

Chilton Chronicle

Published by Chilton Parish Council

No. 530 December 2025

Christmas at the Crown

A busy month for us in the run up to our first Christmas at the Crown, which we are we really looking forward to!

Our kitchen is now fully open and we are serving lunch and dinner seven days a week (except Sunday evenings), opening from 11am daily for breakfast sandwiches, cakes and coffee.

We'll be generally keeping normal opening hours over the Christmas period, with a few exceptions, but please keep an eye on our social media for any changes.

Christmas Day - Open from 12-3 for drinks only.

Boxing Day - Open from 11am until close.

Curry buffet by Chef Andy

Just £25 per head, including puddings

Book now - limited availability.

New Year's Eve - From 7pm Party & Disco

£10 per ticket, including your first drink and bacon sandwiches at midnight

New Year's Day - Open from 12 noon

We'd love to see you down at The Crown this Christmas, especially if you haven't been in yet since we took over. Come and see what we've done to the place!

We'd like to thank each and every one of you who has supported and encouraged us over the last nine months since we re-opened the pub. We wish you all a brilliant Christmas and happy and healthy 2026.

Team Crown

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Christmas Charity Market

Come and enjoy the festive atmosphere of the Christmas charity market with a glass of mulled wine, hot chocolate, mince pies and sausage rolls held on Crafts End Green on **Saturday 13th December** from 9am until 11.30am. We are raising funds for the Oncology Unit at the Churchill Hospital. There will be an amazing raffle, the main prize a superb Christmas hamper. Tickets will be

sold on the day but are now available from 8, Crafts End. Along with our tasty pies, tarts, hot pasties and cakes there will be many Christmas items including Christmas cakes, biscuits, and Christmas tree and table decorations. So please hurry along to the next market, enjoy some festive cheer and stock up for Christmas and enable us to raise a grand total for the Oncology Unit.

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Come & join us for Carol Singing

*At The Crown at Chilton
On Monday 15th December
from 7.30pm*



*Singing will be led
by the Choir of All Saints' Church,
- everyone is welcome to join in.
See you there!*

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.

Warm Welcome Café

Now the weather is getting colder come and join other villagers on a Tuesday morning in the Morris Room in the village hall to enjoy some refreshments in a warm and friendly environment. We meet from 11am to 2pm. Everyone is most welcome and refreshments are free. Over lunchtime hot soup and delicious cheese scones are served. At other times the kettle is always on the boil for tea and coffee, and there are biscuits and homemade cake.

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All Saints' Group

On **Tuesday 9th December** at 7.15 (please note earlier time) we will be celebrating Christmas with some festive food, carols and Christmas readings and poems. We meet in All Saints' Church and everyone is most welcome. Any enquiries please phone Judy Goodall on 01235 834503.

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Oasis Café

Please note that there will not be an Oasis Café in December.

Please come along to our **Carols by Candlelight** service at 6.30 pm on Sunday 14th December and enjoy mulled wine and mince pies.

Our next Oasis café will be on Saturday 17th January between 10.00 and noon.

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Chilton WI

WI have recently installed a bench in memory of Jacqueline Rickards, on Crafts End Green. Jacqueline was an active WI member for many years.

The next WI meeting will be on **Thursday 18th December** at 7.45pm in the Morris Room, Village Hall. This will be our Christmas Party.

New members are always welcome. For more information, please contact Liz Robbins 834501 or Shona Sugden 831723.

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Thank you

An enormous thank you to all those who helped out in the churchyard, for once the weather was kind. Much weeding, strimming, leaf clearing, and

pruning was done, it was great to have it looking so tidy in time for Remembrance Sunday.

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Would you like a gift?

We are the Trustees of the Lydia Thomas Chilton Gift Fund. This is a small charity based in Chilton and for Chilton residents only.

The original charity was started in 1807 by Lydia Thomas who wished to support the poor by giving them a loaf of bread on New Year's Day.

