

NEWSLINK



The Newsletter of the
Mudford Men's Club
Christmas 2010



More government cuts announced!

Business Secretary **Vince Cable** today announced that the UK can no longer afford heat from the sun. He then proposed a bill to switch off the sun and voted against it himself but it got carried anyway. As from today, the UK will now endure year round, perpetual winter.



The Rec & the Club, lunchtime Thursday 2nd December 2010

Club bids for Royal Wedding – Exclusive!

The Royals have agreed to chip in and pay some of the cost of their April shindig. Once the full cost starts to become apparent, one of two things will happen. Either the taxpayer gets hit for a bit more than we were expecting or things will get scaled down.

So, in the hope that it's the latter, the Club is putting in a bid for the whole package featuring a Pussyfoot style reception banquet to be held in the Lounge. In case the crab/lobster combo works out a bit pricey, we are offering a second option based around a fish and chip supper from Alexanders.

In either eventuality, we will be holding special training classes in bowling and forelock tugging for the Penguins, starting in March. Please note: having "one too many" and goosing anyone of the rank of Lord/Lady or above, will be strongly discouraged and may result in a disciplinary hearing before the Committee.

On hearing about the extra Bank Holiday, the Arch Bishop of Canterbury, it seems, immediately booked himself a long weekend in Amsterdam and is therefore unavailable. So, as part of a package deal we hope to be able to supply our very own vicar, Clive, to officiate with the Parish Church as the suggested venue. They said they wanted "intimate" didn't they?

As a mark of respect, and a gift to the happy couple, the Committee has agreed to waive the normal £20 charge for use of the raised area in the Lounge.

The (former) Men's Bar will serve the press centre for the day which will provide certain local media with the opportunity to teach the tabloids a trick or two about

making up totally untrue garbage and printing it as factual.

We anticipate that most of the formalities will be concluded by early evening when we propose an in-house disco to round off the event in style. Roger is looking into the possibility of acquiring a couple of swans for that night's meat draw.

Laurie can do the photos using the Club camera, probably on the quay or in the cricket pavilion if it's wet. Following the success of the Men Only Fairy Cake Competition a while ago, we will hold an X-Factor style bake-off where prospective members can compete for the honour of making the wedding cake. There may also be the opportunity of supplying some of our winning jams and chutneys to the Duchy of Cornwall brand.

In the event that there is league darts that night, we would ask that foul language be kept to a minimum, to avoid offending the players.

Members wishing to offer bed and breakfast facilities to the guests should contact the Committee with full details.

It could soon be "Mudford Men's club, by Appointment"

And I couldn't finish without a word or two concerning other stuff in the news at the moment. I enjoyed the announcement that we will be working closely with the French military and "sharing aircraft carriers." Now, given that we are rapidly running out of aircraft carriers and if we ever get the new ones, they won't have any aircraft, it seems to me less like "sharing carriers" than "Oy Pierre, can a few of the lads scrounge a lift please?"

Meanwhile, staff at Whitehall have been frantically trying to find a stirring motto for the new joint navy. Something that works in both languages, something that our side could imagine Nelson saying as the fleet prepared for battle.

They opted for "To the water, this is the hour" which in French will be "A l'eau, c'est l'heure." (If you don't get it, try saying it out loud.)

Finally, with tensions rising in the region as North and South Korea exchange artillery fire, there is concern that the situation could easily escalate. Many governments are working furiously behind the scenes to try and defuse the situation. France has surrendered.

Sports and games news



Friday 22nd October saw the Golf Society's annual competition held at Crane Valley. The overall winner was **Jim Brown** – but it seems nobody wanted to take his picture!

Chrissie Roper became not only the first lady to take part in the competition but she beat all the fellas in the longest drive challenge! Well done to her!

Paddy McDonnell (also pictured) was the winner of the "Nearest the pin" competition.

Christmas opening hours

Why not use this convenient aide memoir to give the missus some idea what time you'll fall through the front door each day over the festive season.

