

May 2024 • No. 532

FREE

CONTACT

Church & Community Newsletter

BLEDLOW RIDGE • BRADENHAM • PIDDINGTON • RADNAGE • WEST WYCOMBE



Legend of West Wycombe
Photo Credit L. Wildey

Contents

Letter from Church	3
From Registers	4
Bledlow Ridge	8-17
Bradenham	18-19
Piddington	22-23
Creating a Tourist Attraction	24-25
Radnage	26-33
West Wycombe	34-42
Church Services	43



Creating a Tourist Attraction Page 24-25

Why not advertise with us?

Advertising cost as little as £20 for 1/8 page per edition. Each edition goes out to 2100 homes

CONTACT TEAM

Treasurer:	Lucy Stupples - 01494730937 lucy@autumncottage.net
Advertising:	contactmagadverts@gmail.com
Design	Susie Chester susie@theyetis.com

CORRESPONDENTS

Bledlow Ridge	Bob Simmons - 01494 481402 ridgenws@gmail.com
Bradenham	Peggy Ewart - 01494 565969 pegwat1066@btinternet.com
Piddington	Paul Thomas - 07939 384970 prt97@hotmail.com
Radnage	Peter Hague - 01494 484003 peterradnagenews@gmail.com
West Wycombe	Susie Chester - 07957512803 westwycombecontact@gmail.com

MINISTRY TEAM - www.achurchnearyou.com

Parish Office - 07927 775442
admin@westwycombebenefice.org.uk

Permission to Officiate:	Revd. Veronica Beaumont 01494 523697 veronica.beaumont@virgin.net
	Revd. Anne Cooper 07721 338030 anne.cooper9@btinternet.com

CHURCH WARDENS

West Wycombe:	Alison Rimmer - 01494 713447
Bledlow Ridge:	Eileen Maunder - 01494 481371 Geoff Ley - 01494 481527
Bradenham:	Peter Baldwin - 01844 275813 Richard Langridge - 07711 053845
Radnage:	Rosy Oliphant - 01494 482356 Jennifer Stringer

Letter from your church

Ascension Day was always one of the highlights of the school year at St John's Church of England School in Aylesbury. Were we mixed infants enthused by the triumphal return of Jesus following his glorious resurrection, the trials of his earthly life, the agonies of his final days and his crucifixion? Were we just excited by theology, wondering whereabouts heaven was and how far in the upward direction it was to be located? no. Ascension Day meant going into the adjacent church (sadly no more) for the service (was it called mass, eucharist or simply holy communion) and then having the rest of the day off.

I don't know that the service was ever explained to us. We were given rather scruffy booklets to follow it from which were not at all helpful. There was certainly nothing so advanced as us being allowed up to the communion rail for a blessing. I don't know that the event made any spiritual impact on anyone else, although for me, who otherwise had never been introduced to a church, the building itself, not ancient but Victorian and red brick, spoke very powerfully of mystery, of something quite different from the ordinary, solid, matter-of-fact world, a feeling which lay dormant for me for several years until I got to university and discovered more about the God who is the source of mystery and inspires this sense of awe. I've always thought that a church building should be a place where we encounter mystery and feel awe and wonder which we then take back into rest of our lives.

But what of Ascension itself? Is this the moment when Jesus says good bye to his friends, and departs for heaven, which as we all know is the place that you can't get to from here with a rather nebulous promise of a Holy Spirit? No it isn't. On the contrary, this is the point at which Jesus demonstrates that, because of what he has done, the worlds of earth and heaven are joined together - just watch as Jesus passes from one to the other. Our prayers and our worship go directly there, and as we remember at Pentecost, the Holy Spirit comes to us to empower us in our lives and our witness for him.

Reverend Ivor Cornish

*** VACANCY ***

Benefice Treasurer

The role of the Benefice Treasurer is to manage and reconcile the Benefice bank account and to provide monthly reporting to the Benefice Council. In detail to receive income from the four parishes and the fees from life events (weddings and funerals), and then to calculate and make the relevant quarterly payments to the parishes and to the Oxford Diocesan Board of Finance (ODBF), to reimburse the clergy expenses and to pay the Benefice administrator. An accounting system has been created using Microsoft Excel and full training and support will be given.

If you feel you could help or would like any further information, please do get in touch.



From the Registers

Funeral

Kenneth Newell
St Mary's, Radnage

Percy Ralph Chadwick
St Mary's, Radnage

Burial of Ashes

Colin and Gillian Smith
St Mary's, Radnage



If you are looking to get in contact for a Baptism or Wedding within the Benefice churches please contact our Benefice administrator by emailing admin@westwycombebenefice.org.uk

In the case of funerals, if the funeral director is unsure of who to contact please pass on the details above.



CACTUS SHOW

West Wycombe Village Hall, HP14 3AB
Saturday 18th May, 10.30am to 3.30pm

Come and see hundreds of fascinating plants from the arid regions of the world exhibited here by expert growers. Free admission, plants for sale, a raffle, and light refreshments available throughout the day.



STREET FOOD NIGHTS

One Friday a month including 31st May from 5pm-9pm

Check the website for more details:
www.westwycombewalledgarden.com

West Wycombe Walled Garden,
 Chorley Road, HP143AJ
www.clarascorner.co



TailorMade Sofas

Bespoke sofas and chairs handmade by us for you



Individual sofas for individual people

Discover a range of traditional, modern, and contemporary designs, all handmade to individual size requirements.

Our frames are handmade by experienced craftspeople, and carry a 10 year guarantee.

We offer a choice of cushion fillings to suit all comfort requirements, and we have an extensive range of quality fabrics from a variety of fabric suppliers including designer fabrics by Cristina Marrone, Designers Guild, Linwood Fabrics, Romo Fabrics, Sanderson Design, Warwick Fabrics, and Wemyss Fabrics.

Alternatively give your existing sofa a new lease of life with our recovery service.

Tel: 01494 462233 www.tailormadesofas.co.uk

Showroom open by appointment at:

Victoria Street, High Wycombe, Bucks, HP11 2LT

Vale Burner Services Ltd



**SERVICE &
BREAKDOWN REPAIR
for
OIL FIRED BOILERS**

Back under original family management.
Providing the service WE would like to receive.



Registered
Business

Tel:
01844 208444

www.valeburnerservices.co.uk



The Foot Clinic

Home Visits

Treatment for nail care, verrucae, corns,
ingrown nails and callus

Tel: 01494 481535 • Mob: 07944 083014

Email: sjwilliams4@btinternet.com

Susan Williams MAFHP MCFHP

ADVERTISE HERE

Advertising cost as little as £20
per edition. Each edition goes
out to 2100 homes

BOOK YOUR SPACE TODAY
contactmagadverts@gmail.com



DR SPRING & SON
NATIONAL REGISTER
CHIMNEY SWEEPS

- BRUSH & VACUUM SWEEP
- FULLY INSURED
- CHIMNEY REPOINTING
- ALL TYPES OF POTS
BIRDCUARDS & COWLS
SUPPLIED & FITTED

RELIABLE & CLEAN
01 494 881 909

AIRS HOUSE

FOR

QUALITY CARPETS

TILES, VINYL & WOOD FLOORING

DOMESTIC & COMMERCIAL

INSURANCE ESTIMATES

E-mail: sales@airshouse.com

PRINCES RISBOROUGH

TEL & FAX

01844 - 342546

Station Parade • Summerleys Road

Princes Risborough • Bucks



Bledlow Ridge

News from St Paul's Church

Easter was celebrated at St Paul's church in what has become our traditional way with daffodils on the cross at the gate announcing to everyone passing by the joyful message of Christ's resurrection. And inside we sang Alleluia and thanked God for all he had done to win for us the promise of forgiveness and his presence with us always, both here and in eternal life with him. The Easter Garden remained around the base of the font throughout the month for all our visitors to see and be reminded of the Easter message.



On 9th May at St Botolph Bradenham at 6.30pm, we go on to celebrate Jesus' ascension back to the Father, promising to send the Holy Spirit to help us to fulfil his call to go out to all people with his message of love. So, 10 days later again at St Botolph's, on Sunday 19th May at 11.00am, we gather for Pentecost and ask that like those first disciples we may be filled with the Holy Spirit to strengthen and support us as we take our part in spreading God's love.

The week before Pentecost is Christian Aid Week. Although we no longer have a house to house collection we send them our collections at this time and any donation that you are able to give. Christian Aid is

one of the charities working in Ukraine and Gaza so the need is obvious.

