

A photograph of a winter forest. The ground is covered in a layer of snow, with some footprints visible. In the foreground, there is a large, dark, snow-covered log. The trees are mostly bare, with some snow on their branches. The sky is overcast and grey. The overall scene is quiet and cold.

Tidmarsh with Sulham Parish Magazine

WINTER 2023

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Welcome to the Winter edition of the Tidmarsh with Sulham magazine! Thanks to new contributors, we have another packed and varied edition for you to enjoy. We bring you updates on local news and events running into the festive season. We have an introduction to the Sulham Wood Meadows project, information on an upcoming event to showcase Pang Flood Defence projects and a recap of the Manor Farm plan. We have memoirs from Dr Keast's time as a GP at Pangbourne surgery and from a resident of Greenacres, Tidmarsh, plus an interesting piece on a local Lilliput cottage. Also some delicious recipes to prepare during the festive season.

A big thank you to Gill Haggarty who has supported this magazine and driven many local initiatives that have benefited our community - for example the 100 Club/village raffle, Summer fete, village hall events, Sulham carol singing (with John) etc. etc. She and John have moved away, but remain very much part of our community.

Thank you to John Alderton for the front cover capturing winter in Sulham woods. As always, please keep your ideas and contributions for new content coming! Wishing you all a very happy and healthy Christmas and New Year.

Lucy Clow, Editor editortsmag@gmail.com

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

DATE	EVENT	TIME
24 December	Christingle – St Laurence Church, Tidmarsh	3.00pm
	Midnight Mass – St Laurence Church, Tidmarsh	11.00pm
25 December	Family Worship – St Nicholas Church, Sulham	10.00am
5 January	Village Walk – Meet at Village Hall	9.30am
	Coffee Morning – Village Hall	11.00am
7 January	Holy Communion – St Laurence Church, Tidmarsh	11.15am
10 January	Tidmarsh with Sulham Parish Council meeting	8.00pm
21 January	Family Worship – St Nicholas Church, Sulham	11.15am
2 February	Village Walk – Meet at Village Hall	9.30am
	Coffee Morning – Village Hall	11.00am
4 February	Holy Communion – St Laurence Church, Tidmarsh	11.15am
14 February	Tidmarsh with Sulham Parish Council meeting	8.00pm
18 February	Family Worship – St Nicholas Church, Sulham	11.15am
1 March	Village Walk – Meet at Village Hall	9.30am
	Coffee Morning – Village Hall	11.00am
13 March	Tidmarsh with Sulham Parish Council meeting	8.00pm

ST NICHOLAS CHURCH

St Nicholas and St Laurence churches have now had their doors re-opened for visitors during the day.

A Carols by Candlelight service was held on Sunday December 10th at St Nicholas church. The service was very well attended, and every-one stayed on for a chat over mulled wine and mince pies.

On Sunday December 17th at 11.15am there will be a Crib Service and at 10am a family Christmas Day service. Everyone is welcome.

If you would like to help decorate St Nicholas church for Christmas please contact Gillian on 9842729.

POPPY APPEAL 2023

Thank you once again for a best ever yet collection for both:

The Greyhound: £145.00 and

Tidmarsh: £1,305.00

The monies will be included in the total raised for the Pangbourne area. Thank you very much!

John Harland



NEW BENCH

On October 20th, a beautiful oak bench was installed at the top of the footpath by Neil and Roger from Sulham Estate. Thanks to Henry Scutt for land use permission and Sulham & Tidmarsh Parish Council for taking on the idea and making it happen. A lovely place to sit and look at the beautiful views and to catch breath after climbing the hill.



RIP MIKE FOUNTAINE 18.05.1953 – 14.10.2023

On October 14th, highly respected and much loved Sulham village resident Mike Fountaine died peacefully at home with his wife Karen by his side.

Mike was born in Reading and, apart from a short period in Australia, he lived and worked in the West Berkshire area throughout his life. He was an accomplished and very knowledgeable gardener who worked for many years as an Estate manager

in Tidmarsh, carefully restoring the grounds to their former glory. Mike loved and respected all wildlife and all animals. He worked for many years as a volunteer in an organisation that rescued dogs, ensuring they were rehomed in places of safety. In his leisure time Mike loved the arts, theatre, opera, music, literature and verse, all pleasures he shared with Karen.

Mike was sadly diagnosed with Motor Neurone disease, but he lived quietly with this illness without complaint, maintaining his sense of humour throughout with his much loved wife Karen and rescue dog Milo at his side. He will be sadly missed by all who had the privilege to know him.



When my time in this world comes to an end, gather my friends who knew me best, play some fabulous music, mix glitter in with my ashes and let the wind take me to all the places I never got a chance to see, but most importantly, remember me by living the rest of your life smiling.

Stephanie Bennet-Henry

CHRISTMAS WREATHS

On 4th December a group of villagers came together in Tidmarsh Village Hall to make Christmas wreaths. Alongside hints and tips and a lot of chat, the festive mood was enhanced with mulled wine and mince pies to keep us all going.

A total of £110 was raised that will go towards the upkeep of St Nicholas church in Sulham.

A big Thank You to Gillian Alderton for organising the event, and also Gill Haggarty for contributing to the greenery.



VILLAGE WALKS

Village walks leave from Tidmarsh Village Hall on the first Friday of every month at 9.30am and are followed by coffee and biscuits in the Village Hall at 11am. All welcome.

SULHAM & TIDMARSH MACMILLAN COFFEE

Thank you to everyone who came to support and who made donations to the Macmillan Coffee morning at Tidmarsh Village Hall on October 9th. We raised a fantastic £340, which will be used to support people living with cancer.

TIDMARSH VS. SULHAM AUTUMN QUIZ FRIDAY 3RD NOVEMBER . . . THE RESULTS ARE IN!!

A big "Thank You" to Jon and Annette Chiswick for once again devising an excellent quiz with a new format being piloted. For this, 40 categories of Questions were available and each team took a turn to choose a round they liked the title of – with no Jokers available to play, the choice of questions was important. However – as a couple of teams found out – this did not always help in answering the questions!!

The quiz was enjoyed by all who attended, though sadly numbers were depleted as a result of the quiz being rescheduled from its original date in October, due to it clashing with a key England rugby World Cup match.



There were four teams competing, and all the way through it was very close. Once all the marks were added up, the winning team announced was a dog-owner team called The Tidmarsh Mutts.

Thanks also to Alan Maskell who once again organised prizes and an excellent raffle, and to Gillian Alderton for the very tasty supper. The quiz raised £79 which will go to essential maintenance of the Hall

Gill Haggarty

WINNERS OF THE 2ND DRAW OF THE TIDMARSH & SULHAM VILLAGE COMMUNITY RAFFLE

The Autumn Village Quiz included the second round of draws for the community raffle – the profits from which will be split between two of our key village resources – the Village Hall and publication of the Parish Magazine.

The 2023 draw sold a total of 140 tickets with sales of £680. The second draw was for eight prizes, and the Winners are . . .

1. £30 – John Pollard , Tidmarsh
2. £30 – Jenny See, Tidmarsh
3. £30 – Richard & Rosemary Thomas, Sulham
4. £20 – Axel Lagerborg, Tidmarsh
5. £20 – Colston Davey, Tidmarsh
6. £20 – Jon & Annette Chishick, Tidmarsh
7. £10 – Dave Hartley, Tidmarsh
8. £10 – Bill Evans, Tidmarsh

A big Thank You to Gill Haggarty, who organised first the 100+Club and most recently this Community Raffle.

With Gill and John moving to their new home away from Sulham, we now need a volunteer/s to take up running of the Raffle. If you are interested, please contact Lucy Clow (contact details in the Information section).

The purpose of this initiative has been to raise money for the Parish Magazine and also Village Hall. If no volunteers are forthcoming, we will be starting a fresh round of fundraising from the community in the Spring edition of this magazine . . .