Date	Open	Close	Open	Close
24 Dec	11:00	2:30	5:00	12:00
25 Dec	11:30	1:30	-	-
26 Dec	11:00	4:00	-	-
27 Dec	11:00	3:00	6:00	11:00
28 Dec	11:00	3:00	6:00	11:00
31 Dec	11:00	2:30	6:00	1:00
01 Jan	11:00	4:00	-	-
02 Jan	12:00	5:30	7:00	10:30
03 Jan	11:00	3:00	6:00	11:00

What's been happening ...

Norman Grindley has stepped down from his Committee responsibilities after several years service for which we thank him. Both he and Christine have had some health problems recently and we all wish them both all the very best.

Shaun Andrews has been co-opted onto the Committee for the remainder of this session, as the first placed runner-up at the last election.

We have now got our **electric projector screen** installed and working. This means that when we want to put some sport on for the members, it doesn't mean Gordon having to phone round for volunteers to spend half an hour putting up the folding screen.

However, this screen did get us out of a hole for six months and I would like to give a big "Thank You" to **John Oliver** for lending it to us until we got things properly sorted.

Several people need a mention here. Firstly, a massive vote of thanks must go to **Colin Morgan**. The screen came with fixings to allow it to be mounted on a wall or a ceiling, but we have a false ceiling. Colin produced a set of brackets and

extending arms and all manner of other clever bits and pieces to be fixed to a ceiling girder with brackets passing down through the false ceiling to support the screen. He then proceeded to do a fantastic job of installing it. Just take a look.

Thanks to **Laurie Wilkinson** and **Pete Dodd** who were on hand to help and to find a plug when we realised it had a European mains connector (that's probably why we got it so cheap!).

Thanks also to **Kim Nicholls** who put in a couple of new mains sockets so that we wouldn't have miles of electrical extension leads running through the roof.

Thanks to a fantastic team effort, the new screen was installed without costing the Club a penny.

Entertainment news

Here's your packed schedule for December ...

Date	What's on ...
Sat 4th	DLB Discos with a Christmas party for the staff of some of the local nursing homes (and us!) with a midnight bar.
Thu 9th	Ladies Darts Christmas Disco with an 11:30 bar.
Sat 11th	Abba night with Abba's Angels and DJ Langer, midnight bar.
Sun 12th	Paul Hammond (lunchtime).
Thu 16th - Sat 18th	The Grand Christmas Draw with a midnight bar on Saturday.
Fri 17th	Finals Night, with a midnight bar.
Sun 19th	Sloe gin / sloe brandy competition (lunchtime).
Fri 24th	Christmas Eve Disco with Des Law Sounds and a midnight bar.
Sun 26th	The Boxing Day Charity Auction with music from Arfur Word (lunchtime).
Mon 27th	Filmed Race Night.
Fri 31st	New Year's Eve disco with The Coroma Roadshow and 1am bar.

We had an experimental **Wii night** back in October and whilst not a huge turn out, those that were there enjoyed it and asked for another which we'll sort out. However, the surprise star of the evening was "Mr Technophobia" Roger Masterman who remained unbeaten at canoeing and ten pin bowling. Well done Roger, now stop gloating!

I must say a big "Thank you" to **Brian** and **Ellie Giffin** who lent us a Wii console which we used for testing purposes to get the thing working through the projector and to **Rob** and **George Boulton**

who provided the system we used on the night.

Abba night – Sat 11th December

It's been a difficult year in terms of booking acts as for a large part of it, we were expecting to close for the extension building work. Now that it's on hold, we just about had time to get a Christmas treat organised and, as so many people have requested an Abba night, that's what we've done.

11th December is the afternoon of the Children's Christmas party so the Lounge will be closed from 2:30pm. As soon as the party is finished, the band will come in and set up and we'll aim to have the lounge re-open by 7:15pm. **DJ Langer** will be playing sounds from the Abba years (1974-83) with the band doing two sets followed by a disco and midnight bar extension.

Yes, it does cost a few bob but, if you turn up in numbers, we can still make a profit on the evening and what's more, keep our barrelage up which helps us get the best prices from the brewery.

Anyway, it is of course very appropriate to have an Abba night as, like the Club itself, Abba was originally formed by fishermen, as you can tell from the original titles of some of their hits, such as:

"The ray before you came"

"One of huss"

"The winner hakes it all"

"Super Grouper" and

"I have a bream"

I'm sorry. Really, very sorry.

2010/11 charity fundraising.