On Monday 20th May at 7.00pm we will be holding our Annual Church Meetings. All those resident in the village are able to vote for our churchwardens who hold responsibility for all that the church does as well as the fabric. Everyone on the electoral role of the church then has the chance to approve the finances and comment on the past year and discuss the future. They also elect members of the Parochial Church Council. And so please join us and consider how you could contribute to keeping the church alive and making it relevant to the life of the village.

Our service for this month will be on the fourth Sunday that is 26th May at 10.00am. This will be Trinity Sunday. We have moved from our usual 3rd Sunday to avoid all the problems that can happen when we clash with Off Road runners.



Bledlow-cum-Saunderton Parish Council News

www.bledlow-cum-saundertonparishcouncil.org.uk

Please do visit our website where you can read the minutes of previous meetings and the agenda, which is published the week before each meeting. There is information on footpaths, parish maps, how the Parish Council works and a list of local clubs and organisations.

If you have any comments, queries or questions then please contact our clerk, Tracey Martin, on clerk@bcspc.org.uk or on 07843 975097. Please note that the clerk works part-time hours.

The Annual Meeting of the Council will take place at Bledlow Village Hall on Monday 13th May 2024 starting at 7.30pm

The Chairman's Report for 2024 is available on the Parish Council's website

www.bledlow-cum-saundertonparishcouncil.org.uk/2024/04/11/chairmans-report-2024/



CHILTERN
MARQUEES
MARQUEES FOR ALL OCCASIONS

MARTIN COLE
07477146784
ENQUIRIES@CHILTERNMARQUEES.CO.UK
WWW.CHILTERNMARQUEES.CO.UK

Christmas Cottage Nursery

COSY, HOMELY & HAPPY ATMOSPHERE

We provide quality care and educational fun through EYFS.
For children from 3 months until first day of school

Contact us to arrange a visit
Haw Lane, Bledlow Ridge HP14 4JJ
Tel 01494 481714
Email Jenny@christmascottage.me



Will Power

Rennie Grove Peace Hospice Care has announced the return of its annual Make Your Will Month event this May and is encouraging Buckinghamshire residents to think about their affairs, and whether their wishes are clear.

The charity's annual Will-writing event sees local solicitors offer appointments for people to write or update their Will, free of charge. The participating solicitors waive their basic Will-writing fee in return for a donation to Rennie Grove Peace. Participants are asked to make a suggested minimum donation of £175 for a single Will, or £275 for a pair of mirror Wills.

Participating solicitors are located across Buckinghamshire with practices in High Wycombe, Gerrards Cross and Beaconsfield taking part.



www.renniegrovepeace.org/mywm
for full details, including participating solicitors,
and to make your appointment today.



Bledlow Ridge Village Hall

Large modern, clean & well-equipped hall with smaller committee room, stage and parking for 18 cars
IDEAL FOR PARTIES, EXERCISE CLASSES, MEETINGS.

BOOK THE HALL TODAY via email - bookings@brvh.co.uk

Bledlow Ridge Village Hall

The village hall car park has been resurfaced and is now a safe and puddle free area for all the villagers that use the facility.

Thank you to the Parish and County Council that funded this improvement.

The next village breakfast is on 4th May.

All welcome come for a chat, invite your neighbours.

Sample the bacon, sausages, bread, croissants and Danish pastries from

Timpsons the Butcher . £4 per person

Friendship Club

February Meeting: Shelagh welcomed everyone and we then discussed our plans for the lunch in March. We then had a return visit from Clive and Sue who entertained us with their various instruments, playing and singing folk songs for us.

March Meeting: Instead of meeting in the Village Hall in March we had our Annual Lunch at the Chinnor Centre. The food was delicious and we were well looked after.

May Meeting: Wednesday 22nd May at 2pm in the Village Hall.



Sharley Domestics

Repairs to most makes of:
Washer-Dryers-Electric Cookers-Oven-Hobs -
Microwaves

Tel: 01494 485926

Mob: 07858 453224

Email: sharleydomestics@outlook.com

The Window Doctor

CARE & REPAIR FOR ALL YOUR UPVC & ALUMINIUM WINDOW & DOOR PROBLEMS

- Replacement of broken down sealed units
 - misting up inside glass
- Adjust front & back doors that do not shut
- New handles, hinges and door locks
- Replacement of patio door wheels
- New security handles with keys
- New door panels and cat flaps
- New Georgian style or leaded style sealed units
- All insurance work • Burglary damage • Servicing



PLUS INSTALLATIONS OF NEW UPVC WINDOWS & DOORS



Friendly Family Established Business

Cowling & Co.

Call us for a FREE Survey and Quotation,

No call out charge



Tel: 01865 891776

Mob: 07860 435742

www.windowdoctor.co.uk

email: cowlingandcothewindowdoctor@gmail.com



The Ridge Evening WI

Not so much a lecture, more a presentation: Tai Chi with Lee Welch: At our April meeting, Lee, perfectly dressed in his black embroidered Chinese outfit, began with a performance on our stage of a series of Tai Chi movements accompanied by Chinese music. It was so beautiful, unusual and mesmerising that we all held our breath and you could have heard a pin drop.

Lee went on to explain his personal journey from years of working too hard with anxiety and with his head full of conflicting, negative thoughts until he realised that this obsessiveness was like an 'inside job', that he needed to clear his head and bring himself to the present moment. He was helped by reading a book by Eckhart Tolle, 'The Power of Now' and from there to his first Tai Chi class. The impact was immediate as a new mindfulness entered his life.

Originally a form of martial art, tai chi is a centuries old system of slow, controlled movements designed to cultivate a form of power from which spring Ying and Yang – wuji - ultimate nothingness, perspective and balance of mind and body.

We were then told that Tai Chi is better experienced than witnessed, so we began seated while relaxing each of our body parts in turn – feet flat on the ground, palms resting on thighs, head up, chin in, shoulders down, breathing gently in and out through

the nose – and an extraordinary air of calm came over us all. We were then all of us on our feet, mirroring Lee as he led us through a series of Tai Chi movements by the end of which I'm sure we all felt an extra flow of energy, the chi within us. We were certainly excited and even more talkative than usual.

Thank you Lee, but you don't know what you might have started! (taichiglobe.com)

At our May 1st meeting, 7.30pm in the Village Hall, we will be hearing from Helen Foster, Food Supply Manager, of One Can Trust.

If you would like to come and learn more about us, please enquire from theridgeeveningwi@gmail.com or come as a visitor (£3 donation) and you will be assured of a warm and friendly welcome.

Bledlow Ridge Horticultural Society

Our Annual Supper was a very enjoyable and successful event with 72 of us tucking into the homemade fare and being entertained by Kelly, who is comedy magician and one of the few lady members of the Magic Circle. As always, we were indebted to all those members who helped in some way by setting-up the Village Hall, preparing food, clearing the tables, providing the raffle, tidying up afterwards, etc. We certainly couldn't do it without you !

On Sunday 12 May we have our Bring and Buy Plant Sale which will be held at the Village Hall 10.00am to 11.30am. With vegetable plants, shrubs, perennials, house plants and bedding plants grown by members, there are bound to be some tempting bargains. As the name suggests, we would welcome any spare plants that you may have from dividing perennials or sowing seeds, etc., so please bring them along and someone will give them a good home. They'll also be the opportunity to have a cuppa and a piece or two of homemade cake at our pop-up café. Admission is free.

We've then got an all day visit by coach to the gardens at Broughton Grange and the much acclaimed one at Coton Manor in Northants on Tuesday 11 June to look forward to. This outing is open to both members and non-members, and to find out more, you can use the "Contact us" details on our website... www.bledlowridgehortsoc.org.uk.

The website also contains information on our next 8 events, entertaining reports on previous ones, and includes the Schedule and Entry forms for our Annual Show in September. Have a look.



- headaches
- neck pain
- postural problems
- trapped nerves
- muscle strain
- tendonitis
- back pain
- sciatica
- tennis elbow
- frozen shoulder
- sports injury
- knee pain
- tension

Nicholas Coe DO
Registered Osteopath

Bledlow Ridge Osteopaths

bledlowridgeosteopaths.co.uk | info@bledlowridgeosteopaths.co.uk | 01494 481713
Ridgeland, Chinnor Road, Bledlow Ridge, Buckinghamshire, HP14 4AJ

NGS - Open Garden at Red Kites 14 May 2.00pm – 5.00pm

The garden at Red Kites in Haw Lane will again have a late Spring opening for the National Gardens Scheme (NGS). Over 3700 visits have been made during the 15 years that it has been open, with visitors exploring the one-and-a-half acre garden, the stunning views and the delicious

homemade teas. All proceeds go to the NGS for charities such as MacMillan Cancer Support, Marie Curie Cancer Care and Help the Hospices. So what could be better than to come, relax, and help many charities at the same time. Admission £6.



