

Langford Life



Neighbourhood Watch Special



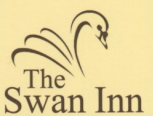
With the recent severe weather we've been spoilt for choice for a cover photo, but the snow won out over the floods.

More photos can be found on the Langford Village website, which has recently been updated thanks to Jon Spinage. Check it out on www.langfordlife.org.uk... better still, add it to your bookmarks.



Win a £75 Meal for 2 at The Swan

(See Page 6)



In September 2012, the Langford Village Community Association (LVCA) held its Annual General Meeting and elected a new Committee. I was given the trust of the community to become the new Chairman of this Committee and of the LVCA. I know that there are many activities in life that draw us away from voluntary service, but for the sake of the community, and its reliance on a functioning Community Hall, I just couldn't walk away. I – and we – as a new Committee are all willing to give of our time for the benefit of the residents here in Langford and beyond.

I must acknowledge the out-going Chair, Dominic Cotter, who served for many years and made such a positive contribution to the community. Many have benefited from his service, which is a testament to his community spirit and kindness. He is a most impressive individual. We are fortunate that he will remain on the Committee and are grateful for his continued community service.

My main priorities as Chair will be to ensure we have a well maintained and functional community hall, to be financially viable as an organisation and to begin to promote activities designed to build community spirit and engagement. Amongst our Committee are many skilled individuals who have already added value in achieving these priorities. As we continue to work together we will have success and overcome any difficulties in the future.

Finally, we are always looking for like minded residents to join the Committee. So if you feel that you have a 'spirit of service' within your heart, then please make contact with us and join our winning team.

Kindest regards

Richard Auger
Chair

Langford Village Community Association
chairman@langfordlife.org.uk



Neighbourhood Watch

Neighbourhood Watch (NW) is the largest community safety organisation in the country, with over 26,500 members and 8,700 schemes across the Thames Valley alone.

The aims of Neighbourhood Watch are:



- to help people protect themselves and their properties;
- to reduce the fear of crime by greater vigilance, by improving communication and fostering a community spirit;
- to encourage the reporting of crime.

As an added benefit, some insurers offer a discount on home contents insurance to members.

Thankfully, Langford Village has low crime rates, but we don't want to be complacent; additionally, a great community spirit is always welcome, with neighbours looking out for each other, particularly the elderly, something especially important with the recent bouts of snow.

Currently the most successful NW scheme on Langford Village is in Shearwater Drive, where 35 houses are involved... where they have a good community spirit and occasionally hold street parties and other activities.

We are looking to extend the number of NW Schemes on Langford and need volunteers to co-ordinate and run schemes in their own areas.

Deborah Hextall, the Regional Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator, has offered to hold a meeting in Langford to explain more about what's involved.

Several potential co-ordinators from roads on Langford Village have already expressed an interest... but the more the merrier!

For more information and/or to attend this evening, please email me and I will keep you updated.

Many thanks

Mike

editor@langfordlife.org.uk



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Do you live in the Langford Village area? Are you interested in finding more about Langford Village Community Primary School and helping to shape its future?

You don't need to be a parent or a parent of a child already at the school. We meet on a monthly basis (either as a full committee or as smaller working committees) and have an active involvement in the school life.

Education is changing and if you are interested in being part of this change and investing in your local community, then please consider being a school governor.

If you are interested, please contact Peter Greenway (Chair of Governors) for an informal chat on 01869 321369.

Green Bite training course for low carbon living

Grassroots Bicester in conjunction with an Oxford organisation called ReachAbility are putting on a FREE course for anyone (over 16) with the germ of an idea for a project to benefit both the people of Bicester and the environment.

The course aims to give the skills and confidence to get the project off the ground.

It's a six-week evening course on a Thursday at St Edburg's Church Hall, 3 weeks before Easter and 3 weeks after, with a 2-week break at Easter.

Free training for Bicester

Would you like to:

- ★ Learn how to develop a community project
- ★ Access funding to make them happen
- ★ Build useful new skills, confidence and your CV
- ★ Improve your business or neighbourhood
- ★ Become part of a long-term network championing a better future
- ★ Save money & CO₂

All participants will take part in:

- ★ Six core training sessions
- ★ Educational visits to relevant local projects
- ★ Specialist mentoring to support your own projects



By the summer you will be running low carbon projects designed to make a long-term difference for Bicester.

