

ISSUE 50

CHRISTMAS 2005

# LANGFORD LIFE



## LANGFORD VILLAGE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION



Picture of Jacob, aged 5yrs, taken at the roadshow, by Claire Caulfield

The resounding success of the summer holiday Energize sports roadshow, at Langford Village Hall, means that the roadshow will be revisiting Langford Village during the 2006 Easter and Summer holidays as part of Cherwell District Council's holiday Energize programme. The 2 hour sessions are designed for children aged 5-11 years. Activities include team games using safe brightly coloured equipment and soft balls, parachute games, football, cricket, rounders and much more. The sessions will be taking place at Langford community centre from 1.00-3.00pm on a Thursday throughout the Easter and Summer holidays. For a brochure or more information please contact Simon West at Cherwell District Council on **01295 221719**.

## The Great North Run - Sunday 18<sup>th</sup>

September 2005

Sisters, Karen Freeman and Wendy Bull, both of Langford Village, would like to thank everyone who sponsored them for the Great North Run. They staggered the 13.1 miles in 2hrs and 15mins, and are now determined to do it again but in a much better time!! Karen raised in excess of £300 for Great Ormond Street Hospital where she used to work. Wendy raised £255 for Cancer Research UK in memory of their Dad.



**Karen (Left) and Wendy (right) after completing the Great North Run**

**Langford Village School PTA invite you to their Christmas Fayre on 3rd Dec from 2:00 - 5:00pm at Langford Village School.**

Admission is free

There'll be lots of stalls including Xmas card and decoration making, cookie decorating and a Santa's Grotto

## Christmas Lights Festival



Bicester Town Council is once again hosting this years Christmas Lights Festival. The event is taking place on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> November from 4pm and this year promises to be bigger and better than ever before!

To add to the magical Christmas experience, Bicester will have its own Ice Rink for the night, The rink will be located under the Christmas Tree in Market Square, and be open to the public from 2.00pm - 10.00pm. Time slots of 15 minutes can be booked on the night.

During the evening Father Christmas will arrive in Market Square followed by a procession of local children. The stage acts commence at 4pm, compared by Peter York, a succession of Musical Acts will entertain throughout the night before the lights go on at 7.30pm. The Christmas Tree is once again a Macmillan Cancer Relief Tree of Hope, each light is sponsored in memory of someone, details and applications to purchase a light will be in the local press.

Street entertainers, Charlie the Clown will amaze you with his magic and frivolity, Hoddmen dodmanott and Sally Forth the pleasant peasant and his beautiful wife will amble merrily through the crowds bringing laughter and joy wherever they go and Christmas Jazz guarantee to put a spring in your step with there seasonal melodies.

Sheep Street will be host to a variety of charity, farmers market and festive stalls, as well as the Fair, located outside the Methodist Church. Make a date in your diary for this not to be missed event!

More details from Bicester Town Council on **01869 252915**.

### Do You Need Any of the Following Done?

- Plumbing.
- Flooring.
- Tiling.
- Carpentry.
- No need to take a day off work.  
Evenings and weekends at no extra cost.
- Emergency call outs 24 Hours - 7 Days a week.
- Large Jobs/Small 5 minute jobs.
- Appliance installations.
- Free assessments.

**Call Mick Barker On: 01869 320547**

**Mobile: 07966 748453**

## Langford Village Women's Institute (W.I.)



Langford Village W.I. has enjoyed a varied & interesting Summer Programme. We were happy to support the Bicester Carnival and our decorated and fully "manned" float depicting the Land Army Girls won second prize, to everyone's delight. Our Four Star day trip to Evesham lived up to all our expectations. The weather was superb and we enjoyed a guided tour of the Museum and Almonry. We explored the town (with retail therapy), and ended the afternoon with a river trip and a cream tea before the scenic ride home.

Our annual garden party was as usual, great fun with competitions, games & in accordance with tradition the Committee provided a Strawberry Cream Tea.

We now look forward to our packed Autumn Schedule with interesting speakers, a trip to see Guys and Dolls and a "hands on" Craft Day and indeed much, much more.

Of course, not every member wishes to take part in all the activities offered and there is no pressure to do so.

In a short while we hope to arrange a trip to Waddesdon to see the house "dressed for Christmas" and of course, we have already booked our Christmas Lunch.

If you would like to join us at our own Community Hall on the first Wednesday of each month, 1.30pm-3.30pm just "come along" and you will be very welcome.

If you would like to learn more about us ring June Kilshaw **01869 601901** or Beryl Mann **01869 325834**.

