



In This Issue	
Group Letter	1
Group Notes	4
Wildlife	11
From the Registers	14
Calendar	15
Hambleden	17
Frieth	21
Medmenham	22
Classified Advertisement	24
Church and Village Activities	
and Contacts	26

Weekday Services

Wednesday - 9.30am, Zoom

Daily Prayer - 10.15am, Holy

Communion, Turville

Emergencies:

If you are unable to contact the Group Priests, please get in touch with your churchwarden. (see pages 26 and 27)

All contributions are welcome, to the Editor, Penny McLeish

hambledenvalleyeditor@gmail.com

3 Abbey Cottages, Ferry Lane, Medmenham SL7 2HB Telephone 01491 571288

Please keep articles within 350 words. Copy deadline is 15th of the month.

Printed by Higgs and Co Printers Ltd., Henley-on-Thames.

Group Letter



There were queues of people waiting to get into church! These may be words that are sadly not often heard today but, on 8th May 1945, following an announcement by Prime Minister Winston Churchill that the Second World War in Europe was over, churches were ready to offer services of thanksgiving and reflection.

At Westminster Abbey, photographs reveal people queuing to attend the thanksgiving services which were held every hour between 9am and 10pm;

25,000 people attended during that day. People swarmed through the streets and, for some, the austerity of war was forgotten as the hope of peace appeared in the dawning of this new day.

While the church services celebrated the end of the war in Europe, they were also sensitive to the fact that many were still to return from battlefields, that the war in the Far East continued and that sadly there were those who would never return. Nevertheless, the crowds gathered and the Abbey bells rang out joyfully.

Eighty years later, church bells and their bellringers continue to play an important role and this year, along with towers across the country, we will hear our own bells ringing across the Hambleden Valley from 6.30pm on Thursday 8th May to commemorate the anniversary of VE Day.

And the commemorations will not stop there. On Sunday 11th May prayers will be said in our churches and, at 3pm, Wild Church will meet on the Dene – the site of the original VE Day celebrations in 1945 - inviting everyone to join them for a special tribute where local history and events from 80 years ago in the Hambleden Valley will be shared and revisited.

In revisiting these events, however, the focus will be on peace as our world continues to long for that peace which passes all understanding; it is summed up in this poem by Primary School pupil Elsie:

One day...

Amen

One day you'll learn to endure, Endure like the soldiers who served in the wars... Even though they had dreams to pursue. You are the result of courage in the darkness, The result of heroism and pain, So when they ask who you are, Tell them you're the result of world peace.

Sue Morton



Booklets • Brochures • Magazines • Leaflets • Business Cards • Letterheads

Banners • Posters • Pull up Banners

Design • Print • Copying • Office Supplies • Plan Printing

FAST, LOCAL, PERSONAL SERVICE

Caxton House, 1 Station Road, Henley-on-Thames, Oxon RG9 1AD T: 01491 419429 E: henley@higgsgroup.co.uk W: www.higgsprinting.co.uk





over 20 years experience. Now providing a home service for Earwax Removal.

Let her visit you in your own home to help relieve the symptoms of blocked ears.

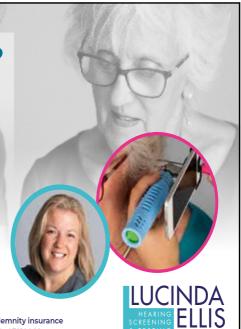
Full PPE equipment used to comply with recommended Covid safety measures.

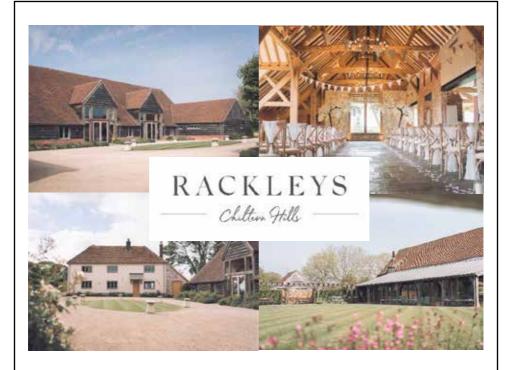
07795 268866

Lucinda@hearingscreening.co.uk

facebook.com/blockedear instagram.com/blocked_ear

HCPC registered. Registered NHS Audiologist. Professional indemnity insurance Hearing Screening and Testing Limited. Registered in England No.07810066





Nestled in the heart of Buckinghamshire is a beautiful wedding and events venue.

Lovingly restored from a traditional farm, Rackleys Chiltern Hills is a bright, light-filled barn that accommodates 120 guests, expandable to 150 with evening guests. Set among stunning gardens with views of the surrounding Chiltern Hills, it's the perfect-romantic setting for loving couples hoping to tie the knot.

The beautifully restored farm is over 300 years old with its name honouring its first tenant farmer back in the 18th century. Both the barn itself and the grounds are licensed for civil weddings, with seven sprawling acres at your disposal.

hello@rackleys.co.uk | 01494 412515

3

GROUP NOTES

Footprints Service 21st March 2025 An Annual Service of Remembrance for the Loss of a Child





This year the Footprints service felt especially meaningful; honouring those whom we love means doing something special to remember them. It is a way to keep their memory alive in our hearts and Medmenham Church held a lot of love that evening.

Candle-filled lanterns twinkled along the path from the gate to the church, lighting the way to the old wooden door, welcoming those who came along to the service. Many slipped silently in to the quiet peace of the ancient building.

Losing a child can feel like a sudden stop—a painful end to the future we had envisioned





with them. It may leave us wondering who are we without them? How can we trust life again? These questions can be hard to answer and that evening we sat together, united in loss and gathered in hope.