Times may be tough, and we may not raise as much cash as we have done in the past, but Charity month will run as normal over the Christmas period and we'll raise money for some good causes. This year, the cash will go to:

- Burton junior football teams for some kit which will carry our name
- Prostate Cancer Network Dorset
- Christchurch activities for young people (providing activities during schools holidays for all schoolchildren in the borough)
- Dorset & Somerset Air Ambulance
- Headway Dorset – providing help and support for victims of brain injuries.
- Our usual donation to the RNLI

There will be all the usual events and please don't forget the Boxing Day Auction where you can make a contribution and get a great bargain or two in the

process. Times are tough but if you have some spare change then it will all go to some fine causes.

And talking about the Charity Auction, he probably won't thank me for saying this but I thought you ought to know. **Pete Dodd** had offered to put a second hand car in as a lot. As luck would have it, someone bought the car. Now most of us would have then stuck a fiver in the pot and thought no more about it. Not Pete, he went out and bought a **new flat screen TV with Freeview and DVD player**. This is being raffled - tickets (£1 each) available NOW. The winner will be drawn at the Boxing Day Auction.

Dinner dance 2011

Hoburne Park is undergoing major alterations and will not be open for us to hold our Dinner Dance there next year. When it does re-open, it will be the holiday season and so won't be available.

We have looked at alternatives, the best option being Hoburne Naish which is about 2 miles further to travel (unless you live there of course) and provides similar facilities and prices.

However, in the current climate, the Club cannot provide subsidies on ticket prices as it has in the past. In fact, in previous years, the ticket price covered roughly the cost of the meal with the Club picking up the tab for everything else – wine, entertainers, ticket printing, flowers etc.

It looked like the ticket price this year would have to have been around £38 per person. A tough decision had to be made and the Committee has decided that it is perhaps best if we cancel the event for this year only. The following year, we can review the situation and depending on the finances, a lower ticket price might be possible.

However, by way of compensation, we are planning to hold a **cabaret night** instead, hopefully on the same weekend (first weekend in March). Please check the Noticeboard for details nearer the time.

EGMs

EGM1 – Wed 22 September

That was 100 minutes of my life that I won't get back. Plenty of rude barracking and heckling prevented any useful discussions. Two decisions were taken. Firstly to allow children into the lounge between 4 and 7pm on a Saturday (which means that our footballers all come to the Club after their match and spend a good few bob over the bar). Secondly, to come back in two months and try to hold the meeting again.

EGM2 – Tue 16 November

This time behaviour was more appropriate and we got to hear some facts and figures and most members seemed happy that the Club has performed well in reducing costs and is well placed to weather the ongoing economic downturn.

It was also considered necessary to ask the members to vote on the changes necessary to our rule book in order to comply with the Equality Bill. Of course, we could have voted to operate illegally but presumably nobody in their right mind would want to go down this route. So, the changes were passed by a large majority. In summary:

- Ladies may now become full members, attend meetings, vote and stand for any office within the Club (although, like men, they must be a full member for at least six months before they can stand for election)
- The former "Men's Bar" is now open to ladies
- There will be no Affiliate Members. Current lady members will become Full Members and by law, pay the same as men
- Members can bring one guest into the Club free of charge. Additional guests must pay £1
- Members' partners who chose not to join, may only enter the Club as a guest of a member who is in attendance.

Articles for sale

Well, there aren't any. We did get one but under the agreed rules it would have cost £8 which seems a bit much. So, we amended the rules as follows. £2 gets you up to 30 words in which you can sell as many things as you like and your contact details don't count towards the 30 words. Alas, despite halving the cost of his advert, this was not enough to persuade the prospective seller to bite.

Coming soon ...

Children's Christmas Party – 11th Dec
Over 60s snooker competition – 15th & 16th Dec
Finals Night – Fri 17th December
Christmas Draw – 16th-18th Dec
Sloe Gin / Brandy Comp – Sun 19th Dec
Annual Charity Auction – Sun 26th December.
Panto Trip (for the kids!) – Wed 29th Dec
Balloon Race (weather permitting) – Sun 9th Jan

Your letters and emails

It is surely a good sign that having had two EGMs, a discussion on Club Finances and the introduction of equal rights for ladies, that we have received no

letters on these subjects. Presumably therefore, everyone is entirely happy. As stated last issue, in the current money saving climate, the £10 of drinks only goes to a letter that is Club related, so it's a drink each for the following people (but it is Christmas so we'll chuck out some bevvies to several people this time).

