

YARNTON

JULY 2026

VILLAGE

NEWS

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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.

Thursday 2nd

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*)

Monday 6th

Indoor Bowls Club, Village Hall, 10 a.m. (*and every Monday*)

Monday 6th

Community Drop In, Village Hall, 2 p.m. – 4 p.m. (*and every Monday*)

Monday 6th

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

Tuesday 7th

Yarnton Bridge Club, Village Hall, 9.30 a.m. (*and every Tuesday*)

Tuesday 7th

Village Hall Committee A.G.M., Village Hall, 7 p.m.

Wednesday 8th

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

Thursday 9th

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

Friday 10th

Copy date August Village News

Wednesday 15th

Lunch Club Summer Party, Village Hall, 1 p.m.

Thursday 16th

Gardening Club cancelled due to unavailability of Village Hall

St. Bartholomew's Church

Regular services

Sundays

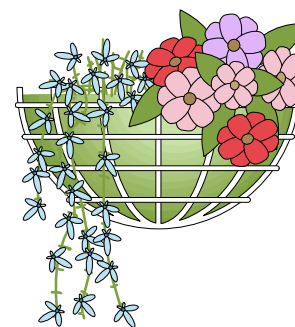
8 a.m. Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
11 a.m. Parish Communion, with Junior Church, followed by coffee

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.

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

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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 August Issue

Material for inclusion in the August Newsletter should be received by midday on **Friday 10th July**.

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 September issue is **Friday 7th August**.

YARNTON VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The A.G.M. of the Village Hall Committee

will take place on

Tuesday 7th July 2026 at 7 p.m.

in the Back Room of the Village Hall

Everyone welcome

KEY MEDICAL PRACTICE (Yarnton Surgery)

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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 rooms are per hour unless stated.

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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.

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**

The Key Medical Practice: A New Chapter, Same Local Care

You may have heard that on 29th April, responsibility for The Key Medical Practice transferred to Principal Medical Limited (PML). We wanted to take this opportunity to properly introduce PML, explain why this change has happened, and what it means for you as a patient.

Why has this happened?

General practice across the country is under significant pressure. Rising patient demand, an ageing population with more complex health needs, and difficulties recruiting and retaining GPs have left many practices struggling to cope. At the same time, the administrative burden on small practices, from finance and HR to compliance and procurement, has grown considerably, often pulling time and attention away from patient care.

The Key Medical Practice has not been immune to these pressures. Joining PML gives the practice access to additional resources, support and expertise to help address these challenges, while keeping care rooted in the local community.

What is PML?

PML is a not for profit GP federation, owned by member practices across the local area. They work with practices that are facing challenges, providing support to help them stabilise, improve and thrive.

Being not for profit matters. It means any surplus generated is reinvested back into patient care and practice improvement, rather than being distributed to shareholders. PML's interest is the long term sustainability of local general practice, not commercial return.

Where are we now?

We are only a few weeks into this transition, and our early focus has been on getting to know the practice properly. We have been building strong working relationships with the team, and taking time to understand the processes and systems that make The Key Medical Practice run day to day. This groundwork is important, and it means any changes we make going forward will be based on a real understanding of how the practice works and what our patients need.

What are our priorities?

Looking ahead, our priorities fall into three main areas.

Increasing clinical capacity. We are actively recruiting additional GPs to strengthen our clinical team, helping to improve appointment availability and reduce pressure on existing staff.

Investing in our estate and working environment. We want The Key Medical Practice to be a welcoming, comfortable space for both patients and staff, and we are looking at improvements to make that happen.

Bringing back office functions under central support. Functions such as finance, HR and procurement are moving under PML's central support. This allows the practice to benefit from economies of scale, freeing up time and resources that can be redirected towards patient facing services.

What stays the same?

This is the part we want to be really clear about. PML operates under a local operating model, which means decision making remains at a local level. Your clinicians, your practice team and the people you know continue to make the decisions that matter for your care, with structured support available centrally when needed.

In short, the day to day experience of being a patient at The Key Medical Practice should feel familiar, while behind the scenes we have more support to help us improve.

We will continue to keep you updated as things progress, and we welcome your questions at any time.

Chris Lord

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Yarnton Dog Owners WhatsApp Group

Well, it wasn't quite what we were expecting to do, but since we started the group in April we have been involved in the rescue of two missing dogs. Both now happily reunited with their owners! The first was a local dog who bolted from fields behind the Red Lion. During the five days this little dog was missing, our group made a huge effort to help, going out walking far and wide each day searching for the lost dog. It was a really heartwarming community effort. The second dog was posted missing on Facebook, and one of our group forwarded the post to our WhatsApp group. It turned out that some of our group recognised the dog from the Facebook post photo and had seen the dog in Yarnton that afternoon (wearing a collar and lead and no owner in sight). The lovely members of YDO sprang into action once again! One of our group and his spaniel found the dog that evening and reunited it with its owner. If this continues, we might have to rename the group!



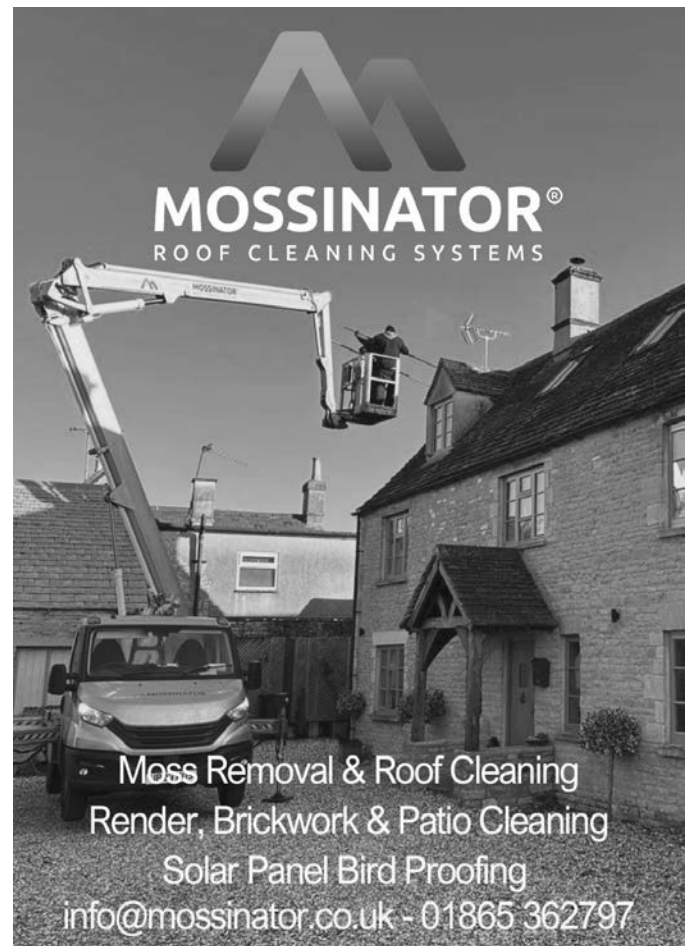
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Yarnton Village Fete raises nearly £4,000 for Rutten Lane Play Park Renewal

The Yarnton Village Fete, held on Sunday 17th May, was a tremendous success, raising nearly £4,000 towards the Rutten Lane Play Park renewal project. Believed to be the first village fete held in Yarnton for decades, the event brought together residents of all ages for an afternoon packed with fun, activities, food and community spirit. Despite some threatening weather forecasts in the lead-up to the event, the rain kindly held off until the very end, allowing everyone to enjoy a wonderful afternoon in the Park.



