

# Town and parish digest



Listening Learning Leading

## NOVEMBER 2006

### Free parking in December

South Oxfordshire District Council is giving a boost to local businesses by letting shoppers park for free in the run up to Christmas.

Parking will be free from 12 o'clock onwards on Saturday 2, 9, 16 and 23 December in all our pay and display car parks.

We will put posters up in the car parks at the end of November telling customers/users about this, and send some to the town and parish councils for their notice boards.

For more information about free parking, contact John Backley on 01491 823419 or email [john.backley@southoxon.gov.uk](mailto:john.backley@southoxon.gov.uk).

### Christmas rubbish and recycling dates

Our rubbish and recycling collections will be as normal the week beginning 18 December. The only changes to collections over the Christmas period will be on the following dates:

Normal collection day	Revised collection day
Monday 25 December	Saturday 30 December
Tuesday 26 December	Tuesday 2 January
Monday 1 January	Saturday 30 December

The collections may take place at a different time of the day than normal so please make sure your rubbish and recycling is on the kerbside by 7am. Please do not put your rubbish and recycling out on any other day or before 6pm the previous evening.

For more information about rubbish and recycling collections call 01491 823416, email [public.amenities@southoxon.gov.uk](mailto:public.amenities@southoxon.gov.uk) or visit [www.southoxon.gov.uk](http://www.southoxon.gov.uk).

### Compost your Christmas tree for free!

If you buy your Christmas tree at any of the locations listed below, you can return it there for composting on the following dates and times:

	Saturday 6 and 13 January 2007	Sunday 7 and 14 January 2007
Notcutts Garden Centre, Nuneham Courtenay	9am – 12pm	10.30am – 12pm
Waterperry Gardens Ltd, Waterperry	9am – 12pm	9am – 12pm

Wyevale Garden Centre, Harpsden	9am – 12pm	10.30am – 12pm
Route One Garden Centre, Brightwell	9am – 12pm	10am – 12pm
Toad Hall Garden and Machinery Centre, Henley	9am – 12pm	10am – 12pm
Greenshoots, Peppard Common	8am – 12pm	8am – 12pm
The Herb Farm, Sonning Common	10am – 12pm	10am – 12 pm
The Tree Barn, Christmas Common	9am – 12pm	9am – 12pm

Don't forget – you can also compost your Christmas tree in your brown wheeled bin, your home composter or at your nearest waste recycling centre.

For more information about the scheme or for details of your nearest waste recycling centre call 01491 823416, email [public.amenities@southoxon.gov.uk](mailto:public.amenities@southoxon.gov.uk) or visit [www.southoxon.gov.uk](http://www.southoxon.gov.uk).

## Now residents can 'listen' to your website!

Residents can now listen to South Oxfordshire District Council's website.

Visitors to the site can download and install a free program called Browsealoud on to their computer, which reads web pages out loud, highlighting words as it reads them. Other leading websites including BBC and Google offer this service too. Once the program is downloaded, users can set the type of voice, its pitch, speed and volume.

Browsealoud increases website accessibility by helping people with:

- low literacy and reading skills
- English as a second language
- dyslexia
- mild visual impairments.

We are now offering this free service to town and parish councils in the district. There is no work involved for website editors – just let us know if you'd like this service on your website and we'll do the rest.

If you'd like to offer this service on your website, or for more information, please call Vic Buckett-Hipgrave on 01491 823108 or email [webmaster@southoxon.gov.uk](mailto:webmaster@southoxon.gov.uk) by **5 January 2007**.

For more information about Browsealoud and how it works see [www.browsealoud.com](http://www.browsealoud.com).

## Recycling giveaways

South Oxfordshire District Council is holding a series of events across the district to promote recycling.

We will be:

- handing out free Christmas recycling sacks
- handing out green recycling boxes
- giving away goodies including fridge magnets, pencils and reusable bags
- answering questions about reducing waste and recycling
- providing information about Christmas tree recycling.

<b>Date and time</b>	<b>Place</b>
Monday 4 December 9.00am – 4.00pm	Market Place, Wallingford
Tuesday 5 December 9.00am – 4.00pm	Market Place, Thame
Wednesday 6 December 9.00am – 12.30pm	Orchard Centre car park, Didcot
Wednesday 6 December 1.30pm – 4.00pm	Tesco, Didcot
Thursday 7 December 9.00am – 4.00pm	Waitrose car park, Henley
Friday 8 December 9.30am – 12.30pm	Undercroft, Watlington
Friday 8 December 1.30pm – 4.30pm	Co-op, Berinsfield
Wednesday 13 December 9.30am – 12.30pm	Londis, Chalgrove
Wednesday 13 December 1.30pm – 4.30pm	Somerfield, Benson
Thursday 14 December 9.30am – 12.30pm	Somerfield, Woodcote
Thursday 14 December 1.30pm – 4.30pm	Somerfield, Sonning Common
Friday 15 December 9.30am – 12.30pm	Asda, Wheatley
Friday 15 December 1.30pm – 4.30pm	Spa, Chinnor
Wednesday 20 December 9.30 am – 12.30pm	Tesco Express, Cholsey
Wednesday 20 December 1.30pm – 4.30pm	Fourbouys, Goring

Come and see us and pick up your free recycling goodies!

For more information call 01491 823416, email [public.amenities@southoxon.gov.uk](mailto:public.amenities@southoxon.gov.uk) or visit [www.southoxon.gov.uk](http://www.southoxon.gov.uk).

## **Professional arts performances in the district**

South Oxfordshire Community Rural Touring scheme is a partnership between South Oxfordshire District Council and local community groups and brings professional arts performances to the district throughout the winter months.

