

YARNTON

AUGUST
2026

VILLAGE

NEWS

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Treasurer
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www.facebook.com/Yarnton Village Community Group

CALENDAR FOR THE MONTH

Scouts - all open to both boys and girls

Mondays Cubs aged 8–10, 6.30 p.m. – 8 p.m.
 Explorers aged 14–18, 8.15 p.m. – 9.15 p.m.
Wednesdays Beavers aged 6–8, 5 p.m. – 6.15 p.m.
Fridays Scouts aged 10–14, 7 p.m. – 8.45 p.m.

Girl Guiding

Tuesdays Guides aged 10–14, 6.30 p.m. – 8 p.m.
Wednesdays Brownies aged 7–10, 6.30 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Monday 3rd Indoor Bowls Club, Village Hall, 10 a.m. (*and every Monday*)
Monday 3rd Community Drop In, Village Hall, 2 p.m. – 4 p.m. (*and every Monday*)
Tuesday 4th Yarnton Bridge Club, Village Hall, 9.30 a.m. (*and every Tuesday*)
Wednesday 5th Lunch Club, Village Hall, 1 p.m.
Friday 7th Copy date September Village News
Monday 10th Yarnton Band, 7.30 p.m. - 8.45 p.m. (*and every Monday, except Bank Holidays*)
Wednesday 12th Parish Council Meeting, Village Hall, 6.30 p.m.
Thursday 13th Yarnton Band Learners and Training Band, 6.45 p.m. - 7.25 p.m.
 Senior Band, 7.30 p.m. - 8.45 p.m. (*and every Thursday*)
Wednesday 19th Lunch Club, Village Hall, 1 p.m.

St. Bartholomew's Church

Regular services

Sundays 8 a.m. Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
 11 a.m. Parish Communion, with Junior Church, followed by coffee
Wednesdays 9.30 a.m. Holy Communion
On Facebook Sundays, 9.30 a.m. Sunday Eucharist

Advertising Rates

One-eighth A4 page: £13 per issue, £117 per year. One-quarter A4 page: £21 per issue, £189 per year.
One-half A4 page: £35 per issue, £315 per year. Whole A4 page: £60 per issue.
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If you contact any of our advertisers, please tell them you found them in the Yarnton Village News.

Donations towards our running costs will be gratefully received at any time. The bank details are:
Yarnton Village News, Sort code 09 01 54, Account No. 42646089.

Copy Deadline for September Issue

Material for inclusion in the September Newsletter should be received by midday on **Friday 7th August**.

Copy should be e-mailed to: ruth@astall.com and maryclarke2305@googlemail.com
or delivered to Mrs. Ruth Astall, 19 The Spears, tel. 372637.

The Editorial Committee reserves the right to cut, edit, or omit articles, or refuse advertisements for reasons of space limitation, suitability, etc. Their decision is final and no correspondence can be entered into.

Copy date for the October issue is **Friday 11th September**.

New Roof Completed at the Village Hall

We are delighted to announce that the replacement roof at the Village Hall has now been completed, together with the installation of new photovoltaic (PV) solar panels.

This important project will help safeguard the future of the Hall, ensuring it remains a valuable community asset for many years to come. The addition of solar panels will reduce energy costs and support our commitment to greater environmental sustainability.

Approximately 60% of the cost of the project was met from the Village Hall's own funds, demonstrating the Hall Committee's commitment to investing in the long-term future of this important community facility.

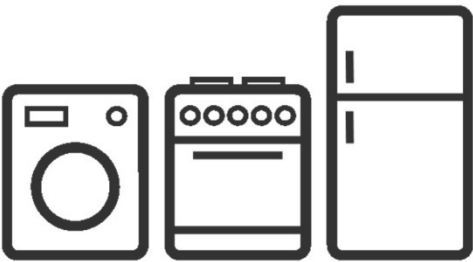
The Village Hall Committee would like to extend its sincere thanks to all those who helped make the project possible through their generous support and funding. In particular, we would like to acknowledge:

- The Parish Council
- Cherwell District Council, through Section 106 funding
- The Bernard Sunley Foundation
- The Doris Field Charitable Trust

Their contributions, alongside the Village Hall's own investment, have enabled us to complete this significant improvement and ensure that the Hall remains at the heart of village life for many years to come.

Yarnton Village Hall Committee

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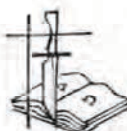
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In August we celebrate the patron saint of our church - St Bartholomew, also known as Nathaniel. In the Gospel of John (1:43-44) we meet him sitting under a fig tree, possibly studying the Jewish Law.

Although initially sceptical that Jesus could be the promised and long-awaited Messiah - "Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?" - upon meeting Jesus, he quickly realizes that this is not merely another prophet, exclaiming "Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the king of Israel."

As we celebrate, may we be constantly listening for the voice of Jesus, and ready to earnestly and faithfully recognize Him and follow Him, as Bartholomew did.

St Bartholomews Yarnton



St Bartholomew's Day Monday 24th August

9am Morning Prayer in St Bartholomew's followed by coffee and croissants

10am Parish Walk

Starting at St Bartholomew's, a leisurely walk through the fields within our parish and back to church again.

5.30pm All age Communion Service followed by bring and share picnic supper

We shall also celebrate St Bartholomew on Sunday 23rd Aug, in the morning service



COOL SPACE

Our stone churches stay cool during the hot weather. Do make use of the space if you are in need of a cool down!

