

THE LANGFORD LIFE



The Newsletter of Langford Village Community Association (LVCA)



The Slate Circle

Issue 40 - August 2003

Langford Village Community Association

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Cllr Dan Sames, 38 Heron Drive, OX26 6YJ. Home Tel: 249768

Cllr Lawrie Stratford, 8 Queens Ct, OX26 6JX. Home Tel: 244036

Cherwell District Councillors:

Cllr Lawrie Stratford, as above

Cllr Mrs Rose Stratford, as above

Oxfordshire County Councillors:

Cllr Charles Shouler, Lodge Farm, Chesterton. Home tel: 252460

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.

Deadline for articles and adverts for the November issue is:-
1st October 2003.

CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

My personal life has been rather busy recently so Val Say has kindly acted as editor for this issue which will be out in time for the new term's activities.

We aim to have the next issue out in November to publish the Christmas season's activities. We have always tried to include adverts for local charitable organisations on a no-charge basis. Sadly, we are not covering our printing costs so, in future, we will have to make a charge for adverts that take up more than a $\frac{1}{4}$ of a page. Since the last newsletter went to press, the AGM has been and gone. An open forum was kicked off by a presentation on local issues by Chris Riley. As the police were represented, much of the discussion focussed on policing issues. Although not all of our councillors were able to attend, the presentation was passed on to the relevant councils so hopefully those elected to represent us will take note.

A new LVCA committee is in place. I remain LVCA chairman and Keith Rutson is still Treasurer but Steve Williams has replaced Tony Brown as chairman of the Community Centre sub committee and John Broad has taken over from Chris Riley as chairman of the Community Affairs sub committee. New booking arrangements for the Hall are now in effect so check with Val Say for details. We are still short of some assistance on the main and sub-committees so perhaps you may be able to offer something. If you are hesitant and want to find out more without commitment, please come along to one of our general meetings on the second Monday of the month at 8.15pm at the Community Centre.

Keep an eye on the local papers, either in the letters column or in a full article. You may see evidence that the LVCA Committee is trying to look after your needs by bringing issues to the attention of the local authorities. Recently, we have been in correspondence with Bicester Town Council, Cherwell District Council or Oxford County Council on the issues of fly tipping on Gavray Drive, the pavilion for the sports pitches on the linear park, traffic management, post-boxes and planning for the future development of Bicester (and other matters).

John Warman, ex Chairman of LVCA and the Environmental Committee for several years, is moving at the beginning of September to Peterborough. John has worked very hard over the years on behalf of the Association and we wish to thank him for all he has done for us and wish both him & Pauline, good luck and every happiness in their new home.

Ian Lawrence 241361 or iglawrence@lindian.freemove.co.uk

COMMUNITY MATTERS

Some we win and some we have to keep working on! You can be sure though that we will not give up in trying to improve the conditions throughout the village.

After pestering those responsible at Post Office headquarters for months, some progress is promised on obtaining a new Post Box for Bicester Fields Farm. Once the Bovis housing is completed at the junction of Mallards Way and Grebe Close, a box should be planted by the corner assuming that all the underground utilities do not conflict. This should reduce the distances the residents have to travel to post their letters and should help to reduce the volume of mail being deposited in the box on Peregrine Way. Like many of these enquiries, I must say that the personnel involved with getting things done are very helpful - once you can find out who to talk to!

Chris Riley has been very active on behalf of the residents by raising the question on why the huge 'fly-tip' on Gayray Drive is not only still there but is growing by the day! Even the Council's own contractors have added to it as you may have read in the Bicester Advertiser. Chris also managed to get the question of why the rubbish on the playground areas of Langford Village never seemed to get cleared, again getting the subject raised in the Bicester Advertiser. I have followed this up by approaching Councillor Les Sibley to question the Town Clerk about the planned frequency of collections. After a few days of pestering, the rubbish bins were emptied! It will be interesting to see how long it is before the next collection or will the bins have to be overflowing and another complaint made!

Chris has also had to raise the issue of the overgrowing hedges and undergrowth along many of the footpaths in the village not being cleared. It would appear that there are a number of areas on Langford Village which have not been adopted by the council. Councillor Les Sibley is pursuing the appropriate departments to get this clarified and will be reporting back for the next meeting.

