: www.thamesvalley.police.uk

Logos designed by Freepik distributed by Flaticon

Proposed Didcot to Culham River Crossing: Village Survey

Thank you to everyone who completed the October 2020 Survey (126 responses), and joined recent meetings to discuss the results: www.applefordpc.org.uk/relief-road-river-crossing/

On 20th November, the PC presented residents' major concerns with the proposal to OCC using Microsoft Teams, with email follow-up:

- Proposed road and flyover are too close, and will visually damage Appleford-on-Thames village and surrounding landscape
- Traffic pollution (noise, light & particulate), particularly from the flyover and raised embankments, will have a negative impact on human and environmental health
- The road will create a new physical divide, and potentially dangerous T-junction, between Appleford-on-Thames and Sutton Courtenay, limiting access to current, shared resources, e.g. station, school, PO, shop, pubs, garage, Millennium Common, Rec., etc

The PC requested the following improvements from OCC:

1. Alternative to Appleford Sidings Flyover, ideally at ground-level, and further from Appleford Level Crossing/ Main Road properties
2. Access to the new road, and to Sutton Courtenay directly, via the 'Sutton Courtenay' roundabout
3. Traffic mitigation, and improved cycle and foot access between Appleford-on-Thames and Sutton Courtenay
4. Robust noise & visual screening to mitigate loss of rural character

Please get in touch if you would like to become involved, or to receive updates: applefordpcworkinggroup@gmail.com

Thank you **Greg O'Broin** and **Sandra Oldfield** for creating the survey, **Graham Klyne** for IT support, and **Chris Hancock** for bringing the new road to life e.g.: more on the website and Facebook

Village Hall Bookings & Refurbishment

Thank you **Clare Cousineau** for obtaining £10,000 Covid-funding from Vale of White Horse District Council and continuing to manage and improve Appleford Village Hall. Please email Clare: applefordvillagehall@outlook.com for bookings or to join the Village Hall Committee, 01235 847511

Take only memories, leave only footprints

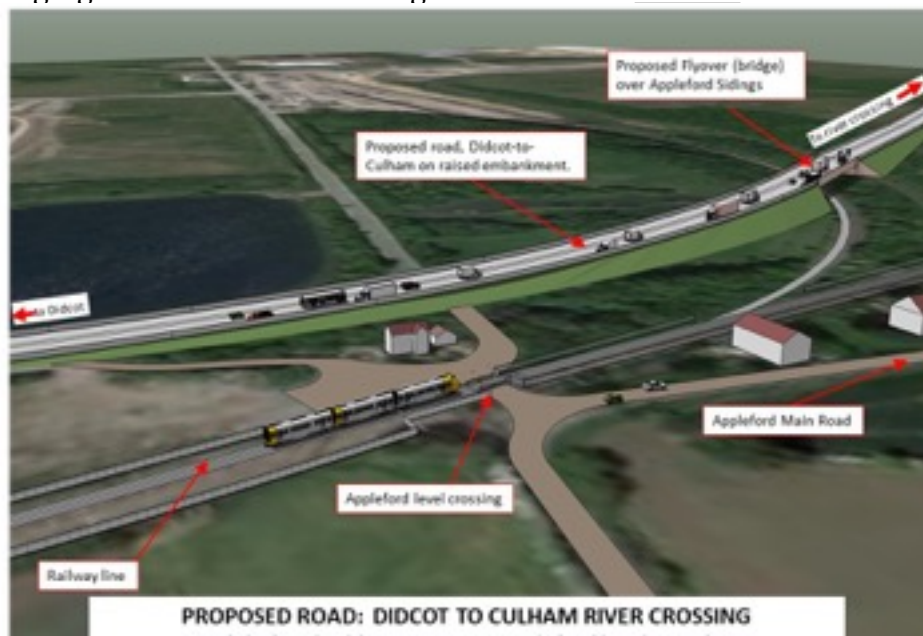
Thank you **Sian Hayes**, **Christine Henderson**, and the littlest Shepherds for ongoing litter-picking efforts. Watch this space for wider village litter picking outings - a fun way to walk, talk & tidy up the village while getting to know our neighbours... when we can

Don't Lose Your Way

The PC are working with FCC, OCC and SCPC to tidy up the Public Rights of Way (PROW) between us & Sutton Courtenay: please check them out, and look up the Ramblers 'Don't Lose Your Way' campaign to map all local footpaths by 1st January 2026, reporting challenges along the way

Work in Progress: Basketball Hoop and Playground

Thank you **Peter Walker** for efforts to erect a Basketball Ground at the Rec. We hope this will be completed shortly, along with power-washing the playground



PROPOSED ROAD: DIDCOT TO CULHAM RIVER CROSSING
Aerial view looking west over Appleford level crossing.
Illustration prepared by Appleford Parish Council for resident's information



Appleford Community Project

Please join in with our Appleford Christmas celebrations

Village Christmas Walk & Refreshments

On Sunday 20th December from 3pm we will be serving seasonal refreshments from a gazebo at the top of Church Street, alongside our newly planted Christmas tree!

Take the opportunity to walk around the village admiring the Christmas lights. Bring your own mug for mulled wine/juice.