The service explored how a bereaved family had been helped by the image of carrying a 'grief rock' using the language of boulders, rocks and pebbles to express how loss affected them and to explain their emotions: Sometimes my grief is as big as a boulder and I can barely breathe. And sometimes it's the smallest pebble and I barely feel it. This became family shorthand for how they talked about their grief and their love.

Exploring that image further, in the church there was a beautiful installation of pebbles placed near the altar; on the annual tree of lights hung different coloured ribbons, threaded through small smooth pebbles. Each person was invited to choose and to take one home.

And then there was the precious time when each person was invited to come forward to light a candle or candles and to place them on the altar, the light burning quietly and touching those places we hide within ourselves.

The music throughout was led thoughtfully and sensitively by a small band and, at the end of the service, Alison Eve played her harp and sang *Into the West* from *Lord of the Rings*.

Sometimes, grief can feel overwhelming, like a lump in our throat that makes it hard to speak or pray. But even in those moments, love is still there. It shows up in small actions—like lighting a candle or holding a pebble—and reminds us that we're not alone.

This is what community is all about: coming together, supporting each other, and finding strength in our shared experiences. This is the Grace of God; we are gently and lovingly held by him as he also holds our loved ones. He is with us.

The Footprints Team



The perfect venue in the middle of the beautiful village of Hambleden.

Large hall, full kitchen facilities, patio, WiFi, hearing loop, parking.
Hire by the hour or by session.



For more details and prices contact Jamie Baker on 01491 410669 or email: enquiries@hambledenvillagehall.org visit www.hambledenvillagehall.org



HAMBLEDEN VILLAGE STORES & POST OFFICE

Local Artisan Produce - Freshly Ground Coffee & Teas Filled Rolls & Toasties - Homemade Sausage Rolls Organic Cakes - Fresh Bread & Pastries - Ice Creams Seating Area - Post Office



That groovy little store!
All locally sourced and made with love!

Mon - Sat 8am - 5pm Sun 8.30am-4pm

58 The Village. Hambleden. info@hambledenvillagestores.com. 01491 571201

Pedestal

Henley-on-Thames' auctioneers with world class expertise, local and international reach we offer a calendar of antique & decorative auctions along with comprehensive valuations services

- Sourced & Sold Locally - Inviting consignments for our forthcoming auctions



For a free and confidential auction valuation please contact:

Guy Savill or Sally Stratton MRICS +44 (0)1491 522733 or email: valuations@thepedestal.com

The Pedestal

The Dairy, Stonor Park, Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire RG9 6HF

www.thepedestal.com

GROUP NOTES

Wild Church!

Palm Sunday



Palm Sunday this year was one of those lovely village occasions that brings everyone together - young and old, locals and visitors alike. We gathered in the churchyard at St Mary's Turville to hear the story of Jesus riding into Jerusalem on a donkey. In our case, the donkey was played (to great effect) by Buttons the pony, who sported a fine pair of grey velvet ears for the occasion. Most of us were happy to suspend disbelief, though not my daughter Willa (aged two) who took one look and loudly announced, "That's not a donkey – that's a horse!" She had a point!!



With Buttons leading the way, we walked together across the green, towards the Turville Artists' Studios. There we were welcomed by Rachel Wallace, who gave us a fascinating talk about trees and their role in the Easter story. She explained how palm branches were used to greet Jesus in Jerusalem—a sign of celebration. She told us how tradition holds that

the cypress tree was used to make the cross on which Jesus was crucified. A sobering thought, but one that has become a powerful symbol of hope for Christians around the world.





With that message in mind, we set about making our own symbol of hope—a large wooden cross that everyone helped to decorate. Sticks were fixed in place with string and glue and bright ribbons were tied on as symbols of prayers for the world. It was lovely to see children and adults getting stuck in - some gluing sticks, others adding colourful ribbons.





Willa wasn't sure at first. But the great joy of Wild Church is you can come and go. So having asked twice if we could go home and, after a swift trip across to the pub, she gradually warmed to the whole thing and by the end was waving her little palm cross and joining in the prayers. She even led a rousing version of *Twinkle Twinkle Little Star*.

Though the weather was on the cool side there was a real warmth in the gathering. These village events are so special - blending

GROUP NOTES

tradition, creativity, faith, and fun in a way that feels very typically Turville.

The finished cross, wrapped in string, sticks, and ribbons, stood proudly as we made our way home. It was a simple afternoon, but one filled with meaning and a reminder, perhaps, of what Easter is really all about.

Edward Sants



Community Matters

Apart from welcoming the lovely warm weather, this spring also meant a small let up in heating bills which is always helpful for our families at any time. The children have now broken up from school for two weeks which means of course there are hungry mouths to feed all day. At the beginning of the school holidays, we gave an Easter card with an ASDA voucher for £50 to each family with school age children to help with this demanding time.

Something which has grown over a period of time, partly encouraged by our volunteers and partly by their own initiative, is a shared friendship and understanding of each other's needs between our families. This means they get extra support from each other and of course a real shared understanding of what it is like to be living in poverty. This then leads to helping each other out when possible and, hopefully, a greater sense of community togetherness.

We still continue, through the generosity of financial donations from individuals and charities, to supply essential items such as replacing washing machines, fridges and cookers when they are beyond repair. School uniform, bedding and many more much needed items are on our "menu" and, as always, our grateful thanks to everyone who donates in whatever way you are able. Sadly, I think our work will continue and grow even more in the present climate.

Wishing you all a happy and blessed Easter.

