

Chilton Chronicle

Published by Chilton Parish Council

No. 536 June 2026

"Hallebaloojah - Free Event" **Please register to take part!**

All Saints' Church, Chilton

Hallebaloojah!

- A Celebration of a Summer Afternoon

Saturday 13th June 2026,
starting at 2pm

Chilton Field Amphitheatre,
Horsa Lane, Chilton, OX11 0UE

Join us for Children's races*.
(Fun Run approx. 3km and
obstacle course for younger children)

Bring & Share Picnic Tea

Soft drinks will be provided

Live music.

ALL WELCOME!

Entry forms from Chilton Church,
Chilton Primary School

Scan the QR code
for entry forms

or contact Patrick Moseley
07961347986

Chilton Baby and Toddler Group

We are in the Village Hall, Fridays 9.30 to 11.30, term time only. Mums, Dads, Grandparents come along for a drink and chat, snack for the children. Lots of toys for all ages and a baby corner. We are looking for new fundraising ideas, can you help? See you there!

Charity Market

Thank you to everyone who supported the market in May for Christian Aid. The fantastic total of £1,158.35 was made.

The next Market on **Saturday 13th June** will be held on Crafts End Green between 9:00 and 11:30 and will raise funds for 'Brain Tumour Research'.

Come and sample Liz's delicious, nutritious individual chicken pies, beef pies, goats cheese tarts and hot pasties. There will be a wide range of cakes, brownies, scones, homemade jams,

marmalade and chutneys, and also jigsaws and a good selection of plants. We hope to see you there.

Volunteers Needed – Help Support Our Village Halls

Our village halls are at the heart of the community, and we are looking for new volunteers to help keep them running and help shape their future. We are looking for people who may be able to offer a little time, practical skills, or experience in any of the following areas:

- Carrying out routine maintenance checks
- Helping with bookings and invoicing
- Budgeting and financial oversight
- Marketing and publicity
- Social media and community communications

We are also planning some exciting new projects, including:

- Deciding how best to use the local development funding
- Exploring the installation of solar panels for the Village Hall and Community Room
- Installing a hearing loop system in the main hall

You do not need to commit huge amounts of time – any help or expertise would be greatly appreciated.

If you would like to get involved, learn more, or simply have ideas to share, please get in touch with secretary@chiltonvillagehall.co.uk or come along to the VHMC meeting on **Monday 22 June**, 7.00pm Village Hall.

Together we can help keep our village halls thriving for everyone in the community.

All Saints' Group

This small friendly mixed group meets on the second Tuesday of the month at 7:45 in All Saints' Church, and visitors are always welcome. The next meeting will be on **Tuesday 9th June** when Steve Hale will talk about 'Saving Lives at Sea'.

Any queries please contact Judy Goodall on 01235 834 503.

D-Day Anniversary Commemoration Service

Saturday 6 June 2026

Harwell Memorial
Stone

Assembly 17:00 –
Service 17:15

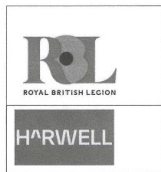
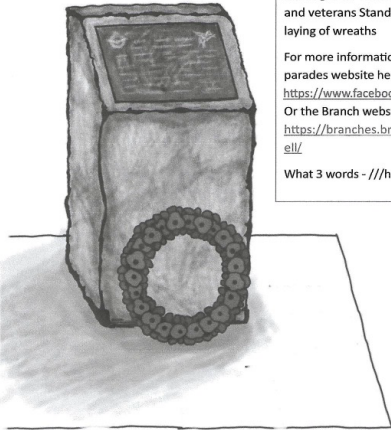
By permission of Harwell Campus Management: Harwell Branch RBL will be hosting the annual D-Day commemoration service held at the Harwell Memorial Stone on Saturday 6th June.

The stone marks the departure point for those servicemen who were amongst the first to land in Europe on D-Day, where a short service will be held to recognise the efforts of those servicemen.

