

YARNTON

JUNE
2026

VILLAGE

NEWS

Editorial Committee:

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Treasurer
Richard Briggs, email: r.a.briggs@hotmail.co.uk - *Distribution*

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 1st Indoor Bowls Club, Village Hall, 10 a.m. *(and every Monday)*
Monday 1st Community Drop In, Village Hall, 2 p.m. – 4 p.m. *(and every Monday)*
Monday 1st Yarnton Band, 7.30 p.m. - 8.45 p.m. *(and every Monday, except Bank Holidays)*
Tuesday 2nd Yarnton Bridge Club, Village Hall, 9.30 a.m. *(and every Tuesday)*
Thursday 4th Yarnton Band Learners and Training Band, 6.45 p.m. - 7.25 p.m.
 Senior Band, 7.30 p.m. - 8.45 p.m. *(and every Thursday)*
Wednesday 10th Lunch Club, Village Hall, 1 p.m.
Wednesday 10th Parish Council Meeting, Village Hall, 6.30 p.m.
Thursday 11th W.I. Village Hall, 7.30 p.m.
Friday 12th Copy date July Village News
Thursday 17th Gardening Club visit to garden at Hampton Poyle, 2.30 p.m.
Monday 22nd Yarnton Playingfields Management Committee A.G.M., Little Marsh Pavilion, 7 p.m.
Wednesday 24th Lunch Club, Village Hall, 1 p.m.

St. Bartholomew's Church

Regular services

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

Advertising Rates

One-eighth A4 page: £13 per issue, £117 per year. One-quarter A4 page: £21 per issue, £189 per year.

One-half A4 page: £35 per issue, £315 per year. Whole A4 page: £60 per issue.

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 July Issue

Material for inclusion in the July Newsletter should be received by midday on **Friday 12th June**.

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 August issue is **Friday 10th July**.



June

Huge thanks to those who came along for our Spring Open Day on May 4th! We love it when the Manor is buzzing with people and the grounds are full of games and laughter, so we hope you had a great day too.



It was a pleasure to welcome over 450 people, and to partner with the Yarnton Park Renewal Project to help raise some extra funds for that. If you've got photos from the day that you'd be happy for us to use in the future we'd love to see them! Our next open event will be as part of **Oxford Open Doors on Sat 12th September**. Watch this space for more details.

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



Copy dates – please stick to them!

Around once a year I find it necessary to write this plea in the Village News. Our copy dates are clearly stated in the calendar and on the second page of each issue. It's usually the first Friday of the month for the following month's edition (occasionally it's the second Friday, depending on how the dates fall, but if you always aim for the first Friday then you will be on time).

Every month I receive submissions after the copy date, and have to remind some regular contributors to send their articles. This causes me problems with finalising the issue in order to get it to the printer on time. I appreciate that people have busy lives – but so do I, and I rely on having the weekend to put everything together.

Please try and get your copy to me in good time each month – it would be much appreciated.

For those of you who always get your copy in on time, or before time, many thanks!

Editor

Hannah Melhuish

We would like to thank all friends and neighbours who attended Hannah's funeral and afterwards at the Village Hall.

The generous donations to the Marie Curie Trust both online and on the day have, so far, amounted to £837.25 and have been acknowledged by the Charity. We are grateful for the support and condolence received on the day and the following weeks.

Graham and Family

Curriculum. Our school continues to provide a broad and balanced curriculum that helps children develop confidence, curiosity and a love of learning. Across all year groups, pupils are encouraged to build strong foundations in reading, writing and mathematics, while also exploring subjects such as science, history, geography, computing, music and art. Teachers work hard to make lessons engaging and relevant, helping children connect classroom learning with the wider world around them. Practical activities, creative projects and outdoor learning all play an important role in bringing topics to life. The school also places great emphasis on personal development, encouraging pupils to show kindness, resilience and respect in everything they do. Reading remains a strength, with regular opportunities for children to enjoy books both in school and at home. Fostering a lifelong enjoyment of reading is clearly a priority.

Enrichment. Beyond the classroom, the school offers a wide range of enrichment opportunities that help pupils discover new interests and talents. Educational visits and themed activity days add further excitement to the school year, allowing pupils to experience learning in new and memorable ways. Whether it is a nature walk, a museum visit or participation in local sporting events, these activities help broaden children's horizons and create lasting memories.

The school also encourages pupils to take responsibility and contribute positively through initiatives such as eco-projects, charity fundraising and pupil leadership roles. These experiences help children develop independence and a strong sense of citizenship from an early age. The Year 4 children have spent two nights away at Youlbury – we know the children had a wonderful time and developed skills beyond the classroom. The club offer has been extended and we are now proud to offer a wide range of after school clubs – theatre kidz, iRock, cricket, art, sing and signing, netball, athletics, eco club and iBrick (Lego and robotics!). Something for everyone. 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. One of the school's greatest strengths is its close connection with the local community. Parents, carers and volunteers play an active role in supporting school events, fundraising activities and classroom initiatives, helping to create a warm and welcoming environment for all families. The school regularly works with local organisations such as Blenheim Palace and Floryn House and community groups to enrich pupils' experiences and strengthen community ties. Movie nights, performances and PTA challenges are always well supported and bring together people of all ages. Our incredible PTA has recently raised funds for a new outdoor canopy to expand our outdoor learning offer. May Day celebrations were a highlight of our year, where the children danced and enjoyed spending time together with families watching.