Bledlow Ridge Cricket Club

By the time you read this and if the weather has acquiesced, the senior club will have played pre league season friendlies and an inter-club match, while wearing new kit sponsored by Marcus Angell and SilverDoor. The junior section will have started its match programme too.

Thanks to the incentive of receiving five items of training and playing kit, advance payment of annual subscriptions has been higher than ever before, however the club is always on the lookout for new players so if you have recently moved into the area or just happen to be reading this and would like to join us, please contact me per the details below. Alternatively, just show up on Wednesday evenings at 6pm for practice. We have a full Saturday league programme plus a number of Sunday friendlies: cricket for everyone!

Spectators are welcome (Saturday matches start at 12.30 or 1pm) and locals will know that when the junior section practises on Friday nights we run the bar and BBQ each week. Maintaining club and ground requires good equipment and from time to time this needs replacing. Please support projects

such as the 200 Club whose monthly draws have so far paid out prizes totalling over £3000 to 50 winners while raising vital club funds. This too, is open to everyone in the village and beyond. We will soon be looking at bigger projects like replacing the outdoor nets and improving the car park.

Martin Forsyth (07740 595796, martin.forsyth@sky.com) would still welcome more volunteers for one shift every three weeks, 6-8pm, on the Friday night BBQ team. The Clubhouse Café is getting well established under Martina's direction and is open Thursdays to Saturdays. And when the sun is out, the cricket club is just a great place to be!

For more about the club, please visit www.bledlowridgecricketclub.co.uk



Bledlow Ridge Tennis Club

After having been told earlier in the year that we had received the award for Bucks LTA Club of the Year, we were delighted to be informed that we have been awarded third place in the Central and Eastern Region LTA Club of the Year competition. This is thanks to all the amazing work that our committee and other volunteers have put in over the last few years.

We've now finished the Aylesbury and District winter league doubles matches and the summer league begins, with all matches taking place in the longer summer evenings rather than the weekends.

We'd like to say thank you to Joe Tuckey who has been our mixed doubles captain for the last year. This means we are on the lookout for a new mixed doubles captain! Club members should contact us at the normal place if they are interested in seeing what this is about.

We're now preparing for the Working Party session to spruce up the club in readiness for our Open Day in June. Our volunteers will give the courts a clean and complete various maintenance activities so that everything works smoothly and everybody can enjoy the tennis.

We've restarted our Friday evening social sessions, and these are always popular when the Cricket Club open up the bar for their

Friday junior coaching.

We have been pleased to work with the Cricket Club on plans to move the defibrillator in their pavilion to a cabinet outside so it can be used more easily in the case of an emergency. We were also pleased to participate in the first meeting of Bledlow Ridge Athletic Club (BRAC) for five years, led by Chairman Graham Grose. BRAC is the organisation that brings the Cricket Club and the Tennis Club together, and one of the most important topics we discussed was improvements to the car park which both clubs use.

Finally, by the time you read this, the construction of our new wider gravel path between the car park and the clubhouse should be complete, along with additional paving slabs added in front of the clubhouse.

OILSERV	
Oil Boiler Servicing and Repairs at a reasonable price.	 Contact Ian on: 01844 281256 07745 405453 Email: ianoilserv@aol.com

SWEPT UP CHIMNEY SWEEPS	
<i>Sweep & Inspection Prompt Polite Service</i>	
Phone Anytime 07802 791001 01844 351847	
NACS TRAINED	

Country Notes

Red kites bathed in shallow pools in the fields along Radnage bottom, a sight I've rarely seen. Ungainly on land they used their wings to balance and avoid toppling beak first into the water. Most birds bathe and preen to keep their feathers in tip-top condition so birdbaths in your garden will provide daily entertainment. Goldfinches take dips in the pond all together, safety in numbers, bluetits drench themselves until they look like sodden little rag balls, and the wren is tiny enough to splash about in a roof gutter. Spring brought chiffchaffs and cherry blossom to gladden our hearts, swallows chatter and swoop overhead. By the time our May Contact arrives, swifts will be slicing through the sky their shrill calls heralding the coming summer.

Bledlow Ridge School

The display by Year 2 celebrating 150 years of Bledlow Ridge school was a smashing success and thanks to everyone who came along, the display will be shown again at the Summer fete later in the term and the local community as always is very welcome. The Book Fair was also very popular and the children embraced the opportunity to discover the new books.

The summer term brings the excitement of Sports Day for the children to all take part in, the after-school clubs continue with lots of fun things for the children to take part in. Forest School has also started and will be very busy for the summer term and the children are hugely enjoying this opportunity.



On Tap

Plumbing & Maintenance

For all your plumbing requirements
from a local and reliable plumber

Bathroom re-fit • Installation of cylinders
Installation of water tanks • Showers/Shower Pumps
Radiators Valves • Washing Machine Valves
Stopcocks • Power flushing of central heating

01494 883148

07877 071231

AUTUMN
COTTAGE
LIMITED

Friendly Local Accountant

- Accounting for Limited Companies
- Final Accounts for Sole Traders
- VAT and Tax Returns
- Payroll Services
- Proactive Accounts Analysis

Lucy Stupples MAAT FICB PM Dip

01494 730937

lucy@autumncottage.net
www.autumncottage.net

aat AAT Licensed
Accountant

Lucy Stupples is licensed and regulated by AAT under license
number 1004968

PREMIUM

Plumbing and Heating

**Specialists in Plumbing,
Heating & Bathroom Installations**

Tel: 01494 256175

Or: 01844 346946

Michael: 07737 007809

Glynn: 07834 734491

info@premiumplumbingandheating.co.uk

www.premiumplumbingandheating.co.uk



MOORE PLASTERING



- Interior & Exterior
- Conversions & Refurbishments
- Rendering & Pebbledashing
- Floor Screeding
- Artex Ceilings Covered
- Tacking & Coving



Over 25 years experience • Competitive Prices
Insurance Work Undertaken • Work in progress may be viewed

*All work carries a two year guarantee backed by the British Gypsum certified plasterer scheme
The only plasterers in south Bucks to offer this free benefit*

01494 565344 07831 244199

23 Bradenham Road, High Wycombe, Bucks.



Bradenham

News from St Botolph's Church

Plastering work in the church is now complete. This has been done with great professionalism by the contractors and we have been very grateful to them for the work, and for the consideration they have given to the needs of the church during the time the scaffolding was in place.

The building looked very attractive in time for the Easter services; the 'Stations of the Cross' was well attended and Easter Sunday also had a good sized congregation despite the fact that all churches in the Benefice had

the need for some more building work but we are doing our best to address the smaller problems such as the metal work on the doors. We are very grateful to Pete Baldwin for ensuring this is in good order.

The plant stall is proving popular again; do have a look at the plants on offer.

Two concerts are planned for the summer months. Details will be included in the next issue of Contact.

The graveyard is one of the best kept in the diocese and we are very proud of it. Pete and Jeanne Baldwin spend hours keeping the grounds in good order. If they are working on it when you visit, please express your thanks.

Bot's Books continues to meet, read and eat regularly. The next meeting is on April 16th.



services on the same day. On Palm Sunday there was a procession round the outside of the church led by two donkeys on loan from Radnage.

The Church Recorders have completed their work in the church and have been in the process of processing and recording the details in book form. This will be an extremely useful record of all aspects of the interior, including the vestments, the windows, the silver and the furniture.

The quinquennial review is due to be undertaken shortly: there is bound to be

MARSHALL LANDSCAPES GROUNDWORK & BUILDING CONTRACTORS

• LANDSCAPING • GROUNDWORK • BUILDING

LANDSCAPING

PATIOS • DRIVEWAYS • FENCING • DECKING • TREE WORK • GARDEN CLEARANCE

MAINTENANCE

TREE, LAWN, HEDGE CUTTING/PRUNING, ONE-OFF OR ON A REGULAR BASIS

GROUNDWORK

DRAINAGE, FOUNDATIONS, SHED & GARAGE BASES

BUILDING

EXTENSIONS & CONSERVATORIES • GENERAL BUILDING • CONSTRUCTION

PLASTERING • PAINTING • ROOF AND GUTTER REPAIRS

ALL WORK INSURED, GUARANTEED WITH REFERENCES AVAILABLE



TEL: 01494 482787 | MOB: 07786 915 910
tomm1982@icloud.com

Nu - Look

Renovators Ltd



Established
1972

- General Building, Alterations Renovation
- Conservatories, Swimming Pools
- Underpinning, Property Management
- Landscaping, Driveways
- Decorating & Interior Design
- Planning & Design Build

MONKS MILL
PERRY LANE
BLEDLOW
BUCKS
HP27 9QR

Highly Commended for Building Works in the Chiltern Building Design Awards 2012

Tel: 01844 344266

E-mail: sales@nu-look-group.co.uk

Website: www.nu-look-group.co.uk



Notes from Bradenham Parish Council

The Council met on March 11th. All councillors were present, and Cllr Etholen was also in attendance. The attendance of councillors from the Bucks C.C. provides a useful communication channel between the Parish and the unitary authority. We do not have an RAF representative at present and an RAF presence is missed. It is recognised that the RAF has other priorities at the present time but this liaison was valuable to us.

