

Fifield with Idbury News

Christmas Carols

A hardy handful set out from the Hall on Saturday, December 13th, to sing carols around the village to the accompaniment of Tom Gay's violin, before returning to the Hall for mince-pies and mulled wine. Seldom has St John the Baptist looked lovelier than it did at the Candlelight Service on the evening of Wednesday 17th December. Congratulations to Lucy Maitland-Smith, the flower organiser and her band of helpers and to all the supporters who organised and took part in the service. The church was packed to overflowing for the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols.

Changes Afoot

Fifield's population is sufficient for a Parish Council; the most obvious benefit would be the ability to reclaim VAT which would benefit the current works on the Parish Hall. There are other advantages and of course additional responsibilities. A Parish Council would require five Councillors—five people willing to stand for election and serve when elected. The question of a Parish Council needs careful consideration and should not be decided in a hurry. There will be an item on the agenda at the Annual Parish Meeting on March 30th, with a speaker from the Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils to help with accurate information.

The Parish meeting has passed a unanimous resolution to ask West Oxfordshire District Council to declare the built settlement of Fifield a Conservation Area and they have confirmed that this is now in their work programme.

Cast in Stone

Excellent progress has been made on the dry stone wall at St John the Baptist, 20 metres completed, against the anticipated five or six metres. Work will resume in the spring; it is planned to have a 'Stone Placing' session for everyone who would like to become part of the history of the Parish.

Tina Palmer's idea of making a Parish Quilt to be raffled in aid of the fabric of the church and the refurbishment of the Hall is attracting strong attention. The next meeting will be held on **Monday February 2nd, 6.30pm** at Merryfield, High Street, to start cut-out. Novices and experienced women (and men) are welcome. Please contact Tina on: 01993 830517 for more details.

On the Buses

Additional buses now come through Fifield taking people to Kingham Station and Chipping Norton. There is also a bus to Milton and then to Witney. (See details on page 37).

Catherine Hitchens

Oxford North Rotary Club

The Rotary members were once again out with the Santa's sleigh prior to Christmas and they wish to thank the public for their generous contributions towards our Charity, which is The British Heart Foundation. During the month of

December £1,783 was collected and a cheque will be presented in the spring, together with other funds collected.

Thank you once again.
Rotarian Peter Asthall