

Chilton Chronicle

published by Chilton Parish Council

No.518 December 2024

Oasis Cafe

Oasis Cafe is an opportunity for villagers to gather once a month for a coffee (or tea!) and a convivial chat in relaxed surroundings. The event is held in All Saints' Church on the 3rd Saturday morning of each month, between 10.00 and 12.00, and is free to allcomers.

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Warm Welcome Café

Why not join us on a Tuesday morning in the Morris Room in the Village Hall, meeting other villagers enjoying refreshments in a warm and friendly environment. We meet from 11am to 2pm. Over lunchtime hot soup and delicious cheese scones are served. At other times the kettle is always on the boil for tea and coffee, accompanied by biscuits and homemade cake. It is free of charge.

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Christmas Charity Market

Come and enjoy the festive atmosphere of the Christmas Charity market with a glass of mulled wine, mince pies and a huge raffle. We are raising funds for the Oncology Unit at the Churchill Hospital. Along with our tasty tarts, pies and cakes there will be many Christmas items including Christmas cakes and biscuits, and Christmas tree and table decorations.

This special market will be held on **Saturday 14th December** on Crafts End Green from 9am to midday.

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November Charity Market

A huge thank you to everyone who supported this market in aid of "SeeSaw", the Oxfordshire Charity that provides essential support to bereaved children. We raised the great sum of £880 on the day and then received a very generous donation the next day to top it up to a thousand pounds. Thank you so much.

January Charity Market

On the 11th January 2025 we are holding the market for "Standing with Giants". This is a registered charity who create large scale outdoor remembrance art installations individually made from recycled materials by volunteers. These installations provide a meaningful space for people to visit, reflect, grieve, and discuss, bringing individuals together to remember those who fought for freedom, both past and present.

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Bus service news

A new three-year contract was signed in August to support the X34 Didcot to Newbury service, via Chilton. This should ensure the service continues until 2027, so it's up to residents to use it and make it viable beyond then if the subsidy is not extended.

The £2 fare cap for single journeys by bus will be increased to £3 from the beginning of January. Note, the £2 cap was due to finish at the end of 2024. By continuing it at £3 it will be less of a shock if/when it finishes and regular fares are reintroduced, which have been increasing in the background.

Oxfordshire County Council has been awarded £9.35 million for 2025/6 under the government's Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP). The County Council's public transport team is now identifying projects to support through the BSIP funding.

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2024 Poppy Appeal, Chilton

House to house collections in Chilton plus the boxes and collecting tins in the Curie Avenue shops and businesses raised a total of £1,721.32 for the 2024 Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal. We also collected £252.50 by QR codes across the district. Thank you to everyone for their generosity and a special thanks to all the house-to-house collectors and businesses that had collecting tins.

Hazel Benton, Chilton Village Poppy Appeal Organiser

Would you like to join Harwell Branch of the Royal British Legion?

Harwell Branch welcomes all adults whether or not you have served in the Armed Forces.

Join here: <https://www.britishlegion.org.uk/get-involved/things-to-do/membership>

Or to find out more, email

Harwell.secretary@rBL.community

Chilton Churchyard working party

Thank you to all those who worked so hard in the churchyard.

Much weeding, leaf clearing, and pruning was done, it really did make a difference.

Judith Russell

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All Saints' Group

On **Tuesday 10th December** at 7.15pm (please note earlier time) All Saints' Group will be celebrating Christmas with festive food, carols and Christmas readings and poems. We meet in All Saints' Church and everyone is most welcome. Any enquiries please phone Judy on 01235 834503.

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Chilton WI

The next meeting will be on **Thursday 12th December** at 7.45pm in the Village Hall. This will be our Christmas Party.

We are a very friendly group and look forward to seeing everyone at our meetings and welcoming new members and visitors. Please just turn up or for more information, contact Liz Robbins 834501 or Shona Sugden 831723.

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The Lydia Thomas Chilton Gift Fund

Are you aged 74 or more? The Trustees of the Lydia Thomas Chilton Gift Fund are looking forward to visiting some of the senior citizens of Chilton on or around New Year's Day to distribute parcels of groceries or baskets of fruit provided by the Fund.

