

# Tidmarsh with Sulham Parish Magazine



May/June 2013



(Est 1966)

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When I wrote in last issue “will it ever stop raining” I thought it would be very out of date by the time the magazine hit the letterboxes. How wrong I was. The rain just kept on coming and we really got to see how the land and water courses handled the relentless rain over a prolonged period. We had a visit from Anop Gehlot, the Project Engineer at West Berks who is responsible for land drainage, and we walked (well waded actually) through the waterlogged fields and he will be writing to all landowners who have water courses running through their property asking for them to be cleared of vegetation and the build up of silt in and under drainage pipes to ensure the free flow of water away from the land and on into the main rivers. I am sure everyone who has been affected by the lying water will be grateful for this and we will have to see if it helps.

There was a meeting held in Pangbourne Village Hall on 2 April to discuss the recent flooding and Margaret Pawson kindly attended; she has provided a report on the meeting and the actions that were tabled in this issue.

One upside to the water lying along Mill Lane was the amazing sight of the water being splashed up onto the bushes and fencing which, due to the freezing temperatures, froze and provided us with a very pretty icicles! I have never seen this before but it looked spectacular! Richard Thomas captured it on camera (as I know did many others).



*A Glorious Balmy Spring? Perhaps not.  
This picture of Mill Lane, taken on 25 March by Richard Thomas, surely speaks for itself!  
Let's hope summer makes up for it.*

# Editorial

Enough about the rain and the problems this has caused many of us over the past few months. We have another packed issue this month with some great articles. Gillian and John Alderton rode the Cape Argus Bike Ride in early March and I just happened to be in Cape Town the week before, so saw for myself the extremely hilly course they covered. I take my hat off to them – the scenery is breathtaking but pedalling up those hills – well it's not for the faint-hearted! Well done to both of them!

A couple of pleas this issue – firstly it would be great to have any village photographs you take on your travels to use for the front cover of the magazine (portrait please), and – if anyone would like to volunteer to distribute the magazine – we still have a few areas where we are not covered and villagers are missing out!

Deadline for articles, photographs, notices and advertisements for the next issue is the 1st June! Please let me know if you are unable to achieve this deadline as we may be able to save space to ensure your article/notice is included!

*Jenny Cope* – Editor

[jenny@candcsystems.co.uk](mailto:jenny@candcsystems.co.uk)

Cover photograph: *Courtesy of Mark Farrington*

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## Councillors' News

Councillors have been busy arranging for a new gate on footpath number one recently. The footpath is being cleared of all overgrowing vegetation too and a dog bin will be installed at the end shortly, making it a safe, enjoyable place to walk. A second dog bin is also being installed by the kissing gate at the end of Tidmarsh Footpath 5 on Tidmarsh Lane. Can we please take the opportunity to remind all dog owners to use the bins, as there have been recent reports of increasing amounts of dog mess on the footpaths.

Councillors held a rather quiet Annual Assembly in March. This is an annual meeting, usually held every March, to update parishioners on the work of the council and the district council. It also gives parishioners the chance to ask any questions of the councillors. Unfortunately attendance is always very low so please look out for the notices next year and come along to say hello.

## Tree-felling on the Millennium Green !

*(that should attract your attention)*

Following concerns of the Trustees about the condition of several of the trees in the line parallel to the main road, the West Berkshire Council Tree Officer carried out an assessment of all the trees. His subsequent report is thorough, identifying any work necessary on each of the forty-one trees and allocating an appropriate priority.

Alarming, four trees are in the highest, urgent, category and need to be felled within one month. These are all horse-chestnuts displaying signs of bleeding canker. Replacements will be planted. Twenty-six trees require either severe pruning, in some cases to clear cables, or the removal of substantial amounts of dead wood. This work is deemed high priority to be carried out within three months. The Trustees are now obtaining quotations for the work.

All of which means that over the next few months you will see substantial arboreal work on the Millennium Green.

*Trustees of Tidmarsh Millennium Green*

## Planning Committee

Tidmarsh with Sulham Parish Council held a planning committee meeting in April, to discuss the application for a permanent dwelling for an equine worker at Eaglesfield, Tidmarsh; application number 13/00456. Eight parishioners attended the meeting to voice their views on the application. Councillors resolved to object to the application on a number of grounds, including the fact that it is important to maintain the strategic gap between Tidmarsh and Pangbourne; there is scepticism over the business viability and the council believes the dwelling is disproportionate to the stated needs of an equine worker.

Sarah Bosley, Parish Clerk T: 07974 655210 E: parish\_clerk@hotmail.co.uk

# Parish News

## Flooding

A meeting was held at Pangbourne Village Hall on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April to discuss the problems with flooding in and around the Pangbourne area – Margaret Pawson kindly attended and has provided the following report...

The meeting was chaired by our MP – Alok Sharma – with members of West Berkshire Council and the Environment Agency on the panel to answer questions.

The meeting was crowded with a good representation from Tidmarsh and Sulham

Four main issues came out of the meeting.