Firstly (and yes, I know I might get accused of nepotism) some seasonal cookery advice courtesy of **Liz Westall**.

The perfect Christmas cake

- 1 cup of water
- 1 tsp baking soda
- 1 cup of sugar
- 1 tsp salt
- 1 cup brown sugar
- Lemon juice
- 4 large eggs
- Nuts
- 2 cups of dried fruit
- 2 bottles wine

Sample the wine to check quality. Take a large bowl, check the wine again. To be sure it is of the highest quality, pour one level cup and drink. Repeat. Turn on the electric mixer. Beat one cup of butter in a large fluffy bowl. Add one teaspoon of sugar. Beat again. At this point it's best to make sure that the wine is still OK. Try another cup... Just in case. Turn off the mixer thingy. Break 2 eggs and add to the bowl and chuck in the cup of dried fruit. Pick the frigging fruit up off the floor. Mix on the tuner. If the dried fruit gets stuck in the beaters just pry it loose with a drawscraper. Sample the wine to check for consistency. Next, sift two cups of salt. Or something. Check the wine. Now sift the lemon juice and strain your nuts. Add one table. Add a spoon of sugar or some fink. Whatever you can find. Grease the oven. Turn the cake tin 360 degrees and try not to fall over. Don't forget to beat off the turner. Finally, throw the bowl through the window. Finish the wine and wipe the computer with the cat.

Go to Tesco and buy cake.

Bingle Jells!

And a drink to **Sharon Morgan** ...

SCHOOL -- 1970 vs. 2010

Scenario:

Johnny and Mark get into a fistfight after school.

1970 - Crowd gathers. Johnny wins. Johnny and

Mark shake hands and end up best mates for life.

2010 - Police called, arrest Johnny and Mark. Charge them with assault, both expelled even though Mark started it. Both children go to anger management programs for 3 months. School board hold meeting to implement bullying prevention programs.

Scenario:

Robbie won't keep still in class, disrupts other students.

1970 - Robbie sent to office and given 6 of the best by the Headmaster. Returns to class, sits still and does not disrupt class again.

2010 - Robbie given huge doses of Ritalin, becomes a zombie, tested for ADD. Robbie's parents get fortnightly disability payments and school gets extra funding from state because Robbie has a disability.

Scenario :

Billy breaks a window in his neighbour's car and his Dad gives him a whipping with his belt.

1970 - Billy is more careful next time, grows up normal, goes to college, and becomes a successful businessman.

2010 - Billy's dad is arrested for child abuse. Billy removed to foster care and joins a gang. Government psychologist tells Billy's sister that she remembers being abused herself and their dad goes to prison.

Scenario :

Mark gets a headache and takes some aspirin to school.

1970 - Mark gets glass of water from teacher to take aspirin with.

2010 - Police called, Mark expelled from school for drug violations. Car searched for drugs and weapons.

Scenario :

Johnny takes apart leftover firecrackers from Guy Fawkes, puts them in a model Airfix paint bottle, blows up an ant's nest.

1970 - Ants die.

2010 - Police, Armed Forces & Anti-terrorism Squad called. Johnny charged with domestic terrorism, MI5 investigate parents, siblings removed from home, computers confiscated.

Johnny's Dad goes on a terror watch list and is never allowed to fly again.

Scenario :

Johnny falls while running during break and scrapes his knee. He is found crying by his teacher, Mary. Mary hugs him to comfort him.

1970 - In a short time, Johnny feels better and goes on playing.

2010 - Mary is accused of being a sexual predator and loses her job. She faces 3 years in Prison. Johnny undergoes 5 years of therapy.

And a drink to **Clive Vassie** ...

Never let it be said that ground crews lack a sense of humor. Here are some actual maintenance complaints submitted by UPS pilots (marked with a P) and the solutions recorded (marked with an S) by maintenance engineers.

P: Left inside main tyre almost needs replacement.
S: Almost replaced left inside main tyre.