The distribution of these gifts is an annual event and in January this year we were delighted to be able to supply 34 gifts because of the generous donations from kind parishioners which swelled the Fund.

We always welcome donations from parishioners to increase our budget. Donors may specify whether they would like their gift to be spent in the current year or whether they would prefer the Trustees to invest the gift to enhance our spending power in future years. **If you would like to make a donation to the Lydia Thomas Chilton Gift Fund**, please contact one of the following Trustees:

- Hazel Benton, 15 The Orchids

hazel.benton@btinternet.com

- John Berry, 'Schneeberg', South Row

- Steven Launchbury, 6 Diamond Way

- Pam Rolls, 15 Elderfield Crescent

pamrolls@tiscali.co.uk

Donations by cheque would be welcome (made payable to 'Lydia Thomas Chilton Gift Fund'). Alternatively, if you would prefer to give by bank transfer, please contact Hazel Benton or Pam Rolls so that they can give you the bank account details.

The Trustees are also glad to hear of any potential new recipients – to qualify recipients must be aged 74 or over and have lived in Chilton (including Chilton Field) for at least 6 months. Please let us know if a family member, neighbour or friend is eligible.

If any of our existing recipients would like to change from groceries to a basket of fruit, or from fruit to groceries, please let one of the Trustees know as soon as possible. We will be ordering the goods in mid-December.

A little background information: Lydia Thomas was a benefactress of Chilton who died in 1807 and provided in her will the sum of £333-6-8d in 3% Consols for distribution of £10 each New Year's Day for the benefit of the poor. The endowment was administered by the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Parish and used for a distribution of goods, usually of loaves of bread. It is believed that Lydia lived at the Malt House in Main Street. In 1975 the Fund was amalgamated with the Chilton Aid Fund (set up in 1955) to form the present day Fund. The Chilton Aid Fund arose from the Chilton share of the proceeds of the sale of the Nurse's House administered in connection with the Harwell and Chilton Nursing Association. That charity was comprised in a conveyance dated 1926.

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Christmas Tree

Many thanks to Chilton Garden Centre for donating the wonderful Christmas tree to All Saints' church. The tree looks lovely shining out with its bright lights from the top of the church tower.

We are very grateful to the garden centre for supporting us by giving a beautiful tree every year.

Hazel Benton, Member of All Saints' Parochial Church Council.

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Christmas Artweeks

This year Lin Kerr will be exhibiting at Ayres House Studios. She will have oil paintings, watercolours and her new range of woven beaded jewellery. Her watercolour demo. is on Saturday 7 December 10.30-12.30

There are 13 other artists taking part with lots of lovely Christmassy gifts.

30th Nov-15th Dec



**Winter Exhibition
Art / Craft / Design
Ayres House Studios**

30 November - 15 December
10.30 -4.30pm
Ayres House Studios,
Station Road, Wallingford OX10 OJZ
(Ayres house is behind the Esso Garage)

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STOP PRESS: Farm cat holds the key to defeating the ogre of farmer's inheritance

The owners of a smallholding in the Oxfordshire town of Tabbyshire are pinning hopes of saving their home and business on their faithful farm cat, Puss.

After being hit with the news that their land and livelihood could not be inherited by them and instead would be taken by a greedy ogre and two estranged sons, Molly Muck (founder and owner of and Mucks Home Grown Emporium) and Peter (Mollys youngest son) could face a life on the street.

Molly Muck commented "It's all too much for me", but was told to "Pull your socks up, Muck!".

The King has taken the unusual step of getting involved in the case and has offered the Mucks part-time work and lodging at the palace. But will it be enough, or will it take a fairy, some furry friends and magical footwear to bring this story a happy ending? With lots of laughs, songs and very little politics, this is a traditional pantomime for all the family. Based on Charles Perrault's telling of the classic tale, Puss in Boots takes you on a journey of a firm friendship, in fantastic footwear. Oh yes it does!!

Created by local residents. Designed by BAFTA nominated designer and director of The Animals of Farthing Wood - local resident Elphin Lloyd-Jones. Written and directed by Andy Jarvis.