The problem of dog owners not clearing up the little deposits their pets leave is still an issue being regularly raised to the committee members. Making you, if you own a dog and don't address this issue, aware of the unpleasantness for residents and the dangers to children

caused if you do not attend to your animals natural functions seems to be a never ending task. Remember that you can be heavily fined if you get caught!

Whilst discussing the waste bins with Councillor Sibley, I also asked him to raise the question of the lights being inoperative on the linear park. Some action seems to have happened as the lamp by the bridge over Langford Brook has had the lamp head realigned and the inspection doors have been opened. The lamps don't work yet, but it looks like they have made a start, we may yet see some light on the subject!

Speeding! Some of you out there are either very late for your appointment with your tea or are trying to impress the residents with your prowess as fast drivers. Just remember that driving along either Peregrine Way or Mallards Way at anything over 20 to 30 mph will only save you seconds on your journey but, if you kill or injure a child will last a lifetime! One young lad attempted to take the corner on Mallards Way at 30 mph and failed, he ended up spun round in the road with a damaged wheel. Luckily, he didn't hit any of the small children often seen in this area!

If you think your high engine revs and excessive speed impresses the locals, you are quite right as you are proving to everyone that you are a complete and utter inconsiderate idiot! It is because of the few of you being so unthinking and antisocial that we are being forced to get some severe traffic calming measures installed as soon as possible. A case of the majority being penalised for the minority of unthinking idiots. Not all the speeding motorists are youngsters, many are old enough to know better.

Just remember that many of the problems on Langford Village lie in the space between the ears.

John L Broad
Chairman, Community Matters,
Langford Village Community Association.

Dear Resident

Just a short note to let you know what has been happening at our Village Hall over the last few months.

Following the departure of the Cygnets Playgroup, we have had to make a number of changes to ensure the continuity of the provision of the Hall facilities. At the same time, we have taken the opportunity to completely redecorate and refurbish the facilities - both of which are nearly complete.

We are delighted that a number of established users have extended their use and some new enterprises have taken new slots during the weekdays. This has required some careful adjustment of the daily timetables, which all users have been able to accommodate. The revised timetable of users will be posted on the notice board when complete.

From September, all users - both regular users such as Ballet, Martial Arts, Toddlers Group, Dance groups, Guide and Scout groups, Adult groups and other hirers will see the following changes: -

- Revised and updated terms and conditions of hire including terms of payment
- Modest increases in hire charges
- A continuous programme of contract cleaners to ensure the hall is in first class condition for all users
- Redecorated facilities
- Refurbished storage and office facilities
- Changes to security and locks
- Telephone answering service for booking enquiries

We hope the hall continues to be successful in serving the whole community and providing a pleasant environment for parties, entertainment, fund raising and community use. Those volunteers involved are still willing to give up some of their time and expertise to ensure this is the case, at a cost which is affordable, to a high standard, but which allows the facility to remain open.

Steven Williams
Chairman Hall Comm

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Langford Village To Join Speed Watch Campaign

Over recent years, residents have made numerous complaints to the LVCA regarding the speeding of vehicles in our community. Although many of the spine roads have been designed for 20mph, and side roads 15mph, the legal limit remains 30mph.

This is because the police find it difficult to enforce lower speed limits. However planners have designed the road layouts with the intent to reduce speed. Our main concerns are Peregrine Way, Mallards Way and Gavray Drive. Here vehicles regularly speed at 40 to 50 mph. With the school located on Peregrine, it is only time before a child will be seriously injured or killed.

The issue has been raised with local councillors with particular awareness of the inconsistency of limits compared to Bure Park, which is signed as 20mph. A limited response has been received from Councillors who claim changing speed limits is a lengthy political process.

The LVCA have decided to progress the situation by applying to Steve Wood of Oxfordshire County Council (Road Safety & Traffic Engineering Group) to join the **SPEED WATCH CAMPAIGN**. By joining the campaign, we hope to raise awareness in our community and invite residents to come up with ideas on speed reduction. Hopefully over the coming months we will see some kind of data collection of speeds in our community along with SID.

SID is a mobile speed indicator display unit, which informs road users of their current speed with out the threat of a fine or points on your licence. Additionally information leaflets are available along with signage which encourage road users to THINK!!!

If you would like any more information on the campaign or have a story to tell regarding speeding in the community please contact a member of the committee.

Chris Riley

.....

Some of those one-liners...

If Barbie is so popular, why do we have to buy her friends?