To be eligible for a free place on the full course you need to be able to attend all core training sessions:

The core training sessions will take place on Thursdays 6-9pm
7, 14, 21 March
18, 25, April
2 May 2013
Includes a simple supper

For more info and a course booking form contact Sally Ramsden
Tel: 01973 689 362
or send an email to:
info@reachability.co.uk
www.reachability.co.uk

The LVCA

is a voluntary organisation to promote community spirit and improve the facilities and environment in Langford Village. We meet 3rd Mondays of the month at 8.15 pm at the village hall. All residents of Langford Village are welcome. Do come along and join us.

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If you need help or advice, contact your Member of Parliament, Sir Tony Baldry at: **House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA.**

Tel: **020-7219-6465**

Email: **tony.baldry.mp@parliament.uk**

Surgeries are also held regularly in both Banbury and Bicester. To book an appointment just contact Barbara in the constituency office on **01295-673-873.**

www.tonybaldry.co.uk

Published by Sir Tony Baldry MP, House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA



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Dog Walking

Why us?

- Member of National Association of Registered Petsitters (NARP)
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- Experience with a wide range of animals, from hamsters to Vietnamese pot-bellied pigs - and of course cats and dogs
- Fully insured and police checked
- Knowledgeable and reliable - references on request

Rachael Hall / Babs Ballard
Tel: 01869 321724
Mobiles: 07960 758859 / 07940 784792
Email: info@animalmagicbicester.co.uk
Website: www.animalmagicbicester.co.uk



Hall Schedule

Mondays

Baby & Toddler Group 9.15-11.15

Cubs 6.30-8.00 pm

Ladies Circuit Class 8.30-9.30 pm
(except 3rd Monday)

LVCA Meeting 3rd Monday each month 8.15 pm

Tuesdays

Music Box 9.30-11.30 am

Freestyle Dance 4.00-5.30 pm

Beavers 6.00-7.30 pm

Square Dancing 8.00-10.00 pm

Wednesdays

Post Natal Exercise 10.00-12.00 am

WI 1.30-3.30 pm (1st Wed only)

Judo 3.30-6.30 pm

Aikido 6.30-10.00 pm

Thursdays

Little Kickers 9.15-11.45 am

Rainbow 4.30-5.30 pm

Brownies 6.00-7.30 pm

Ig-nite Youth Club 8.00-9.15 pm

Fridays

Baby & Toddler Group 9.15-11.15

Ballet 3.30-9.00 pm

Private Booking 5.00-7.00pm

£460 Raised for the Army Benevolent Fund

Gwynneth Gibbons and I decided to hold a Halloween Party as a fundraiser for the Army Benevolent Fund on the 3rd November. We are both members of the Army Garrison Gym in Ambrosden and we wanted to donate money for our friend WO1 Laurence Nelson, who is participating in a 10-day RWB challenge for the charity in August 2013.

The party was a great success and we couldn't have made it such a fantastic night without the support and kind offers of help from friends and local businesses.



We would personally like to thank Shakils, Amici, Lorraine Durrant and Andy Court for their contributions. The night consisted of a bug eating competition, a touch and feel game (with live maggots) and an outdoor inflatable obstacle course. We raised £400 on the night and a further £60 was raised through the gym.

We are very lucky to have such a lovely community within Langford Village and we are looking forward to the next party!!!

Thank you to all involved!

Katherine Simpson

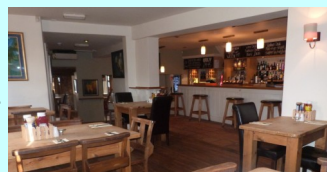
Light travels faster than sound. That's why some people appear bright...
...until you hear them speak.



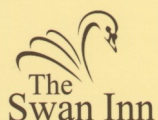
Dating from 1681 and situated in Bicester's quaint Old Town quarter, The Swan Inn strikes a wonderful balance between old coaching inn atmosphere and contemporary bar/restaurant character. Built from local stone, The Swan is reputed to be the oldest drinking establishment in the town.

Refurbishment has retained and enhanced The Swan's best features: a cheerful wood-burning stove sits in the inglenook fireplace and comfortable leather sofas complement the traditional scrubbed wooden dining tables and chairs. The Swan Inn has an up-market ambience without being stuffy.

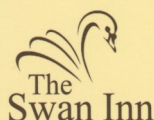
In addition to good beers and fine wines, The Swan has gained an enviable reputation for food. Not 'gastro' and certainly not posh, but properly cooked... and with homemade puds.