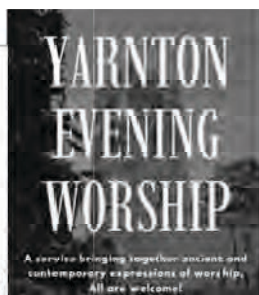
Yarnton Evening Worship

Summer Dates

Saturday 15th August – 6-7pm

This month we are joined by the Revd Sam Haiser, who will preach!

Sam, along with his wife Theresa, worshipped at St Bartholomew's during the 2yrs he studied Theology at Wycliffe College, in Oxford. We look forward to welcoming Sam and Theresa back again!



Churchyard Update

You may have noticed that we have been working alongside the Yarnton Parish Council in recent weeks to ensure that the churchyard remains a peaceful and safe place for all who use it. A recent survey identified several gravestones and monuments which were at risk of falling, and which have now been carefully laid horizontal. A particular thank you to Dave Thornhill for his assistance in carrying out this essential maintenance work, to preserve the welcome, hospitality and peace of the churchyard for generations to come.



Please be aware that Junior Church will take a break for three weeks over the summer holidays (26th July, 2nd & 9th Aug).

As always, children and young people are still very much welcome in church! But during these weeks, no dedicated activities will be running in the Spencer Chapel on Sundays at 11am.

Regular Services and Events

Sundays:

- 8.00am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
- 9.30am Benefice Online Service (St. Bartholomew's Facebook page)
- 11.00am Parish Sung Communion with Junior Church, followed by coffee
- 5.00pm Yarnton Evening Worship (once a month, 2nd Sunday)

Wednesdays:

- 9.30am Holy Communion
- 10.30am Little Sheep (term time)
- for under 5s and their parents/grandparents/carers
- crafts, songs and a story -



Contact details:

Rev'd Oliver Petter

Rector, Benefice of Yarnton with Begbroke and Shipton on Cherwell

Address: 26 Church Lane, Yarnton, OX5 1PY

Email: vicar@ybsbenefice.org.uk

Tel: 01865 372714

Website: www.ybsbenefice.org.uk

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Making Room for Nature: Micro-Habitats in Urban Areas



You may think nature only thrives in big reserves. But it also squeezes into the cracks and corners of our urban environments. So, whether that's a garden, a balcony, a windowsill, or just the wall of your home, there's always room for a splash of green amongst the urban landscapes.

Mini habitats - what's in the name?

In ecology, a 'microhabitat' is a small area with its own unique environment that differs from the surrounding habitat. But you may know them by a different name. Mini ponds, bee hotels, and even bird boxes, each creating a quiet refuge for the creatures sharing our built landscape (just remember that bird feeders in warmer months increase the risk of disease in birds). These small sanctuaries carry real ecological weight.

Never underestimate the power of cumulative effect: each species, no matter how small, has a part to play in all ecosystems.

The key benefits of micro habitats include:

- Attracting insects that play a role in pollination
- Storing moisture and regulating temperature
- Breaking down organic matter

Walls

Urban walls can host a surprising range of ecological functions. Living walls are particularly beneficial to local wildlife. These vertical green sites, formed of flowering climbers and wall mounted planters, can attract bees, hoverflies and other pollinators. Micro planters and crevice habitats, which are small pockets of soil, stacked tiles, logs with holes, stone crevices or even swift bricks attached or built into walls, create nesting and overwintering sites for solitary bees and beetles.

Water

Water sources such as ponds or streams with natural features are ideal, but rare in highly urban areas. But artificial water sources such as birdbaths or rainwater pools/ponds can still support amphibians, insects, birds, and mammals while contributing to local microclimate regulation. For example, a recent study in the Journal of Urban Ecology found that urbanised aquatic microhabitats, such as water-filled tree holes and other small standing waters in cities, create 'unique but inconspicuous' breeding habitats for a range of insects.

Gardens

Gardens are probably the first green space that comes to mind when discussing microhabitats. And that's because even small spaces can support many microhabitats due to the varying environments and features which can be created within them. Gardens are a mosaic of interconnected micro-ecosystems within one space. But when discussing our urban environments, rewilding towns and cities might sound like something left to greater powers, such as your local council, but in fact, urbanisation doesn't need to mean a loss of biodiversity. You don't need a large rural garden to support nature – urban gardens are becoming ever increasingly vital passages in our increasingly fragmented country.

These small patches of green can become a wildlife sanctuary surprisingly easily; try growing as many different types of plants as you can, including native species, and provide natural food sources. And importantly, let nature do its work! Sometimes, the best thing you can do is simply step back and leave a corner (or two!) undisturbed. For example, fallen or stacked logs and retaining piles of leaves and wood chip can serve as habitat for insects, fungi, amphibians, reptiles and small mammals.

Gardening tips for August

Put up bat boxes

Create a home for bats in your garden over the summer and put up bat boxes in large trees or buildings. Place them high up (at least 3 to 4 metres), sheltered from the wind, and exposed to the sun for most of the day. See the guidance on the Bat Conservation website. Bat boxes can be bought from various stores and websites, or if you're feeling crafty, you can make them yourself.

Leave food and water for hedgehogs

Continue to leave out dishes of water and meat-based (not fish!) dog or cat food for hedgehogs, before they go into hibernation in early Autumn.