Over the years, the purpose of the charity has changed a lot. We no longer give out loaves of bread and we don't think about how much money someone has!

Nowadays we use an eligibility criterion based purely on age and that the person lives in Chilton Village or Chilton Field. Giving a gift is a way of saying thank you to some of our older residents who live in the village and have given much to the locality.

We have been very fortunate to receive donations in the past, so we have enough money to give a gift to more people.

So, if you are aged 74 or over and live in Chilton, why not give us your details and accept a lovely gift of fruit or groceries? Why not nominate your family member, friend or neighbour so they are surprised to receive a gift?

We cannot stress enough that it is purely a gift and nothing to do with how much money you have!

If you want to find out more, we will have a table at the Produce Market on Crafts End Green on Saturday 13th December or contact one of the Trustees listed below.

Best wishes

The Trustees

Lydia Thomas Chilton Gift Fund

John Berry 07779 666129

Pam Rolls 07772 631281

Hazel Benton 07702 316583

Steven Launchbury

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Shoe Boxes for Injured Ukrainian Soldiers

A huge thank you to everyone who donated filled shoeboxes for injured Ukrainian soldiers.

A total of 96 boxes were delivered from Chilton and Harwell villages and are on the way to Ukraine.

A great effort by everyone. I am sure they will be gratefully received.

Many thanks

Yvonne Sanderson

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Update from Chilton School

We've had a wonderful month at Chilton and have created some special memories as a school community. We've been thinking about those who help us and those who need our help, exploring our school value of compassion and how it is shown. We shared a whole school assembly for Remembrance Day and reflected on the sacrifices made by others and learnt about how our fundraising efforts help others on Children in Need Day. Thank you to everyone who wore their spots and stripes: we raised almost £300 for the charity. Our year three and four students have had the opportunity to visit the Houses of Parliament this month and enjoyed a tour whilst learning about the important work which happens there. Experiences like this help our pupils develop confidence, curiosity, and a real sense of their place in the wider world. It's a trip that sparks big questions, inspires future ambitions, and shows our young people that their voices truly matter. Our Year Six pupils have also completed their Bikeability course this month, an important step in helping them become confident and responsible cyclists. This training gives children essential skills for staying safe on the roads and encourages independence. We are incredibly grateful to The Bikeability Trust who provided this programme, giving our pupils the chance to learn in a fun, practical and empowering way. Their support helps our children to be safer, more active, and ready for the journeys ahead.

We are looking forward to December and the joy it brings as we prepare to celebrate the festive season. Our younger pupils in the Early Years and Key Stage One have been busy preparing their Nativity performances and our PTA have been busy organising our annual Christmas Fair.

Is your child 3 or 4 years old?

Primary school place – you must apply now

If your child was born on or between **1 September 2021** and **31 August 2022**, you need to apply for a primary school place now.

You must still apply even if your child already attends a nursery attached to the school.

Deadline for applications is **15 January 2026**.

Apply online at

www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/primaryadmissions
– it's quick, easy and secure.

You can get free access to the internet at many of our libraries and children's centres – ask for details at your local facility.

Deadline for applications is 15 January 2026

For help and information:
Web: www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/primaryadmissions
Email: admissions.schools@oxfordshire.gov.uk
Tel: 01865 519800 Option 2

 OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL



Christmas Cryptic Quiz Sheets

The next quiz No 82 will be out on December 9th priced £2.00 and will be raising funds for SeeSaw. The theme will be "Places in London". Quiz sheets will be available from:

Atomic Hair Curie Avenue
Audry Slater 9, Latton Close
Judy Goodall 43, Crafts End
Charity Market on 13th December on Crafts End Green

The last quiz on "Gardening Terms" was won by Jen Parry with 46 ½ out of 50.