With great coffee and free Wi-Fi, The Swan is convenient for a cosy cup of coffee too. Accommodation is also available without breaking the bank.



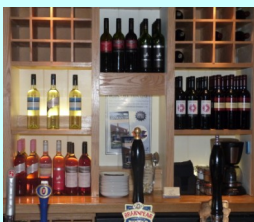
The Swan, Church Street, Bicester
01869 369035
www.theswanbicester.co.uk
Booking is advisable



Simply email your answer to: editor@langfordlife.org.uk or send it to: The Editor, Langford Village Hall, Nightingale Place, Bicester OX26 6XX. Please include address and contact number.

Q: What night of the week is the rib eye steak supper?
(Clue: See 'What's on' on The Swan website.)

Entries to be received by Saturday 13th April 2013. The winner will be selected by the LVCA Chairman at the meeting on Monday 15th, advised that week and announced in the next edition of Langford Life.



The meal for 2 is to be redeemed before September 2013. The booking is for an evening or lunchtime from Monday to Thursday and includes anything off the menu, plus drinks, to the value of £75.

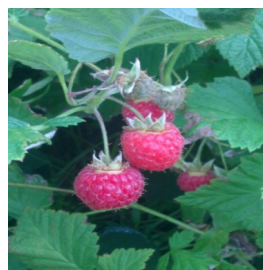
Langford Community Orchard

Quietly nestled on the edge of Langford village lies an inconspicuous oasis, a beautiful green space once lovingly planted and tended by persons unknown, now a wilderness in need of some caring attention. So a few of us are attempting just that, and we'd love you to come and join us! We'd like this to become Langford's community orchard. Anyone can come and get involved, be it getting your hands dirty, identifying things, or if that's not your cup of tea then there's always the behind the scenes tasks to be done like admin, publicity or fundraising for example. Then everyone can reap the rewards... literally!



Just to whet your appetite then, in the orchard there are already Apple, Pear, Cherry, Mulberry Walnut and Hazelnut trees, Blackcurrants, Blackberries and Raspberries. There's an abundance of Elder trees for those very useful flowers in the spring, and there's plenty of Blackthorn for our rare Brown-streak butterfly friends who only lay their eggs on that shrub, and many types of Bumble Bee when the blossom is out. That is just some of it... we find something new almost every visit!

We have been joining Bicester Green Gym with permission to remove brambles that have overwhelmed some of the fruit trees; this task is nearly complete but if we get the lease then there will be plenty more to get stuck into! If you want to wander down there, it's on the left of the long straight path that runs from the fields and Mallards Way to the rail crossing on London Rd, near the top opposite Nuthatch way.



You don't have to be any sort of expert; you might just like the idea of joining in something new and eating raspberries while you do it, or you may have a specific interest that draws you to it.

Whatever your ability, age or knowledge, if you would like to know more then please contact us FAO Orchard at grassrootsbicester@yahoo.co.uk.

Also if you know anything about the history of the site or who planted the orchard in the first place, we'd love to hear from you!

Orchard Steering Group

Grassroots Bicester



Winners of the Sun Wah

Chinese Takeaway

£20 vouchers

Sonia Roberts
(Heron Court)

*

Lorna Albert
(Kestrel Way)

*

Jim Henderson
(Jay Close)

*

Mychelle Oke
(Pipits Croft)

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Langford Village (Bicester) WI

It's hard to believe that in April 2013 the WI in Langford Village will be 16yrs old. We started with eight chiefs but no Indians! Over the years we have increased membership – lost some members for various reasons and made new ones. We have an interesting programme of speakers and activities and participate in the activities organised by the various sub-committees, which form the Oxfordshire Federation.

If you are new to Langford Village or wish to make new friends, why don't you come and meet us? It is well-known that the WI is the largest women's organisation in the country, offering fun and friendship as well as being a campaigning movement. We are lucky that our own College – Denman – is situated in Oxfordshire and offers courses on many subjects.



We meet on the first Wednesday of the month at 1.30 pm in Langford Village Community Hall and would be delighted to see you.

If you would like to know more you can contact me on 01869 325834 or check the website: www.oxfordshirefwi.freeuk.com

Hope to see you sometime

Beryl Mann (President)

Why does someone believe you when you say there are four billion stars...
but check when you say the paint is wet?

