

YARNTON VILLAGE News

*A very happy,
healthy and
peaceful
Christmas to all
our readers*

DECEMBER
2024

Editorial Committee:

Ruth Astall, 19 The Spears, OX5 1NS, tel. 372637 – *Editor*
Mary Clarke, Woodbine Villa, 18 Rutten Lane, OX5 1LN,
tel. 07947 659788 – *Secretary and Assistant Editor*
Sue Brewerton, 150 Rutten Lane, OX5 1LS, tel. 01865 460383 –
Treasurer

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 2nd

Community Drop In, Village Hall, 2 p.m. – 4 p.m.

(and every Monday until 16th December. Starts again 6th January 2025)

Monday 2nd

Yarnton Band, 7.30 p.m. – 8.45 p.m. *(and every Monday, except Bank Holidays)*

Wednesday 4th

Parish Council Meeting, Village Hall, 6.30 p.m.

Thursday 5th

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)*

Friday 6th

Copy date January 2025 Village News

Sunday 8th

Village Carol Service, St. Bartholomew's, 4 p.m.

Wednesday 11th

Lunch Club Christmas Meal, Village Hall, 1 p.m.

Thursday 12th

W.I., Village Hall, 7.30 p.m.

Thursday 19th

Gardening Club AGM and Christmas Social (Members only), Village Hall, 7.30 p.m.

Saturday 21st

Christingle Service, St. Bartholomew's, 3 p.m.

Tuesday 24th

Crib Service, St. Bartholomew's, 3 p.m.

Midnight Mass, St. Bartholomew's, 11 p.m.

Wednesday 25th

Holy Communion, St. Bartholomew's, 8 a.m.

Christmas Day Communion service, St. Bartholomew's, 11 a.m.

Thursday 26th

St. Stephen's Day. Holy Communion, St. Bartholomew's, 10.30 a.m.

St. Bartholomew's Church

Regular services

Sundays

8 a.m. Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)

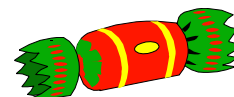
11 a.m. Parish Communion, with Junior Church, followed by coffee

Wednesdays

9.30 a.m. Holy Communion

On Facebook

Sundays, 9.30 a.m. Sunday Eucharist



Advertising Rates

One-eighth A4 page: £10 per issue, £90 per year.

One-quarter A4 page: £16 per issue, £144 per year.

One-half A4 page: £28 per issue, £252 per year.

Whole A4 page: £48 per issue.

Classified Ads: 5p per word. Must include telephone number.

The Editorial Committee in no way accepts responsibility for services supplied by our advertisers.

Distributed free of charge at the beginning of each month to every household in Yarnton.

Yarnton Village News is printed by KMS Litho (Litho & Digital Impressions Ltd.), tel. 01608 737640,
email: enquiries@kmslitho.co.uk

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 January 2025 Issue

Material for inclusion in the January 2025 Newsletter should be received by midday on **Friday 6th December.**

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 February 2025 issue is **Friday 10th January.**

Distribution Coordinator role

A heartfelt thank you from the committee (especially Mary) to all those of you who came forward to offer help with the organisation of distribution of the Village News. We weren't sure how we would be able to carry on if no-one volunteered.

Richard Briggs and Mandy Jeffries helped sort the copies and take them round to our distributors for the November Issue with Mary, who says it was fun. We all agree that sharing the role amongst a team is much the most sensible approach and means that the burden doesn't fall on one person, and holidays, etc. can be covered.

If any more of you are happy to help out, please contact Richard Briggs so that you can be added to our team and he can fix a time to show you the ropes and do one of the distribution 'runs' with you. Richard's email is r.a.briggs@hotmail.co.uk, or phone 07970 546831.

We could also do with a few more reserve distributors, who might be able to take on a round when someone is ill or on holiday. Again, please contact Richard if you could go on the list. Thank you.

Village Hall Committee

Advertising rates

After careful consideration, we have decided to increase our advertising charges with effect from January 2025. This will apply to renewals and any new adverts.

The new rates are:

One eighth page: £13 per issue, £117 per year

One quarter page: £21 per issue, £189 per year

Half page: £35 per issue, £315 per year

Full page: £60 per issue. We do not accept annual full-page advertisements.

We realise this is a considerable increase, but hope you will understand that this is necessary to cover our costs, and that those who currently advertise with us will continue to do so. We think our rates compare favourably with other local village newsletters, and would draw your attention to the fact that the Village News is delivered to every household in the village, so has a wide readership.

Village News committee

Good Neighbour Scheme	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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Yarnton W.I.



As it comes to the end of the year and the start of the festive season, we have lots to look forward to. As I write this in November, following our successful Harvest Supper in October we will be hosting Shelley van Loen from Kirtlington demonstrating how she crafts bespoke handmade chocolates. Alongside this captivating demonstration, Shelley tells us about her life as a freelance violinist and touring musician. She will share chocolate techniques, designs and recipes and how the magic of chocolate inspired her to start her own business. We look forward to sampling a selection of delicious flavours. This provides us with an exciting opportunity to purchase chocolates as festive gifts or treats for friends and family. We will have participated in the annual Remembrance Day tribute at our village memorial and laid down our beautiful handmade wreath which otherwise resides at St. Bartholomew's Church. This is an honour for the W.I. Our December meeting will be our annual craft evening. We will be re-purposing paperback books to create Christmas trees and work on decorations for our next likely post box topper. We listen to seasonal music and indulge in a variety of foods and drinks appropriate to the occasion. It gives us a good opportunity to socialise with our friends. We also look forward to our Christmas prize draw.

