

Tidmarsh with Sulham Parish Magazine



Winter 2015

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Firstly, apologies for the late arrival of this issue. We have been desperately looking for someone to take over the editing of the magazine and to help with dealing with the advertisers, sending invoices etc., I am still hopeful that someone will contact me and offer some help. If only I was retired, I would be more than happy to do it all but for the foreseeable future I feel I just have too much on. If you feel you could contribute just a couple of hours a month, I would love to hear from you – it could make all the difference to the future of the magazine. My contact details are below.

I was delighted to see that West Berkshire Council have finally managed to tidy up the overgrown bushes and spreading vegetation along the footpaths on the Tidmarsh Road thus enabling pedestrians to walk more safely. I only hope they will also do this at the height of summer when it is virtually impossible to walk along the footpath without going onto the road to avoid overhanging bushes.

The arrival of Costa Coffee in Pangbourne has been an interesting subject for discussion. There are those who feel we do not need a coffee shop 'chain' as it will take business from the independent cafes and those who are of the opinion that Costa will draw people into Pangbourne and they will shop in the local businesses. Certainly I have it on good authority from my man on the ground (John in the Co-op car park!) that since its opening on Christmas Eve, more people are coming into Pangbourne so I guess that can only be a good thing. I have enjoyed my visits to the new Costa and understand that rather than being part of a chain, it is indeed a franchise owned by some local people who have 4 or 5 shops around the area.

I look forward to hearing from you if you feel you are able to help with this magazine...

Jenny Cope

jenny@candcsystems.co.uk – 0774 777 5900

What to Do in Your Garden

Gardening Jobs in January/February/March

Prune Wisteria, cutting back summer side-shoots to 2 or 3 buds.

Prune rose bushes whilst they are dormant to just above an outward-facing bud, remove crossing or dead branches.

Plant bare root roses in a sunny position for spectacular summer colour.

Clip old foliage from ornamental grasses to within a few centimetres of the ground.

Cut down old stems of perennial plants like Sedum but be careful of any new growth.

Remove old Hellebore leaves to make the emerging blooms more visible in early spring.

Start chitting (sprouting) early potatoes - stand them on end in an egg box and place in a bright cool frost-free place

Begin pruning your apple trees and pear trees whilst they are dormant but avoid very frosty periods

Leave plums, cherries and apricots unpruned until the summer as pruning now will make them susceptible to silver leaf infections.

Prune blackcurrant bushes, gooseberries and redcurrants to maintain a productive framework.

Plant Amaryllis bulbs in pots for indoor flowers in early spring.

Avoid walking on your lawn when it is blanketed by heavy frost or snow, as this will damage it.

Check Dahlia tubers in storage, remove any that are showing signs of rotting.

Central heating can cause damage to indoor plants. Mist house plants regularly, stand them on a tray of pebbles filled with water to increase humidity.

Prune overwintered fuchsias back to one or two buds on each shoot.

On Winter Flowering Jasmine cut back previous years growth to 5cm from the old wood after flowering to encourage new growth

Prune winter flowering shrubs such as Mahonia and Viburnum x bodnantense after their colourful display has finished.

Remove faded flowers from winter pansies to stop them setting seed and encourage a flush of new flowers.

Lift and divide snowdrops whilst still 'in the green' if you want to move propagate them.

If you need to move deciduous trees or shrubs, now is the time to do it provided the soil is not frozen or waterlogged.

Plant Lilies and Allium bulbs.

Start sowing vegetable seeds such as leeks, onions and celeriac under cover.

What to Do in Your Garden

Prepare vegetable seed beds by removing all weeds and forking in plenty of compost. Cover prepared soil with sheets of black plastic to keep it drier and warmer in preparation for spring planting.

Cut autumn-fruiting raspberry canes to the ground to stimulate new canes, which will fruit in the autumn. Cut the tips of summer-fruiting raspberry canes that have grown beyond the top of their supports; cut just above a bud

Mulch fruit trees with well rotted manure or garden compost taking care not to mound mulch up around the trunk.

Soak sweet pea seeds in tepid water overnight before planting them, to speed up germination.

Alan Maskell

Alan Maskell looks after gardens in Tidmarsh and the RG8 area



Jobs need doing? Alan can help.