Feeding hedgehog, photo Rachel Bosley

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A Dakota and Yarnton Band



A Dakota flying above Ramsden Fete (photo Fay McEneaney)

With split second timing we played ‘Those magnificent men in their flying machines’ as the Dakota roared overhead at the Ramsden Fete on 13th June. This is becoming a habit because on previous occasions we have timed the music as the Red Arrows flew over and then as a Spitfire flew over. How do we do it? One of the organisers has a mobile phone and either calls or texts our Musical Director Guy James, who asks us to find the music within about thirty seconds and we always manage that. What aeroplanes will be next?



At Kidlington Church fete, where the hazards were uneven gravestones and molehills! (photo Fay McEneaney)

In August we take a break, but you can hear us at the Begbroke Picnic to be held at their Village Hall on 13th September from 3.30 p.m. until 5 p.m.

*The true function of music as I see it is to bring joy and exultation in moments of elation,
and solace and comfort when the spirit is wounded. Sir John Barbirolli*

Peter Hewis

We will have a two week break in rehearsals during the school holidays. There will be no rehearsals on 27th and 30th July, 3rd and 6th August. No rehearsal on bank holiday 31st August either. Otherwise we'll hope to see you, when you're not away.

Yarnton Village Hall

The hall comprises a large Main Hall with enclosed garden and a smaller Back Room with use of kitchenette. The hall is fully accessible - facilities include stage, kitchen, toilets with disabled facilities and car park. The hall is available for hire for meetings, training events, shows, lunches, clubs, sales, parties, etc.

The charges for hiring the rooms are per hour unless stated.

Main Hall

Village residents: £12.00

Non Village Residents: £14.00

Kitchen

£8.00 - per session

Back Room

Village residents: £11.00

Non Village Residents: £13.00

If having a bouncy castle/gaming van an extra charge of £6.00 is charged for electric.

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Our talk for July was about 'Dogs for Good – Assistance Dogs'. This charity is based in Banbury and is a UK based charity training dogs to assist adults and children with physical and learning disabilities, children with autism and adults with dementia.

Carol Shearman demonstrated through various videos how the charity brings people and dogs together to make life possible. The assistance dogs are trained to provide both practical and emotional support, helping people to access the world around them and live fuller and more independent lives; each partnership is carefully matched and supported to ensure that both the person and dog thrive together.

We were fortunate enough to have a visit from a 14-month-old golden retriever who is currently in training. He was extremely well behaved and not fazed by the number of people in the room.

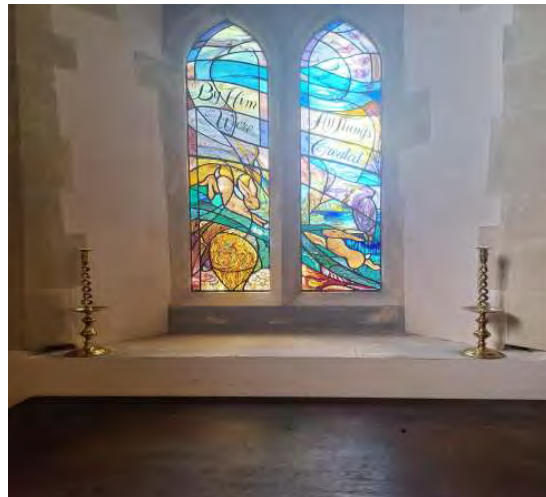
On 6th August we have our Annual Social. This is an opportunity for our groups to put together exhibitions showing what they have been up to in the past 12 months. The Art Group display their excellent work, the Recorder Group will play, and we will hear a short play reading by the Play Reading Group. Tea and cake will be provided.

The Walking Group met at the Old Shed near Enstone, where we had a beautiful walk along a woodland trail. There were gorgeous views of the surrounding countryside and welcome shade under the canopy of trees. After the walk we enjoyed delicious homemade cakes and tea in the café.

The Historic Churches Group visited St. Andrew's Church in Oddington near Islip in June. St Andrew's dates back to the 10th century when a Cistercian Monastery was founded in Oddington. There are many historical features in the church - a medieval bell frame, bells dating back to 1600s and a Preaching Cross in the churchyard.

There is a unique connection with the Māori community through Makereti Papakura, who was a Māori Princess and lived in the village. She is buried in the churchyard. In 2025 the University of Oxford awarded a posthumous degree to Makereti Papakura. This was in relation to her studies of the Māori customs, which she completed in 1930, but as she died suddenly the same year, she did not receive her degree.

The stained-glass window in the Lady Chapel was installed in 2025 and is the work of Jude Tarrant. The theme is The Creation, depicted by the wildlife of Otmoor.



Our monthly meetings are held on the first Thursday of each month at St. Hugh's Centre, Hensington Road, Woodstock, OX20 1JL, 2.15 p.m. for a 2.30 p.m. speaker. Our u3a branch is centred in Woodstock but welcomes people from the surrounding areas. Are you recently retired and looking for local social activities around interests you have? Our interest groups develop when someone is willing to run them – maybe you have something that you can offer? If so, please make contact with us through the website: www.woodstocku3a.uk. We would be delighted to hear from you.

For more information on forthcoming speakers, please visit our website: www.woodstocku3a.uk.

Kidlington & District Historical Society

Our August meeting is a private visit for members to Sulgrave Manor.

The next meeting will be on 28th September, when Mike White will be talking on 'The Ox files: folklore, ghost stories and general weirdness from across the county'.

The meeting is held at Kidlington Baptist Church, OX5 2DS.