We will be supporting the Oxfordshire Federation Christmas appeal by donating chocolates and wrapped seasonal baked goods to food banks and community larders. This is always well supported. As this will appear in the December issue, on behalf of our members, I would like to take this opportunity to wish all readers of the Village News and their families best wishes for a very happy and healthy holiday season. We hope to meet you in 2025.

Judy Blake, President

Interested in starting strength training, but don't know where to begin?

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yarntonnetballclub@outlook.com

or Facebook at
'Yarnton Netball Club'

The winter league season is well under way, with Yarnton Jades playing in Division 2 and currently lying 4th from 13 teams, and Yarnton Gems in Division 3 now in 6th place from 11 teams. – an excellent start to the season.

Training continues on Tuesday evenings at Rutten Lane, Yarnton as a regular commitment for those wishing to be selected for Oxfordshire league entry, and also a time to bring in new players or offer recreational play for those not able to commit to league participation. The club continues to expand and always welcomes interest from potential new players.

Our youth section caters for ages 17 and below and the club is delighted to have been able to make the move to competitive league play for several teams this season. A huge leap forward requiring commitment from many senior members in order to support this development. Congratulations to all involved.

The U17s girls (years 10 and 11) training session is held on Tuesdays from 6.15 p.m. – 7.15 p.m. followed by two senior sessions 7.15 p.m. – 8.15 p.m. and also 8.15 p.m. – 9.15 p.m. The primary-school age groups fed from William Fletcher School are now being played at Rutten Lane on Wednesdays during school term time, with U11s mixed (years 5 and 6) from 3.30 p.m. – 4.30 p.m. followed by U15s mixed (years 7, 8, 9) at 4.40 p.m. – 5.40 p.m.

Please make contact by email (yarntonyouthnetball@gmail.com or yarntonnetballclub@outlook.com) or via Facebook for any further information.

Kidlington Katz Walking Netball is offered for those with lesser mobility and is played in the indoor sports hall at Kidlington & Gosford Leisure Centre on Monday evenings 6.30 p.m. - 7.45 p.m. The main difference in play is that at all times one foot should be grounded and there are also four seconds to pass the ball; but also time for a very much more social and relaxed participation in the game. Please make contact by email for further information – kidlingtonwalkingnetball@gmail.com.

A breakthrough for England Roses who have recently been ranked 2nd in the world. Our fierce rivals Australia retain top spot, but only one rating point separates England from third placed New Zealand – so all eyes on the November internationals against Jamaica who rest at 4th place.

Meanwhile the Premier League is well underway and will culminate before the New Super League launches next Spring with the Super-Cup day event at the Utilita Arena in Sheffield on 8th March.



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Yarnton Band news
from Brass to Concert Pianist



Jâms Coleman (piano) in S.t Clement Danes Church
Photo: Roger Way Photography

Although Jâms never played with our band, he did play with Beaumaris Brass Band on Anglesey and in the National Youth Band of Wales. On 1st December at 2.30 p.m. he will be giving a recital at Trinity College in Oxford, with the cellist Laura van der Heijden. Jâms and his brother both remain grateful for their roots in the Brass Band movement.

At the District's Entertainment Contest we were not amongst the prizes, but for our performance the adjudicator wrote:

Festmusik der Stadt Wien - What a great sound from cornets and trombones. Good ensemble work throughout.

Concerto de Aranjuez - Lovely flugel work, very classy, well played Elsie Talbut.

The Bold Gendarmes - This instantly sounds comfortable and in total control, fabulous balance and style from trombones; this is great. There really is some fabulous young talent in this band! A particular highlight of the programme.

Mamma Mia - This sounds really confident and comfortable, great drive on percussion and basses with good melodic work in the cornets.

Ticket to ride - Well managed opening and once again good style, dynamics and balance. Tempo change to end very well handled.

Overall- some really enjoyable playing here, especially in the pop numbers. Lots of committed rhythmic playing. Thank you.

Jonathan Bates

During December you can hear the Band at the following places, although several are private (P) events:

Sunday 8th: Yarnton Church Carol Service, 4 p.m.

Wednesday 11th: Erdington House with Brownies and Guides 6.30 p.m. (P).

Sunday 15th: Harris Manchester College, Mansfield Road, Oxford for the Chapel Society (Unitarian) Carol Service, 11 a.m.

Monday 16th: Yarnton Care Home, 7 p.m. (P).

Thursday 19th: Yarnton Gardening Club, 8.15 p.m. (P).

Tuesday 24th: Yarnton Church Crib service (tbc).

Chris Lord

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The Therapeutic Benefits of Gardening: A Sanctuary in Nature

In an increasingly fast-paced and stressful world, finding effective ways to manage mental health and well-being is crucial to us all. This article explores the therapeutic benefits of gardening, emphasising how regular engagement with nature can provide significant support and sustenance for individuals overwhelmed by life's demands on a day-to-day basis.

Modern life, with its relentless pace and myriad responsibilities, often leaves us feeling overwhelmed and disconnected. Amidst this chaos, nature offers a sanctuary - a place where one can find solace and rejuvenation. Gardening, in particular, stands out to me as a practical and accessible means to reconnect with nature and enhance mental well-being.

Gardening has been shown to have profound psychological benefits. Studies indicate strongly that spending time in green spaces can reduce stress, anxiety, and depression. The act of nurturing plants and watching them grow provides a sense of accomplishment and purpose, which can be particularly therapeutic for those feeling overwhelmed.