E.A. LAMING

Flat Roofing

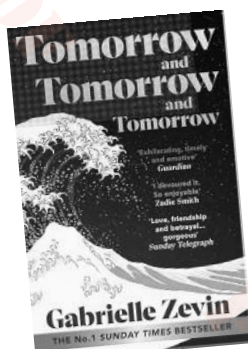
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Review:

TOMORROW AND TOMORROW AND TOMORROW by Gabrielle Zevin

This book tells the story of a boy and girl who meet as young teens when the boy is recovering from trauma and the girl is asked to befriend him. They fall out but meet again during university years both finding they have a passion for video game making. This forms the basis of the story as they resume their close friendship and become highly successful business partners. The book

develops gradually including people that influence their lives and their world of gaming and business. The story takes place from 1995 to present day and covers many issues. A good read that most book clubs readers enjoyed and learned from.

Next read:

TAKE ME HOME by Beth Moran



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TIDMARSH WITH SULHAM PARISH COUNCIL

We welcome two new Parish Councillors, Bronwyn Wynne and Mark Farrington. They were co-opted onto the committee in October and November. Both are very local and looking forward to meeting you. There is an updated Parish Council contact list in the magazine and will also be on the noticeboards.

To commemorate the appointment of a new Monarch, King Charles III, a new oak bench was commissioned and has now been installed in Sulham woods, off Sulham Lane. There will be an official plaque - but bear with us as we try and source a robust outdoor one.

A big thank you to Estate Manager, Andrew, who volunteered to organise installing the bench for us.

As you can read in the Meeting Minutes there has been discussion around the kerbs, pathway cleanups and vegetation cutback, especially near signs and potholes. Most of these have been reported through the very well monitored West Berkshire Council Portal, www.westberks.gov.uk/reportaproblem. This is the best way to report all problems.

Councillor Matt Shakespeare, the District Councillor for Tidmarsh with Sulham, has attended the last two Parish Council meetings. He has immersed himself into the concerns of the village and the feedback about him has been very positive.

The **parish council meetings are held at 8.00pm on the 2nd Wednesday of each month**. Members of the public are always welcome. The council would like to see more of you and engage with more community activities. **Come along and have your say.**

Just a reminder that the clerk is part time and works flexible hours. All messages will be responded to within a couple of days.

Website: www.tidmarshwithsulham.co.uk

Janine Lewis

Clerk for Tidmarsh with Sulham Parish Council

clerk@tidmarshwithsulham.co.uk



CHURCH SERVICES

St James | St Laurence | St Nicholas

JANUARY

Sunday 7th

10 am	Holy Communion	St James
11.15 am	Holy Communion	St Laurence

Sunday 14th

7.45am	Holy Communion (BCP)	St James
10am	All Together Worship	St James

Sunday 21st

10am	Holy Communion	St James
11.15am	Family Worship	St Nicholas

Sunday 28th

7.45am	Holy Communion (BCP)	St James
10 am	Holy Communion	St James

FEBRUARY

Sunday 4th

10 am	Holy Communion	St James
11.15am	Holy Communion	St Laurence

Sunday 11th

7.45am	Holy Communion (BCP)	St James
10am	All Together Worship	St James

Sunday 18th

10am	Holy Communion	St James
11.15am	Family Worship	St Nicholas

Sunday 25th

7.45am	Holy Communion (BCP)	St James
10 am	Holy Communion	St James

A WORD FROM REVD MARK HOPKINS, RECTOR

January is a time for setting New Year's resolutions and working on good habits, and my New Year's resolution for our churches in 2024 is that they will become more inclusive and welcoming to groups of people who have traditionally found it harder to walk through the church doors without feeling inconvenienced or judged.

In our church calendar we move from Christmas into the festival of Epiphany, where the Wise Men from a foreign land visit the infant Jesus and discover that the good news Jesus brings is for all the nations of the world, from people of all races and backgrounds.

From February, we will be holding a series of monthly seminars in St James the Less Pangbourne based around a statement and material by Inclusive Church, an organisation which helps churches to "celebrate and affirm every person". Their statement reads, "we will continue to challenge the church where it continues to discriminate against people on grounds of disability, economic power, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, learning disability, mental health, neurodiversity, or sexuality."

Throughout 2024, as part of our churches' New Year's resolution, our services and seminars will aim to help us become better as a church community at welcoming people who feel on the margins, thinking about what we do well, where we have failed to be welcoming and what we might do better moving forwards.

All are welcome at all our services and events, which are advertised here in the Pangbourne Magazine and on our website and notice board.

God bless,
Rev Mark

WHAT'S ON IN JANUARY AND FEBRUARY



Ash Wednesday Service
10 am on 14th February
St James the Less

Lent Lunches

Come and enjoy a soup lunch
on Wednesdays in Lent, starting on **21st April**.
12 noon – 1.30pm in St James in Pangbourne

Donations in aid of Christian Aid



The Parish of Pangbourne with Tidmarsh and Sulham
www.pangbournechurches.org



BECOMING MORE INCLUSIVE

A SERIES OF SEMINARS IN
ST JAMES THE LESS DURING 2024

Each seminar will include personal testimony, talks from speakers with first hand knowledge of their topic, study of the Bible and table discussion.

For more information, take a leaflet or scan the QR code.



Tuesday 6th February, 7pm WHAT IS INCLUSION?	Tuesday 5th March, 7pm SEXUALITY
Tuesday 16th April, 7pm DISABILITY	Tuesday 15th May, 7pm MENTAL HEALTH

Later in the year
NEURODIVERSITY | ETHNICITY
GENDER | ECONOMIC POWER

www.pangbournechurches.org/becoming-more-inclusive



St James Café
St James Church, Pangbourne

3rd and 17th January
7th and 21st February

Coffee & Chat




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in Pangbourne
each 1st and 3rd Wednesday
11am to 12.30pm

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SULHAM FARM NEWS

With the colder weather upon us, we are starting to prepare for the cows and calves currently grazing the marsh to be housed. With the wet autumn conditions, the cows will certainly be thankful to be somewhere dry.

Removal of the cattle will enable completion of the estate's project to renew the stock fencing along the river Pang. Previously, the cattle have been able to graze within inches of the river and access the water directly at certain points – known as 'drinks'. The new fence line enables a five metre strip alongside the river where stock are excluded. This is helpful for preventing pollution of the river from both the cattle poaching (disrupting the mud with their feet) the bank and also from them defecating in or near the water. An additional benefit is that the un-grazed strip can then be managed independently, allowing scrub, trees and tall tussocky grasses to grow which are favourable for invertebrates. A consequence of removing the cattle's access to the river has been a requirement to install new water troughs; as such three new water tanks were installed and nearly a kilometre of pipe laid to feed them.

On the arable side of the farm, the crops are looking well, albeit apart from a small area of later-drilled winter barley on some of our wetter land. I have been particularly thankful of the good establishment of the autumn cover crop on the land east of Sulham Lane. This was planted in the summer ahead of a spring drilled cereal and is used to help protect the soil and build fertility. Its purpose has been well tested in what has turned out to be an extremely wet autumn.

Andrew Clay

NATURE RECOVERY ON THE SULHAM ESTATE

Eagle-eyed readers may have noticed some unusual activity in some of the Sulham Estate's arable fields bordering Purley and Tilehurst over the past year. Why have those odd-looking pits been dug (some of them having since filled with water) and what are those strange wooden posts dotting the fields by Denefield School, seemingly at random? And what of the rumours that Sulham Estate are planning a nuclear waste reprocessing plant in the field north of Purley Rise??

A time of change in farming

The UK is one of the most nature-depleted countries in the world. In part this is due to being densely-populated, with relatively more land area given over to towns and cities. However, it is also because the UK is largely farmed, with few areas of

genuine wilderness. As farming has intensified over the last century to feed a growing and increasingly urban population, we have lost much of the habitat that our native wildlife depends on. Hedgerows have been grubbed-up to make way for larger machinery; winter cropping has eliminated the fields of stubble where our farmland birds used to spend the winter; wildflower meadows have been “improved” into monocultures of highly productive grasses.