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Yarnton W.I.

Hello neighbours. As I write this, we are living through another extremely hot week which hopefully will soon calm down. The children have finished school for the summer and are spreading joy throughout the village. I can still remember how wonderful the summer holidays were as a young parent, and the time goes by so quickly.

We ladies at Yarnton W.I. enjoyed a lovely evening at the Village Hall with an excellent speaker, Rob Brewer, telling tales of his adventures as an extras actor in a wide variety of films and television shows. I am sure many of us will now look out for and pay closer attention to the background actors. He said that the secret to miming a conversation in the background with another actor is to just keep saying 'rhubarb' or add 'and custard' rather than actually conversing. Who would have guessed this?

We enjoyed meeting his American family who joined us and also a local lady who reads this column! We hope she comes to join us again soon! As well as any one of you who may be interested!

This month there is no formal meeting but members will go for afternoon tea at Bicester Avenue Garden Centre which should be great, weather permitting. Unfortunately, due to the heat, we have had to cancel our morning coffee sessions until it's cooler.

In September we will host a lovely couple who we have met before, Karen and Brett Wiles, speaking about Girl Guides in the 1940s. I have many happy memories of my years as a guide but it wasn't as long ago as that! I'm sure many of you were guides or have guides in the family, so this talk will be of interest. You will be very welcome. It's on 10th.

So, thank you for reading my monthly newsletter and look after yourselves and I look forward to meeting you soon!

Judy Blake, President

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Yarnton Gardening Club

Please note that we do not have a meeting in August. Our September speaker is Lottie Allen who will tell us about her work as Head Gardener at Hidcote. The meeting is on 17th in the Village Hall at 7.30 p.m. Visitors are always welcome.

In July a small group of us visited Adwell House Gardens near Thame on a very hot afternoon. The gardens were wonderful and varied, and we had a very interesting tour by the Head Gardener, followed by a cream tea. Our final visit of the year is on 9th September at 2 p.m. and is to the gardens at St. Hugh's College; the cost will be £6 per person. This was originally advertised as for members only, but we have been able to open it up to non-members as well. St. Hugh's College was founded in 1886 on a 14.5 acre site and has the second largest of the College gardens in Oxford. It boasts a large collection of mature and rare trees. Interesting tender shrubs are grown on the main terrace which is south facing, and this includes a large pomegranate plant. A wild flower meadow is being developed to benefit biodiversity and pollinators. Please contact Serena on 378817 for more information or to put your name down.
Ruth Astall

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YARNTON PARISH COUNCIL

Email: clerk@yarnton-pc.gov.uk, telephone: 01865 378476, website: www.yarnton-pc.gov.uk

All correspondence sent by letter or email to the Parish Council must include the sender's name, address and telephone number. The Parish Council is unable to discuss correspondence received without these details. Please note that the Parish Council office is open to residents by appointment only as the office is not staffed full-time.

Parish Council Chairman:

Mike Groves: mike.groves@yarnton-pc.gov.uk

Parish Council Vice-Chairman:

Fiona Mawson: fiona.mawson@yarnton-pc.gov.uk

Other Parish Council Members:

Debbie Behan: debbie.behan@yarnton-pc.gov.uk

Amir Kianzad: amir.kianzad@yarnton-pc.gov.uk

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Steve Smith: steve.smith@yarnton-pc.gov.uk

Dorothy Walker: dorothy.walker@yarnton-pc.gov.uk

Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer:

David Thornhill: clerk@yarnton-pc.gov.uk

District Councillors:

Lesley McLean: lesley.mclean@cherwell-dc.gov.uk

Lisa Smith: lisa.smith@cherwell-dc.gov.uk

County Councillor:

Lesley McLean: lesley.mclean@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Planning:

Any members of the public who wish to comment on or object to any of the following planning applications can either contact Yarnton Parish Council via the Clerk's office or Cherwell District Council via the planning portal here:

<https://planningregister.cherwell.gov.uk/>

Planning applications:

Application No.: 26/01426/F. Applicant's Name: Mr. and Mrs. N. Hayes. Proposal: Single-storey extension and new entrance porch to existing dwelling. Location: The Little Barn, 137 Cassington Road, Yarnton, OX5 1QD.

Planning decisions:

25/02838/F. 93 Woodstock Road, Yarnton. Application permitted.

A40 Eynsham park and ride to Wolvercote project . Application permitted.

Future meetings:

The next ordinary meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Wednesday, 12th August at 6.30 p.m. in the back room at Yarnton Village Hall.

Members of the public are welcome to attend all Parish Council meetings for all or part of the meeting. Members of the public who wish to speak need to contact the Clerk 7 days in advance of the meeting, giving notice of what they wish to say; any person will be limited to 5 minutes, and the total time for public contributions is limited to 15 minutes. Members of the public wishing to speak on any other matter or to be involved in the Councillors' general discussion may only do so at the discretion of the Chairman.

Chris Lord

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YARNTON PARISH COUNCIL

Yarnton Annual Village Litter Pick 2026

Join us for another 'Rubbish' day on Saturday, 26th September at the Rutten Lane Park car park (yellow barrier).

Two sessions to choose from: 1000-1200 and 1400-1600.

We will arm you with litter picker sticks, high viz jackets for young children, bin bags and gloves.

Help tidy your street, road, close and/or estate, or even someone else's, and then feel suitably pleased with yourself for the rest of the weekend!