### 1. Insurance; Accessing Data

Many people were suffering from high premiums and swingeing excesses, some of whom had not even been flooded. They were unable to get from the Environment Agency the assurances asked for by the companies. It was obvious from the floor some companies were better than others.

### 2. Status of Sulham Brook

Joyce Ayert was most concerned because she had rung the Environment Agency when a large tree had come down in the river to be told Sulham Brook was no longer a main water course, thus not the EA's responsibility.

### 3. Clearance of Weed and Silt From the River

I raised the issue of a conflicting situation for Riparian owners; it is our responsibility to keep the waterways clear but if we touched them we face prosecution by the EA. Julia Simpson from the EA prevaricated a lot! She also tried to give the impression that getting permission from the EA is easy.

Stuart Clark from WBC explained that they were responsible for all the drainage ditches and would be working with the landowners this summer to get these cleared.

In summing up the meeting Alok Sharma asked for the following:

1. Pamela Bale (Pangbourne and WBC) to organise a meeting with residents to share information and best practice around insurance problems also Julia Simpson to clarify the accessing data problem; it must be made easier for people to contact the correct people in the EA
2. Julia Simpson will confirm the status of Sulham Brook
3. Julia Simpson will explain how Riparian owners can do simple clearance of weeds and silt from main water courses (the Pang and the Sulham Brook).

I thought it a well run meeting with, hopefully, positive outcomes.

*Margaret Pawson*

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# Village Hall News

The village hall is a local resource for hire to organisations and individuals with priority for residents of Tidmarsh with Sulham. A variety of activities take place at the village hall ranging from toddler dance lessons to adult fitness; art class, model boats, table tennis and martial arts are some of the other activities taking place there.

Coffee Mornings are usually held at the hall on the first Friday of the month from 11am to 12noon.

This year's plant sale will be on Saturday 5 May from 10.00am to 12.00. A selection of good quality plants from a local nursery will be on sale.

Local residents are welcome to join the committee which aims to maintain the hall and arrange social and other events throughout the year.

## Christmas Party

Each Christmas the Village Hall committee makes the hall available to parents in the village to hold a children's party. A Santa Claus can also be provided. Please contact the village hall booking secretary if you have children and would like to participate in organising the party. Last year it did not run because the parents who coordinate the party moved away.

To book the hall please contact the booking secretary Denise Randall on 0118 326 6138 or by email at [tidmarshvillagehall@hotmail.com](mailto:tidmarshvillagehall@hotmail.com).

## Hiring the Village Hall

The Tidmarsh with Sulham Village Hall is available for hire. For information on availability and cost of hire, please contact the Bookings Secretary, Denise Randall on 0118 326 6138 or by email at [tidmarshvillagehall@hotmail.com](mailto:tidmarshvillagehall@hotmail.com)

## Skittles Night At Village Hall

On 16 March a crowd of mainly Tidmarsh residents had a fun evening competing at skittles. Friendships were thrust aside as three wooden balls were repeatedly hurtled down the alley in a cut throat competition. A team from Manor Farm Lane won the team event while the individual knock out event was won by Village Hall chair Peter King. A raffle and an ample buffet supper topped the evening.

Players ranged from 5 years to 60 plus and included a strong teenage effort. This family event is highly recommended so keep your eyes peeled for next year's skittles evening date.



*Winning team Tidmarsh Southenders  
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# Village Hall News

## Dates ...

### ... for your diary

#### Hall of Sound

Last Friday of the month, Pangbourne Village Hall, tickets on the door £4.  
BYO drinks.

#### Coffee Mornings at Tidmarsh Village Hall

These are usually held on the first Friday of the month from 11am to 12noon.

#### Village Walk

There is a village walk that takes place prior to the Coffee Morning (weather permitting). Meet up outside the hall at 9.30am. All welcome, including well-behaved dogs. Next date is Friday 3rd May.

### ... and at a glance

|          |                        |                                      |
|----------|------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 3 May    | Village Walk           | Meet at Village Hall at 9.30am       |
| 3 May    | Coffee Morning         | Village Hall starting at 11am        |
| 5 May    | Plant Sale             | Tidmarsh Village Hall 10-12noon      |
| 17 May   | Guided Farm Walk       | Meet Sulham Farmhouse at 2pm         |
| 26 May   | Guided Walk            | Moor Copse – 2pm opp Tidmarsh Grange |
| 7 June   | Village Walk           | Meet at Village Hall at 9.30am       |
| 7 June   | Coffee Morning         | Village Hall starting at 11am        |
| 16 June  | Garden Open            | Fran Wakefield, Tithe Barn 2-5pm     |
| 5 July   | Village Walk           | Meet at Village Hall at 9.30am       |
| 5 July   | Coffee Morning         | Village Hall starting at 11am        |
| 21 July  | Green Day              | Tidmarsh Church                      |
| 27 July  | Englefield Flower Show | Englefield Estate                    |
| 3 August | Annual Village Fayre   | Sulham House                         |



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# Gardening

## Gardening in May and June

Unseasonal cold weather has meant a delayed spring, but hopefully April has been warmer. As a result plants may have sprung into life and weeds shooting up all over the place. Traditional May activities may be deferred, so please use judgement when following these tips.