The following events will take place in January and February 2007:

### **JANUARY 2007**

13 January	Midnight Storyteller	Hagbourne Village Hall
19 January	Caliente! Salsa Party Night	The hall at Russell's Water
20 January	Midnight Storyteller	Goring Heath Parish Hall
27 January	The Dr Teeth Big Band	Great Haseley Village Hall

## FEBRUARY 2007

1 February	The Firebird (Oxfordshire Touring Theatre Company)	Benson Parish Hall
3 February	The Happy Prince (Cornelius & Jones Theatre Company)	Chalgrove Village Hall
10 February	The Oxford Concert Party	Didcot Civic Hall
24 February	The Goats Irish and Folk Band	Baldons Village Hall
24 February	The Happy Prince (Cornelius & Jones Theatre Company)	Hagbourne Village Hall
24 February	The Dr Teeth Big Band	Kingston Blount Village Hall
24 February	Circus Berzercus	Sydenham Old School Room

For more information about the programme, please ring Joyce Scarth on 01491 823417.

### **South Oxfordshire District Council wins energy saving grant**

South Oxfordshire District Council has won a share of £20m of government funding for energy saving projects. We are one of only 22 successful organisations in England and Wales to receive some funding.

We have matched the £50,000 to give us a total of £100,000 to spend over three years. We will use the money to provide interest free loans for energy saving projects in public buildings across the district. All of the projects we fund will be chosen for their ability to deliver quick savings. Over time, the money saved by these improvements will be reinvested into the fund and become available for other projects.

We'd like to use this scheme to provide interest free loans to our town and parish councils and help them improve the energy efficiency of their buildings. Suggestions for projects that may be eligible for this scheme, either in Council properties or other public buildings, are very welcome. The availability of up front finance is often a barrier to energy saving and we hope the new fund will allow us to kick start an energy saving drive across the district.

For more information about the Salix scheme, including how to apply or the type of projects we'll fund, contact Heather Saunders on 01491 823497 or email [heather.saunders@southoxon.gov.uk](mailto:heather.saunders@southoxon.gov.uk)

### **Arts centre, cinema and town square at Didcot**

South Oxfordshire District Council has appointed Leadbitter Construction to build its arts centre in Didcot. Work will start on site in December 2006 and is expected to last around 60 weeks.

The arts centre is part of our ongoing commitment to invest in Didcot's future. The centre will provide a multipurpose theatre for drama, music and dance and will seat up to 290 people. Facilities include dressing rooms, a green room, scenery and technical stores, four multipurpose spaces, an exhibition area and a café/bar.

Work on the town square and shell of the five screen cinema is going well – both should be finished by Christmas 2006. The cinema operator, CineWorld, will start fitting out the interior of the cinema in January 2007. We expect the cinema to open in May 2007.

For more information about any of these projects, contact Chris Tyson on 01491 823125 or email [chris.tyson@southoxon.gov.uk](mailto:chris.tyson@southoxon.gov.uk).

## **Council newsletter – time for a makeover?**

Delivery of South Oxfordshire District Council's newsletter, Outlook, will take place across the district between now and the end of December.

The current contract to produce Outlook comes to an end after this edition and we need to start looking for a new publisher very soon, so now is a good time to think about giving it a makeover. The latest edition includes a survey for residents and town and parish councillors to tell us what's good and bad about the current format and what they'd like to improve. Look out for your copy of Outlook and let us know what **you** think - one lucky resident will win a fantastic hamper worth around £50 for returning their completed survey! (The closing date for the competition is 5 January 2007).

For more information about Outlook or more copies of the survey, contact Val Redford on 01491 823022 or email [val.redford@southoxon.gov.uk](mailto:val.redford@southoxon.gov.uk).

## **'Question Time' on Outburst!**

South Oxfordshire District Council's online magazine, Outburst!, shows Council Leader Ann Ducker answering questions residents have sent in. To watch the interview, log on to [www.southoxon-outburst.co.uk](http://www.southoxon-outburst.co.uk).

The questions featured in the interview, and more, are also available on the Council's website at [www.southoxon.gov.uk/ccm/content/webmaster/ask-the-leader.en](http://www.southoxon.gov.uk/ccm/content/webmaster/ask-the-leader.en).

For more information about Outburst!, call Vic Buckett-Hipgrave on 01491 823108 or email [vic.buckett-hipgrave@southoxon.gov.uk](mailto:vic.buckett-hipgrave@southoxon.gov.uk).

## **New service for bus pass users in Goring and Henley**

Residents in Goring and Henley can now use their free bus pass to travel on the Readibus service. The service is available to people who have difficulty using ordinary public transport and is fully accessible for wheelchair users. Readibus operates a service from Goring to Wallingford on Tuesdays, Henley to Reading on Wednesdays and Goring to Reading on Thursdays.

For more information about the service, contact Readibus on 0118 987 6373.

## **Concessionary fares**

The way South Oxfordshire District Council distributes travel tokens may change from 1 April 2007.

The current system means residents have to collect their tokens from our offices or their town or parish council. But we hope to improve this service by offering to deliver them to customers' doors. We are currently consulting town and parish councils and parish representatives who distribute tokens about our proposal.

For more information contact Veronica Taylor on 01491 823614 or email [veronica.taylor@southoxon.gov.uk](mailto:veronica.taylor@southoxon.gov.uk).

### **Garden waste service – update**

To date, we've taken orders for 9800 brown wheeled bins for our garden waste service, but we still have plenty in stock!

To order yours, visit our website at [www.southoxon.gov.uk](http://www.southoxon.gov.uk), call 01491 823416 or email [public.amenities@southoxon.gov.uk](mailto:public.amenities@southoxon.gov.uk).