There have not been any further developments with regard to the future of the Manor. The Parish Council has noted the amount of use the dog bin by the pond is getting and has decided to order another one so that little plastic bags are not left underneath. This is unsightly and unsavoury. If the bins are full, please take the bags home. The parish council has to fund the weekly collections and cannot afford any additional costs.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Monday 20th May. The Annual Parish

meeting and the annual Parish Council meeting will be held immediately prior to this. All residents are welcome at these meetings (Which are quite short) but they do provide an opportunity for residents to seek clarification. Questions are welcomed. Please join us at the Cricket Club if you are able.

It is hoped the uneven surface of the track will be remedied now the weather is less inclement. The National Trust has this in hand.

20 Years Experience

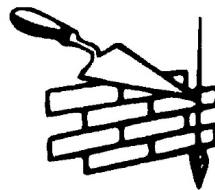
S. K Rouse Brickwork

Extensions, Flintwork, Patios, Fireplaces, Walls, Block Paving

Free Estimates • Friendly Service

92 Chorley Road, West Wycombe Village
High Wycombe, Bucks HP14 3AR

Tel: 01494 448201 • Mobile: 07798 846793 • email: steve@skrouse.co.uk



A HILLS ELECTRICAL

Domestic Electrician

Free Quotes

No Call Out Charge

No Job Too Small

All Domestic Work Undertaken

Part P registered

Call Andy 07864 128150

hillsandy010@gmail.com



Ever thought about
joining your local,
friendly choir?



Find new skills, new
friends, new experiences

Call for more info 07795 680253

westwycombechamberchoir.org.uk



ROWLANDSCAPES

CREATIVE LANDSCAPE GARDENING

- Patios & paths • Brickwork • Planting & hedging
- Fencing • Driveways • Wildflower meadows
- Lawns • Garden maintenance • Tree surgery
- Woodland management • Agricultural fencing

Telephone: 01844 351919 **Mobile:** 07718 257104

Email: rowlandscapes@googlemail.com **Website:** www.rowlandscapes.com



ADVERTISE HERE

Advertising cost as little as £20
per edition. Each edition goes
out to 2100 homes

BOOK YOUR SPACE TODAY

contactmagadverts@gmail.com

THE LOCAL EXPERTS

for all your
electrical, plumbing,
carpentry, flooring,
tiling, decorating,
household repairs
&
property maintenance

a team of local, mature
and experienced craftsmen
providing a friendly and reliable
service at sensible prices

John James & Partners

01844 351165

07710 232349



Allen Landscaping



All aspects of garden landscaping

- Driveways
- Patios
- Brickwork
- Fencing
- Decking
- Design
- Turfing
- Hedge Cutting
- Mowing

*"Fully insured with over
40 years experience!"*

Visit our website or call Richard for a free quote on:



01844 353 685



07973 831692



info@allenlandscaping.co.uk



www.allenlandscaping.co.uk



Piddington

Piddington Village Hall

By the time you are reading this edition of Contact Magazine, the Quiz Night organised by the Horticultural Society on the 19th April will be done and dusted, and we hope that it had the traditional mix of enjoyment and competition that is the hallmark of such events.

Aside from events, thanks must go to the committee members who joined the Sunday afternoon “clear-out” session in the Hall last month; it is remarkable just how much “stuff” can be accumulated over the years, and I suspect that we have enough surplus items to keep Badgers Auctions busy for a while. Thanks also to Noel Billington for his continuing efforts to keep the exterior around the hall looking so tidy. The full installation of FreeSat has been completed in the main hall and along with the wireless capability of the wide-screen TV, we can now offer a wide range of programme options for those users who wish to take advantage of it. We are hoping that the upcoming “Eurovision Night” will allow us to put the new system through

its paces and it has been agreed that, as we do for the annual carol concert, this will be run as a free “community event”, to encourage as many members of our local area to join in the traditional evening of music and madness that is the essence of Eurovision.

We have mapped out the proposed programme of activities for the remainder of the year and whilst the precise dates and timings for some of the later events have yet to be confirmed, the current schedule is set out below. These are, of course, over and above the routine group activities and private functions that take place in the hall, which can be seen on our website.

Piddington And Wheeler End Parish Council

Best Kept Village Competition 2024

The Piddington and Wheeler End Parish has entered in the Bucks Best Kept Village Competition. We will be judged on ‘Best Kept’ and not ‘Beautiful’ and need everyone to help to win the Gurney Cup for the community. This can be as simple as picking up three bits of litter every time you go for a walk, keeping hedges trimmed or even planting a hanging basket outside your house. We have plenty to be proud about – the allotments, daffodils, cherry trees, oak tree and wild flower areas

on Piddington Green; the laid hedge beside the playground; wild flowers on Chipps Hill; shrubs and the War Memorial on Wheeler End Common.

Judging takes place between 1st June and 14th July. Let’s see if we can beat the ‘Highly Commended’ which was our best ever finish.

Please contact our Parish Clerk, Hayley Glasgow, clerk@piddingtonandwheelerend.org.uk if you have any questions or comments.

BRIAN R KINCH

Painter & Decorator



**OLD DASHWOOD HILL
STUDLEY GREEN**

**brkinch@gmail.com
07801 810874**

Piddington Horticultural Society News

DIARY DATES:

The Horticultural Society Annual General Meeting will be held in the Village Hall on Friday 10th May at 7.30pm. Everybody welcome, especially anyone able to give a small amount of time 3 or 4 times a year to help get the hall ready for fundraising/social events.

Forthcoming Functions:

Eurovision Night: Saturday 11th May

Join us for this free event when we will decorate the hall as befits a Eurovision evening, complimented with a sweepstake and raffle. Bring your own drinks and nibbles and dress as "Eurovision" as you wish. The doors will open at 7.30 pm, coverage is due to start at 8 pm and the winners are scheduled to be announced by midnight.

Prize Bingo: 25th May

Starts at 7 pm, "Eyes down" at 7.30 pm.

D-Day Celebrations: Friday 7th June

Timings to be confirmed.

Village Show: Saturday 31st August

The traditional annual village event, organised by Horticultural Society. Timings to be confirmed.

Race Night: 8th September

Organised with help from members of the team at Badgers Auctions. Timings to be confirmed.

Functions in the Planning Stages for Later in the Year

Painting Party: October, date tbc

Wreath Making: November, date tbc.

2/3 November: Possible joint Halloween/Bonfire night event.

Proposals for December:

Provisionally 1st December
Christmas family event.

Provisionally 8th or 15th December
Annual Carol Concert

Tales of days gone by

Creating a Tourist Attraction

Many people know the infamous history of the Hellfire Caves, but how did these Caves become a well-known tourist destination.

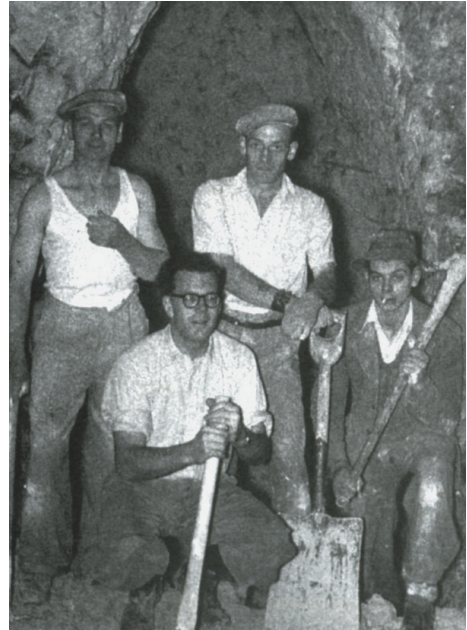
The Caves were first excavated in the mid 18th. Century. They were then more or less closed off for almost two hundred years. It wasn't until the 1950s that Sir Francis Dashwood, a descendant of the original Sir Francis Dashwood who had originally conceived the idea for the Caves, decided to try and open them as a tourist attraction after a visit to the Carlsbad Caverns in New Mexico.