Assembly at the stone from 17:00, with the service starting 17:15 which include the march on of service and veterans Standards, a 2-minute silence and the laying of wreaths

For more information please check the RBL Branch parades website here
<https://www.facebook.com/HarwellRBLParades/> /
Or the Branch website here
<https://branches.britisshlegion.org.uk/branches/harwell/>

What 3 words - ///highlighted.bookmark.gathers



Spring Cleaning our Beautiful Church

We are planning to hold a Spring Clean of All Saints' Church on **Saturday 6 June** between 9.30 am 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!



Warm Welcome Café

We were recently delighted to welcome a young couple with their four-week-old baby to the Warm Welcome Café. The café is open to people of all ages, a few weeks to 90+ years. The café is held every Tuesday from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm in the Morris room in the Village Hall. Drop in for a quick chat and a refreshing drink and/or stay for longer and enjoy a light lunch of cheese scones, a cup of soup, a cup of tea and a slice or two of homemade cake. Everyone is welcome and refreshments are free.

Oasis Café

The 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 Oasis Café will be held in All Saints' Church on **Saturday 20th June**, between 10.00 and 12.00. See you there!

Chilton WI

We will be holding our annual Garden Party on **Saturday 20th June** at 'Schneeberg', South Row, Chilton, from 1pm. Come and join us for a 'bring and share' lunch. For more information, please contact Liz Robbins 834501 or Shona Sugden 831723.

Chilton Scout Group - Bingo Night

We are very happy to report that two members of the 2nd Chilton Scout Group have been selected to go to the next World Scout Jamboree, representing Oxfordshire together with about 30 other young people from the county in Poland in 2027. Hanna and Christian are now busy fundraising for the event and as part of this would like to invite everyone to a Bingo Night on **Saturday, 13th June** at the Village Hall. Doors open at 7pm and bingo will start at 7.30pm. There will be prizes for adults and children. Soft drinks and snacks will be sold but feel free to bring your own alcoholic drinks. Entry is £5 for adults and £3 for children and includes the bingo sheet.

BE FREE YOUNG CARERS

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

We are seeking dedicated volunteers to support **Young Carers** today!

What is a Young Carer?

- ✓ A child under the age of 18 who cares for and assists a family member with additional needs

How you can help:

- ✓ Support trips & activities
- ✓ Become a Befriender
- ✓ Fundraising, Corporate & Events
- ✓ Adhoc administration

Volunteer Requirements:

- ✓ Minimum 18+
- ✓ Allowance of a DBS Check
- ✓ A positive attitude
- ✓ There is no one-size-fits-all approach to our volunteering if you think you can help. Training will be provided

Get in touch today
01235 838554
yc@befreec.org.uk

Cryptic Quiz No 84

This cryptic quiz is now out priced £2 on the theme '60's Music'. All money raised will go to the Oxfordshire group of the Motor Neurone Disease Society which provides support and advice to people suffering from this progressive terminal disease.

Quiz sheets are available from:

Atomic Hair Curie Avenue
Audrey Slater 9 Latton Close
Judy Goodall 43 Crafts End
Charity Market 13th June, Crafts End Green

Linda's Quiz

General Knowledge

1. The ruddock is another name for which common British bird?
2. Larnaca is the main international airport on which Mediterranean island?
3. Plenty O'Toole & Tiffany Case both featured in which Sean Connery Bond film of 1971?
4. A 10-year-old girl found an axolotl in Wales this week. She called it Dippy. Spell axolotl
5. Scott Joplin is most associated with which type of music?
6. What type of breakfast cereal is named after a German derived word for mush or puree?
7. The seed of the Myristica fragrens tree generates 2 spices; nutmeg is one, what is the other?
8. What colour was the famous Wright's Coal Tar Soap?
9. Which film character in a 1931 film shouts "It's alive! It's alive!"?
10. How many A5 sheets of paper will cover an A3 sheet of paper (no folding)?

Didcot & District U3A

The monthly meetings for this nationwide self-help teaching and learning organisation are held on the **third Tuesday of every month** in the **Didcot Civic Hall**, meetings start 2:30 pm.

New members are always warmly welcomed to join (first visit is 'free to see') and chat over tea and biscuits.

Meetings during the Summer months include:

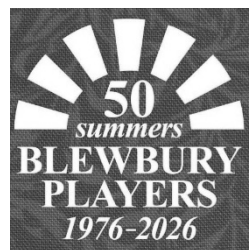
June 16th - An ABC of Victorian painters from Simon Evers.