At the heart of the school is a genuine sense of belonging. Staff, pupils and families work together to create a caring and inclusive atmosphere where every child is encouraged to thrive. The school continues to be a source of pride for the village and an important part of community life.



WE ARE A UNICEF GOLD RIGHTS RESPECTING SCHOOL

Children's rights are learned, understood and lived in this school.



ClassDojo

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

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.

YARNTON PLAYING FIELDS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE A.G.M.

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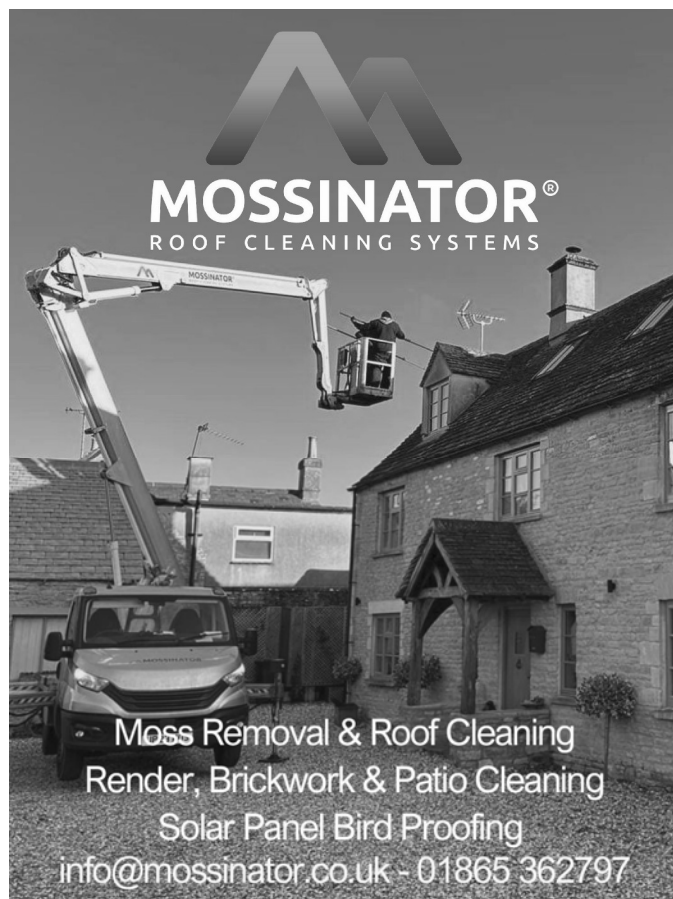
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Playing Field Repairs and Improvements

Yarnton Playing Fields Committee would like to advise residents that essential repair works will shortly be taking place at the Rutten Lane park.

The wooden support structures around the mounds, together with the tyre swings, are due to be repaired. Work is scheduled to commence during the week beginning 1st June and may take up to two-and-a-half weeks to complete. For safety reasons, the affected areas will be cordoned off while the repairs are underway. These repairs are being funded through a grant from Yarnton Parish Council.

Further improvements to the play area are also being planned using the Tesco 'Stronger Starts' funding (the 'blue token' customer vote scheme) of £1,000 that we were pleased to secure earlier this year.

We appreciate everyone's patience and understanding during this period while these improvements are carried out.

KEY MEDICAL PRACTICE (Yarnton Surgery)

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YARNTON PARISH COUNCIL

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

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

Parish Council Chairman:

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

Parish Council Vice-Chairman:

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

Other Parish Council Members:

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

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

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

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

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

Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer:

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

District Councillors:

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

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

Dorothy Walker: dorothy.walker@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.: 26/00767/F. Proposal: Installation of solar panels in the garden for domestic purposes only. Location: College House, 91 Cassington Road, Yarnton, Kidlington, OX5 1QB.

Application No.: 26/00733/F. Proposal: Change of Use of amenity land to domestic use and the erection of a fence. Location: 32 Great Close Road, Yarnton, Kidlington, OX5 1QN.

Community Orchard Summer plan – June/July:

Thin new growth on apple trees so that energy goes to bigger, stronger fruits and strengthens trees.

Maintain consistent watering of trees.

Monitor for pests and disease, and continue to treat using organic and natural treatments.

Nettle, ivy and bramble management.

Future meetings

The next ordinary meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Wednesday, 10th June 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 Dog Owners - would you like to join a WhatsApp group with other dog owners in the village?

It is an informal group - where, for example, you can post messages such as:

'I'm just off to Church Lane fields, is anyone else going?'

'Would anyone like to join me on a walk at (Blenheim or Stratfield, for example) on xxx?'

'Watch out, there's a dead deer/rabbit, etc. in the xx field'.

Share info on dangerous or difficult conditions on the paths and in the fields.

Mention something you've lost on a local walk that you would like other members of the group to keep an eye open for.

Share anything which might be important or helpful to other dog owners, or to ask if you need help or advice with something.

Every so often we could organise a village dog walk, or larger secure dog field in Yarnton/Cassington to have a group walk - a nice, sociable time for dogs and owners.

Please contact me if you are interested or have any questions: 07872 011242 (text or call).