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Contact Alan
0118 984 5326
07954 140048
alanmaskell@hotmail.com

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Notes From The Sul

When I went down to the wood the other day I certainly had a surprise, even though I didn't find any teddy bears having a picnic. What I did find was a large orange digger. It was clearing a circular path, ready for a fence to keep the deer away from eating the regrowth of the struggling hazels: a continuing effect of the processionary oak moth saga. Apparently the fence will be there for three years, by which time the hazels will be able to survive the constant nibbling of the deer.



Funny looking teddy bear!

For the past few years I have been concerned that the crayfish may have died out from the brook during the last period of drought. I need not have worried. A couple of times this autumn remains of a crayfish were left on our lawn, probably by the grey heron who regularly visits us. Recently I saw a particularly large specimen making its way across the bed of the stream into a bed of water weed, so all's well.

For a few days in early November a small flock of five or six ravens flew overhead each evening, passing from west to east, noisily calling to each other with their distinctive "pruk-pruk". Were they off to the Tower of London to view the fabulous and most moving display of ceramic poppies? At much the same time, for a little while we were visited by a grey wagtail, easily identified by its grey back and yellow underside. Apparently grey wagtails like fast running streams. It is many years since we last saw one, so let us hope that now that the Sul brook is running properly they will return to breed here.

On a sunny but showery afternoon in mid-November I stopped to admire a full double rainbow. Just above the rainbow were 40 or 50 gulls circling tightly together, gaining height in a small thermal, their white coats brightly lit by the low sun. I certainly hadn't expected to see such a dramatic sight. It was really rather wonderful.

Oh come with me, quietly by the Sul

and let us see what we shall see

Richard Thomas

St Nicholas Church at Christmas

Young and old alike enjoyed the crib service held at St Nicholas. Children helped light the candles on the advent wreath and carried the holy family, animals and shepherds to the stable and finally helped to put decorations on the Christmas tree.

A week later the church was full again and looked beautiful for the candlelit Christingle service raising funds for the Children's Society.

On Christmas morning, again by candlelight, we welcomed 60 people for the lovely Lessons and Carol service led by Andrew; the collection from this service goes to help homeless people in Reading.

Thank you to the Sulham ladies who decorated the church so beautifully.

If you can spare time to help with church floral decorations in 2015 we would love your help.

Short friendly Family Services are held in St Nicholas on the third Sunday of every month at 11am, everyone is welcome. The service is followed by hot drinks and cakes.

Sulham Carols

This year 28 adults and children joined in singing carols to Sulham residents. Singers were welcomed in to the Alderton home for supper afterwards. The £190 collected will be donated to The Duchess of Kent House Hospice.

Walking group

If you would be interested in joining others for short healthy walks on a regular basis please email Gillian: alderton.boxcott@btinternet.com

Remembrance Service at St Nicholas

The Remembrance service, held on November 9th, was led this year by Brian Tims, who gave a thought-provoking and moving address remembering all those who died in the horror of WW1 and all those who have died in conflict since.

At the end of the service, the congregation remembered all lives lost as they stood together by the grave of Winifred Burtenshaw; a volunteer nurse who lived in Sulham and served as VAD until she died from injuries.

First world war memorabilia displayed in church included a slideshow of photographs taken during a recent visit to the battlefields of the Somme and War Graves by Edward and Karen Elliot. Karen also brought a collection of beautifully embroidered postcards sent home from the front to loved ones safe in England.

Other memorabilia on display were fragments of shell casings and a 'Dead Man's Penny', a bronze memorial plaque sent to the next of kin of all British or Empire service personnel who were killed as a result of war.

The collection from the service raised £57 for BLESMA, a national military charity that supports servicemen who have lost limbs or the use of limbs or eyesight whilst representing their country.

Restuarant Review

The Perch And Pike, South Stoke

Here is another place you should try. I can thoroughly recommend The Perch and Pike. It is really rather nice to find that it is still a local pub with comfortable bars within an attractive old building. The vibrant restaurant is in a modern barn extension carefully complementing the older areas.