Look forward to seeing you!

Joyce Bartlett

Langford Village W.I.

Dear Friends

I am pleased to announce that I completed my London-Paris Bike Ride in aid of Action Medical Research on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> July, having left Blackheath in London on the 20<sup>th</sup>. I returned to London on the Sunday by Eurostar, the bike returned in the back of a van (sorry bike!). The whole event was fantastic, 187 people took part, we received an ovation as we were riding down the Champs Elysee towards the Eiffel Tower and were met with a glass of Champagne.

At a celebration dinner we were told that the money received from this ride (around £200,000) will be used by Action Medical Research to fund research into the causes and prevention of Dyspraxia. Thank you all who donated, should you still wish to contribute please use the link below.

Regards

Jim Hagan

[www.action.org.uk/~jimhagan](http://www.action.org.uk/~jimhagan)

Being a resident in Langford Village means that you are next to the parish of Ambrosden. There are two very important services in Ambrosden Parish available to you without paying for parking or queuing.



*All post office services including car taxes and foreign currency.*

*Camelot main line lottery and scratch cards*



Call in today to a friendly, family run business

Ambrosden Post Office  
Merton Road  
Ambrosden

Newsagent  
Greetings Cards  
Off Licence  
Groceries  
Nash's Bread

Tel: **01869 252128**

### Opening Hours

	<b>Shop</b>	<b>Post Office</b>
Mon	6.00am—6.00pm	9.00am—1.00pm, 2.00pm—5.30pm
Tue	6.00am—6.00pm	9.00am—1.00pm, 2.00pm—5.30pm
Wed	6.00am—8.00pm	9.00am—1.00pm, 2.00pm—5.30pm
Thu	6.00am—6.00pm	9.00am—1.00pm, 2.00pm—5.30pm
Fri	6.00am—8.00pm	9.00am—1.00pm, 2.00pm—5.30pm
Sat	6.00am—8.00pm	9.00am—12.30pm,
Sun	6.30am—2.30pm	Closed

**Here to make life a little easier**

## Letters To The Editor

Dear Editor

I have lived in Grebe Road since December 2002 when I bought my house new.

Having gained permission from Bovis to erect a conservatory I immediately got the work underway. I was told by the company quoting, that due to the relatively small size of the conservatory that I had in mind, planning consent was not required and under normal circumstances it would not have been but I discovered to my cost that this was not so.

When I came to sell my house it was discovered that planning consent was indeed required, as our site has a special restriction on it and normal rules do not apply. This held up my sale by an additional 6 weeks, whilst I had to gain retrospective planning consent. I have to say that Cherwell Council could not have been more sympathetic or helpful but they can only work inside legal requirements.

I would therefore like to advise anyone who lives on 'New' Langford and has had a conservatory erected without consent to contact Cherwell and ascertain if their particular house is also covered by this unusual ruling and gain consent long before deciding to sell so as not to be caught in the unpleasant situation that I found myself in.

I hope that this letter will be of help to others on the estate that may be considering selling their property.

By the way, I would just like to say that during my short time in Bicester I found the Langford Life to be really helpful and informative and full of useful information.

Thank you

Linda Thompson

Dear Ed.

I would like to thank everyone who supported the Macmillan Coffee Morning held at my house on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> September. It was extremely successful; over 45 people came, drank tea and coffee and ate cakes and biscuits raising a grand total of £301. It beat last year's amount, but now means there will be more of a challenge for next year? Best start baking cakes now!!

Wendy Bull

**T**his is the 50<sup>th</sup> edition of Langford Life. The newsletter is put together by volunteers and is a not for profit publication paid for by our advertisers. Please remember to mention Langford Life when responding to adverts. 2,250 copies of this newsletter are delivered by volunteers to all homes in Langford Village & Bicester Fields. The newsletter team would welcome input from contributors either in the form of an article or letter to the editor. We would also welcome offers of help distributing the newsletter - it is only four times a year and will help the newsletter get to all of the residents reliably and on time.

Matt Fincham Editor

## STOP PRESS STOP PRESS STOP PRESS

Cygnets and the PFSU at Langford CP School are delighted to announce that the new climbing frame is here! Thanks to all the fantastic fundraising efforts of parents, children staff, and Cygnets Management Committee the fundraising target was reached and the frame put up during the half-term holidays. The frame and a low maintenance play surface, Rubbascap, have been supplied locally by Rainbow Play Systems and S & N Marketing respectively.

