

YARNTON

SEPTEMBER
2026

VILLAGE

NEWS

Editorial Committee:

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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.

Tuesday 1st Yarnton Bridge Club, Village Hall, 9.30 a.m. (*and every Tuesday*)
Wednesday 2nd Lunch Club, Village Hall, 1 p.m.
Thursday 3rd 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 7th Indoor Bowls Club, Village Hall, 10 a.m. (*and every Monday*)
Monday 7th Community Drop In, Village Hall, 2 p.m. – 4 p.m. (*and every Monday*)
Monday 7th Yarnton Band, 7.30 p.m. – 8.45 p.m. (*and every Monday, except Bank Holidays*)
Wednesday 9th Parish Council Meeting, Village Hall, 6.30 p.m.
Thursday 10th W.I., Village Hall, 7.30 p.m.
Friday 11th Copy date October Village News
Wednesday 16th Lunch Club, Village Hall, 1 p.m.
Thursday 17th Gardening Club, Village Hall, 7.30 p.m.
Wednesday 30th 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.

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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 October Issue

Material for inclusion in the October Newsletter should be received by midday on **Friday 11th September.**

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 November issue is **Friday 2nd October.**

whats on!

- 🍷 **Live music 26th September with Jacques Butler**
- 🍷 **Live music 24th October with Mike E**
- 🍷 **Halloween Party 31st October**
Families welcome.
- 🍷 **Live music 28th November with Fraud Squad.**

Everybody welcome.

📞 **01865 375052**

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**

HELP CLEAN UP THE LITTER!

by Sarah
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by Sarah

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Farmer Clusters: What happens when farmers team up to create a healthier landscape?

Wild Oxfordshire

Wild Oxfordshire is a charity seeking to create a more natural, resilient, and biodiverse Oxfordshire for the benefit of all.

Farmer clusters

Many of us probably don't think about our local farmers on a regular basis (except when we're stuck behind a tractor on a country road!), but they are the heart of our rural landscape, growing food, managing road hedgerows, as well as playing a vital role in supporting wildlife across the countryside. Agricultural land accounts for 71% of land nationally and 74% in Oxfordshire. And so, inevitably, the way farmland is managed will have a huge impact on the biodiversity that land can support, for better or worse. Today, farmers and land managers play a vital role in maintaining, restoring and creating important habitats. Farmers are now joining forces in the form of farmer clusters (also known as farmer-led groups) to care for the landscape, creating space for wildlife and healthier soils, wetlands, and habitats.



Farmer Cluster. Sophie Cunningham

These groups aim to facilitate collaborations between farmers and landowners to deliver landscape-scale conservation projects. They also act as support systems and social networks by giving guidance and advice and enabling the sharing of experiences and knowledge. Vitally, farmer clusters are designed to be farmer-led, meaning that members play a key role in the decision-making and direction of the cluster as well as giving them a sense of ownership.

The Clumps and Ridgeway Farmer Clusters

At Wild Oxfordshire, we are proud to facilitate two Farmer Clusters: The Clumps Farmer Cluster, a group of 14 farms located around the Wittenham Clumps, covering just over 5,000 hectares, and the Ridgeway Farmer Cluster with a membership of 15 farms. Wild Oxfordshire is supporting these clusters to deliver workshops and events that meet the specific needs of local farmers. These workshops have covered a broad range of topics from soil health, biodiversity net gain, and hedgerow management, to understanding changes in government grants and farm diversification. The clusters are also delivering on-the-ground projects, including the Ridgeway Dew Pond Project, restoring dew ponds on the Chalk Downland, and a public engagement project where members of the Clumps Farmer Cluster have installed signs to help walkers understand what they can do to look after the countryside. Both clusters are collaborating with neighbouring clusters to further their impact, whether through shared training events or the Chalkland Revival Project, in which the Ridgeway Farmer Cluster is one of five clusters working together to support farmland birds and manage deer populations across the North Wessex Downs. In addition, we are pleased to share that we have been awarded funding from the Rothschild Foundation, which will support long-term development and project delivery as well as empowering our members to continue to do their bit for nature in Oxfordshire.