There were large boulders throughout the Caves and the floor was wet and slippery. The first survey revealed that £5,000 would be needed to shore up the dangerous areas. That would be the equivalent of approximately a quarter of a million pounds today. With just £50 in the bank himself, Sir Francis asked his father for help. He refused "damned silly idea," but he did agree to lease him the Caves for £1 a year.

In 1951, Sir Francis and his friends then began the work of clearing the passages of the giant boulders. That season the Caves first opened and were immensely popular with visitors. They used candles to provide light to find their way down.

The following winter a local blacksmith, Mr. Stallwood, erected steel scaffolding around one side of the Banqueting Hall. When returning to work one day he found the scaffolding half buried due to the collapse of part of the ceiling.

The whole experience left Sir Francis unable to sleep for weeks. After agonising



he decided to try again. After all, making the Caves a success would help bring tourism to the Golden Ball Church and West Wycombe House.

Sir Francis brought a large surplus of Anderson Steel Shelters previously used as air raid shelters during the Second World war. Due to the dangers of the falling chalk, Sir Francis largely did the work himself to create a suitable passage.

The following season attracted the same number of visitors, but there was less to see as a large part of the Caves was closed off for safety reasons. Sir Francis decided

The image displays two coins. The top coin is a profile of George IV, facing left, with the inscription 'GEORGE IV' and '1801'. The bottom coin is the reverse of a 1801 British 1p coin, featuring the Royal Arms and the inscription 'BY APPOINTMENT TO HIS MAJESTY THE KING SOLE MONETARY' and '1801'.

One of the first visitors to the Hall in 1974 was William Brooks. He discovered in a lump of chalk coins dating back to 1720. Since 1951, the Caves have had several million visitors from all around the world. A new café was installed in the 1990's.

Recent investment has led to further development with modern LED lighting, wi-fi and CCTV throughout. The Inner Temple has also been reinforced.

The Hellfire Caves have been featured in many television shows and films; these include Silent Witness, Midsomer Murders, Great Expectations, Cruella, Count Dracula and many more. They have also hosted various parties and other events. None of this would have been possible without the energy, vision and determination of Sir Francis Dashwood. It is his voice that can still be heard on the commentary when you visit the Caves.

Do you have a story to share?
Email it to susie@theyetis.com

Commemorate the 80th Anniversary of D-Day and the Battle of Normandy

Saturday 8th June 2024

D-DAY 80 YEARS

From 12 noon - 7pm

Radnage Village Hall

ALL DAY BAR + FOOD + MUSIC

DAWS HILL COCKTAILS

1940's dress up welcome !

Scouts BBQ 12-2 WI Tea & Cakes 2.30-4 - Fish & Chips 4-7
Live Bands - Bouncy Castles – Face Painting – Tug of War – Silent Disco
Fete Stalls – Follyfoot Ponies – Tombola – Radnage Raiders Football

**A community event brought to you by
Radnage Parish Council & Radnage Village Community.**

Like to run a stall or help on the day or organising?
Please email parish.clerk@radnage.net



Radnage

News From St Mary's Church

The Easter services were well attended this year throughout the Benefice.

Thanks must go to Jill Webb from Radnage who provided the trailer for Mad-am and Tootles to make the journey to Bradenham on Palm Sunday. Thanks also to the amazing Toni Pugh-Thomas who provided said donkeys and car-rots really should go to encourage Tootles to get into the trailer on the return journey and who took 3 hours to walk home.

At St. Mary the Virgin the Easter Day service was very well attended. An Easter Egg hunt afterwards was enjoyed by the children. Thank you to the Easter Bunny. For those of you who didn't enjoy the hymns they will be re-viewed for next year! For those of you with a Methodist background I know you enjoyed them greatly. Can't please everyone all of the time, but we do try. The offertory raised £250 for One Can that day – brilliant.

Thank you to the Flower Ladies who decorated the church so beautifully and thank you for your kind appreciation of the need to keep Good Friday free. We really do value your gifts, talents and sensitivity. The arrangements were stunning this year.

Our APCM will take place on May 5th at 11.15am – All are welcome to attend. Those of you on the Electoral Roll will be eligible to vote so please do join if you haven't already. Contact Caroline Strange on church.secretary@radnage.net

We are looking for contributions to our tombola stall which we will be manning for the D-Day celebrations on June 8th. Please, if you have any bottles they will be gratefully received at or after a 1st Sunday service or contact Caroline Strange on the above detail so we can arrange pick up. Many

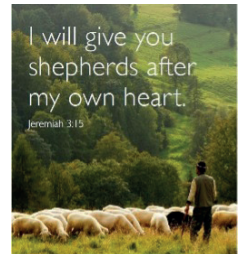
thanks in advance. And bottles can be any shape or size it doesn't have to be the hard stuff. But it would be nice, we can absolve everyone later. Some-times good to have the zero drinks too for those who are going alcohol free.

We have a date for Rev. Penny Nash's welcoming service sometimes called a licensing/induction. This is provisionally on Monday July 15th at 7.30pm. We will let you know any further details nearer the time. Whilst we await Penny and the family's arrival please continue to pray for her as she prepares to come among us.

Lord God, you are our eternal shepherd and guide. In your mercy grant to our Benefice a shepherd who will walk in your ways, and whose watchful care will bring us your blessing. We ask this in the name of Christ our Lord.

May the one chosen to lead and inspire us in the years to come, be an ardent and gentle shepherd to us all.

Grant this in the name of Christ our Lord. Amen.



At our April meeting, Francis Carshaw, The Pearl Lady, gave an entertaining and informative talk, sharing her love and knowledge of pearls and art deco jewellery. She talked about her life in France, and exciting discoveries of art deco jewellery there. We admired her wonderful pearls and her own collection of Art Deco jewellery, most of which was for sale. She also has her own website and Facebook page if any members missed the meeting and would like to see her collections.

May – This will be our Resolution Meeting. The resolution selection results are in - this year there were over 95,000 individual selections cast by WI members and the most popular resolution, was Dental Health Matters. There is a chronic shortage of NHS Dentists and people are suffering health issues as a result. The NFWI calls on the Government to increase investment in the training and retention of dentists and to review the current inadequate NHS contracts to ensure everyone can access an NHS dentist wherever they live. The NFWI Board of Trustees has agreed to put this resolution forward to the Annual Meeting in May. At our May meeting we will learn more about the issue and discuss the resolution before deciding how our delegate should vote at the Annual Meeting. For light relief, we shall have a quiz afterwards!

June – Ann Brown will be talking about learning to fly (later in life!) Ann lives in Radnage.

Other events planned are the July summer social meeting, at a venue yet to be announced, a visit in August to Chiltern Sky Flowers, and in September a talk by TuTu Chocolate of Watlington, which sounds

delicious!

Proposed Outings Thank you also to Susan Hill for researching and offering us lots of Radnage WI summer outing options. At the meeting there were clipboards for the below outings. If you did not sign up/ needed to check the dates/were not at the meeting or would like further details, please email Susan direct ASAP at su-sanehill22@btinternet.com.

Everyman Theatre Visit to Marlow. Various dates and showings.

PYO Flowers By the Bucket – Howe Farm, Ashendon Road, HPI8 0NY. 11.30 am Friday 26th July

Hamlet by The Lord Chamberlain's Men; various dates and venues.

Giffords Circus, Stonor Park near Henley. 11th June–2nd July. Weekday evening £30 weekend evenings £40 starts 19:30.

Other News:

We have a regular walking group, led by Mavis Towell. 2 Walks a month, one short, one longer, finishing with lunch. Walks start at 10.30 am and should finish around 2.30pm. There is a £2 charge for non-members and everyone is very welcome. If you are interested in joining, please contact Mavis by email, mavis.towell668@btinternet.com. Please check beforehand in case of unforeseen circumstances.

Our informal Supper Club is thriving; we aim to have them every 2 months. This is very popular, and a relaxing evening. If you would like to come, or host, please contact us on radnage.wi@outlook.com.

We have a Bring and Buy table at meetings which is always popular. Do have a sort out and bring along anything that you no longer have a use for; books, kitchenware, sewing/ knitting odds and ends, or general bric-a-brac, it may be just what someone else is looking for, and all takings go to boost our funds.