At the same time, farming itself is under huge pressure. Grain prices are low, input prices are high, and the subsidies which farmers were paid to plough up so much of the countryside have now largely disappeared. Farmers are forced to improve the efficiency and productivity of their operations year on year, simply in order to make ends meet. Farms on less fertile soils find themselves in a position where it is impossible to make a profit with conventional farming.

Public interest in the environment has never been higher, and there is renewed focus on environmental subsidies, as well as new funding streams from the private sector for nature recovery. While there is much that farmers can (and should) do to farm in a “nature-friendly” fashion, ultimately there will always be some trade-off between food production and nature. It therefore makes sense to focus on the least-productive areas of farmland as being the places where nature can be restored with the minimum impact on food supply.

Of the Sulham Estate’s arable land, the fields in the Sulham Valley are reasonably fertile. The gravel plateau which lies between Sulham Woods and the urban fringe, on the other hand, is very poor soil, as is the field between Purley Rise and the railway line immediately to the east of Pangbourne. So, for the last two years, we have been working on a project to turn these areas to a better use than arable.

What about “Rewilding”?

The term “rewilding” has captured the popular imagination of late, but is controversial among conservationists because the term implies that nature would recover of its own accord if we simply stopped managing the land at all, which is a misconception. Abandoning land altogether would result in secondary woodland with relatively little habitat value. True rewilding projects, such as at the ground-breaking Knepp Estate, use free-roaming native breeds in an attempt to re-establish the natural processes that created the landscape of the early Holocene, although the absence of larger apex predators such as wolves and lynx means that humans unavoidably remain involved in controlling the animal population.

A Knepp-style rewilding project would be impractical at Sulham. In any case, much of our native flora and fauna co-evolved with farming practices over the millennia

leading up to the 20th century. It is rapid changes to these practices which have resulted in the recent loss of habitat, so there is much to be gained by returning to more traditional forms of land management.

A good example is our traditional wildflower meadows, whose diversity of flora provided food and cover for a rich variety of wildlife. The practice of haymaking allowed time for the grass and flower seeds to fall to the ground before baling, while the hooves of animals grazing in the spring and autumn create patches of bare ground where new plants could establish. The yearly removal of hay kept nutrient levels in the soil low, which prevented the wildflowers from being outcompeted by more vigorous grasses. Such meadows have largely been lost, being regularly reseeded, receiving regular applications of fertilizer and slurry, and providing multiple cuts of silage each year.

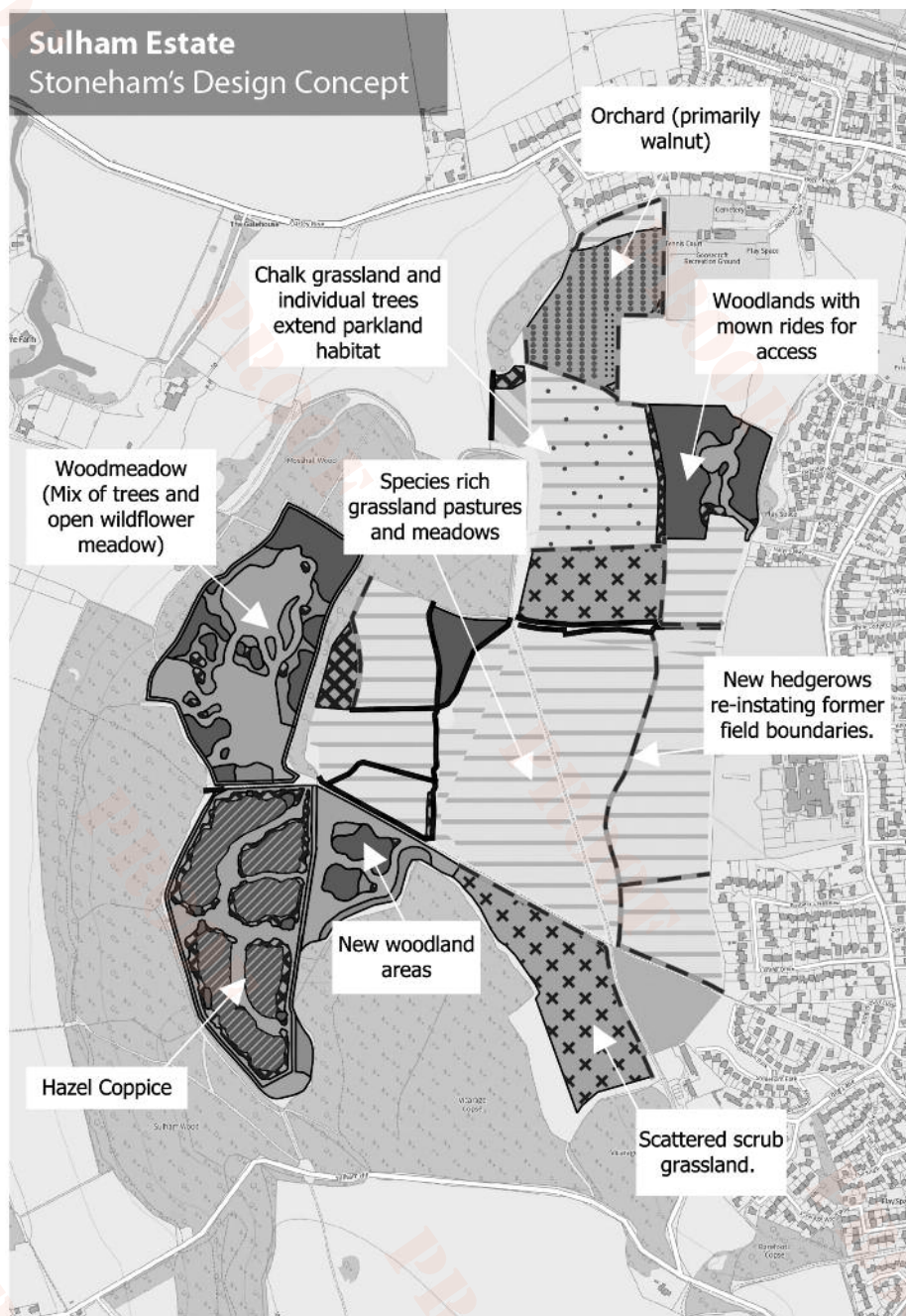
SULHAM WOOD MEADOWS

What distinguished the habitat created by traditional farming methods was variety; not only in the number of species in each square metre of grassland or each metre of hedgerow, but also variety of structure, which provided cover for wildlife. Different cutting and grazing regimes produced varied sward structure; hedges would grow tall before being laid once more; rotational coppicing provided a cycle of light and shade for ground flora; and the patchwork of small fields and common land provided connectivity, allowing wildlife to move across the landscape from parcel to parcel of similar habitat. The recreation of a mosaic of habitats is therefore a key principle of the Sulham Wood Meadows project.

The map shown opposite shows the plan for Stoneham's Farm, which at around 80 hectares is the largest of the three blocks making up the project, and which is furthest ahead in design and implementation. The scheme is centred on the reintroduction of grazing livestock, being largely made up of meadow, pasture, wood pasture, wood meadow, grazed orchard and open scrub grassland. In addition, there are small areas of broadleaved woodland, and an area of new hazel coppice, which is very exciting.

This layout has been the result of a lengthy process of data collection and iterative design, in collaboration with our project managers BioCap Ltd, extensive input from organisations including Plantlife, Action for the River Kennet and the Freshwater Habitats Trust, and in consultation with the Forestry Commission, Environment Agency, North Wessex Downs AONB, and others.