Personally, I like the fact that the menu is not over-long as it should mean that the chef is really on top of things. However, that is not always entirely so. Out of the five starters (mostly at £7.95) Rosemary chose the goats cheese tart with rocket pesto, glazed figs and relish, and sunblushed tomato. But, is a circle of pastry with a slice of grilled cheese on top really a tart, why were the figs not glazed (there were three slices of unripe fig) and why weren't the cherry tomatoes blushing? Nevertheless the dish looked delicious and was duly pronounced so. My trio of bruschetta – tomato and basil, crushed pea feta and mint and smoked aubergine – was excellent and most attractively produced on a slate.

From the nine main courses offered, many of which sounded really interesting, Rosemary chose panfried seabass with chorizo, Romanesco sauce, white beans, shallots and toasted almonds (£15.95). Her only criticism was that the chorizo had been chopped into too small pieces with the result that in the cooking they had lost flavour and become hard. Otherwise, the dish was excellent and was very attractively produced. I thoroughly enjoyed my confit rabbit and pancetta pie with cider and cream, hot and sour red cabbage and sauté garlic potato (£14.50). So often I grumble that what is sold as a pie is simply something with a piece of pastry placed on top, but not here. This was a real pie, cleverly produced with a firm pastry holding the delicious rabbit and sealed by a puff pastry top. Rabbit ears of parsnip chips added an amusing touch. Well done indeed.

Let me here mention the wine. The list is not extensive but is interesting and reasonably priced. For £19.95 we had a really nice bottle of vin d'Oc called Le Sanglier de la Montaigne (wild boar of the mountain). Unusually for a French wine it came in a screw top bottle. That, the label in English and the fact that the wine tasted almost more of the New World rather than French seemed to show that it had been produced to suit English taste. It certainly ticked all the boxes for us.

We shouldn't have had a dessert after such a good meal, but I couldn't resist trying the sticky figgy pudding with vanilla ice cream (£6.50) and was pleased I did. The pudding was beautifully light but sticky, nicely sweet and delicious. It was also more than big enough for both of us!

It seems that I always try to find something to criticise when preparing these reports, but that is not really so. In a restaurant like The Perch and Pike, and when paying good (albeit reasonable) prices, one is entitled to expect a high standard. In reality that is what we found, but as my school reports often said "could do better". I am pleased to be able to recommend The Perch and Pike. Here you will get an excellent meal in attractive surroundings.

Richard Thomas

Restuarant Review



The Perch and Pike
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Parish Council News

Tidmarsh with Sulham Parish Council

Tidmarsh with Sulham Parish Council held the first meeting of the year recently. It seems that the work being undertaken around the village to relieve the flooding issues experienced last winter have, on the whole, been working well. There is a large amount of work planned to reinstate the bank and repair a sluice, which should further enhance the flood protection. The Parish Council has made a donation to BBOWT towards this work, but we are all grateful that it has agreed to pay the majority of the costs. Work will get under way as soon as the weather allows.

It was brought to our attention that the phone box in the village was available for adoption by the parish council for just £1. We have now set the wheels in motion to try to do this. It may take some time to finalise but we hope that we can now ensure the phone box stays in the village.

There were a number of planning applications discussed by the Parish Council lately. These include amendments to the IKEA plans, which see the building reduced to just two floors. The council had no objections but did raise concerns over the reduction in the number of parking spaces and the loss of the walkway.

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Whitchurch Bridge Update

For reasons that we have explained previously the cost of reconstructing Whitchurch Bridge was significantly higher than expected, and because of this the Whitchurch Bridge Company needs to increase the Class 1 Toll from 40p to 60p.

There is a legal process to be gone through before the Tolls can be increased – the Tolls are regulated and any increase has to be justified by the Company and approved by the Secretary of State for Transport.

We submitted a Toll Application in November. The Public Consultation period ended on 2nd January 2015. The Department for Transport (DfT) received some objections, so we are expecting that it will ask the Planning Inspectorate – part of the Department for Communities and Local Government – to arrange a Public Inquiry at which the Company and the objectors can put forward their respective cases to an independent Inspector. The Company will ensure that, in its evidence, it addresses all the points put forward by the objectors.

We expect the Public Inquiry will take place locally, hopefully in Pangbourne, in late Spring 2015. We will publicise the date and location on our website as soon as we can. Being a Public Inquiry anyone may attend. The Planning Inspectorate will contact objectors directly with details of how they can participate.