### Things to do in May

The swathes of daffodils and snowdrops have passed but don't be tempted to cut or tie up the leaves yet – instead allow maximum exposure of leaves to sun and feed them with Tomorite or similar high potash fertiliser for next year flowering.

Harden off semi hardy plants such as begonias, bizzzy lizzies and canna lilies by leaving outside during the day and taking inside overnight for 7 – 10 days. Divide hostas and hardy perennials to increase your stock and promote growth. Also take cuttings of pelargoniums (geraniums), fuchsia and hardy perennials; pot up in a warm, sheltered position. Be persistent with weeding as weeds will use up water, light and nutrients. Now is the time to feed, water and top dress pots and containers to provide nourishment. Hanging baskets should be planted and hardened off or kept indoors if a danger of frost.

Prune spring flowering shrubs such as forsythia and viburnum – pruning later may remove flower buds. Cut back flowering shoots of Choisya to provide a second flowering. Clip evergreen hedges. Use 8ft (2.4m) bamboo canes to make supports for your runner beans. Support your pea plants with twiggy sticks or pea netting. Thin out directly sown seeds and harden off indoor grown vegetables.

Netting around your soft fruit plants will help prevent birds eating your crop. Surround strawberries with straw to protect fruit. Keep centre clear and regularly check the centre of your gooseberry bushes for green gooseberry sawfly caterpillars who will happily strip the leaves if left unchecked.

Apply weedkiller and feed your lawn with a high nitrogen fertiliser to encourage healthy green growth. You can still seed bare patches in early May. Keep well watered. Weed and thin out plants in ponds; leave next to pond for a day to allow insects to return to water.

### Things to do in June

Lift and divide overgrown clumps of snowdrops and bluebells and other bulbs as leaves yellow. Plant out summer bedding once risk of frost has gone. Keep newly planted trees and shrubs well watered. . Stake tall or floppy perennial plants to prevent wind damage. Pinch out tips of fuschias to encourage bushing out, keep





picking sweet peas to encourage more blooms. Cut back hardy geraniums and poppies that have flowered to encourage new foliage and flowers.

Water your containers and baskets well in hot weather. Start to feed them with a balanced liquid fertiliser every 2 to 4 weeks. Water the soil rather than the plants and make 'ponds' around individual plants so that the water can really soak in and support plants for 14 days; merely wetting the surface wastes water, encourages weeds and can lead to surface rooting making the plants more vulnerable.

Pinch out any side shoots from your tomato plants and feed once the first truss is setting fruit. You can pot up the side-shoots to create new tomato plants. Harvest salad crops and resow every 2 weeks for a constant supply of tasty leaves. Harvest onions and garlic when leaves yellow and die back. Plant runner beans by sowing directly in the ground.

Although fruit trees will naturally shed some fruit (called the 'June drop'), aim to thin out congested branches further for bigger and better fruits. Start to prune your plum or cherry trees.

*Alan Maskell*



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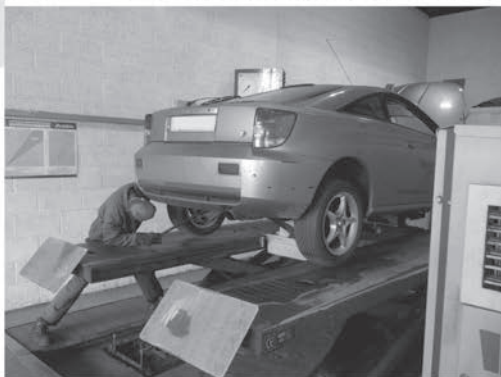
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## Purley Horticultural Society

### 35th AGM

This took place on Wednesday, 20 February in Purley Memorial Hall. It was well attended and Paul Humphreys was re-elected as Chairman. After the official business had been completed, members participated in a Quiz organized by Wendy Chapman followed by a "Bring & Share Buffet".

### Talks

On Wednesday, 20 March, Paul Patton gave the Society a very interesting talk on "Show-time". He also had some lovely slides of behind the scenes at Chelsea, including the Royal visitors. I found it very interesting and hope all our visitors enjoyed the evening.

### Coach Trips

We hope to visit Waddesdon Manor in July.

### Plant Sale

This will take place on Saturday, 11 May in Purley Memorial Hall car park from 9.00-11.30am.

### Plant Trough Competition "Flaming June". Saturday, 8 June

Entries to be at Trading Store by 11.00am, Judging at 12noon, Public viewing from 1.30pm in Memorial Hall car park. Troughs to be of a transportable size. There will also be a Plant Swop on the same day. Plants must be at the Trading Store at 1pm ready for swop at 1.30pm

### Trading

The store in the Memorial Hall car park is now open. Opening hours are 10.00am-11.00am every Saturday and Sunday until the end of October, also Wednesdays(March to June) from 5.00-7.00pm. If you wish to put in a Sutton's seed order, please contact Margaret Rolfe on 941 7247 for more details about discounts. Membership of the Society is only £2 and garden supplies can be purchased at certain nurseries (list in trading store). Membership subscriptions for 2013 are now due.