**29th January – February 1st, 2025,
7.30pm nightly & 2.30pm Saturday matinee
Blewbury Village Hall.**

BOX OFFICE opens on line 6 November.

www.blewburyplayers.co.uk

TICKETS: £16 Adults; £8 children.

Audition call for A Monster Calls

A Monster Calls will be performed in our open air 16 -19 July 2025 at Orchard Dene Garden Theatre, Blewbury.

Please contact us at blewburyplayers@gmail.com if you are interested in taking part on or off stage.

Initial auditions will be held on 8 & 9 February 2025.

This is the play version of the bestselling classic novel by Patrick Ness. It is a powerful story about love, loss and hope and the power of story-telling. A contemporary story that is a mix of moral fable

and ancient myth. Its hero is a lonely 13-year-old, Conor, whose mother is seriously ill. He is visited by a monster who offers to tell Conor three tales if the boy will, in return, tell him the truth. We are excited to welcome Sabina Netherclift as our director for this our 49th Summer production. Please visit www.blewburyplayers.co.uk for further audition and production information.

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Didcot and District u3a of 2024 !

Winter is on it's way and what better time for all newly retired or semi - retired individuals to join a nationwide 'club', locally, the **Didcot and District u3a?! Boasting a 'strap line' of 'Learn, Laugh, Live !** and along with no fewer than **30** Interest Groups, which you check online at u3asites.org.uk/didcot/home, once you have become a member by joining at the **Didcot Civic Hall on the third Tuesday of every month at 2:30** where you will be warmly welcomed by 'kindred spirits'!

These monthly meetings include a Guest Speaker, with the following presentations scheduled for the coming months:

January 21st - the Oxford Museum Service from the Resource Centre with curios and a talk about schooldays past !

February 18th - David Taylor from The Didcot and District Archaeology & History Society giving a history of the town!

March 18th - Timothy Walker, a botanist formerly Horti Praefectus of the University of Oxford Botanic Garden and Harcourt Arboretum, talking about moving and making a small garden from scratch!

More joining information can be found by contacting membership@didcotu3a.org What better way to start **2025**, and we look forward to seeing you there!

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Launch of the Great Chalk Way

On 10 October the Great Chalk Way (GCW) was officially launched. The approximately 400-mile GCW includes six established long-distance paths that stretch along chalk hills between the English Channel at Lyme Regis, Dorset and the North Sea at Holme-next-the-Sea in Norfolk.

Further details are provided in the Autumn Newsletter of the Friends of the Ridgeway, <https://ridgewayfriends.org.uk/autumn-newsletter-2024/>

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Next volunteer course starts January 2025!

Would you like to support families with young children in your community?

Become a Home-Start Home-Visiting Volunteer and support a family through difficult times.

- Receive free, high quality training
- Learn new skills & enhance your wellbeing
- Change the lives of the families you support
- Make friends & connect with your community

If you can spare 1 to 2 hours each week to support a parent and their children, please contact us on:
admin@homestartso.org or 01235 511152
www.homestart-southernoxfordshire.org.uk/volunteer

Covering South Oxfordshire & the Vale of White Horse
 197 Broadway, Didcot, OX11 8RU. Registered charity no. 1113941

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Cryptic Quiz Sheets

The Christmas Cryptic Quiz No 78 on a theme of "Birds" will be raising funds for SeeSaw and will be available from the 10th December, priced £1.50. Copies can be purchased from

Atomic Hair
 Audrey Slater 9, Latton Close
 Judy Goodall 43, Crafts End.

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Parish Council Notices

Neighbourhood Police Team

wantageneighbourhoodpoliceteam@thamesvalley.police.uk phone 101

Defibrillators

Chilton has three defibrillators, one is on the wall outside the Village Hall, one is on the wall outside the Community Room on Chilton Field and there is also a defibrillator at Chilton Primary School, which is accessible whenever the school is open.

Vale of White Horse District Councillors

Hello from Hayleigh and Debra

We were privileged enough to lay a wreath at Harwell's remembrance service on Sunday 10th November. Remembrance Sunday is a solemn occasion that reinforces the importance of peace and the costs of conflict, reminding us of our shared history and the courage of those who have served. The service in Harwell is a well organised and attended event taking place each year. Thank you to the RBL volunteers and members of the community who make it what it is.