Beyond mental health, gardening also promotes physical well-being. The physical activity involved in gardening, such as digging, planting, and weeding, contributes to overall fitness. Regular gardening can improve cardiovascular health, enhance flexibility, and increase strength, making it a holistic activity that benefits both mind and body in obvious and not so obvious ways.

Gardening can also foster social connections and community engagement. Community gardens and the like, for instance, bring people together, creating a sense of belonging and shared purpose. These social interactions can alleviate feelings of isolation and build supportive networks, further enhancing mental health.

In conclusion, gardening offers a multifaceted approach to improving well-being. By stepping out into nature and engaging in regular gardening activities, we can find a sustainable way to support our mental and physical health. As the world continues to present challenges, the simple act of gardening can provide a much-needed respite and a source of enduring strength.

Happy Gardening.

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



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Wolvercote Mill, Fri, 5.30 - 6.30pm

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Yarnton Blues youth team - message from the Chair

Football with the Yarnton Blues youth team provides us with a great opportunity to come together as a club and a community in a supportive, positive environment. I can only thank the Coaches and Committee, for their continuing efforts in this regard. My observation as I enter my third year in this position is that we're blessed with an excellent group of volunteers at this club, and that our future is bright.

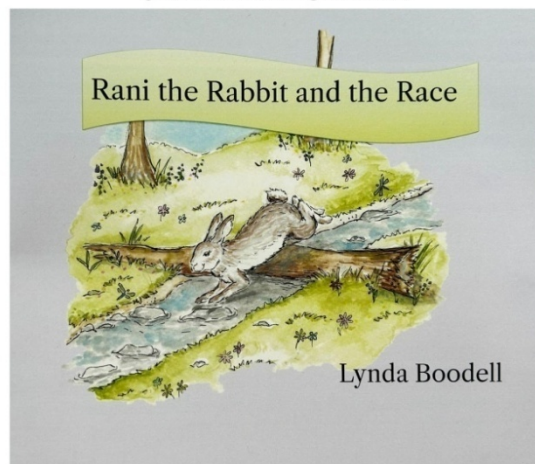
Thanks must also be given to our players and their parents, carers, and various family. Not only for ferrying the players to and from training and matches (and washing all their filthy kit!), but also for their support on the touchlines on match days. The club is much stronger for your time and efforts. Our gratitude also to the residents of Yarnton and the surrounding villages - thank you too for your ongoing support for the club. This club provides sporting and development opportunities for nearly 120 young people and strives to help them become both better footballers and better people. I know we occasionally generate some traffic on Rutten Lane or noise at the park during training and matches, but we really try to minimise disruption, and we hugely appreciate your tolerance and understanding.

On behalf of Yarnton Blues, I'd like to wish everyone a safe, happy, and peaceful Christmas break. Have great time, and best wishes for a hopeful and vibrant 2025!

Warm regards,

Daniel Wickham-Jones, Chair, YBFC (youth)

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Woodstock Music Society Christmas Concert

The concert will take place on Friday 13th and Saturday
14th December at St. Mary Magdalene Church, Park Street,
Woodstock OX20 1SJ at 7.30 p.m.

Tickets: £14 in advance or £15 at the door, full time
students £5, accompanied children under 16 free.

From: The Woodstock Bookshop

email: concerts@woodstockmusic.info

book online: www.bookwhen.com/woodstock

The programme consists of:

Weber: *Der Freischütz* Overture

Mass in E flat

Handel: Christmas Music from the *Messiah*

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Website: www.ybsbenefice.org.uk. **Facebook:** @yarntonchurch.

Advent begins on 1st December this year. Amidst the potential demands and commitments of December, the season of Advent is a precious time in the Christian year, where Christians seek to make space to reflect more deeply on the coming of Jesus Christ. **Four traditional themes of Advent are Hope, Peace, Joy and Love.** These are realities which are needed for human flourishing, and which many are desperately seeking in an uncertain world. Christian faith holds that these realities are not simply things we can grasp and engineer by our best efforts. At the heart of the Christmas mystery is that conviction that the birth of Jesus brought these cherished realities of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love into the world in a new way - not as ideas, philosophies or dogmas to be learned, but through a person to be known and loved. Born as a homeless refugee, in flight with his mother Mary and foster father Joseph from a murderous king and regime, Jesus entered into solidarity with human vulnerability, ultimately dying on a roman cross, before rising to new life. As our Christmas carols cry out: **the child of Bethlehem came as Emmanuel – which means ‘God with us’.** The celebration of Christmas invites us to enter into this mystery, and to go in heart and mind to Bethlehem to re-visit the ancient story, and hear again the message of the angel: that the child of Mary can be known and loved, and offers Hope, Peace, Joy and Love to those who come to him, not as a prize for our striving, but simply as a gift to be received. A beautiful verse in the much loved carol ‘O Little Town of Bethlehem’ speaks of the Christmas wonder:

“How silently, how silently, The wondrous gift is given! So God imparts to human hearts The blessings of His heaven. No ear may hear His coming, But in this world of sin, Where meek souls will receive Him still, The dear Christ enters in.”

We hope that our programme of Christmas services and events will offer an opportunity to celebrate Christmas within our village and local community, and all are warmly welcome. We wish you and your loved ones a Happy Christmas!

Special Christmas Services and events:

Sundays in Advent

8 a.m. Holy Communion

11 a.m. Parish Communion with Junior Church.

** 1st December additional 5 p.m. Eucharist with contemporary worship music*

Sunday 8th December, 4 p.m. Village Carol Service accompanied by Yarnton Band, followed by hospitality in Yarnton Manor. A traditional service of readings and lots of congregational carols, with Yarnton Band playing. We are extremely grateful to the Lanier Foundation at Yarnton Manor for offering hospitality in the Manor afterwards for all attending the service.