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Oxford Bus and Morris Motors Museum



Our 1948 Morris 10 Series M emerged from our workshop on Bank Holiday Monday 25th May after a major restoration. While in our workshop, we rebuilt the engine, attached a new clutch assembly, repainted and polished the bodywork, replated the chrome, upholstered the interior, reupholstered and refurbished the original seats.

We know that the car was first registered on 31st March 1948 as HON 490. On 10th June 1961 it was transferred into the ownership of Dennis Flowers who lived near Coventry. Twenty years later the Flowers family donated the car to the Coventry Transport Museum from which the Morris Motors Museum acquired it in December 2011.

The Morris 10 Series M was launched in September 1938, a wholly rethought 10hp model with a four-cylinder 1,140cc engine. The main new feature was the mono-construction that was draught- and sound-insulated. This was a new way of building cars replacing a separate body mounted on a chassis. It was not aesthetically pleasing, but the body was Morris's first unitary construction. The design was up-to-date with a better-conceived front end than the competing Vauxhall model.

Morris put wood into the sills for further strengthening. To reassure customers that the new technology was safe, Morris carried out a demonstration in May 1939, crashing a new Morris 10 Series M into the previous Series II Ten of the old design. The Series M came out best.

The Second World War halted production of the Series M when the Cowley factory's output was diverted to war needs.

Nevertheless 27,020 units of these cars had been sold by May 1941.

When the war ended, once permission was granted by the Government, production restarted not only in England but also in India and Australia.

There were two versions produced, one with a sliding roof at £305, plus purchase tax, and the other had a fixed head at £295, plus purchase tax. However, there were materials shortages and car manufacturers were directed to prioritise exports to gain scarce foreign currency. The Government also maintained a high rate of purchase tax to depress home demand.

After the war a few modifications were made to the Series M such as the bonnet grill which was rounder. Another 80,990 cars were sold before the Series M model was replaced.

The photograph is of the car with some of the team who restored it.

There will be free heritage bus rides at 12.15 p.m. and 2.15 p.m. on Sundays 7th and 21st June. The latter date is Father's Day when we shall give free entry to the museums to dads accompanied by their under 16 year old children. The dads will also be given a free bacon butty!

Chris Lord

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St Bartholomews Yarnton

"No one will protect what they don't care about; and no one will care about what they have never experienced"

— David Attenborough

Sunday 7th June – 2-4pm

Join us to identify, record and celebrate the diversity of wildlife found in our churchyard at St Bartholomew's!

- ❖ Decorate a 'Bug on a Biscuit'
- ❖ Butterfly walk & nature trail
- ❖ Spotting guide to identify wildlife
- ❖ Make junk-modelling animals
- ❖ Hot drinks and cakes!



Last month the children at William Fletcher Primary School celebrated the 100th birthday of Sir David Attenborough. In the 100 years since his birth, our world has hugely changed. The impact of human behaviour on the planet has never been clearer – creation is in crisis – and this event gives us the opportunity to reflect on the ways in which we can respond to this, both as individuals and as the body of Christ.

In the Benefice we are blessed with three beautiful churchyards, which provide unique habitats for an abundance of wildlife, and this month we are participating again as a Benefice in the '**Churches Count on Nature**' event. This is an initiative which aims to 'monitor and celebrate the biodiversity in churchyards'.

Join us for fun activities and the opportunity to help us to survey the plants and animals found in the churchyard! All are very welcome!



"If you are equipped with a smartphone, we recommend trying out the iNaturalist app, especially if you are new to recording. It's not only a fun and straightforward way to document your findings but also assists in species identification, enhancing your wildlife encounters. Simply join the Beautiful Burial Grounds Project within the app and start submitting your records."
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Regular Services and Events

Sundays:

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

Wednesdays:

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



Contact details:

Rev'd Oliver Petter
Rector, Benefice of Yarnton with Begbroke and
Shipton on Cherwell
Address: 26 Church Lane, Yarnton, OX5 1PY
Email: vicar@ybsbenefice.org.uk
Tel: 01865 372714
Associate Vicar: Rev'd. Sue Spankie
Tel: 07868 855435
Email: revsue@ybsbenefice.org.uk
Website: www.ybsbenefice.org.uk
Facebook: @yarntonchurch

Handmade Oxford 2026: a special 20%-off ticket for Yarnton!

Handmade Oxford – running from 12th to 14th June – champions exceptional British contemporary craft and design in the beautiful surroundings of Waterperry Gardens, Oxfordshire.

Highly curated, this summer festival of craft will once again welcome over 170 established and emerging makers, while also featuring craft workshops and demonstrations, live music and artisan food.

To take advantage of this offer, the Yarnton tickets must be purchased in advance using this code: **OX26YAR**. To discover more about the show and to purchase tickets visit www.handmadeinbritain.co.uk/handmade-oxford.

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/>
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Successes for Yarnton Band



Just some of our winners - Photo Alex Stroud

The band had many successes in the Oxfordshire District Brass Festival, on April 26th, as below.