The Park was buzzing throughout the day, with families enjoying live music from Yarnton Band, activities hosted by local groups, craft stalls, games, and refreshments on offer. From face painting and children's activities to the football penalty shoot-out and hugely popular Hook-a-Duck stall, there was something for everyone. Children queued patiently for their turn at Hook-a-Duck for much of the afternoon until the prizes eventually ran out.



The fete showcased the very best of our community and demonstrated just how much support there is for creating an improved play space for local children and families. One of the highlights of the afternoon was the grand raffle draw. Congratulations go to local resident Keith, who was the delighted winner of the top prize of £300 cash (pictured).



The fete would not have been possible without the generosity of an incredible number of local businesses, organisations and individuals. We are particularly grateful to The Chris Lewis Group for sponsoring the £300 cash prize, and to Yarnton Manor, whose support has been truly exceptional. Alongside donating the raffle prize of a dinner for up to eight people, Yarnton Manor made a financial contribution towards the success of the

fete and the wider Play Park Renewal Project, including funding the drinks vouchers distributed at its recent Open Day. We would also like to thank the Co-op Community Fund (Kidlington), whose support enabled us to purchase items for the bottles and cans tombola, and John E. Wright for generously donating the village fete banner.

Our sincere thanks go to the many businesses and organisations who donated raffle prizes and helped make the event such a success: Barefoot Oxford, Barefoot Yogini, Birdland & Jurassic Journey, Blenheim Palace, Cornfield Bakery, Cotswold Farm Park, Crocodiles of the World, Kidlington & Gosford Leisure Centre, Gurkha Village, Hare Studio, Kirtlington Park Polo Club, Mary Clarke, Meridian Health & Wellbeing, Millets Farm Centre, Missing Bean Woodstock, MPDA, OnSalsa, Oxford Ice Rink, Prestidge Beauty, Royal Sun Begbroke, Sainsbury's Kidlington, Science Oxford, Silviu Horatau, Sky Wave Gin, Snakes and Ladders, Tesco Kidlington, The Blenheim Buttery, The Crown Woodstock, The Old Flight House, The Red Lion Yarnton, The Woodstock Bookshop, Usborne Books, Wild Grace Floral & Gifts, Woodstock Coffee Shop, Woodstock Zumba, and Zones of Serenity Reflexology.

We are also enormously grateful to all the local groups, stallholders, Yarnton Band members and volunteers who gave their time, energy and enthusiasm to help make the fete such a memorable occasion. In particular, we would like to thank the residents who helped throughout the day. The bottles and cans tombola and raffle stalls were especially busy, and community events like this simply could not happen without the dedication and support of local volunteers.

Most importantly, thank you to everyone who attended, bought raffle tickets, supported the stalls, donated prizes, volunteered or helped spread the word. Every pound raised brings us a step closer to delivering a renewed play park for the children and families of Yarnton. The success of the fete has shown what can be achieved when a community comes together, and we are incredibly proud of what has been accomplished. Not bad for Yarnton's first village fete in decades. Until next year...?

The Yarnton Play Park Renewal Group

Al Capone conducting Yarnton Band?



Band at the Red Lion



Training Band at the Village Fete

Photos: Richard Jurd

When we played at the Red Lion our conductor, Guy James, wore a hat and dark glasses, and several people commented that he looked like Al Capone but no, he conducted using a baton, not a gun!

At our AGM a cup for the most improved player went to one of our older players, Marie Mills (cornet); we expressed our thanks to all our volunteers and to Ian Methley for his four years of service as our Band Chairman. His work duties now also preclude him from playing with us, but it's wonderful to see Freya Slater taking over as 1st baritone. Freya started as a very young girl several years ago with our Training Band. At Yarnton Village Fete, in the main band's interval our Training Band, led by Nick Hawes, set a great example to any prospective players.

In July you can hear us on the 4th at Kidlington Church Fete 1 p.m. – 3 p.m. and on the 25th at the Windrush Valley Fete and Flower Show in Great Barrington 12.30 p.m. - 2 p.m.

Peter Hewis

The item below, from September 2025 was found in my Messenger box, a box I never use, so apologies to Janice Willet for this late item.

Hi Peter. My family were involved with Yarnton Band. My brother started playing cornet in 1965 when he was 7 years old and still plays a cornet in Perth Australia for a band in the Championship Section. I joined shortly afterwards and played first baritone. Dad played bass trombone, my daughter played on front row cornets, and Mum joined us a few years later, on tenor horn. Such great memories. A couple of friends of ours who played in the band too also live not far from my brother.

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Building a new home on purchased land gives you full control over design, layout, and energy performance, and can be both rewarding and financially advantageous. Success depends on thorough planning, realistic budgeting, and professional support, and understanding these issues before committing to a plot helps reduce the risk of delays, unforeseen costs, or planning complications.

Land for self-build can be found through several routes. Plot-finding websites such as Grand Designs' land finder or Plotfinder.net list available plots, showing price, availability, and relevant estate agents. Registering with agents in your target area and giving them your budget increases the chances of early notification. Brownfield sites - previously developed land once occupied by permanent structures - are often viewed favourably by councils, and may already have services. Demolish and replace projects involve constructing a new home on a site with an existing building. Infill plots between existing buildings are sometimes permitted within settlement boundaries, though harder to secure in Conservation Areas. Back gardens in built-up areas and landowners willing to release land for sale are further possibilities.