Sophie Cunningham

How you can help

A farmer yourself? For more information on Farmer Clusters and how you could get involved, visit farmerclusters.com for advice and funding information.

But you don't have to be a farmer to support wildlife in farmland. Here are a few ways you can support the countryside and your local farmers:

Follow the countryside code - leave gates and property as you find them, follow local signs, and keep to marked paths unless wider access is available.

Protect the environment - take your litter home, always bag up dog poo, do not light fires, and only have BBQs where signs allow them. Always keep dogs in sight and on leads around livestock and during the bird breeding season.

Enjoy the outdoors - visit your local farm shop, learn more about farming and share your knowledge with others, and submit any wildlife sightings to Thames Valley Environmental Records Centre.

Support your local farmers - buy local food where possible at farm shops and local markets.

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Yarnton Dog Owners WhatsApp Group (YDO)

The lovely people in our WhatsApp group participated in yet another 'rescue' in July. This time it was two spaniels on the run in Cassington Road. (Plus an injured seagull in someone's garden! We just gave details for Oxfordshire Wildlife Rescue for the seagull). Our main aim is to share all things dog and dog owner related and, of course, meet up for the odd dog walk. The very hot weather has been difficult for our dogs. (In fact anything above 22 degrees is in the warning zone as being too hot for them). Some of us have even been getting up at 5 a.m. to walk the dog before it gets too hot! We have been sharing ways to keep our dogs cool, things to stop them getting bored if it's too hot for a walk, and places to walk where there is plenty of shade.

Please get in touch if you want to join on 07872 011242 (text or call).

<i>Good Neighbour Scheme</i>	Covering Kidlington, Yarnton and Begbroke	Please contact
	Offers help to anybody over 60 or disabled with gardening, befriending, shopping, dog walking etc. All Volunteers are fully DBS checked.	Kidlington Information Centre on 01865 378479



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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 September

'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

6 th	10.30 a.m.	Rev. Luke McLeod (Holy Communion)
13 th	10.30 a.m.	'New Beginnings' Local Church Group
20 th	10.30 a.m.	Joint Service at Tackley Methodist Church - Rev. Luke McLeod (Holy Communion)
27 th	10.30 a.m.	Rachel Blainey

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

Kidlington

6 th	10 a.m.	David Harper
13 th	10 a.m.	Local Church Group
20 th	10.30 a.m.	Joint Service at Tackley Methodist Church - Rev. Luke McLeod (Holy Communion)
27 th	10 a.m.	Paul Spray

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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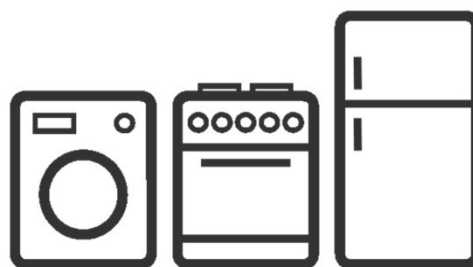
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YARNTON PARISH COUNCIL

Help keep our drainage ditches clear – Prevent Flooding

Yarnton Flood Defence Group (YFDG) and Yarnton Parish Council (YPC) are asking everyone to help protect our village from flooding by reporting any fly-tipping in drainage ditches.

The drainage ditches around the village have recently undergone major clearance work. Unfortunately, if green waste, garden cuttings, or other rubbish is dumped into these ditches, it can quickly block water flow and significantly increase the risk of flooding.

If you see any fly-tipping, please report it to Cherwell District Council. If possible, include the exact location using What3Words and any information that may help identify those responsible.