The first step was to commission ecological surveys, to establish a baseline and to



ensure that we don't harm existing wildlife populations. As conventional arable land, there wasn't a lot to find, but what we do know about (most notably in this area, skylarks) have been provided for in the design. We also commissioned soil nutrient maps, which give an indication of which habitats will be easiest to create on each part of the site. We took inspiration from historic maps, most usefully the tithe maps dating from the early 19th century, which has allowed us to recreate historic field boundaries.

Finally, and very importantly, we have considered carefully what the land means to the many people who enjoy it every day. We have taken care to preserve the amazing long views across and up the Thames from the high points of the site. Where there is evidence of people walking off the public footpaths, we have taken that as an indication of where people would like to be allowed to walk, and plan new permissive paths to allow them to do that. Access to nature is very important for wellbeing, and we hope as time goes on to provide opportunities for local people to get involved in the hands-on management of the hedgerows and woodland.

How far have we got?

Even though the design is still evolving, we have made a start on the ground, with the sowing of most of the Stoneham's block with wildflower grass mixes. This winter will see most of the fences going up, and some hedge and possibly woodland planting. The following summer will hopefully see the excavation of a wetland down by the railway line, and the autumn and winter will see more extensive planting. However, even the notional 30-year duration of the project represents only the beginning of a very slow process of nature recovery.

The Sulham Wood Meadows project represents a significant change in farming practices on the Estate. It will also mean changes (hopefully positive!) to our landscape enjoyed by so many, so it is important to us that local residents feel informed of what is happening, and that everyone's views can be taken into account as the plans evolve.

For anyone who is interested and who missed our recent presentations in Pangbourne and Purley, we will be discussing the plans at an event at 6pm on 25th January at the Calcot Centre. Regular project updates will also be posted to the BioCap website, www.biocap.org.uk.

Henry Scutt

PANG VALLEY FLOOD PROTECTION EXHIBITION

Saturday 20th January 2024 1pm-6pm

Hampstead Norreys Village Hall, Newbury Hill, RG18 0TR

Free to attend, no booking required!

Join us at our upcoming Pang Valley Flood Protection Exhibition, where you can find out about local projects and speak to key organisations about your concerns surrounding flooding in the area. (Original event in Nov 2023 was postponed.)

Hosted by the Pang Valley Flood Forum and supported by Project Groundwater, West Berkshire Council and the local Parish Councils, the event will take place on Saturday 20th Jan from 1pm-6pm.

With a variety of organisations present to answer your questions on flooding in the Pang Valley area, you can improve your knowledge of who is available to support you and how you can prepare for future flood events. These include:

- Pang Valley Flood Forum
- West Berkshire Council
- Project Groundwater
- Environment Agency
- Thames Water

And more!

There will be stands displaying flood protection devices, and an opportunity to see how flood resilience measures work in the Floodmobile, a 'flood house on wheels', which is packed with around 50 different property flood protection measures that demonstrates the variety of measures you can take to make your home more flood resilient.

Refreshments will also be available for you to enjoy as you speak to the various stallholders.

Saturday 20th January

1pm - 6pm

Pang Valley Flood Protection Exhibition

Hampstead Norreys Village Hall
Newbury Hill, RG18 0TR

To find out more:
www.floodalleviation.uk
pangvalleyfloodforum@gmail.com
 Kay Lacey 07889 231136

Refreshments provided!

Event supported by the Pang Valley Parish Councils and organisations below:

Find out about local flood projects

Learn more about flooding in the area

Discover ways to increase your resilience to flooding

Speak to local flood authorities about how they can support you

Pang Valley Flood Forum



Project Groundwater



Environment Agency

MANOR FARM

A farm in Tidmarsh could see a new lease of life as a community asset, celebrating wildlife conservation and philanthropic projects, if plans go ahead.

Manor Farm fell into disrepair after its previous owner, a Mr Brian Cook, died, and was subsequently acquired by Richard McCarthy in 2016. After facing several setbacks with the site, Mr McCarthy has put forward several proposals which would see the site transformed into a multi-purpose community asset.

The plans include residential housing, holiday lodges, walking and cycling routes, allotments, environmental conservation initiatives, and community engagement projects all hosted at the site. It would see the building of a small plot of residences, one of which is tipped to be adapted for those with special access needs. It would also see the addition of log-cabin lodges designed for holiday rentals, which would help fund the upkeep of the farm and aim to boost local tourism. They will also help safe-guarding long-standing tenants as bungalows currently on the site are brought up to EPC standards. The rest of the site could include the provision of allotment space where residents and members of the public could grow crops and engage with food production. Overall, the plans aim to create a number of spaces and provisions for community projects, increasing employment and creating responsibly-developed amenities on the site.

Mr McCarthy said: *"We really want to encourage nature and biodiversity – we want natural areas such as a pond, places for deer and other animals to eat, and wildlife will be welcome on the site."*

"The idea is that it blends into the countryside – I don't want it to be a scar on the landscape, and it will protect the land from bigger development."

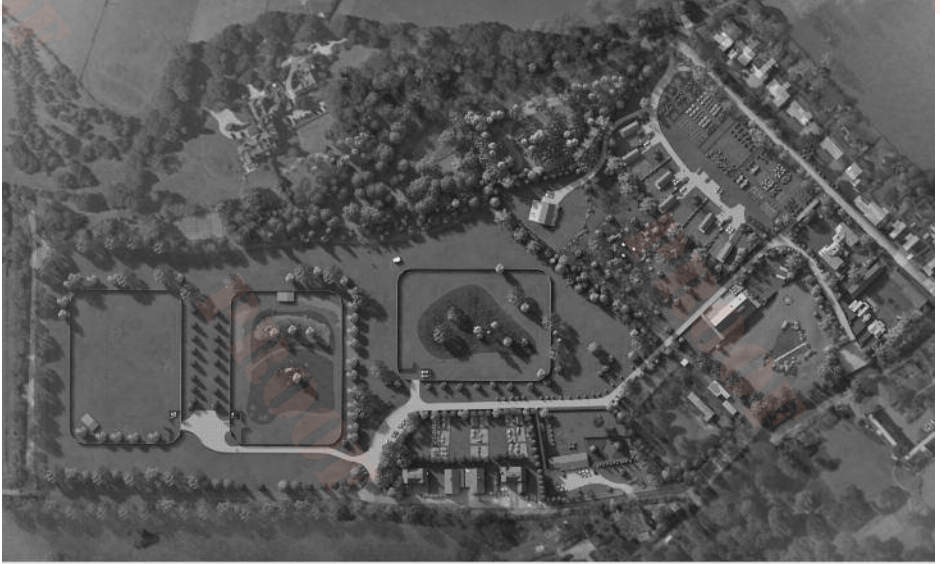
There have been calls for the site to remain as a small, working farm, however Mr McCarthy responded: *"It's just not financially viable."*

"Unfortunately, people look to develop them or put them to uses such as horse-rearing, but often it just wrecks the land, as it can be very intensive, and it doesn't actually give a lot back."

He explained: *"It may be that some are scared of change, but things do change, and I want the farm to move on."*

"I want it to be unblemished, so that if it is taken over, it can be restored to just a field with ease. "And I don't think people will want to live next door to it if it is being intensively farmed."

The Manor Farm project is also looking to hear from charitable organisations, with more information available via: manorfarm.life/charity.



WEST BERKSHIRE COUNTRYSIDE SOCIETY: TASK DIARY

The Society exists to promote the understanding, appreciation and conservation of the West Berkshire Countryside. We also learn a lot and get to have fun while we do so. We hold free events where you can meet friendly and like-minded folk; organise regular walks guided by a knowledgeable leader; organise talks on natural and local history; and support Barn Owl conservation. When you join the Society, there is a £15 annual subscription. This entitles you to four copies of the 'Upstream' newsletter per annum.

