

March 2026

MAGAZINE AVAILABLE ONLINE AT

[www.cublington.com](http://www.cublington.com)

# THE CUBLINGTON CRIER

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



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



# WHERE IN THE WORLD? TIM'S FIENDISH FLYING PHOTOS



Yet another city by a river...



**Where is this in the world?**

Last month's answer was

Manaus, Brazil

No correct answers this month.

*First correct answer* to [info@cublingtoncrier.co.uk](mailto:info@cublingtoncrier.co.uk) will win a very small prize and the kudos for a whole month!

To see these and the rest of the magazine in full colour, visit [www.cublington.com](http://www.cublington.com) where the latest edition is available to view.

A black and yellow advertisement for 'The Orchard' pop-up pub. It features two wine glasses filled with red wine. The text is in bold, yellow, sans-serif fonts. It says 'THE ORCHARD CUBLINGTON'S POP-UP PUB' and 'EVERY OTHER FRIDAY NIGHT'. It also includes the text 'Join us every other Friday night for a drink or two. Bring your own drink. Once a month various food vendors to visit.' and '6-10PM Biggs Pavillion'.

## MAKE A NOTE OF THESE DATES

### March

6th Roastwrap food van

20th Mexican Tacos

served 7-8pm - please order in advance from Emma (see separate poster for details)

### April

3rd One pot Caribbean food van

17th Pie and mash

### May

1st Thai night

15th Maya Asian food van

Please contact Jackie 07968 672707 for more information.

Further details will be sent out on Cublington Life Whatsapp but if any queries please contact Jackie



As winter fades and the first signs of Spring emerge, many people experience an undeniable shift in their mood and energy levels. The arrival of Spring is more than just a change in season.

One of the most noticeable changes that come with Spring is the increase in daylight hours. More sunlight means a boost in serotonin, the neurotransmitter responsible for feelings of happiness and well-being.

With the sun shining longer, people often feel more motivated and optimistic.

Spring invites us to step outside and reconnect with nature. The sight and scent of blooming flowers and hedgerows, the sound of birdsong, and the green and brighter landscape all contribute to a sense of calm and happiness.

Warmer temperatures make outdoor activities more appealing. Whether it's going for a walk, playing sport, cycling, gardening or tending your allotment, physical exercise releases endorphins that combat stress and anxiety.

While each person's experience of Spring may differ, the season's combination of longer days, pleasant weather and natural beauty makes it a powerful mood booster. By taking advantage of the season - spending time outdoors, staying active, and engaging with others - people can fully embrace the benefits of Spring and enjoy a brighter, more positive outlook on life. All these things are 'on our doorstep' and available to everyone in Cublington - how lucky are we!

So, if you have not done so before, perhaps this Spring marks a new beginning for you to get outside and get involved in the local community.

To brighten your spirits further, British Summer Time begins on Sunday, March 29 th . Put your clocks forward by one hour at 01.00.

*Julie Merriman*

April EDITORS: Chris & Kevin Shults

**April Crier  
deadline is  
15th March**

## CRIER RATES

**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.**

## Boops!

The error was that I forgot to change the month from January to February on the cover. Sorry - but it seems no one noticed anyway!

## Horticultural Show

This year the Cublington Horticultural Show will be held on **Saturday 22 August** at the Biggs Pavilion. The categories will be in the April Crier so you can plan your entries.



**is plenty**

## Can you help?

The Parish Council has recently purchased some signs with the message '20 is Plenty' which they wish to place throughout the village.

The signs are A4 size. If you feel you have a suitable location where one (or two) of them could be displayed, please contact cublingtonpc.clerk@gmail.com



## Village Litterpick

The annual litterpick is on **Saturday 7th March, meet at the Biggs Pavilion 9.30** for a briefing. Register your participation please with Bob Paine **bobpaine2002@hotmail.com**



# Hire The Biggs Pavilion

## Current Rental Rates

Village Residents and fully paid up members of Cublington clubs and organisations. £10 per hour

Outside Cublington Clubs and organisations regularly using the facilities. £12 per hour  
Discounts for block bookings

### Dances, discos & parties

(There should be at least one adult present for teenage parties)  
Cublington residents £90 Non Villagers £120

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

Cublington residents £300 Outside of village £400

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.

Contact Bob on 01296 680483 or bobpaine2002@hotmail.com

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

Online booking diary:  
[www.ogpavilion.keepandshare.com](http://www.ogpavilion.keepandshare.com)  
Find a date you want and contact  
**Bob Paine** on 01296 680483  
bobpaine2002@hotmail.com  
to book it!



