

**WINTER FAVOURITES**

It is that time of year again that those large green winter favourites are ready for picking out there in the vegetable garden. What am I talking about, well, those savoy cabbages, broccoli and curly kale.



In northern counties of England at this time of year, kale and broccoli often take on a depressing appearance, but later as it warms up a little, new shoots will be produced which will be one of the few things left to eat at that time of year.

If we have a prolonged cold spell, bend the large leaves of the broccoli's over to protect the crowns against the bad weather.

Cold weather may also have a devastating effect on plants growing happily in cold frames if we are not observant enough. But however you protect your cold frame from the elements, make sure that ventilation is good.

You can protect your cold frames by using old clothes, bracken, sacks, mats or straw, and whatever else you can get your hands on. Mats and sacks are best because they last, whereas straw and bracken is short-lived.

Cloches covering crops will need regular attention too, as they often get out of alignment and so their protective powers are vastly weakened. Both ends of a row of cloches should be blocked with glass to prevent draughts. Also whether your plants are in cloches, coldframes or in the warmer greenhouse, always remove dead leaves from all the plants so rotting and the spreading of fungus does not occur.

Any apples or pears you may be storing after harvesting last year need checking on a regular basis too. Those showing signs of decay should be destroyed. Others that are showing signs of shrinkage and wrinkles should be put to use immediately. Good, sound fruit will still keep for a while yet, especially if they are well spaced out and not touching each other.

Finally, the rock garden should be weeded and cleaned. Heavy winter rains sometimes wash soil away from the base of your plants, so make up a mixture of equal parts loam, sand and peat and top dress the affected areas until the soil level is adequately reinstated. Work it in amongst the plants but do not leave large volumes on the top of the leaves otherwise you will experience significant die back.

Hope you can still enjoy some gardening during the cold months, until the warm weather arrives and we can all garden again with the warm sun on our necks.

*Happy Gardening*  
**STUART MABBUTT**

**ON THE BUSES** in the early Fifties  
*See cover for pictures.*



No Oxford Tube these! Imagine travelling from Oxford to London on one of these Red and White coaches in 1951, the summer they were photographed at Gloucester Green by Bus Spotter – the Guy Arab was brand new, the Albion dating from the 1930s. South Midland, and parent company Red and White, operated twice daily from Worcester to London (taking nearly six hours) and the hourly Oxford / London service took the best part of three hours. Serving High Wycombe and the A40 alternately with journeys via Henley and Maidenhead and the A4, London Airport was served by a stop on the Great West Road at the 'Three Magpies'

*To check bus services call Thames Travel 01491 837988 or Stagecoach 01865 772250*  
**BUS SPOTTER**

**VILLAGE CAFE**



Join us at 12 noon on Wednesdays during term-time at the Sports and Social Club on the Anson Field for a roast lunch with a choice of desserts, such as Queen of Puddings, Syrup Sponge or Apple Pie and more. This free meal is offered to you by the Churches in Marcham, the cost being covered by voluntary donations. (See cover for picture.)

**MARCHAM SENIOR CITIZENS' CLUB**

Nothing much to write at this time as we have yet to have our first meeting of this New Year. Our first meeting on Jan 25th will be our New Years Party and February 22 meeting will be our AGM. Look forward to seeing all member shortly

*Happy New Year*  
**JOYCE PARRY**

**SUNSHINE CLUB**

Pleased to say our Monday meetings have been going well with members coming along in nice numbers. Our meetings are enjoyed and friendly – we've had a few special raffles and small table tops which all goes towards keeping club funds on an even standing so would like to thank members for their support in bringing things in for sales.

We've had several birthdays over the last few months – a card was given to each and member have kindly been bringing cakes to have with our tea which has been very nice and a treat and enjoyable. Monday 18th Dec we had our last meeting for the year. Finishing with a tombola and two special raffles, it was a nice afternoon. Finishing with each member being given a £5.00 Tesco voucher by the chairlady Kath Norton as a thank you to everyone for their support over the last year (2006).

We restarted on 15th Jan 2007 at club and with our Christmas Party on January 18th at the Windmill.

We were all very sad to hear of Michael Powdrill's death and the suddenness of it. He will be very much missed a the club. He was such a nice person, always ready to help. He was a family man and enjoyed having his daughter and granddaughters living in the village – they will miss him. Our hearts go out to them. A card was sent from the club to the family and a collection was made by members of the club for whichever charity he would have liked. This was handed to the family. He will always be in our thoughts

Would like to end by wishing everyone a very healthy and happy new year for 2007 – wonder what it will hold for us, time will tell.

*Be back in a while with an update.*  
**JOY CROOK**

**APPLETON SUB-POSTMASTER/ MISTRESS**



Appleton has a thriving Post Office. Our Postmistress is retiring – could you take her place? It is fun, interesting and rewarding and comes at a time when we need to take the shop forward. The shop supplements the Post Office pay by offering several hours pay to help with the administration and smooth running of the shop.

If you are interested (full-time or job-share) contact Carol Bateman on 01865 863759 or send your CV to ACSL, 39 Eaton Road, Appleton, Abingdon OX13 5JH.

**Closing date 17 February 2007.**