Find out more and become a member!
membership@westberkshirecountryside.org.uk

Events Diary February 2024

The events below give you the opportunity to come out on practical tasks, learn new skills, meet new people and, above all, enjoy yourself. Tasks begin at 10.00am and finish by 3.00pm. You are welcome to stay for as long as you wish. Please wear suitable clothing and footwear, bring work gloves and make sure you have refreshments for your day. All tools will be provided. Please check the website for updates and directions.

Tue 2 Jan Bucklebury Common: Heathland management, Clearing invasive Scots pine and silver birch, Meet at the Crossroads.

Tue 9 Jan Decoy Heath: Clearing invasive willow and birch.

16 Jan Bucklebury Meadows: Working on hedges around the meadows behind the pub/restaurant in Upper Bucklebury. Park in Morton's Lane.

23 Jan Sulham Farm: Woodland management. Park along the track to Sulham Church.

30 Jan Sheepdrove, Lambourn: Continue hedge laying and tidying previous length of laid hedge. Park near the red barn.

Tue 6 Feb Paices Wood: Creating scallops to let in more light. Parking at the top car park.

Tue 13 Feb Malt House, W Woodhay: Hedge laying and coppicing. Parking is on the track off West Woodhay Road.

Tue 20 Feb Furze Hill, Hermitage: Woodland and butterfly habitat management, including hedge planting, on this parish wildlife. Parking at village hall

Tue 27 Feb Bucklebury Common: Heathland management. Clearing invasive Scots pine and silver birch. Meet at the Crossroads.

5 Mar Hillgreen, Leckhampstead: Scrub clearance. Park along the track by the common.

12 Mar Rushall Manor Farm: Continue hedge laying. Park off road at the Black Barn.

19 Mar Malt House, West Woodhay: Hedge laying and coppicing. Park on the track off the West Woodhay Road.

26 Mar Cold Ash: Maintenance work on the Parish Wildlife site. Park on the access track to the Westrop Farm.

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GARDENING JOBS JANUARY – MARCH

With the New Year kicked off, January is the month to start **planning** what you will grow in your garden. On a good day make a tour of your garden, noting down areas to add plants. Sort out your seeds, throwing away empty or out-of-date packets and making a list of what to buy for the coming season.

Plant bare-root roses, shrubs, hedging and ornamental trees, as long as the ground isn't frozen. Start chitting early potatoes by placing them in an egg box in a bright cool frost-free place.

Clear away soggy, collapsed stems of perennials and compost them. Avoid walking on your lawn when it is blanketed in frost or snow, as this will damage it. Clear old crops and weeds from the veg plot, then dig over the soil, mixing in compost as you go. Or try the no dig method by laying down cardboard then covering with well-rotted matter; no digging required!

Prune Wisteria, cutting back summer side-shoots to 2 or 3 buds. Prune rose bushes to just above an outward-facing bud, remove crossing or dead branches. 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. Prune your apple trees and pear trees, blackcurrant bushes, gooseberries and redcurrants but avoid very frosty periods

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

FEBRUARY

Divide large clumps of snowdrops and winter aconites after flowering and replant to start new colonies. Pot up containers with hardy spring bedding, such as primroses, wallflowers and forget-me-nots.

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. Prune winter flowering shrubs such as Mahonia and Viburnum x bodnantense after flowering

Plant lilies and allium bulbs. Sow vegetable seeds like leeks, onions, broad beans and celeriac under cover. Soak sweet pea seeds in tepid water overnight before planting them in deep pots, keeping them frost-free in a greenhouse or on a sunny windowsill.

Cut autumn-fruiting raspberry canes to the ground to stimulate new canes. Mulch fruit trees with well rotted manure or garden compost - avoid the trunk. Cover prepared soil in vegetable patches with sheets of black plastic to keep it drier and warmer for spring planting.

MARCH

Whatever you do in your garden, you must prepare the ground. It has to be reasonably drained, so if it is waterlogged dig in organic material and grit or sharp sand to improve drainage. Dig in a 5cm (or more) layer of compost or well rotted manure into your beds and a general purpose fertiliser such as chicken manure or fish, blood and bone. Most plants do not like poorly drained soil.

Feed trees, shrubs and hedges with a slow-release fertiliser by lightly forking it into the soil surface. Identify whether your shrub is ericaceous (acid-loving) and get special fertiliser and compost.

Tidy up flower borders, removing both established and newly-germinating weeds. Lift and divide established perennial plants every few years to improve their vigour and create new plants. Put plant supports in now so the plants grow up through them.

Deadhead daffodils as the flowers finish and let the foliage die back naturally. Cut dogwoods and cotinus right down to the base to promote vigorous new growth.

Towards the end of March plant your chitted early potatoes outside in the ground. Start sowing winter brassicas in seed trays in a cold greenhouse.

Alan Maskell & Lucy Clow

SEASONAL RECIPES FROM THE OLD SCHOOL KITCHEN, SULHAM

Welcome to the festive season. We were thinking of including some recipes you could cook on Noah's ark. Our ark is nearly finished but we thought we would go down a more traditional route. Actually, since starting this piece, it's stopped raining – but now freezing.

Breaking with tradition we start with the sweet stuff. Chef J says this is a lovely lighter version of a traditional Christmas cake and as you will know she loves Mary Berry – although she has her eye on Paul Hollywood and his permatan.

Victorian Christmas Cake

350g glace cherries
225g can of pineapple in natural juice
350g ready to eat dried apricots
100g blanched almonds
Finely grated rind of 2 lemons
350g sultanas
250g self-raising flour
250g caster sugar
250g softened butter
75g ground almonds
5 large eggs



To decorate: Blanched almonds and glace cherries

Preheat oven to 160C/gas mark 3. Grease a 23cm (9in) deep round cake, then line the base and sides with a double layer of baking parchment.

Cut cherries into quarters and rinse. Drain and roughly chop the pineapple, then dry the pineapple and cherries very thoroughly on kitchen paper. Snip apricots into pieces. Roughly chop almonds. Place the prepared fruit in a mixing bowl with the grated lemon rind and sultanas and mix together.

Measure the remaining ingredients into a large bowl and beat well for 1 minute. Lightly fold in the fruit and nuts then turn the mixture into the cake tin. Level the surface and decorate with cherries and almonds

Bake for about 2¼ hours or until golden brown. Test with a skewer which should come out clean. Cover the cake loosely with foil after an hour, to prevent the cake becoming too dark. Leave to cool in the tin for 30 minutes then turn out and enjoy for Christmas.

Porchetta style pork shoulder from the Weber BBQ book

Chef M has cooked this on the BBQ but it does equally well in the oven in this weather. If you can't stand your house guests do it on the BBQ.



Filling:

125ml olive oil	3 sprigs of rosemary
16 sage leaves	1 tbsp finely grated lemon rind
1 tbsp chopped garlic	1 tsp sea salt
½ tsp whole fennel seeds	½ tsp crushed red chilli flakes
1 tbsp of olive oil; ½ tsp sea salt	½ tsp of freshly ground black pepper
1 boneless pork shoulder joint about 2.5 kg, butterflied, ends trimmed to produce 250g of meat and fat	

Combine the filling ingredients in a food processor until they form a smooth puree. Add the trimmed meat and fat and pulse until it resembles sausage meat. If there is fat on the shoulder, score it deeply. Place the joint skin side down. Distribute the filling evenly over the joint leaving a border round the edges. Roll up the meat (*Chef M's tip – ask a friend to help as this is a difficult thing to do*) then tie up the parcel with string in 5-6 places. Rub the outside of the joint with oil, salt and pepper and let rest for 30 minutes. Put in a roasting tray in oven at 180-200C gas mark 4-5. Roast for 2-2½ hours until internal temperature reaches 82-85C. (*Chef M's tip – if you don't have a meat thermometer ask Santa to leave you one in your stocking.*)

Allow to rest for 20-30 minutes and carve.