## TACOS

**PORK TACOS** £10  
Slow cooked pork shoulder, topped with a mango salsa served with a sprinkle of cheese in a soft flour tortilla (2 tortilla per portion)

**HALLOUMI TACOS (V)** £10  
Fajita spiced halloumi topped with a mango salsa served with a sprinkle of cheese in a soft flour tortilla (2 tortilla per portion)

**POTATO WEDGES** £3.50  
Lightly spiced

**BANOFFEE PIE** £5

**TO BOOK MESSAGE EMMA 07787 838167**

**Takeaway & Eat In**  
**BRING YOUR OWN DRINKS**  
(donations towards opening hall appreciated)

**FRIDAY 20TH MARCH**  
**7-8PM**  
**THE ORCHARD POP-UP PUB (BYOB)**  
**BIGGS PAVILION**  
**STEWKLEY ROAD**  
**CUBLINGTON**

## THE ORCHARD

CUBLINGTON'S



# POP-UP PUB

**EVERY OTHER FRIDAY NIGHT**

Join us every other Friday night for a drink or two. Bring your own drink. Once a month various food vendors to visit.

**6-10PM**  
Biggs Pavillion

**March 20th**  
**Mexican Tacos**  
served 7-8pm

# 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.



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

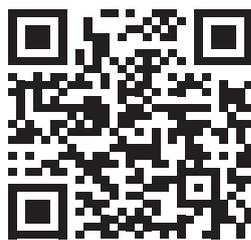
## Lots of information about traffic calming in this month's edition.

My only comment is one of incredulity. Why on earth are the traffic calming measures so expensive? £25,000 each for a chicane? It's really only a few cobbles round some tarmac with a sign post! Staggering. A couple of startegically parked cars seems to have helped on the Wing Road approaches, something to be replicated elsewhere perhaps?!

Or perhaps we really have to go for the most expensive and intrusive option to hinder and perhaps stop the HGV's going through the village. Thoughts? *Ed.*

**PLEASE - If you haven't already done so, please pledge your support !**

**It's massively important we save it for the community and future generations.**



# SAVE OUR PUB

**As soon as an event is organised, please let the Crier know so we can include it in our What's On Diary listings and you can pop it in your diary! Thank you.**



## The Crier

### Guest Editorial Rota

2026...

**May** Selmes family

**June** Liz & Bob

**Summer** Emily & Jo

**Sept** Harris family

**Oct** Dawn & Peter Spinks

**Nov** Miranda and James

**Dec** - Graham & Judy Dunn

**May** - Vanessa Taylor

**June** - ?

**Summer** ?

**Sept** ?

**Oct** ?

**Nov** ?

**Dec** ?

2027...

**Jan** Gates family

**Feb** - Morgan's

**March** - could it be you?!

**April** - Trish Bundock

2028...

**Please book your slot! Now booking 2027 and 2028 (yes really!) - so absolutely plenty of time to think about your content! Many Thanks.**

#### To be a 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

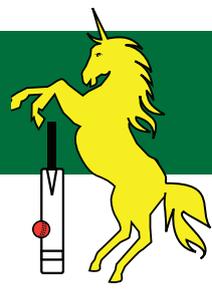
**PLEASE DROP ARTICLES TO 18 RIDINGS WAY OR EMAIL AS BELOW**

**CONTACT:** 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



# Cublington Cricket Club



*Come along and give cricket a try*

## **WE ARE LAUNCHING WALKING CRICKET**

**LOOK OUT FOR DATES AND TIMES IN THE  
APRIL CRIER AND ON CUBLINGTON LIFE**

Walking cricket is aimed at anyone in the village aged 55 to 99. No prior experience of cricket required and the aim is to get a bit of gentle exercise and have fun. It will be played with a soft ball and all equipment will be provided. Men & women cordially invited. We will aim to start in May, probably on a mid-week evening. Your entry fee will cover a beer or glass of wine afterwards.

The season is approaching for all ...and in fact for some has never gone away. Game Changers, our disability cricket section has been training indoors all through the winter at the Cottesloe School and has gone from strength to strength with 17 players now registered and an enthusiastic roster of volunteers.

**Contact** - Harry Gadsby, Disability Cricket lead, 07491 651137

**All Stars - 5 to 8-year-olds,  
and Dynamos - 8 to 11-year-olds**

We will be running sessions from mid-May for eight weeks for our youngest players, girls and boys, on Friday evenings from 6-7pm. All-Stars & Dynamos are run by Cublington CC coaches under ECB (England & Wales Cricket Board) guidelines. Every child receives a bat, ball, backpack, cap and shirt.

We also run a BBQ alongside the session so that you don't even have to worry about cooking supper afterwards.

### **Under 9s to Under 17s**

We will also be running our junior cricket training for girls and boys on Friday evenings. All our coaches are ECB-qualified and DBS-checked. The children will have the chance to play matches throughout the summer, home and away culminating in an end of season awards evening to celebrate the juniors' achievements.

**Contact** - Tony Lewis, Junior Head Coach, 07446 939216

### **Senior Cricket**

Cublington CC runs two Saturday league teams and a Sunday friendly XI. We encourage our juniors from the age of U13 upwards to join in senior cricket in a safe and supportive pathway. While we aim to win every game, we do not have a 'win at all costs' attitude and recognise that everyone plays the game primarily to have fun. Ability is not a pre-requisite, a keenness to get involved is much more important.