Before purchasing, commission a full land survey covering boundaries, topography, and soil conditions. Soil type directly affects foundation design and cost. A flood-risk assessment is essential if the land lies in an Environment Agency flood zone, as this influences both planning approval and insurance premiums. Environmental considerations - protected species, trees with preservation orders, contamination, or archaeological significance - can restrict or prevent development and may require statutory assessments. Location, surrounding infrastructure, access, and market conditions all influence long-term value. Establish whether the land carries appropriate planning status. Greenfield land may face stricter planning controls, while brownfield land may benefit from presumption in favour of development but could involve contamination or demolition costs. A more recent route is custom build or serviced plots, such as Graven Hill in Bicester, where sites come with utilities, highway access, and at least outline planning consent, reducing early-stage risk though there may be design-control limitations.

Title investigation is essential. Your solicitor must confirm the seller has good title and identify restrictive covenants, rights of way, easements, ransom strips, or third-party rights that could limit residential use. Agricultural land often carries restrictions affecting planning. The plot must have safe, lawful vehicular access to the public highway, either by ownership or a registered right of way. Utility connections must be available or viable to install, and extending services to remote plots can be costly, so these factors should be built into early budgeting.

Building a new home involves costs for land, professional fees, surveys, planning, demolition or remediation, materials, labour, utilities, and landscaping. A 10–20% contingency is essential to cover unexpected ground issues or delays. Self-build mortgages differ from standard loans, releasing funds in stages as construction progresses. Lenders typically finance 75–85% of land and build costs, requiring substantial upfront capital. Most materials and services for new residential construction qualify for zero-rated VAT, which can be reclaimed, helping reduce overall expenses while ensuring compliance with tax regulations.

New homes require structural warranties - typically NHBC or similar - for mortgage purposes and future resale. Construction insurance, public liability cover, and employer's liability where contractors are hired provide protection during the build. The self-build process typically takes 12–24 months from land purchase to completion and requires time, resilience, and financial commitment, but creating a home tailored to your needs is often deeply fulfilling experience as well as being financially rewarding.

Jan Liberadzki BA Arch (Hons), MSc, JLDA

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July

Like all educational establishments, July brings a big shift for us here at the Manor as we reach the end of another academic year and say goodbye to some of the scholars who've been staying with us for the term.

This is always a bitter-sweet time for those of us who remain, because these scholars from all over the world have become friends and neighbours during their time with us. We've marked this already with a brilliant summer BBQ and garden games, including giving the croquet set an airing - the epitome of 'English!' Over the summer we welcome university groups for week long blocks instead - a busy time for our facilities and hospitality teams and a different rhythm for the whole site. Whatever you're up to this summer we wish you a happy time with seasons of good working and good resting.



Blessings from the whole team

Want to know more? Sign up for our newsletter by using the QR code or check out our new website: yarntonmanor.org



Woodstock Music Society Summer concert

This will take place on Friday 10th and Saturday 11th July at St. Mary Magdalene Church, Park Street, Woodstock, OX20 1SJ, at 7.30 p.m.

Programme:

Karl Jenkins: Choral Suite from *The Armed Man*

John Rutter: *Feel the Spirit* - a cycle of spirituals

Edward Elgar: Orchestral and Choral Gems

Lucy Gibbs: mezzo soprano

Paul Ingrams: conductor

Tickets: £15 in advance or £16 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

Problems with Virgin Media

Has anyone contacted the Village News regarding lots of Virgin Media problems in Yarnton? Many of us have contacted Virgin who keep saying that an engineer is sorting things out, but nothing happens. The latest promise was that they would sort things out by 1.30 p.m. today (16th June) but little has happened. Problems began ever since BT Openreach started work in the village by Bartholomew Close then along Rutten Lane towards the Cassington Road junction.

Virgin seems incapable of contacting BT.

Name and address supplied



Yarnton Gardening Club

Urgent news – please take note!

Unfortunately our July meeting has had to be cancelled. Cherwell District Council has requisitioned the Village Hall for an unexpected council election vote, caused by the resignation of one of our District Councillors, Dorothy Walker. We were offered the following week, but our speaker was unable to make that date, and in fact was uncertain about the planned date despite having committed to it at the beginning of the year, so we had no option but to cancel. Please let other members or friends who might have planned to come know about this.

Our Plant Sale at the end of May raised just over £400 for our funds, including from cakes and refreshments as well as plants. This also included some plant sales of leftover plants after the sale. This was quite a bit down on last year, but still a good addition to our funds. There were a lot fewer people attending the sale, possibly because it was a Bank Holiday weekend and the beginning of half-term, but the cream teas were a great success!

Our two garden visits in June were enjoyed by all who went. The garden at Foxington was lovely, with amazing views of the surrounding countryside, and we were all impressed by the work of the owner, Mary Roadnight in designing and tending the garden. And the home-made cakes were delicious!

Tim Mitchell, the head gardener of the kitchen garden at Asthall Manor gave us a really interesting tour of the garden, following his talk to the club in April last year. He is passionate about growing sustainably with wildlife and the environment and diversity in mind, and the garden reflects this. They supply veg boxes to local residents and businesses, as well as to Asthall Manor itself, often with unusual salad leaf bags which include edible plants which some of us might consider weeds. Despite driving through a deluge on the A40 near Witney, where we could hardly see the vehicle in front of us, when we got there the sun came out and remained throughout our visit.

It may not be too late to sign up for our outing coming up on 7th July to Adwell House Gardens on the Adwell estate near Thame, travelling by cars to arrive by 2.30 p.m. Please contact Serena on 01865 378817 quickly to put your name down if you'd like to come. The cost is £18 for members and £20 for non-members and will include a tour by the Head Gardener and a cream tea.

Our final visit of the year is for members only on 9th September at 2 p.m. and is to the gardens at St. Hugh's College; the cost will be £6 per person.

Ruth Astall

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Yarnton Community Transport Scheme

We are a small team of volunteer drivers who support residents of Yarnton to get to appointments at the local medical centres and hospitals. The service is for those for who are unable to use public transport due to age, health or mobility issues.

Can you help? We welcome new volunteer drivers to improve our flexibility and availability in meeting transport requests. If you think you might be able to help, or just need more information please get in touch. Bookings, enquiries and contact: call 07796 192266.

Kidlington & District Historical Society

Our next meeting will be on 28th July, when Al Sylvester will be talking about 'Exercise Southern Reach - the caption of an Arctic expedition'. 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.

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Sylvia's Story of Rediscovering Her Passion at Floryn House



When Sylvia joined us at Floryn House Care Home to receive residential care in June 2025, she brought with her a lifetime of creativity and a deep love for flower arranging. At 81, Sylvia had spent many years creating beautiful floral displays alongside her sister for local churches and schools and it was something that gave her a strong sense of purpose and enjoyment. As her mobility became more limited, Sylvia found it increasingly difficult to continue with this much-loved hobby. Over time, this loss began to affect her confidence and she often spoke to our team about how much she missed arranging flowers.

