

March 2024

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THE CUBLINGTON CRIER

Keeping you up to date on village life, news and events since 1984



No.437

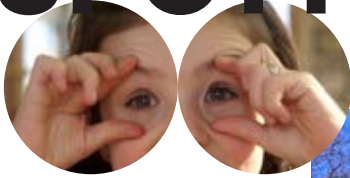
WHAT'S ON • CHURCH • LETTERS • PARISH NEWS • SPORTS & CLUBS • VILLAGE LIFE



Woman
reading
by Picasso



SPOTTED!



PLEASE keep your eyes peeled ... If you spot anything, and we really do mean anything of interest (silly or serious or even just slightly interesting) in the village - please let us know.

Spotted

The first daisy of the year?



Someone Spotted

On Valentine's day - a hawthorn in full leaf on Reads Lane and a bumblebee flying around...

is that unusual? Ed



Spotted

Beautiful complete rainbow just the other day.

Spotted

SEVERAL NEW VILLAGE WATER-FEATURES after last month's new golf course lake!



< Spotted

A new stream behind Ridings Way

Spotted >

The ford down Cow Poo Lane Waist deep water spotted after rain on 18 February.

Spotted

Young Maisy practicing in the pavilion... Wow! what ridiculous height!

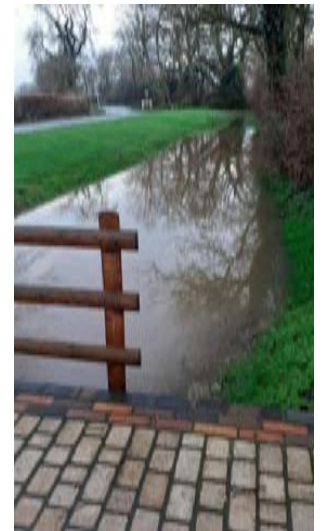


Spotted ∇

New pond in the field below the church



Spotted - what a difference a day makes! Same view 24 hours later! less about 4 feet of water!



Spotted ^

New moat beside the Allen's in Stewkley Road



When you read this the pantomime will have come and gone for another year. Well done to all involved; the author; cast; and all the backroom people. For a village of our size, the number of those involved must be a large proportion. The pantomime is just one example of the many village activities where everyone gives a lot of their time and energy. We are very lucky, thank you.

This month we celebrate two big events in the year, Easter and the Spring Equinox, marking a renewal of faith or nature. With the coming of spring we all feel a little uplift in spirit and, hopefully, temperature. One really gets a feeling that the world is coming alive again.

However, we are continually reminded by the terrible world news that we are very fortunate because of where we live. Is it that as we get older we think things get worse or have they always been bad. I guess it's the latter as the history books shows us the world has always experienced conflicts and people have often been led by dictators, benign or otherwise, or even incompetents. However, we will always have hope and faith that the horrors we see and hear about will go away. Unfortunately, our hope can be dashed by those who promise us solutions to these problems, but then don't deliver. But we must not lose hope.

When it comes to acknowledging events; people; and things, March has some good ones. Women and books feature strongly as well as a couple of Saints. So we thought as a theme for this month's Crier we would celebrate two of the world's better things - women and books. Whether that be Barbie day, International Women's day or Mother's day. Or for the bibliophiles, World Book day, World Poetry day or Tolkien day.

Avril & Martyn

March EDITORS:
Gina & Michael

**NEXT COPY
DEADLINE is - 15th March**

CRIER CONTACTS

CONTACT DETAILS: The Crier, 18 Ridings Way, Cublington, Buckinghamshire LU7 0LW. info@cublingtoncrier.co.uk @Editorial: 01296 688548
TO ADVERTISE: Call Gill: 01296 688548 | Email: gary@cublingtoncrier.co.uk Call for media pack - also available online at www.cublington.com
Annual rates payable in advance: 1/8 page - £20 Village, (£35 non-village). 1/4 page - £40 village, (£55 non-village). 1/2 page - £66 village, (£90 non-village). Full page - £125 village, (£180 non-village) **Single Insertion payable in advance:** 1/8 page - £8, 1/4 page - £15, 1/2 page - £20, Full page - £25. Full page Colour £35 **Inserts** £15 village, £25 non village. Copy deadlines by the 15th of each month. **Please supply all artwork as PDF or hi res JPEG.**

Thank You

April Gilbert would like to send her sincere thanks for all the cards, telephone calls and offers of help she has received since the death of her husband Colin on 31st January. Colin loved this village and has spent ten happy years here with me.

Dear concerned

You recently wrote a SPOTTED letter/article to the Cublington Crier expressing concern and dismay at something going on that you felt needed planning permission.

Regretfully, due to the subject, we cannot publish this letter anonymously and suggest you send your concerns to the parish clerk of the Parish Council, with your full name and address otherwise they will not be able to respond appropriately.

Best wishes Cublington Crier

Farewell

To Bridget Eadie who is moving north. We will miss you and your dogs walking round Orchard Ground!

Don't Forget

British SummerTime Clocks go forward at 2am night of Saturday 31st/Sunday 1st

Did St Swithin's Day change it's date?!

It seems to have rained for about 40 days judging by all the flooding pictures we've been sent. *See the spotted page opposite!*

Special Offer from the Unicorn

Make sure you take advantage of the special village offer from the Unicorn for March and April.

See token inside that you must cut out and present. Bookings only, max tables of 8.

Offer ends 30th April

THE CUBLINGTON CRIER

Keeping you up to date on village life, news and events since 1984

The monthly magazine of the Buckinghamshire village of Cublington - the village that moved.



More help required to mow the churchyard.

Become a true Friend of St Nicolas! As the grass growing season extends at both ends of the mowing rota, due to global warming(?), new volunteers are required for mowing of the churchyard in March and October. Can you please help?

Please contact Roy if you can spare just three hours once every year.

See new rota inside for contact details

*The Crier
online...*

is now on
Cublington.com

May we please remind contributors that the deadline for receiving articles for inclusion in the Crier is the 15th of the month preceeding. If we do not get the information in time, it may not appear. Whilst we endeavour to accommodate late material, it is by no means certain it will happen.

Please advise any readers of the Crier online you may know of. **Thank you.**

Every issue delivered to you, by our dedicated team of helpers costs us about £1.40 to produce, the firms who advertise within these pages pay for this publication. so please remember to mention you saw their ad in "The Crier" . If you know of a company who you think might like to advertise in the Crier, please let us know. If you think you can help deliver the Crier as a back up to our regulars, also please be in touch. Keep sending stuff in... much appreciated.



Thank you if you have volunteered to be on the list. Gary & Gill

The Crier Editorial Rota

Please book your slot! 2025 nearly full - Now booking 2026 (yes really! Amazing huh?!) - so absolutely plenty of time to think about your content!

2024... **May** Gregory family (Miranda)
June Susan & Iain Black
July Vanessa and Kerry
Sept Debbie & Brian Knights
October Karen & Danny
November Penny Allen
December Josie & James

2025... **Jan** ?
Feb Alexander's
Mar Mountfield family

Apr Vanessa & Jason Taylor
May Jenny & Andy Brown
June. Julie King & Ian
July Sandra and Nigel
Sept Sam Conway
Oct ?
Nov. Richard & Polly Thornely
Dec ?

2026... **Jan** ?
Feb ?

To be the guest editor: You only have to design or find a front cover image, write an intro editorial of your choice and provide a few, or as many pages of content of your choice as you want. It's really not that bad or that hard. Go on please give it a go The more who do it - the less we have to ask. Thanks. **Contact: Sandie Joy 01296 682446**

Crier Contact details

PLEASE DROP ARTICLES TO 18 RIDINGS WAY OR EMAIL AS BELOW

CONTACT DETAILS: The Crier, 18 Ridings Way, Cublington, Bucks LU7 0LW. **Editorial:** 01296 688548

TO ADVERTISE: Call Gill: 01296 688548 **email:** info@cublingtoncrier.co.uk gary@cublingtoncrier.co.uk

What is SpeedWatch?



Community SpeedWatch is an educational scheme to help people reduce speeding traffic through their community. The scheme enables volunteers to work within their community to raise awareness of the dangers of speeding and to help control the problem locally.

Community SpeedWatch incorporates poster campaigns and a pledge system linked to direct action using speed detection equipment all under the supervision of Thames Valley Police. The use of the radar device will not lead to prosecution – drivers will get a letter from the police instead – but will help to underline the community's commitment to reducing speed.

Since June 2022 a group of Cublington resident volunteers have been carrying out speed checks in 5 locations around the village, The Nob, outside the Old Rectory, outside of Cublington Growers, Aston Abbotts Road adjacent to the footpath and more recently outside Cublington Village Hall.

We firmly believe that speeding vehicles through the village has significantly decreased especially during the rush hour period and is evidenced by the reduction in numbers of offenders we are recording. Speeding at other times is still a problem but I believe we could reduce if we try to do some Speedwatch sessions later in the day. Below are some results from those sessions, So far, the volunteers have logged almost 200 hours of volunteering.