We are always happy to welcome new members, so if you are new to the vil-lage, we would love to meet you.

You Are Very Welcome To Join Us!

We are a thriving and active group, and our numbers are growing. We enjoy socialising, and there is always a cup of tea (sometimes wine!) and delicious cakes. We have interesting speakers, and there is always a lively discussion after the meeting. Come along to one of our meetings to see what we are like before you join! There is a nominal charge of £5.00 for non-members. Our meetings take place on the first Wednesday of the month, we meet in Radnage Village Hall. Please aim to arrive at 7.15 for a 7.30 start.

RADNAGE VILLAGE HALL

A great modern venue, in a quiet rural setting, suitable for Weddings, Family parties, Classes, Corporate Events and Meetings. Plenty of space for a marquee to cover the patio to extend the hall area or for a larger one on the playing field for a big event. Free WiFi for all visitors.



*Main Hall area : 50' x 30' (15.2m x 9.1m).
Full Catering Kitchen. Modular stage. Large car park.
Patio area with picnic tables.
Open onto village playing field and children's playground.*

CALL 01494 485705 or E Mail: radnagevillagehall@gmail.com

80th Anniversary of D Day - BEACON LIGHTING

To mark the 80th anniversary of D-Day, we will be lighting a beacon at 9.15pm on 6th June 2024. Please join us at Radnage Village Hall Recreation Ground to commemorate one of the most momentous achievements in living memory.

DDAY 80 Years

Commemorate the 80th Anniversary of D-Day and the Battle of Normandy

**Saturday 8th June 2024
12 noon -7pm
at Radnage Village Hall**

1940's dress up welcome !

**ALL DAY BAR + FOOD + MUSIC +
DAWS HILL COCKTAILS**

**Scouts BBQ 12-2 WI Tea & Cakes 2.30-4
Fish & Chips + Pizzas 4-7**

**Live Bands - Bouncy Castles – Face
Painting – Tug of War – Silent Disco**

**Fete Stalls – Follyfoot Ponies – Tombola –
Radnage Raiders Football**

A community event bought to you by
Radnage Parish Council & Radnage Village
Community.

If you would like to run a stall/organise or
help on the day, please email

parish.clerk@radnage.net

WE ARE LOOKING FOR NEW COUNCILLORS TO JOIN US!

Please do consider joining us to help make a difference to the community and the wonderful place in which we live. If you are interested in applying or finding out more, please contact the Clerk (parish.clerk@radnage.net) with a few details about yourself and your reasons for wanting to become a Parish Councillor. We very much look forward to hearing from you.

Next Meeting of the Parish Council -

Our next meeting, the Annual Meeting of The Parish Council will be held at 7.30pm followed by The Ordinary meeting of The Parish Council at 8pm on Wednesday, May 8th 2024. The Annual Meeting of The Parish will take place on the 15th May.

Meetings are held in the Village Hall.

You can contact the Council at parish.clerk@radnage.net

and information can be found via the website at www.radnage.net

Your Parish Council:
Chair: Cllr Mr Darren Ungless
Cllr Mr Aidan Hancock
Cllr Mr Keith Mathews
Cllr Mr Cris Everett
Clerk: Ms Lisa Stibbs



The Royal British Legion

Opening Times

Fri. 6:00 to 11:00pm

Sat. 8:00 to 11:00pm

Sun. 12.30 to 5.30pm

Forthcoming Events at the RBL:-

May 4th Quiz Night at 8.00pm

May 25th Curry Night at 8.00pm

June 7th Music Night with singer D-Day Dawn – BBQ from 6.30pm

June 9th D-Day Anniversary Service at Midday

June 16th UEFA 2024 Euro's – First England Match at 8.00pm

June 22nd Vintage Day and BBQ from Midday onwards

When Gaming Helped Win WWII

I know I have featured more than one article on the inventions and exploits that came about as a result of WWII and here's yet another one that I couldn't resist. Great inventions like the bouncing bomb, radar and the ingenious codebreaking work done at Bletchley Park are well documented, but what occurred at Derby House in Liverpool is not so well known.

Derby House was the eventual home of WATU (Western Approaches Tactical Unit). As most naval men were at sea the unit was staffed mainly by recruits from the Women's Royal Naval Service (WRNS) whose ages ranged from a tender 17 to 21. Although initially based in Plymouth the unit was moved to Derby House in Liverpool in 1941. This naval unit was led by Captain Gilbert Roberts and the WRNS had the task of monitoring vital shipping crossing the Atlantic and dealing with the German submarines (U boats) that were causing such devastation to us.

During the second world war Britain was reliant on ships crossing the Atlantic

bringing us food, fuel and munitions. The Germans were well aware of this and



ordered their submarines to sink merchant shipping on sight. In the first four months of this action so many allied ships were sunk that it was deemed only a matter of time before Britain was starved into submission.

It also became apparent that the U-boats were so successful because they were hunting together in what became known as 'wolf packs'. A solution was imperative! The huge map room in Derby House plotted the position of convoys in real time, operating like a human GPS system. Unearthed in the 1980's this room is about 80% original.

The newly formed WATU was tasked to formulate defensive convoy tactics. If these tactics worked successfully in wargaming which the girls practised it was believed that they should also work well for real. Some of the WRNS who showed a greater skill in maths and geography etc. were sent into the 'attic' (the largest room in the HQ) to plot anti-submarine tactics using the brown lino and gridlines on the floor as the sea for their wargames. They also talked to visiting naval officers about the latest U-boat manoeuvres which helped them develop these tactics. Using all this information it was now time to prove their theories viable. Although Captain Gilbert Roberts was a great advocate of the benefits of wargaming the director of WATU, Commander-in-Chief Admiral Max Horton was not so convinced.

This is how the 'game' was played. The gridlines on the floor were spaced 10 inches apart representing 1 nautical mile. Screens were erected with peepholes cut in them to limit vision. The players who controlled the escort ships had to stand behind these screens whilst the players who were the U-boat captains had unrestricted views of the scenario. The players were given two minutes to give their orders to the WRNS who then put these orders into effect on the floor. This method was adopted so people on opposing sides couldn't overhear their opponents decisions. U-boat movements

were chalked in green, blending in with the brown lino on the floor and thus making their moves just about invisible. Escort ship movements were chalked in white for all to see.



The experienced Admiral Max Horton was summoned to play the part of a U-boat Captain, whilst a 19 year old WRN played the part of an allied commander – she 'sunk' him three times in a row! Rather miffed Horton quickly left the room leaving the upset girls to think that this was the end of it all, however next day orders came through that every naval captain coming into Britain had to visit WATU and be trained in anti submarine tactics by these girls – this also



included a certain Prince Philip ie: the late Duke of Edinburgh.

So, although you may not have heard of WATU it played a very important role in the war enabling Britain to survive and win.



Clara's Corner

What's On May:

29th May- Family Painting Workshops

31st May- Street Food 5pm

Clara's Corner,
West Wycombe Walled Garden,
Chorley Road, HP143AJ
www.clarascorner.co



West Wycombe

News from St Paul's Church

Our Easter service at St Paul's last weekend was wonderful with a nearly full church and several children who also enjoyed the Easter Egg hunt after the service. Thank you to Revd Andi and to all our clergy who have led the Easter services and Lent group, such a special time for us all. Our thanks too to our musicians and to everyone who helped to decorate the church, contributed to the flower fund and also to the Easter Egg raffle which raised the splendid sum of £60; that was a lovely new idea.

The PCC meeting on Tuesday evening was very busy and positive with plans going ahead for the replacement of the vestry roof as well as re-ordering the room to include an accessible toilet and better use of the space available. Our vestry also acts as the sacristy, with appropriate space for the clergy to robe and prepare for services, and to store the safe and precious items. So with its potential use as a meeting and children's space plus a small kitchen area, there is lots of careful planning to be done! It's an exciting project which has taken a long time to achieve.

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting will be held in St Paul's after the morning service on Sunday 12th May. Reports for the last year will be distributed in advance of the APCM and PLEASE do come along to the meeting if you can. It is not a long meeting but it IS a very significant one in our church year, especially with a new chapter about to begin.

The church Electoral Roll is also reviewed prior to the APCM and we would encourage all our church family to consider adding their name to the Roll. It is a gesture of support for the church, it doesn't have to entail additional commitments but it does help to build our church strength and enable a wider involvement in the Wycombe Deanery - all

good for building and consolidating our parish future. Please contact PCC Secretary Sharon Henson at westwycombe.pcc@gmail.com or myself if you would like your name to be added, it would be much appreciated.