Judy Taylor

Chiltern Vintage Tractor Charity Run 2025



For the last 19 years I've had the pleasure of organising the local vintage tractor charity run. It's a very family orientated day event and

involves approximately 65 vintage tractors all slowly trundling behind each other on local farms and estates in this part of the Chilterns. Each year we try to pick a different route.

For 2025 we have selected Sunday 1st June as the date of the run. We will start on Hangar Farm in the village of Fingest, routing through farms and estates, with a lunchtime stop on the local airfield (Wycombe Air Park). After lunch

Continued on page 11



OUR LIVE-IN SERVICES

Housekeeping & Companionship

Homecare

Complex Care

Rehabilitation

hamiltongeorgecare.com 0330 470 2866

HIGH-END CARE IN YOUR OWN HOME

Hamilton George Care allows you to stay in the home you love, with the ongoing support of your chosen private carer. Working with you and your family, we take the time to understand who you are and how you want to live your life.



66 Hamilton George Care are true lifesavers. Their support is consistently five-star, always going above and beyond expectations.





NUBODI PILATES

Welcome to our vibrant Pilates studio, where an energising Reformer Pilates experience awaits!

Located in the heart of Henley on Thames.

Please contact info@nubodipilates.co.uk for more info.

First 3 classes for £50



Discover Oaken Grove Vineyard, a 40-year-old hidden gem in the Chiltern Hills, where award-winning English wines come to life. This family-run boutique vineyard, tucked neatly between Henley-on-Thames and Marlow, produces exceptional still and sparkling wines—fresh and modern, from grapes bursting with flavour.

Join us for a vineyard tour and tasting experience, or soak in the atmosphere at one of our live jazz music events or foodie pop-ups. Planning a special event? Our covered wine terrace and elegant Tasting Room are available for corporate gatherings, private parties, weddings, workshops and wellness events.

Visit us and savour the taste of English excellence.

Oaken Grove Vineyard, Benhams Lane, Henley-on-Thames RG9 6JG oakengrovevineyard.co.uk





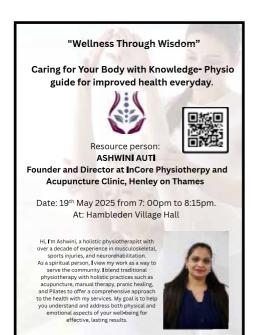
GROUP NOTES AND WILDLIFE



we will trundle back through a couple of farms to finish on the starting field in Fingest. The beneficiary charity for all funds raised is the Thames Valley Air Ambulance.

Please come and see us off between 8.30 and 9.30am on 1st June or meet us at Wycombe Air Park between 12.30 and 2.30pm. We should finish at approximately 4.30pm.

Gary Anderson



WILDLIFE

Frieth Natural History Society

Saturday 31st May is the date of our next walk and we will be meeting at 10.15am. There will be a short 10-minute introduction before setting off on our walk to explore Finings Wood, led by Paul Thomas from the Finings Wood Community Group.

This piece of ancient woodland stretches from the centre of Lane End down towards Frieth. There is a public footpath running through/alongside most of the woodland which allows limited access to bluebells in spring, cool green shade in summer and vibrant autumn colour. The woodland is currently for sale and the Finings Wood Community Group are fundraising to purchase the land on behalf of the Lane End community.

Anyone is welcome to participate, but for non-members we make a small charge. For further details, please contact; Mary 01494 881501, Andy 01494 881586 or FNHS2023@gmail.com.

Mary Webb

In praise of Butterfly Caterpillar Foodplants



Small tortoiseshell: copyright Nick Bowles

Butterflies often appear out of the blue from above, either side or even from below me. The latter perhaps a result of being disturbed while basking in sunshine, by my clumsy footfall or my shadow but every encounter is a delight. I feel fortunate to live in a world with these beautiful insects, flying about their short lives finding me walking through mine or sitting

WILDLIFE

in a garden with a cup of tea. Their fragility serves to remind me of mine. After the worst year on record for butterflies in 2024, this year I am already viewing each and every one of these precious creatures as a success story and something to celebrate. I am hoping to get you fascinated and fully engaged by the term 'larval foodplant'; please stay with me on this. A garden or meadow bursting with wild or cultivated plants dripping with nectar and proffering a profusion of pollen is excellent news for butterflies, bees, solitary wasps, hoverflies and a whole host of other small flying beauties whirling around when it is warm and sunny; it enables them to fuel their exertions and provide for the next generation. Except that for butterflies this isn't enough which is where an understanding of larval foodplants is critical. Many butterfly species will only lay their eggs on one particular plant because their caterpillars will only eat the leaves of that specific plant. For the small tortoiseshell, whose numbers have dropped 86% since 1976, their sole foodplant is nettles. Orangetip females almost always lay eggs on garlic mustard or cuckoo flowers: chalk hill blues. it's horseshoe vetch; dark green fritillary, it's violets: clouded vellow, it's clovers and trefoils: common blue, almost always prefers birds foot trefoil; small copper, it's sorrel; purple emperor, it's goat willow: comma, it's nettle: red admiral. it's nettle: peacock, it's nettle: silver-washed fritillary, it's dog violet; small blue, it's kidney vetch. Please consider choosing your favourite butterfly, finding a space in your garden to grow their larval foodplant or allowing it to grow on your lawn and you will make a difference. You can see how many species depend on nettles and I mean depend. Please don't strim a patch of nettles you deem unsightly, there could just be or are about to be eggs or caterpillars of the increasingly scarce small tortoiseshell butterfly depending on those very nettles. Thank you.