The DfT normally receives the Inspector's Report within 2 months of the Public Inquiry. This Report, with an accompanying submission from civil servants, is then put to DfT Ministers for a decision (note that this will be after the General Election). If the Toll Application is approved a Toll Order is prepared by DfT civil servants, approved by lawyers, registered with the National Archives at Kew and then sent to the Company.

The Company must receive this Toll Order before it can increase the Tolls. Based on our experience when we last applied for a Toll increase in 2008 we are not expecting any increase in Tolls to be approved before September 2015.

We regret that a Toll increase is necessary. Bridge users can be assured that the Secretary of State will only approve the increase if he/she believes it to be justified on the facts.

Finally, may I thank you for the courtesy shown to our Toll Collectors, who do their best to collect the Tolls efficiently and good-humouredly.

Geoff Weir

Company Secretary, the Whitchurch Bridge Company

www.whitchurchbridge.com

Village Round-Up

Tidmarsh with Sulham Village Hall

A Happy New Year to all residents of Tidmarsh with Sulham.

2015 will see the traditional village hall events continue.

Events this year will include a skittles evening, plant sale, quiz night and the childrens' Christmas party. Do look out for notices about these. On the first Friday of each month there is also a community walk followed by a coffee morning, both events enjoyed by those who attend and open to all.

If you have an idea for a community event that can be hosted by the Village Hall or you would like to join the committee to help organise existing ones please contact chairman Alan Maskell on 0118 984 5326 .

To book the hall please contact the booking secretary Denise Randall on 07745 243097 or by email at tidmarshvillagehall@hotmail.com. You can also contact us via Facebook. Please like our page.

100 club

As we have stated in the last edition 2014 was a record year for 100 club ticket sales. Additional draws will have been made to reflect this. At the time of his article being submitted, the following draws had been made:

September	1st	£25	Miriam Kennett	Tidmarsh
	2nd	£15	John Butler	Tidmarsh
	3rd	£10	Fiona Lindsey	Tidmarsh
October	1st	£25	Bill Evans	Tidmarsh
	2nd	£15	Jean Boatman	Tidmarsh
	3rd	£10	Wendy Cheer	Tidmarsh
November	1st	£25	Mike Hall	Tidmarsh
	2nd	£15	Cathy Tucker	Tidmarsh
	3rd	£10	Valerie Worsley	Tidmarsh
December	1st	£25	Steve Webb	Sulham
	2nd	£15	John Haggarty	Sulham
	3rd	£10	Jean Boatman	Tidmarsh

Please listen out for your doorbell as more winnings are delivered.

Where is This?

Do you recognise it?



The answer to last issue's "Where is This?"

When viewing the gravestone of Winifred Burtenshaw in the southern part of the churchyard of St Nicholas, look up to see the splendidly handsome clock on the garage block to Sulham House. The clock faces over the churchyard toward the estate's workers in the former workshops at Sulham Farm. It would also have been easily visible to the many rectors on their way to and from the vestry. The rectors were usually members of the Wilder family, the owners of the house and farm. No doubt the clock ensured that services always started on time!

Things to Do

West Berkshire Countryside Society Diary

Events Diary Feb – Mar 2015

The events below give you the opportunity to come out on practical tasks, learn new skills, meet new people and, above all, enjoy yourself. The tasks usually begin around 10am and finish by 3pm but you are very welcome to come for as much time as you wish to give during these hours. Please wear suitable footwear and clothing, and bring a packed lunch if you are coming for the full day. Hot drinks are usually provided, as are the necessary tools.

For further information please see the website – www.westberkscountryside.org.uk.

February 2015

Tue-03-Feb 10.00 a.m. Bucklebury Common Heathland management.

Help maintain this important heathland habitat. Park at the crossroads at Carbins Wood Lane SU556 691

Tue-10-Feb 10.00 a.m. Herridges Copse, Home Farm, Sulham. RG8 8DT SU642 759

Protecting cut hazel stools from deer browsing. Parking – details to be confirmed.

Sat-14-Feb 10.30 a.m. – 1.00 p.m. Bucklebury Common Heathland management

Join the Bucklebury Heathland Group to help maintain this important heathland habitat. Meet at Angels Corner SU550 688

Sun-15-Feb 2.30 p.m. 'Identifying Trees in Winter'.