Well done to all who were involved in the project – the climbing frame represents a marvellous achievement and should provide lots of fun for children attending Cygnets and the PFSU – now and in the years to come.

### Bicester Tyre & Exhaust Centre

Victoria Road, Bicester, Oxon OX26 6PJ



Telephone: 01869 243035

**MOT TESTING**

*Petrol, Diesel & Catalysts Tested*  
*including Motorcycles*

· Tyres · Exhausts · Batteries ·

Brakes · Suspension

· Steering · Servicing · Repairs

**METZELER**  
**MOTORCYCLE TYRES**

· Motorcycle Tyres



# Reflections

**Fancy Dress  
Costume Hire**



Wigs, Hats and Accessories  
Also available.

For superb quality and  
Excellent selection phone  
Karen on Bicester

**(01869) 369369**

Mob: 07808 770903

Langford Village, Bicester  
OX26 6YJ

## Stuart Kirkwood

Architectural Designs / Interiors / Planning /  
Surveying Services

**Free** Estimates For Planning & Building  
Regulations

- New Build Extensions / Alterations
- Domestic & Commercial Works
- From Sketches to Full Range of Services

**01869 242357**

**Mobile: 07703 121332**

**email: [skarchitects@aol.com](mailto:skarchitects@aol.com)**

Purslane Drive, Parklands, Bicester

### Launton Post Office & Stores

Offering a wide range of Post Office services, Bill payments, E111's, Foreign Currency, TV licences, Rod licences & many, many more.  
Ample parking.

Speedy efficient service.

We also offer a full newspaper and magazine service plus a good range of household lines.

Opening Times

Mon-Fri 9:00am-1:00pm, 2:00pm-5:30pm

Saturday 9:00am-12:30pm

Sunday 8:00am-12:00pm (shop only)

Tel: **01869 252122**



Books, toys and games for 0-12 year olds

Products are full of fun, interactive and innovative and are educationally endorsed. Designed to stimulate young minds. If you would like to receive free products why not host your own miniq party?

The average hostess receives between £20-£30 of free products, we even provide the tea coffee and biscuits!

For more information or to view our catalogue call Tina Beard on **01869 369847**

### Silver Scissors Hairdressing Salon

Very competitive rate, reduced prices for OAPs on Tues, Wed, Thurs

Local Stylist for Ladies & Gents

Tel **01869 252122** for appointments



**RATES TO ADVERTISE IN THE  
LANGFORD LIFE NEWSLETTER**

No advertisements on the front page, please state whether single or double column width is required

Non-profit making organisations will be charged at half the commercial rate.

At the Editor's discretion, small community notices (usually 1/4 page or less) may be free of charge. Electronic format submissions are preferred but good quality black and white originals are accepted. Written notes are OK, if text only is required.

For newsletter articles please contact the Editor, Matt Fincham on **07977 289097** or **editor@langfordlife.org.uk** For adverts please contact the Newsletter Advert Co-ordinator, Ted Kingston on **325821** or **ads@langfordlife.org.uk**

The deadline for articles and adverts for the February 06 Newsletter is 1<sup>st</sup> Jan 06. Prices are as follows:

Full back A5 page	£90.00
Internal full A5 page	£72.00
Internal 1/2 of a A5 page	£36.00
Internal 1/3 of a A5 page	£24.00
Internal 1/4 of a A5 page	£18.00

The following discounts are offered for payments with the first invoice:

10% discount for 4 issues

15% discount for 8 issues

**Find the Langford Life on the web at  
[www.langfordlife.org.uk](http://www.langfordlife.org.uk)**

LVCA exists to promote a community spirit and to improve the facilities and environment in Langford Village. *Langford Life* is published quarterly by LVCA and circulated free to all residents of Langford Village. The opinions of contributors are not necessarily those of the Association.



SKILLS FOR LIFE

## The springboard to confidence for your child

Tumble Tots is Britain's leading **National Active Physical Play Programme** for children from 6 months to 7 years

Your child will learn **agility, balance, climbing, co-ordination** appropriate to his or her age

Structured programme designed to build **self confidence** and develop essential listening and language skills