9-11 Slow Melody:	1 st James Pye, 2 nd Thomas Stroud, 3 rd Daniel Pye
Under 11 Duets:	1 st Lucy Stroud and Daniel Pye, 2 nd Isabella and Sofia Molinari
Under 15 Duets:	1 st James and William Pye, 2 nd Lucy and Thomas Stroud
Under 14 Quartet:	1 st Yarnton Band
Under 19 Quartet:	1 st Yarnton Band A, 3 rd Yarnton Band B
Under 19 Quintet:	1 st Yarnton Band
Junior Ensembles:	1 st Yarnton Band
Adult Improvers:	2 nd Marie Mills, 3 rd Rhian Pye
Senior Duets:	2 nd Marie Mills and Mary Methley, 3 rd Freya Slater and Harriet Coates
Under 19 Percussion:	1 st Chloe Fleet
Senior Quartet:	2 nd Yarnton Trombones
Open Ensembles:	1 st Yarnton Band
Special Prizes:	
Best Cornet in Section B:	Daniel Pye
Band with the most entries:	Yarnton

It was also heartening to see Bletchington Band taking part again and winning several prizes. You can hear our band at the Ramsden Fete on 13th June at 1.20 p.m. and 2.30 p.m.

Peter Hewis

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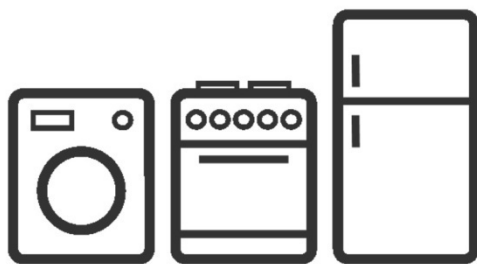
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Tel: 01865 499215

Mobile: 07986556015

Yarnton Village Hall

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

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

Main Hall

Village residents: £12.00

Non Village Residents: £14.00

Kitchen

£8.00 - per session

Back Room

Village residents: £11.00

Non Village Residents: £13.00

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

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**



Yarnton W.I.

Hello neighbours!

I hope you are well and enjoying the sunny days of Spring along with the beauty it brings.

As I write we are all looking forward to meeting you at the Village Fete benefitting the Yarnton Park Renewal project.

I hope when you are reading this, it will have been a memorable and happy day for us all. It's been a number of years since the last one, six I believe, so it will have been a special occasion to celebrate. Perhaps you will have decided to visit us at one of our meetings?

Our June meeting is a garden party for members to socialise and enjoy one another's company. We will have special activities and treats. Our speaker for July is Rob Brewer speaking about his time as an 'extra' actor in film and television. I am sure many of you have wondered what this entails and how to get this job. Put 9th July in your diary and come and join us. All are welcome!

We are in the process of assembling our post box topper and I am sure it will have been worth the wait. I am proud and amazed by what our talented members have created and you will be too. Thank you to Budgens for your continued support! Hopefully, by the time you are reading this, you can pop by and see our creation.

We are also in the process of developing ideas for various special interest clubs and projects. Our Summer tea party at Bicester Garden Centre is certain to be a big success. There is so much to entertain our friends in Yarnton WI.

We feel fortunate to be members. *Judy Blake, President*

Central Yarnton Bridge Club

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FOR RELATIVE BEGINNERS

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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.

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21st June. 'In Steam' Themed event 'Classic Wheels' for Fathers' Day - bring a child along and receive a free Cream Tea. For our June 'in Steam' event we have invited Classic Cars to come along, a beautiful example of yesteryear. Combe Mill is a late 19th Century Grade II Listed Water Mill on Blenheim Palace Estate by the River Evenlode, in its day the workshop for Blenheim Palace estate - not to be missed.

Tea Room open, BBQ, Gift Shop and Raffle. Dogs on leads welcome. Parking Free.

Adults £9.50, Seniors £8.50, accompanied children FREE. open 10.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. (last entries 3.30 p.m.)

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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 <p>History Workshop Tuesday 23rd June, 4pm - 5pm Who killed King Harold? Come and have a go at solving a historical murder mystery!</p>	 <p>Health & Social Care Workshop Thursday 9th July, 4pm - 5pm How healthy is your food? Find out with Miss Barnes during this free family learning workshop.</p>

We look forward to seeing you at one or all of these FREE workshops.

Scan the QR code today to book your place, or visit: www.gosford-hill.oxon.sch.uk/community/bring-a-grown-up
Alternatively, you can give us a call on 01865 374971



Common Law Marriage – The Myth That Won't Die

Marriage is one of those words that means different things to different people. Some couples say they're married because they had a wedding, signed the register, and posed for photos. Others simply live together for years and consider themselves married because, well, it feels like they are. No paperwork, no 'I do' in a licensed venue, no witnesses – just a shared sofa and a Netflix subscription.

I get it. It sounds romantic. It feels reassuring. But here's the truth: 'common law marriage' is a myth. You can live together for decades, share a dog, raise children, and still not have the rights of a married couple or civil partners. The term 'common law marriage' sounds logical, and yes, it exists elsewhere, but not in England and Wales. It's simply a social idea, not a legal one. When one of you dies, the law will treat you as strangers. That's not me being overly dramatic – that's just how it is. The harsh reality is that the law doesn't care how many IKEA trips you've survived or that you raised children together. Cohabiting partners have no automatic rights, no claim on each other's assets, and no inheritance tax perks. None.

You're not alone

Research shows that a quarter of cohabiting couples without a Will believe their assets will automatically pass to their partner when they die. They are wrong. Unless you're married or in a civil partnership, your partner is automatically entitled to nothing. Not the house, not the savings, not even the dog. It's a harsh reality, but it's reality nonetheless. And it gets worse. If you don't have a Will, you lose control over who gets what. The law will distribute your assets according to a formula that ignores your relationship. Your partner could be left financially exposed, and your family could face an administrative nightmare at the worst possible time.