### R.H.S.

As an affiliated Society we hold a card that provides entry for paid up members to the R.H.S. Gardens at Wisley, Rosemoor, Harlow Carr & Hyde Hall for one member and one guest at a special rate. If you require further information or would like the card, please contact Wendy Chapman on 9429067.

If you would like more information on the Society's activities you can visit the Purley-on-Thames website, [www.purleyonthames.org.uk/Phs](http://www.purleyonthames.org.uk/Phs).

Happy and successful gardening in 2013.

*Marion Dabbs, 942 2349*



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# Notes from a Very Small Holding

It's weaner time again! You will not be surprised to hear that they have been moved this year because of the flooding.

Jerry has done a sterling job relocating posts, arks, feeders, drinkers etc. He has spent virtually every dry day putting up yet more fencing.

Because the new 'pig site' has a secure external fence we are penning them differently this year. They are in electric fence pens. They should respect the electric wire and usually they do..... When the Berkshires were installed into their allotted pen we had a '*Great Escape*' moment. The largest one, who will now be known as Steve McQueen, took one look at Jerry's lovingly constructed pen and popped out between two wires. He was off like a rocket up to the farthest part of the paddock with – yes, you have guessed it – both of us in hot pursuit! He was eventually herded back towards the pen and luckily popped back in using the exact same method he had used when he had popped out. The answer to this was to hastily add another wire so reducing the gap. Needless to say, the 'new improved' wiring style has been employed for the subsequent pens and I am pleased to say that we have had no breakouts since!

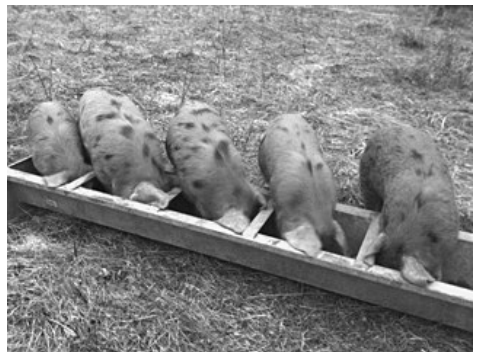
We have trialed a new product (well, only on friends and family) ... we are now making our own chorizo. It is good (even though I say so myself) if a little piquant, so the next batch will be using sweet pimenton (roasted paprika) instead of hot. Last year's air-dried hams are looking good too so will have to take a good look at those soon. We have increased our range of dried and cured goods by 100% in the last year – not a bad figure for a tiny kitchen. It may be that we will have some to sell soon.

The hog roast is this year's task to master, again on friends and family (up till now quite willing guinea pigs) before unleashing our talents at next year's fete.

The ewes are looking good. They should start lambing in the third week in April. In readiness for the big moment I have recently spent a couple of days on a commercial sheep farm working in the lambing sheds. A fantastic experience, I learnt a great deal and feel more confident for when our girls lamb. It would be nice to think that the weather will be better by then.

Elsewhere, the vegetable garden is a little behind schedule. The onions, garlic and shallots I planted last autumn are looking good but my track record with tomato seed germination is poor. As I have a couple of 'Heritage Varieties' to try out I feel I should at least make the effort! I may hedge my bets and give some to a friend who only has to look at a seed to make it germinate!

*Cathy Tucker*





# Restaurant Review

## The Crooked Billet, Stoke Row

I should perhaps be embarrassed that this is the third time I have reviewed **The Crooked Billet**, but I am not, for here is surely the best meal near to Tidmarsh and Sulham. As Rosemary remarked when halfway through her main course “I don’t know why we bother to go anywhere else”: praise indeed; thoroughly deserved.

For lunch we were offered a choice of six starters and six main courses, every one of which we would have been very happy to have, for the fixed-price £15.95. The same can (almost) be said of the six desserts, all at £5. At these prices excellence goes hand-in-hand with real value for money.

Rosemary started with the best mussel dish either of us have ever had.



*The best mussel dish we have ever had!*

Delicious big juicy mussels were beautifully presented and served in a green coconut, coriander and chilli broth. It was amazing how the flavour of coconut was followed by that of coriander and only then chilli kicking in, but gently. This was cooking at the very highest level. My crispy fried herring roes were served on toast with parsley/lemon/caper nut brown butter. Excellent: really tasty, albeit I was bettered by Rosemary’s outstanding mussels.

I am not a vegetarian, but for the main course chose an Imam Bayaldi (who he?) – baked aubergine with shallot and pine nuts, baba ganouj (again, who he?) aubergine fritters with a fennel and pomegranate tzatziki salad. It was really tasty, interesting and beautifully presented. Rosemary thoroughly enjoyed her bourguignon of rabbit braised in Burgundy with lardons, baby onions and button mushrooms, served with parsley mash and young carrots. Her only slight disappointment was that the rabbit appeared to have been farmed rather than its cousin, the more gamey free-range organic cony.