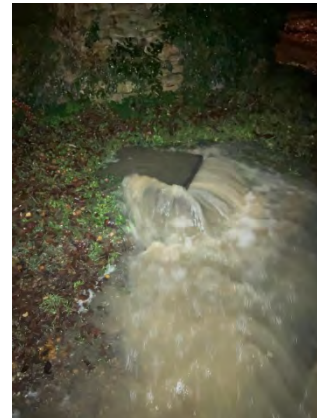
Report fly-tipping here:

<https://www.cherwell.gov.uk/info/7/environment/374/fly-tipping>

Why this matters

Clearing these drainage ditches has taken several years. It has involved identifying landowners, coordinating multiple organisations, and employing specialist contractors to carry out complex work.

During this time, Yarnton has experienced several periods of exceptional rainfall, resulting in many homes being flooded - some more than once. The impact on affected residents has been devastating.



Photos: Yarnton Flood Defence Group

A Section 19 Flood Investigation Report was commissioned for Yarnton following significant flooding, with similar reports also produced for Kidlington. These reports are only undertaken when multiple properties have been flooded and identify the causes and contributing factors.

Fly-tipping into drainage ditches is both irresponsible and costly. Every time a ditch has to be cleared again, the expense is ultimately paid for through public funds - money that could otherwise be invested in improving local services and facilities. Please help protect our community by reporting any fly-tipping you see. Together we can help reduce the risk of flooding and keep our drainage network functioning as intended.

The scale of the work already completed

- 270 tonnes of silt and rotted organic material removed from The Paddocks ditch by Sanctuary Housing.
- 70 tonnes of silt removed from The Scouts ditch, funded through grants from Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) and Yarnton Parish Council (YPC).
- Ongoing maintenance of other privately owned watercourses carried out at significant cost by Taylor Wimpey and Sanctuary Housing.
- Voluntary ditch clearance undertaken by OCC on Rutten Lane, despite the watercourses not being their responsibility.
- Regular cyclic maintenance of the Main River watercourse on Cassington Road by Cherwell District Council (CDC) and OCC Highways, only for cut vegetation and waste to be thrown back into the channel.
- More than 30 homes experienced internal flooding, as recorded in the Yarnton Section 19 Flood Report. The principal causes include silting of the Main River drainage network due to historic neglect, inadequate maintenance, and the fly-tipping of both organic and inorganic waste.

A few minutes spent reporting fly-tipping could help prevent another family from experiencing the distress and disruption of flooding.



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20th September – 'In Steam' 'Crafts & Skills'. Bring the children. Follow the Millie trail to win a Millie Badge. Follow the Dinosaur Hunt to win a Dinosaur Special attraction. Oxford Vintage Motor Cycles and also Steampunk will be with us.

Crafters from the local areas, including Oxford Guild of Weavers Spinners & Dyers who will be bringing their Big Wheel, Needle Felting, Children's Clothes, Leather Goods and much more.

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. See the blacksmiths in the forge - you will be able to make a poker; children too.

Tea room will be open, BBQ, Gift Shop, Raffle and Tombola. 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'.

Dogs on Leads most 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.) Tea Room open if you would like to call in for refreshments: Cream Tea, cake, ham roll, coffee and soft drinks.



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On **Sunday 6th Sept** we celebrate a new addition to the church calendar, the **"Feast of Creation in Christ"** – 'Originally inspired by an ancient liturgical tradition of the Orthodox Church, in place since the 5th century, nearly all major denominations now join the annual observance, celebrating God as Creator and the great mystery of creation, while also inspiring us to care for the gift of the created world.' – Find out more at <https://www.disciplescuim.org>

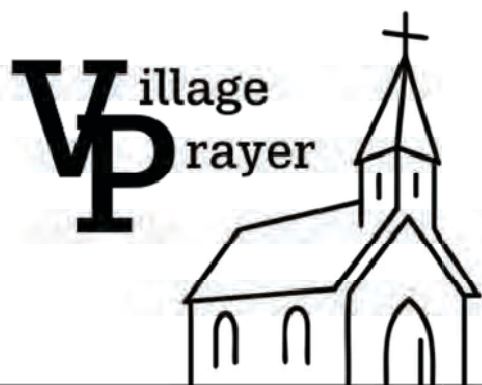
⊕ St Bartholomews Yarnton

YARNTON EVENING WORSHIP

A service bringing together ancient and contemporary expressions of worship.
All are welcome!