Why Marriage (or Civil Partnership) still matters

If you're married or in a civil partnership, the tax man is surprisingly polite*. When one of you dies, everything you own can go to your partner without paying a penny in inheritance tax. On top of that, you can pass on any unused tax allowance – that's £325,000 at the time of writing – so the survivor gets double, making it £650,000. Add the property allowance of £175,000 each, and you're looking at a combined tax-free amount of £1 million. That's not pocket change.

Civil partners get the same deal. Unlimited transfers, combined allowances – it's like a two-for-one offer, but with houses and money.

So, what's the solution?

You have options. The obvious one is marriage or civil partnership. It's not for everyone, and it's not a decision to take lightly. These are legal contracts with consequences if things go wrong. Divorce or dissolution can also be costly and stressful. But for long-term couples, the financial and legal protections are hard to ignore.

The other option is a Will. A properly drafted Will ensures your wishes are carried out and can provide some protection for your partner. It won't solve the inheritance tax problem entirely, but it's a start. Plus, it's a statement that says: 'I've got you covered'. A Will removes guesswork, prevents family disputes, and spares your loved ones from the undignified process of proving their connection to you. It sets out who gets what, who looks after the children, and even who takes care of the dog. If you're in a committed relationship and you own property, have savings, or simply want to avoid chaos after your death, do something about it. Speak to a solicitor. Get a Will. Consider whether marriage or civil partnership makes sense for you. And don't rely on myths – rely on well-drafted legal paperwork instead.

Anna Boucher is an inheritance tax, wills and probate specialist solicitor at The Burnside Partnership (Combe office). Each month, Anna will share helpful tips on inheritance law, mixing humour with practical advice. If you have any followup questions, you can email her at anna.boucher@theburnsidepartnership.com or call the Combe office on 01865 987781 and ask for her secretary, Sarah.





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

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

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

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

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

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

Services in June

'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

7 th	10.30 a.m.	Jo Hibbard
14 th	10.30 a.m.	'Sea Sunday' Local Church Group
21 st	10.30 a.m.	David Matthews
28 th	10.30 a.m.	Rev. Paul Carter <i>Holy Communion</i>

Kidlington

7 th	10 a.m.	Ann Bedford
14 th	10 a.m.	Rev. Miriam Moul <i>Holy Communion</i>
21 st	10 a.m.	Ann Henman
28 th	10 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!

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.

Insect Week: Tiny Creatures, Big Impact

They may be small, but insects make a BIG difference to nature recovery. From 22nd – 28th June the Royal Entomological Society's spotlight week is a celebration of all things insect. And these small critters really do make all the difference... there are more than 24,000 species in the UK alone, and they can be found in almost every habitat. Their jack-of-all-trades role spans pollinators, predators, pests, parasites, and prey, and the study of insects has long been central to conservation, food production, medicine, and ecology.

At Wild Oxfordshire, insects are essential to our Yellow Wagtail Partnership project. Established in 2020 by patron Dr. Robin Buxton, the Partnership works with the Earth Trust Church Farm Partnership and Lower Farm, to 'learn and communicate as much as possible about the impact of different land management techniques both on this species and the wider environment'. As a migrant species, insects are a vital part of Yellow Wagtail diets. However, recent changes in farming practice and other human impacts on the landscape have led to habitat and insect declines, harming Yellow Wagtail populations. They now find themselves on the conservation red list.



Yellow Wagtail in Oxfordshire, Mike Pollard

How you can help

Volunteer. We occasionally ask for volunteers to carry out small projects to help with the Yellow Wagtail Partnership; this can range from helping out with fieldwork and managing data to creating visual aids for our work.

Our partner, Earth Trust, regularly recruits volunteers. Whether you are out counting insects or sitting at a desk, volunteering your time (with the Earth Trust) will help them carry out the vital work they do for the Yellow Wagtail Partnership, as well as their other projects.

Have an idea for a research project? We are keen to hear from students and researchers about their research ideas and would be happy to discuss the possibility of using our site to support your research. Please get in touch to discuss what might be possible.

Record your Yellow Wagtail sightings. Help us learn more about Yellow Wagtails in Oxfordshire by reporting your sightings to [TVERC](#) (Thames Valley Environmental Records Centre).

Help to look after our grasslands:

Stick to the path and avoid wandering into the fields, as this may disturb nesting birds or lead to nest abandonment.

Be respectful of the livestock, keep dogs on leads when there are calves in the fields.

Remember to take your and your dog's rubbish home with you.

Don't have BBQs on the grasslands, as you may cause a fire.

Gardening tips for June

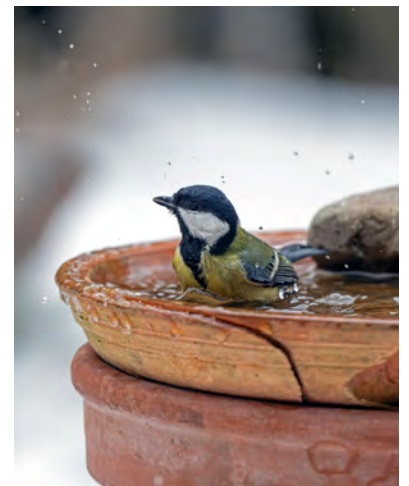
Want to help garden birds? Don't feed them in warmer months. The RSPB have released guidance on feeding birds, stating that putting up bird feeders in your garden could be putting some species at risk of disease. Stop filling bird feeders with seeds and peanuts from 1st May to 31st October as this will prevent too many birds gathering in one place. Instead, still put out small amounts of mealworms, fat balls or suet all year round.