July 21st- A is for Arsenic (poisons used in Agatha Christie novels) by Dr Kathryn Harkup

August 18th - The Flanders and Swan story - James Mitchell and James Williams

Don't delay, for more information for those wishing to '**Learn, Laugh, Live**'! head over to: **Didcot.u3asite.uk**

Blewbury Players



Online box office for all events @ our website: www.blewburyplayers.co.uk or using QR codes below. Please do come along and enjoy our celebratory year!

A FLY ON THE WALL, By Catherine Flye

20th June, St Michael's Church, Blewbury. 7.30pm.

Our online box office will open on 29 May. Tickets: £15 (to include a glass of wine).

This will be based on the beloved tradition of the British Music Hall. The show also includes musical favourites together with audience participation.



THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS, By Kenneth Grahame, Adapted by Alan Bennett.

15th-18th July 2026, Orchard Dene Garden Theatre, Blewbury.

Our online box office opens 5 June. Tickets: Adult £17. Child £9.

Come and enjoy the exploits and adventures of Toad and his friends Ratty, Mole and Badger. It's an adventure which appeals to young and old alike, and Blewbury's open air garden theatre is the ideal setting. It's all going to be a marvellous way of celebrating our 50th anniversary. Do join us...



A Christmas Carol, 25-28 November, 2026. St Michael's Church. News of auditions in August...

Vale of White Horse District Councillors

Our District Councillors are Debra Dewhurst and Hayleigh Gascoigne. Hayleigh is currently on maternity leave, so please contact Debra with any issues or concerns:

debra.dewhurst@whitehorsedc.gov.uk

Oxfordshire County Councillors

Dear residents,

It's been a very busy first year as a councillor, and I want to thank everyone who has been in touch, raised concerns, or invited me to meetings and events. The advocacy work I've taken on has followed clear themes, and I've done my best to push for progress on the issues that matter most to our parishes. It has been a steep learning curve, and I'm extremely grateful for the patience and support of our parish councils as I've found my feet.

Scrutiny & Policy Work

As a member of the People Overview and Scrutiny Committee, I've worked to ensure that the Council has a 'critical friend' to its own services. This year, we examined Supported Living for Adults with Learning Disabilities, Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation, and the Unpaid Carers Strategy. I've raised concerns about the timing of support sessions for carers and pushed for more accessible options. In Oxfordshire, we have over 50,000 unpaid carers, saving the system an estimated £1 billion per year. They're the backbone of our community and I'm keen that we do as much as we can to support them.

On the Education and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee, we've focussed on SEND provision, including quality and timeliness of Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) and the clarity of EOTAS (Education Other Than at School) guidance. I was also elected to chair a review panel on the forced academisation of an Oxfordshire SEND school, to ensure lessons are learned from what happened at Woodeaton.

Highways, Transport & Flooding

Highways and flooding have dominated my casework and included cases for traffic calming works, road crossings, wigwags, dropped kerbs and bollards. I've escalated concerns about soft verges on Hagbourne Hill, (now under review for a permanent fix), and highlighted the poor surface along the A417 through Upton, which will be prioritised for repairs before planned surface dressing. Flooding hotspots have required repeated escalation and I've arranged site visits from senior officers, pushing for interim measures while we wait for longer-term drainage solutions. I've challenged poor contractor performance, including the Milton Interchange markings and substandard works.

I've also challenged officers as necessary on poor Network Planning this year. In the last few weeks, I've met with the Operational Manager for Network Co-ordination, the Head of Network Management and the Director of Environment and Highways. I also wrote to the Leader of the Council, articulating mine and others' concerns about planning and oversight. A major review of highways planning, communications and quality assurance is now underway. The scope for this review was originally limited to the network management team, who schedule roadworks, but will now include Planned Maintenance schemes. In addition, I'm involved in a small pilot to address gaps in communication of planned works to councillors.

Following my escalation of concerns around bus provision to villages, officers now hold weekly meetings between network management, contractors and bus companies. This has improved contingency planning for bus routes during road closures (although there is still more work to be done on communicating these plans with residents!)