P: Test flight OK, except auto-land very rough.
S: Auto-land not installed on this aircraft.

P: Something loose in cockpit.
S: Something tightened in cockpit.

P: Dead bugs on windshield.
S: Live bugs on back-order.

P: Autopilot in altitude-hold mode produces a 200-foot-per-minute descent.
S: Cannot reproduce problem on ground.

P: Evidence of leak on right main landing gear.
S: Evidence removed.

P: DME volume unbelievably loud.
S: DME volume set to more believable level.

P: Friction locks cause throttle levers to stick.
S: That's what friction locks are for.

P: IFF inoperative in OFF mode.
S: IFF is always inoperative in OFF mode.

P: Suspected crack in windshield.
S: Suspect you're right.

P: Number 3 engine missing.
S: Engine found on right wing after brief search.

P: Aircraft handles funny.
S: Aircraft warned to straighten up, fly right and be serious.

P: Target radar hums.
S: Reprogrammed target radar with lyrics.

P: Mouse in cockpit.
S: Cat installed.

P: Noise coming from under instrument panel.
Sounds like a midget pounding on something with a hammer.
S: Took hammer away from the midget.

And finally, a well earned drink for around 100 submissions during the year goes to **Ray Watson**.

IDIOT SIGHTING #1

My daughter and I went through the McDonald's take-out window and I gave the clerk a £5 note. Our total was £4.20, so I also handed her a 20 pence piece. She said, 'You gave me too much money.' I said, 'Yes I know, but this way you can just give me £1 back.'

She sighed and went to get the Manager who asked me to repeat my request. I did so, and he handed me back the 20 pence and said 'We're sorry but we do not do that kind of thing.'

The clerk then proceeded to give me back 80 pence in change. Do not confuse the clerks at MacDonald's.

IDIOT SIGHTING #2

We had to have the garage door repaired. The GARADOR repairman told us that one of our problems was that we did not have a 'large' enough motor on the opener. I thought for a moment, and said that we had the largest one GARADOR made at that time, a 1/2 horsepower.

He shook his head and said, 'Lady, you need a 1/4 horsepower.' I responded that 1/2 was larger than 1/4 and he said, 'NOOO, it's not. Four is larger than two.' We haven't used Garador repair since.

Happened in Moor Park, near Watford.

IDIOT SIGHTING #3

I live in a semi-rural area. We recently had a new neighbour call the Highways Department to request the removal of the 'DEER CROSSING' sign on our road.

The reason: 'Too many deer are being hit by cars on this stretch of road! I don't think this is a good place for them to be crossing anymore.'

Story from Potters Bar, Hertfordshire.

IDIOT SIGHTING #4

My daughter went to a local Kentucky Fried Chicken

and ordered a Taco. She asked the person behind the counter for 'minimal lettuce.'

He said he was sorry, but they only had Iceberg Lettuce.

From South Oxhey, Hertfordshire.

IDIOT SIGHTING #5

I was at the airport, checking in at the gate when an airport employee asked, 'Has anyone put anything in your baggage without your knowledge?' To which I replied, 'If it was without my knowledge, how would I know?' He smiled knowingly and nodded, 'That's why we ask.'

Happened at Luton Airport

IDIOT SIGHTING #6

The traffic light on the corner buzzes when it's on red and safe to cross the road. I was crossing with an intellectually challenged friend of mine. She asked if I knew what the buzzer was for. I explained that it signals blind people when the light is red.

Appalled, she responded, 'What on earth are blind people doing driving?!'

She is a Local County Council employee in Harrow, Middlesex.

IDIOT SIGHTING #7

When my husband and I arrived at our local Ford dealer to pick up our car, we were told the keys had been locked in it. We went to the Service Department and found a mechanic working feverishly to unlock the driver's door. As I watched from the passenger side, I instinctively tried the door handle and discovered that it was unlocked. 'Hey,' I announced to the Fitter/Mechanic, 'its open!' His reply: 'I know. I already did that side.'

This was at the Ford dealership in St Albans, Hertfordshire.

STAY ALERT!

They walk among us...

**A very Merry Christmas
and Happy New Year to all!**

Contact Newslink

Write to **Newslink** via the Club.
E-mail via the Club web site.
Call Rich Leyshon on 07834 186165.