Yarnton Evening Worship

Sun 13th Sept @ 6pm



Wed 2nd Sept

@ 7-7.45pm

St Bartholomew's

Come along for informal prayer for our churches, villages and communities in the Benefice.

First meeting this month, and all are very welcome!

RIDE+STRIDE
for Churches 2026

Sat 12th Sept

During Open House Weekend, St Bartholomew's will be welcoming participants for **Ride and Stride**.

Do pop in for coffee, cake & to cheer them on!

UNVEILED

We men of the Old Testament and the choices they made



Reflections by Clare Hayes Artwork by Micah Hayes

Tuesday 8th Sept

Our **Tuesday Study Groups** resume at 1pm in St Bartholomew's Church and 7pm in Begbroke Village Hall. We are continuing our study of **"Unveiled"** throughout September.

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

Website: www.ybsbenefice.org.uk

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Ed the Earwig Reports: The Great Garden Relocation

By Ed the Earwig, Political Correspondent, *The Daily Dandelion*

There has been great excitement in the garden this week after Alan the Ant won the annual election for Head of Everything Important.

No sooner had Alan settled into his office beneath the old compost heap than he announced a bold new plan.

'The compost heap has had power for far too long', declared Alan, standing on an upturned sunflower seed. 'It's time to move the Seat of Garden Government to the pond in the north border!'

The ants cheered. The frogs looked surprised. The pond snails assumed it had something to do with them and immediately formed a committee.

Not everyone was convinced.

Over by the runner beans, Nigel the Nematode wriggled before a gathering of worms.

'This is exactly what I warned about', he said. 'Today it's the Seat of Garden Government. Tomorrow it'll be the Ministry of Mulch, the Department of Dead Leaves, and who knows what else? The compost heap has served generations of creatures perfectly well. Why should power float north just because Alan likes ponds?'

Meanwhile, in the cabbage patch, Katy the Caterpillar offered her own view.

'The problem isn't where the seat is', she said. 'The problem is that nobody has explained how moving it will help ordinary garden residents. Will there be fewer aphids? More nettle leaves? Better access to bird-proof housing? These are the questions that matter'.

Her supporters applauded, though some appeared distracted by a particularly tasty cabbage.

For days, the arguments rumbled on. The ants published leaflets praising the benefits of northern pond investment. The nematodes issued warnings about excessive pond bureaucracy. The caterpillars demanded detailed impact assessments written on cabbage leaves.

As usual, the blackbirds ignored everyone and got on with looking for lunch.

In the end, a wise old hedgehog offered some perspective. 'Listen', he snuffled. 'Whether the seat of power is by the compost heap or the pond, there will still be slugs to chase, weeds to avoid and rain to sit through. Perhaps you should all spend less time arguing about where power sits and more time making the garden a pleasant place to live.' For once, the creatures fell silent. Even Alan the Ant nodded thoughtfully.

And as I, Ed the Earwig, watched the debate wind down, I couldn't help thinking that humans might learn something from our garden.

Politics matters. Ideas matter. Debate matters.

But if ants, caterpillars and nematodes can become hopelessly tangled up arguing over geography, slogans and symbolism, perhaps humans can too.

Maybe the secret is remembering that, at the end of the day, we're all just creatures sharing the same patch of soil, and none of us should take ourselves quite as seriously as we do.

Happy Gardening.

Stuart Mabbutt, Wildlife Gardening Specialist, tel. 01865 747243

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Yarnton Gardening Club

After the long hot summer (still no significant rain as I write this at the beginning of August), we return to the Village Hall this month. I know it's been a challenging time for gardeners and farmers, and hope that you have managed to keep the important plants in your gardens alive.