Quantum mechanics: The stuff dreams are made of.

The sooner you fall behind, the more time you'll have to catch up.

If you think nobody cares, try missing a couple of payments.

If at first you don't succeed, then skydiving is not for you.

FAMILY BARN DANCE IN LANGFORD VILLAGE HALL

SAT SEPT 20th 7:30PM - 11:30PM

LIVE BAND!!

LICENSED BAR OPEN TO 11:00PM

ADULTS £6:00 CHILDREN £2:00

RAFFLE

TICKETS FROM TONY 07771557086 FROM SEPT 1st ON



YOUNG PEOPLE'S DISCO - AGE RANGE 10-15

LANGFORD VILLAGE HALL

SATURDAY OCTOBER 4th

7:00pm-10pm

REFRESHMENTS FOR SALE

ADMISSION PRICE £1:50

TICKETS FROM TONY 07771557086



FAMILY BINGO

18th OCTOBER

LANGFORD VILLAGE HALL

DOORS OPEN 7:30pm

FIRST GAME 8:00pm

**LIGHT REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE OR BRING YOUR OWN
BOTTLE!**

RAFFLE

FREE ENTRY CHILDREN WELCOME

(UNDER 18'S MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY ADULT)



HALLOWEEN KARAOKE/DISCO

LANGFORD VILLAGE HALL

SAT NOV 1st 7:30PM - 11:30PM

LICENSED BAR OPEN TO 11:00PM

£4 ADULT, £2 CHILD, £10 FAMILY (2+2)

PRIZES FOR BEST FANCY DRESS

RAFFLE

TICKETS FROM TONY 07771557086



More on the Bicester Fields Park:

STANDING STONES

There are a number of stone features dotted around the park. These were erected to celebrate the rich history of this part of the country. Some of the larger stones will probably be in their present positions for hundreds, if not thousands, of years and so will become part of that history.

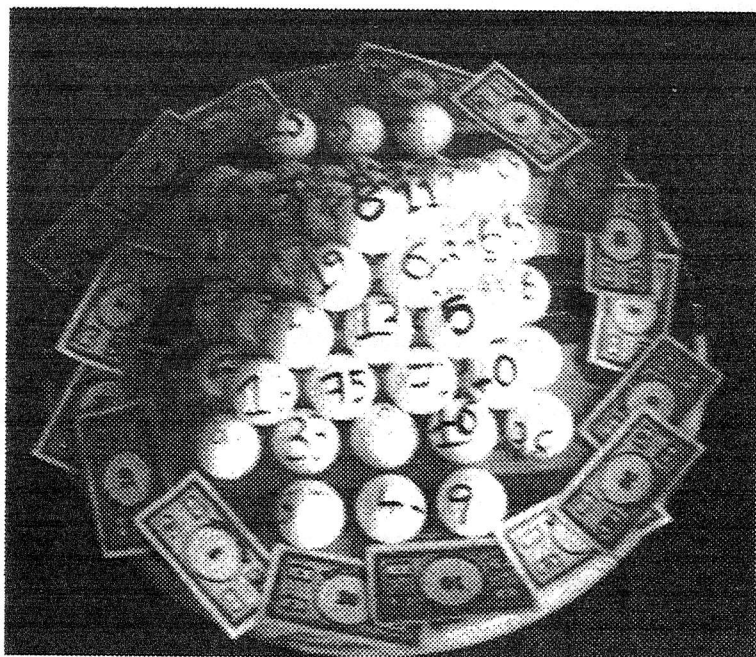
The rather large sundial at the London Road entrance to the park commemorates the total eclipse of August 1999 when the park was under construction. The central stone of the sundial (known as the gnomon) weighs around 13.5 tonnes and had to be lifted into its massive concrete foundation with a mobile crane.

Unfortunately, our local stone was too soft to use in this way and so the stones came from a quarry near Bangor in North Wales. It was chosen to look as similar as possible to our local stone and is a type of very hard limestone known as "Glacial Stone". The other main type of stone around the park is Slate from the same area. It was chosen because it is also very hardwearing and is easy to build with.

The slate circle in the main meadow (our cover picture) produces an unusual acoustic effect when you stand in the centre and speak. Try it. One word of caution, the slate circle should not be entered between midnight and dawn at the Summer solstice. You have been warned!