Supervised by trained staff in a **fun and caring** environment

**Tumble Tots now in your area!**

**Banbury • Bicester  
Kidlington • Launton • Thame**

**For information about  
local centres call**

**Jenny & Michael • Tel: 01869 252068  
[www.tumbletots.com/bicester](http://www.tumbletots.com/bicester)**

## Who's Who On Your LVCA Committee

Post	Name	Tel no.
Chairperson	Susan Brunskill	249768
Vice Chairperson	Elena Jones	327224
Treasurer	Sally Ballard	243262
Community Affairs Committee Chair	Steve Newman	248082
Community Hall Committee Chair	<b>Vacant</b>	
Hall Manager	Abby Hughes	322465
Social Events Co-ordinator	<b>Vacant</b>	
General Secretary	<b>Vacant</b>	
Minutes Secretary	<b>Vacant</b>	
Disco Equipment Manager	Dominic Cotter	241504
User Group Regular Bookings	Jayne Blake	320895
Casual Hire Bookings	<b>Vacant</b>	
Hall Opening Rota	Ali Carr	240637
200 Club LVCA Rep	Sharon Gray	320224
200 Club School Rep	Ellie Thompson	322425
Website Manager	Steve Newman	248082
Newsletter Editor	Matt Fincham	07977 289097
Newsletter Compiler	Carl Keith	07799 608814
Newsletter Advert Co-ordinator	Ted Kingston	325821
Newsletter Distribution Co-ordinator	Nick Cotter	322166

### Leaf Fall Litter Pick

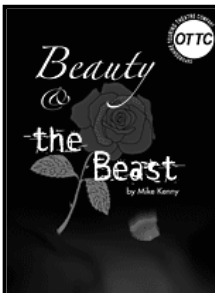
Fancy an hour out in the fresh air on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> November? If you do come along and join the merry band of "Litter Pickers of Langford". We'll be meeting at the Village Hall at 10:00am where you'll get the tools of your trade and a bag to put your findings in and we're sure you'll meet your friends there. Last time this happened everyone seemed to enjoy themselves.

# DECEMBER 2005

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
			1 Move to Music Music Train Karate / Brownies Ballroom Dancing	2 Toddlers Music Train Ballet	3 Private Booking	4 Xmas Shopping Day in aid of Cancer Research
5 Green Bin Toddlers Seniors / Cubs Post Natal Exercise	6 Tumbleto ts Beavers Square Dancing	7 Post Natal Exercise Women's Institute Bizz Kids Karate / Aikido	8 Move to Music Music Train Karate / Brownies Ballroom Dancing	9 Toddlers Music Train Ballet	10 Private Booking	11
12 Brown & Blue Bins Toddlers Cubs LVCA Meeting	13 Tumbleto ts Beavers Square Dancing	14 Post Natal Exercise Bizz Kids Karate Aikido	15 Move to Music Music Train Karate / Brownies Ballroom Dancing	16 Toddlers Music Train Ballet	17 Private Booking	18 Private Booking
19 Toddlers Seniors / Cubs Post Natal Exercise	20 Tumbleto ts Beavers Square Dancing	21 Post Natal Exercise Bizz Kids Karate Aikido	22 Move to Music Music Train Karate / Brownies Ballroom Dancing	23 Toddlers Music Train Ballet	24 Father Christmas is coming to night	25 Christmas Day
26 Boxing Day	27 Tumbleto ts Beavers Square Dancing	28 Post Natal Exercise Bizz Kids Karate Aikido	29 Move to Music Music Train Karate / Brownies Ballroom Dancing	30 Toddlers Music Train Ballet	31 New Years Eve	

## Schedule

<b>Monday's</b> Toddlers 9:15am-11:15am Seniors 1:45pm-3:45pm Cubs 6:30pm-8:00pm Post Natal Exercises 8:00pm-9:00pm
<b>Tuesday's</b> Tumbleto ts 9:00am-10:00pm Beavers 6:00pm-7:15pm Square Dance 8:00pm-10:00pm
<b>Wednesday's</b> Post Natal Exercises 10:00am-12:00am Women's Institute 1:30pm-3:30pm Bizz Kids 4:00pm-5:00pm Karate 6:30pm-7:30pm Aikido 8:00pm-10:00pm
<b>Thursday's</b> Move to Music 10:00am-11:00am Music Train 1:30pm-3:45pm Karate 4:00pm-6:00pm Brownies 6:00pm-7:30pm Ballroom (Improvers) 7:30pm-8:45pm Ballroom (Beginners) 8:45pm-10:00pm
<b>Friday's</b> Toddlers 9:30am-11:30am Music Train Noon-3:15pm Ballet 3:15pm-7:15pm
3 Dec—Private Booking 1:00pm-5:00pm
4 Dec—Xmas Shopping Day 2:00pm-5:00pm
10 Dec—Private Booking All day
12 Dec—LVCA Meeting 8:15pm-9:30pm
17 Dec—Private Booking 10:00am-2:00pm
17 Dec—Private Booking 2:00pm-6:00pm
18 Dec—Private Booking 3:30pm-6:30pm



## Beauty and the Beast by Mike Kenny

Where: Langford Village Hall.