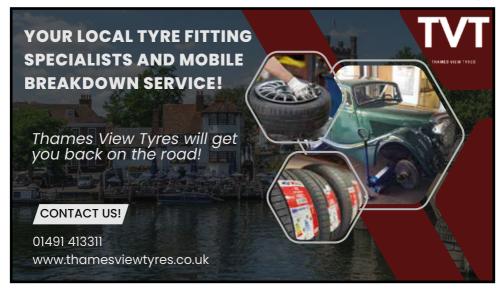
Please consider joining Butterfly Conservation https://butterfly-conservation.org/join

Sarah Ronan

Wittering on ... April 2025

As Sarah Ronan recently promoted "Lipidopterologists", we follow with "PeeWitterists". (Recalling Alan Armstrong's much missed "Verging On" articles we start ... "Wittering On" ... and on).

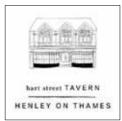
Continued on page 17





open Monday to Sunday, for breakfast, lunch and dinner www.stagandhuntsman.com | 01491 571227





Church Services and Events

From The Registers

Holy Baptism

March 23 Romy Matilda Burke Fawley

Rest in Peace

March 23 Mary Annette Duncan Burial of Ashes, Turville

March 24 Brenda Hassan Cremation



Hambleden Valley Prayer Group

We have formed a contemplative listening and confidential prayer group, forming a circle round the valley with God at the centre. If you would like prayer please send a request to the email below:

hamble denvalley prayer group@gmail.com





Turville Northend Village Hall

Large Hall, Committee Room, Kitchen, Private Terrace, Parking. Available for: Meetings, Workshops, Parties, Weddings, Classes.

For further information & bookings visit: www.thevillagehall.co.uk
Turville Northend Village Hall, Northend, Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire RG9 6LJ

CALENDAR FOR MAY 2025

Pattern of Worship May 2025

Please see below for Sunday services. There will also be Zoom services at 9:30am on Wednesdays with Churchyard Prayers at Fawley at 12noon on Fridays. The 10.15am midweek Holy Communion on Wednesdays is at Turville. Please check our website

www.hambleden-valley-churches.org.uk for latest updates or contact our administrator

Jenny Neagle on 07769 599616 – hambledenvalleyoffice@gmail.com with any query.

Sunday Services

	Fawley	Fingest	Frieth	Hambleden	Medmenham	Turville
4th May						10am Group Service
11th May	11am Holy Communion	9am Holy Communion		11am Holy Communion 3pm Wild Church, The Dene - VE Day commemorations		
18th May			9am Holy Communion	8am BCP Holy Communion 10am Lay-led Morning Worship	11am Village Service	
25th May	11am Holy Communion	6pm Evensong	9am Holy Communion	11am Holy Communion		9.30am Holy Communion
1st June	10am Group Service					

Albers Studio Gardens

Highly experienced gardener with great eye for planting and design.

Free appraisals.

Hambleden and beyond......

info@albersstudio.co.uk 07752 269721 www.albersstudio.co.uk



Sun Throu Window Cleaning

OFFICES FLATS

HOUSES GUTTERS

Barrie.nowlan@sky.com Mobile 07825 241469



Danesfield Gardens

Henley Road, Medmenham, Near Marlow, SL7 2EU

Your local nursery for bedding and patio plants for spring and autumn Baskets filled, compost, chimney pots and ornaments

Isabel McCrindle Phone: 01628 484509 and Hannah McCrindle







ARNOLD FUNERAL SERVICE INDEPENDENT FAMILY FUNERAL DIRECTORS

Traditional, Alternative & Green Funerals ~ Pre-Payment Plans ~ Stonemasonry ~ Floristry 24 Hour Service

www.arnold-funerals.co.uk

21-23 Little Marlow Road Tel: 01628 898866

Head Office Flackwell Heath 24 White Pit Lane Tel: 01494 952288

891 London Road Tel: 01494 472572

32 Gregories Road Tel: 01494 685000

Farnham Common 4 The Broadway Tel: 01753 535556

38 Oak End Way Tel: 01753 891892



All breeds of Dogs and Cats · Long Coats a speciality Collection or home service by arrangement

> MAIDENHEAD-MARLOW-HENLEY PROFFSSIONAL & CARING With 36 Years' Experience Clipping/Hand Stripping Rotten Row Farm · Hambleden Henley-on-Thames · Oxon Tel: 01491 636140 candidataylor50@gmail.com www.coatandtails-Hambleden.co.uk

Telephone 01491 574644



Established 1906

FAMILY RUN INDEPENDENT MEMORIAL MASONS

36 READING ROAD, HENLEY ON THAMES, RG9 1AG

www.etsheppard.co.uk

info@etsheppard.co.uk

Private Car Parking

WILDLIFE AND HAMBLEDEN

Whilst enjoying rare sunshine, nature begins to blossom and .. a beautiful call echoes along our valley .. "Peewit, wit, wit, peeeewit". Drawn by these distinctive calls you will see an amazing aerial display; cartwheels in the sky; 90 degree turns; steep climbs, death defying dives, with pin point landings. Lapwings.

We have two pairs courting and cavorting over a scruffy, nettle strewn patch between the Pheasants Hill chalk stream and our main valley brook. The complex nuptials are bemusing. There's impressive parallel flying; perhaps a him and her seeking harmony in the air or, two boys trying to out manoeuvre each other, or probably the ladies letting the lads know how to better synchronise their flights - who knows? With jet black upper wings and white underparts, you see flashes of bright white as they rotate in flight.

One will often land in a familiar spot. Another lands yards away, not always looking too interested in a nearby potential mate. Indeed if approached too quickly both take to the air again. I surmise the lady is considering where a nest might best be made well before deciding who to share it with. Whilst her Ladyship potters along the side of the stream, wading, showering and fluffing feathers her suitor does a flyby to demonstrate patience and persistence.