Analysis of records for 01/06/2022 to 11/02/2024

All Group Records	809
Excessive Speeder Records (> 1.5*Limit)	55
Count Speeders 30mph	809
% of All Records	100 %
Max Speeder 30mph	57 mph
Average Speeder 30mph	39 mph
Count All Sessions 30mph	161
Avg Speeders per Session	5
Total number of Vehicles Passing	14021
Number of Sessions with Vehicles Passing	187
Avg Vehicles Passing per Session	74
Avg % Speeders/Session	5 %
Session time at roadside	196.5 Hours
Avg Offenders per hour	4.1
Vehicles without MOT	23
Vehicles without TAX	30
Vehicles on SORN	6
Police Actions taken if known	
Removed by Admin	1
Reported to TVP	807

*More
volunteers
required
please!*



*Would you like to volunteer for the Cublington Speed Watch group? In the first instance contact Kevin Shults (Councillor, Cublington Parish Council, with responsibility for Road Traffic matters) at kevin.shults65@gmail.com
Thank you.*

You will see from the table above, there were 23 vehicles with no MoT's. 30 vehicles with no road tax and 6 vehicles which had been SORN'd. Thames Valley Police/DVLA take appropriate action on those vehicle owners.

If you would like to help make our roads safer, why not join the Cublington Speedwatch Group for a few hours per month, in the first instance contact Cllr Kevin Shults , Cublington Parish Council, with responsibility for Road Traffic matters at kevin.shults65@gmail.com

For more information on Speedwatch go to <https://communityspeedwatch.org> to read more about this initiative which is supported by Thames Valley Police and other Police Forces across the United Kingdom. You will not be alone, currently there are more than 9700 people in the United Kingdom who are involved in supporting this scheme.

Kevin Shults

• WHO AM I? •

Sadly the Who Am I? feature is now finished.

Despite repeated appeals for participants to come forward, few did without me spending my time chasing.

.....



Cublington Winos

A good time was had by all when 17 of us gathered on 7th February to experience the tastes of the 70s hosted by Roy, Tony & Michael. We were "treated" to the likes of Black Tower, Liefraumilch, Mateus Rose, Valpolicella to name but a few.

We also had snacks and a quiz from the 70s.

All in all I think the general consensus was - did we really used to drink that.

The next Winos' evening is on

Wednesday, 3rd April
at the Biggs Pavilion, 7 for 7.30

***For further information
or to be added to the
WhatsApp group contact
Jackie on 07968 672707
Steve and Jackie***



Additional dates for the diary: HIC!

5th June, 7th August, 2nd October and the 4th of December

.....

Join the *Cublington Life* WhatsApp group

A very useful village forum, no more so than when James Gregory fell and broke his ankle. Posts for urgent help were swiftly answered and eventually the air ambulance attended. He is now at home recovering.

Useful information is also shared on fuel costs/power cuts/ broadband issues/chimney sweeps, electricians, recommended kitchen fitters and the like all get posted on here.

Also last shout outs for the Christmas Greetings page!!

Let me know if you'd like to be on the Cublington Life group WhatsApp, send me your telephone number and I can make sure the administrator knows and adds you.

Admins are: Martyn Waters, Catherine & Charlie Toosey, Gary Brazier,
Liz Smith and Miranda Mercado Gregory



MORE DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



2024

March

Saturday 2nd Village Litter Pick - volunteers required please

Meet Biggs Pavilion - 9.30am. Coffee and bacon rolls at the end!

Book your slot please with Andy Brown on 07762 439453

Monday 4th Tennis Club AGM

Biggs Pavilion - 7.30pm

Friday 22nd - Eukulele BURP

to raise funds for St Nicholas church. Tickets £10 from Ev Griffiths. See ad.

Saturday 30th - An evening of Trivia (NOTE Date change)

to raise funds for Orchard Ground. Watch this space.

Sunday 31st British Summer time starts 2am

April

Wednesday 3rd Cublington Winos

Biggs Pavilion 7.30pm

Saturday 13th Jumble Sale

Biggs Pavilion - 2pm in aid of church funds

Sunday 29th Tennis Club Open afternoon

1-4pm - come along and have a go - join up - renew your membership.

NEW MEMBERS VERY WELCOME

August

Saturday 31st - Horticultural Show

Biggs Pavilion - from 8.30am

PLEASE let us know of any event in the village you are running. If we don't know about it we can't help publicise it.
By the 15th of every month before please.

NORTH FIELD WORK PARTIES

Saturday 9th March 9.30am - 12 noon;

Sat 23rd March;

Sat 6th April; and

Sat 20th April.



*If you can spare an hour
or so on any of these days,
that would be great!*

Please do come along and see what the working groups are doing. The groups usually end around 11.45am with bacon rolls, tea and coffee, and a catch up; visitors would be made very welcome.

Please contact Martyn Waters for any further information:

martyn.waters@icloud.com. M: 07973754356



All proceeds to Church funds

ADVANCE NOTICE



Saturday, 13th April

2pm in the Biggs Pavilion

Stewkley Road,
Cublington LU7 0LR

Donations very welcome.

We would be grateful for donations of clothes, books, DVDs and bric-a-brac. So if you're spring cleaning and having a clear out, please save any suitable items and bring them along to the Pavilion from 10 am on the 13th.

Sorry we cannot take electrical items.

If you have any queries, please ring me on 01296 681570.



Hire The Biggs Pavilion

Rental Rates

Village Residents and fully paid up members of Cublington clubs and organisations.

£8 per hour

Outside Cublington Clubs and organisations regularly using the facilities. £10 per hour

Discounts for block bookings

Dances, discos & parties

(There should be at least one adult present for teenage parties)

Cublington residents £70 Non Villagers £100

Weddings etc. (Whole day - 9.00am - midnight)

Cublington residents £250 Outside of village £300

A refundable deposit of £25 is required at time of booking. Deposit will be returned if no costs are incurred with regard to cleanliness or damage to property, fixtures or fittings.

**Available for parties and special events
Booking events now!**

Online booking diary:
www.ogpavilion.keepandshare.com

Find a date you want and contact

Bob Paine on 01296 680483

bobpaine2002@hotmail.com

to book it!

WHERE IN THE WORLD?

Tim's Fiendish Flying Photos



Where is this in the world?

First correct answer to
info@cublingtoncrier.co.uk
will win a very small prize
and the kudos for a whole
month!

The winner last month was:
JULIE TOVEY seen here
with her prize... we said it
was small!



Last month's answer:

It was of course Greenland, so aptly named with not a bit of green in sight! Tim

Cublington
Crafters

*The Crafters meet every Friday
3.30pm - 5pm in the Unicorn.*

Everyone very welcome.



Need a plumber, a carpenter, a builder, a decorator or electrician?

I hold a directory of tradesmen who have been recommended by someone using them in the village.

You can pass on recommendations in confidence or even better if you are happy to show off their excellent handiwork to others or be called to provide a reference, please let me know that as well.

Contact Tom Gadsby on 07527 989639. Tom is also on Cublington Life WhatsApp group.



Registered Venue 2023/24

WHY YOU SHOULD JOIN YOUR LOCAL TENNIS CLUB!

Tennis is apparently the perfect sport for the over 50's for all round fitness, cardio health and mental well-being. Come on - give it a go!

Monday 4th March Biggs Pavilion - 7.30pm
Tennis Club AGM

Come along and be a part of your club's future,

- LTA affiliated club
- Many categories of membership - single/couple/family/junior/oap
- Coaching organised see below.
- 2 great all weather courts
- Free floodlights for members
- Free use of ball machine (weather permitting)
- This Summer 4 league teams in ADTL
- Fun Club Sessions and Tournaments

Club Open Day (afternoon) **Sunday 28th April** 1-4pm

New members always very welcome.

Why not SIGN UP for tennis coaching with Paul Hobday? LTA level 4 coach

Next sessions start 19th April for 14 weeks.

Paul Hobday is again offering coaching sessions on Friday evenings - two sessions.

First session - Rusty Rackets and improvers 6-7pm

Second session - Advanced and team 7-8pm

Members price £84 (£6 a session)

Non-Members £105 (£7.50 a session)

Call Gary to book your participation.

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Caroline Lane 01296 681373

carolinelane@btinternet.com

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND NON-MEMBER COURT BOOKINGS

(£12 PER HOUR) :

Gary 01296 688548 or 07713 723788
or email at gary@cublington.com

SAFEGUARDING OFFICER

Jean Barnett 01296 392471

To be contacted if you have any concerns about safeguarding.

Orchard Ground & North Field

LATEST NEWS and UPDATES

North Field

It's now just over three years since the first orchard trees and first tree whips were planted on North Field. As the warmer (and drier!) spring weather arrives, I hope you will take the opportunity to walk around this community project on North Field to see what has been achieved in this short time, especially as more mature trees have now been planted which is helping to give the planted areas some shape. As this article is being written, the blossom is starting to show on the orchard trees and on trees in blossom circle. Tree planting has carried on through February with two purple beech trees, and four winter flowering cherries planted in a block over towards the Stewkley Road gate; these will give a spread of pink and white blossoms starting in December through to March. Maintenance work is continuing too with some pruning of the orchard trees and in the blossom circle to help to encourage some height. Volunteers have also been busy replacing a number of tree stakes, securing deer netting and spreading composted bark around the base of the trees. As the field dries out, maintenance work will include cutting the grass in the meadow area and around the orchard, and cutting the pathways. Dennis will be happy to help people to learn scything skills, although he did say that my first efforts to use a scythe looked as though I had cut the grass with a knife and fork! So room for improvement then in the spring.