When: Saturday, 19<sup>th</sup> November at 7:00pm.

Tickets: £6 (adults), £4 (under 12s), £17.50 (family).

Tel: **01869 321908** for details and tickets or pick up slips from Langford Village Hall.

What's it about? The impoverished father, the beautiful girl, the dark wood, the enchanted castle, the mysterious host, the blood red rose, the magic mirror, the broken promise, the happy ending!

OTTC presents a beautiful re-telling of this beastly tale by an award-winning team of writer Mike Kenny, designer Louise Ann Wilson and director Lawrence Evans.

A family show for everyone over 6 years old.

## FUTURE FLOORING SERVICES

- Laminates
- Solid Timbers
- Sanding and Sealing
- Traditional Parquet Flooring
- Herringbone
- Karndean
- Existing floorboards sanded and sealed

**Carl Drew**  
**127 Merganser Drive**  
**Bicester**  
**OX26 6UG**  
**Mobile: 07968 849072**  
**Office: 01869 246671**

## VICTORIA HILL SCHOOL OF BALLET

Royal Academy of Dance

Ballet classes for children  
3 years and upwards

Classes for fun  
or examinations

at  
LANGFORD VILLAGE  
COMMUNITY CENTRE

on Friday afternoons  
and in  
AMBROSDEN  
on Saturday mornings

Call Vicky Hill  
01869 242755 for details

## Our Daily Walk Around Bicester & Roman Alaura

My wife and I go for a walk around Bicester every day, come rain or shine. Bicester is an old Roman town and was called Alaura in Roman times. As we walk around, I will mention a little of what it was like two thousand years ago.

Where we live the roads are named after birds. Our road is called Shearwater Drive and this is where we are starting our walk. The next turning is called Peregrine Way and, just to keep in with the streets, the pub is called The Nightingale. Further along this road we have a few shops and Langford Village Medical Centre and just past that is the Langford Village Community Primary School. Our walk continues through an open area, with swings for the children. It is also a walking area for the local dogs and their owners. We continue our walk across these fields and now approach the exit, which leads into London Road. This is one of the main roads, which leads into the centre of town. As we leave these unnamed fields, we cross over the railway crossing. Unfortunately, this is a very poorly used railway line for the local people in the Bicester area. It's main use is taking rubbish to a local tip. Over the years there has been a lot of talk about redeveloping the railway line but nothing ever happens. As we continue our walk along the London Road we turn into Garth Park. This is a pretty but small park. (It was once a private house with a large garden, given to Bicester by 'Friends of Bicester' in 1945.) At the time of writing the lawns and flowerbeds are looking a picture with the spring flowers in full bloom. A team of gardeners and some handicapped people help look after the gardens. Within the park are there are amenities: swings for the young children, a skateboard area for the teenagers and a bowling green for the older person. Our walk through the park is almost over and we are now on our way home. Outside the park we walk along a lane for a short distance. Coming to another railway crossing, we cross over and now turn into Gavray Drive. We walk for a short distance before we enter another lane, which really is a cycle path. This runs at the back of a row of houses, one of which belongs to us.

As I mentioned at the beginning of this walk, Bicester was an old Roman town and was called Alaura. Two thousand years ago Roman soldiers had barracks in this area with many soldiers living with their families. They also had shops, temples, public baths and large monumental gate towers. Some of the things that the Romans were doing in their time would be similar to the things we do today. They would be doing them differently from how we do things today because things have advanced so much since those times.

There are several amenities that the Romans built which we are still using today. Many of the main roads were originally laid by the Romans. The road between Bicester and Towcester, the A421, still follows the line of the Roman road to Finmere and then continues across to Stowe. In fact, the existing road from Bicester to Aylesbury follows the line of Ake man Street from approximately the Ambrosden turning on the A41 to Waddesdon and picks it up a gain at the first roundabout in Aylesbury. There are many other roads going in all directions all over this area, all built by the Romans.

There are many ruins within the Bicester area that were also built by the Romans. Many Roman coins have been found in this area that apparently indicates that this was a very busy area with Roman people living here continuously right up to the fourth century.

