

Chilton Chronicle

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VE Day 80th Anniversary Events

Celebrations at the Crown

'Bank Holiday Monday 5th May, is our VE Day 80th anniversary celebration. We're really looking forward to giving @harrietjane music a warm welcome to Chilton for her first live performance with us. Harriet Jane will be performing jazz, swing and wartime-era classics from 2-4pm. We'll be open from 12, serving a delicious hog roast starting then, until we sell out (veggie option also available!). Come and join us for some proper village community fun, bring the family and let's mark this special milestone in our country's history together'.

VE80 Crafts End Party

'We are holding a "street" party for VE80 day, Monday May 5th, Crafts End Green, 3-5pm. It's a 'bring and share' event (bring some food to share, drink, plate and something to drink out of). Tea and coffee will be provided. Everyone is welcome. Please bring any wartime artifacts, photos, documents, medals etc. Can you share any wartime memories with us? Does anyone have a 40s car they can bring along? Come dressed 40s style if you like'.

Any queries/offers to help, please contact:
steveandjane.hale@gmail.com

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Chairman's Annual Report

In last year's report I announced that Liz Morris had decided to retire after 35 years invaluable service as Clerk to the Parish Council. It was clearly going to be a difficult role to fill but I am delighted to be able to report that Jacquie Berry was the successful applicant. She has already established herself as a capable and conscientious Clerk and is bringing a fresh approach to Council business.

Last year a major concern was the running of the Village Hall and Community Room. These buildings although owned by the Parish Council, are run by the volunteers on the Village Hall Management

Committee (VHMC). Unfortunately, the majority of the committee members felt unable to continue and there was a real possibility that there would be no one available to run the halls. However, I am pleased to be able to report that a number of people came forward and we now have a fully staffed VHMC. A visible indication of the efforts of new members is the refurbishment of the Village Hall which now has a new ceiling, new lighting, new heating, new curtains, and a bright new colour scheme. Much of the work done by the new VHMC though is not immediately visible and includes new processes and procedures, re-establishment of regular checks and inspections, effective financial processes, and a review of the booking process. Work is continuing and further streamlining of the booking process is planned, including coded electronic locks to replace the issuing of physical keys. A massive thank you is therefore due to all members of the VHMC for their voluntary efforts which have ensured the continued and improved operation of the halls.

Part of the Harwell Campus lies within Chilton Parish and we are inevitably affected by developments on the Campus. In recent times perhaps the most significant has been the construction of the Moderna buildings. When the original application was discussed, concern was expressed about its proximity to the D-day memorial, the section of the original runway and the experimental catapult. However, planning permission was granted. The Parish Council also had significant concerns about the increase in traffic. In the event, traffic lights were installed on the roundabout to control traffic coming off the northbound A34 at the expense of traffic coming over Hagbourne Hill. The effectiveness of the lights is yet to be proven. Recently, approval has been granted for an impressionistic artwork based on the framework of a troop-carrying glider. The work will be installed adjacent to the memorial stone. Some changes proposed by the Parish Council were not accepted. Finally, there has been an application for a security fence and gates around the front of the Moderna buildings. This was not included in the original application for the

buildings and was strongly opposed by the Parish Council.

The Parish Council has been considering how best to deal with future maintenance costs for the numerous open spaces at Chilton Field. Initially when the land was transferred to the Council it came with funds known as a 'commuted sum' to be used for maintenance. However, the money is finite and when spent the Council will have to fund future maintenance. In anticipation of this a small provision has been made in this year's accounts to start a future maintenance fund.

Finally, I must thank all councillors for their valuable work during the year to ensure that the Parish Council discharges its responsibility in an efficient and effective manner.

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Village Hall Management Committee Annual Report

It has been a busy year for Chilton Village Hall and the Community Room which continue to provide important social facilities for the Parish of Chilton. We had 1,321 individual bookings from our 24 regular weekly or monthly hirers and 144 occasional hirers. If you are planning ahead for an event please be aware that March is often the busiest month and August the quietest. Wednesday is the busiest day of the week and Sunday the quietest.