Our speaker this month is Lottie Allen who will be telling us about her work as Head Gardener at Hidcote. Our meeting is on Thursday 17th in the Village Hall at 7.30 p.m. Visitors are always welcome, £5. We look forward to seeing members again.

Our last visit of the year is to St. Hugh's College Gardens on Wednesday 9th September at 2 p.m. There may still be time to put your name down; please ring Serena on 01865 378817 if you'd like to come.

We've enjoyed an excellent and varied programme of visits this summer, and many thanks are due to Serena for all her hard work organising them, as well as all our speakers. We shall soon start to make plans for our A.G.M. and Christmas Social. More details next month.

Ruth Astall

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YARNTON PARISH COUNCIL

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

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

Parish Council Chairman:

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

Parish Council Vice-Chairman:

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

Other Parish Council Members:

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

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

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

Joe McEneaney: joe.mceneaney@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:

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

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

County Councillor:

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

Planning:

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

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

Planning applications:

Application No. 26/01868/AGN. Proposal: Agricultural storage building. Location: Land Part Of, Worton Rectory Farm, Cassington Road, Yarnton.

Application No. 26/01841/TPO. Proposal: T1 - Mature Copper Beech - Crown reduction to manage canopy spread within the confines of the garden by removing 2 metres or a suitable growth points dictate - subject to TPO 07/200.1 Location: 9 Poppy Close, Yarnton, Kidlington, OX5 1GZ.

Planning Decisions:

26/01296/F. 147 Rutten Lane, Yarnton, Kidlington, OX5 1LT – Application permitted.

26/01426/F. The Little Barn 137 Cassington Road, Yarnton, Kidlington, OX5 1QD – Application refused.

Future meetings:

The next ordinary meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Wednesday, 9th September 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.

Anita Watson Bsc (hons) Ost Osteopath and Yoga Teacher



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Tuesday Mornings

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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.

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

Cost £3.50 each session

Large Free Car Park

Questions/Queries Please Contact

Jonathan on 07394 994151

johnprice0715@gmail.com



Yarnton W.I.

Greetings neighbours!

I'm sure you have managed to enjoy some good times in this extraordinary Summer which I am confident will continue into the Autumn.

We have appreciated our time together at our coffee mornings in our village garden centre cafe (where would we be without it?) and also at our annual Summer outing, this year tucking in to a delicious afternoon tea at Bicester Garden Centre. All meetings are very well attended and we look forward to having the opportunity to share our news and reminiscences with our friends.

We are making plans for the Autumn, creating our next postbox topper and organising our October Harvest Supper. Our thanks to Lou and Sue! Two great things to anticipate !

As mentioned last month, our speakers for September will be Karen and Bret Wiles on the topic of Girl Guides in the 1940s. I am sure many will reminisce about happy days in the guides later in the last century and also compare them to today's guides, who are very different in appearance but also very similar in their values. You are welcome to join us on Thursday 10th September at 7.30 p.m. at the Village Hall. Despite the heat, our July meeting was very well attended and we all greatly enjoyed our most memorable speaker, as well as meeting new people.

Lastly, if you see ladies in purple in the village on Wednesday 16th September, we will be commemorating W.I. Day, marking 111 years of inspiring women and friendship and creating positive change. Feel free to smile when you see us, after all we are a very friendly village! See you next month! Until then appreciate every day and make special memories.

Judy Blake, President

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u3a Woodstock & District

Our Annual Social Event was held on 6th August. We started the afternoon with a refreshing glass of fruit punch. The Play Reading Group then gave an excellent performance based on 'Pyramus and Thisbe' the play within a play in 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'. The Recorder Group then entertained us with several beautiful pieces of music. Whilst tea and homemade cakes were being served it was an opportunity for everyone to look around the displays that the groups had put together showcasing what they have been doing over the past 12 months. The Photography group held a photo competition showing the worst and best photos of Blenheim. The hall was full, there was a lovely atmosphere, people enjoying a chat and looking at the work the groups had put together.