Let the grass grow. June is peak time for insects like butterflies, bees, and beetles.

Leaving even a small patch of lawn uncut creates shelter and food for the likes of Meadow Browns, Large Blue Butterflies, and Thick-legged Flower Beetles.

Go chemical-free. Gardening organically is a good way to ensure that the food and plants you grow are free of pesticides or chemicals, and the wildlife will thank you for it too. By stopping the use of chemicals, slugs, snails, and insects such as aphids will return, but don't worry! In time, so will their natural predators, such as hedgehogs and slowworms to help keep pest numbers down.

Keep bird baths topped up. Fresh water is essential for birds in warm weather. Keep a shallow dish with a few pebbles and help insects drink safely. However, only put out a bird bath if you can replace the water daily and clean the bird bath weekly to prevent the spread of diseases, especially in the warmer months.



Cherwell Collective

Create change through community connection this summer with Cherwell Collective.



Monday-Friday stop by for lunch and café service at WISH in Kidlington from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Even dining at our cafe is supporting sustainable change. All of our delicious food makes use of local, seasonal surplus ingredients.

- 10.30 a.m. – 11.30 a.m., happy hour £3 coffee and cake (free squash and snacks for kids with parent purchase)
- Co-working Wednesdays, enjoy a grazing board and drink for £3 to nibble on while you work. Free WIFI available on site.
- Thursdays: Senior lunch special, set 3-course meal and drinks for £5.

Mark y

and go to cherwellcollective.com/events for more details:

10th June: Take part in a friendly, small-group discussion series at Oxford Ice Rink (OX1 1RX) to help shape Oxfordshire's new Good Waste Charter. This initiative brings together the community, businesses, and policymakers to co-create a county-wide strategy that will support good waste practice and policy in our county. Enjoy a free meal and be part of the movement for sustainable policy in our county.

- Part 1: Wednesday 10th June 6 p.m.
- Part 2: Wednesday 24th June 6 p.m.
- Part 3: Wednesday 15th July 6 p.m.

13th June: Great Big Green Week celebration with our WISH Partnership at Oxford City Farm (OX4 3NH), 10 a.m. -1.30 p.m., pop-up larder, activities, and more.



19th June: Grand opening of Fashion House by Cherwell Collective, 5 p.m. – 7 p.m. Join us as we open our community fashion house, a space for up-and-coming sustainable designers to create and innovate without barriers to entry.

20th June: Iraqi Pop-up Café and Mesopotamian Supper Club at WISH (OX5 1EE). Drop in for the café service from 2 p.m. – 5 p.m. with dishes from £10, or join the supper club for a three-course feast celebrating the flavours of the ancient Middle East. Enjoy a mysterious menu of fragrant spices and wholesome dishes, followed by cardamom tea and arabic coffee to complete the experience. £35 per person for the supper club, space limited, book by 5 p.m. day before. Booking: iwaw2023@icloud.com or WhatsApp 079886009814.

4th July: Save the date for the Begbroke Science Wonder Garden party. More details to come, watch Cherwell Collective's event page (cherwellcollective.com/events) and social media (@cherwellcollective) for more information.

<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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Yarnton Netball Club

We have three senior teams in the Oxfordshire Summer League, all playing on Wednesday evenings, with all three teams having got off to an enthusiastic start. The Summer League is a good time for us to try out new combinations and add some of our older juniors into the mix too.

Our annual netball tournament is on Saturday 27th June at the outdoor courts at Bicester Hotel Golf and Spa, commencing at 10 a.m. As always, the club invites all retired players to drop by and say hello. The annual Awards Night follows the tournament, and is 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 an exciting and exhilarating competition with concluding matches in May, culminating in the Grand Final in Manchester on 20th June. Modest hotel/ticket packages are available and the day looks to be filled with entertainment and inspiration – worthy of a trip north. Failing that *SKY* and *YOUTUBE* will be showing live; maybe BBC/iplayer.

The Commonwealth Games in Glasgow then follows at end of July into August. Netball were invited into the Commonwealth Games in 1998 - the excitement of England Roses winning Gold in 2018 still resonates. World Netball and Australia are leading the bid to get netball included in the Olympics which will be hosted by Brisbane in 2032 – please link to <https://netball.sport/back-the-bid/> to pledge your vote to the bid. England Roses are 3rd in the World Rankings behind Australia and New Zealand, with Jamaica 4th. What will this Commonwealth Games bring – will you be watching?

Sue Blackshaw – Yarnton Netball Club

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The hoot-and-a-half guide to urban wildlife corridors

by Orin, your neighbourhood's most overqualified owl



Greetings, featherless gardeners. Orin the Owl here, longtime observer of your curious human habits, part-time philosopher, and full-time critic of poorly pruned hedges. I've been perched above your streets for decades, watching you bustle about with your wheelie bins and your questionable patio furniture. But lately, I've noticed something rather heartwarming, you're finally starting to garden to include the rest of us who live here too.