A short 2km – 2 hour stroll. There is one modest hill. Meet at Hermitage Church SU507 729. Join Charles Gilchrist to find out how to identify trees in winter. Car share if possible – parking space is limited along the roadside

Tue-17-Feb 10.00 a.m. Furze Hill, Hermitage SU 512 740

Coppicing and scrub clearing Parking to be advised – building the new village hall is underway.

Tue-24-Feb 10.00 a.m. Boxford Water Meadow. Westbrook SU 427 716.

Water meadow management on site #1. Coppicing, felling and scrub clearance. Park in the access strip to the main field. This lies on Westbrook, Boxford about 150 yards on the right between 2 houses.

March 2015

Tue-03-Mar 10.00 a.m. Ashampstead Common. Veteran Tree Halo Polishing. SU5765 7512

Help us maintain the glades that help our veterans prosper. We will be cutting back bracken and bramble and small saplings. Meet at The Cottage, Ashampstead Common. SU5765 7512

Sun-08-Mar 10.30 a.m – 1.00 p.m. Bucklebury Common Heathland management

Join the Bucklebury Heathland Group to help maintain this important heathland habitat. Meet at Angels Corner SU550 688

Things to Do

Tue-10-Mar 10.00 a.m. The Malt House, West Woodhay. SU 395 637 Site maintenance

If you wish to enjoy the delicious lunch prepared for us by The Malt House please confirm your attendance by e-mail to tonyjmcDonald@btinternet.com by Friday 6th March

Tue-17-Mar 10.00 a.m. The Malt House, West Woodhay. SU 395 637 Site maintenance

If you wish to enjoy the delicious lunch prepared for us by The Malt House please confirm your attendance by e-mail to tonyjmcDonald@btinternet.com by Friday 13th March

Tue-24-Mar 10.00 a.m. Winterbourne Woods SU 451 719

Clearing invasive laurel from area round the pond. Park in layby in front of Winterbourne Church

Tue-31-Mar 10.00 a.m. Rushall Farm SU 584 723

Woodland management. Meet at the Black Barn off Back Lane between Stanford Dingley and Bradfield.

Silver Surfers Inspire 4 Life

"It's Never Too Late to Learn Computer Skills"

How many of you have made New Year resolutions and never got round to keeping them – you may have decided to develop computer skills or improve the skills you already have, well this is your opportunity to get started.

Silver Surfers Inspire 4 Life is a project run by volunteers to help people aged over 50 develop these skills. We are based at The Barn, Goosecroft Lane, off Beech Road, Purley on Thames RG8 8DR where we are fortunate to have excellent facilities and ample free parking spaces. We meet on a Thursday morning with 2 sessions being held, the first from 10am to 11am and the second from 11.30am to 12.30pm. Each session has a lead instructor; however you will have your individual instructor sitting next to you to show you the way.

Courses include Absolute Beginners', Beginners' Refresher, Word, Taking control of your computer, and for those of you who enjoy photography, an introduction to Digital Photography and for the more advanced PhotoShop.

If you are still not sure why not pop down and see us on a Thursday morning; there will always be an instructor available to show you round.

For details of courses available throughout 2015 we can be contacted on 07743 293165 and we will get back to you, or alternatively you can email us on course@inspire4life.me.uk

Look forward to hearing from you

Geoff Chivers

Chair

Silver Surfers Inspire 4 Life

Local People

Doreen Denis

In 1992 we had no organist for our services at St Laurence, Tidmarsh. A neighbour of Doreen's suggested that we ask Doreen; the recommendation was that she could play Jerusalem at the WI! After 'trying out' the organ, Doreen agreed to take on the job. This was the beginning of a wonderful twenty years or more of Doreen's involvement in the life of St. Laurence Church.

A short while later our chief flower arranger moved from the village. Doreen quickly saw that there was no one with the necessary skills to take over this role. Soon she was masterminding the music and the flowers. Her expertise and generosity knew no bounds. Week by week we had the most beautiful arrangements of flowers. At festivals (Christmas, Easter and Harvest) Doreen organised those of us with limited talents in floral art to decorate the window sills. All the materials were provided to complete the task; it became known as decorating by numbers. Whatever our shortcomings Doreen was always encouraging and over the years we have grown in confidence.

Several flower festivals were organised; there was no shortage of wonderful, creative ideas and valuable funds were raised for the church.