Last year, over 40 residents collected 50+ bin bags full of general waste (including a car bumper) strewn across our green areas, pavements, bushes and play areas.



This year, we're looking for more residents to share the load and come together to help keep Yarnton tidy!

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Going Green or Greener

Going green at home is increasingly important for households seeking to reduce energy bills, improve comfort, and cut carbon emissions. Making your home greener can deliver long-term financial and environmental benefits, and with rising fuel prices and ambitious national climate targets, improving the energy efficiency of existing homes has never been more relevant. Draughty, poorly insulated homes lose heat rapidly, increasing demand on heating systems and raising energy costs. The most effective and low-cost improvement to make a home greener is to reduce the amount of draughts by draught stripping all windows and external door openings and letterboxes, followed by improving insulation in lofts, walls and floors. Loft insulation is usually the easiest and most cost-effective upgrade, and adding or topping up depth can significantly reduce heat loss. Cavity wall insulation is suitable in many post-1920s homes and provides quick, relatively inexpensive efficiency gains. Older homes with solid walls require internal or external wall insulation, and both options can improve comfort and reduce energy demand. For ground floor suspended timber floors, insulating between joists reduces heat loss and draughts. Replacing single glazing with double or triple glazing improves heat retention, reduces draughts, and helps soundproof homes. Modern glazing uses low-emissivity coatings and inert gas fills to boost performance. For period properties where replacing windows is restricted, secondary glazing offers an effective solution.

Reducing use of fossil-fuels is central to greener living. Heat pumps - air source or ground source - offer low-carbon alternatives to traditional boilers. These work most effectively in well-insulated homes and pair well with underfloor heating or oversized radiators. Although installation costs can be significant, running costs are generally lower, and grants may be available depending on government schemes. Replacing outdated boilers by upgrading to a modern condensing boiler, installing smart heating controls, and zoning the heating system to heat only the rooms in use can significantly reduce gas consumption.

Installing solar photovoltaic (PV) panels has become increasingly viable as costs have fallen. PV systems generate electricity that can be used in the home, reducing reliance on grid power and cutting bills. Pairing solar panels with a home battery allows excess energy to be stored and used later, improving self-consumption and resilience, especially during power cuts which are likely to increase in frequency with climate change. Solar thermal systems, although less common than PV, can provide hot water using renewable energy. Mechanical ventilation with heat recovery (MVHR) systems capture heat from outgoing stale air and use it to warm fresh incoming air. This reduces heat loss and improves indoor air quality, making MVHR particularly beneficial in airtight or newly renovated properties. Water-saving measures also contribute to a greener home. Low-flow taps and showerheads, dual-flush toilets, and water-efficient appliances reduce consumption without sacrificing comfort. Rainwater harvesting systems can supply water for gardening, flushing toilets, or even laundry with the appropriate filtration, easing pressure on mains supplies. Smart energy monitors help track usage patterns and identify waste. Adjusting thermostat settings, reducing standby power, and washing clothes at lower temperatures are all straightforward ways to cut energy use without structural changes.

When renovating, choose sustainable materials such as recycled insulation products, FSC-certified timber, lime-based plasters, and low-VOC paints. These reduce environmental impact, improve indoor air quality, and support sustainability. Choosing local suppliers and materials reduces carbon from transportation. Combining insulation improvements, low-carbon heating, renewable energy generation and efficient resource use significantly reduces your environmental footprint while increasing property value and appeal to future buyers. Whether undertaken gradually or as major renovation, going greener delivers lasting benefits for household budgets and for the planet.

Jan Liberadzki BA Arch (Hons), MSc, JLDA

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Inspire; Nurture; Achieve

As another successful academic year comes to a close, we are proud to reflect on a year filled with achievement, curiosity, kindness and community spirit at William Fletcher Primary School.

One of the greatest strengths of our school is our curriculum. We are committed to developing a genuine love of learning through a broad, ambitious and engaging curriculum that inspires children to be curious about the world around them. Across the year, pupils have explored exciting topics, developed knowledge and skills across all subjects, and been challenged to think deeply and creatively. High expectations in every classroom ensure that children are supported to achieve their very best, while regular opportunities to share learning help to develop confidence, oracy and a sense of pride in their achievements. Learning at William Fletcher extends far beyond the classroom. Children have enjoyed a wealth of enrichment opportunities including educational visits, sporting events, residential experiences, Forest School activities, author visits, performances and community projects. These opportunities help bring learning to life, broaden horizons and create lasting memories. Our pupils have represented the school brilliantly at events such as Sports Day, the Colour Run, concerts and sporting competitions, demonstrating resilience, teamwork and determination.

Just as importantly, we are proud of the nurturing environment we provide for every child. At the heart of our school is a deep commitment to ensuring children feel safe, valued and supported. Strong relationships between staff, pupils and families enable children to flourish both academically and emotionally. Whether through classroom support, pastoral care, nurture provision, ELSA sessions or simply the daily encouragement offered by caring adults, we work hard to ensure that every child feels known, respected and able to succeed.

Throughout the year, our children have demonstrated the values that make William Fletcher such a special place. They have shown kindness, respect and responsibility in their interactions with one another and with members of the wider community. We are continually impressed by their enthusiasm for learning, willingness to challenge themselves and readiness to support their peers.

None of this would be possible without the dedication of our staff, governors, parents and volunteers. Their commitment and support help create the rich educational experiences that our children enjoy every day.