Bicester, over the centuries, has developed into a pleasant country town with many of the things happening centuries ago still happening today, such as buildings, bridges, Army camps and training areas. More modern things such as airfields, aeroplanes, tanks and other forms of transport fit into the history of Bicester.

Eric Palmer, Shearwater Drive

The above article has been slightly edited for publication. It was written by Eric Palmer, an adult literacy student with Bicester Adult Learning. Eric hopes to improve his literacy skills until he can complete a GCSE in English. Adult 'Skills for Life' classes, in both Numeracy and Literacy, are free. Telephone **01869 241532** or email [bicester.ac1@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:bicester.ac1@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

# 1<sup>st</sup> Langford Village Cub Scout Pack



The Cub Scout Pack celebrated 10 years of Cub Scouting on Langford Village by presenting a tree to the Langford Village Community Association for planting in the Hall garden. This formed part of The Global Conservation Activity Badge which each Cub received on the evening of the 10th Anniversary, from the Chair of the LVCA, Susan Brunskill. The LVCA kindly sponsored the badges for us; part of the work towards this badge was the litter pick covered in the August edition of the Langford Life. Each Cub also gave a presentation on endangered species to parents and supporters of the Cub Scout Pack.

Bicester's Mayor, Dan Sames, was on hand to present the boys with our new Group Badge. The badge has two swans on it, as all the roads on Langford Village are named after birds and we also have Jubilee Lake. There are also two stars which represent the Cub Pack and the Beaver Colony and remind us that every member of our Pack has the opportunity and ability to shine.



Four Cubs were also awarded their Chief Scout's Silver Award which is the highest achievement a Cub Scout can get. It is not gained by all Cubs so we were very honoured that Jill Edwards, the District Cub Scout Leader was able to acknowledge the hard work of Isaac Bensley, Callum Nicoll, Alister Thompson and Ben Walker. Finally Benoit Blin, who is a Chef at Le Manoir aux Quat Saisons, presented us with a beautifully decorated cake to share.

In the past 10 years we have had 131 boys from Langford Village who have been members of the Cub Pack. Some have stayed for a short while and others have gone on to be successful Scouts at the 7<sup>th</sup> Bicester Group. We hope that each one has special memories of the time they had with us and that Scouting has made a difference to them in some way.

If you would like to know more about us, either as a Beaver, Cub Scout or Adult Supporter then please contact Ellie Thompson on **01869 322425**.

## Gavray Drive, the views of the Chamber of Commerce

“Bicester and District Chamber of Commerce have to be primarily concerned with the long term economic sustainability of the Local economy. This does not mean just protecting the interests of our members, but also ensuring the development of a sustainable and diverse shopping offer in the town centre, raising the levels of ambition in the children attending the towns secondary schools, and providing a variety of stimulating and varied job opportunities for them to go into.

This policy requires sustaining the provision, by the local authority, of an adequate area of land formally designated, and approved in detail, for commercial/industrial purposes. In addition to this the ability, and willingness, to fund the infrastructure to support this land has to exist as well. The economic argument put forward, that there is no demand for this type of land, is not supported by the speed at which the former Timbmet site was taken up by companies seeking to re-locate in this area. Demand depends upon price and several of our members have commented that the land off the by-pass has only been offered at a “premium rate”.

Existing land for job creation is also under pressure by the recent proposal to develop areas of the Station Approach site for flats and housing. If this and the Gavray Drive site are both to be developed for housing then the town has little to offer companies seeking to re-locate or expand, meaning employment could and would be lost to Buckingham, Brackley and other nearby towns etc.

The Chamber appreciates the obvious synergy in Gavray Drive being used as housing, but with 70% plus of the population already commuting to work, further housing, without job creation in the town, will not sustain the town centre as it stands, let alone the hard fought for development that is now proposed and it will lead to more disillusionment amongst the young people of the town.

Rather than looking at “pockets” the Chamber would like to see Bicester looked at holistically, so that we can absorb new homes, create a self supporting economy, with good job choices and prospects for the young, as well as opportunities for the retired, and a return to a community of Bicester that supports it's town centre and whose business support the schools and local interest groups, as many of our members do, but only more so.

Within Bicester and the surrounding area there is very little undeveloped land approved for this use, in fact Gavray Drive is the only genuine example currently on offer where the infrastructure would not need to be developed from scratch. If the formal identification process for alternative sites was completed and such sites clearly identified then we could re-visit our current negative view on the proposal that Gavray Drive be used for housing.

We would also say that the development in, and of, Bicester needs to be looked at, taking into account Cllr. Keith Mitchell's stance on the development in Oxfordshire as a whole and regarding the role of South East Region Development Council that he chairs.