Doreen was always very generous with her time; she regularly rehearsed a small group of instrumentalists who have enhanced our worship in the last few years. She gave her time unstintingly to develop the skills of these musicians and when thanked always remarked, "The pleasure is all mine!"

In 2003 when we took over the leadership of the monthly Family Service, Doreen was a vital part of the team. Not only did she provide lovely music but she and her husband Pierre produced fantastic visual aids for the talk.

Epiphany was always celebrated by a drama incorporating carols for everyone to sing. All the children, however young (or old) had parts. Doreen wrote the play, produced and directed it and provided the most amazing costumes and props.

The Family Service at the beginning of November 2014 was a celebration of Doreen's time with us at St Laurence. It was a very moving service with lots of sharing of memories. There was much laughter and of course some tears. The children arrived with poems, a letter, photographs, a drawing and an inscription in a hymn book which Doreen had given to one of her musicians as a confirmation present. These items were all shared with and appreciated by the congregation.

Doreen was a very special person who not only touched our lives but enriched them greatly. Always cheerful and unselfish, she shared her many gifts with us and enhanced our worship. To the whole congregation of St Laurence Church Doreen became a much loved friend to whom we will always be grateful and whose memory we shall always cherish.

Jennifer Nutt and Julia Sheppard



Doreen Denis (centre)

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Local People

Welcome!

A huge welcome to Charles & Wilma Grant who moved into Little Paddocks (next to St Lawrence Church) the week before Christmas. Wilma is very active within the local churches and plays the organ regularly. We look forward to seeing even more of them!



And....

Farewell!

To our lovely postman Martin (pictured left). Martin is well known and loved as our regular postman in the villages and we are sorry to lose him to Checkendon.

He has promised to continue to attend our village fetes and we look forward to seeing him then.

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Pangbourne and District Volunteer Centre
Mon-Fri (ex Tue) 9:30-11:30 am 0118 984 4586

Ecclesiastical

Priest-in-Charge of Pangbourne with Tidmarsh and Sulham
Revd Heather Parbury 0118 984 2928

Church Wardens
Julia Sheppard 0118 956 1820
Jill Palfrey 0118 984 2698

Parochial Church Council

Tidmarsh Representatives
Susan Worthington 0118 984 2937
Valentina Britten Holden 0118 984 4912
Janice Proud

Sulham Representatives
Gill Haggarty 0118 984 4122
Gillian Alderton 0118 984 2729
Judith Sumner

Friends of St Laurence
Jon Chishick, Chairman 0118 984 3666
John Butler, Secretary & Treasurer 0118 984 2621

Government

MP for Reading West
Alok Sharma (Conservative) 0118 945 4881

Councillors for the Purley on Thames Ward
Tim Metcalfe (Conservative) 0118 942 8001
David Betts (Conservative) 0118 967 8280

Tidmarsh with Sulham Parish Councillors
Mike Broun (chairman) 0118 984 3114
Steve Webb (vice chairman) 0118 984 4194
Jon Chishick 0118 984 3666
John Haggarty 0118 984 4122
Colin Pawson 0118 984 2619
Jonathan Pearson 0118 984 4837

Libraries

Pangbourne 0118 984 4117
Newbury 01635 519 900

Village Hall Committee

Alan Maskell 0118 984 5326
Denise Randell (bookings) 07745 243079
Emergency Contact 07954 140048

West Berkshire District Council

Main switchboard 01635 42400
Streetcare 01635 519080
Planning applications 01635 519111

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Local Information

Medical

The Boathouse Surgery

Whitchurch Rd, Pangbourne 0118 984 2234

NHS Direct 0845 46 47

Berkshire West Primary Care Trust

Reading office 0118 950 3094

West Berkshire office (Newbury) 01635 42400

Parish Magazine Committee

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Rainbows, Helen Randall 0163548765

Brownies, Clare Pincock 0118 984 4286

Guides, Helen Randall 01635 48765

Rangers, Helen Randall 01635 48765

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Rail Travel

First Great Western 08457 000 125

National Rail Enquiries 08457 48 49 50

TrainTracker (train times/fares) 0871 200 49 50

Bus Travel

DJ Travel (Tidmarsh Fri Service) 0118 933 3725

Reading Buses 0118 9594000

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Thames Travel 01491 837988

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