## Restaurant Review

For dessert Rosemary's luck held good with a dish of warm coconut and lemongrass rice pudding under burnt sugar, served with mango ice cream: again truly delicious. Unhappily, I didn't do so well and have to record a disappointment. The Waterloo cheesecake (Waterloo being the name of that particular cheese) was served on watercress and with a small kilner jar of pickled fruit and vegetables. This should have been a splendid alternative way to serve cheese, but we both felt that the cheesecake was too heavy, both in appearance and in the mouth. What a pity.

Don't let my last few words put you off. If you want a really good meal The Crooked Billet is undoubtedly the place to go round here. The cooking is superb and the friendliness and warmth (both physical and metaphorical) are to the same high standard. At £15.95 for two lunchtime courses, with desserts only £5 more, you really shouldn't stint yourself. If you have to go in the evening you will pay quite a bit more. Why not go the whole hog and go on an occasional Tuesday when for only an extra £10 you will be entertained by top-class musicians. You may need to book well in advance.

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# Sulham and Tidmarsh Book Club

## *Wolf Hall* by Hilary Mantell

Hilary Mantell's *Wolf Hall* is told from the perspective of Thomas Cromwell. The story is based around Henry VIII's divorce from Catherine of Aragon and his marriage to Anne Boleyn' which caused the split from Rome and is familiar to most people from school history lessons.

It has clearly been well researched and the story is interesting, but sadly most book club members did not enjoy this read as we found it hard to follow. The author's style of writing dialogue makes it difficult at times to know who is speaking. We all admitted to having to re-read sections, turning back pages to try to understand who was saying what. This took away from the enjoyment of reading.

Having said that, one book club member loved it and as it won awards, clearly so did many others!

## *The Hundred Year Old Man Who Climbed out of the Window* by Jonas Jonasson

This book is as memorable as the title. It is very amusing and incredibly clever. Historians will love it as it cleverly weaves details of many major historical conflicts through the 100 year old man's life. His attitude to life is what is so appealing and a few of us agreed that it was the sort of book you could reread and enjoy all over again because there is so much to it you would probably find new details and laugh all over again.

This book definitely got our thumbs up and we have recommended it to many other friends.

## Future Reads

*The Last Runaway* by Tracey Chevalier will be reviewed on May 15 at Shelton Farm, Tidmarsh.

*The Woman Who Went To Bed For A Year* by Sue Townsend will be reviewed on June 26 at Garden House, Sulham.

*Beach Café* by Lucy Diamond and *The Kashmir Shawl* by Rosie Thomas will be reviewed on September 18 at Box Cottage, Sulham.

# 2013 Fete

## This Year's Fete

Thank you to everyone who has already volunteered to help out at this year's Fete. If there is anyone who has not been asked but would like to be involved either in running a stall or helping with teas, manning the gate or greeting people in church or helping with the flower and art festival please contact either Gill Haggarty 9844122, Gillian Alderton 984 2729 or Pauline Ross 984 5432 or email [alderton@boxcott.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:alderton@boxcott.fsnet.co.uk)

If you have items to donate you can contact any of the above or bring them on the morning of the fete.

We are always grateful for any contributions; all the profits from The Fete go towards keeping the two village churches going.

Plants or produce.

Cakes, for the cake stall and the tea tent.

Bottles.

Books.

DVDs and videos.

Toys.

Small prizes for the lucky dip.

Bric a Brac.

Raffle prizes.

Homemade food promises for the gourmet gamble.

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**Mark Chappell on 07778 794453**

or email: [mark@pemberley.me.uk](mailto:mark@pemberley.me.uk)



# Adventurers

## Sulham residents take on Cape Argus challenge.

In December 2012 John and Gillian Alderton from Sulham decided with cycling friends from Pangbourne to take on the challenge of the Cape Argus Pick and Pay Cycle Tour. Known as The Argus, this annual event held in Cape Town is a bike race for professional and amateur cyclists that follows a hilly circular 109 km route around the Cape peninsula.

As the race date of March 10 got closer the enormity of the event began to sink in. Very limited training took place as work commitments and freezing weather in the UK in the months before the race took their toll.

We arrived with our bikes at Cape Town international airport, rented a van and installed ourselves in a lovely old Cape Dutch house in Constantia, a wine-land suburb of Cape Town. This was our base as we prepared for the ride, making forays into the beautiful surrounding countryside to practice some of the Argus route and to enjoy the spectacular scenery. Frequent restaurant stops and visits to vineyards for tasting sessions helped us up the hills.

Cycle training stopped three days prior to the event and we visited Cape Town and the peninsula to enjoy the many attractions it has to offer.

On race day we arranged for two Cape Town 'Magic Bus' minibuses to take us and our bikes to the start point in central Cape Town. With others in the 'JJ' international group, we stood nervously and waited in holding pens for our start time of 7.56 am to come round.