Two new benches have been purchased for North Field following two generous donations. Thank you to Bridget Eadie for the donation to purchase a bench in memory of her mother and father. And to David and Freddie Bradbury whose donation to purchase a bench celebrates their recent diamond wedding anniversary. Once the weather dries up, both benches will be placed out on North Field after concrete bases have been laid to secure the benches.



Working parties scrapbook.

Future dates for North Field working parties:

Sat 9th March;
Sat 23rd March;
Sat 6th April; and Sat 20th April.

All working party events finish with tea/coffee and bacon rolls. Please feel free to come along for a bacon roll and a chat with the volunteers

For further details about the North Field project, please contact Martyn Waters: email: martyn.waters@icloud.com. M: 07973754356



If you would like to make a donation to North Field, please contact Martyn Waters: M: 07973754356 email: Martyn.Waters@icloud.com

New committee members & volunteers always wanted.

Please volunteer to help on this committee if you can spare the odd hour or two every month.



St Nicholas Church March Newsletter

As we start the lead up to Easter we look forward to hopefully sunny days to chase away the rainy weeks of winter. There are signs of things awakening from their winter sleep around us especially in the hedges and gardens. If the sun doesn't help then one thing that is sure to make us feel awake and happy is the first fundraising event at St Nicholas. The Ukulele Band from Berkhamsted is putting on a concert in the church on March 22nd and I am sure their enthusiastic playing will put a smile on your face so please contact Evelyn Griffiths for tickets (see adverts/posters for details).

On Easter Day 31st March, there are two services taking place. Firstly there will be a 6am sunrise service taking place at the Alexanders' stable yard off Ridings Way. It really is a treat to watch the sun come up from behind the church and listen to the bleating of the sheep and hopefully see some baby lambs. There will then be a celebration of Easter at the 9am church service. Everyone is welcome to come to either service.

We are planning a special Pet Service on 21st April at 4pm. All well behaved pets are welcome and it is requested that all dogs are kept on a short lead and if any other pets are taken into the church they are kept in a suitable cage/carrier. Any larger pets should be kept outside in the churchyard. The plan is to give thanks for all pets and the joy they can bring and Rev. Howard will bless them.

The post pantomime/village lunch was held in February. A wonderful meal was enjoyed by all who attended and we thank everyone who contributed and to Gina, Vanessa and their team for all their efforts which were very much appreciated. People were very generous with their donations and over £300 was raised. This was split between the church and the Riding for the Disabled in memory of Bod (the Alexanders' white horse who sadly died unexpectedly in February).

There is the Annual Parochial Church Council meeting on 12th March which is held in the church at 7pm. Members of the public are welcome to this annual meeting.



The Village Hall is now available to rent during the week.

Available for:

- Social gatherings
- Children's parties
- Meetings
- Music/theatre practise
- Dance & exercise

Cublington Village Hall

Available for Rent

£15 per morning, afternoon or evening session.
(£10 for weekly sessions).

To book please contact:

Sarah Taylor on 07939 342457, sezzietaaylor@btinternet.com

BABYSITTING DIRECTORY - *all listed are 14+*



Alice Gadsby - 680452*

Charlotte Keane 688133

Katie Keane 688133 or
07803939530

Hannah Alexander - 681104

Izzy Law - 688019
or 07896 894914

Maisy Parsons 01296 68230
007368 26143

Charles Powell 01296 680467



* School or Uni holidays only

The Crier can accept no responsibility if any on the above list no longer babysits.

CUBLINGTON

CHESS CLUB



The first meeting of the chess club recently took place in the village hall, when eight gentlemen played three games each. Honours just about even, but an enjoyable few hours spent in cerebral combat. New combatants very welcome - as long as you have a chess set and have a few hours to spare very other Monday!.

Please come along ANNUAL LITTERPICK AND VILLAGE TIDY UP



Sad to say that people are still throwing litter from their cars as they speed through the lanes surrounding us. Please put this date in your diaries.

Sat 2nd March 9.30am

Please email me, Andy, on andyinthevale@gmail.com or 07762 439453 and I will allocate you a specific road along with other volunteer buddies.

It will be up to you to bring gloves/bags/pick up sticks/hi-vis vests.

Further instructions regarding pick up of collected waste etc.. will be issued on the day.

Thanks and see you there!

Andy

We meet bi-weekly on a Monday from 4-6pm in the village hall.

Next meetings are March 4th and 18th.

If this is something you might like to get involved with, please contact me (Steve George) on 07836310881 or george.stephen@mac.com

If you haven't already watched The Queens Gambit on Netflix, it's a very watchable chess drama and might provide the inspiration you need to get involved.

Steve



Cublington Oil Syndicate

Get involved and save yourself some money!

Main Contact: Alison Head
cublingtonoil@gmail.com

Lovell Fuels - 01844 202777

YourNRG 01525 643019

Certas Energy - 01296 561150

Watson Fuels 01438 721594

The daffodils are out – see what is springing up in the library

Our Local Studies section is



next to adult non-fiction, so that it is more accessible. Learn more about Wing and the surrounding area.

Opening Times

Monday	1400 – 1630
Tuesday	1400 – 1630
Wednesday	1000 – 1230
Thursday	CLOSED
Friday	1400 – 1630
Saturday	1000 – 1230

Library Elf is a **FREE** national scheme that helps you to avoid fines when items are due for return or renewal. Sign up here:

<https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/libraries/library-membership/get-email-alerts/>

We are seeking another a copy of *Wing as it was Vol 1*.

★★

We are happy to take donations of adult fiction, but no more than two years old please

★★

We are also happy to take any children's books in good condition

Books: Children's board, picture, chapter, and non-fiction
Teen, Audio, Large Print, Adult Fiction, Non-fiction, Biography
Office: Photocopying, Printing, Internet, Scanning, Laminating
Other: Local Information and Displays

Go to <https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/libraries/> to gain access to the library catalogue and FREE digital resources. Find us on social media at:  [@wingcommunitylibrary](https://www.facebook.com/wingcommunitylibrary)  [@wing_library](https://twitter.com/wing_library)





is March 10th

FACTS ABOUT MOTHERS

1. Gaia, or Mother Earth, was the first goddess in Greek mythology. She created herself out of primordial chaos. She also created Earth and the universe.
2. The African Black Eagle typically will lay two eggs. After they hatch, the mother will just feed one of the chicks. The other chick is usually pecked to death by the other chick while the mother looks on.
3. The mother who gives birth to the largest baby on Earth is a mother elephant. After enduring 22 months of pregnancy, she gives birth to a blind, 200-pound calf.
4. A mother koala will feed her baby her own faeces. Baby koalas—or joeys—haven't developed the intestinal bacteria that help detoxify the highly poisonous eucalyptus leaves, which are a koala's main diet.
5. Polar bear moms put on around 400 pounds during their pregnancy. If the mother doesn't double her weight, her body will simply reabsorb the fetus.
6. A mother orangutan never puts her babies down and typically nurses them for 6 or 7 years, which is the longest mother/child nursing dependence of any animal on Earth.
7. One of the most famous mothers in literary history is Grendel's mother from Beowulf (A.D. 800–1100). While she is nameless, she attacks Beowulf's army to avenge the death of her son.
8. In developing countries, complications during pregnancy and childbirth are a leading cause of disability and death among women. Over 99% of maternal deaths occur in developing countries.
9. The youngest mother in recorded history is Lina Medina. She was just 5 years and 7 months old when she gave birth to a 6.5 lb. boy by caesarean section in Peru in 1939.
10. The oldest mother in modern history to give birth is Rajo Devi Lohan from India. She was 70 years old in 2008 when she gave birth to a baby girl following a controversial IVF treatment.
11. Bobbie McCaughey from Iowa gave birth to the most surviving children from a single birth. In 1997, she had the first surviving set of septuplets (4 boys and 3 girls).
12. The shortest interval between two births is 208 days, or 6½ months. Jayne Bleackley gave birth to a son on September 3, 1999. She later gave birth to a daughter on March 30, 2000.
13. The mother with the most kids is Mrs. Feodor Vassilyev of Russia. She gave birth to 69 children between 1725 and 1765.
14. The mother who gave birth to the heaviest baby was Carmelina Fedele of Italy in 1955. Her newborn weighed 22 pounds 8 oz.
15. While mother hamsters are cute and furry, they are infamous baby eaters. Indeed, first-time hamster moms may eat their babies if they feel threatened by them, if their babies are undersized or abnormal, or if they feel like they need extra nutrients after giving birth.
16. During pregnancy, mothers and children exchange cells through their connection with the placenta. These cells can persist in the mother's body for years.
17. An early precedent of Mother's Day is the early Christian festival known as "Mothering Sunday," in which the faithful would return to their mother church. Eventually, the tradition became more secular, and children would present their mothers with gifts and flowers in appreciation.
18. Some of the worst mothers in movie history include Mrs. Robinson in *The Graduate*, Margaret White in *Carrie*, Joan Crawford in *Mommie Dearest*, Aunt Petunia in *Harry Potter*, the Queen Mother in *Aliens*, and Norma Bates in *Psycho*.