Our next speaker meeting will be on Thursday 3rd September. Angie Bolton, who is the curator of Archaeology at our local Museum, will talk about how the Museum curates its social history collections and will include references to our local archaeology. 2.15 p.m. for a 2.30 p.m. speaker. Visitors welcome £3 to include tea/coffee and biscuits.

The speaker in on Thursday 1st October will be Professor Roger Davies who is the Philip Wetton Professor of Astrophysics at Oxford University. His presentation is entitled 'The Vastness of Space' and, starting with a model of the Solar System based on the Earth as a peppercorn, we'll voyage to the distant Universe using the speed of light as our yardstick. Followed by a glance into what to see in the night sky this Autumn. 2.15 p.m. for a 2.30 p.m. speaker. Visitors welcome £3 to include tea/coffee and biscuits.

The Reading Group's book for July was 'The Tin Man' by Sarah Winman. The novel starts in the streets of Oxford, familiar to most in the group. The majority of the group enjoyed the book; we had an opportunity to discuss this at our July meeting. The group are currently reading 'Demon Copperhead' by Barbara Kingsolver. We will review this at our next meeting. The Welsh Group met at the end of July. We played some interactive games to help with learning new vocabulary and grammar. You do not need to be a fluent Welsh speaker to come along. We are a group of mixed abilities in Welsh and are able to help each other out. We would love to hear from you if you would like to come along.

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

For more information on forthcoming speakers, please visit our website: www.woostocku3a.uk.

Venison burgers and Yarnton band



Photo: Samuel Cohen

When the band played at the Windrush Valley Flower Show, Dog Show and Fete in Great Barrington there should have been a Battle of Britain Fly Past, but it was cancelled at the last minute. However, we played a full programme, and on the photo, we are playing 'The Great Escape'. In the background you can see two stalls - to the right the Venison Burger stall (nothing so common as beefburgers in Great Barrington!) and in the centre an old-fashioned coconut stall where one of our young members won two coconuts.

Congratulations to Lucy Stroud (Cornet) on passing her Grade 5 with distinction and to James Pye (Eb Bass) on passing his Grade 6 with distinction.

Come and hear us at the Begbroke Picnic at the Village Hall on Sunday 13th September; we play at 3.45 p.m. and our Training Band will also be playing.

I wish you music to help with the burdens of life,
and to help you release your happiness to others - *Ludwig van Beethoven*

Peter Hewis

Chris Lord

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Kidlington & District Historical Society

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

The meeting is held at Kidlington Baptist Church, OX5 2DS. Doors open 7.30 p.m. with meetings starting at 7.50 p.m. Visitors £5. Ample car parking.

Oxford Bus and Morris Motors Museums

A Grand Day Out on 2nd August was our most successful 2026 event so far. 180 visitors came to see our re-creation of Gloucester Green bus and coach station in the golden era of bus and coach travel - before most people owned their own car. Restored vehicles often have interesting histories.



EYA 923 observation coach



EYA 923 observation coach with Charmaine Dixey and Andy Cowan

One of the visiting coaches was EYA 923 which was new in 1939 and owned by Blue Motors of Minehead. The coach was the first to reach the Devon village of Lynmouth on 16th August 1952 to evacuate villagers after a catastrophic flash flood caused by 9 inches (229 mm) of torrential rain falling on Exmoor within 24 hours on 15th and 16th August. The resulting wall of water and debris claimed 34 lives and destroyed over 100 buildings. The coach took survivors to a cinema in Minehead.

It is an observation coach with large windows and ceiling lights so passengers could look up as well as sideways. The coachwork was by Harrington with a large fin at the back. The coach was used for day tours to local attractions, such as the Valley of the Rocks, Exmoor and Dartmeet. On Saturdays it would have worked 'on hire to Royal Blue' as a relief express coach to/from Exeter, where passengers might have changed onto a coach going to Gloucester Green.