The Argus attracts over 35,000 cyclists each year to attempt the closed road route and there had been much trepidation about the number of people taking part and how close together riders would be. We need not have worried, the organisation was superb, we set off exactly on time and there was room for everyone to cycle safely. Another anxiety had been the 'Cape Doctor', the wind that Cape Town is famous for. It blows away malarial mosquitos and keeps the Cape air clean and fresh, but it is also often strong enough to blow you off your bike ... we had experienced this in full force in the days pre-race! Sure enough it was blowing quite hard as we set off, but it did not worsen as we progressed and actually served to keep hard-working riders cool.

The male contingent set off at speed and the ladies followed at a more sedate pace. The first part of the route is a gradual 10 km long hill, but the reward soon after is a stunning sea view. Continuing along the coast, the pretty seaside resort of Simons Town is followed by the Smitswinkel climb. The first difficult hill challenge of Chapmans Peak came after 70 kms. Most people stopped here to snack and refill water bottles ready for the ascent. We rode up taking in the stunning views of the 114 bends as we went. It must be one of the most beautiful coast roads in the world.

## Adventurers

The downhill stretch saw a couple of crashes but fortunately we were not involved and carried on to tackle the last big hill that came 91 kms into the ride. Many very tired competitors were walking up this long incline. We continued on to the resort of Camps Bay with more stunning sea views and finally onto the home straight, where we were able to speed our way over the last few kilometers to the finish.

The four ladies, safely over the line after six hours on the road, were met by the men with many words of congratulations and much needed cool beers; they had all been relaxing in the shade since finishing in four hours. (The professional cyclist Herman Fouche won the race in 2 hours 39 minutes.)

The welcome we received in Cape Town and the camaraderie and encouragement from other riders as well as the hundreds of roadside supporters on the whole route was fantastic. Everyone was cheered and applauded. As the ladies had a Union Jack and 'Pangbourne' printed on the back of our shirts many people spoke to us and one man asked if Greens the Butchers were still there selling delicious pies! It's a small world!

Tired, but happy and proud that we had achieved our goal we returned to base camp to celebrate with a well earned glass or two of South Africa's finest bubbly.



# Things to Do



## Jobs need doing? Alan can help.

Tree, Shrub and Hedge Trimming  
Lawns, Flower Beds, Garden Tidying  
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Contact Alan  
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07954 140048  
alanmaskell@hotmail.com

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*Tidmarsh RG8 8EX*

## Trampoline for Sale

We have a trampoline for sale which could be collected from our garden by a local family. It is rectangular, width 4 feet, length 8 feet (excluding outside padding), no net, has cover. Originally cost £400 will take £150.

Contact: Mike Hall  
984 4654 or 07768 104147

## Tidmarsh Garden Open!

On Sunday 16th June, Fran Wakefield will once again be opening her award-winning garden under the National Gardens Open scheme.

Fran was one of the finalists in last year's Daily Mail National Garden Competition and if you haven't managed to get along to see it before – it really is well worth a visit!



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### Sulham Farms

Invite you to a

FARM WALK

SATURDAY 18<sup>th</sup> MAY

MEET SULHAM FARMHOUSE 2.00 PM

Guided Walk

Walk should take approx. 2 hours  
Please wear suitable clothing and footwear  
dependent on the weather

AFTER THE WALK WE CAN ENJOY TEAS AND  
REFRESHMENTS IN THE BARN

Please RSVP

John Haggarty

0118 9844122 or [haggarty@farmline.com](mailto:haggarty@farmline.com)  
so we can plan for numbers

**TIDMARSH WITH SULHAM**

## **GARDEN FETE**

**Sat 3<sup>rd</sup> Aug 2013**

**2pm**

**Sulham House**

**Featuring**

**Pangbourne Silver Band**

**Traditional Stalls & Games**

**Teas - BBQ – Licensed Bar & Pimms**

**Easy Parking**

**All Proceeds to St. Laurence and St. Nicholas Churches**

## **Moor Copse Guided Walk – Sunday 26 May at 2.00pm**

Meet at the gate coming into the north of the woodland on the parish walk, opposite Tidmarsh Grange

The walk will be to look at the wildlife (no promises as it is “wild”!), and the works we have been undertaking to benefit the wildlife at the reserve. This will include walking through the woods, wildflower meadows and back along the Pang to the start. The whole route is about 3km, but the route may be subject to changes due to flooding, mud or nice things to look at. I expect us to be out for about 3 hours (so finishing at 5-ish), but anyone who is confident of the way, may of course leave during the walk. I don't know what it will be like underfoot in May, but obviously it is wet now, so I would advise stout footwear, dressing for the weather on the day, and bringing binoculars. Dogs are welcome, but it will be a slow pace for a dog walk. There should not be any livestock present on any part of the route.

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email: **[john@jphandy-forestry.com](mailto:john@jphandy-forestry.com)**

# Notes from the Sul

On Sunday, 24 February St Nicholas Church held its annual crocus day. Unfortunately that afternoon the crocuses were sulking in bitterly cold overcast weather.

Nevertheless, the camaraderie within the church was most enjoyable, as was the excellent cake! I hope you didn't miss the beautiful sweep of little lilac flowers and sweet scent of snowdrops when the sun was shining. The crocuses were so pretty.