What a fun way to meet people, keep fit and above all exercise that mind! Starting with the first few calls that you learn at a Barn Dance, a repertoire of moves quickly builds up to keep your eight moving at brisk walking speed.

There's no hopping or skipping in square dancing, as there is in Scottish Dancing. Nor do you learn long sequences of moves as in Sequence Dancing. You just build up a collection of short moves as the caller directs the square, in a different sequence every time to keep it fresh and interesting.

Once you have learnt the moves up to a particular level, for instance 'Mainstream', you can dance at this level anywhere in the world; it is always 'called' in English, even in Sweden, Germany or Japan, where it is gaining in popularity.

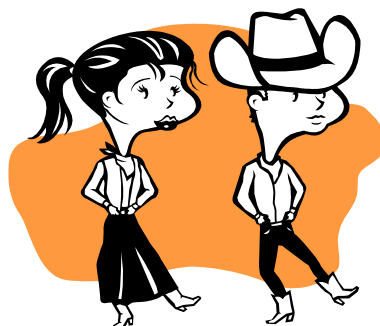
A 'tip', as it is called, has two parts: a 'hash tip' where the caller creates a sequence of moves against a musical background to provide the rhythm, and a 'singing call' where the moves are interleaved with the words of a song and the ladies work around the square, dancing with each man in turn. Our caller has a good voice.

Most of us dance in ordinary clothes, but for a special evening the ladies may wear a full skirt and men may wear a Western shirt.

We dance at Langford Village Hall on Tuesday evenings, 8-10pm.

It's great for couples or singles, so do come along to check us out for a free trial evening. You'll be glad you did!

Roger Marshall
President, Heyford Hoofers Square
Dance Club, Bicester
01865 378020



Civic

Oxon County Council: 01865 792422

Cherwell DC: 01295 252535

Local Office: 01869 253154

Bicester Town Council: 01869 252915

Social Services: 01865 375515

Library, Old Place Yard: 01869 252181

Mon, Wed & Thur 9.30-7pm

Tues & Fri 9.30-5pm, Sat 9.00-4.30pm

Bicester Police Station: 01869 320919

Langford Village CP School: 369021

Sports Centre: 01869 253914

Medical

Langford Medical Centre: 245665

Mondays – Fridays:

0830-1030, 1100-1300 & 1600-1800

Saturdays (Emergencies only):

1000-1130

Community Hospital: 01869 604000

John Radcliffe Casualty: 01865 741166

NHS Direct 24 Hours: 0845 4647

St John Ambulance: 01869 246648

Child Line: 0800 1111

Samaritans: 0845 7909090

Transport

Bicester North Station: 245900

National Rail Enquiries: 08457 484950

Bicester Taxibus: 01869 323535

Thames Transit Buses: 01869 772250

Dial-a-Ride: 01869 320132

Churches

St Edburg's (Anglican): 252377

Emmanuel (Anglican): 244918

Immaculate Conception (Catholic):
253277

Orchard Baptist Fellowship: 369709

Methodist Church: 240671

Salvation Army: 369160

Bicester Community Church: 244741

Elim Christian Centre: 252753

Hebron Gospel Hall: 277300

Other

NSPCC: 0808 800 5000

Citizens Advice Bureau: 01869 321076

RSPCA: 08705 555999

Crimestoppers: 0800 555111

Gas Emergency: 0800 111999

Electricity – Power Loss: 08457 331331

Thames Water: 0845 920038

The 50-50-90 rule.

Any time you have a 50-50 chance of getting something right...

...there's a 90% probability you'll get it wrong.

Who's Who On Your LVCA Committee

Chair	Richard Auger	Chairman@
Vice Chair	Ted Kingston	325821
Treasurer	Roger Winson	Treasurer@
Minutes Secretary	Mike Oke	360044
Health & Safety	Matt Phillips	
Website	Jon Spinage	Website@
Langford Life Editor	Mike Oke	Editor@
Langford Life Advertising	Ted Kingston	325821
Langford Life Distribution	Bob Rudge	321308
Disco	Dom Cotter	241504
Committee Member	Vic Barton	
Hall Bookings	07778 062743	Bookings@

For hall bookings see the website www.langfordlife.org.uk,
contact: bookings@langfordlife.org.uk, or phone 07778 062743



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LVCA Chairman, Richard Auger, with councillors Dan Sames (Mayor), Lynn Pratt and Melanie Magee... with the real workers, Matthew and Charlie at the autumn litterpick.

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