When the floodlights are off, villagers may notice a glow from within the church...no, not on fire, but we are leaving the tower light on, it makes the building look alive and loved. Sponsored by the Alexanders

WOULD YOU LIKE TO SPONSOR THE CHURCH FLOODLIGHTS? IN MEMORIAM • IN REMEMBRANCE • IN CELEBRATION

A SMALL DONATION OF £12 - COVERS A WHOLE WEEKS LIGHTING!

Main Contact: Penny Allen 01296 682006

If you would like to, please contact Penny direct on 682006 or djandpallen@gmail.com or to The Crier with a dedication. **Gift Aid** envelopes are available from the Church and pub (when open) porches and this will enable us to recover 23p for every pound donated.

Thank you

ST NICHOLAS CHURCH LIGHTS SPONSORS

*Penny Allen would like the church lights to be lit in March
in memory of her aunt, Eileen Osborne, who is much missed*



Church Services in March

	9am	Lessons			Readers	Prayers
3	Lent 3	Exodus 20:1-17 1 Cor 1:18-25	John 2:13-22	Linda	Sally	Jane
10	Mothering Sun	Sam 1:20-end Colossians 3:12-17	Luke 2:33-35	Martyn/ Gwyneira	Gillian	
17	Lent 5 Jane/Michael	Jeremiah 31:31-34 Heb 5:5-10	John 12:20-33	Diane	Penny	
24	Palm Sunday	Isaiah 50:4-9a Philippians 2:5-11	Mark 11:1-11	Helen G	Lucy	
28	Maundy Thurs	within Benefice				
29	Good Friday	within benefice				
31	Easter Day	Isaiah 25:6-9 Acts 10:34-43	Mark 16:1-8	Jenny/Peter	Gina	
Apr 7	Easter 2	Psalms 133 Acts 4:32-35	John 20:19-end	Julie	Linda	Jane



From the Rector



Easter

Lent began in February and, by now, Lent is well under way. The end of March sees us celebrating Easter Day.

The Sunday Gospel readings show that the Christmas baby has grown and the adult Christ has embarked on his ministry to any and to all who would listen. He has disturbed the powerful and given hope to the poor. He's also challenged those who believed they could clearly see and hear in faith that perhaps they couldn't; that they couldn't see, hear, understand, anything like as well as they thought. That's why there are various incidents where it was the physically blind and deaf who first recognise Christ and got the point of his ministry.

The Bible readings for Lent also make very clear the growing opposition to what Christ said and did. And it is Jesus' response to that opposition which helps us with the Easter story.

Why was the tomb empty? Why wasn't he there? because throughout his ministry and especially facing growing opposition, Jesus never remained where people thought he should be or where they tried to put him. He slipped through crowds; He negotiated a path through obtuse questioning; He was not in the tomb. The tomb was empty because Christ is not contained by whatever humanity tries to do with him. Nailed to the Cross, they thought they'd got him, but no, the stone was rolled back and He was not there.

And where was He? In the garden of course, meaning the world we know because that's how the Bible uses garden imagery. The gospel begins with the birth at Bethlehem, the Incarnation, combining the Divine and the human, and on resurrection morning the message is the same. Christ is in the midst of the world; our world. Easter faith, Easter joy, is not a foray into history, but a living experience which calls us to be an Easter people, people who accept that Jesus is out and about. Those who want a convenient Jesus, an affable Sunday morning Jesus find he's moved on. Christ says let's be the real church with the real me; let's work together.

I hope that you can find time in Lent to assess priorities and then that you feel able to look forward to Easter, striding forth in the strength of the risen Christ.

With every blessing,

Rev'd Howard Robson.

.....



We are planning to hold a

***Pet Service, and blessing of our pets
with Rev Howard***

on Sunday 21st April at 4pm

(this is not a rerun of the Vicar of Dibley!)

All pets and owners welcome, from dogs, cats, horses, to rabbits, mice and stick insects

Pets must be in a suitable container (cat basket, cage etc) or on a lead and this is the responsibility of the owner.

Larger pets will stay outside during the short Service of Blessing!

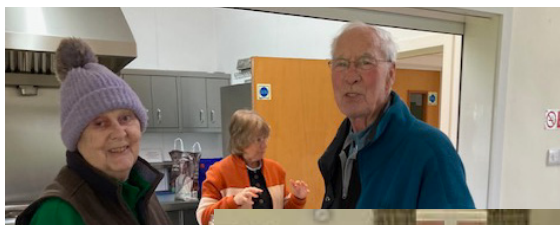
Jane





“Chatty Café”

Going from strength to strength with more Cublingtonians coming for a social slice of cake and hot drink.



The February Chatty Cafe was well attended and it was good to see some new people. The next Chatty Cafe will be on Monday, 4th March between 10.00 and 11.30 am at the Biggs Pavilion. Come along for coffee, homemade cakes (£1) and a chance to meet friends old and new. There is also the opportunity to swap books, DVDs and jigsaws. Everyone is welcome so hope to see you there.

Maggie and Sally

Hope to see you there.

Maggie and Sally

*Please join us at the next Chatty Cafe, on
Monday, 4th March at the Biggs Pavilion between 10.00 and 11.30.*

What could be easier?



easyfundraising

www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/orchardground



Please help us fundraise for Orchard Ground and the North Field Project anytime you shop online - it really doesn't cost you anything!

If you'd like help setting it up please see the web address above or email bobpaine2002@hotmail.com who will be happy to help. **Thanks**

March Birthdays

Happy birthday to you...

Olivia Lea is 13 on 10th March

George Stopher is 2 on 10th March



As Bridget Eadie did her final packing she found this old picture and asked if it be published in the Crier.

It is of the Cublington Ladies cricket team circa 1970? We have managed to identify all the players... Amazing.

Back left to right Jane O'Callaghan, Pat O'Callaghan, Ann House, Diane Eadie, Yvonne Knibbs, Daphne Roger.
Front left to right Carolyn Read Sally Read, Alison Radwell. Rachel Zellent. Gina Roger

Six vacant slots.... New volunteers required as the growing season extends ever further... Could you please help this year?



ST NICHOLAS LAWN MOWING ROTA

W/C	Name		
01st April	Roy Shons	05th August	Caroline & Mike Lightfoot
08th April	Colin Justice	12th August	Ev & Gerry Griffiths
15th April	Kevin Shults	19th August	Mark Cheetham
22nd April	Mike & Sandie Joy	26th August	VACANT
29th April	Dennis & Jack Allen		
06th May	Gill & Gary Brazier	02nd Sept	Geoff & Bernadette Johnson
13th May	Barry Sim	09th Sept	VACANT
20th May	VACANT	16th Sept	Abbie & Lee Stopher
27th May	VACANT	23rd Sept	Tom, Helen & Harry Gadsby
		30th Sept	Andy Peck
03rd June	Sophie & John Law	07th Oct	James Francis
10th June	Maggie & Chris Brandon	14th Oct	VACANT
17th June	Sarah & Jason Keane	21st Oct	VACANT
24th June	Tim & James Taylor		
01st July	Martin Gibby		
08th July	Jason & Vanessa Taylor		
15th July	Susan & Mike Bush/Paddy		
22nd July	David Bradbury		
29th July	Mike Alexander		

I have tried to keep the rota as close as possible to last year's dates, but have six vacant slots. Could you please help?

This is a provisional list and can be altered. If you wish to be removed from the rota or need to amend any dates please email royshons@btinternet.com or text 07752 043145

Many Thanks, Roy

THE UNICORN POST

FEB/MARCH 01296681261 THEUNICORNCUBLINGTON@GMAIL.COM

THEMED THURSDAYS!

A DIFFERENT THEMED MENU FOR EVERY THURSDAY
OF THE MONTH



CUBLINGTON VILLAGE

A SPECIAL OFFER FOR
YOU

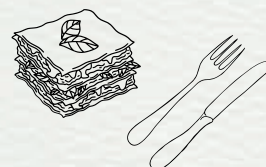
15% OFF YOUR
MEAL WITH US ON A
FRIDAY!

PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU CUT THIS OUT
AND BRING IT WITH YOU TO REDEEM
THE DISCOUNT.

NO TABLES BIGGER THAN 8
TO REDEEM THIS DISCOUNT YOU MUST
HAVE A TABLE BOOKED
OFFER ENDS 30TH APRIL 2024

TIMELINE

THURSDAY 22ND FEB
THE CLASSICS



THURSDAY 29TH FEB
STEAK NIGHT



THURSDAY 7TH MARCH
BURGER NIGHT



THURSDAY 14TH MARCH
PASTA &
PROSECCO



ALL MENU'S AVAILABLE
ON OUR SOCIAL MEDIA



@THEUNICORNPUB



THEUNICORN_CUBLINGTON

Come along for a fun evening

UKULELE CONCERT BURP

(Berkhamstead Ukulele Random Players) I had to ask -Ed

Friday 22nd March at 7.30pm

In St Nicholas Church Cublington

*Tickets £10 which
includes a glass of
wine from*

*Evelyn at
5, Cheney Close
01296 681666 or
07759113432*



SATURDAY 30TH MARCH

7.30pm- BIGGS PAVILLION

ORCHARD GROUND PRESENTS

A quiz with a difference

**AN EVENING OF
TRIVIA!**

OR A TRIVIAL EVENING BUT HOPEFULLY FUN !!