Great trauma and excitement: As the early sun clipped the meadow, several kites were swooping on something in the long grass. A dead whatever or, heaven forbid .. a nest. All four lapwings were in high alert diving and darting amongst their bigger foe. A magpie appeared on the scene, another sign of a corpse or weak fodder. Reassuringly I'm 90% certain that lapwings have not nested yet and, very reassuringly, these four outnumbered fighter jets saw off the Stuka bomber squadrons. Meanwhile, there was a ripple of "littl'ns" seen scurrying on the stream's edge. Initially I thought these might be escaping toddlers, but they were too big, too soon and their movements too mature, possibly dunlins or snipe.

As I close .. the lapwings have settled .. the kites have dispersed .. the dunlin (?) are sunning themselves by the brook. Too many pigeons and some very proud, fluffed up male pheasants are ever hopeful that someone will notice them.

Amateur Witterer, Chris Howgego

HAMBLEDEN

"Prayers and Posies" on Mothering Sunday







A short service was held in Hambleden, led by Jill, Liz and Mardi. The choir stalls were full with all ages from 2 years, through teens and middle and old age to 95! A few people just missed it as they had forgotten to change their clocks!

The service followed the pattern of Morning Prayer. Prayers had the theme of the care given by mothers for their children and of children for their mothers. The readings were Moses

HAMBLEDEN

in the Bullrushes, and Jesus on the Cross commending the care of his mother to his disciple. The posies were given out to almost everyone and some saved for elderly ladies in the village. The service ended with the ancient thankful prayer of St Anselm (1109).

Jill Steward



Teatime Again!

Where has the past year gone? It is now time to start the appeal for help! Our last request resulted in zero response, so we are hoping this one does a little better.

For those of you who are new to the Hambleden Valley, every Sunday afternoon, between 2pm and 5pm, from 1st June until 28th September, tea, coffee, soft drinks and homemade cakes are served in the churchyard in Hambleden, or, if wet, inside. This beautiful church is used by everyone in the valley and the money raised goes directly to the upkeep of it, last year raising circa £6.000.

We need 3 - 4 people each Sunday to serve

these teas in addition to making cakes wherever possible, we use on average twelve cakes each week. If you are unable to commit to a Sunday afternoon but like baking cakes, we definitely need you! There is a freezer in church, which will be switched on in late May and cake donations may be placed in there, please write the contents of the cake as we must be careful of people with allergies.

But if you are unable to undertake any of the above, I personally would welcome your help in organising these teas due to a few minor health issues.

Looking forward to hearing from you.

Penny Wright 01491 571135 penny.hurtley@gmail.com

Becoming a Tower Wizard



If you've ever heard the bells ringing at Hambleden Church on a Sunday morning or a Friday evening, you might not know that one of the ringers is just ten years old—me! I started learning to ring three years ago at Hambleden

because their practice night was early in the evening and on a Friday, which meant I could join in without it being a school night. Since then, I've also started ringing at Marlow on Sunday mornings, and during the school holidays, I go to their Tuesday night practice too.

Bellringing is great fun, and it's also an important part of village life. Bells call people to church, mark special occasions, and help keep a wonderful tradition alive. But running a bell tower takes a lot of effort, and I realised that our Tower Captain at Hambleden has a lot to do. I wanted to help out, so I asked if there was anything I could do to take on some responsibilities.

A lot of the official tasks need someone over 18, but after talking with the Tower Captain, we

Continued on page 21





From Our Farm To Your Fork



Fully stocked farm shop specialising in produce from our farm, as well as other local farms and businesses.



Laceys Farm Shop & Butchers Lane End. Bucks HP14 3LP Telephone: 01494 881660 www.laceysfamilyfarm.co.uk **Opening Times** Tues - Fri 8.30am - 5 pm Sat 8.30am - 4pm Sun 9am - 2pm

YOGA IN YOUR HOME

Qualified and experienced yoga teacher at reasonable prices

• 1 to 1 teaching

• Small Groups

· Seniors welcomed

· Hambleden Valley based

Please contact:

Susannah Trombetti

Email: susannahtrombetti@gmail.com

Mobile: 07917 683162



Denning Montessori Nursery and Forest School - Fawley www.DenningMontessoriSchool.com - Tel: Jenny 07982 620710 Admin@denningmontessorischool.com



A Family Run Independent Funeral Service

24 hours service | Private client parking | Private chapel of rest Free home visits | Pre-paid funeral plans | Full written estimate

Tel: (01491) 573370

www.tomalins.co.uk office@tomalins.co.uk
Anderson House, 38 Reading Road, Henley-On-Thames, RG9 1AG



W. J. Webb & Son Ltd.



(Established 1968)

BUILDERS and DECORATORS CONVERSIONS and GENERAL REPAIRS

Hambleden, Henley-on-Thames Tel: 01491 571366

e-mail: wjwebbandson@googlemail.com

HAMBLEDEN AND FRIETH

came up with a few things I could do. One of them is writing articles—just like this one! There are newsletters, parish magazines, and even local newspapers where it would be great to share more about what we do in the bell tower. I also volunteered to keep track of attendance at practice nights and Sunday service ringing, as well as helping to encourage more people to ring on Sundays (especially those who find it hard to get up in the morning!).

With all of these new responsibilities, we decided I should have an official role in the tower. Someone jokingly suggested that I could wear a wizard's hat and be a Tower Wizard, and the name stuck! However, since I was learning about the Victorians at school at the time, I thought a top hat would look even better. After some negotiations (mostly me asking very nicely), we agreed that I could be Tower Wizard—with a top hat instead of a wizard's hat. A wise decision, really... I imagine getting a pointy wizard's hat stuck in the bell ropes could be a bit of a problem!