Delia Smith's red cabbage from Christmas Cookery 1990

Make in advance – it freezes well and a little goes a long way. Serve with celeriac mash.

1kg red cabbage shredded	450g cooking apples, peeled, cored and chopped small
450g onions chopped small	1 clove of garlic chopped very small
¼ nutmeg grated	¼ level tsp of cinnamon
¼ level tsp of ground cloves	3 tbsp of brown sugar
3 tbsp of wine vinegar	15g butter (<i>Chef M uses more</i>)
Salt and pepper	Preheat oven to 150C gas mark 2

In a fairly large casserole arrange a layer of cabbage, seasoned with salt and pepper, then a layer of onions, layer of apple with a sprinkling of garlic, spices and sugar. Continue with layers until all used up. Pour on vinegar and dot with butter. Put a light lid on the casserole and cook for 2-2½ hours stirring everything around once or twice during cooking.

Jules Reynolds & Margaret Myszor



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THE BLADEBONE INN, CHAPEL ROW, RG7 6PD

The 17th century Bladebone – so named in 1666 when the ‘bladebone’ of a mammoth was sealed in copper and hung above the door – is an award-winning free-house gastro pub in Chapel Row, near Bucklebury and features seasonal and local food and craft beers. It has been nearly a year since it re-opened after a major refurb.



We visited the Inn for a family celebration evening meal one Friday evening in the Autumn. You need to book ahead as it is particularly busy in the early evening – as we found when we arrived a little early for our 8pm table. We had to wait by the bar for several minutes (no available seats at the bar) before anyone came to see us, and then had a further wait to be served any drinks until our table was ready – not a great start!

Fortunately, service picked up once we were seated . . .

We ate from their Full & Specials menus and between four of us we picked two of the £4 Nibble plates (four for £14) and Seared Scallops for starters, followed by Roast Hake Loin, Plaice from the Specials menu and two orders of Feather steak. To follow, three of us chose Sticky Toffee pudding, chocolate snickers (Dark choc mousse, peanut parfait, salted caramel ice cream) and a couple scoops of ice cream plus coffee for one. With three pints of beer, a cocktail, three glasses of wine and the service charge, the bill came to nearly £60 per head which though the food was enjoyable, seemed a lot for what we had eaten.

However, I would very much recommend you take advantage of their “3 courses for £25” menu, available at lunch and dinner sessions on Wednesdays and Thursdays plus Friday lunchtime only. I have had glowing reports from two groups of friends who have done this and had delicious meals.

Gill Haggarty

LOCAL HISTORY

LIFE AFTER GENERAL PRACTICE

It is now 11 months since I retired from the Boathouse Surgery – I am the last to retire of the six founding partners of the Boathouse, which we built back in 1992/1993 (Willem Westerman, Mike Powell, Hazel Powell, Ian Cox, Matilda Oppenheimer and myself!).

The surgery was 30 years old this November – I started working as a GP in Pangbourne in 1992, taking over from Alan Stroud, a very old school doctor as some of you will still remember. Those were the days when entering a GP Partnership was a vocation for life and you were the local “family doctor.” I was amazed to be greeted with presents from patients on my arrival and invitations to dinner! We were immediately part of the community.

My poor wife had to stay at home to answer the phone at night and we were on call 24 hours a day 7 days a week 365 days a year. There were no computers and no mobile phones. But when you were called out it was for a genuine reason such as a broken hip or a heart attack, so it was fine and not too busy.

I was a family doctor at Pangbourne for 31 years and in that time, I got to know and help thousands of people. I came with the enthusiasm of youth, backed up by a wicked sense of humour based on watching many Carry-on films! Many of you will remember the large picture of a scene from Carry on Matron in my consulting room, which brought a smile to many!

Things have really changed in the last few years, however, so the days of saying “ooh matron” and “ stop messing about” to my patients had to stop. I had a lot of fun over the years with my patients – when the time was appropriate.

I remember a lovely lady telling me as she left the room – “it does not matter how I feel before I see you, I always feel happier afterwards.”

I had a great rapport with a lot of patients and some would cheer me up no end! I recall the perfect Austin Powers “ Groovy baby” from one of my patients as he left the room, which made me laugh.

There was one poor lady who came to see me because she was going on a Hawaiian cruise and had bad incontinence – I told her I could help with some medication and that would stop her being “Hon-a-loo-loo” all holiday. Thankfully she laughed.... Not sure I can say things like that now!

There was also the unforgettable day that I wore some musical socks my daughters had bought me for my birthday – they had a button on them that played the Benny

Hill theme tune when pressed. Unfortunately, whilst chatting to a rather serious lady about her personal problems, I accidentally hit the button with my other foot and the music started. And it did not stop until it had played the whole sequence. There was about a minute where we stopped talking and looked at each other and listened to the music. Then we continued talking as if nothing had happened. A real Ricky Gervais moment. Lesson learned. Never wear musical socks to work!

You experience every emotion as a GP and it does take its toll. The sadness of death, the joy of birth and everything in between. It can be exhausting and exhilarating all within ten minutes.

So if you happen to see a GP and they seem unusually miserable, just remember they may have just had to give someone a terminal diagnosis or they may have just certified someone deceased. It can be a relentless job. We were seeing 50 patients a day each when I retired, making decisions, and dealing with physical, mental, and social problems that were getting increasingly difficult to resolve.

The job is easier at Pangbourne as we have a personal list system, meaning every effort is made to see the same people throughout their lives. All the studies show that health outcomes are better if you see the same doctor, as continuity of care is so important.

As a great example, in the last few years of my time at the Boathouse I was doing 6-week baby checks for mothers who I had done a 6-week baby check on when they were babies 25 years ago! It was an amazing feeling to have been in the same place that long and people who were once strangers were now friends.

Sadly, the principles of the “family doctor” are rapidly disappearing across the country – but not at Pangbourne, where a brilliant team of doctors, nurses and admin staff continue to provide some of the best medical services in the country. The people of Pangbourne are very lucky indeed to have such a great practice. I do miss the patients and my colleagues, but not the paperwork!

I have not suddenly stopped medicine completely however, and now do a couple of afternoons at Spire Dunedin as a private GP just to maintain my sanity! Thirty-minute appointments and time to talk to people about all their problems with no interruptions is such a luxury; together with access to any investigation needed to help get a quicker diagnosis.

I see a lot of patients from other, clearly failing, surgeries (not Pangbourne), where getting an appointment is as likely as succeeding in the Wimbledon tennis ballot; or when they do get through, they end up with a phone call.

LOCAL HISTORY

We all deserve a face-to-face consultation and a physical examination when we feel we need one, but since Covid many surgeries have simply stopped offering them.

I also see a few old friends from Pangbourne because I have known them for years .

There is obviously a lot more spare time to fill now, but what with Ballroom dancing lessons, golf and a house in France to maintain, the days are already full.

They say when you retire there are not enough hours in the day – but there never were! You just do more of what you want to do and it's great!

Even more excitingly, my daughter Jessica who worked at the Boathouse as a locum when I was on Sabbatical, is now expecting her first baby on Christmas Day!

Finally I need to say THANK YOU to the 2,000 or so patients who were on my list when I left and anyone else I may have seen as a patient at Pangbourne over the years. I had hundreds of cards and gifts when I left, which was overwhelming. Literally. It was very humbling to read the letters of thanks for what I had done over the years.

It is a privilege to spend your life working as a GP. It was an absolute honour for me to spend 31 years working as a GP in Pangbourne.

The success of a surgery is not just down to the people who work there, however. Patients play a huge part in a surgery's success by being understanding and appreciative of the services on offer.

Pangbourne has the best patient cohort, the best clinicians and the best administration team the NHS can offer, supported always by a brilliant patient participation group. It is in the premier league of GP surgeries and long may that continue.