*Teams of up to six people
Cost £5 per person and a few ££'s
for the raffle.*

**BRING YOUR OWN
DRINKS & NIBBLES.**

*Spaces are limited so book early
to avoid disappointment.*

*To reserve your space contact
Jackie on 07968 672707*

..... ALL PROCEEDS WILL GO TO ORCHARD GROUND

SOME FACTS ABOUT BOOKS

1. The largest book in the world is 16.4 feet by 26.44 feet. Over 50 people took part in the construction of the book which is entitled "This the Prophet Mohamed"; and is a compilation of stories highlighting the lifetime achievements of Islam's Prophet as well as the positive influence of Islam on the international and humanitarian scene. It weighs about 1500kg has 429 pages and resides in Dubai having been made in 2012.
2. The world record for the longest title belongs to Vityala Yethindra for his book "The Historical Development of the Heart from Its Formation From ..." In all, the title contains 3,777 words and over 26,000 characters! It was written in 2019.
3. The oldest operating bookshop is in Lisbon, Portugal. It is called Bertrand Chiado and was opened in 1732.
4. The longest novel is by Marcel Proust. It is the 13 volume 'A la recherche du temps perdu' (Remembrance of things past) published in 1912, it has 9,609,000 characters including spaces.
5. Abibliophobia is the fear of running out of reading material.
6. Theodore Roosevelt, the US President read at least one book every day.
7. The earliest novel. Depending on your definition of novel, some believe it to be The Tale of Genji written in the 11th century. But if one defers to classic Greek and Latin then 'Chareas and Callirhoe' written by Chariton in the 1st Century AD is the oldest novel.
8. The longest written word consists of 189,819 letters. It is the full name of 'titin' which is a giant protein.
9. The longest sentence printed is 832 words in Les Miserables by Victor Hugo.
10. The world's best-selling book is The Holy Bible at about 6 billion copies. The second best-selling is 'Quotations from Chairman Mao Tse Tung' or The Little Red Book with about 900million copies. If you include a series, then third place goes to the Harry Potter series at 500 million copies.
11. When reading your eyes look in different directions. Each of your eyes look at a different letter 50% of the time.
12. The most expensive book is 'the Codex Leicester' which sold for \$30.8 million in 1994. It was Leonardo da Vinci's science diary.
13. The first ever story written was Gilgamesh in 2100 BC; it was written in cuneiform script.
14. The oldest library continuously working is Khizanat al Qaraw-iyyin in Fez, Morocco. Fatima al Fihriya, a woman founded it in the 9th Century AD.
15. The largest private collection of books belongs to John Q. Benham of Avoca, Indiana, USA has a private collection of over 1.5 million books. As they have filled up his house, most of them must be kept in his six-car garage, two-storey building and piled under tarpaulin outdoors.

MARCH EVENTS

- 1st St David's Day – the patron Saint of Wales
- 7th World Book Day
- 8th International Women's day
- 9th Barbie day
- 10th Mother's day
- 14th Pi day
- 17th St Patrick's day
- 20th Spring Equinox (northern hemisphere)
- 21st World Poetry day
- 22nd World Water day
- 25th Tolkein day.
- 28th Piano day
- 29th (2024) Good Friday
- 31st (2024) Easter
- 31st British Summer time

WASTE BIN COLLECTIONS CUBLINGTON - MARCH -

16:39 Buckinghamshire Council Aylesbury Vale area

18, RIDINGS WAY

Food, Recycling	Wed, February 28, 2024		
Garden, Food, Waste	Wed, March 6, 2024		
Food, Recycling	Wed, March 13, 2024		
Garden, Food, Waste	Wed, March 20, 2024		
Food, Recycling	Wed, March 27, 2024		
Garden, Food, Waste	Thu, April 4, 2024		
Food, Recycling	Wed, April 10, 2024		
Garden, Food, Waste	Wed, April 17, 2024		

FARCE 'N' YOUR SEATBELTS!

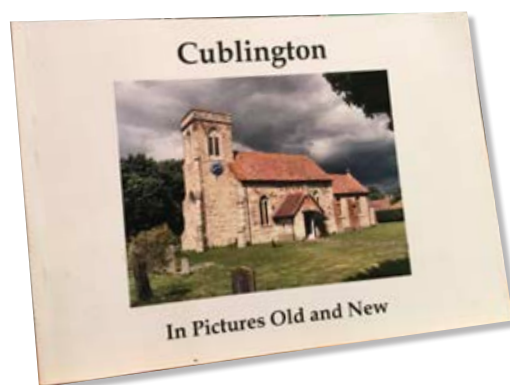
MARC CAMOLETTI'S

A STEWKLEY PLAYERS PRODUCTION

WEDS 20 - SAT 23 MARCH 24
8PM STEWKLEY VILLAGE HALL
Licensed Bar opens 30 mins prior to the show

TICKETS £7.50 - ON SALE 26 FEB
BOX OFFICE TEL: 07845 489167

NOW JUST 4 LEFT YOUR *Extraordinary* VILLAGE'S HISTORY... IN PICTURES



The fascinating pictorial history of the village is currently still in stock - but now only five remain. It has not yet been decided whether we get a second reprint.



"Cublington in Pictures Old and New"

Priced just £15 - (£10 from every sale goes to the upkeep of St Nicholas Church)

Contact gary@cublington.com for your very own copy.

So far over £310 has been donated to the church from sales.



PARISH NEWS

Main Contact :
cublingtonpc.clerk@gmail.com

Minutes of a meeting of Cublington Parish Council held on 9th January 2024 at Biggs Pavilion at 7.30pm

Present:

Cllr G Antosiewicz (Chair)
Cllr H Vale
Cllr M Reilly
Cllr M Waters
Cllr K Shults
Cllr D Blamires (Bucks Council) for item 4
Cllr A Bond (Bucks Council) for item 4
Cllr P Cooper (Bucks Council) for item 4

In attendance: Mr M Joy (Clerk)

1. Apologies None

2. Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the last meeting held on 14th November 2023 were discussed by the meeting and duly signed by the Chair.

3. Declaration of Interest None .

4. Reports

Cllr Bond informed the meeting the local community board has a new manager called Michelle Parker who will be contacting us. Streetlighting is not being funded by Bucks Council due to the payback period. Cllr Blamires explained there would be no funding from Central Government for the forthcoming budget, there will be shortened hours at Waste Centres, parking charges will increase, minor road repairs would be given low priority and there will be less money for community boards. There may be some funds for community boards from Thames Valley Police. Cllr Cooper told the meeting that Bucks Council will set its budget in February at Full Council. Government has restricted increases to 5% . Bucks Council will increase its budget by 4.99% made up of 2.99% increase in Council Tax and 2% in Adult Social Care . Local Councils are having to pick up the shortfall of National Government. Non statutory services will take the hit, but Bucks Council will try and raise revenue to cover the shortfalls. There will be substantial cuts in 2024/25 and 2025/26. All the councillors stressed this was a national problem. The Council's expenditure is £500m and the cuts will be 20% of which 60% will come from services. The Unitary exercise of reducing five councils to one has

saved money. The Amersham office is to be sold, South Bucks lease is terminating shortly and there is the tower block in Aylesbury to be sorted.

Sewage Pipes – agenda item 8.6 .

Clerk had produced a summary of all contact with Thames Water, Environment Agency and Bucks Council since 2018. Blockages seem to happen every 18mths. Bucks Council Environmental Health have tried to help us but felt could not assist us anymore. Meeting felt this was a matter for Bucks Council. Cllrs Blamires has suggested we involve our local MP with the issue. Clerk to write to Councillors with background information to be forwarded to Greg Smith. It was suggested we get as many residents as possible to write to TW/MP or a petition that would strengthen our argument with TW. The Clerk was asked to draft an article for the Crier explaining the position. Bucks Councillors felt a lot of the local villages had similar issues to ours, and Cllr Cooper offered to bring this matter to the attention of the Environment Scrutiny Committee.

Caravan Park

The applicant had appealed to the High Court to have the decision overruled. Applicant was successful in his appeal and the Inspectorate now must reconsider its decision. This is a highly unusual situation.

No further representation required –it is a review of process and decision. No timescales given.

5.1 To approve payments since last meeting.

The following invoices were passed for payment from 1st November to 31st December 2023:

26/11 Clerk Salary November	£180.57
1/12 Bucks Council replacement dog waste bin	£347.52
2/1 Mainly Mowing mowing and strimming costs.	£71.25
26/12 Clerk Salary December	£180.77
2/1 Nexus Data website cost for year.	£123.00
31/12 PAYE Qtr. charge	£135.40
6/12 SSE Electricity charge	£188.41

5.2 To review the accounting statements to 31st December 2023

There was a surplus of £4,235.92 for the period to

31st December 2023 with closing cash balances of £25,938.67. The forecast to 31st March 2024 is a deficit of £5,705.08 after replacement lighting estimated at £7,500. Estimated cash reserves were £15,997.67.