We also have a great ringing relationship with the bell ringers at Turville. I've rung at their Wednesday practice many times, and their ringers often join us at Hambleden too. We even share ringing-related jokes! Here's one for you:

Why did the bell ringers start going to a different tower?

Because they fancied a change! (Get it? We ring 'changes' when we ring call changes and methods!)

I think every tower should have a Tower Wizard because we're really useful. For example, I've taken on the very important task of making sure the bell ringers' sweet tin is always well stocked. After all, ringing is hard work, and I've noticed that sweets seem to make the ringers very happy!

I love having these responsibilities because it makes ringing even more fun. It's a great way for young people to get involved and help keep the tradition going. Besides, if I ever get tired of ringing, I can just remind people that children love making loud noises—so really, we were born to be bell ringers!

By Theo (Aged 10), Marlow, Buckinghamshire

FRIETH Frieth School

It's been a great term with lots going on at Frieth. The children have worked hard and are looking forward to a well-deserved break!

Eagles had a fantastic Viking theme day! Taking part in battles, endurance tests, shield making, shield walls and archery ensured they all passed the test to become the most fearsome Viking warriors!





Professional Oven Cleaning Services

A CLEAN OVEN IS A HAPPY OVEN!

Healthy, Happy Ovens In A Jiffy Get Your Oven Cleaned TODAY!

§ 01491 714012

info@healthyovens.co.uk

FRIETH AND MEDMENHAM

Hawks Class had a brilliant time at Oxford Castle and Prison. The trip coincides with their current history topic of 'Crime and Punishment'. They started by participating in a workshop, where they found out about punishments of the past, ex-prisoners of Oxford Prison and investigated a range of artefacts. In the afternoon, they were able to climb the mound, before climbing a tower and getting a closer look at D-Wing's prison crypt and prison cells. A great day filled with lots of learning.



On Saturday 15th March our coaches took a record 3 teams from years 4, 5 & 6 to the High Wycombe Junior Schools' 5s netball tournament at Kingsmead Netball Centre. Our teams were relatively new to playing 5s but we rose to the challenge and enjoyed battling it out across several games which gave us invaluable match play experience in a predominantly year 6 tournament. We laughed, we screamed and we all jumped up and down a lot as well as eating a lot of snacks... and that was just the parents!



Buzzards had a fantastic time at Waddesdon Manor. They explored the story of Sleeping Beauty through acting it out and had the opportunity to admire the paintings inspired by the tale. They loved visiting the aviary and trying to spot the different birds. Well done, Buzzards!



Martin Gosling Headteacher

MEDMENHAM



Graham Blake

- Loose Covers Curtains •
- Re-Upholstery Tracks and Poles •

TEN YEAR GUARANTEE

For personal, helpful service, please call

Tel: 01844 261769 • Mob: 0780 1182 400

grahamblake123@btconnect.com

www.grahamblake.com



DESIGN HOME DECORATORS

| KITCHENS & BATHROOOMS | INTERIOR & EXTERIOR | REFURBISHMENT & DECORATION |

Bill Simons

Twin Peaks, Spurgrove, Little Frieth Nr. Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire, RG9 6PB

Tel +44 (0)1494 881341 Mobile: +44 (0)7774 171908 Email: bsimons@dhdcommercial.com | bill@designhomedecor.co.uk

Whatever you want to store...

...for whatever reason - house sale and purchase not coinciding, travelling, house building work, paperwork overload or even "de-cluttering" to sell your house more quickly - we offer a friendly and flexible local service.

With competitive rates, secure storage and hassle free 24/7 access, contact us now!

01189 404163 www.barn-store.co.uk



ADVERTISEMENTS

North Cornwall,

Harlyn Bay Padstow 4 miles. Family cottage with garden. Sleeps 6. Quiet lane with footpath leading to huge sandy beach. Excellent surfing, walking golf. Very reasonable rents. Beck-Burridge 01491 413171.

Rock, North Cornwall.

Modernised, traditional cottage
by the beach, sleeps 8. Available
for holiday lets. Contact Mandy
Heller on 01491 638355 or
johnheller@poynattscottage.com

Salcombe, South Devon.

Three bedroom cottage, recent refurb, stunning estuary views, quiet & close to town centre, sleeps six, easy access beaches/walks, holiday lets throughout year, 01491 577344.

Isle of Mull. The Bothy sleeps 4, available for weekly holiday lets, and The Studio sleeps 2, available for 2-5 nights. An ideal peaceful location for exploring this beautiful island. Wonderful panoramic views, walks, beaches, wildlife. Visit www.thesmithymull.co.uk

Dairy Lane Dog Grooming. Hand-stripping, Clipping, Scissoring, Bathing, Nails.

for more information.

Louise McTeague, 4 Dairy Lane, Hambleden, Henley-on-Thames, Oxon RG9 3AS Tel 01491 579442. Member of British Dog Groomers Association and Pet Care Trust

Do You Need Your Logs Stacking? If so then please contact Tom on 07866 683383.

Fed up going to the hairdressers?

Then let me come to you at home anywhere in the Hambleden Valley. I've been cutting ladies hair (£50 for a cut & dry) and men's hair/beards (£20-£25) for over 30 years - all ages. I also specialise in colourings after a consultation with you. Please contact me either on my mobile: 07764 274247 or my email: mariaspanna@hotmail.co.uk Maria Reid.