Dr Chris Keast

LILLIPUT LANE COTTAGE

It is bizarre sometimes how certain gifts come into your possession. I'm the current custodian of the pretty thatched cottage adjacent to the church in Sulham. One Sunday afternoon I was out doing a spot of gardening, when a car pulled up onto the drive. A chap then appeared and started to walk towards me with a parcel in hand. Perhaps a delivery driver had misplaced a parcel, I pondered, or he would ask for directions with a certain address to track down.

He started the conversation by saying that his family, particularly his mother, had always had a fondness for the cottage. On many occasions they would drive past and wondered who lived here. He then went on to say that he had been sorting out his mother's possessions following her recent passing and that he wanted me to have what was in the parcel.

He then duly presented me with a box that contained a wonderful miniature of the cottage, one of a number in the Lilliput Lane series, named 'Cradle Cottage'. As you can imagine, I was deeply touched at such a generous and thoughtful act. I commented that only a few weeks ago, we had been discussing the very same series at one of the get-togethers of the various neighbours on the estate.

The gentleman happened to be the owner of a local tattoo parlour. I'll look to pay him a visit over the festive period and present him with a copy of this magazine. Perhaps we'll share a cup of tea and mince pie, although I think getting a tattoo of the cottage may be a step too far!

Phil Clement



LOCAL HISTORY

LOCAL MEMORIES

I have so many fond memories of my childhood living at 'Greenacres' at the top of Tidmarsh Hill. In 1956 my mum and dad, Bert and Irene Manning, moved from Oxford, where my dad was head greyhound trainer at the stadium, and purchased the house with 10 acres of land. They added the extension a few years later as a means of getting away from my piano practising and early music choices!



Dad set up his own greyhound kennels, looking after and training up to 20 or so dogs at a time. The rest of the time was spent looking after an assortment of cows, pigs and chickens and gardening. Needless to say, as a young child, I was particularly helpful when it came to playing with the puppies and collecting fresh eggs everyday. As I got older I was allowed to accompany dad to the weekly "trials" at the old stadium along the Oxford Rd, bouncing along in an old Post Office van with half a dozen greyhounds.

At Greenacres, we were pretty much self-sufficient in fruit and veg, as mum seemed to be forever making jam, pickling and freezing stuff. My dad's main escape from his hard work was the happy times spent with his mates at the Greyhound, having a tot or two of whisky and honing his darts skills. For my mum and me, it was the odd trip into Pangbourne and, very rarely, Reading! I'd never seen so many people in one place before!



I was lucky to be living in Tidmarsh when they were building the M4 not far from the bottom of our field and I remember taking part in the archeological dig, even finding a piece of Roman roof tile and an ox jaw.

I attended nursery school in Pangbourne. Who else can remember the old camp beds coming out at nap time? Getting to my primary school in the early 60's was a short van trip to Upper Basildon, where the indomitable Mr E Stanley Nicholas was headmaster. The threat of

caning always hung in the air when he was around, but other teachers like Mrs Means and Mr Peter North made it not so bad.

The real fun times, though, were the severe winters in '63 and '67, when Tidmarsh Hill was hedge height in snow and completely impassable, enabling me to build

snowmen rather than going to school. In 1968, secondary school for me was Theale Green (then Grammar) school which was reached by one of Pangbourne Coaches picking me and another local pupil (Russell Kempson, I believe?) up from the corner of Mill Lane near the Greyhound. Other names I remember from that time were Hans Schumann who ran the farm opposite Greenacres, who would lend us his combine harvester in late summer; Mrs Mundy who ran the wonderful old sweet shop at the bottom of Tidmarsh Hill on the Pangbourne road; Mr and Mrs Duffett, with their children Rebecca and Noel who lived next door to us and finally my uncle Cyril who was chauffeur to the Borwicks who lived in the posh house up the road (Maidenhatch).

We sold our beloved Greenacres in 1975 when dad retired and moved to Charvil so I could be nearer to Windsor & Maidenhead College. I cried so much my first night in our new home. Instead of a pitch black sky and the sound of hooting owls and barking foxes, I had the orange glow of the A4 streetlights and the sound of passing cars. Tidmarsh was my wonderful home for 18 happy years and it will always be my 'real' home.

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SHORT BREAK ON THE ISLE OF WIGHT

A stay in a beautiful old National Trust Farmhouse in the grounds of Mottestone Manor is a wonderful break for a few days on the Isle of Wight. Set in lovely gardens with views to the sea and gentle walks from the door, it is a great spot for the young and not quite so young.

The Isle of Wight has many attractions including the Tennyson Monument, The Needles and Osborne House. Off season the roads are quiet and beaches and countryside uncrowded. As with many seaside resorts, a lot of places are closed in the winter months – but if you enjoy walking and relaxing quietly, it is the perfect place to visit not too far from home.

Getting there: Drive to Lymington ferry port from Tidmarsh is approximately 1.5 hours, the crossing to the island (Wight Line) is 40 minutes.



ENGLEFIELD CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Sowing the seeds for a flourishing future



In early October, the school grounds got some serious TLC thanks to our merry band of volunteer parents and staff. The weather was on our side and we had a really sociable time which included a good chat over bacon rolls and cuppas. Ruby's garden and the adventure playgrounds were weeded; ivy, nettles and brambles were cut back; new ride-ons were built; footballs were blown up; the dishwasher and a leaky tap were fixed; Pebbles' boxes were washed and put away until next Spring; the grit box was cleared out; our dead tree was removed; benches were tightened up, and finally the pond area had a massive prune and clear-out so we can actually see water again!! On top of that, all the garden waste was either composted or removed.

We celebrated Harvest at St Mark's Church as a school community. Songs were sung, poems performed and readings and prayers shared. Rev Julia did a lovely talk about the importance of sharing food fairly across the globe. We collected lots of tins and packets which two parents kindly took to the West Berkshire Food Bank collection point. Hopefully this has reminded the children of the benefits to all, including themselves. of doing kind acts for others.

Four Year 5 pupils spent a morning and lunchtime at The Oratory for their Maths Challenge. They were competing against lots of other schools, solving maths problems and puzzles. Four Year 4 pupils then went to the St Edward's Maths Challenge. All children involved enjoyed the challenges and loved working alongside other schools.

All classes enjoyed a music and rhythm workshop with Marcel and Philippe from Bassistry Arts, before coming together for a whole school assembly at the end of the day. This is such a special day in our school calendar and



some of the children remember their songs from year to year!

All classes spent time during Black History week finding out about key figures and events from the Civil Rights Movement and beyond. KS1 researched Mary Seacole. Rome and Luca explained: 'We learned that when Mary Seacole died, a statue was made in London to remember her because she was a really special person in the Crimean War.' Years 3 and four found out about Dr Martin Luther King Junior.

They learned about the 'I have a dream ...' speech, thought about the current issues that mattered to them and then wrote their own speeches.

I have a dream that one day the Russia and Ukraine war will stop.

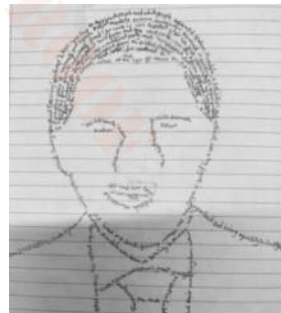
I have a dream that everyone will have peace.

I have a dream that we will plant more trees.

I have a dream that the whole world will love everyone and the world.

Damian Year 3

Year 5/6 learned about Nelson Mandela. Bo wrote: 'For Black History Week in Years 5 and 6 we read a book written about Nelson Mandela and learnt about how he spent his whole life fighting for freedom and protesting against racism. The next day we did a comprehension and read another text. Then we drew round Nelson Mandela's face and wrote sentences instead of drawing lines. It was very tricky but some people did it really well.' Amelia's picture is shown here.