Bringing back joy through meaningful activities

At Floryn House, understanding what matters most to each resident is at the heart of everything we do. We have a wishing tree downstairs in our home where at any time, residents can add activities or changes they wish to experience. When Sylvia shared her wish of returning to flower arranging, we were determined to make it possible. Our activities coordinator went away and arranged a professional from Flowers DBS to deliver a bespoke workshop at our home.

From the very first session in October 2025, the impact was immediate. As Sylvia began to handle the flowers, select colours and create her arrangements, her confidence and happiness shone through. It was a truly special moment to see her reconnect with a passion that had once meant so much to her.



Charlotte, our Activities Manager, reflected on this experience:

'Seeing Sylvia's passion come back to her so naturally was truly something special.'

The success of that first workshop led to regular monthly sessions, which Sylvia now looks forward to with great enthusiasm. She not only takes part but has become a source of encouragement for others, gently supporting fellow residents as they explore their own creativity.

Steve from Flowers DBS shared: 'It was my honour to be the person making this wish come true. There are Fairy Godfathers out there as well. Sylvia loved the workshop from the start and has continued to attend my flower workshops. It's a real pleasure to see Sylvia every month, enjoying herself, getting ever more confident in her designs.'

Since rediscovering her passion, Sylvia has become much more engaged in all aspects of life at Floryn House. She now keeps a diary of upcoming activities, enjoys talking to other residents about what is planned and embraces opportunities to socialise and take part in the community. The confidence she gained from that first workshop has had a lasting impact on her overall well-being and quality of life.

More than a care home in Yarnton

At Floryn House Care Home in Oxford, we believe that meaningful activities play a vital role in enhancing well-being and helping residents feel connected and valued around the clock. By taking the time to understand each person's history and wishes, we create opportunities that bring genuine joy and purpose to everyday life.

Sylvia's story is a wonderful example of how person-centred care can reignite passions, build confidence and support residents in continuing to do the things they love. From creative workshops to tailored activities and compassionate support, we are here to ensure every resident feels inspired in a place they can call home.

If you would like to find out more about life at Floryn House Care Home in Oxford, please contact our friendly team today to arrange a visit. We would be delighted to show you how we support residents to live meaningful and fulfilling lives.

T: [01865 259555](tel:01865259555), E: info@florynhousecare.co.uk, W: [Contact Us or Book a Tour - Floryn House Care Home in Yarnton](#)

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 July

'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

5 th	10.30 a.m.	Sue Barratt
12 th	10.30 a.m.	'Thanksgiving and Joy' Local Church Group
19 th	10.30 a.m.	Liz Spain
26 th	10.30 a.m.	Joint Service at Kidlington Margaret Sawyer

Kidlington

5 th	10 a.m.	Rev. Paul Carter <i>Holy Communion</i>
12 th	10 a.m.	Alistair Jackson
19 th	10 a.m.	Penny Pedley
26 th	10 a.m.	Joint Service with Tackley and Woodstock

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!

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 Oxfordshire summer league concludes shortly and we congratulate all our players and officials who have managed the season so well; the entry included many of our older youth players, who all played with maturity and showed such growth in their play over the summer season.

As a result of the club's trip to watch Birmingham Panthers play in the NSL earlier in the year, we won a day coaching session with one of their top defence players, Tami Fapohunda. Tami joined us at the start of June to deliver two innovative sessions for our junior and senior players. New drills and processes learnt and good tips received. A bonus day for the club.



Our annual netball tournament was on Saturday 27th June at the outdoor courts at Bicester Hotel, Golf and Spa. As always, the club invited all retired players to drop by and say hello. The annual Awards Night at Begbroke followed the tournament, and was a great opportunity to celebrate the wonderful achievements of our 100+ members.

The club sessions run on Tuesdays at Rutten Lane, Yarnton. 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. We take a break in July and return back through August, before the Winter season begins again in September. 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 netball is just fun and brilliant to be involved in – do get in touch.

The *Soft and Gentle Netball Super-league* (NSL) has been exciting and amazingly skilful, with many very close matches. The Grand Final was in Manchester on 20th June – maybe you will have been able to watch live on *SKY* or *YOUTUBE*, or even BBC/on-line i-player may have stepped up to cover.

The Commonwealth Games in Glasgow then follows at end of July into August. Netball were invited into the Commonwealth Games in 1998 and 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? Will you be watching?

Nature-Friendly Summer Activities for Kids

As summer kicks off, it's the perfect time for all ages to get outdoors and help out your local wildlife (even on those not-so-sunny days).

1. Make a mammal footprint tunnel



Image credit: Gardener's World

What you'll need:

Cardboard or corrugated plastic
Sand or flour
Ruler
A small, shallow tray
Wet cat food (meat not fish)

- 1. Form your tunnel.** Fold and tie your cardboard or score and bend your plastic into three even sections to create a triangular-shaped tunnel. Aim for a tunnel length of about 90 cm., with each section approximately 25 cm. wide. Secure a shallow tray inside the plastic or cardboard with masking tape.
- 2. Fill your tray.** Fill the tray with lots of flour or sand and use the ruler to smooth the surface.
- 3. Check the trap.** Lightly press your finger into the flour or sand – it should leave an indent. If it doesn't, smooth over again.
- 4. Add bait – optional.** Place a dish with pet food in the middle of the tray.
- 5. Place the tunnel outside.** Put the tunnel in a quiet, sheltered spot such as along a hedge or wall. Leave it out for up to a week, checking the tray daily for tracks.
- 6. Identify the footprints.** Take photos of the prints with a ruler for scale. Use ID guides to identify your guests.

2. Make seed bombs - rewilding in the palm of your hand!

What you'll need:

1 cup natural powdered clay
1 cup peat-free compost
1–2 packets of native wildflower seeds (pollinator-friendly is best)
Water (a little at a time)
Bowl for mixing
Tray or cardboard for drying

- 1. Mix the dry ingredients.** In a bowl, mix: 1-part powdered clay; 1-part compost; Seeds.
- 2. Add water slowly.** Add a little water at a time and mix with your hands until the mixture sticks together. It should not be too wet or crumbly.
- 3. Roll into balls.** Roll the mix into small balls.
- 4. Dry them out.** Place the seed bombs on a tray or cardboard and leave them to dry for 24–48 hours in a warm place.
- 5. Throw and grow!** Once dry, the seed bombs are ready to be tossed into bare soil areas in gardens or school grounds. Try and plant before rain is forecast or water them lightly and watch as pollinator habitats increase on your grounds.