Managing a public facility with volunteers is very difficult and time consuming. Last year the majority of the VPMC committee stood down and after several calls for volunteers a new committee was formed which took over in May 2024. We would like to thank the previous committee members for all their hard work in keeping the Hall and Community Room running.

Our first job was to make sure we were running the Halls in accordance with current legislation - licences, health and safety etc. After 26 years of cleaning our village hall, our cleaner Carol, retired. We are very grateful for her conscientious and reliable work and are sad to say goodbye. We interviewed several companies until a suitable replacement was found and this is working well. Our next job was to work out what needed fixing and also to look at projects that would improve and refresh the look of the main hall and also to

look at ways of working that streamlined operations. Anyone who has used the main hall will have seen the new decorations and replacement ceiling and lighting and heating. It was a difficult job to get all these things in place - we benefitted from funds arising out of the pandemic subsidies to pay for this. We are still looking at the best method of managing access to the building for hirers. Many Halls now have a digital access system but it is time consuming to get this right and is taking longer than expected to implement because many people on the committee who understand this have full time jobs as well! We have reached the major milestone of installing broadband in the Community Room which should support digital access. Nevertheless, this is the main project to tackle in the forthcoming year.

Looking to the future we know we will always have a turnover of our committee members so if you would like to join do let us know. We would love also to hear from you if you would like help with a couple of hours a month - being available to oversee a bit of repair work or just popping into the halls from time to time to check everything is in order, would help enormously. Please let us know and we can sign you up as a volunteer. Last of all, many thanks to all our hirers who are helping us to keeping this wonderful facility viable as a facility everyone can use.

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May Charity Market and Plant Sale

On **Saturday 10th May** we will be holding our annual plant sale and charity market for Christian Aid on Crafts End Green from 9:00am until midday. Christian Aid works worldwide in partnership with local organisations and governments to provide aid to areas hit by disaster, such as droughts, climate change and hurricanes. As well as a good selection of plants there will be the usual delicious homemade pies, pasties, cakes, breads, jams, marmalades and chutney. Come early not to be disappointed.

At our Easter charity market on the 12th April we raised the amazing total of £1063.98 for the local charity "Be Free Young Carers". The attractive basket of Easter goodies was won by Jane Hastings. We thank everyone who supported us on the day.

Oasis Café

Oasis Café is an opportunity for villagers to gather once a month for a coffee (or tea!) and a friendly chat in relaxed surroundings. The next Café will be held in All Saints' Church on **Saturday 17th May**, between 10.00 and 12.00, and is free to allcomers.

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Warm Welcome Café

A warm welcome awaits you every Tuesday morning in the Morris Room in the village hall from 11:00am until 2:00pm. Call in for a free hot drink, homemade cake and biscuits, and over lunch time soup and tasty cheese scones. Come and meet friends, neighbours and other villagers in a relaxed, friendly environment.

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All Saints' Group

We meet on the second Tuesday of the month at 7:45pm in All Saints Church. We are a mixed group of women and men and we always welcome visitors and new members. This month we will be meeting on **Tuesday 13th May** when our speaker will be Liz Morris. We look forward to hearing Liz telling us about her experiences of being Chilton Village's Parish Clerk for over 35 years. Last month Audrey Slater gave us a fascinating talk about being a recipient of Maundy money when Queen Elizabeth visited Christchurch cathedral. Everyone is most welcome.

For more information, please contact Judy Goodall on 01235 834503.

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Spring Cleaning our Beautiful Church

We are planning to hold a Spring Clean of All Saints' Church on

Saturday 7 June between 9.30am and 12.30.