Yes, yes, welcome to the age of urban wildlife corridors, where every garden becomes a stepping stone in a grand ecological obstacle course. Think of it as the world's slowest relay race, starring hedgehogs, beetles, and that one fox who judges your recycling. Allow me to guide you through the latest trends, with the wisdom of my years and the sarcasm of someone who hasn't slept properly since the invention of security lights.

Hedgehog Highways - Motorways for the prickly and polite

You humans have finally realised that hedgehogs cannot teleport. A breakthrough, truly. Those little holes you're cutting at the bottom of fences. Marvellous. To you, it's a 13-centimetre gap. To a hedgehog, it's the M25 without the road rage. Suddenly they can toddle from garden to garden, visiting friends, finding snacks, and avoiding the indignity of squeezing under a gate like a furry doorstep. If you hear a faint grunting at night, don't panic. It's just Mr. Prickles commuting.

Community Planting Schemes - because bees don't respect property boundaries

I've watched you humans attempt 'community spirit' before, usually involving bunting and an argument about whose turn it is to host the barbecue. But this new trend of shared planting schemes? Surprisingly effective. When an entire street decides to grow pollinator friendly plants, whether they're native or not, it becomes a nectar buffet stretching as far as my excellent eyes can see. Bees zip along it like tiny, fuzzy commuters. Butterflies flutter through like they're on a spa retreat. Even I enjoy the view, though I'm mostly here for the mice.

Wildlife Friendly Fencing and Hedging - or, how to stop building tiny wooden fortresses

Look, I understand the instinct to mark your territory. I hoot loudly from treetops for the same reason. But your obsession with solid fences has turned neighbourhoods into labyrinths that even I struggle to navigate. Swap a panel for a hedge, and suddenly the place is alive. Birds nest. Insects thrive. Small mammals scurry through as if they're late for a meeting. And you get a living, breathing boundary instead of a plank that needs repainting every time it rains sideways.

Every Garden a Stepping Stone - the grand ecological hopscotch

Here's the big idea, no garden is too small to matter. A window box, a scruffy corner, a patch of long grass, each one is a stepping stone in a vast, interconnected network. To you, it's a slightly overgrown lawn. To a beetle, it's a metropolis. To a frog, it's a rest stop. To me, it's a snack bar, but let's not dwell on that. When you link your garden with your neighbour's, and theirs with the next, you create a continuous corridor of life. A green thread weaving through the concrete quilt of your towns.

So, keep cutting those hedgehog holes. Keep planting those pollinator banquets. Keep letting your gardens get just a little bit wild, without the need to go the whole hog and totally re-wild it. From my perch, it's a beautiful thing to see. And if you could also switch off your patio lights at night, that would be splendid. Some of us are trying to hunt.

Happy Gardening.

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



Updates on 'Botley West'

Strongly worded letters from our MPs

Calum Miller, MP for Bicester and Woodstock, and Layla Moran, MP for Oxford West and Abingdon, both sent strongly worded letters at the end of April to Secretary of State (SoS), Ed Miliband's Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ).

Layla's letter

In her letter dated 29th April, Layla wrote:

'I am concerned by the sheer extent of the gaps in information highlighted by your formal response to the applicant on 14th April 2026 in relation to the Botley West Solar proposal.'

'Many key issues remain unresolved and key parties are being cut out of the post examination process.'

'Matters that were examined at length during the Planning Inspectorate's Examination, including alternative site selection, grid connection and deliverability, impact on Blenheim World Heritage Site, landscape and visual effects, ecological mitigation, flood risk, aviation issues, compulsory acquisition and Residential Visual Amenity Assessments have had to be revisited as evidence remains disputed or is incomplete.'

'Your requests for further information from Botley West implicitly acknowledge wide ranging concerns. Given the clock is ticking on the 8-week timetable set out in the 26th March statement, clarity is urgently needed on how this next stage will be conducted. Affected communities need the opportunity to engage so that confidence in the fairness and robustness of the process can be restored.'

Read Layla's full letter at stopbotleywest.com

Calum's letters

Calum's earlier letter dated 26th March criticised the SoS's delay of decision, arguing that 'throughout the examination there were repeated and serious questions about the adequacy of the applicant's work' and asking 'why was the application not refused and the developer invited to return with a more robust and properly evidenced scheme?'

His concerns were proved entirely justified in light of the unprecedented number of issues raised in the SoS's letter dated 14th April and its highly unusual call for a complete redesign at the decision stage after such a thorough examination.

In Calum's second letter dated 30th April he asks why he and Layla have not been included in the list of Interested Parties to whom the SoS's letter dated 14th April is addressed. He also asks for their promised but cancelled meeting with Michael Shanks (Minister in DESNZ department) to be reinstated.

Read Calum's letters at stopbotleywest.com

PLEASE ACT NOW

Write to your MP expressing your support and concerns. This can be a very brief message of support or a longer letter detailing your concerns. A large number of letters will provide evidence of the widespread concerns for our MPs to take to their meeting - if that happens - or for their future representations on our behalf.

The key questions are:

1. Given serious flaws in the design indicated by the large number of questions and calls for redesign in the SoS's letter dated 14th April, why was the application not refused outright, rather than the examination extended?
2. Why is there no clear explanation of how the affected communities can engage in this extension of the examination?
3. Why are MPs not included in the list of Interested Parties?