At least someone reads these Notes from the Sul! Don Hambleton was brought up in Sulham but wrote from Somerset about the American spelling of "Labor" in the text set within the lytch gate. He tells us that John Wilder (our rector from 1836 to 1892!) erected the lytch gate and in 1876 built a new wall of flint and stone to fence the churchyard. Don then wondered if American Wilders contributed to the lytch gate, suggested the text and hence the spelling.

*Pre 1876*



In response to Don, Heather Scutt, whose mother was born a Wilder, sent me this picture of the lytch gate and Church, apparently taken before 1876! What a pity the lovely driveway gate has gone. Looking heavenward, we see the church spire has also disappeared. It was demolished in 1957, having become dangerous. Heather writes "There are thousands of American Wilders. They have Wilder conventions and when we held the 500 anniversary

here in 1997 200 of them came over. I think it is highly likely American money paid for the gate." So there we have it: mystery apparently solved. Thank you Don. Thank you Heather.

*February 2013*

In January I wrote of the woods in Sulham Lane being surveyed for signs of Oak Processionary Moth. The dense woodland has now been largely cleared of understory, giving a more open appearance. Hopefully this will lead to an increase of the bluebells. Englefield Estates' foresters carried out the work on behalf of the Forestry Commission, in order to make it easier to spot the dreaded moth, should it reappear. Let's keep our eyes open and fingers crossed...



***Oh come with me, quietly by the Sul***

***and let us see what we shall see.***

*Richard Thomas*



# Fishy Tales

My daily routine for the last five years has included a walk across a little bridge over the beautiful River Pang. Every day I gaze down into the waters trying to catch a flicker of movement or spot a telltale rise that would reveal a **mighty fish below**.

And my daily observations have been incredibly rewarding. In my opinion the fish life of our lovely river is in pretty good health, and during the summer months it is easy to spot our fishy friends, some of whom grow to a surprising size.

I have seen numerous **Mirror Carp** and **Common Carp** to **nearly 10lb** in weight cruising along the banks. But they are very shy and sink away at the first footstep or shadow. In contrast, last year a pair of easily identifiable orange and white 2-3lb **Koi Carp** lingered around all summer. Obviously they are normally only seen in ponds, and are not native to our rivers. They should not be deliberately introduced to the river because they could bring disease to the native fish stock. When they disappeared I feared for their longevity due to the abundance of predatory herons and cormorants that we have all seen.

I also enjoyed watching a group of five **Grayling** feeding under the bridge. These are probably the most rare and beautiful coarse fish in the UK, with a large and exquisitely decorated dorsal fin. Surprisingly they will take traditional baits and rise to the dry fly, making the 'Lady of the Stream' a prize valued by both coarse and game fishermen alike.

Five years ago the annual Mayfly hatch made the River Pang look like Picadilly Circus. **Wild Brown Trout** to 1.5lb and **Rainbow Trout** to 2lb+ would be jumping clean out of the water in their haste to Hoover up Nature's brief feast. Unfortunately, recent years have seen a major decline in the trout on display, but whether this is due to nature's predators or the human version I am not sure.

The plentiful slack backwaters and reed beds are the breeding grounds and nursery for the trusty **Chub** and **Perch** that are omnipresent throughout every UK waterway. Whilst I have seen quite a few they have all been quite small – probably in proportion to our river.

By contrast, the **Pike can be huge!**

Maybe they come up from the Thames, and hunker down in the reed beds to ambush our unwary trout? A big muddy swirl when you pass is a sure sign you have disturbed one. The picture below shows the sad end of a beautiful fish, that I found dead in the river a year ago. It bottomed out my weighing scales that only went to 14lbs and I am sure this specimen would have weighed nearer 20lbs.



All in all not bad for the little ol' river Pang, so please keep your eyes peeled ... you never know what you might spot!!

Tight lines *The Compleat Tangler*

# AUDIT, ACCOUNTS AND TAX

Contact Geoffrey Cole  
**Geoffrey Cole & Co**

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# Church News

## Pangbourne, Tidmarsh & Sulham Church of England Services in May and June

### EVERY WEEK IN ST JAMES THE LESS PANGBOURNE

7:45am Book of Common Prayer Holy Communion

10am Sunday at Ten

Worship for all the family with children's church

### MONTHLY IN THE VILLAGES AT 11AM

1st Sunday Family Worship St Laurence Tidmarsh

2nd Sunday BCP Matins St James Pangbourne

Holy Communion St Laurence Tidmarsh

3rd Sunday Family Worship St Nicholas Sulham

5th Sunday Parish Worship for Pangbourne, Tidmarsh and Sulham

(see special services)

### EVENING WORSHIP

1st Sunday 6pm St James, Pangbourne

4th Sunday 6pm St Nicholas Sulham

### SPECIAL SERVICES IN PTS THIS SUMMER

#### MAY

Sunday 5th **6pm St James the Less Festival Choral Evensong** in St James, Pangbourne. Afterwards join us to enjoy a glass of wine and enjoy an impromptu concert with our friends from Houdan, France

Thursday 9th **8pm Ascension Day Service** of Holy Communion in St Laurence Tidmarsh

Sunday 12th **Christian Aid Week**

#### JUNE

Sunday 2nd **6pm Environment Sunday Service** in St James the Less

Sunday 9th **10am Noah's Ark Tenth Anniversary.** All members of Noah's Ark Mums and Tots in the last 10 years are welcome to this celebratory service and picnic lunch.