Need your chimney sweeping or stove installed? If so, then please contact Terry - a member of the National Association of Chimney Sweeps with over 30 years of experience working in the Hambleden Valley - on 01494 564321 or mobile 07850 196616.

Tip Top Dog Training.Puppy School is held on Saturday mornings at Lane End Youth

and Community Centre followed by Dog Club which is open to graduates of Puppy School or following 1:2:1 assessment. www.tiptopdogtraining.co.uk 07711 807109 melanie@tiptopdogtraining.co.uk.

Furnished Accommodation Management Services, by Pass the Keys (South Oxfordshire). Based in Henley-on-Thames, providing a fully managed service - listing creation and management, quest communication, cleaning and linen. Hassle-free high returns for landlords, second home owners or country estates looking to diversify. Reach out to Rachael 07792 003333 to see how we can help, or email south-oxfordshire@ passthekeys.co.uk

Rowlandscapes creative landscape gardening. Patios & paths, brickwork, planting & hedging, lawns, fencing, tree surgery. New garden consultancy service coming 2025. Telephone: 01844 351919 Mobile: 07718 257104 Email: rowlandscapes@googlemail.com Website:

www.rowlandscapes.com



TREE SERVICES

Highly skilled, local tree surgeon, specialising in all aspects of tree work

✓ Felling/sectional felling
 ✓ Crown Reduction/thinning
 ✓ Hedge trimming
 ✓ Stumpgrinding
 ✓ Pollarding
 ✓ Shaping

Fully insured professional with over 10 years experience. Experience of Conservation Areas and TPOs. All work carried out to British Standard 3998.





















Henley based plumbing, heating and bathroom specialist













- 💥 Oil Boiler Servicing, Breakdown & Repair.
- **≫** Bathroom Design & Installation Service. 🥍 Underfloor Heating
- **Full Tiling Service.**
- 🢥 General Plumbing Maintenance & Repair.
- 💥 Oil Boiler Installations. 🂥 Heating System Power Flushing.
 - Installation & Repair.



SCAN ME



Are you aettina over an operation?

Do you struggle with your mobility or balance?

Are you getting stiffer and losing flexibility?

Or just worried about aches and pains?



The physios at Physiolistic are experts in both pain and movement.

They will find out why you are in pain or not moving well, help address this as quickly as possible and get you moving and doing what you love again.

We are open 7 days a week with free parking at the Henley Rugby Club.

Call 01491 598043 or book online at physiolistic.co.uk Dry Leas Sports Ground, Marlow Road, Henley,

Oxfordshire, RG9 2JA

CHURCH AND VILLAGE ACTIVITIES AND CONTACTS

HAMBLEDEN VALLEY GROUP OF CHURCHES

Rector: The Revd. Andy Storch,

07811 430898, Revandystorch@gmail.com

Associate Priest: The Revd. Sue Morton, 01491 639286, suemorton131@gmail.com

Director of Music: Jo Hutchins 07909 608654 johutchins27@gmail.com

Organist Emeritus: Christine Wells BEM, 01491 571588, c@wells.vnworks.net **Group Treasurer**: Stephen Sidders, 01491 639271 stephensidders@sky.com

Group Administrator: Jenny Neagle,

07769 599616,

hambledenvalleyoffice@gmail.com

Weddings and Blessings: Jenny Neagle, 07769 599616,

hambledenvalleyoffice@gmail.com

Tea Club: St. Katharine's, Parmoor, Tuesdays, 3 - 4.30pm Wendy Duerden, 01491 638297, wendy.duerden@techademic.net

Barney's Toddler Group: Frieth Village Hall,

Currently suspended

Hambleden Valley Garden Club:

Meetings October-March on the first Tuesday of the month, Frieth Village Hall. Clair Honnor 07773 387195

Website.

www.hambleden-valley-churches.org.uk

FAWLEY (ST MARY THE VIRGIN)

Churchwarden: David Napier,

01491 574230,

david_napier@btopenworld.com

Clerk to Fawley Parish Meeting and Village Hall booking:

David Burton - davidburtn83@hotmail.co.uk

FINGEST (ST BARTHOLOMEW)

Churchwardens:

Brian Barnes, 01494 882613, brianbarnes346@gmail.com Jill Dean, 01491 638678, jill@sundawn.uk.com

FRIETH (ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST)

Verger: Judy Hunt, 01494 882227, ajh.claypit1@btinternet.com

Village Hall Bookings:

website www.friethvillagehall.org email friethvillagehall@gmail.com

Tel 01494 880737

Frieth Natural History Society:

Mary 01494 881501, Andy 01494 881586, FNHS2023@gmail.com

Frieth Village Society: Caroline Walker

01494 882333

Frieth Cricket Club: Ben Smiley

friethcricket@btinternet.com

Frieth Lunch Club: meets on last Friday of the month at the Yew Tree Pub.

Judy Hunt, 01494 882227 ajh.claypit1@btinternet.com

HAMBLEDEN (ST MARY THE VIRGIN)

Churchwarden: Jill Steward

01491 571320

jillsteward@hambleden.com

Deputy Churchwarden: Sharon Smith

sharonsmith0505@btinternet.com

Bell Ringing: Fri 6.45pm practice, Helen or Karen, hambledenbells@mycomputer.email

Village Hall Bookings: Jamie Baker,

01491 410669, www.hambledenvillagehall.org

Pilates: Mondays 11 – 12 Fran Presho,

07951 019594

Bridge Club: Fridays 1.30 – 4.30 Frances Cugnoni, 01491 576409

Hambleden Social and Sports Club:

Open daily from 8pm Pat Eldridge,

01491 576067

Tennis Club: Heather Symons, 01491 577344, heathersymons16@hotmail.com

Tennis Coaching: Chris Marshall, 07801 999230, chrismarshall20@hotmail.com

MEDMENHAM (ST PETER AND ST PAUL)

Churchwarden:

Vacant.