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Linda's Quiz

General Knowledge

1. Which media company use an elephant driving a truck in their current TV ad?
2. Tobias Schmidt is credited with building and supplying which method of execution in 1792?
3. Maoris greet each other with a hongi – which parts of the body are rubbed together in a hongi?
4. Which part did Moose play in the TV series Frasier?

5. Who created and danced Riverdance at the Eurovision Song Contest in 1996?
6. The Tottenham Hotspur song Nice One Cyril was inspired by an advert for which bread?
7. According to Barry Manilow name either of the 2 dances Lola danced in the Copacabana night club?
8. Linseed oil is obtained from which plant?
9. What was the title of the 1975 film starring Goldie Hawn & Warren Beatty as a sex mad hairdresser?
10. Which river flows through Holmfirth the location of Last of the Summer Wine?

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Seasonal Greetings and Good Tidings from the Didcot & District u3a

If you are **retired or semi-retired** and living in Didcot or the surrounding area and looking for new interests whilst making new friendships, then look no further and consider joining the **Didcot & District U3A to 'Learn, Laugh, Live'!**

With over **30 Interest Groups**, you could learn a new language, delve into your family history, enjoy walking with friends, learn to play an instrument, and many more (full details can be found on **Didcot.u3a site.uk**)!

New members are always warmly welcomed to join (first visit is 'free to see') and chat over tea and biscuits at the monthly meetings are held on the **third Tuesday of every month** for this nationwide self-help teaching and learning organisation in the **Didcot Civic Hall, meetings start 2:30 pm.**

Meetings for the coming months will include:

December 16th - Christmas Party at the Barn (a ticket event) - Jon Woodhouse - former Military Bandsman with selection of Christmas Music!

January 20th - Politics in 20th Century Oxford - the life of Olive Gibbs - Liz Woolley

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Vale of White Horse District Councillors

Hello from Hayleigh and Debra:

Sunday 9th November was Remembrance Sunday, and like every year, we were honoured to be laying a wreath of Remembrance on behalf of the Vale of White Horse District Council. Each year, we parade

down the High Street in Harwell Village alongside veterans, cadets, parish councillors and other local groups.

National Government's plans to reorganise local government still dominates the discussion at the council, and the work of the officers. By the end of November, we will, as a council, have submitted a proposal to the Government for their consideration. To be clear, this will be their decision – and they have, in the case of Oxfordshire, three submissions to look at. The Oxfordshire unitary, the Greater Oxford model and the one which the Vale is putting forward alongside four other councils; Cherwell, West Ox, South Ox and West Berkshire. The proposal has the potential to save the most money of all the options – with possible savings reaching £59.8m a year. It would create authorities that are big enough to be efficient, stable and reliable, but local enough to care and be responsive to communities.

The proposal would create two councils covering the following geographical areas:

- **Oxford and Shires Council** would comprise the existing district areas of Cherwell, Oxford City and West Oxfordshire.
- **Ridgeway Council** would be made up of the whole of West Berkshire Council's area and the existing district areas of South Oxfordshire and the Vale of White Horse.

The proposal has been designed to meet the criteria set out by the government earlier this year. The criteria called for all proposals to be for councils that serve populations of around 500,000, are financially stable, deliver high-quality services, are responsive to the needs of communities, and support positive growth across the region. Residents can read the full proposal or an abridged version on the website:

<http://twocouncils.org>.

In the last update, we explained the current position with the Joint Local Plan – which is still at the examination stage, though the Planning Inspectorate asked us to withdraw it. The Inspectors said the councils had failed in a "duty to co-operate" with Oxford City Council on the single issue of how many homes South and Vale should plan in their districts to help Oxford with its unmet needs. The councils wrote back to the Inspectors setting out concerns they had with the Inspectors'

recommendation. The latest development is that a few days later Matthew Pennycook MP, Minister of State for Housing and Planning has written to the Planning Inspectorate, the organisation that oversees all Planning Inspectors, to request that they “be proportionate” in how they apply the guidelines related to the duty to co-operate, and to consider the context. The Minister’s letter also welcomed Inspectors providing more opportunities during the examination process for councils to clarify how they’ve met the duty to co-operate.