Our remit is, and always will be to look at the wider issues and this does at times mean we are in tension with some local wishes, this does not mean however we not aware of the concerns and will not be open to entering into discussions.”

Ben Jackson – Bicester and District Chamber of Commerce  
[chairman@bicesterbusiness.org.uk](mailto:chairman@bicesterbusiness.org.uk)



# LVCA '200' Club Winners



Winners since the last issue of Langford Life are:

## Aug

1<sup>st</sup> **62** D Downer

2<sup>nd</sup> **10** T Langley

## Sep

1<sup>st</sup> **34** R Conway-Hyde

2<sup>nd</sup> **74** D Thomas

## Oct

1<sup>st</sup> **11** E Thompson

2<sup>nd</sup> **18** C Keith

### What Is The LVCA '200' Club Lottery?

The LVCA '200' Club Lottery is drawn at the start of the monthly LVCA meeting which takes place of the 2nd Monday of each month in the Community Hall at 8:15p.m.

### How Does The LVCA '200' Club Lottery Work?

You choose an available number, pay £1 for each number chosen and if 'Lady Luck' smiles on you, you could be walking away with a bag of lovely lolly.

### How Can I Join The Winners?

Contact Sharon Gray on 01869 320224 or pop into the School Office and grab a form.

### Disclaimer

The LVCA and the Langford Life exists to promote a community spirit and to improve the facilities and environment in Langford Village. Langford Life is published quarterly and circulated free to all the residents of Langford Village. The opinions of contributors are not necessarily those of the LVCA.

Caring for your pets as if they were our own



**ANIMAL  
MAGIC**

Pet Sitting  
Dog Walking

**Question** — Working away from home, out of the house for hours, planning a holiday, going into hospital, not enough hours in a day?.....

**Answer** — Whatever your pet, or its needs, we will care for it in its own environment with minimum disruption to its daily routine and peace of mind for you. At the same time we will look after your home in your absence.

Contact: Rachael Hall  
01869 321724 or 07960 758859

## COMPUTER SERVICES

Troubleshooting Repairs

Tuition Advice

Home and small business specialist

### Mainline Systems Services

48 Ravencroft  
Langford Village  
Bicester

Tel: 01869 243621

anytime

**Jim Hagan**

# PAULA STEVEN'S

Hair & Beauty Studio



## The Best Kept Secret....

5 Nightingale Place  
Langford Village  
B I C E S T E R  
0 1 8 6 9 2 4 7 2 6 1

**REDKEN**  
5TH AVENUE NYC

3A Meadow Row  
BUCKINGHAM  
M K 1 8 1 P U  
0 1 2 8 0 8 1 7 7 0 1

# **THE STYLE GAL- LERY**

Relax  
In a warm and friendly  
atmosphere

Monday	9.30-4.00
Tuesday	9.00-8.00
Wednesday	9.00-8.00
Thursday	9.00-8.00
Friday	9.00-8.00
Saturday	9.00-4.00

Acrylic nail extensions  
are now available

Unisex Salon  
Gift Vouchers Available  
OAP Rates  
Free Parking

## **Tata For Now**

We say goodbye to Ann Walker (Hall Openings), Tanya Langley (Casual Hire Bookings) and John Broad (Community Affairs Committee Chair).

We'd like to take this opportunity to thank Ann, Tanya and John for all the hard work that they have done and wish them all the best.

## **EVAN THOMAS**

### **Guitar Tuition for** **Beginners**

A step by step  
approach for electric &  
acoustic guitars

For further details

**01869 324383**

## HEYFORD HOOFERS SQUARE DANCE CLUB



Have you heard of us? The Club was founded in 1966, mainly through the efforts of American servicemen and their families, who were encouraged to integrate with the local community, and for many years our dance venue was on the RAF Base at Upper Heyford. Times have changed and the American involvement has long since disappeared. The club moved into the Lower Heyford village hall for a number of years but is now based at the Langford Village Community Hall in Bicester. We meet on Tuesday evenings from 8pm until 10pm.

Square Dancing "took off" in the U.K. during the 1950s and clubs were established all over the country. In recent years, even more clubs have come on the scene.

Anyone is welcome to attend. Some of our dancers are in their seventies, while at the other end of the scale our youngest student is only 9. In 1998 we graduated the U.K.'s youngest ever member when she was only 6. We also believe that she was the youngest ever graduate in Europe. There is no need for our dancers to look for babysitters because the children just join in.