PATHS

As you are probably aware, many of the footpaths throughout the site are subject to occasional flooding., this is because the majority of the park is situated within the Langford Brook floodplain and, following Environment Agency advice, the paths were constructed at the original ground level. Should the paths have been built above this level, then the reduction in space available for floodwater may have been added to more serious flood problems further downstream. The same principal applies to the parkland road (Mallards Way), which sometimes disappears below the water. The road system was designed so that there would always be a dry route out of the new development via Gavray Drive.



BALLS GALORE.....!!!

The Langford Village 200 Club Lottery is run to raise money for the LVCA and Langford Village School and it costs £1.00 per chance, per month and there is no limit on chances per person.

The Draw takes place at the monthly LVCA meeting in the Community Centre and there are 2 prizes. 50% of funds collected is allocated to prize money with the 1st prize being equal to 75%, the second prize 25% of the total money available for the month. The winners receive their cheques within 48 hours where possible and details are published in both the Langford Life and School Newsletters.

The more people who join, the bigger the prizes!! We are looking to increase the current membership (with people moving away from the area, our numbers are dwindling) so if you'd like to join, here's what to do!

Fill in the tear out slip below with your details and how many 'chances' you'd like and either:-

- (a) send it to Sharon Gray, 3 The Buntings, Bicester, OX26 6WE (tel: 320224) or
- (b) drop it off for her in a sealed envelope into Langford School Office.

Participants pay in advance, usually annually by Standing Order (applications can be terminated at any time by cancelling the standing order) and have to be received into the special LVCA bank account by completion of work on the last day of each month to ensure participation in the following month's draw. Sharon will get in touch with you and send you the necessary form for your Standing Order authority.

It's as simple as that!! so 'Good luck'...

LVCA has been registered by Cherwell District Council for the purposes of Section 5 of the lotteries and Amusements Act 1976

●●●●● LVCA ●●●●● 200●●●●● CLUB●●●●●

Number of chances per month applied for _____	Draw Number(s) (To be allocated)
Name _____	_____
Address _____	_____
Postcode _____ Tel No: _____	_____
I am over 16 years of age	_____
Signature _____	_____
Date _____	_____

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5th Sept at Langford Village
Community Centre.

For more information about the
classes, phone:

Anne on 07876 256056

Entertainment at the Village Hall.

The mid summer ball on June 21st was a terrific success enjoyed by all who attended. Other events in the near future will include:

- **Barn dance on September 20th**

Tickets £6 adults, £2 child

Live band and great fun. Licensed bar and raffle

- **Family bingo on Oct 8th and a Christmas Bingo on Dec 6th.**

Entry is free of charge, we do not have a drinks licence for bingo, so whilst light refreshments will be available for purchase, you are invited to bring your own drinks (alcoholic or non alcoholic)

- **Halloween Karaoke/Disco on November 1st**

Tickets £10 family, £4 adult, £2 child with licensed bar and raffle.

Prizes for best fancy dress.

- **Mega Quiz night November 15th**

Entry £1 per head.

Money prizes, max. of 6 per team. Licensed bar and raffle. This event replaces the horse race night originally planned for this date.

- **Young Peoples Disco for 10-15 year olds - October 4th**

These are becoming very popular with virtually all tickets sold last year, so get your tickets early.

- **Christmas Disco on December 20th**

Start getting in the mood for the festive season, come and have a fun night.

Tickets £10 family, £4 adult, £2 child with licensed bar and raffle.

All profits will go to the LVCA to be used for Hall refurbishment.

Please join in and have some fun whilst supporting the Community Centre.

OXFORD MUSEUM'S OPEN FOR COMMUNITY GROUPS

The Ashmolean Museum, Bate Collection, Botanic Garden, University Museum of Natural History, Museum of the History of Science, and the Pitt Rivers Museum are looking for community groups of all ages that might like to be involved in a free visit, tour, or activity. For further details please contact Rachel Robinson, Museums' Outreach Co-ordinator, Education Department, Ashmolean Museum, Beaumont Street, Oxford. 01865 278048. Or email, rachel.robinson@ashmus.ox.ac.uk

LVCA Events

Details of additional events or changes to the above schedule will be published in future editions of Langford Life and displayed on the Langford Village Hall notice board