Now **the two councils have written to the Inspectors again** requesting that they reconsider their initial conclusions in light of the Minister’s letter, along with legal points the councils have raised, and Oxford’s latest published housing figures – which show that we have already planned enough to cover the unmet need.

As a reminder, council meetings are held in public and if you wish to address council or committee, you can contact Democratic Services. 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.

Please also follow us on Facebook:

www.facebook.com/CllrHayleigh and

www.facebook.com/Debra4BlewburyAndHarwell

Or email us:

hayleigh.gascoigne@whitehorsedc.gov.uk and

debra.dewhurst@whitehorsedc.gov.uk

Oxfordshire County Councillors

Dear Parish Councillors and residents,

The last few weeks have been busy, largely with road resurfacing issues. Many residents were negatively affected by overnight closures of a section of Didcot Road. The communication and planning around these roadworks was extremely poor. I attended the site every night with OCC officers to ensure everything ran to schedule; on the positive side, works finished three days early. I have already arranged a follow-up meeting with senior officers to review and improve processes. Thank you to everyone who came to join our pubs of the parishes walk; in particular, John and Annabel from the Red Lion Blewbury, who between them joined the entire walk, and to the Station Garden, who put on free tea and coffee to set us up for the day.

I’m keen to continue a programme of public engagement, so will be doing more walks in the future, with particular focus on issues raised with me directly, such as SEND and Adult Social Care. If you have any ideas for topics you think it would be valuable to discuss, please let me know.

Other news and information

Congestion Charge Permits – The Oxford temporary congestion charge for cars is now in effect. If you have yet to apply for your 25 permits, you can still do so here:

<https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/transport-and-travel/oxfords-temporary-congestion-charge-cars/apply-permit>

SESRO – Thames Water has launched its statutory consultation. It will close on 13 January 2026 and you can find out more here:

<https://thames-sro.co.uk/public-consultations/south-east-strategic-reservoir-option-sesro-statutory-consultation-2025/>

Shaping the future of our fire and rescue service - Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue has reviewed its emergency response and community safety services and is now seeking residents’ feedback on proposals to enhance safety, efficiency, and resilience. Share your views here: <https://letstalk.oxfordshire.gov.uk/ofrs-consultation>

You can also keep updated on my activity via Facebook: www.facebook.com/CllrBekahFletcher
Best wishes, Bekah

Message from Olly Glover, MP for Didcot and Wantage

This month has been incredibly busy, full of constituency engagements alongside exciting activities in Parliament.

In Parliament, I secured a commitment from the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care to help unblock progress on the GP surgery in Great Western Park. At Prime Minister’s Questions, I challenged the Prime Minister on the Government’s decision to delay SEND reforms until 2026, asking what he has to say to parents and education staff who are deeply worried by these delays. I also led a debate on the proposed cuts to funding for the International Baccalaureate (IB) programme - an issue that affects many

families at Europa School - and spoke on the need to improve statutory maternity and paternity pay. I have also been busy in my new role as Transport Spokesperson - speaking in Westminster Hall debates on sustainable aviation and headlight glare, and pressing the Secretary of State for Transport on the environmental impact of the proposed third runway at Heathrow.

It is always a pleasure to meet constituents in Parliament. Recently, I've met with residents campaigning to end cages for farmed animals, and with local pharmacists attending the launch of the new *Shot in the Arm* vaccine campaign.

Back in the constituency, I've held surgeries in Wantage and Didcot and met residents on the doorstep in East and West Challow. I joined members of CulBug (the Culham Bicycle User Group) for a cycle trip and opened the new visitor centre at Culham Campus - planting a tree and recognising 60 years of remarkable work at the site. I also had the pleasure of visiting Fitzwaryn Special School and Wantage Primary Academy to see Bikeability training in action alongside the Local Transport Minister, Lilian Greenwood.