The PCC also agreed to top up the fund set up to provide a bench for the churchyard at St Paul's. This fund began with several generous donations in memory of church members who have passed away in the last two years and would be a very fitting tribute to them from the church and community. If you or anyone you know would like to make a donation to the fund please do let me know; we are currently sourcing designs available and the best place to position it. It's a lovely idea to be able to rest awhile and enjoy the beautiful surroundings!"

I can think of no-one who would disagree that Alison has been an outstanding Church Warden over the past nine years. Alison is quite an exceptional person who gives her all, not simply as a duty, but with love and dedication in all her undertakings, and has been a kind and generous friend to the church 'family' and community of West Wycombe, and beyond, and - dare I say - never short of a cake - or dozen - for every occasion! I think she must have been to more meetings on

behalf of the church than there are weekdays in a month.

Although she will be hugely missed, I'm sure we all wish Alison much joy and many blessings in her retirement, to her - other - 'best loved' county, of Dorset from mid-May. Many of us will be itching to visit you Alison once you've found the teapot and made the cakes.

By the time you read this we will have had Alison's last Sunday at St Paul's, West Wycombe, and a much deserved presentation to reflect our love and appreciation, and a thoughtful gift from Sir Edward and Lady Lucinda Dashwood, followed by an ample supply of refreshments!!



You will notice a big change in St Paul's Church now, as the Serbian Church congregation are no longer with us. Much thought and discussion over the past two years between the PCC and Diocese resulted

in, a somewhat reluctant, final decision that St Paul's would revert to being a stand alone Church of England church. It was not a decision lightly taken after approximately 50 years of cordial relations, but we still retain a good relationship with Father Stefan and his congregation, and wish them every blessing in their newly found place of worship.

I'm sure everyone will be pleased to know that the PCC are purchasing microphones for use by the clergy, and at the lectern, which will be much appreciated by speakers and listeners alike. Also, if this fine, dry weather continues there's a good chance for our builder Dan to complete the building work. He's had to be so patient with that seemingly endless rain.

We'd also like to thank Ian Wright for volunteering to cut the grass around the church. It's looking lovely and well looked after, good work Ian.

I'd just like to mention how lovely it was to be in St Lawrence's for the Chamber Choir concert of glorious sacred music on 23rd March, and we wish them well on their third European singing tour to Tuscany in Italy this time. It would be churlish to envy them when we have such joy living in the beautiful Chilterns.

As we look forward to welcoming our new Rector, Revd. Penny Nash in July, together with her husband and family, I wish you all a lovely summer ahead. God be with you.

Beverley Cope

**Donate to
Contact Magazine**

**We are non profit magazine.
Powered by volunteers.**

**If you would like to support the magazine.
Please get in contact with our Treasurer
Lucy on lucy@autumncottage.net**

Cllr John Carstensen has returned to active duty after a long period of absence due to illness and he is looking forward to serving the Parish Council and our community again.

We still have our lake in the field now populated by ducks – nature takes over! I spent two days working with the jetting team from Buckinghamshire Council. They were extremely helpful and patient – they removed 6000 litres of mud out of the gullies in that area and on the following day they sucked out 12 tanker loads of water. The ground water levels were so high that as fast as they sucked the water out it was refilling the gullies hence we are really grateful to the National Trust and West Wycombe Estate for helping with the flooding issue by digging a trench from behind Kitty's Lodge to the stream – the water now has somewhere to go when the land cannot absorb any more rain.

As I write this in early April it is not raining, and it is actually quite warm – a perfect temperature to use the outdoor green gym equipment installed on the Pedestal Playing Field. It is good to see people making the most of the equipment.

The Community Orchard, which can be accessed through our burial ground by St Paul's Church is just beginning to come to life with the wild flowers that were planted, or seeds sown in 2022. We hope that birds will start using the birdboxes which we also installed. Currently the sheep are in the adjacent meadow so we have had to padlock closed the gate between their field and the Community Orchard as we do not want

Want to boost profits and biodiversity on your farm?

Do you farm in the Cotswolds, Chilterns or North Wessex Downs National Landscapes?



Join our FREE programme of farmer-led mentoring and events and learn how to maximise pasture as a feed source for your animals for the benefit of both your business and biodiversity.



Sign up now

Scan the QR code or email us
ccnwd@pastureforlife.org

Photo: Ian Boyd at @cotswoldbeef certified Pasture for Life



grazing on the emerging wild flowers – they will be allowed in again after the Community Orchard has been cut and baled in September.

We need to remind everyone that the elections for the Police and Crime Commissioner take place on May 2nd – please remember that you will need identification on you to vote.

The list of 19 outstanding items all related to Highways issues has been worked through by Buckinghamshire Council and there are only a couple of things still to do– hopefully by the time I retire at the end of May they too will have been sorted. So often we have complained about Buckinghamshire Council being slow at making repairs, but credit where credit is due and over the last two months they have worked very hard on our behalf



Thank you to everyone who came to our Spring Litter Pick on Saturday 13th April – it is amazing how much rubbish was collected from just within our parish and sadly the majority of it is caused by take away food and drink as well as laughing gas bottles and a few very strange things which could easily have been disposed of at the two recycling centres close to us.

We are still waiting to hear from Buckinghamshire Council about our High Street Project which we started work on nearly four years ago – we think they are close to putting it out for public consultation and it is up to everyone who has a view to respond to the consultation.

Looking ahead to June, the Events Team with the support of the National Trust will be part of the official beacon event to commemorate the 80th Anniversary of the D Day landings. I will be commemorating in my own way as I will be visiting the various beaches on a guided tour.

Since the sale of The Church Room our meetings have taken place in West Wycombe Community Library and we will continue to meet here unless we expect more people to attend - for example, the Annual Parish Meeting will be held in the Village Hall.

There is an opportunity for residents of the parish to come to the **Annual Parish Meeting on Thursday 23rd May in the Village Hall** starting at 8pm. This is not such a formal meeting as our monthly meetings and is an opportunity for people to hear what different organisations within the community are doing, a chance to socially interact and to enjoy the refreshments. We look forward to seeing you there.

The new Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer, Steven Marshall, will be taking over on 1st June and the next issue of Contact will have more from him.

Our dates for meetings in 2024 are as follows: 9th May, 23rd May – Annual Parish Meeting, 13th June, 11th July, 8th August (if required), 12th September, 10th October, 14th November, and 12th December. All meetings start at 8pm and the agenda is issued a week

before the meeting and is available on the website (see below) and on our Facebook page.

FixMyStreet

The Fix My Street website is there for you to report potholes, damaged kerb stones, broken signs etc. – please visit <https://fixmystreet.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/>.

Please remember, to get the latest information on: Parish Council activities; social events; Bucks Council; Thames Valley Police; government legislation; footpaths and many other things that may affect our community go to www.westwycombeparishcouncil.gov.uk. *The Parish Council has a Facebook page .*

The Clerk works part-time for the Parish Council; however, we are always happy to receive emails or messages on the answer machine and these will be replied to as quickly as possible.

Mrs Sharon Henson
our Parish Clerk and Financial Officer
is retiring in June 2024
after 29 years of exemplary service
to West Wycombe Parish Council
and West Wycombe.

We will be presenting Sharon
with a token of our appreciation
for all she has done for the
Civil Parish of West Wycombe at our
Annual Parish Meeting
on May 23rd 2024 at 8pm
in West Wycombe Village Hall
and would like to invite
West Wycombe residents to come
along too, to thank Sharon,
toast her achievements and
wish her well in her retirement.
We look forward to seeing you there.

extremeclean.co.uk

Superior Cleaning and Application of Protectors

Carpet, Upholstery, Leather
Modern & Oriental Rugs
Curtains

Tile & Grout/Stone Flooring
Anti-Allergen Treatment
Specialist Stain Removal
Wood Floor Refinishing
End of Tenancy Cleans