As always, if you have any questions or suggestions for us as councillors, please do email us. As a reminder, council meetings are held in public and if you wish to address council or committee, you can contact Democratic Services ahead of time. If you need more guidance on this, please let us know!

We use these monthly updates to keep you updated on our activities and general council news.

We also post on our councillor Facebook Pages:

www.facebook.com/CllrHayleigh

www.facebook.com/Debra4BlewburyAndHarwell

Please get in touch with any issues or concerns via email:

hayleigh.gascoigne@whitehorsedc.gov.uk and

debra.dewhurst@whitehorsedc.gov.uk

Full Council – 23rd Oct

For the council papers for this meeting, head to [the Vale Website](#). The Reservoir ([known as SESRO](#)) was discussed at the meeting.

Councils prevent rise in local homelessness despite an increase in demand on services

As global attention turns to World Homeless Day, Vale of White Horse and South Oxfordshire district councils have managed to keep local homeless levels low despite an increase in demand on services.

Have your say: Councils propose updates to boost street trading and cut plastic waste

South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils are reviewing their joint Street Trading Policy for the first time in over a decade and they want your input! Street trading has thrived in recent years and, with the current policy dating back to 2011, the councils are proposing updates to ensure it encourages the vibrant and expanding street trading scene. The consultation runs until 11.59pm on Tuesday 26 November 2024.

Have your say on proposed changes to council tax premium for long-term empty properties

Vale of White Horse and South Oxfordshire district councils have launched a public survey on proposals to reduce the minimum timeframe to charge a council tax premium on long-term empty properties. This survey is open for six weeks and will close at 11.59pm on Tuesday 26 November 2024.

<https://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/council-tax/have-your-say-on-proposed-changes-to-council-tax-premium-for-long-term-empty-properties/>

Record number of visitors at Abbey Meadow pool 2024 season

In a bid to capture a final bit of that sunshine feeling, with the leaves falling and the nights closing in, Vale of White Horse District Council and its leisure provider, Better, are celebrating the successful summer season at Abbey Meadow pool and splash pad.

Oxfordshire County Councillor - Councillor Sally Povolotsky (Hendreds & Harwell Division)

Hello Residents,

Please find Latest News and Information online:

<https://hendredsandharwell.mycouncillor.org.uk>

You can WhatsApp / call me on - 07939 912997.

Email me at: sally.povolotsky@oxfordshire.gov.uk

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The next Parish Council Meeting will be on **Wednesday 8th January 2024 at 8.00pm in the Village Hall. The agenda will be published on the Council's website.** Members of the public are invited to attend.

The Parish Council's website can be found at <https://www.parish-council.com/chilton> where you will be able to find out details of all the Parish Council meetings, who your Councillors are and other useful information.

Items to be included in the next Chronicle should be sent to the Clerk by **Thursday 2nd January.**

Clerk: Jacquie Berry

Email: parishclkchilton@btinternet.com

Parish Council Chairman: Mr Chris Broad

14 Latton Close, 01235 834347

Please Note: The Parish Council does not accept any responsibility for the adverts placed in the Chilton Chronicle



Greetings from St Matthew's Harwell and All Saints' Chilton!

It's the variety that makes Christmas magical for me. Mince pies and dodgy knitwear, Santa and the star over the stable, silent nights and pine trees in party outfits. As short days grow shorter still, we fill them with fun and wait for that special day.

There's something for everyone in our churches over Christmas. What's your favourite? We have carol services that trace the story of Christmas, a chance to decorate the church Christmas trees, the magic of crib services, bells ringing out in celebration and, of course, midnight and morning services that usher in Christmas Day. What do you look forward to *every* year? What will you put in your calendar *this* year?

Christmas speaks to me of an ancient mystery freshly revealed: In an ordinary village, something beautiful happens: a baby is born. Beautiful, yes; special, yes; and also very, very normal. And yet...