Sunday 15th December, 2 p.m. Crib Service ‘rehearsal’. Come and take part in shaping our crib service’s telling of the Christmas story, ahead of the service on Christmas Eve. We traditionally invite children to act out the story of Christmas in an informal way. In this gathering we will practice the story, sing carols, and find roles for all who would like to be involved. Followed by hot chocolate!

Wednesday 18th December, 10.30 a.m. Little Sheep Christingle Gathering. A special edition of our Wednesday morning group for under 5s and parents/carers, telling the Christmas story and making a Christingle.

Saturday 21st December, 3 p.m. Christingle Service. A Christingle service in church, especially suitable for children accompanied by an adult. With favourite Christmas carols and the making and lighting of Christingles. We will take a collection for the Children’s Society, who have always been associated with the Christingle Service.

Tuesday 24th December, Christmas Eve.

3 p.m. Crib Service accompanied by Yarnton Band. Our annual Crib Service is for all ages and a special moment in our year. Children who would like to take a speaking part in the story are invited to the ‘rehearsal’ on 15th December. All children are very welcome to come to the service dressed as an angel, a shepherd or wise man/woman, and join in!

11 p.m. ‘Midnight Mass’. Holy Communion with Christmas Carols.

Wednesday 25th December, Christmas Day.

8 a.m. Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)

11 a.m. Christmas Day Communion Service. Holy Communion with Christmas Carols, suitable for all ages. Join us to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ!

Thursday 26th December, St. Stephen’s Day.

10.30 a.m. Holy Communion with carols, followed by refreshments.

Regular Services and events

Sundays: 8 a.m. Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer), 11 a.m. Parish Sung Communion with Junior Church, followed by coffee.

9.30 a.m. Benefice Online Service (St. Bartholomew’s Facebook page).

Wednesdays: 9.30 a.m. Holy Communion. 10.30 a.m. Little Sheep (term time) – for toddlers and parents/grandparents/carers – crafts, songs and a story.

We welcome enquiries for Christenings and Weddings.

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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 **Main Hall** or **Back Room** are, per hour unless stated:

Village residents: £11.00

Non Village residents: £13.00

Kitchen: £8.00 - per session

A separate deposit of £100 is required when booking the hall

For further information or to book the hall please contact Booking Secretary

yarntonvillagehall@gmail.com or 07948 722633



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: Marilyn King, tel. 01865 376700, Email: marilyn.king@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 December

'Local Arrangement' invariably means instead of a 'live' preacher you can watch a pre-recorded service on screen at church. These services can also be viewed on computer at home if people are still wary, because of the pandemic, about going to church.

Services can be found each week at <https://bit.ly/OxMeth>

Woodstock

1 st	10.30 a.m.	Rev. Paul Carter (Holy Communion)
8 th	10.30 a.m.	Christingle (Local Church Group)
15 th	10.30 a.m.	Rev. Sonia Hicks
22 nd	10.30 a.m.	Carol Service, Margaret Sawyer
24 th	11.15 p.m.	Rev. Paul Carter (Holy Communion)
25 th	10.30 a.m.	Christmas Day Worship Andrew Maisey
29 th	10.30 a.m.	Local Church Group

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

1 st	10 a.m.	Simon Blainey
8 th	10 a.m.	Rev. Michael Sawyer
15 th	10 a.m.	Rev. Miriam Moul (Holy Communion)
22 nd	10 a.m.	Local Church Group
24 th	No service	
25 th	9.30 a.m.	Local Church Group
29 th	10 a.m.	Paul Rosentall

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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Oxford Bus Museum inc. Morris Motors and Historic Cycle Collection

www.oxfordbusmuseum.org.uk

Christmas and New Year

Father Christmas will be coming on Sundays 15th and 22nd December to the Bus Museum in Long Hanborough from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. Plans are being made to create his Grotto within a bus in the museum and to hold a Christmas Tombola. A small charge will be made for children to see Father Christmas but they will be given a gift. There will be bus rides at 12.15 p.m. and 2.15 p.m. A great way of entertaining your children or grandchildren!

If you are at a loose end after the festivities, why not visit the museum on New Year's Day when we are holding a running day. Several buses from our running fleet will take part, with regular departures from the museum on different routes. You will be able to experience what it was like to travel by bus in the 1950s and 1960s.



The picture is of two objects outside in the museum yard. They often puzzle visitors. We have tried to grow plants in them to make the museum look more attractive. But what was their original purpose?

Until the 1960s buses were made by attaching a completed body onto a chassis, which had the engine and driving cab at the front, the transmission down the length of the chassis to the rear wheels.

After the First World War the War Department sold off its surplus lorries, which had been brought back from France. Some ex-servicemen bought the lorries and removed the lorry body and mounted a bus body on the chassis. Only later were chassis designed especially for buses.

When London Transport overhauled its buses, it would separate the body from the chassis at the start of the work. The overhaul of the bodies and chassis did not take the same amount of time. When a chassis was complete, the first available body would be attached. It was rare that a departing chassis would have the same body as when it arrived.

Each new type of chassis had to be subjected to rigorous testing before being put on the market. To do this the weight of the body and its payload had to be replicated.

AEC of Southall, who made most of Oxford's buses until 1967, used these two weights mounted on the chassis frame between the wheels to simulate the weight of the body during testing.



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A Young Naturalist's Safari

The other day a young voice, wise beyond her years, posed a question that left me pondering the wonders of our gardens' wildlife. 'What creatures can be found in gardens during Spring, Summer, Autumn, and my favourite, Winter?' she asked, her eyes sparkling with curiosity.