5.3 Precept calculation 2024/25

A forecast of income and expenditure for 2024/25 was presented to the meeting which showed a surplus of £1,150 after estimating an increase of £630 in the precept to £13,230. It was agreed the precept should increase by £630 to £13,230 (5% increase).

6. Orchard Ground/ North Field Report

Cllr Waters met two people from Slapton Memorial Hall to show them the facilities at OG, and to discuss potential grant applications for their hall. There was a planting day on 6th January with trees bought with the £2,400 grant from the Tree Council, and a community planting day arranged for 13th January. Electricity contract finishes in February.

6.1 New Charity, lease and New Lawyers

Contact has been made with individuals who had expressed an interest to be trustees of the new charity yet to be formed. An initial meeting to discuss the proposed new charity has been arranged.

7. Planning Permissions

7.1 23/03067/APP New Dairy Farm Stewkley Road , Cublington LU7 0LS

Erection of agricultural building with concrete apron. No objection but neutral comment to Planners that building appeared larger than required for the commercial operation, and an advance investment in the proposed venture would be advisable before planning granted.

7.2 21/00082/NONDET |

Application for Certificate of lawfulness for existing use in order to confirm that eight residential plots, vehicle plot, work area, an amenity block and additional landscaping subject to conditions 2, 5 10 and 16 of

planning permission reference 07/01648/ACC at Wing Caravan Park is lawful and only enures for the benefit of Aylesbury Vale District Council. | Wing Caravan Site Wing Road Wing Buckinghamshire LU7 0LB. Covered under 4 of the minutes.

8. Village Matters

8.1 Traffic

The wet weather over the past two months has restricted Speedwatch activities.

8.2 Street Lighting

Two quotations were received for the upgrading to LED lighting which were similar in cost. However, one contractor requested a site visit costing £650. It was decided to accept the quote of our existing supplier for £7,820. Clerk to deal with .

8.3 Trees and hedges

No matters.

8.4 Playground Maintenance

Clerk to arrange a site meeting with a contractor to discuss work and to obtain a quotation for maintenance work.

8.5 Moving 30 mph sign on Wing Road

A site meeting was held with our Local Area Technician (LAT) and a request was made to him to start a process of extending out the 30mph limit on Wing Road.

8.6 Sewage Pipes – Silver Street

Matter was discussed under Section 4 of the meeting.

8.7 Dog Waste Bin

The replacement bin has been moved to within Orchard Ground from Stewkley Road. Thanks to Tom Gadsby and Colin Antosiewicz for completing this task.

The next meeting of the Parish Council and will take place on Tuesday 12th March 2024 7.30pm at Orchard Ground.



19th Cublington Horticultural Show 2024

This year the Cublington Horticultural Show will be held on 31 August. The Crier April issue will list all the categories so you can decide at an early stage what you will be entering.'

Saturday 31st August.



An afternoon of passionate and powerful classical music



On Sunday 17th March Aylesbury Vale Concert Orchestra is performing an afternoon of classical music favourites at Aylesbury Waterside Theatre from 4pm-6.30pm. All proceeds from the event will be donated to Florence Nightingale Hospice Charity.

Appassionata allows the audience to experience live orchestral music. Talented young Spanish Pianist Juanjo Blázquez will play Rachmaninov's Piano Concerto No 2 and Addinsell's Warsaw Concerto. These, and many of the other pieces that the Orchestra has selected, are some of the most romantic and well-known classics, including Chariots of Fire by Vangelis, the Theme from "The Mission" as well as excerpts from Swan Lake.

The Aylesbury Vale Concert Orchestra was formed by Sue Hurst and it comprises both amateur and professional musicians who are committed to playing live music together.

Sue explains why she has chosen to donate all the proceeds to the Hospice, "I lost my dear friend Clare to breast cancer in 2018. Clare was cared for by Florence Nightingale Hospice and I'm convinced that it was the best place for her to be. The Hospice provided great comfort and reassurance to Clare as well as her family and friends.

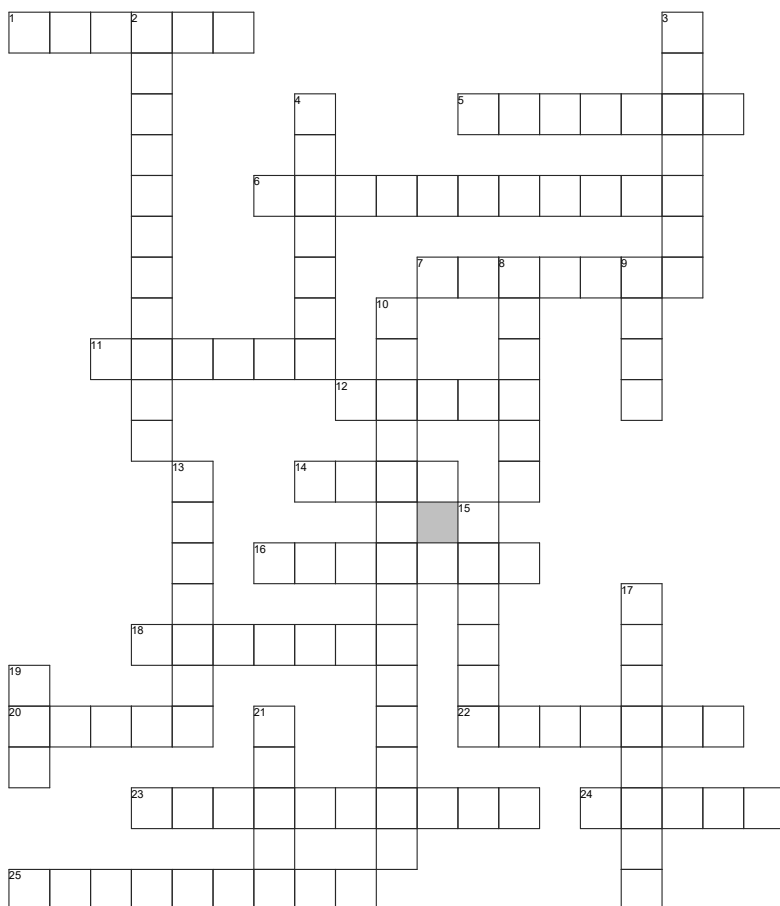
"Everyone there was going through the same thing, so you didn't feel quite so alone and scared. It really helped to be with people who understood and could help you through the process, providing not just medical care but also support and reassurance. I am so pleased that our performance of Appassionata is raising money for the Hospice Charity."

A member of the nursing staff from the Hospice also plays violin in Aylesbury Vale Concert Orchestra. A range of tickets are available now from Aylesbury Waterside Theatre Aylesbury Vale Concert Orchestra - Appassionata Tickets | Aylesbury Waterside Theatre in Aylesbury | ATG Tickets Special rates available for group bookings.

For more information visit www.fnhospice.org.uk

Lord of the Rings Crossword Puzzle

1. Using the Across and Down clues, write the correct words in the numbered grid below.



ACROSS

1. The place where Saruman dies.
5. Where the Ents live.
6. The location where Gollum dies.
7. A Man of Rohan, King of the Mark, and uncle of Eomer and Eowyn.
11. The land where Sauron ruled.
12. Hobbit, uncle of Frodo and finder of the One Ring.
14. Town where Aragorn first meets the Hobbits.
16. An Elf, he is a son of the King of Mirkwood.
18. Author of The Lord of the Rings.
20. The daughter of Elrond.
22. Wizard that was most instrumental in the defeat of Sauron.
23. A Man of Rohan, he is the chief counselor of Theoden.
24. He inherited the One Ring from his uncle, Bilbo Baggins.
25. She is the Lady of Lorien.

DOWN

2. The age of Bilbo Baggins.
3. A Wizard, the leader of the council of wizards.
4. Man of Gondor, the humble younger brother of Boromir.
8. Ruler of Rivendell and father of Arwen.
9. Large tree-like creatures that protect the forests.
10. The mountain range that runs through Gondor.
13. Man of the West, he protects the hobbits and is leader of the Rangers.
15. Gandalf the Grey meets his apparent end attempting to defend the company from this.
17. The Elven name of Rivendell.
19. Frodo's humble servant.
21. A Dwarf who is handy with an axe when orcs are about.

WOMEN ARTISTS

It is undeniably true to say that women artists have been overlooked throughout history. We largely know the reasons and they make un compelling and uncomfortable reading – sexism, misogyny, and the dominance of men's power in the patriarchal societies in which many women lived. Women artists have had specific challenges too – the sheer technical knowhow required to create art means that historically artists would have to study for years. And these opportunities were frequently just not available to women.

Whether it's learning how to be a good draughtsman, how to draw the nude form from life, or even how to mix paints, these skills demanded some level of tuition – tuition that was denied to all but a few women, often those wealthy enough to support themselves, or those who had another artist in the family.