3. Go Fungi spotting.

Neither animal nor plant, fungi play a vital role in keeping our local habitats healthy. They help break down old leaves, wood, and other natural materials, turning them into rich soil that supports new life. Some species of fungi even form relationships with plant roots through the root-like mycelium. These 'mycorrhizal networks' help plants absorb water and nutrients while providing the fungi carbohydrate – a win-win! You can find fungi almost anywhere: on logs, in soil, under trees, even on walls and woodchips!

Fungi are best found:

Near woodlands;
Around fallen trees or logs;
On leafy ground and tree stumps;
In damp, shady spots after rain.

What you'll need:

A notebook or spotting sheet
Fungi ID app (like *iNaturalist* or *Shroomify UK*)
A magnifying glass (optional)
Gloves

The most common fungi in the UK this summer are:

Waxcaps – known for their shiny caps, Waxcaps can be red, violet, yellow, green, or pink. They are commonly found in grasslands, meadows, and urban lawns and parks.

Parasol mushrooms – Tall fungi with a wide, round cap, a brown-to-black scaly top, white gills, and a white or off-white stem. Often found in woods, meadows, and fields.

Puffballs – Round fungi with a stem, no cap, and no gills. They release clouds of spores when touched. Puffballs are often found in open meadows, fields, and well fertilised lawns, as well as forest undergrowth. They never grow on logs or trees, only on the ground.

Chicken of the Woods – Easy to spot thanks to its bright sulphur-yellow colour. It forms thick, soft, fan shaped shelves and grows high up on the trunks of mature trees such as oak.



Laetiporus sulphureus, Chicken of the Woods, Ann Berkeley

Elf Cups – Cup shaped and bright red, scarlet elf cups grow on decaying sticks and branches in damp spots and leaf litter.

Safety tips!

Never pick or eat mushrooms.
Take photos, not samples.
Wash your hands afterwards.
Stick to public footpaths and avoid damaging habitats.

Gardening tips for July

1. Nectar is wildlife's friend. You can help attract bees, butterflies, and other nectar-loving insects to your patch by planting nectar-rich plants. Add climbers that may also produce berries and hips, such as honeysuckle and dog rose. And go a step further and attract moths with night-scented plants like evening primrose and night-scented stock.

2. Cut back on the cutting back! After a beautiful bloom, avoid deadheading roses this time of year. This way, some will develop hips (the fruit of the species of rose plant), which will feed birds and small mammals come winter.



Rosehips, Rhiannon Young

3. Big Butterfly Count. Here's another one for your diary: July marks the Big Butterfly Count. Don't just take part, give our fluttering friends a helping hand by leaving an area of grass to grow long until the end of summer. Species such as the Meadow Brown will use these patches to breed.



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Combe Mill, Blenheim Palace Sawmill, Combe Oxon.OX29 8ET

12th July 'In Steam' Wildlife by the Evenlode

We have invited exhibitors centred around local wildlife, to include Berks Bucks & Oxon Wildlife Trust, Oxford Beekeepers Association with some bees, with children's activities. Come along and see - there will be lots of interest. Also an attraction has been invited.

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. Come along and see the Blacksmiths in the forge - you might just be able to make a poker.

Tea Room will be open, also BBQ and Gift Shop. Dogs on leads most welcome. Parking free.

Adults £9.50, Seniors £8.50, accompanied children FREE open 10.30am to 4.30pm (last entry 3.30pm).

Ever thought of volunteering at Combe Mill? Come to a steaming event when you will see where you have an interest and can join the Team.

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.)

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Oxford Bus and Morris Motors Museum

On Sunday 2nd August we shall be holding a special event at the museum, when we shall have lots of visiting coaches and buses from the 1950s and 1960s. We shall try to recreate the atmosphere in Gloucester Green Coach Station in its heyday. At the end of May the Chancellor of the Exchequer announced a temporary reduction in the VAT rate on museum admission charges from 20% to 5% until 31st August. We have reduced our entrance fees as follows:

	Temporary normal rates	Temporary normal rates with Gift Aid	Previous normal rates
Adult	£7	£8	£8
Seniors	£6	£7	£7
Children	£4	£5	£5
Family	£17	£19	£20



The Morris Bullnose Club visited the museum on 10th May. It brought a fine collection of 20 Morris vehicles, most of which were Bullnoses.

The picture is of the first five vehicles to arrive. From the left they date from 1924, 1928, 1924, 1926 and 1926. All the cars in the line up are Bullnoses and were built in the Cowley factory. William Morris reluctantly dropped the distinctive radiator design in 1926 because, as car engines became more powerful, they needed more cooling, which the Bullnose design could not provide.

The 1928 Morris Commercial light ton van in the picture, PX 9155, is a rare survivor. Only four are known to be in preservation in the UK out of just over 3,000 that were made by William Morris at his Soho Works in Birmingham between 1926 and 1930.

PX 91255 was first sold to EW White Funeral Directors of Chichester. It was originally painted yellow, which seems an odd colour for a hearse. The van's current owner thinks that it may have been used for transporting wood and completed coffins rather than at funeral services!

Matt Harris acquired the vehicle in 2023 and takes it to shows and classic car runs. It is insured for any driver over 25. Matt allows young people to drive it hoping that they will get interested in old cars. He keeps restoration to a minimum to preserve original features. However, the van now has a starting motor, so the starting handle is seldom used.



Some of the 60 members of the Morris Bullnose Club went round the museum and enjoyed it. We provided tea, coffee and biscuits in the back of the café for the party. The visit was a great success, and they are considering returning for their next Annual General Meeting!

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Reporting Flooding Incidences

It is crucial to report any issues with flooding to the relevant authorities, in order that the matter is recorded.

thameswater.co.uk(Report a Problem):

Please report any issues with foul sewage overflows near water courses.

FixMyStreet.com:

To report any highway-related matters (e.g. blocked drains, gulleys, water-courses).

Oxfordshire County Council:

<https://www.oxfordshirefloodtoolkit.com/emergency/report-flood/>
to report any flooding.