Spring: The Awakening

Spring in the garden is like a grand opening of a nature-themed Broadway show. The ladybirds are the first to take the stage, their red and black polka-dotted costumes dazzling under the sun. Tadpoles wiggle in the pond, rehearsing their transformation into frogs. Birds, the ultimate DIY enthusiasts, flit about collecting nesting materials, while humans, the perennial garden spectators, emerge from hibernation to marvel at the spectacle.

Summer: The Buzzing Bonanza

As the temperature rises, so does the garden's activity. Greenfly, the tiny troublemakers, throw a garden party, much to the dismay of the plants. Foxes, the stealthy night-time visitors, leave behind clues of their nocturnal escapades. Grasshoppers, the garden's musicians, provide a constant background score with their chirping. And of course, humans, armed with sun hats and lemonade, bask in the glory of summer.

Autumn: The Cosy Gathering

Autumn brings a sense of cosiness to the garden. Hedgehogs, the prickly yet adorable guests, scurry around preparing for their winter slumber. Bats, the mysterious night flyers, swoop through the twilight sky. Badgers, the garden's burrowers, make their presence known with their distinctive tracks. Humans, wrapped in scarves and sipping hot cocoa, enjoy the crisp air and the vibrant foliage.

Winter: The Silent Symphony

Winter, the young naturalist's favourite season, transforms the garden into a serene wonderland. Redwings, with their striking plumage, add a splash of colour to the bare branches. Squirrels, the acrobats of the garden, perform daring leaps in search of hidden nuts. Deer, the gentle giants, occasionally grace the garden with their majestic presence. And humans, bundled up in layers, marvel at the quiet beauty of the winter landscape.

The Common Thread

Can you see the commonality across all seasons? Humans are a dominant force in our own ecosystems, and we are part of it, not separate from it. We like to remove ourselves from it, and it's something we've done for millennia.

Aristotle and the like all wrote about it. It's not a perception we can turn around overnight.

I'm sure you can come up with another seasonal list that resonates with you. Mine came to me at the time, but ask me the same question next month and I might say something completely different. Regardless of the list, we're all part of the greater picture of a healthy and fully functional ecosystem, all playing a part, all having a place. So next time you step into your garden, remember, you're not just an observer. You're a participant in this grand, ever-changing play called nature.

Happy Gardening.

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



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Yarnton Gardening Club

This month we hold our A.G.M. and Christmas Social on Thursday 19th December in the Village Hall at **7 p.m.** This is for members only. There will be reports on the year's activities and the Club finances, and details of our planned speakers and outings for 2025.

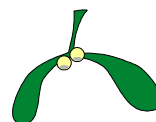
If you haven't already let Jill know that you will be coming and what refreshments you may be bringing, please contact her on 01865 377623.

Our speaker in January will be Sarah Simblet, whose talk will be 'An artist's view of orchards and forests'.

Sarah is the artist and co-author of the book 'The New Sylva: A Discourse of Forest and Orchard Trees for the Twenty-First Century'.

This is in the Village Hall on Thursday 16th at 7.30 p.m. A reminder that subscriptions of £15 are due at this meeting. If you would prefer to pay by bank transfer, then the details are on your programme card.

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For more details and to book an appointment

Contact Anita
Tel: 01865 430597
or
Mobile: 07986556015

Kidlington & District Historical Society

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 10th December, when there will be a short commemorative talk by Peter Webber on the 150th Anniversary of the Shipton-on-Cherwell railway disaster. There will also be a quiz.

The meeting is held at Kidlington Baptist Church, OX5 2DS. Doors open 7.30 p.m. with meetings starting at 7.50 p.m.

Visitors £5. Ample car parking.

For further details, email kanddhs@yahoo.co.uk

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Cherwell Collective

We Need Climate Literacy for all

*This editorial is written by our director, Dr. Emily Connally, founder of Cherwell Collective,
with support from our writer Michael Hines*

Climate change is set to be the greatest challenge humanity has ever faced. The greenhouse gases building in our atmosphere are quite dangerous. We are on track to increase average temperatures around the globe by 3 degrees Celsius. That would severely disrupt food production and the entire economy and cause mass migrations of climate refugees. Many more people would die each year in extreme weather events. Meanwhile, we are already on the verge of a mass extinction of plant and animal life globally that could wipe out more than 30% of all living species.

We still have time to prevent this worst-case scenario, but we need to change our behaviour now. We need to cut greenhouse emissions – dramatically. In our work, we’ve learned that people want to fight climate change but don’t know where to start. Not being empowered with that knowledge creates a *climate literacy* gap. Unfortunately, today, climate literacy is a privilege for the few.

CALL OUT: What we need is climate literacy for all.

What Is Climate Literacy?

Climate literacy is understanding what causes climate change and how to fix it. It extends to learning:

- Which human activities create greenhouse gases,
- How greenhouse gases cause climate change,
- What the short and long-term effects of climate change will be unless we change course,
- Who will be hit hardest in the future and who is already suffering today,
- What we all can do differently to stop climate change, and
- How we can protect ourselves against what is coming.

Here's a quick example of understanding a specific activity that creates greenhouse gases: our love of red meat.

- Methane is a very potent greenhouse gas – worse than carbon dioxide.
- When methane enters the atmosphere, it helps trap heat.
- Methane traps 30 times more heat than carbon dioxide over 100 years.
- Cows (and sheep and deer) burp methane when they eat, but hogs and chickens do not.
- The more cows (and sheep and deer) we raise for food, the more methane we produce.

So, what can we do differently?