MEGA QUIZ NIGHT - NOVEMBER 15th LANGFORD VILLAGE HALL

- DOOR OPENS 7:30pm
- QUIZ STARTS 8:00pm
- LICENSED BAR
- TEAMS UP TO 6 PEOPLE
- MONEY PRIZES!!
- £1.00 PER HEAD ENTRY



(Children under 18 will not be admitted unless accompanied by an adult)



CHRISTMAS FAMILY BINGO 6th DECEMBER LANGFORD VILLAGE HALL



DOORS OPEN 7:30pm

FIRST GAME 8:00pm

LIGHT REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE OR BRING YOUR OWN BOTTLE !
RAFFLE

FREE ENTRY CHILDREN WELCOME
(UNDER 18'S MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY ADULT)



CHRISTMAS FAMILY DISCO LANGFORD VILLAGE HALL SATURDAY DECEMBER 20th 7:30pm-11:30pm CHILDREN WELCOME

(Under 18's must be accompanied by an adult)

LICENSED BAR TO 11:00 pm

RAFFLE

£4 ADULT, £2 CHILD, £10 FAMILY (2+2)

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Light Pollution

No, nothing to do with the weight of the pollution but a very serious problem, which is getting worse as time passes of all the illumination straying upwards and blanking out the night sky. The 'Campaign to Protect Rural England' (CPRE), which the Langford Village Community Association is a member, is running a campaign to try and reduce the amount of stray light being produced and we all can do a small part in helping.

Why Should We Care?

Apart from destroying our view of the night sky, it is wasteful and can create problems for both our neighbours and to wildlife.

Light pollution is wasted energy, electric light shining where it's not wanted or needed is energy being thrown away. The great majority of this electricity is produced by burning fossil fuels, the by-product being air pollutants and the potential to change the climate.

Incorrectly set or designed lights can shine into people's homes, which can affect their quality of life. Animal and plant life can be also be affected as when birds start singing their dawn chorus at the wrong time due to the nearby location of street-lights or deciduous trees close to street-lights can be seen to retain their leaves in winter.

What Can and is Being Done?

The most obvious form of light pollution we see every night comes from street lighting, or at least street lights that were installed some years ago. Modern designs of the lamp head project almost all the light output down onto the road where it is needed with very little stray light going upwards. These lamp heads are called "Full Cut Off" and can be seen on the Bicester Fields Farm estate and all along the new Skimmingdish Lane. As lamps are replaced, they should be changed for this type of lamp head.

Many of the residents of Langford Village, as elsewhere in the country, have fitted security lights in an attempt to both deter unwelcome visitors and to provide a light for those barbecue nights. The problem with these lights is that they are usually far too

powerful for the requirement, are invariably incorrectly set and often have inadequate shields to prevent enormous amounts of stray light. If you have a security lamp attached to your property, go and check the following and adjust it / them to, not only reduce the light pollution, but also be more considerate to your neighbours.

d) What is the power of the bulb?

If it is more than 150 watts, obtain a replacement of 150 watts and discard the more powerful bulb. If you think you need a more powerful bulb, just think of the lights on your car, which are probably two 60/55-watt quartz halogen bulbs and on the 120-watt main beam will illuminate objects about a mile down the road! The 300 and especially 500-watt bulbs are ridiculously powerful and wasteful of energy for domestic or industrial use. CPRE are recommending that all DIY stores withdraw from sale the 300 and 500 watt lamps as they are anti-social and environmentally unfriendly. The Institution of Lighting Engineers recommendation is for a maximum of 150 watts for security lights.

e) Now check where the top of the beam illuminates.

If your lamp is set to illuminate your neighbour's gardens and, possibly the windows of your neighbours, then re-adjust the angle until the top edge of the beam is just below the top of your fence. Many of these lamps are set almost horizontal with only a fraction of the projected light going into the owner's garden and most of the rest illuminating the neighbours' bedrooms, living rooms and the sky! The lamp should be set fairly high on the wall to make it out of reach of any unwanted visitor and to make the light shine downwards rather than horizontally. If you still find that your light is illuminating beyond your property, consider fitting a metal shield to the top edge.

f) Most security lamps are fitted with passive infra red sensors but did you realise that many of these will be triggered by winds? As the wind blows around your property, it produces currents of air at different temperatures, this is detected by the security light sensor, which operates the light. Apart from the waste of energy to the householder, this continuous switching of the light is very

disturbing to the neighbours. You can reduce the sensitivity of the sensor or you may have to temporarily turn the light off until the winds abate.