We would also like to wish our Year 6 pupils every success as they move on to secondary school. They leave William Fletcher as confident, capable and caring young people, and we are incredibly proud of all they have achieved.

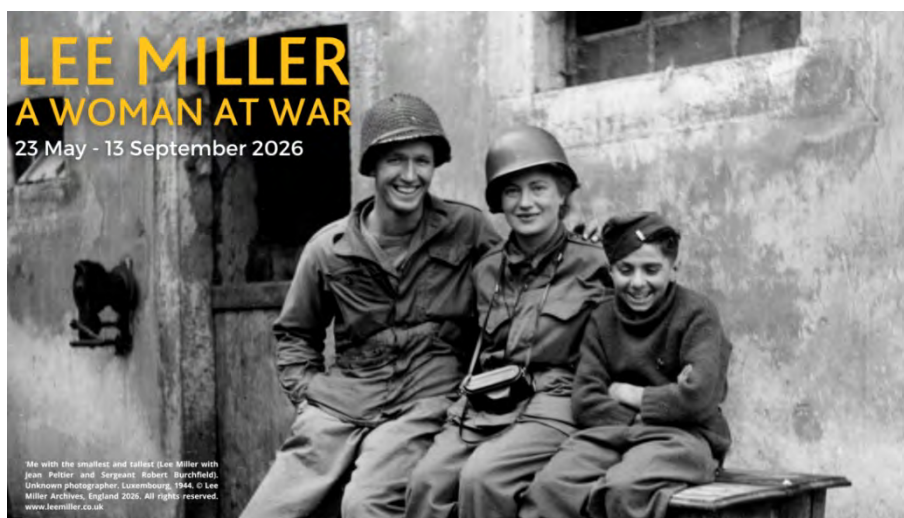
On behalf of everyone at William Fletcher Primary School, thank you to the village community for your continued support. We look forward to building on another wonderful year and wish everyone a happy, safe and enjoyable summer break.



We have spaces available in our school. If you would like to arrange a visit or to meet the Headteacher, Claire Martin, please contact the school office on 01865 372301 or office.2354@william-fletcher.oxon.sch.uk

<i>Good Neighbour Scheme</i>	Covering Kidlington, Yarnton and Begbroke Offers help to anybody over 60 or disabled with gardening, befriending, shopping, dog walking etc. All Volunteers are fully DBS checked.	Please contact Kidlington Information Centre on 01865 378479
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Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum, Woodstock
tel. 01993 810 211, www.sofo.org.uk



Exhibition

Lee Miller: A Woman at War

Tuesday – Saturday 11 a.m. – 5 p.m., Sunday 2 p.m. – 5 p.m. Ends 13th September 2026

There's still time to catch this summer's headline exhibition featuring 33 wartime photographs by Vogue model, surrealist photographer and photojournalist, Lee Miller. See stunning images from the 1940s, from her first snaps for British Vogue - taken at Oxford's Churchill Hospital - to following US troops into the war in Europe.

Now open alongside the Lee Miller exhibition is a mini-exhibition by museum volunteers, *Capturing Conflict* which looks at the tools of war correspondents like Lee, from the Crimean War to the Falklands. Admissions apply – see www.sofo.org.uk/visit-us for prices (admissions include 12 months entry).

Events

Women at War with Dr. Kate Vigurs - Wednesday 19th August, 7p .m.

Fresh from Chalke Valley History Festival, historian and author Kate Vigurs presents a two-part talk, looking at trailblazing women like Lee Miller who covered the events of the Second World War as they happened. In the second part, she'll uncover the stories of women who dropped into Occupied France, following their journeys from recruit to SOE secret agent.

Tickets: £15.

An Evening with Ami Bouhassane – Lee Miller: A Woman at War, Thursday 3rd September, 7 p.m.

Author and co-director of Farleys House & Gallery, Ami Bouhassane, joins us to discuss the life and legacy of her grandmother, Lee Miller.

Tickets: £15.

All events can be booked during your visit to the museum, or via www.sofo.org.uk/whats-on

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Oxford Bus and Morris Motors Museum

On the late August Bank Holiday weekend we have a new event: Scalextric Displays. We shall be racing on several tracks and you are welcome to bring your own cars. The fun starts at 10 a.m. and finishes at 4 p.m. on both Sunday 30th and Bank Holiday Monday 31st August.

On Saturday 12th September we shall be giving free historic bus rides round Oxford as part of the annual Open Doors Day. We shall be based in Bonn Square from about 10.30 a.m. until 3.30 p.m.

Do not forget that in July and August, the museum is open on Saturdays as well as our normal Sundays and Wednesdays.

The Oxford Bus Museum is always changing its displays. Earlier this summer we updated and expanded our Buses in Wartime exhibit, which covers both World Wars.

In the Second World War the demands of military personnel and evacuees, when added to the resident population, led to overcrowding on the buses. An airman at Upper Heyford was killed in a stampede to board a bus. The City Council made new by-law to regulate queuing!

In other parts of the country there was reduced demand for bus services, so local operators had surplus vehicles. The Oxford company had to hire what vehicles it could get.



Photo R.G.H. Simpson

Pictured is a Yorkshire bus parked in Gloucester Green. It is a non-standard (to Oxford) Leyland model with a central entrance - not a layout that the Oxford passengers were used to. Oxford also hired buses from London. STD 975 was on loan to City of Oxford from February 1942 right through to December 1946.