Saturday 22nd **4pm Ordination to the Priesthood** in Reading Minister  
Come and support our curate

Sunday 23rd **10am Reverend Andrew Bond celebrates First Communion**  
**Parish Barbecue Lunch and Picnic** in the Rectory Garden

Sunday 30th **11am 5th Sunday service** in St Laurence Tidmarsh

## **Festival Choral Evensong**

Celebrating our patron, St James the Less

Sunday 5 May 6pm

We welcome our friends from Houdan, our French 'twin'!

Share a glass of wine and enjoy an impromptu concert  
with members of the Chorale from Houdan.

## **Rectory Jazz!**

Our 2nd evening of live entertainment

Saturday 22 June 7.30pm

In the Rectory garden & village hall, Pangbourne

Supper included in the ticket price

Band & ticket details from:

jill.palfrey1@btinternet.com

Bradfield Deanery Spiritual Development Group

invites you to a talk:

8pm Thursday 16 May 2013

## **'What can we believe about heaven and hell?'**

with the Revd Canon David Winter

former head of BBC religious broadcasting

At Bradfield College Reading RG7 6AU

## **Open Gardens Tour**

Sunday 19 May 2-5pm

An opportunity to tour some of Pangbourne's 'secret'  
gardens close to the church.

Tickets price: £ 5 (Children under 12 free)

Includes garden entrance & a cream tea in church at the end of your tour.

Bring your friends & family and raise some funds for our churches!

Order tickets through: [admin@pangbournechurches.info](mailto:admin@pangbournechurches.info)

# Local Information

## Advice and Support

**West Berkshire Citizens Advice Bureau**  
Bartholomew St, Newbury 01635 516 605

**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**  
Cherry East 0118 984 2636  
Julia Sheppard 0118 956 1820  
Jennifer Nutt 0118 984 2370  
Jill Palfrey 0118 984 2698  
Ann Bolam 0118 942 1020

## Parochial Church Council

**Tidmarsh Representatives**  
Susan Worthington 0118 984 2937  
Valentina Britten Holden 0118 984 4912

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

**Friends of St Laurence**  
Mike Kenyon, Chairman 0118 984 2768  
Jon Chishick, Secretary 0118 984 3666

## 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  
Jim Hutchinson 0118 984 1860  
Colin Pawson 0118 984 2619  
Jonathan Pearson 0118 984 4837

## Libraries

Pangbourne 0118 984 4117  
Newbury 01635 519 900

## Village Hall Committee

Peter King (chairperson) 0118 984 4213  
Denise Randell (bookings) 0118 326 6138  
Emergency Contact 07954 140048

## West Berkshire District Council

Main switchboard 01635 42400  
Streetcare 01635 519080  
Planning applications 01635 519111

We welcome all advertisements, articles and letters submitted for inclusion in the magazine but the editor reserves the right to refuse, alter or amend material for any reason. The editor accepts no responsibility for, nor necessarily agrees with, views expressed in such submissions.

Please email any items, including photographs, for the next edition of magazine to [jenny@candcsystems.co.uk](mailto:jenny@candcsystems.co.uk) by 8 June at the latest. Whilst we make every effort to ensure the accuracy of the information printed in this magazine, the editor cannot accept responsibility for the consequences of any errors or omissions that may occur.

# 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

Jenny Cope (editor) 0118 984 3466

Gillian Alderton 0118 984 2729

Alison Boyland 0118 984 5202

John Butler (treasurer) 0118 984 2621

Alan Maskell 0118 984 5326

Jennifer Nutt 0118 984 2370

Tina Shorter 0118 984 3949

Cathy Tucker 07773 379920

## Scouts and Girl Guides

Beavers, Simon Pickett 0118 933 1615

Cubs, Jane Barkshire 07811 446 488

Scouts, Simon Pickett 01 18 933 1615

Rainbows, Helen Randall 0163548765

Brownies, Clare Pincok 0118 984 4286

Guides, Helen Randall 0163548765

Rangers, Helen Randall 0163548765

## Public Transport

### 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

Newbury Buses 01635 567500

Thames Travel 01491 837988

### Traveline

National/local bus, train, coach,  
ferry and underground info 0871 200 22 33

## Emergencies

**999**

All non-emergencies 0845 8 505 505

*The Tidmarsh with Sulham Parish Magazine*

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*and printed by Fericon Press, Reading*

## Advertising

If you would like to advertise in our magazine, please call Jenny Cope on 0118 984 3466 or send an email to [jenny@candcsystems.co.uk](mailto:jenny@candcsystems.co.uk)

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