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

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

Joe McEaney: joe.mceaney@yarnton-pc.gov.uk

Lesley McLean: lesley.mclean@yarnton-pc.gov.uk

Samuel Smith: samuel.smith@yarnton-pc.gov.uk

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:

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

Lesley McLean: lesley.mclean@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.: 26/00720/OUT. Location: Land at Frieze Farm, Frieze Way, Gosford, OX2 8IX. Proposal: Outline Planning Permission all matters reserved except access for multi phased (severable) Innovation District development accommodating up to 290,500 sq.m. of gross external floorspace comprising: up to 170,000 sq.m. gross external area of Research & Development Floorspace (Use Class E(g)ii); up to 36,000 sq.m. gross external area of Higher Education Floorspace including Visitors Centre and Innovation Hub (Use Class FI(a)); up to 34,000 sq.m. gross external area of Data Centre Floorspace (Use Class B8); up to 7,500 sq.m. gross external area Energy Centre Floorspace (Use Class Sui Generis); up to 3,300 sq.m. residential floorspace [up to 45 dwellings] (Use Class C3); up to 8,200 sq.m. gross external area of Hotel floorspace [180 Bedroom] (Use Class C1); up to 3,300 sq.m. gross external area of Further Education College (Use Class FI(a)); up to 950 sq.m. gross external area of Commercial Floorspace (Use Class E(a) & (b)); up to 900 sq.m. gross external area of Fire Station Floorspace (Use Class Sui Generis); up to 450 sq.m. gross external area of Community Floorspace (Use Class F2); and up to 47,000 sq.m. gross external area of car parking station for up to 1700 spaces with associated vehicle charging infrastructure and cycle parking (Use Sui Generis). Development to include ancillary offices, storage and servicing within the related use and maximum floorspace. Highway works, including: a new signalised T-junction from the A4260 Frieze Way to the eastern development parcel; a left-in, left-out arrangement on the western side of the A4260 Frieze Way for accessing the western development parcel; Fire Station access on to Frieze Way; upgraded existing priority junction on the A44 Woodstock Road to a Copenhagen crossing; a Pedestrian and Cycle Bridge over the A34 and train line to Oxford Parkway; on-site walking and cycling infrastructure including diversion of Public Right of Way; removal of 2no. existing field access; surface car parking for up to 100 spaces with associated vehicle charging infrastructure and cycle parking. Landscape and public realm, including country park, areas for sustainable urban drainage systems including ponds, biodiversity areas and earthworks including landform re-profiling and formation of sculptural mounds. Utilities and infrastructure including substations; together with enabling, site clearance and associated works.

Future meetings:

The next ordinary meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Wednesday, 8th July 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.

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YARNTON PARISH COUNCIL

Community Orchard Gardener - Yarnton Parish Council

Job Summary

Yarnton Parish Council is seeking a dedicated Community Gardener to join our team in cultivating and maintaining vibrant green spaces within the local community. The successful candidate will be responsible for supporting landscape projects, assisting with gardening activities in the Community Orchard, and ensuring the upkeep of communal outdoor areas. This role offers an excellent opportunity for individuals passionate about horticulture and landscape maintenance to contribute positively to community environments while developing their skills in gardening and landscape care. Benefits include enrolment on the Local Government Pension Scheme, annual pay increases in line with the Local Government Services Pay Agreement and an annual pay increment within the LCI pay range. This role is primarily one of lone-working, but does involve regular involvement with the community and opportunities to organise volunteer days. This role is ideal for someone who enjoys working outdoors, values nature and sustainability, and takes pride in making a visible difference to a local community space.

Responsibilities

- Maintain the Orchard area through pruning, weeding, and seasonal care. Occasional grass cutting may be required; we regularly use a contractor for this.
- Utilise hand tools, power tools, and irrigation equipment to carry out gardening and landscape maintenance tasks efficiently.
- Care for fruit trees, shrubs, and hedgerows using best horticultural practices.
- Assist with planting, pruning, watering, fertilising, and general care of plants and shrubs, planting and mulching vegetation as needed throughout the year.
- Support the installation and upkeep of community gardens and green spaces.
- Manage of volunteer gardeners.
- Promote the Orchard positively, including in any use of social media.
- Maintain the cleanliness and organisation of tools, equipment, and work areas.
- Make use of the compost area in the removal of green waste in line with environmental good practice.
- Collaborate with Council members to plan and execute landscape projects that enhance community aesthetics.
- Monitor plant health and identify signs of pests or disease, reporting issues promptly.
- Carry out work in line with Yarnton Parish Council's environmental and health and safety policies.
- Follow health and safety guidelines during all gardening activities to ensure a safe working environment.

Qualifications, skills and experience

Essential

- Prior experience in gardening, horticulture, or landscape maintenance is highly desirable.
- Familiarity with hand tools, power tools, irrigation systems, and general gardening techniques.
- Ability to work outdoors in various weather conditions.
- Strong organisational skills with attention to detail.
- A proactive attitude with a genuine interest in horticulture and community beautification.

Desirable

- RHS L2 is preferred.
- Growing experience or knowledge of plant care is advantageous.
- A valid UK driving licence is preferred but not essential.
- Experience with working in areas used by the general public.

This position offers an engaging environment for those passionate about green spaces and community development. Applicants should demonstrate enthusiasm for gardening tasks and a commitment to maintaining high standards of landscape care within the community setting.

Pay: £13.69-£15.06 per hour

Benefits:

- Additional leave
- Casual dress
- Company pension
- Flexitime
- Free parking
- Sick pay

Work Location: In person at Yarnton Community Orchard, adjacent to Yarnton Village Hall.

A Fox's Field Notes on the Great Garden Humidity Debate

As the resident fox of this fine English garden, I consider myself something of a mediator. A philosopher. A connoisseur of compost heaps. And lately, I've found myself presiding over a rather heated, well, humid, discussion among my neighbours.

You see, summer humidity means very different things depending on whether you are (A) the size of a raindrop, (B) a bird who refuses to sit still, or (C) a prickly ball with opinions.

Let us begin with the aphid.

The aphid's view: 'Moisture is life, darling.' Aphids adore humidity the way humans adore a good cup of tea, excessively and with no sense of moderation. 'This', one aphid told me while lounging on a rose stem like a tiny green aristocrat, 'is the *perfect* climate. Dew on demand. Leaves as soft as steamed pudding. My pores have never felt so hydrated'. Aphids don't technically have pores, but I didn't interrupt. One must let small creatures have their small delusions.

The swift's view: 'It's like flying through soup.' Now, the swift, bless its frantic wings, has no patience for humidity. 'Fox!' it screeched mid-loop, 'the air is *thick*. I'm basically swimming. I did not evolve for this'. Swifts are dramatic by nature. They also refuse to land for more than three seconds, so their complaints tend to be shouted from above like feathery weather alerts. Still, I sympathise. If I had to chase insects through the atmospheric equivalent of lukewarm porridge, I'd be cross too.