We sing in the carol *O Little Town of Bethlehem*, "The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight." This village, this baby, this moment is remembered, this story is told around the world, because to Christians it's the moment that God's love breaks into our lives. God sees us, sees our world, knows the best and the worst of our hearts, and does the last thing you'd ever have guessed: God joins us, becomes one of us. This helpless baby is the Lord of heaven.

I hope you will enjoy the sheer variety of seasonal celebrations. At their heart is a strange story that holds a deep and life-changing truth, evidence of God's amazing love for all people. May that love enfold you at this Christmas time.

Revd Jeremy Parsons
Rector
Harwell and Chilton Churches

What's coming up during December 2024 and January 2025

1st Thursday of the month –10.30am-midday Community Café at St Matthew's Harwell - please come along, bring friends and family for good free coffee and home-made cake.

Thursday midweek Communion 11.00am 12th December (BCP) All Saints' Chilton and 9th January (BCP) All Saints' Chilton and 23rd January (BCP) St Matthew's Harwell. Everyone is welcome.

3rd Saturday of the month –10.00am-midday Oasis Café at All Saints' Chilton – Everyone is welcome to come along to enjoy free coffee and a chat (always delicious biscuits too).

Monday morning 9.30am-11.30am Fledgelings held in St Matthew's Church - a free playtime with refreshments for grown-ups and a snack for children. Singing songs and a short Christian focused story reminding us of God's amazing love for us and the world. **Both mornings run within term time only.**



Wednesday morning 9.30am-11.30am held in Chilton Community Room - a free playtime with refreshments for grown-ups and a snack for children. Singing songs and a short Christian focused story reminding us of God's amazing love for us and the world. ***Both mornings run within term time only.***

December/January Services (please check our website harwellandchiltonchurches.org.uk for any updates)

1st December 9.30am Holy Communion, All Saints' Chilton
10.30am Morning Worship, St Matthew's Harwell
6.00pm Evening Worship, St Matthew's Harwell

8th December 9.30am Morning Prayer (BCP), All Saints' Chilton
10.30am Chilton Interactive, Chilton Village Hall
10.30am Holy Communion, St Matthew's Harwell
6.00pm Evening Worship, St Matthew's Harwell

15th December 9.30am Holy Communion, All Saints' Chilton
10.30am Morning Worship, St Matthew's Harwell
4.00pm Family Carol Service, St Matthew's Harwell
6.30pm Carols by Candlelight Service, St Matthew's Harwell

21st December 4.00pm Family Carol Service, All Saints' Chilton

22nd December 9.30am Said Communion All Saints' Chilton
10.30am Intergenerational Service, St Matthew's Harwell
6.30pm Carols by Candlelight Service, All Saints' Chilton

23rd December 3.30pm Crib Service, St Matthew's Harwell

24th December 3.30pm Crib Service, All Saints' Chilton

10.00pm Christmas Eve Communion, All Saints' Chilton
11.30pm Midnight Communion, St Matthew's Harwell

25th December 9.30am Family Christmas Day Communion, All Saints' Chilton
10.30am All Age Christmas Day Communion, St Matthew's Harwell

29th December 9.30am Morning Worship, All Saints' Chilton
10.30am Holy Communion, St Matthew's Harwell
6.00pm Evening Worship, St Matthew's Harwell



- 5th January 9.30am Holy Communion, All Saints' Chilton
 10.30am Morning Worship, St Matthew's Harwell
 6.00pm Evening Worship, St Matthew's Harwell
- 12th January 9.30am Morning Worship, All Saints' Chilton
 10.30am Holy Communion, St Matthew's Harwell
 10.30am Chilton Interactive, Chilton Village Hall
 6.00pm Evening Worship (BCP), St Matthew's Harwell
- 19th January 9.30am Holy Communion, All Saints' Chilton
 10.30am Morning Worship, St Matthew's Harwell
 6.00pm Evening Worship, St Matthew's Harwell
- 26th January 9.30am Morning Worship, All Saints' Chilton
 10.30am Intergenerational Service, St Matthew's Harwell
 6.00pm Evening Communion, St Matthew's Harwell

Everyone is welcome.