Please keep your distance from other household groups at the gazebo and around the village*

Place a candle in the window

Christmas is a time of peace that everyone can celebrate. A lighted candle is a sign to guide home family and friends and this year can be a reminder of those who cannot be with us for Christmas. A candle in the window is traditional for the Sunday before Christmas (we suggest battery operated for safety)

Appleford Advent windows

We are hoping to have a new window in Appleford lit up and decorated from 4pm each day in December, including the date in the display. We are looking for more volunteers!

If you would like to take part please email Kate Green on katejessicagreen@googlemail.com

Locations will be provided so that you can walk around the village and find every number. We would love as many people as possible to take part in this community event!

Appleford Christmas lights

Decorate your front window or garden with Christmas lights or decorations and admire your neighbours' creations on your daily walks!

Appleford Family Quiz
Ian & Lyn Cook Zoom-hosted a quiz in lieu of the annual Harvest Supper and Quiz. Congratulations to the winners: **Frances & Lionel Reid**, & runner-up, **Rev. Helen Kendrick**

20mph is plenty for Appleford-on-Thames

Following village survey feedback the PC have contacted Oxfordshire's '20's plenty for us' campaign, and will keep you updated on progress

HGVs continuing through the village

Please report weight restriction breaches online via link on PC website, photographic evidence encouraged, if possible

Neighbourhood Watch

David Ashby continues to keep us alert via the Facebook page: be aware of suspect door knockers, and don't let people in that you aren't expecting. There has also been a reported increase in local burglaries. Please keep yourselves, your cars, sheds, homes, and one another safe, and continue to report any suspicious behaviour

*Event subject to change depending on government guidelines



Community Orchard Update

Following a damp start to 2020, when the wildflower area, planted the previous year, resembled a pond rather than a wildflower meadow, things quickly improved as the soil eventually dried out and many plants came into bloom. In spring the most eye-catching of these were the Ox-eye Daisies and Wild Carrot. There were also several other attractive plants, including Kidney Vetch, Viper's Bugloss and Bird's-foot Trefoil, all of which are good for pollinating insects. Bee Orchid and Pyramidal Orchids are also thriving with several dozen plants found around the Orchard. A few Wild Strawberries were planted in the hope of attracting the quite rare Grizzled Skipper butterfly whose caterpillars feed on the plant. Amazingly, on the 21st May, and probably quite by coincidence, a single male of this butterfly was seen in a nearby part of the orchard. This takes the total number of butterfly species to 20, which is a third of the total number of butterfly species found in Britain - not bad for an area less than a hectare.

It was also hoped that the Common Lizard could be attracted to the Orchard and two log piles were created to give any lizards present the chance to bask in the morning sun as well as to take refuge from predators. These proved successful and many lizards have been observed, including young ones just a few centimetres long. Birds have also been well represented with 25 species having been recorded, including Barn Owl, Yellow Hammer, Grey Partridge and nesting Reed Bunting. A Harvest Mouse nest was also discovered. The whole area is developing well and with so much breeding wildlife it's essential that all dogs are kept on a lead, so thanks to all of those who visit the area and keep to this request. Contributed by Richard Lewington.

ST. PETER & ST. PAUL ARE SEEKING A NEW CHURCH WARDEN & PCC REP.

Please contact:
Reverend Helen Kendrick
01235 847179
rector@damascusparish.org.uk

Unfortunately the Appleford Street Nativity is CANCELLED for 2020.

You are warmly invited to join in with alternative services and activities, noting that these are all subject to change or cancellation in the light of new COVID-19 guidance. Please check the parish diary for the latest information on www.damascusparish.org.uk, or your local church noticeboard and latest service card.

APPLEFORD 100 CLUB 2020

The winners for the three 100 Club draws this year are listed below, with outstanding cheques to arrive by Christmas:

1st £24	2nd £12	3rd £6
R DALBY	G CLARKE	A GRIFFIN
B DEADMAN	J EAGLING	L REID
A DEADMAN	J COX	D HALL

With further lockdowns and tier systems it seems sensible to continue 2020 draws next May to complete at Christmas 2021. I hope this is suitable for everyone. If not, please let me know and I can return your subscription, Sue Helby 01235 848280.

Interested in solar panels? Put off by the price or the hard sell?

[Solar Streets](#) offer high quality solar installations at a reduced price by grouping installations geographically. If we could get 10 households in Appleford together, they could offer 12 panel systems for about £4000. Please contact **Angela Jones** if interested: amjones@fastmail.co.uk 07948388702

Christmas Foodbank Collection at Elm Hayes, Main Rd until 10th Dec

Please drop non-perishable items, call 07835075869 or email famgelens@gmail.com with any questions

Local handyman sought

PC are looking for ad-hoc maintenance support e.g. playground, benches, etc. Please email interest to: applefordpc@gmail.com

Pressings Contributions & Editor Vacancy

Please email information, potential advertisements and editor applications to applefordpressings@gmail.com for the New Year.

Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the editor or Appleford-on-Thames Parish Council

At this time, all activities mentioned may be subject to changes. Please bear with us, and each other... wishing you a happy December :)