Our Years 5 and 6 children had a truly adventurous time in Rhos y Gwaliau in North Wales. They enjoyed a night walk, canoeing, gorge-walking and a trip down a slate mine. On the day of Storm Ciaran, spirits were not dampened by the wind and rain however safety took first priority; instead of a mountain walk, the children did a hill walk followed by the 'via ferrata'. They had marshmallows on the camp fire and were able to buy souvenirs in the shop. The final day was spent enjoying a blustery beach with a mixture of rock scrambling, sliding and ice creams. What a great way to end a fantastic trip.





In mid-November, four of our children set off to Elstree School for their primary schools cross-country event. The weather and surroundings were stunning though the ground was still very boggy after all the early November rain. The children ran brilliantly, pacing themselves well and supporting each other towards the finish line . . . as did the parents who were present. Fastest lap went to Jude but well done to all of them for such a great effort. Thank you too to Elstree School for organising and providing such yummy treats at the end.

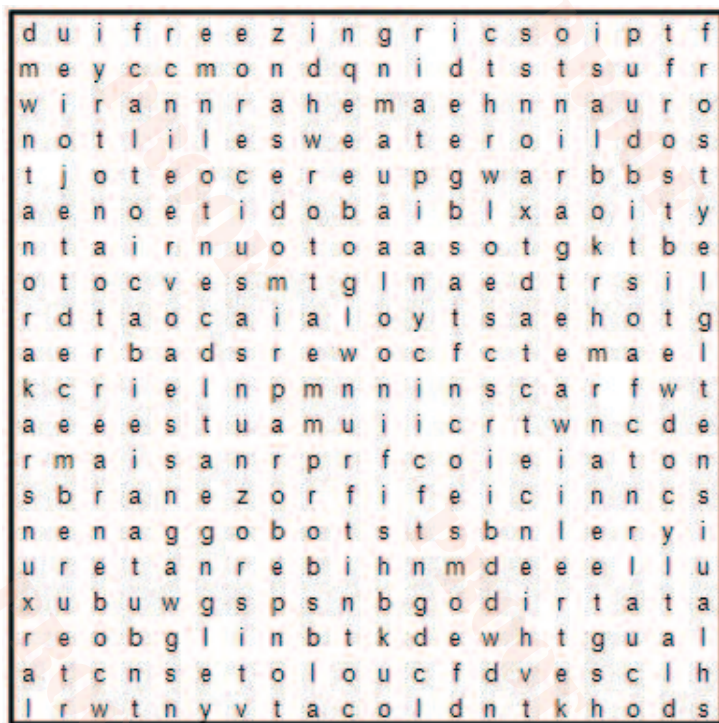
November also meant the long-awaited Junior Music Festival! Nineteen children took part in the event which was held at The Hexagon in Reading. They had been rehearsing 'Rainforest Rumble' since the start of term so were definitely ready for the experience. They sang as part of a 300 strong choir in front of about 800 parents and grandparents. They did us proud and have memories that they will treasure for a very long time.



Finally, an invitation to join our enthusiastic group of volunteers who organise and run our popular Flower Show and School Summer Fayre – a truly traditional summer fete which takes place on the school field in July. This is the school's biggest fund-raiser so it is a really important occasion for us, both financially and in terms of building a strong local community. The Flower Show committee is looking for new recruits. If you would like to join our friendly team, taking on a role such as minute-secretary or treasurer, or even just joining us to share ideas and help on the day, please contact our Chairman Allison on alice4t@gmail.com. We look forward to hearing from you.

Difficult Winter Word Search

Winter is the coldest season of the year. Winter to many means snow, short days and extra clothes to keep us warm. Did you know that no two snowflakes are alike?



Word List

See if you can find the winter related words in our word search.



Anorak	Frosty	Snow
Coat	Frozen	Snowball
Cold	Hibernate	Snowman
December	Iceberg	Sweater
Ear muffs	Icicle	Thaw
Freezing	Mittens	Toboggan
Frostbite	Scarf	

SAYINGS AND THEIR ORIGINS

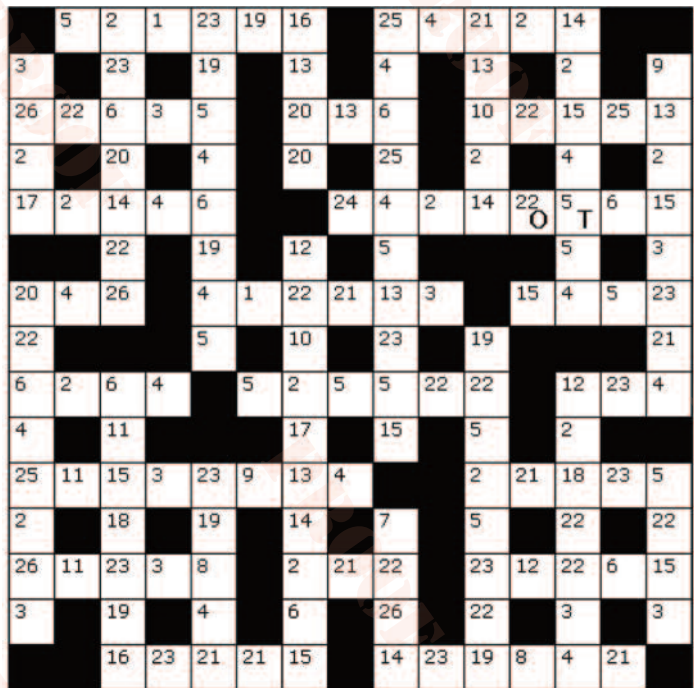
'*Cost an arm and a leg*': In the 18th century the cost of having your portrait painted was based on how many limbs were painted. The cheapest option was having only your head and shoulders painted. A *top range portrait* included the legs.

'*A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush*': has its origins in medieval falconry, where a bird (falcon) in hand was more valuable than the two in the bush (the prey).

CODEWORD

Codewords are like crossword puzzles, but instead of clues, every letter of the alphabet has been replaced by a number, the same number representing the same letter throughout.

You have to decide which letter is represented by which number. To start you off, we reveal codes for some of the letters. Fill in these letters in the puzzle and start guessing words and discovering other letters.



A B C D E F G H I J K L M
N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

Answers will be posted on the parish council portal
<https://www.tidmarshwithsulham.co.uk/magazine.htm>

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

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Church Wardens for St James, Pangbourne;

St Laurence, Tidmarsh; St Nicholas, Sulham

Jill Palfrey 0118 984 2698

Julia Sheppard 0118 956 1820

PCC Treasurer

Stephen Billyeald 0118 984 3368

PCC Secretary

Helen Hopwood 07733 106020

Friends of St Laurence

Chairman

John Chishick 0118 984 3666

Treasurer/Secretary

John Butler 0118 984 2621

Emergencies

999

All non-emergencies 101

Floodline 0345 988 1188

Medical

The Boathouse Surgery

Whitchurch Rd, Pangbourne 0118 984 2234

NHS Direct

111

Berkshire West Primary Care Trust

Reading office 0118 950 3094

West Berkshire office (Newbury) 01635 42400

Government

MP for Reading West

Alok Sharma (Conservative) 0118 945 4881

Councillor for the Pangbourne Ward

Matt Shakespeare (Liberal Democrats)

matthew.shakespeare1@westberks.gov.uk

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Jonathan Pearson (Vice Chairman)

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Matt Shakespeare

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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 959 4000
Newbury Buses	01635 567500
Thames Travel	01491 837988

Traveline

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

1st Purley & Pangbourne Scout Group
Registration Secretary regsec@1stPandPorg.uk

Girl Guides 0800 169 5901
www.girlguiding.org.uk

Village Hall Committee

Alan Maskell	0118 984 5326
Carol Williams	
Axel Lagerborg (Treasurer)	
Hall Bookings (Hilary Innes)	0118 984 2561
Emergency Contact	07954 140048
Email:	tidmarshvillagehall@hotmail.com

West Berkshire District Council

Main switchboard	01635 42400
Streetcare	01635 519080
Planning applications	01635 519111

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