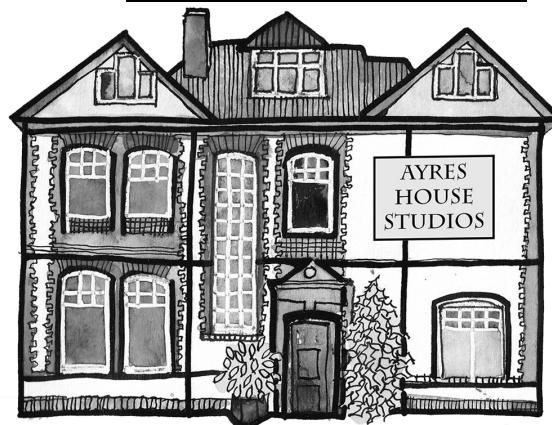
We would love to see as many people as possible come to help even if only for half an hour. There is lots to do: cobwebs to chase, washing insides of windows, carpets to beat, polishing and dusting. Please come armed with brooms and brushes - telescopic poles especially handy!

Artweeks 2025

Lin Kerr is exhibiting oil paintings, watercolours, jewellery and greetings cards at:

Ayres House Studios, Station Road, Wallingford OX10 0JZ from **10–18 May 2025**; a short walk from Wallingford Waitrose.

There will be 20 artists, demos and workshops - for more info. visit www.Ayreshousestudios.co.uk



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Paddock for rent

The Parish Council has a small paddock for rent, it is 0.805 hectares and located adjacent to the Lower Road Allotments. Please contact the Parish Clerk at: parishclkchilton@btinternet.com for further details.

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Cryptic Quiz Sheets

The next cryptic quiz sheet **No 80** will be available in June not May as previously advertised.

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Didcot & District U3A

At the monthly meetings there is an interesting presentation by a **Guest Speaker**, and over the coming months we have the following Speakers and topics:

May 20th A.G.M. plus - Be Free Young Carers by Hannah Waugh - Didcot Charity

June 17th a musical delight from Mike and Rachel on the dulcimer and autoharp. The speaker will be David Fenton.

July 15th Slovenia/Albania, a talk from Nick Brazil. For further information concerning matters u3a and wishing to '**Learn, Laugh, Live**' Go to the **NEW WEBSITE: didcot.u3asite.uk**

Thank you all as always,

Brian & Lynn Burscough - PR Didcot & District u3a

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Linda's Quiz

General Knowledge

1. Who comes next in this sequence Cathy Emma Tara...?
2. Whose funeral cortege in 2024 included 2 Jaguars?
3. Which legendary 1818 novel has a subtitle The Modern Prometheus?
4. Which 4 letter sea bird sounds like it would come in useful to make kebabs?
5. Who wrote a history of human life as an animal called The Naked Ape?
6. Which iconic TV scifi character's mother and father were Amanda Grayson & Sarek?
7. Which team has won the Carabao (or League) Cup the most times (10)?
8. Which 2013 film centres around the destruction of Space Shuttle Explorer due to space debris leaving one female survivor?
9. What was the name of the college The Young Ones represented on University Challenge?
10. What is the sum of musical trombones, red balloons & bicycles in Beijing?

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A Monster Calls, 16-19 July, 2025

Orchard Dene Garden Theatre, Blewbury.

This is a powerful story about family, love, loss resilience, hope and the extraordinary power of storytelling.

BOX OFFICE @ www.blewburyplayers.co.uk

Suitable for 11 years +

Adults £16 Child £9 (up to 18)

Evening performances 16-19 July. Matinee performance 19 July.

Friends of Blewbury Players Box Office opens at from 9am on 4 June

General Box Office opens at 9am on 6 June.

Friends of Blewbury Players - annual renewal and new subscribers welcome

We are very grateful for the support that our Friends give the Players. They are given;

- > priority booking for productions
- > a free Friends social evening with a complimentary drink
- > a yearly newsletter

Subscriptions are put towards maintaining the theatre at Orchard Dene and buying equipment. The cost of a Friend's subscription is £20 payable on 1st May. If you would like to become a Friend please contact our Friends Secretary bpfriends123@gmail.com

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	<u>Oxfordshire Young Farmers County Show & Rally</u>
	Saturday 17th May 2025 Sheencroft Farm, Blewbury OX11 9ED (Gates open 9.30am) www.oxfordshireyfccountyshow.org.uk YFC Competitions, Dog Show, meet Kaleb Cooper, vintage & modern machinery, 80+ trade & craft stands, Motorcycle Display, Go-Karts, Bouncy Castle, refreshments, bar. Something for all the family Adults £12, 10-16 year olds £6, under 10's free. Discounts available for advance bookings from www.ticketsource.co.uk

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Vale of White Horse District Councillors

The longer evenings and the brighter weather have been very welcome.