On 1st September the government's scheme to reduce the VAT on museum admissions comes to an end. The directors have decided not to increase the admission prices for families back to £20 because families are being hit hard by inflation, so the price will remain at £17. However the price for adults, over 65s and children will return to the previous level going up by £1 to £8, £7 and £5 respectively. We do not charge carers or under-fives. The full price list is:

	Normal price	With Giftaid
Adults	£8	£9
Over 65	£7	£8
Children 5-15	£5	£6
Families (2 adults and 2 children)	£17	£19



September

Summer at the Manor has been busy with large groups from all over the world coming for conferences. In September our community starts to fill up again with long-term residents, when scholars come for their research leave and sabbaticals in time for the beginning of the academic year.

Once again, Yarnton Manor is excited to be part of the **Oxford Open Doors weekend**, with a warm welcome on **Saturday 12th September 10am-2pm** to explore the Manor House, Gardens and Tithe Barn library, enjoy tours, children's activities, picnics and refreshments.

We look forward to seeing you all then.

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



Gosford Hill School Open Events

for prospective parents and their children in Year 5 and Year 6

Open Evening

Thursday 24th September
(6:00pm to 8:00pm)
Concluding with a presentation in the Hall at 7:30pm.

Open Mornings

Monday 28th September
Tuesday 29th September
Wednesday 30th September
(9:15am to 10:15am)

Gosford Hill School, Oxford Road, Kidlington, Oxfordshire, OX5 2NT
www.gosford-hill.oxon.sch.uk/open-events 01865 374971

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Yarnton Netball Club

Yarnton Netball Club has commenced the new season with weekly training at our home club venue at Rutten Lane. The club is flourishing and running up to three adult league teams, as well as Youth, U15, U13 and U11, plus weekly recreational sessions for the lower primary school ages. The emphasis always on enjoyment outdoors with growing skills and fitness.

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

When Netball was invited into the Commonwealth Games in 1998 this was a huge step forward for the game. Until then, Netball had mostly only been played by Commonwealth countries. Since then Australia and New Zealand have been the top contenders with England, Jamaica and South Africa hot on their heels. The excitement of England eventually winning Gold in Australia in 2018 still resonates – I was lucky enough to be there; it was magical. The 23rd Games in Glasgow just concluded. We saw great excitement as England played New Zealand in one semi-final, with Australia against Jamaica in the other. However, there were two big upsets as New Zealand beat England (61-54), and Jamaica won through in the dying seconds (46-45), which meant that Australia were unable to contest the final for the first time ever. The Gold medal was taken by New Zealand with a cat-and-mouse game until they stole away from Jamaica in the last quarter, with a result of 56-48. Congratulations to the Kiwis. Australia won through against England and took the Bronze. Massive skills and great enjoyment all round. Next time England.

Forty-five countries now appear in the World Ranking list. World Netball and Australia are leading the bid to get netball included in the Olympics to be hosted by Brisbane in 2032 – please link to <https://netball.sport/back-the-bid/> to pledge your vote to the bid. Better still come down to our club and get involved.

Sue Blackshaw

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SUBWAY

Back to School

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To help make the return to routine a little easier, we've got a great range of back-to-school essentials in store. From lunchbox favourites and snacks to everyday necessities, we're here to help you get ready for the new term. Good luck to everyone heading back!



Platinum Members Now Save Every Day!

Great news for our Platinum Club members! Our popular fuel promotion has now been extended, meaning you can enjoy **2p per litre off fuel every single day**. Simply show your Platinum Club card when you pay to receive your discount on every fill-up. If you're not already a member, now's the perfect time to join and start saving every day!

Team Fraser Takes on the Oxford Half Marathon

Team Fraser will be taking on the **Oxford Half Marathon** on **11th October** in support of **Sobell House Hospice**. Every donation, big or small, will help this fantastic local charity continue providing outstanding care to families in our community. Please scan the QR code or visit our JustGiving page to support the team. Thank you for helping us make a difference!



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