Paul Brooker

35 Place Farm Way, Monks Risborough
Bucks HP27 9JJ

T: 01844 346379 / 344735

M: 07866 376934 E: jjjp@uwclub.net

www.extremeclean.co.uk



Lovingly framed by
JULES SAINTER

Quality, bespoke, picture framer

Certified by the Fine Art Trade
Guild

Over 20 years' framing experience

Pictures, sports memorabilia
and more

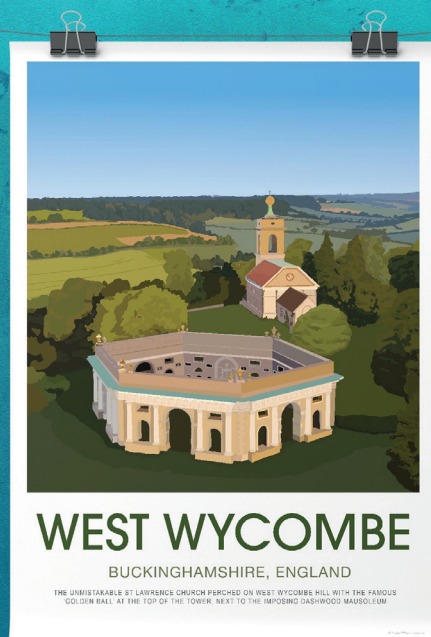
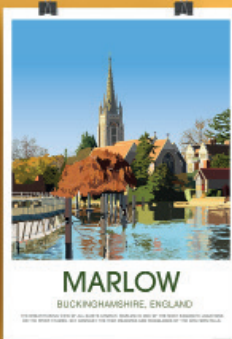
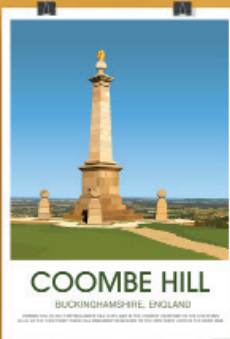
jules@lovinglyframed.co.uk

07753 351768

www.lovinglyframed.co.uk

Visit my studio in Bledlow Ridge to
discuss your artwork and for a
no-obligation estimate





15% off

Online Only.

Voucher Code:

ZGBC4YYW

Valid until 31/5/24

www.theyetis.com



West Wycombe Community Library

Please do visit our lovely community library We have all the up to date books for you to borrow and we can also request books from other libraries. We will also be selling tomato, beans and other plants from mid / end of May. Probably only on a Friday. Watch this space.

D Day 80th Anniversary - 6 June 2024

I've been busy crocheting poppies for the 80th Anniversary of D Day landings on 6th June 2024. I will be displaying the large poppy with the tank, soldiers and aeroplanes which I have made in the window of West Wycombe Post Office. Thank you to Celia for making the two large soldiers



Thank you to Mary Marshall for agreeing to put the display in the Window towards the end of May.

Thank you also to the members of West Wycombe Chamber Choir who have been knitting lots of red and purple poppies.

These poppies have been sent to France to be part of a huge display in Carentan - which is between Caen & Cherbourg.

The display will be in France & will eventually be in England. I will let you know where & when this is so you too can visit the beautiful display of knitted/ crochet army soldiers, aeroplanes, tanks & many other items used in the D Day landings.

Our opening times are as follows

Monday - Friday

10am - 12 noon

Saturday & Sunday Closed

Phone number 01494 449389

Charmaine Gallagher



Read Contact Magazine online

www.westwycombevillage.co.uk/contactmagazine/



West Wycombe Weather Station

Chorley Road - Eileen Chapman

Week ending	Min Temp °C	Max Temp °C	Rainfall mm	Sunshine hours
Mar 3 rd	-2	11	28	11
Mar 10 th	-2	13	17	12
Mar 17 th	5	17	24	4
Mar 24 th	5	15	41	14
Mar 31 st	2	16	49	22
Total Rain in March			159mm	

West Wycombe Village Hall

westwycombevillagehall.co.uk

Mon	Morning	Pip - Phonics with Robot Reg • pip@robotreg.co.uk
	Afternoon	Exercise & Mobility class 1pm, • ollyreedfitness@gmail.com
	Evening	West Wycombe Art Group • wwag.secretary@hotmail.com
Tues	Morning	Available
	Afternoon	Available
	Evening	Jennifer Zumba • jennifer.morais.zumba@outlook.com Masque Player • masqueplayers2022@gmail.com
Wed	Morning	WW Toddler Group • wwbabytoddler@gmail.com
	Afternoon	Crochet Club 4.30pm, • ga.watkins@yahoo.co.uk
	Evening	Cycle club (first Wed of every month)
Thur	Morning	Available
	Afternoon	Available
	Evening	Masque Player • masqueplayers2022@gmail.com Happy Hounds Dog Training • www.huntshappyhounds.co.uk/
Fri-Sat	All Day	Available
Sun	Morning	Available
	Afternoon	Available
	Evening	Yoga with Laila Lailanippres2@gmail.com
The hall is available for private and regular hire Please email Emma at emma009797@icloud.com for further information.		

West Wycombe Preschool

Spring has sprung here at preschool. The window sills have been filled with pots that are growing seeds that will be transferred to our veggie patch & in turn tended by our children in the coming weeks. Duck eggs are being incubated as we speak, check our social media page for updates!

The committee have some super plans to celebrate our 50th year in the village. If you have any memories & especially photos across the years, we would love to see these. Please email our committee on chair@westwycombepreschool.com

The children are growing in so many ways: height, confidence & knowledge which is wonderful to see. Our team work so closely with the children when they first join us & are on hand at every stage, it is an absolute pleasure to see them at the end of their time with us as confident children who have a strong self belief who ask questions & keep questioning until they feel satisfied. This is the way they investigate the world, relationships & emotions.

Many will be off to big school & we will fill their places with new children. If you are interested in a place with us, please drop us an email or fill out our online enquire form. Although we are technically full for the coming academic year, there is sometimes wiggle room if a family relocate.

Sarah Gowers - Deputy Manager



We now have a Clothing Bank in our driveway

We can accept the following items:

• Wearable Clothing • Paired Shoes • Handbags • Belts

The money raised goes towards resources and running costs of our lovely preschool

Church Services

Sunday 5 May <i>Rogation</i>	Eucharist 10am <i>Reverend Anne Cooper</i>	St Mary's, Radnage	Isa 55.1-11 1 Jn 5.1-6 Jn 15.9-17
Thursday 9 May <i>Ascension Day</i>	Eucharist 6.30pm <i>Reverend Andi Chapman</i>	St Botolph's, Bradenham	Dan 7.9-14 Eph 1.15-23 Lk 24.44-53
Sunday 12 May <i>Easter 7</i>	Eucharist 10.30am <i>Deanery TBC</i>	St Paul's, West Wycombe	Ezek 36.24-28 1 Jn 5.9-13 Jn 17.6-19
Sunday 19 May <i>Pentecost</i>	Eucharist 11am <i>Reverend Ivor Cornish</i>	St Botolph's, Bradenham	Ezek 37.1-14 Rom 8.22-27 Jn 15.26-27;16.4-15
Sunday 26 May <i>Trinity</i>	Eucharist 10am <i>Reverend Veronica Beaumont</i>	St Paul's, Bledlow Ridge	Isa 6.1-8 Rom 8.12-17 Jn 3.1-17

Sunday 2 June <i>Trinity 1</i>	Eucharist 10am <i>Reverend Anne Cooper</i>	St Mary's, Radnage	Deut 5.12-15 2 Cor 4.5-12 Mk 2.23-3.6
Sunday 9 June <i>Trinity 2</i>	Eucharist 10.30am <i>Reverend Andi Chapman</i>	St Paul's, West Wycombe	Gen 3.8-15 2 Cor 4.13-5.1 Mk 3.20-35
Sunday 16 June <i>Trinity 3</i>	Eucharist 10.00am <i>Reverend Ivor Cornish</i>	St Paul's, Bledlow Ridge	Ezek 17.22-24 2 Cor 5.6-10(11-13)14-17 Mk 4.26-34
Sunday 23 June <i>Trinity 4</i>	Eucharist 11am <i>Reverend Chris Bull</i>	St Botolph's, Bradenham	Job 38.1-11 2 Cor 6.1-13 Mk 4.35-41
Sunday 30 June <i>Trinity 5</i>	Eucharist 10.30am <i>Reverend Veronica Beaumont</i>	St Paul's, Bledlow Ridge	Wis 1.13-15;2.23-24 2 Cor 8.7-15 Mk 5.21-43



YOUR LOCAL PROPERTY EXPERTS

COUNTRY AND VILLAGE PROPERTIES

Sales & Lettings



bonners & babingtons

Local people selling local houses.

Both company directors and many of the employees at Bonners & Babingtons live in this area, so have a wealth of local knowledge to promote the amazing Chiltern hills that we all enjoy living in.

We have a marketing strategy to attract both national and London buyers to help you achieve the highest price for your property.

If you are looking to make your next move and would like a Valuation, please contact us on:

Tel: 01494 485560

Email: sales@bb-estateagents.co.uk

or lettings@bb-estateagents.co.uk

www.bb-estateagents.co.uk

Offices in Chinnor, Princes Risborough, High Wycombe, Stokenchurch & Marlow