The most exciting news this month is that the GP surgery on Great Western Park has been given planning permission as of the start of April. This is a key milestone in delivering the much needed surgery and we're sure that this will be welcome news for parish councils and residents across our ward who have felt that the current services in Didcot are stretched.

Woodlands will be running the surgery, so they will now be working with their developers to start preparing the site, ready for construction. We will share any news related to project timelines as and when we get it, but, as the health authority, BOB ICB, have responsibility for this – please do also keep any eye on their communication site - [Great Western Park, Didcot GP Services | BOB ICB](#)

Local Government Reorganisation continues to dominate the work of the council. In early February, the government set out more detail on its timelines for changes in local government structures. A request was made to all remaining two-tier areas across England (county and district councils) for interim proposals for new single-tier (unitary) authorities by 21 March and final proposals by 28 November. **An initial proposal** has been submitted on behalf of West Berkshire Council and the district councils in South Oxfordshire and the Vale of White Horse for the

creation of a new unitary council that would see the three areas combined. This is the favoured proposal of our council as we believe that the three councils have similar characteristics and the population/geographical size would be appropriate – big enough to be viable, in the government's eyes and small enough that democratic accountability is maintained.

Ridgeway Council forms one half of a two-unitary council proposal for Oxfordshire, with the other half made up from the district council areas of West Oxfordshire, Oxford City and Cherwell. West Oxfordshire District Council and Cherwell District Council have **confirmed they will be developing the North Oxfordshire Council** half of the proposal. The government does not have to agree with our proposals, of course and may choose to listen to the City or County councils or do something different entirely. To our mind, this is a key time in local government, and its important to stay engaged and influence where possible.

The next round of the **Climate Action Fund** will open to applications in May. Local 'not for profit' organisations (which includes amateur dramatic groups and pre-schools as well as town and parish councils) can apply for a share of the £100,000 fund, with up to £10,000 on offer for individual projects (minimum request of £250).

As ever, the councils are looking to help finance community projects that aim to address climate change and nature recovery. The fund has previously supported projects such as the installation of public electric vehicle charging points and solar panels and a boardwalk at a nature site to allow visitors access without damaging important habitats. Full details of the Climate Action Fund and how to apply are available on the [Climate Action Fund page on our website](#).

The [Calendar of Vale committee meetings](#) is available on our website – members of the public are always welcome to speak at these meetings on items that are relevant to the committee itself, or specific items on the agenda. If you would like any guidance on this, then please do contact us.

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

debra.dewhurst@whitehorsedc.gov.uk

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April Update from Olly Glover, MP

.Spending time with local people and businesses to understand your concerns and working to find ways to make improvements is the most important part of my role as your MP. I am grateful for opportunities like this newsletter to provide you with updates and prompt new connections.

In Parliament, I have continued to advocate for issues that matter to our constituency. I've spoken about the importance of aligning new housing developments with adequate infrastructure – such as a new railway station serving Grove and Wantage, and new or expanded GP surgeries - at every opportunity and I will be on the legislative committee scrutinising the government's new Planning and Infrastructure Bill. This is a chance to critically examine the Government's bill that will guide development in the future and suggest amendments and improvements before it becomes law, and address emerging concerns that it will not address the imbalance between new housing and expanded public services and infrastructure, nor give sufficient consideration for natural and architectural conservation.