Photo John Gascoigne Collection

Imported fuel was in short supply in both World Wars. In the First, a balloon was fitted to the roof to hold town gas, fed to the engine by gravity. In the Second, a trailer burned coal to generate a constant supply, but engine power was reduced by a third, so performance was poor and the buses could not be used on hilly routes.

If you have not visited the museum for a while, why not and see what has changed. There are plenty of stories to discover.

The Monthly Pilgrimage

Every month, you stroll into the garden centre like a horticultural Indiana Jones, ready to discover *the bloom of the moment*. You don't need a plan. You don't need a colour scheme. You don't even need to know what the plant is. If it's flowering, it's coming home with you.

This approach has two major benefits:

- You always leave feeling successful. Something is guaranteed to be flowering. Garden centres are basically botanical cheat codes.
- You avoid the classic gardener's mistake: buying everything in April, planting it all at once, then spending the rest of the year staring at a very enthusiastic spring and a very bored summer.

Month by month madness

By May, you've already forgotten what you planted in March. By July, you're convinced the garden is doing its own thing and you're merely a spectator. By September, you're telling visitors 'Oh yes, I planned it this way', while secretly Googling '*purple spiky plant autumn*' to figure out what you bought.

But here's the magic: each month adds another layer of interest, like a botanical lasagne. You're not just gardening, you're curating a living calendar.

The Grand Finale: a year later

After twelve months of this chaotic, but charming method, you step outside and realise something astonishing: Your garden is... gorgeous. Not accidentally gorgeous.

Strategically gorgeous. There's colour in January. There's scent in June. There's drama in October. Birds are visiting. Neighbours are peering over the fence. You've become *that* person, the one with 'year-round interest', a phrase usually reserved for gardening magazines and people who own kneeling pads.

And the best part? You didn't need a spreadsheet, a planting plan, or a Latin dictionary. You just needed a monthly wander, a bit of curiosity, and the ability to carry a pot to the car without dropping it.

The secret you now know

Gardening doesn't have to be complicated. It doesn't have to be scientific. It doesn't have to involve phrases like '*moisture-retentive soil*' or '*architectural structure*'. It can simply be this:

See flower. Buy flower. Plant flower. Repeat monthly.

Do that for a year, and you'll have a garden that surprises you every time you step outside, proof that sometimes the best plan is no plan at all. Happy Gardening.

Stuart Mabbutt, Wildlife Gardening Specialist, tel. 01865 747243, www.wildmaninspires.co.uk



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Woodstock Methodist Church, Oxford Street, Woodstock
Kidlington Methodist Church, Oxford Road, Kidlington

Minister: Rev. Paul Carter, tel. 01865 373958, Email: paul.carter@oxfordmethodists.org.uk

Local Contact Woodstock: Mrs Sue Beuzeval, tel. 01865 849696, Email: sue.beuzeval@woodstockmethodists.org.uk

Local Contact Kidlington: Mel Snelling, mel.snelling@kidlingtonmethodists.org.uk

There are no Methodist churches in Yarnton, but you will find one in both Woodstock and Kidlington. Details of forthcoming services are below, but there are also various midweek activities, details of which can be found on the appropriate website.

Everyone is welcome to come and join us at any time.

Services in August

'Local Arrangement' invariably means instead of a 'live' preacher you can watch a pre-recorded service on screen at church.

Go to oxfordmethodists.org.uk/worship.html where details can be found of various recorded services

Woodstock

2 nd	10.30 a.m.	Charlotte Stonehouse
9 th	10.30 a.m.	'Outdoor Church' Local Church Group
16 th	10.30 a.m.	Rev. Miriam Moul (<i>Joint Service</i>) (<i>Holy Communion</i>)
23 rd	10.30 a.m.	Alistair Jackson
30 th	10.30 a.m.	Paul Spray

We also have a Junior Church which meets every week at 10.30 a.m. and ranges in age from two to early teens. The first part of the morning is shared with adults in church before we then go round to the church hall to share in our own activities. We are always delighted to see new members, whether with or without their parents!

Kidlington

2 nd	10 a.m.	Local Church Group
9 th	10 a.m.	Paul Rosentall
16 th	10.30 a.m.	Joint Service at Woodstock
23 rd	10 a.m.	Local Church Group
30 th	10 a.m.	Rev. Stephen Spain

Every Thursday we meet at 10.00 a.m. for a short informal time of prayer followed by coffee. On the third Thursday of the month, this incorporates a celebration of communion. All Welcome!

The Kidlington church also runs a Junior Church and crèche on Sunday mornings.



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Yarnton Netball Club

The last match of the Oxfordshire Summer League saw Yarnton Jades play Yarnton Diamonds, with Jades pulling away to finish 7th in Division 4. Congratulations to our players and officials for concluding a great season.

The annual Awards Night in June at Begbroke was a beautiful evening outside and a great opportunity to celebrate the wonderful achievements of our talented players. Food was eaten, drinks consumed, and presentations made:

	U11	U13	U15	U19	Seniors
Coaches' Player	Tilly	Emily D	Isobel	Ferne	Iris P
Most Improved Player	Ruby	Anelie	Nalorm	Niamh	Stacey W
Passion and Commitment	Isabella	Amelia D	Mia	Lexi	Lindsey
Rising Star	Maisie P	Amelia S	Iris O	Daisy	
Players' Player (winter)	Annabel	Emily M	Mia	Niamh	Emeralds - Laura Diamonds - Emily



Most Impactful Newcomer is Annabel (U11), *Young Player of the Year* is Hannah (U13). *Team of the Year* is U13 Diamonds (photo). Our *Hidden Gem* is Erin C, and Jemima our *Young Diamond*, with Kelly receiving the *Here if you need* award. Congratulations to the many players who make the club work so well, and for a fabulous evening led by Sarah, Kate and Claire.