Even when an artist was able to gain a decent artistic education, often women artists were expected to concentrate on flower paintings or scenes of domestic life. 'Serious' subjects were again reserved for male artists to interpret.

There are thousands of women artists represented on Art UK – it is difficult to calculate a precise figure as there are many artists only recorded with initials or surname, plus there are thousands of works that are catalogued as "unknown artist" or "British School" or are similarly vague. However, it is estimated that there are around 8,000 women artists with works on Art UK represented by around 20,000 artworks. This compares to a total of 300,000 artworks by 50,000 artists.

Art UK is the online home for every public art collection in the UK.
Find it at artuk.org

www.society-women-artists.org.uk



BOD

Bod (Captain Snowball) who died on Friday, aged 30yrs, after developing severe colic. We owned Bod for about 14 years, and he took both James and Peter to Pony Club Tethrathlon championships, enjoyed endurance rides of 30km, loved going cross country jumping and in the last few years, when arthritis was taking its toll, we had to reduce his jumping to trotting over poles on the ground - actually excellent physiotherapy for him. He was recognised around the village as the White Horse in the field near the church and each Christmas he and Shatzar would be decorated with tinsel for their ride on Christmas Day. *Jane*

100 CLUB DRAWS

*The more
who are in..
the more you
could win!*



New tickets available now - sellers out and about!

This years ticket prices for draws starting in May 2024 will increase to £15 a ticket (which is the first increase for 25+ years) **and monthly prizes will increase to £60 - £50 - £40 and £20 each month.**

If you want to buy a ticket online for the next set of ten draws starting again in May then please contact me direct at bobpaine2002@hotmail.com or call me on 01296 680483 and we will organise it.

Your continued support is very much appreciated.

Bob & the Orchard Ground Committee.

A complete list of last year's winners

*This year
sees an
increased
prize
fund - up
to £1800*

**New monthly
prizes will
increase to
£60 - £50 - £40
and £20 each
month.**

May 2023

1st Prize - £50 - Helen Taylor.
2nd Prize - £40 - Richard Burford.
3rd Prize - £30 - Chris Shults.
4th Prize - £20 - Ben Rayner.

June 2023.

1st Prize - £50 - Rhonda Roberts.
2nd Prize - £40 - Kevin Shults.
3rd Prize - £30 - Mark Cheetham.
4th Prize - £20 - Louis Lackey.

July 2023.

1st Prize - £50 - Harvey Knights.
2nd Prize - £40 - Maggie Brandon.
3rd Prize - £30 - Steve Crumb.
4th Prize - £20 - Maggie Mackenzie.

August 2023

1st Prize - £50 - Di Grace .
2nd Prize - £40 - Louise Taylor.
3rd Prize - £30 - Lexie Geal.
4th Prize - £20 - Steve George.

September 2023

1st Prize - £50 - Gill Uden.
2nd Prize - £40 - Gill Brazier.
3rd Prize - £30 - Mark Darlington.
4th Prize - £20 - Reece Buckingham.

October 2023

1st Prize - £50 - Alison Head.
2nd Prize - £40 - Duncan Mack,
3rd Prize - £30 - Amy Morgan.
4th Prize - £20 - Kathy Parish.

November 2023

1st Prize - £50 - John Gregory.
2nd Prize - £40 - Imogen Lackey.
3rd Prize - £30 - Lucy Clunie.
4th Prize - £20 - Steve Jenkins.

December 2023

1st Prize - £50 - Jean Barnett.
2nd Prize - £40 - Martyn Gates.
3rd Prize - £30 - Sandra Loli.
4th Prize - £20 - David Bradbury.

One off Christmas draw

£100 Maddison Matthews.

January 2024

1st Prize £50. - Mark Darlington
2nd Prize £40.- Karen Paine
3rd Prize £30. - Geoff & Bernadette Johnson
4th Prize £20.- Steve George

February 2024

1st Prize - £50 - Margaret Brandon.
2nd Prize - £40 - Mary Keats.
3rd Prize - £30 - Carol Hussey.
4th Prize - £20 - John Gregory.

Good Luck and thank you!

FAMOUS BUCKINGHAMSHIRE WOMEN

Mary Shelley

The gothic classic *Frankenstein* was written by Mary Shelley in her Marlow stomping ground of Albion House where she lived with her poet husband, Percy Shelley

Enid Blyton

Old Thatch near Bourne End was the residence of Enid Blyton from 1929 until she moved with her family to Green Hedges in Beaconsfield in 1938. A prolific writer of children books since the 1930s, she has sold more than 600 million copies. Her books continue to be popular despite their somewhat dated views, and have a perfect mix of adventure, magic and quintessential British-ness.

Florence Nightingale

Founder of modern nursing, Florence Nightingale stayed at Claydon House near Buckingham after the Crimean War. Florence's sister was married to Harry Verney of Claydon and she would visit and recuperate at this lovely country house, away from the horrors of war, no doubt enjoying the beautiful Buckinghamshire countryside. The house is now open to the public where you can learn more about Florence Nightingale.

Amy Johnson

Amy Johnson's house, Monks Staithe, is opposite Princes Risborough's Manor House. This pretty 17th Century half-timbered house has a supposed connection with nearby Notley Abbey (where Sir Lawrence Oliver and Vivien Leigh lived in the 1940s) and it was briefly occupied by the famous aviatrix of the 1930's.

The Codebreakers of Bletchley Park

Bound by oath to never speak about their work, many women at Bletchley Park made huge contributions to the intelligence effort. Betty Webb spent 4 years at the codebreaking centre and had various roles, including intercepting German police messages which revealed the beginning of the Holocaust. Joyce Aylard operated the Bombe machine designed by Alan Turing to crack the Enigma Code. The sad thing for these women and the others who worked there was that their families died without ever knowing what they achieved in the War.

Nancy Astor

Nancy Astor was the first seated female Member of Parliament, serving from 1919 to 1945. On marrying Lord Waldorf Astor, they were gifted the lavish Cliveden House and estate in Buckinghamshire by Lord Astor's father as a wedding gift.

Ellen White

As a Lioness playing football for England, Ellen White from Aylesbury has become one of the country's most influential footballers, inspiring girls and boys alike. In the 2019 Football World Cup, she became England's all-time top scorer in the tournament's history, and was part of the side that went on to win the She Believes Cup

POETRY FACTS

1. The earliest forms of poetry predate written language. They were sung or recited to help people remember genealogy, laws, and oral history.
2. The word "poetry" is from the Greek term *poiesis*, which means "making."
3. Poetry is one of the oldest forms of communication, dating back to prehistoric times with hunting poetry in Africa and ancient Egypt.
4. The oldest surviving epic poem is the Epic of Gilgamesh and dates from the 3rd millennium BC in Sumer (now Iraq).
5. The longest poem in the world is the Mahabharata. An Indian epic poem dating from the 4th century BC or earlier, the poem has about 1.8 million words
6. The skin of murderer George Cudmore was used to bind an 1852 edition of John Milton's *Poetical Works*.
7. The word "unfriend" first appeared in a 1275 medieval poem titled "Brut" by Layamon. Coincidentally, this is also the same poem in which the word "muggle" first appears.
8. Ben Jonson was named the first poet laureate of England in 1616. However, the title didn't become an official royal office until 1668 when John Dryden was appointed. A poet laureate is responsible for writing poems for national occasions.
9. Existing fragments of Aristotle's *Poetics* described the three genres of poetry: the epic, the comic, and the tragic. It also laid out the rules for developing each genre to its full potential.
10. Geoffrey Chaucer's name is derived from the French *chausseur*, meaning "shoemaker."
11. Known as the father of English literature, British author Geoffrey Chaucer (1343–1400) is also considered the father of poetry and the greatest English poet of the Middle Ages.
12. Geoffrey Chaucer was the first poet to be buried in Poets' Corner of Westminster Abbey
13. Poet George McDonald (1824–1905) wrote a two-word poem called "The Shortest and Sweetest of Songs." It reads "Come Home."
14. Metrophobia is the fear of poetry.
15. Metromania is the compulsion to write poetry.
16. The world's shortest poem is a one-letter poem by Aram Saroyan. It is simply a four-legged version of the letter "m"; The meaning of the poem is uncertain, though some scholars describe it as a "close-up of a letter being born."
17. William Shakespeare is the best-selling poet of all time. With over 4 billion book sales globally, his surviving works include approximately 40 plays, 150 sonnets, 2 long-story poems, and a few eulogies.
18. With over 113 publications, Lee Bennett Hopkins (1938–2019) is considered to be the most prolific poet of the modern era.
19. The oldest surviving love poem is on a 4,000-year-old clay tablet simply named "Istanbul #2461." The unknown poet wrote this poem for king Shu-Sin to recite to his bride during a virility ritual.