It was wonderful to attend SOFEA's "Donate What You Can" community meal in Didcot, where all proceeds support the charity's Nourish and Flourish programme. I also visited the Thames Travel bus depot in Didcot and made further progress on improving the Orchard Centre, where parking is now free after 7pm every day. Lastly, it was a privilege to lay a wreath in both Wallingford and Didcot at Remembrance Day events, alongside laying a wreath on the Poppy Train at Didcot Railway Station. Lest we forget.

As always, if there is anything you feel I can help you with, please do not hesitate to contact me and my team at olly.glover.mp@parliament.uk, or by leaving a voice message on 0207 219 7657.

Parish Council Notices

Neighbourhood Policing Team

Chilton lies within the Wantage and Grove Neighbourhood Policing Team's area.

The team can be contacted online at:
<https://www.thamesvalley.police.uk/area/your-area/tvp/oxfordshire/wantage-and-grove/contact-us/>

or Phone 101 for non-emergency enquiries.

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 next **Parish Council Meeting** will be on **Monday 5th January 2026** 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://chilton.parish-council.com>. The website includes details of all the Parish Council meetings, your Councillors and other useful information including upcoming events, monthly newsletters and bulletins from the Vale of White Horse and Oxfordshire County Council, Healthwatch Oxfordshire, Neighbourhood Watch and the Police and Crime Commissioner.

Items to be included in the next Chronicle should be sent to the Clerk by **Wednesday 31st December**.

Clerk: Jacquie Berry

Please note the new email address:
clerk@chiltonparishcouncil.gov.uk

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. *Virgin Media*
2. *Guillotine*
3. *Noses*
4. *Eddie*
5. *Michael Flatley*
6. *Wonderloaf*
7. *Merengue or Cha Cha*
8. *Flax*
9. *Shampoo*
10. *Holme*



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

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?

What's coming up during December 2025 and January 2026

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 (BCP) 11th December All Saints' Chilton and 8th January All Saints' Chilton. 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

7th December 9.30am Holy Communion, All Saints' Chilton
 10.30am Morning Worship, St Matthew's Harwell
 6.00pm Evening Worship, St Matthew's Harwell

13th December **4.00pm Family Carol Service All Saints' Chilton**

14th December 10.30am Chilton Village Hall Service
 10.30am Holy Communion, St Matthew's Harwell
 6.00pm Evening Prayer (BCP), St Matthew's Harwell
 6.30pm Carols by Candlelight Service, All Saints' Chilton

21st December	9.30am Holy Communion, All Saint's 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
23rd December	3.30pm Crib Service, All Saints' Chilton
24th December	3.30pm Crib Service, St Matthew's Harwell 10.00pm Christmas Eve Communion, All Saints' Chilton 11.30pm Midnight Communion, St Matthew's Harwell
25th December	9.30am Christmas Day All Age Communion, All Saints' Chilton 10.30am Christmas Day All Age Communion, St Matthew's Harwell
28th December	9.30am Benefice Holy Communion, All Saints' Chilton
4th January	9.30am Holy Communion, All Saints' Chilton 10.30am Morning Worship, St Matthew's Harwell 6.00pm Evening Worship, St Matthew's Harwell
11th January	10.30am Chilton Village Hall Service 10.30am Holy Communion, St Matthew's Harwell 6.00pm Evening Worship (BCP), St Matthew's Harwell
18th January	9.30am Holy Communion, All Saints' Chilton 10.30am Morning Worship, St Matthew's Harwell 6.00pm Evening Worship, St Matthew's Harwell
25th January	9.30am Morning Worship, All Saints' Chilton 10.30am Morning Worship, St Matthew's Harwell 6.00pm Evening Communion, St Matthew's Harwell

.
Everyone is welcome.

(please check our website harwellandchiltonchurches.org.uk for any updates)