Club sessions run on Tuesdays at Rutten Lane, Yarnton for the new season commencing in August. Seniors 7.30 p.m. until 9 p.m., with school years 10-13 preceding at 6.15 p.m. to 7.15 p.m. The younger age groups meet on Wednesday evenings – school years 4-6 are 3.30 p.m. - 4.30 p.m., with years 7-9 at 4.40 p.m. - 5.40 p.m. For updated information on all age-groups, please make contact: yarntonnetballclub@outlook.com or yarntonyouthnetball@gmail.com or via Facebook. Local recreational/league netball is just fun and brilliant to be involved in – do get in touch.

And nationally, the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow will shortly be underway. Netball was invited into the Commonwealth Games in 1998 - the excitement of England Roses winning Gold in 2018 still resonates. World Netball and Australia are leading the bid to get netball included in the Olympics which will be hosted by Brisbane in 2032 – please link to <https://netball.sport/back-the-bid/> to pledge your vote to the bid. England Roses are 3rd in the World Rankings behind Australia and New Zealand, with Jamaica 4th. What will this Commonwealth Games bring? Are you watching?the finals are on Sunday 2nd August, with the semis the day before.

Sue Blackshaw



Updates on 'Botley West'

A HUGE THANK YOU!

This month we start with a huge thank you to everyone who has stood with us to fight against Botley West Solar Farm. We have been raising objections for four years, and your unwavering support has been the lifeblood of the Stop Botley West campaign. So many people have given their time, energy, money and resources along the way to help protect our communities, agricultural land, wildlife and heritage landscapes.

Our strength has always come from your diverse and relentless efforts, including:

- Delivering leaflets to thousands of homes across Oxfordshire to spread the word
- Putting up placards and signs that made our opposition highly visible
- Attending community events, rallies and public hearings in massive numbers - and appearing on TV and radio - to explain why this is the wrong scheme in the wrong place
- Engaging with the developer's consultation 'efforts'
- Writing to MPs and Councillors - and visiting Parliament - to ensure local political pressure never wavered
- Responding to the Examination and the Secretary of State with vital local evidence and objections

The crucial 16th July deadline for responses to the Secretary of State has now passed.

We want to extend our deepest gratitude to every single person who engaged in the journey up to and including the final intense consultation phase; sending in responses to challenge the developer's incorrect, vague and often missing information.

What Happens Next?

We are now waiting for the Secretary of State to make a final decision (or otherwise) regarding the Development Consent Order. The deadline for a decision is 10th September 2026.

Our wonderful community has done everything possible to stand up to this massive 1,418-hectare project (the size of Heathrow Airport).

For further updates as we enter the final stretch of this campaign please visit stopbotleywest.com

You can still register for updates and get the latest news on the application and decision.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Combe Mill, Blenheim Palace Sawmills, Combe, Oxon, OX29 8ET

16th August: Themed event 'Models & Collections'. Come and browse the 'mini' market stalls that have come along to join us. Oxfordshire Vintage Motor Cycle Club will also be in attendance. We will be joined by local Models Clubs exhibiting their models and much more - bring the children along, they will enjoy it.

Combe Mill is a late 19th Century Restored Water Mill on Blenheim Palace Estate by the River Evenlode.

All machinery running; 'In Steam' volunteers will be on hand with lots of interesting information. Tea room will be open, also Food Trailer, Gift Shop and Raffle.

Dog on Leads most welcome. Free Parking.

Adults £9.50, seniors £8.50, accompanied children FREE open 10.30am to 4.30 (Last entries 3.30pm).

Also open every Wednesday for 'self-guided tours' with volunteers around.

Adults £6, Seniors £5. Accompanied children FREE, open 10.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. (last entries 3.30 p.m.)



Budgens OF YARNTON



A Summer to Remember

At the time of writing, it's certainly been a memorable summer! From the excitement of the FIFA World Cup and the drama of the tennis at Wimbledon to the recent heatwave, there's been plenty to enjoy. Whether you're stocking up for a BBQ, grabbing refreshments for the big match or simply picking up your everyday essentials, we're here to help all summer long with everything you need, whenever you need it.

Team Fraser takes on the Oxford Half Marathon!

We're proud to announce that Team Fraser will be taking on the Oxford Half Marathon on 11th October in support of Sobell House Hospice, a charity that is incredibly close to our hearts. Every donation, big or small, will help Sobell House continue providing outstanding care and support to local families. If you'd like to support our team, simply scan the QR code or visit https://www.justgiving.com/page/jonathan-fraser-6?utm_medium=FA&utm_source=CL to make a donation. Thank you for helping us make a difference!



August Bank Holiday – 31st August

The August Bank Holiday is nearly here – the last long weekend before the countdown to Christmas begins! Whether you're enjoying a BBQ, heading out with family or simply relaxing at home, we've got everything you need to make the most of the weekend, whatever the weather.



Store Times

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Sunday - 6.30am – 10.30pm

Post Office Times

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Saturday 9am – 2pm
Sunday CLOSED



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