- Scientists work on innovations, including seaweed to help reduce cow burps.
- It helps to eat chicken or pork instead of beef or lamb.
- It helps to choose culled venison (especially from invasive deer), rather than farmed deer.
- It helps to consume less cow milk and eat less cheese.

Thinking about climate change when you decide what you eat is called a climatarian approach. Changing our food habits toward a climatarian diet is a big step because food production accounts for 1/3 of greenhouse gas emissions.

To take this knowledge one step further, climate change also disrupts global food production. Extreme weather like droughts and floods destroys crops. Damage to supply then causes inflation of food prices at the shops. The impact of this damage will only become more dramatic over time.

CALL OUT: In summary, what we eat can change the climate, which in turn can change the weather, which in turn determines what is available to eat and how much it costs us to feed ourselves.

Climate Literacy has gatekeepers

The links between cows and methane, climate and weather, and the long-term effect on food supply are just one tiny piece of the climate literacy picture. What we all need is to understand the big picture. That knowledge will help us make more sustainable decisions in our daily lives. Climate literacy covers a range of behaviors, including transport, electricity use, buying appliances, shopping for clothes, food preparation, and even voting.

Unfortunately, climate literacy is somewhat of a privilege today. It is taught at our best schools or in some university programmes. Adults can be trained to become ‘carbon literate’ by organisations like the Carbon Literacy Trust. Those programmes tend to have a financial cost, often in the hundreds of pounds. After that, you must also pay an additional fee to receive a certification from the Trust, even after you have completed the course.

CALL OUT: The science behind climate change is well established. In fact, if you know about science, you understand that scientists spend their entire careers trying to prove one another wrong. It is the job of a scientist to be sceptical and test theories. Climate change is the only thing in history that all of the world’s scientists agree on. Why are we hiding the truth behind a paywall?

We know climate literacy is essential. It's now common in lessons provided to children, just like education about nutrition. If we wait until those children are in control, it will be too late. Adults need this training, too. For example, people argue that how the countryside 'looks' is more important than an immediate move to decarbonisation. Decarbonisation includes increasing green energy, decreasing fossil energy, changing how we eat, and changing what and how we buy new stuff. We need to make all of these changes NOW, or there will be no countryside left to argue about. We must open the gates to climate literacy.

Climate Literacy should be free

If climate change is the biggest issue facing humanity, then climate literacy needs to be considered as essential as learning to read. Courses should be ingrained in all public education, made widely available to adults, and paid for with our tax money. Climate literacy is critical to the survival of humans and life on Earth as we know it. The UN has already established a model for this. Its UN Climate Change e-learn programme offers a variety of free online courses on various components of climate change. The UK government could create an accredited program like this and make it available to everyone, with free certification. Individual U.S. states (education in the U.S. is controlled at the state level) could do the same. These two nations in particular are considered the most important puzzle pieces in fighting climate change, besides the role of China. Right now, climate literacy is being used for 'greenwashing'. A company can pay for employee training in climate literacy and get certifications to make the company look good. However, this does not mean the company or employees should change their behaviours to become more sustainable. The company just reports that its employees are trained.

CALL OUT: Climate literacy programs should not be for corporate gain (the prominent cause of climate change) but should instead be about empowering one another to protect ourselves from climate disasters.

Cherwell Collective's climate resources are always free

Cherwell Collective is trying to do its small part to improve climate literacy. We share our knowledge and skills to help people understand the climatarian diet and the circular economy. We use Carbon Cost at our cafe to help people understand climate choices in food decisions. Our Carbon Cost of fashion exhibit teaches the most important choices we can make to avoid the worst types of clothing and accessories. WISH offers courses to help you learn new skills in waste reduction. We know better than most how much time, thought, and skill teaching requires. We believe teachers deserve to be paid well. We pay our team to create tools to spread climate literacy worldwide. One of our goals for the next year is to have our climate literacy resources accredited so that participating individuals can have the same opportunities as people who pay other organisations for the same knowledge. Moreover, we feel that every community should have a 'carbon expert' sitting in and available for any questions. One of our staff is on-site at Waste Innovation Station, Kidlington, OX5 1EE for Tuesdays - Saturdays 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. and Fridays until 6 p.m. No question or action is too small if we do this together.



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YARNTON PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk to the Council, Yarnton Village Hall,
The Paddocks, Yarnton, Kidlington, Oxfordshire, OX5 1TE
Tel. 01865 378476, e-mail: parishclerk@yarnton-pc.org.uk

Parish Councillor Vacancy

There are currently vacancies for several Parish Councillors. If you are interested in becoming a Councillor, please either contact the Parish Clerk for details or attend the next Parish Council meeting.

Role:	Parish Councillor
Responsible to:	All people resident within Yarnton
Regular liaison with:	Other councillors, local authorities, residents
Period of service:	Four year term of office
Salary:	This is a voluntary position, expenses can be paid

Main purpose: Representing the views of all residents within your parish

Secondary purpose: As part of a local council you will have responsibility for:

- Running local services which may include: open spaces, play areas, community schemes and potentially much more.
- Deciding on how much to raise through the council tax in order to deliver your council's services.
- Influencing and shaping the long term development policy for the parish, and as part of the planning process, commenting on planning applications in the parish.
- Improving the quality of life and the environment in your local area.
- Working to identify issues which are important to the lives of the residents you represent.
- Working to bring about improvements through local projects, lobbying other service providers and working in partnership with other parishes and agencies.