Community Engagement & Local Support

I've attended most Parish Council meetings across the division and joined Speedwatch teams, councillors and officers on site visits to discuss signage, trees, roadworks and road safety. I've supported residents at meetings with the Trees Officer in Chilton and coordinated flooding and pavement repair visits in Harwell and Blewbury. I've visited the sites of all major roadworks over the last year, to keep residents as informed as possible during disruption.

In October, I hosted the 'Pubs of the Parishes' walk – a great opportunity to meet residents informally across the division.

I visited Didcot Fire Station to hear concerns from our local firefighters and ensure their voices were heard during the Fire and Rescue consultation. Off the back of this consultation, the council has rolled back its proposals to close two stations in Oxfordshire and remove engines from service. I also visited Didcot Primary Academy, to hear directly from staff and parents about the challenges they face, particularly around space and SEND support.

Major Service Changes

This year saw the introduction of a booking system for Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs). While I understand the short-term need, I remain concerned about the evidence behind the decision and have secured a commitment that the system will be reviewed once Redbridge HWRC reopens. Early data (not yet confirmed) is not as damning as I had originally expected; although there are fewer visits, the tonnage of waste brought per visit is up by 13kg. We have saved over £40,000 so far in landfill costs, as more waste is being recycled, and we've raised over £5,000 from out-of-county users, who now pay to use our HWRCs. However, I remain sceptical that a booking system is the only means by which we could achieve these outcomes, and I look forward to the chance to review the data more fully.

It's been a full and fast-paced first year, and I'm incredibly grateful for the support and engagement from residents, parish councils and community groups. Much of the work has required persistence; chasing updates, escalating concerns, and holding services to account – but I remain committed to making sure your voices are heard and your priorities acted upon. Please do continue to get in touch if there's anything I can help with. rebekah.fletcher@oxfordshire.gov.uk.

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

Update from Olly Glover, MP

This last month has been full of interesting constituency visits, advice surgeries with constituents, and busy days campaigning for change in Parliament.

Speaking in debates helps create change for local people and our community. I attended two e-petition debates that a significant number of constituents had signed to represent their views and concerns on maternity services and animal testing. At Prime Minister's Questions I challenged Keir Starmer on social and affordable housing, as new developments in the constituency continue to price out local people and young first-time buyers. The Government needs to support local councils to deliver truly affordable homes, alongside vital infrastructure. In addition, I spoke about the many cases of delayed licence renewal and medical

assessments, calling for improvements to the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA).

I was proud to represent the Wantage-based charity SUDEP Action in my debate on sudden and unexpected death in epilepsy (SUDEP) prevention. Founded by five women, the charity works tirelessly to support bereaved families and raise awareness. Multiple other MPs attended the debate, sharing their own constituents' stories and highlighting the repeated cycles of injustice that too many families have faced. The minister responded by promising to meet with me, and I look forward to discussing the next steps the Government needs to take.

At a Wantage Chamber of Commerce event, local Wantage businesses raised the impact of changes to business rates, soaring energy costs and changes to employment legislation on their viability. Two weeks later, I made their voices heard to the treasury minister in parliament and will continue to push for a fairer deal for our local businesses.

I also had the pleasure of visiting RAW Workshop, a social enterprise manufacturing high-quality furniture. The organisation channels their profits into their youth training schemes, supporting young people facing mental health and educational barriers, and adults re-entering the workforce. On a sunny day in Wallingford, I attended KatieFest, an inclusive rugby tournament for children and adults with special educational needs and disabilities, chatting with wonderful charities and parents. At the Didcot Powerhouse Fund Impact event, we celebrated the fantastic work of local groups and organisations for Didcot and the surrounding areas. It is a pleasure to spend time with so many people making a meaningful contribution to their neighbours and our communities.

This month, my hardworking team and I passed the milestone of 15,000 individual cases handled since I was elected. As always, if there is anything you feel I can help 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.

Olly Glover, MP for Didcot and Wantage

Parish Council Notices

Neighbourhood Policing Team

Every neighbourhood in the Thames Valley area has a dedicated neighbourhood policing team that works together with the local community and partners to reduce crime and incidents. The Wantage and Grove Neighbourhood Policing Team cover Chilton

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.