For those people who have not heard of this activity, the word "dance" is perhaps a misnomer. It is unlike almost any other form of dancing in that it is mainly walking or shuffling to music, generally in squares of eight people or four couples. Many clubs (and not just dancing clubs) have a predominance of lady members. We are no different, in that approximately 55% of our members are ladies. It is always more difficult to encourage the men to come along, but nearly all are enthusiastic about the activity when they have seen it first hand and taken part.

In short, square dancing is fun and friendship set to music.

There are several levels of square dancing. As the names imply, "Basic" and "Mainstream" levels are the most popular and suit most people. The "Plus" and "Advanced" levels are taught, but are generally only used at the major dances and conventions. It is a non-competitive activity.

If you are interested in a new and inexpensive pastime, and require more information contact Bob and Pat on **01869 600961** or Chris and Julie on **01869 246455**.

We will be pleased to see you!

### Numbers You Should Know

on **01295 754611** or email **deborah.tonks@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk**

Community Police Officer, PC Matt Jenkins on **07813 695625**

Please note there is now a single non-emergency telephone number to contact the police which is **0845 8 5055 05**

### Neighbourhood Watch

Coordinator, Mrs Deborah Tonks

## LVCA AGM Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> September 2005

It was good to see so many people at the AGM in September, especially since we had had to cancel the AGM scheduled for June, due to poor attendance. It was also lovely to see many representatives from the User Groups at the AGM I am sorry we didn't have much time to address your specific issues. We plan to hold a User Groups meeting on a Monday night sometime in the spring, where I hope we can address issues specific to you.

It was disappointing that although the AGM was well attended, only a small number of those attending were willing to stand for, or help out with the committee. We managed to re-elect a committee to organise the running of the hall, consider issues specific to the Langford Village Community and produce the Langford Life and website. However we still have a number of positions to fill, principally someone to help with the organising of social events and a minutes secretary. Our thanks go to John and Anne who have stood down from the committee and to Steve and Ali who have taken over the positions of Community Affairs spokesman and Hall opening rota co-ordinator.

The ability of the committee to pursue interests specific to this community is dependent on knowing what you, the community feels about these issues. It would be inappropriate to presuppose what you as residents think or feel about issues such as the development of Gavray Drive, the graffiti and litter problems or traffic concerns. Gavray Drive was the big issue of the AGM. If you are interested in raising issues that you think are important to the current and future development of the community, please contact committee members directly, attend our monthly meetings (the second Monday of each month in the community hall) or write to the Langford Life. We would be interested to hear your concerns.

Susan Brunskill  
Chairman, LVCA



**JUST PLUMBING**

**Plumbing and heating  
services**

**Showers, bathrooms, en-suites  
full installation service.**

**Wall and floor tiling.**

**Small or large jobs  
undertaken.**

**Fully insured.**

**Adrian 07966 844394**

## Virgin Vie Cosmetics

Host a party and enjoy the rewards  
Of course the best way to try and buy  
our gorgeous products is at home  
amongst friends at a

### Virgin Vie Party.

Not only do you get expert advice, a  
free make-over and a chance to play  
with all new products but as a Hostess  
you can get all your favourite products

for

**FREE**

Please call Lisa Sturgeon on  
**01869 250440 / 07969 879677**

Or visit my website

[www.myvirgincosmetics.co.uk/lisasturgeon](http://www.myvirgincosmetics.co.uk/lisasturgeon)

Consultant ID - 55287

# HOMEGOODS

## APPLIANCES AT DISCOUNT PRICES

DEANS COURT,  
BICESTER, OXON OX26 6RD  
**01869 241531**

FAIRFAX CENTRE,  
KIDLINGTON, OXON OX5 2PA  
**01865 436010**



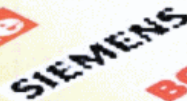
**FREE  
SAME  
DAY  
DELIVERY**

### ALL MAKES AND MODELS

- FREE STANDING
- BUILT-IN
- INTEGRATED

**CALL FOR A  
QUOTATION**

**PACKAGE  
DEALS**



**PHONE FOR QUOTE**

**01869 241531 or  
01865 436010**

email: [sales@homegoods.co.uk](mailto:sales@homegoods.co.uk)

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



# WADLEYS

30 Market Square, Bicester

Sales: 0800 731 3361 Enquiries: 01869 252117

**Panasonic**

**DENON**  
ELECTRONICS

**TEAC**

**BOSE**  
*Better sound through research*

**SONY**