History of Parish Councils:

The current system of Parish Councils was formed by the Local Government Act 1894. There are currently around 10,000 parish councils in the country. Any community can ask to have a Parish Council and, in fact, many new parishes have been formed in recent years - particularly in urban areas. Parish Councils are the tier of local government which is closest to individual communities and therefore have the greatest potential for identifying, understanding and addressing the needs of the communities they serve. While some larger councils are run along party political lines, there is no expectation that you have to join a political party. Yarnton Parish Council is not split by party politics.

The eligibility criteria to be a Parish Councillor are that you must:

- Be a British citizen or a citizen of the Commonwealth or European Union.
- Be over 18 and on the electoral register.
- Be a resident of Yarnton (although there are certain exceptions).
- Be able to attend regular evening meetings.
- Be interested in local issues and things which affect people.
- Be keen to improve the local environment and quality of life.
- Have an understanding and willingness to represent the views of the whole community.
- Have an interest in learning and developing your role in the community.

Support and training:

Training and advice for Parish Councillors is available.

How to find out more:

The National Association of Local Councils (NALC) has a website www.nalc.gov.uk, or preferably you could attend a Parish Council meeting and talk to existing councillors or to the Clerk.

You can't be a councillor if you:

- Work for the council you want to be a councillor for, or for another local authority in a politically restricted post.
- Are the subject of a bankruptcy restrictions order or interim order.
- Have been sentenced to prison for three months or more (including suspended sentences) during the 5 years before election day.
- Have been convicted of a corrupt or illegal practice by an election court.
- Are subject to the notification requirement of or under Part 2 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003.

You may be disqualified following a conviction under the Localism Act 2011.

Further details are available on the Electoral Commission's website www.electoralcommission.org.uk

For a summary of the roles and responsibilities of a Parish Councillor and an introduction to the work of the Parish Council, please get in touch with the Clerk or any councillor.

If no election is called, the vacancy will be filled by co-option; full details on the co-option process are available from the Clerk.

David Thornhill, Parish Clerk, Yarnton Parish Council

Parish Council information– December 2024

Email: parishclerk@yarnton-pc.org.uk, Telephone: 01865378476, Website: www.yarnton-pc.org.uk

All correspondence sent by letter or email to the Parish Council must include the sender's name and address. 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. Please email or telephone if you would like to make an appointment as the office is not staffed full-time.

Parish Council contact details

Parish Council Chairman: Vacancy

Parish Council Vice-Chairman: Mike Groves: mike.groves@yarnton-pc.org.uk

Other Parish Council Members:

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

Ian Middleton: ian.middleton@yarnton-pc.org.uk

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

Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer: David Thornhill: parishclerk@yarnton-pc.org.uk

District Councillors

Jean Conway: jean.conway@cherwell-dc.gov.uk

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

Dorothy Walker: dorothy.walker@cherwell-dc.gov.uk

County Councillor

Ian Middleton: ian.middleton@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Planning: Any members of the public who wish to comment 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:

24/00539/F. Land to the East of Stratfield Brake and West of Oxford Parkway Railway Station, Oxford Road, Kidlington, erection of a stadium (Use Class F2) with flexible commercial and community facilities and uses including for conferences, exhibitions, education, and other events, club shop, public restaurant, bar, health and wellbeing facility/clinic, and gym (Use Class E/Sui Generis), hotel (Use Class C1), external concourse/fan-zone, car and cycle parking, access and highway works, utilities, public realm, landscaping and all associated and ancillary works and structures.

24/02658/TPO. 9 Poppy Close, Yarnton, OX5 1GZ, T1 (Silver Birch), reduce limbs over bay and drive by 1.5 m. – 2 m.; T2 (Oak), reduce limbs over drive by 1.5 m. – 2 m. Subject to TPO 007/2001.

24/01732/F. 54 Dashwood Avenue, Yarnton, Kidlington, OX5 1NJ. Appeal Reference:APP/C3105/W/24/3351625.

23/03307/OUT. Former Piggery and Land North of Woodstock Road, Yarnton, outline planning application for the residential development of up to 300 dwellings with associated infrastructure and open space (outline) and new access off the A44 (detailed).

24/02872/F. Oxford South Depot, 1 Woodstock Road, Yarnton, Kidlington, OX5 1NY, construction, operation and decommissioning of a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) facility and associated infrastructure.

24/02852/SO. Oxford South Depot, 1 Woodstock Road, Yarnton, Kidlington, OX5 1NY, Screening Opinion request for proposed 52mw battery energy storage system (BESS) facility.

Planning Decisions:

OCC ref: MW.0054/24 Section 73 for Hanson Quarry Products Europe Ltd, The Ridge, Chipping Sodbury, South Gloucestershire, BA37 6AY for: Section 73 application for the continuation of the development permitted by MW.0122/20 (winning and working of sand and gravel with restoration using suitable imported materials) without complying with condition 6 in order to extend the time period for restoration until 31st December 2025 to allow for sufficient time to restore the plant site at Cassington Pit, Cassington Road, Yarnton, Oxfordshire, OX29 4EB. Application permitted.

24/02357/F. 9 Stocks Tree Close, Yarnton, Kidlington, OX5 1LU, two- storey side extension, single-storey front and rear extensions, enlarge existing garage following partial conversion and insertion of three no. roof windows on ground floor. Application permitted.

24/01062/F. Sheehan Haulage and Plant Hire Ltd, Knightsbridge Farm, Woodstock Road, Yarnton, Kidlington OX5 1PH. Installation and operation of a mobile asphalt plant associated aggregate stock bays and weighbridge. Application permitted.

Parish Councillors

There are currently vacancies for six Parish Councillors. If you are interested in becoming a Councillor, please either contact the Parish Clerk for details or attend the next Parish Council meeting.