Please send your letters via email to:

Calum Miller: calum.miller.mp@parliament.uk

Layla Moran: layla.moran.mp@parliament.uk

If you are a constituent - please include your full name and address including your postcode and personal email address in your letter.

WATCH OUT FOR...

Watch out for the Applicant's answers to the 70+ questions asked by the SoS, which are due by 9th June. Visit stopbotleywest.com to read the answers and other updates shortly afterwards - and to get the latest news on the application and decision.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT



Yarnton Gardening Club

Instead of our usual June social meeting in the Village Hall, this month we have a garden visit on Wednesday 17th to the garden at 16 Bletchingdon Road, Hampton Poyle, travelling by cars to arrive by 2.30 p.m. It is the garden of a professional gardener and is not normally open to the public! We will be having tea and home-made cakes, and are assured that it is full of interesting plants. The cost for this is £10 per person (members and non-members). All monies will be donated by the owner to Breast Cancer research and there will be an opportunity when you are there to donate more if you wish.

We have another 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 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 – cost to be confirmed.

This issue of the Village News went to press before our Plant Sale, so I hope to be able to report in next month's edition that it was a great success! Thanks to all who came along and helped on the day.

Ruth Astall

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Helping You Create a Better Home

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

Home of your own - Renovating

With UK property prices being unaffordable for many people seeking to buy a home, one option is to consider an old property that needs renovating. These can be substantially cheaper than new build properties, and you have the potential to offer greater flexibility to tailor the layout, performance, and character to individual needs, providing long-term satisfaction over short-term inconvenience rather than buying a new build. Renovating an old property can improve energy efficiency and significantly increase its value. Two- and three-bedroom houses are the most common renovation projects. However, careful consideration of the factors that can significantly impact the project's success, timeline, and budget is needed, and understanding these issues before beginning work can help avoid potential costly mistakes and legal complications. When looking at potential properties, look for subsidence cracks, roof deterioration, and damp issues. Renovating without understanding the building's structural condition can lead to unsafe results and escalated costs. A structural survey is highly recommended, especially for older homes. Surveyors can also identify materials such as asbestos, which is common in properties built between the 1950s and 1990s. Asbestos removal can add time and cost and must be undertaken by licensed professionals. Victorian and Edwardian properties often have solid walls that require different treatment than modern cavity walls, particularly regarding insulation and damp-proofing. For terraced or semi-detached properties, work affecting shared walls requires serving notice on adjoining owners under the Party Wall Act. This legal requirement prevents disputes and protects all parties' interests.

When you have found a potential property and had the structural survey done, you then need to check whether your renovation ideas require planning permission. While many internal alterations fall under Permitted Development rights, extensions, loft conversions, significant structural changes, and alterations to listed buildings or properties in conservation areas often require formal approval. You should also check whether the property is covered by an Article 4 Direction which has removed PD rights for the property. Before buying, submit a Pre-Application Enquiry to the local authority Planning Department to find out whether the work you intend to do qualifies as PD or will require a planning application. Building Regulations approval is a separate requirement and applies to structural changes, electrical work, plumbing, insulation, and fire safety. Compliance ensures the home is safe and energy-efficient, and you will need completion certificates when selling the property.

With an encouraging structural survey and Pre-App response, you can then create a detailed budget that includes labour, materials, professional fees, planning costs, and a contingency fund, typically 10–20% of the total cost. Some works, including refurbishments of long-empty properties, are zero-rated for VAT, so it is essential to understand which VAT category applies to your project. You should also consider upgrading energy efficiency. Replacing single glazing with double or triple glazing, improving insulation, installing heat pumps or upgrading boilers can significantly reduce energy bills. Some upgrades - like external wall insulation - may require planning consent depending on the area. Energy Performance Certificate requirements mean that improved efficiency can add value to your property. Heat pumps, solar panels, and improved ventilation systems may qualify for grants or incentives, although installation costs should be weighed against long-term savings.

Finally, consider the ceiling price of your area: the maximum value buyers are typically willing to pay for homes in that neighbourhood. Spending more on renovations than you can recoup on resale (over-capitalisation) is a common issue, but not so much if you plan to live there long term. Research comparable properties and focus your investment on extensions, loft conversions, energy efficiency, and general modernisation, which tend to yield the highest returns.

Jan Liberadzki BA Arch (Hons), MSc, JLDA

Budgens
OF YARNTON



SUBWAY

June has arrived... now all we need is the sunshine! Whether it's BBQs in the garden or rain showers keeping us indoors, we've got everything you need whatever the weather — from summer drinks and snacks to cosy night-in essentials. Here's hoping for a sunny month ahead!



The countdown is on ... the FIFA World Cup kicks off on 11th June, and we've got everything you need for match day! From ice-cold drinks and BBQ favourites to snacks and party essentials, we're ready for every game. England begin their World Cup campaign against Croatia on 17th June — so stock up, settle in and cheer on the Three Lions!

Wimbledon – 29th June – July 12th

Strawberries, cream, Pimms... Wimbledon season has arrived! Packed with mint, cucumber, oranges, apples, lemonade... and of course, the all-important Pimms! The perfect summer sip awaits — pick yours up in store and enjoy!



**Don't forget
Fathers Day
Sunday 21st**

**Happy
Father's
Day**



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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