I have started working with fellow MPs on cross-party efforts to improve safety on the A34, including concerns about the length of the slip roads at the Chilton interchange. A project to improve safety and congestion was 'paused' by the previous administration, but the huge disruption caused by accidents on the A34, and more importantly injury and loss of life on this National Highways Road must still be addressed.

Back in the constituency, I recently joined young people at an Oxfordshire County Council Pizza and Politics session, where we discussed the use smart

phones amongst other topics. I also attended Aureus School's "Human Library" for National Careers Week and welcomed the news that planning permission has been granted for the new GP Surgery at Great Western Park.

Our area is a hub of research, innovation, and enterprise. Recent activities included opening the Nebula Building at Milton Park and welcoming Harley Davidson. With government's announcement of the Oxford Growth Corridor, I am keen to help ensure that Culham, Harwell Campus, and Milton Park can benefit from investment and opportunities that arise. But I am mindful that most of our local businesses are small or medium sized and face different challenges. I recently chaired a discussion with local entrepreneurs and have visited local farms to understand how new policies around tax and national insurance are impacting them, and the cost and availability of food.

The local and regional media have covered several issues impacting our area recently, so I have been interviewed about A417 flooding, hare coursing, and rural crime. On *the BBC's Politics South show*, I was on a panel discussing conflict in Ukraine and rising energy bills - topics many of you have contacted me about.

If you have any concerns that you think I can help you with, please email me at olly.glover.MP@parliament.uk or if you are not able to email you can leave a voice message on 0207 219 7657.

Best wishes,

Olly Glover MP for Didcot and Wantage Constituency

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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.

The Annual Parish Council Meeting will be on **Wednesday 7 May 2025** at 8.00pm in the Community Room and the Annual Parish Meeting will be on **Monday 19 May 2025**. The agendas 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 **Wednesday 28th May**.

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.

Answers

1. *Purdey*
2. *John Prescott*
3. *Frankenstein*
4. *Skua (Skewer)*
5. *Desmond Morris*
6. *Mr Spock*
7. *Liverpool*
8. *Gravity*
9. *Scumbag College*
10. $76 + 99 + 9,000,000 = 9,000,175$

Chilton Parish Council Statement of Accounts 2024-25

<u>Income</u>		<u>Expenditure</u>	
Precept	24455	Admin	1885
S-106 play equipment maintenance	52811	Allotments	786
Magnox Grant (Amph-Fest)	500	Audit Fees	614
Jupiter Play Grant (Amph-Fest)	200	Chronicle	1711
Land Rent	2160	Churchyard donation	1268
Allotments	798	Clerk	6450
Wayleave	43	Donations	122
SA Clothing Bank	1093	General Maintenance	7174
Village Hall repayments	1461	Chilton village - public open space	2420
PCC - Chronicle	193	Chilton Field - public open spaces	31210
VAT refund	31382	New play equipment/installation	110815
Bank Interest	2689	Play equipment maintenance	1569
Petty Cash return	62	Insurance	8598
		Subscriptions	948
		VAT	33741
Total income	<u>117847</u>	Total expenditure	<u>209311</u>
Balance b/fw 23/24	335067	Balance c/fw 25/26	<u>243603</u>
	<u>452914</u>		<u>452914</u>
		<u>Breakdown of funds</u>	
		Village Hall Fund	6132
		Equipped Activity Area	3374
		Toddler Area Commuted sum	34851
		POS Commuted Sum	114128
		POS Remediation	338
		Neighbourhood Plan Grant	136
		S106 Play equipment maintenance	52811
		CIL Fund	13316
		Amph-Fest	291
		Parish Council Reserves	18226
		<u>Total</u>	<u>243603</u>

Chilton Public Purposes Charity 2024-25

<u>Income</u>		<u>Expenditure</u>	
Dividends	340	Purchase of gazebo for village events	1013
Interest	70		
Land Rent	0	Total expenditure	1013
Balance b/fw 23/24	6392		
	<u>6802</u>	Balance c/fw 25/26	<u>5788</u>

The Accounts have not yet been audited, any significant differences will be reported at a later date.