How Dark is Today's Dark Night?

To give some idea of how bad the problem of light pollution has become, consider that on a dark, clear night you should be able to see over 3000 stars and the Milky Way spread out above you. Today, more than half of the population of Britain will never see this! Less than 1% of the South East of England can be said to be truly dark at night! The Oxfordshire area now has even less than 1% of truly dark areas or, put another way, your children will never see the Milky Way above their homes!

If you wish to join this campaign, write to: "Campaign for Dark Skies", 38 The Vineries, Colehill, Wimborne, Dorset, BH21 2PX. (Website www.dark-skies.org)

John L Broad.

Chairman, Community Matters Committee,
LVCA

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"Knock, knock" "Who's there?" Opening the door to just anyone is no joke... Everyone should know how to avoid becoming a victim of the horrible crime of distraction burglary. Strangers may call at your house and offer to do work on the roof or pathway, ask whether you want to sell antiques, or say they have come to read the meter. They may even use a child who asks to be allowed to retrieve a lost ball from your garden. Or they could just ask you for a glass of water. Some of these callers may be quite legitimate but others could be trying to get your attention whilst their accomplice sneaks in and burgles your house, or they might be checking to see whether you are worth a return visit later.

THE ADVISE FROM THAMES VALLEY POLICE IS BE SAFE - IF IN DOUBT, DON'T LET THEM IN.

Don't trust callers you don't know - men, women or children

Always secure your door chain before answering the door

Ask all callers for identification and close the door while you check it

If you're worried, keep the door closed and call the police

If you have any information about any crime, phone **CRIMESTOPPERS** on 0800 555 111 - calls are free and you are not asked for your name.

NEW SPORTS PAVILION

Yes, a new sports pavilion is being planned for the sports fields on the linear park. The plan was drawn up by Westbury Homes, under a section 106 agreement, in conjunction with Sport England and has the facility for two changing rooms / showers plus referee and first aid rooms. A large storage room and lockers are also incorporated along with toilets for both able bodied and disabled. The building is designed to be 300mm above the 1 in 100-year flood level. No windows are to be fitted but strips of glass blocks are to be installed up by the eaves. All doors are solid with heavy-duty hinges and high security locks. The eaves are designed to extend well clear of the walls to act as shelter for spectators and to prevent vandals climbing onto the roof. The brickwork will be a buff colour and the roof will be made from blue coated steel.

It is not as yet known who will be responsible for the upkeep and management of the facility - watch this space.....

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Here is an update from the Heyford Hoofers

We moved into Langford Village Hall last September and have made ourselves at home. We have just had our first Graduation of new dancers in our new venue and they are now looking forward to meeting lots of other dancers around the country. They were able to join in at the Xmas In July dance which is an annual event held oddly enough in July and thoroughly enjoyed themselves. We are going to start a new class on the second Tuesday in September for non-dancers to join us.

American Square Dancing is a fun form of dancing; the only requirement being that you can tap your toe to the music and can count up to eight. It is a great way to meet and socialise as well as getting some light exercise. So if you fancy doing something a bit different come and see us and you will be made very welcome.

Pat Billinghamurst



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.



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Groceries
Nashes Bread**

Opening Hours

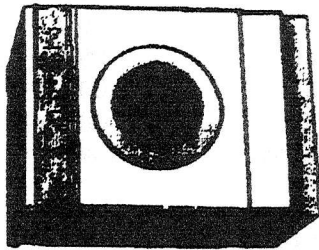
	Shop	Post Office
Mon	6.00 am - 6.00 pm	9.00 am - 1.00 pm, 2.00 pm - 5.30pm
Tue	6.00 am - 6.00 pm	9.00 am - 1.00 pm, 2.00 pm - 5.30pm
Wed	6.00 am - 8.00 pm	9.00 am - 1.00 pm, 2.00 pm - 5.30pm
Thu	6.00 am - 6.00 pm	9.00 am - 1.00 pm, 2.00 pm - 5.30pm
Fri	6.00 am - 8.00 pm	9.00 am - 1.00 pm, 2.00 pm - 5.30pm
Sat	6.00 am - 8.00 pm	9.00 am - 12.30 pm
Sun	6.30 am - 2.30 pm	closed

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HOMEGOODS

APPLIANCES AT DISCOUNT PRICES

SL 125



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