Future meetings: The next monthly Parish Council meeting is on Wednesday 4th December at 6.30 p.m. 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.



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Our speaker meeting in November gave us Vivien Sieber speaking about *Kino and Kinder* - her family's journey in the shadow of the Holocaust. A sombre recounting of the survival of her own grandparents and Vivien's own journey in researching that evolving story. Her book *Kino and Kinder* is available from usual sources.

Whilst the speaker meetings are a chance to meet other members, our Interest Groups are the mainstay of the u3a movement. Members who are willing to share their knowledge and skills will meet as an Interest Group and develop those links – e.g. Art, Recorders, Photography, Board Games, Foreign Language, etc., with most sessions taking place during the daytime. Do check our website for further information; although the website is currently being redeveloped – all should be ready by the turn of the year.

Our next speaker meeting on 5th December sees a visit from Gloria Carmino who will show us the glories of Machu Picchu, the great Citadel of the Incas in southern Peru. Her talks cover fascinating aspects of her research, including its origin, urban planning and design, its connection with astronomy and Inca religion systems. Please join us (visitors £2) at 1.45 p.m. for the 2 p.m. talk at St. Hugh's Centre, Hensington Road, Woodstock OX20 1JL.

On 2nd January we have a visit from Yanto Evans of the Royal British Legion - the talk will be on his experience in the Falklands War in 1982, where he served with the Parachute Regiment.

Sue Blackshaw, Chair Woodstock & District u3a



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Updates on 'Botley West'



Expert View: Mega Solar Power Station should be turned down because of excessive flood risk

A leading hydrology expert has recommended that the proposed Botley West mega power station should be turned down because of the increased flood risk to homes, businesses and public amenities that was highlighted by recent extensive Oxfordshire flooding. Clive Carpenter, a senior hydrologist with more than 30 years of experience in strategic water management for large scale infrastructure projects, challenges developer Photovolt Development Partners (PVDP)'s claim that 'solar panels do not significantly increase (rain) run-off peak flow and volumes from solar developments'.

'Recent research in this technical area provides consistent conclusions that solar panels increase peak run-off, increase total flows and increase erosion compared to the pre-development situation', states Mr. Carpenter in an independent report commissioned by the Stop Botley West community group.

He has reviewed 'potential omissions, errors and inaccuracies in the documentation' on hydrology and flood risk provided by Botley West developer SolarFive/PVDP in its Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) that was the basis of four rounds of public consultation earlier this year. Mr. Carpenter concludes that PVDP 'fails to adequately consider storm water rainfall run-off from the solar panels'. He goes on to state that the proposed Botley West development would potentially require 'such significant water management infrastructure as to question the feasibility and viability of the proposed development'.

Mr. Carpenter also says that PVDP 'has not demonstrated that they will be able to adequately manage surface water run-off and sediment mobilisation during the construction phase'. He adds that the size of the scheme and nature of the terrain present 'challenges which could prevent delivering the proposed development'. He concludes: 'Accordingly, the Development Consent Order (which PVDP has said it is due to apply for in November) should not be approved'.

His independent flood risk report has been reviewed by a number of Oxfordshire County and District councillors, including Dr. Lidia Arciszewska, who is West Oxfordshire District Council's Executive lead on environment issues and District Councillor for Freeland and Hanborough. She commented: 'As Environment Portfolio holder with responsibility for Flood Alleviation and Natural Flood Management at WODC, I am concerned about the effects that the Botley West Solar Farm installation might have on surface water run-offs and increased risk of flooding in the area. Mr. Carpenter's report, which cites substantial evidence demonstrating that solar panels might enhance the surface water run-offs, definitely should be taken into consideration'.

Her concerns were echoed by Cllr. Sarah Veasey, West Oxford District councillor for North Leigh, who sits on WODC's Development Control committee. She said: 'I strongly oppose Botley West for a large number of reasons, including for it being in the wrong place, for its overall size, for the loss of food security due to the use of the land, for the destruction of the landscape of West Oxfordshire especially around towns and villages with high heritage value and high tourist footfall, and for questions about the viability of grid transmission, etc. This study by Mr. Carpenter adds yet another reason to oppose the Botley West proposal'.

Prof. Alex Rogers, chair of Stop Botley West, commented: 'One of our main concerns is that PVDP is proposing to build a large part of the Botley West mega power station, with a footprint larger than Heathrow Airport, on a complex catchment area dominated by three river valleys. Increased storm run-off leaving such a large site will cause flooding in these catchment areas. These three river valleys and their highly fertile flood meadows are precisely why there is such a rich mosaic of densely clustered homes, habitat and heritage in this area, stretching back to the Stone Age and beyond. This is exactly why we believe that the proposed Botley West development would be sited in the wrong place. We support Mr. Carpenter's report concluding that the Botley West development should be turned down, and we urge PVDP and Blenheim Estate to consider alternative options such as a network of community-scale solar farms'.

What can YOU do about this?

Please make a donation to our fighting fund via our website stopbotleywest.com. If you are in a position to make a significant donation to fund a heritage expert, please contact us via our Chair: alex.rogers@stopbotleywest.com to arrange a personal meeting.

Stop Botley West, Hanborough Villages Group



Budgens
OF YARNTON



SUBWAY



Christmas is here! A firm favourite in the calendar for many, not least here at Fraser's Budgens! It's been a busy year at the store with lots going on, from a mini refresh, the launch of Electronic Shelf Edge Labels and new ranges throughout, amongst much more!

A huge thank you to all our customers and staff for making 2024 a good one. Have a lovely Christmas and we look forward to a fantastic 2025.



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