The hedgehog's view: 'My spikes have gone frizzy.' Finally, we come to hedgehog, who waddled up to me one evening looking like a damp paintbrush. 'Fox', he grumbled, 'I am *puffing out*. Look at this. I'm supposed to be sleek. Aerodynamic. A woodland icon'. I assured him he remained iconic. He snorted. 'Everything sticks to me in this weather. Leaves. Grass. One time, a crisp packet.' He paused. 'Salt and vinegar, if you're wondering.'

And what do I, the fox, think? Humidity, to me, is simply another quirk of the garden, like the gardener's obsession with gnomes or the blackbird's ongoing feud with its own reflection. But I will say this, humidity brings out character. Aphids become spa enthusiasts. Swifts become airborne critics. Hedgehogs become reluctant fashion experiments.

And me? I get front row seats to the finest natural comedy in Oxfordshire.

So the next time you step into a summer garden and mutter about the muggy air, remember: to some, it is bliss, to others, a burden, and to one hedgehog in particular, a personal grooming crisis.

As for me, I'll be under the elder bush, observing, pondering, and trying not to laugh too loudly. After all, a wise fox must maintain some dignity.

Happy Gardening.

Stuart Mabbutt, Wildlife Gardening Specialist, tel. 01865 74724,3
www.wildmaninspires.co.uk



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St Bartholomews Yarnton



CHURCHES
COUNT ON
Nature

Churches Count on Nature

We had a wonderful turn out for our eco-event last month – a huge thank you to all those who attended and volunteered! We hope to run similar events later in the year, so keep your eyes peeled for future activities!

Petertide (the week surrounding St. Peter's Day, June 29th) is the time when new deacons and priests are traditionally ordained. Several ordinands (trainee priests) who have served in the Parish are to be ordained this Petertide.

Please Pray...

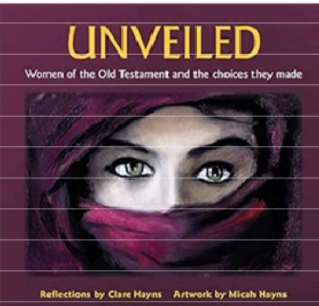
For those to be made deacon: Jacob Wigley, Anna Cross, Robin Emmanuel

For those to be ordained priest: Sam Haiser, Olly Wright, Peter Balchin

Pray also for more vocations to all kinds of ministry as we are shaped by God together

Please be aware that Junior Church will take a break for some weeks over the summer holidays. Do check online/Benefice News and Events for up-to-date details.

Children and young people are still very much welcome in church, but dedicated activities will not be running on Sundays at 11am.



NEW STUDY GROUP SERIES

UNVEILED Women of the Old Testament and the Choices They Made
by Clare Hayns

The book looks at familiar and less well-known women from the Old Testament, with a reflection and accompanying beautiful artwork for each! Join the discussion on...

- Tuesday Lunchtime Group – 1pm – St Bartholomew's
- Tuesday Evening Group – 7pm – Begbroke Village Hall

Please note, this study series takes a break after Tue 14th July and will return in September.

In the Benefice, we will be marking Revd Sue Spankie's retirement in July with two special occasions!



- **St Michael's, Begbroke – Come and See @ Begbroke Village Hall**
Sun 5th July
Our usual 'All in Worship', followed by thanksgiving celebration
- **St Bartholomew's, Yarnton – Benefice Holy Communion Service**
Sun 19th July @ 11am
Revd Sue's final service in the Benefice, followed by a bring-your-own picnic

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

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
Associate Vicar: Rev'd. Sue Spankie
Tel: 07868 855435
Email: revsue@ybsbenefice.org.uk
Website: www.ybsbenefice.org.uk
Facebook: @yarntonchurch

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Central Yarnton Bridge Club

NEW FRIENDLY BRIDGE GAME

FOR RELATIVE BEGINNERS

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YARNTON VILLAGE HALL

The Paddocks

Yarnton

OX5 1TE

Tuesday Mornings

9.30 a.m. seated FOR 10 a.m.

Yarnton Bridge Club is now able to offer a friendly game for Bridge Players who have a fair knowledge of the game and would like to improve their play.

We run 12 boards of supervised play with help and guidance from an experienced teacher. No partner needed.

Coffee from 9.30 a.m. - Bridge 10 a.m. to 12.00

Cost £3.50 each session

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Questions/Queries Please Contact

Jonathan on 07394 994151

johnprice0715@gmail.com

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Soldiers of
Oxfordshire
Museum

Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum to unveil its first ever flower show, *From Battlefields to Blooms*, this July

Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum, the county's military history museum based in Woodstock, will be unveiling a flower show this summer for the very first time. The show, entitled *From Battlefields to Blooms*, will run from Thursday 9th July to Sunday 12th July, featuring arrangements by Bladon & Woodstock, Oxford, and Abingdon flower clubs.

Members of the three local clubs have spent time planning in the museum galleries, utilising the spaces in new and creative ways while responding to the stories featured in SOFO's permanent exhibitions.

The stunning work of the featured flower clubs has previously been seen in displays at Dorchester Abbey and Abingdon's 2019 *Fashion in Flowers* show. The arrangements on display in the Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum galleries will follow themes such as *Dig for Victory*, *Botanical Remedies* and *Lives Lost in the Trenches*.

The museum will also be running a campaign across its social media channels and in-house during the show, allowing people to donate in memory of their military loved ones or armed forces ancestors and have their name featured in a special *In Memoriam* flower display. Those who wish to have an individual remembered in the flower show can submit names and details now by going to the museum website, www.sofa.org.uk/battlefieldstoblooms

Visitors will get the opportunity to experience the flower show, the museum's Lee Miller exhibition and live performances by the Waterloo Band and Bugles of the Rifles during the Bubbles & Blooms garden party, a collaborative fundraiser for SSAFA, the Armed Forces charity, and Soldiers of Oxfordshire Trust. The event takes place from 6.30 p.m. to 8 p.m., Thursday 9th July, with tickets available from the museum website now, bit.ly/bubblesandblooms

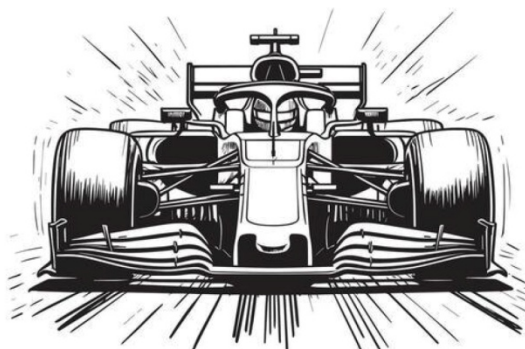
Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum, tel. 01993 810211, www.sofa.org.uk

Budgens OF YARNTON



SUBWAY

Feel the Need for Speed - British Grand Prix Weekend!