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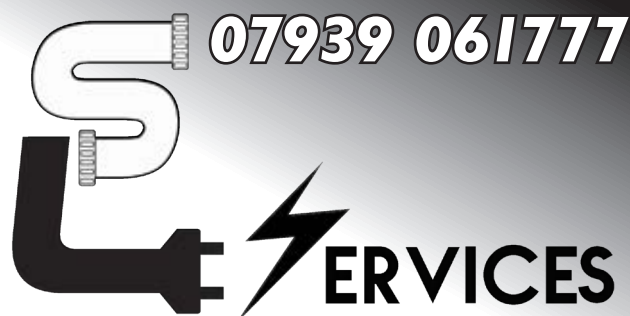


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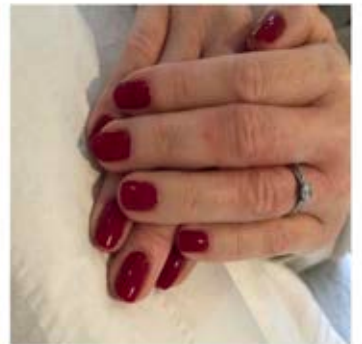
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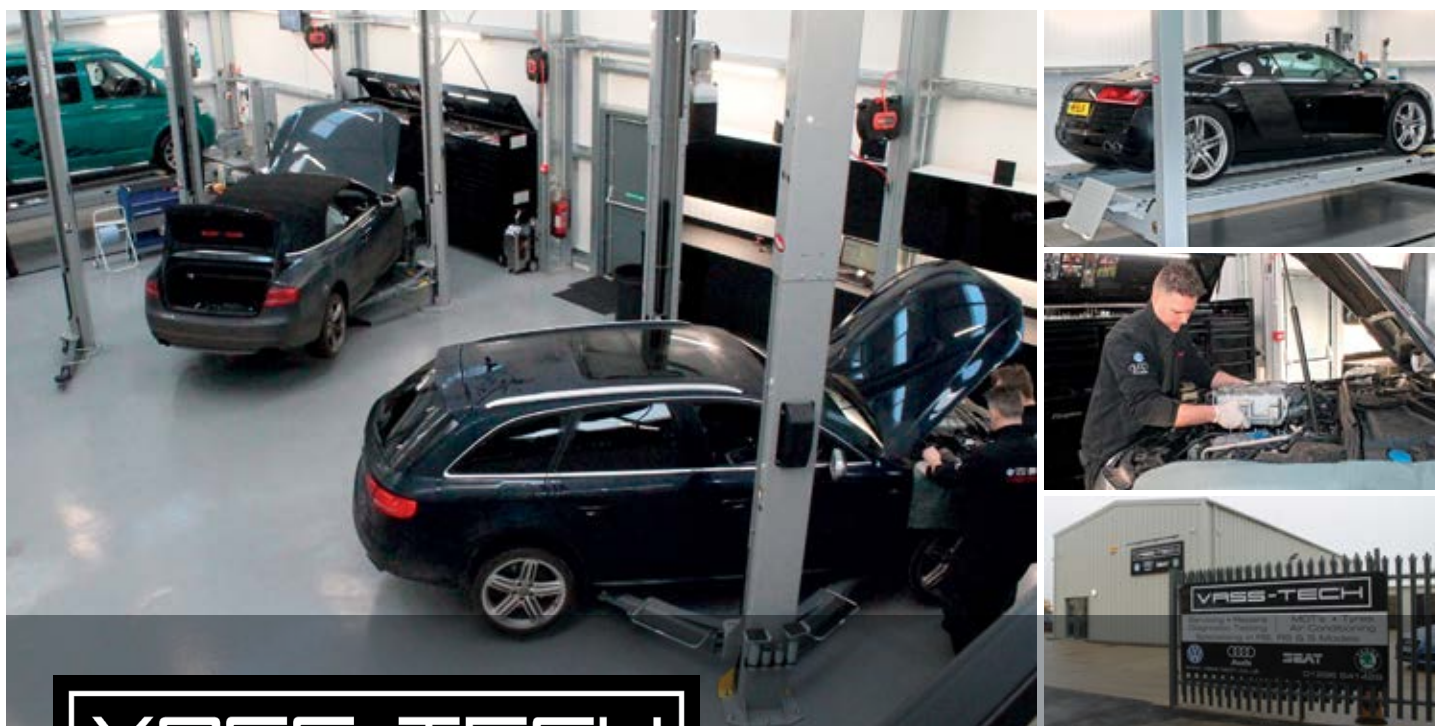
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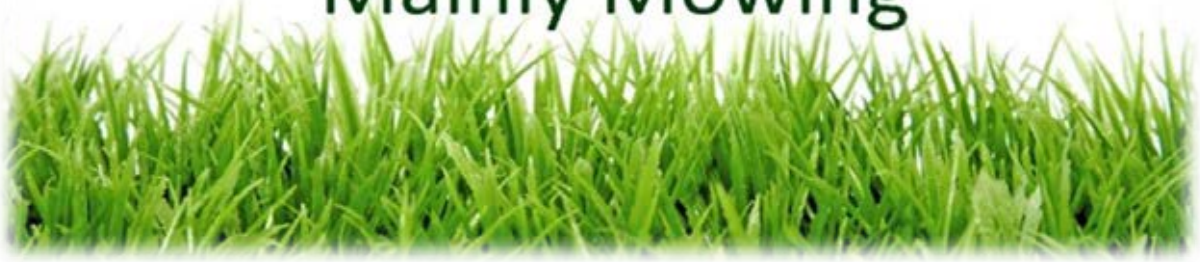
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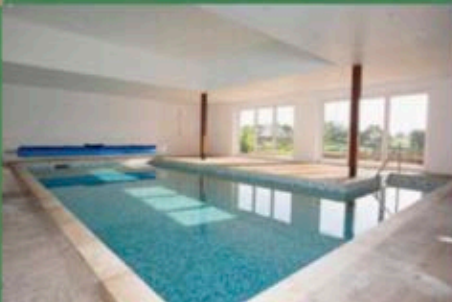
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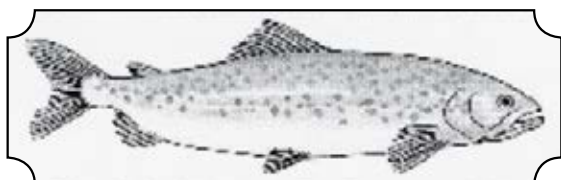
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The Pied Piper of Cublington - A Pantomime



From Our Man in the Stalls: "What a triumph! The roar of the greasepaint! The smell of the crowd!"

Possibly the greatest village panto that your correspondent has witnessed in 22 years of sneaking into the back of the stalls. It certainly challenged 1+1 Dalmatians (who can forget Kim and Sharon's rendition of 'I want my mummy?') and the legend that was Star Wars the Musical for the top spot.

There was skulduggery afoot in Cublington. Michael Alexander's Rusty MacDonald and his daughter, Vanessa Taylor's Florence found their organic farm the target of a takeover bid from debutant Harry Gadsby's go-getting, progressive farmer Dougal MacVale (a Scottish cousin of Hugh's). Penny Allen played Ermintrude the cow in a very Moo-ving performance (and yes, every possible pun on 'Moo' was extracted by the fabulous script). Thus far it was Clarkson's Farm meets The Magic Roundabout.

We then segued into Pride & Prejudice via Chicken Run and The Wind in the Willows with a side order of Sylvester Stallone (do keep up at the back). Another debutant in Peter Farringdon played Rocky the Rooster in what must have been an exhausting performance as he seemed to spend the entire performance trying to lay an egg. The 'rooster' bit condemned his attempt to glorious failure, if that is indeed what he was trying to do. Frankly by this point your correspondent was well into a third glass of Mr Reilly's elderflower champagne and things were getting a trifle hazy. Di Grace burst onto the scene as Rocky 2, followed by pantomime villain Nigel Loli (oh we love a good boo) and Martyn Waters as the Dame.

Sandra Loli and first-timer Alison Head played Henny and Jenny Penny, with Linda Justice as Ma Cluck. At this point things went full Jane Austen with a moving scene which included the girls swiping right (or is it left?) Tinder-style to Colin Firth's Mr Darcy on an iPad and trying to set up a date with Rocky and Rocky at the upcoming ball.

Gerry Griffith gave us a brilliant turn as the Caretaker (must have mislaid his policeman's outfit), breaking the fourth wall and entertaining the audience hilariously. The aforementioned skulduggery was thwarted when another newcomer, Anna Krauss, as the Pied Piper lead an infestation of rats away from their intended target of Old MacDonald's Farm to MacVale's place, causing him to fail a health inspection which he had intended Old MacDonald to fail.

There was a happy ending, of course, as Harry's Dougal and Vanessa's Florence fell in love (mildly troubling for Harry's parents and Vanessa's husband) and they serenaded each other to the Wurzels' Combine Harvester. Of course they did. This was a heavy cheese dream. And then King Charles appeared in the guise of His Majesty Chris Brandon. Many thanks to all who made this happen, to Jane Alexander for writing, directing and playing Ratty, Cublington's own Maestra Evelyn Griffiths without whom nothing musical in this village could ever happen and all who contributed to the scenery, costumes, make-up, the ever-busy prompt, lighting, sound, front of house and the programme. You all help to make this village special.

And having mused a bit longer I can pronounce that this was in fact the funniest village panto EVER!

Can't wait for next year.