Village Hall Bookings: Emma Tentori,

07759 014396

Uniformed organisations:
1st Danesfield Scouts, Cubs and

Beavers: leader Nick Currie, enquiries@danesfieldscouts.org.uk

Medmenham News:

medmen hamnews@icloud.com

SKIRMETT

Village Hall Bookings: Mandy Heller, 01491 638355 www.skirmettvillagehall.org

Tai Chi: Friday 9.30am - 10.30am. Contact: junekingsburytaichi@gmail.com

TURVILLE (ST MARY THE VIRGIN)

Churchwarden:

Caroline Sants, 01491 638994 turvillechurchwardens@gmail.com

Bell Ringing: Wed practice, Rachel Wallace, 01494 883025 rachel@markjwallace.com

Artists' studios: Turville Studios open the first Sunday of every month 11am-4pm. Angela Fois turvillestudios@aol.com www.turvillestudios.co.uk

TURVILLE NORTHEND

Village Hall Bookings:

David & Susan Faragher 01491 638960 or 07563 903678, davidfaragher@fastmail.fm smfaragher@fastmail.fm

Yoga: Tuesdays 7pm, Andrea 07496 281341

Parish Council Contacts

Hambleden: Parish Clerk Lorna Coldwell 01494 881483, clerk@hambleden.org.uk, www.hambleden.org.uk

Medmenham: Parish Clerk Carole Burslem 01494 449215, mpc.clerk@gmail.com

Turville: Parish Clerk Lorna Coldwell, 01494 881483, turvilleparishcouncil@gmail.com, www.turvilleparishcouncil.org.uk

Fawley: Clerk to Fawley Parish Meeting Mr Ross McDonald, 07769 971252 r.mcdonald2007@yahoo.co.uk

Magazine details

Editor: Penny McLeish, 01491 571288,

hambledenvalleyeditor@gmail.com

New subscriptions: Penny McLeish, 01491 571288, penny mcleish@hotmail.com

Advertising Manager: Stephen Sidders, 01491 639271 stephensidders@sky.com

Distributors:

Fingest: Brian Barnes, 01494 882613; Frieth: Tony Parkins, 01494 882170; Hambleden: Samantha Webb, 01491 414418; Medmenham: Jim Tilbury, 01628 487135; Mill End: Robert Spicer, 01491 577747;

Fawley: Hilary Beck-Burridge, 01491 413171;

Northend: Amanda Bucknill, 07718 860064;

Parmoor: Gillie Scott 01494 881408;

Pheasants Hill: Kate Hussey, 01491 576913; Skirmett: Bessie Webb, 01491 638574;

Southend: Valmai Pickett 01491 638523; Turville: Anne Jones, 01491 639344;

Turville Heath: Charlotte Stuart, 07712 077675; Woodend: Helen Balkwell. 01628 471403.

Postal Distributor: Stephen Sidders, 01491 639271 stephensidders@sky.com



Contact us now for your exclusive 10% discount, just quote #Hambleden

HOT Moves have you covered for all your removal needs.

Removals, Man & Van service, Clearance & Storage

Contact Hugo or Sophie on: 01491 877 692 / info@hot-moves.com



Superior Cleaning and Application of Protectors

Carpet, Upholstery, Leather, Modern & Oriental Rugs, Curtains, Tile & Grout/Stone Flooring,
Anti-Allergen Treatment, Specialist Stain Removal, Wood Floor Refinishing

Paul Brooker 35 Place Farm Way, Monks Risborough Bucks HP27 9JJ **T:** 01844 346379 / 344735 **M:** 07866 376934 **E:** jjjp@uwclub.net

www.extremecleancouk.com



Skirmett Village Hall

A bright lovely hall with fully equipped kitchen in the Hambleden Valley available for meetings, workshops, classes and parties. WiFi available.

Bookings via the website: skirmettvillagehall.org Other enquiries: skirmettvillagehall@gmail.com

44D. J. Macleod44

Tree Surgery, Felling, Planting and Hedge Cutting Fencing and Gates Supplied and Erected

Quality Firewood for Sale

Producer and Supplier of Wood Chips
Cedar Cottage, Parmoor, Henley-on-Thames RG9 6NN
Mobile 07850 724023

01494 882901

www.donlogs.com

e-mail: donlogs@hotmail.com

Peter Freebody & Co

BOATBUILDERS OF THE THAMES EST® OVER 300 YEARS



BOATBUILDERS RESTORERS BROKERS

TELEPHONE: 61628 824382 WWW.PETERFREEBODY.COM THAMES BOATHOUSES, MILL LANE, HURLEY, BERKSHIRE, \$L6 5ND



J & D Mooney In Association with Henley Chic Decor

YOUR "CLEAN" RELIABLE QUALITY PAINTERS & DECORATORS DOMESTIC & COMMERCIAL

Family run business for over 30 years!
Summer bookings being taken



- NVQ qualified
- Many references available in and around Henley
- No iob too small!
- Interior & exterior work done!
- Free competitive quotes! No obligation
- Prompt and friendly service!
- C.I.S registered business
- Full public liability insurance
- Specialist in rural run down property

T:01189 344230 M:07961 366535

darrenjomooney@hotmail.com henleyschicdecor.com





When it matters most, put your next move in safe hands.

Knight Frank Henley

Proud to support the Hambleden Valley Magazine 01491 818416 | henley@knightfrank.com

Your partners in property