From **3rd–5th July**, we'll be bringing a touch of Formula 1 excitement to the forecourt with an F1 car on display, celebrating BP's partnership with the pinnacle of motorsport. Whether you're a passionate F1 fan or simply curious to see the car up close, be sure to stop by, take a photo, and soak up the atmosphere as the British Grand Prix returns to Silverstone. While you're here, don't forget to pick up all your race-day essentials and join us in supporting another thrilling weekend of Formula 1 action.

Thank You, Teachers – Hello Summer Holidays!

The summer holidays are almost here, with most schools breaking up around 21st July. If you're looking for a thoughtful way to say thank you to a teacher, pop into store where you'll find a great selection of cards, gifts and little treats.

After a long school year, the well-earned summer break can finally begin. Whether you're planning family days out, relaxing in the garden, or simply keeping the children entertained, we've got plenty of toys, snacks and holiday essentials to help make the most of the summer.



The World Cup Continues!

The football may be taking centre stage, but don't worry – we're still here for all your match-day essentials! Whether you're hosting friends, enjoying a family BBQ, or settling in for the big game, we've got everything you need, from snacks and drinks to beers, wines and last-minute treats.



Store Times

Monday – Saturday 6am – 11pm
Sunday - 6.30am – 10.30pm

Post Office Times

Monday – Friday 9am – 5.30pm
Saturday 9am – 2pm
Sunday CLOSED



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Yarnton W.I.

Hello neighbours. What a mixed month we are having but it's true that we see sunshine more often than not every day. But it's summer after all, so go out and enjoy it!

Once again, we are busy with all sorts of activities and have much to look forward to. Thank you to those of you who supported us at the wonderful village fete. We enjoyed our busy day and it seemed that you did too. Thank you to the Yarnton Park Renewal team for organising the day and your hard work, and of course to you for supporting all of us! It was lovely to meet you.



As previously mentioned, we met Dennis East at our May meeting. He entertained us with his witty poetry and stories of his life. We could have gone on all evening but I think we'll have to invite him back to see us again soon. Poetry is very inspirational.

Despite the wet weather and scaffolding at the Village Hall, we enjoyed a Garden Party at our June meeting. We shared delicious snacks following a talk about Oxfordshire MIND, our sponsored charity last year. It was sad to hear that so many people are struggling with poor mental health and anxiety. It reiterated the importance of our group and the opportunity to make friends and share our thoughts and feelings. Following this talk, we awarded our annual trophy in memory of a late member for the tastiest jam tart. While we were eating, we shared reminiscences with a few members who brought in treasured objects. Once again, a great opportunity to share and celebrate our friendship.

Our Summer postbox topper is available to enjoy. It shows special features of a camping holiday. Happy memories!

We are looking forward to our July speaker, Rob Brewer, who will tell us about his roles as a TV and film extra and how it's possible to do this too! I'm sure many of you have wondered how you can get into this world and now you can find out! This is an open meeting so feel free to join us on 9th July for a wonderful evening.

We look forward to meeting you!

Judy Blake, President

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UNEXPECTED DEVELOPMENT APPLICANT'S REQUEST FOR MORE TIME REFUSED!

Last month we advised our supporters to watch out for the Applicant's (PVDP) answers to the questions asked by the Secretary of State (SoS) in April 2026.

The questions were detailed and varied and included: landscape and visual impacts; residential visual amenity; heritage impacts; ecological matters; flood risk and hydrology; aviation safety; agricultural land quality; site selection and alternatives; and grid connection arrangements.

All of these matters were previously raised by Stop Botley West (SBW), our supporters and other interested parties during the Examination which concluded in November 2025.

PVDP recently sent a letter to the SoS requesting an extension of nearly 4 months to 25th September to complete the work required to answer the 70+ questions. The SoS replied and refused any extension, giving PVDP just one more day to submit what they could by the original deadline of 9th June.

This was a very interesting development and not good news for PVDP!

What happens next?

The answers that PVDP and others submitted to the SoS were published on 11th June.

Visit stopbotleywest.com to: register for updates, read the answers and get the latest news on the application and decision. Interested parties, including SBW and our supporters, can respond and comment on the SoS's questions and PVDP's answers.

This may be your Final Opportunity to 'Have your Say'.

Please submit your comments (by 16th July) to the SoS at the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero via the Planning Inspectorate by email only to: BotleyWestSolar@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

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for more details and to book an appointment, please
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Inspire; Nurture; Achieve

Curriculum

Our primary school sits at the heart of the village and we are incredibly proud of the nurturing, supportive environment we provide for every child. We are a school where children are known as individuals, encouraged to be confident learners, and supported to achieve their very best. With a strong sense of community, dedicated staff, and a caring ethos, we place great importance on children’s well-being as well as their academic success. Our pupils are kind, respectful and enthusiastic, and this is something we celebrate every day.

Pastoral support is at the heart of our primary school, ensuring that every child feels safe, valued and ready to learn. We place a strong emphasis on emotional wellbeing through approaches such as Zones of Regulation, helping children to understand and manage their feelings. Our nurture programme provides additional support for those who need it, offering a caring and structured environment to build confidence and resilience. We also offer ELSA (Emotional Literacy Support Assistant) sessions, which give children the opportunity to talk, reflect and develop important social and emotional skills. Together, these approaches ensure that every child is supported to thrive both emotionally and academically.

We take great pride in being a school where children feel safe, valued and inspired to thrive.

Enrichment

Enrichment is a vital part of life at our primary school, helping to bring learning to life and inspire curiosity in every child. Our pupils benefit from a wide range of opportunities, including Forest School sessions, sports matches and competitions, and a variety of educational visits. Our residential trip is always a highlight, giving children the chance to develop independence, resilience and teamwork. These experiences broaden horizons, build confidence and create lasting memories, all within our nurturing and supportive environment. We believe enrichment plays a key role in helping every child thrive both in and beyond the classroom.

High Flyers After School club offers a wonderful, enriching wraparound offer every day after school until 6 p.m. Children have access to OFSTED-approved childcare. We are proud to support our families with the offer alongside Breakfast Club from 7.30 a.m. each day.

Community

Our primary school is at the heart of the village community, and we are incredibly proud of the strong relationships we have built with families and local partners. We believe that working together creates the very best environment for our children to learn and grow. From welcoming parents into school events such as May Day and Sports Day to taking part in village activities such as litter picking and village fetes, we value every opportunity to connect and celebrate together. This sense of community helps our children feel a deep sense of belonging, encouraging them to be kind, supportive and proud members of the village.



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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