Parking

The Parish Council continues to receive complaints from residents about parking. Please park your vehicles responsibly and avoid parking at junctions, on corners and on dropped kerbs.

Allotments

Unexpectedly, we have 2 allotments available for rent at the Lower Road site. Annual rent is £15 plus a share of water charges. If you are interested, please contact the Parish Clerk.

The next **Parish Council Meeting** will be on **Monday 8th June 2026** at 7.30pm 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://chiltonparishcouncil.gov.uk>. 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 Police and Crime Commissioner, Wild Oxfordshire, Thames Valley Records, and the Rural Services Network.

Items to be included in the next Chronicle should be sent to the Clerk by **Wednesday 24th June**.

Clerk: Jacquie Berry
Email: clerk@chiltonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Parish Council Chairman: Mr Chris Broad
14 Latton Close, O1235 834347

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

Answers

1. *Robin*
2. *Cyprus*
3. *Diamonds Are Forever*
4. *AXOLOTL*
5. *Ragtime*
6. *Muesli*
7. *Mace*
8. *Orange*
9. *Dr Frankenstein*
10. *Four*



What's coming up during June and July 2026 both in All Saints' Chilton and St Matthew's Church Harwell

I hope that, like me, you have been in awe of the blossom this spring. Having come from a much cooler, wetter County Antrim it has been phenomenal to see our garden blossom in the County of Oxford – indeed the Woodland Trust have indicated that this may be one of the earliest springs on record, with magnolias and camellias in Kew Gardens blooming unusually early! The Bible makes many references to flowers blossoming and compares it to God's people flourishing under God's love and forgiveness. In the book of the prophet Hosea 14:2 we read of how the people are called to come back to God and receive his forgiveness "Take words with you and return to the LORD. Say to him: "Forgive all our sins and receive us graciously, that we may offer the fruit of our lips." Then there is the encouraging reply from God with a promise to forgive them and to help them to blossom and flourish. Hosea 14:4-7 "I will heal their waywardness and love them freely, for my anger has turned away from them. I will be like the dew to Israel; he will blossom like a lily. Like a cedar of Lebanon, he will send down his roots; his young shoots will grow. His splendour will be like an olive tree, his fragrance like a cedar of Lebanon. People will dwell again in his shade; they will flourish like the grain; they will blossom like the vine – Israel's fame will be like the wine of Lebanon."

As you enjoy the magnificent blossom this springtime, may your thoughts turn to God, the one who causes all the plants to blossom!

Stephen Luney

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.

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 yummy biscuits.

Thursday midweek Communion (BCP) 11.00am 11th June and 9th July held in 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).

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

- 7th June** **9.30am Holy Communion, All Saints' Chilton**
10.30am Morning Worship, St Matthew's Harwell
6.00pm Evening Worship, St Matthew's Harwell
- 14th June 10.30am Village Hall Service, Chilton
10.30am Holy Communion, St Matthew's Harwell
6.00pm Evening Prayer (BCP), St Matthew's Harwell
- 21st June **9.30am Holy Communion, All Saints' Chilton**
10.30am Morning Worship, St Matthew's Harwell
6.00pm Evening Worship, St Matthew's Harwell
- 28th June 9.30am Morning Worship, All Saints' Chilton
10.30am Morning Worship, St Matthew's Harwell
6.00pm Holy Communion, St Matthew's Harwell
- 5th July** **9.30am Holy Communion, All Saints' Chilton**
10.30am Morning Worship, St Matthew's Harwell
6.00pm Compline, St Matthew's Harwell
- 12th July 10.30am Village Hall Service, Chilton
10.30am Holy Communion, St Matthew's Harwell
6.00pm Evening Prayer (BCP), St Matthew's Harwell
- 19th July** **9.30am Holy Communion, All Saints' Chilton**
10.30am Morning Worship, St Matthew's Harwell
6.00pm Evening Worship, St Matthew's Harwell
- 26th July 9.30am Morning Worship, All Saints' Chilton
10.30am Morning Worship, St Matthew's Harwell
6.00pm Holy Communion, St Matthew's Harwell

Everyone is welcome to come along to any of our services.