**Contact** - Tom Gadsby, CCC Chairman, 07527 989639

### **The ground looks excellent**

The grounds team has been busy through the winter, servicing equipment, tidying up around the ground and tending to the cricket square which looks in fine condition. The drainage installed on the pavilion and North Field sides of the ground has been working well and with a few more dry days the team may even contemplate a cut on the outfield.

### **Safeguarding**

Cublington CC is signed up to the ECB's Safe Hands Management system. All our junior coaches and key officers are DBS-checked.

**Contact** - Riaan Krynauw, Safeguarding Officer 07908 991899

**WE NEED PLAYERS AND GROUND MAINTENANCE  
VOLUNTEERS FOR THIS SEASON 2026**

[www.cublingtoncc.org](http://www.cublingtoncc.org)

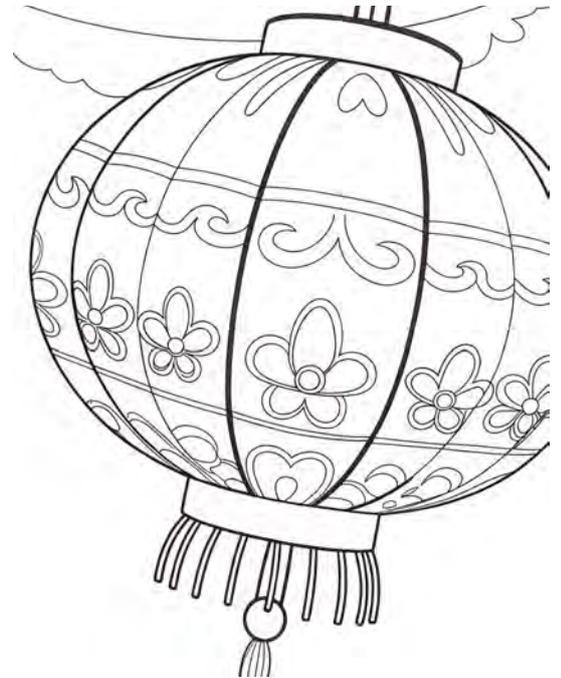


Thank you so much Gary, Gillian and Colin for running the after panto bar yesterday and Friday. It's really appreciated that everyone can unwind and celebrate after the performances... and not forgetting the rest of Orchard Ground Committee for sourcing the snacks, and the beer and wine! *A great team effort... speaking of which...*

Many thanks to Gina, Vanessa and all the kitchen team at the **Panto Parish Lunch**. Thank you also to everyone who provided the delicious food for what was a wonderful lunch. And many thanks for the generous donations totalling £125.



# COLOUR ME IN



*Lantern Festival  
3rd March  
marking the end of the  
Chinese New Year*

# Happy Mother's Day

*Sunday 15th March*

*Please come along & help*



## ANNUAL LITTERPICK AND VILLAGE TIDY UP

Please put this date in your diaries.

**Sat. 7th March 9.30am**

MEET AT THE BIGGS PAVILION

*It will be up to you to bring gloves/bags/pick up sticks/hi-vis vests.  
Thanks and see you there!*

Bob  
[bobpaine2002@hotmail.com](mailto:bobpaine2002@hotmail.com)

**SEEDLING  
SALE**

- ✓ SUNDAY
- ✓ 19th APRIL
- ✓ 11am - 12.30pm

CUBLINGTON VILLAGE HALL  
WING ROAD,  
CUBLINGTON LU7 0LF



# PARISH NEWS

Main Contact :  
cublingtonpc.clerk@gmail.com

**Minutes of a meeting of Cublington Parish Council held on 13th January 2026 at the Biggs Pavilion at 7.30pm**

**Present:**

Cllr G Antosiewicz (Chair)

Cllr H Vale

Cllr M Reilly

Cllr M Waters

Cllr Shults

Cllr Kathy Gibbon (Bucks Unitary Councillor)

**In attendance:** Ms A Head (Clerk) and two members of the public.

The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming Alison Head as Clerk, and also by sincerely thanking Mike Joy for all he has done to support the Parish Council during his time as Clerk.

**1. Apologies**

None

**2. Minutes of last meeting**

The minutes of the last meeting held on 11th November 2025 were discussed by the meeting and duly signed by the Chair.

**3. Declarations of Interest**

None

**4. Reports**

Government funding to Bucks is to be cut by £44m, leading to increases in council tax of 5% over the next 5 years to maintain services. Proposed measures include a "lane rental" scheme for roadworks to increase income, Council Tax reduction scheme to support those on low incomes.

A "Skills Boot Camp" programme is being introduced, open to anyone to attend to enhance their employability.

**5.1 To approve payments since last meeting.**

The following invoices were passed for payment from 1st November to 31st December 2025:

27-Nov-25 Autela Payroll	£102.00
- Payroll services	
27-Nov-25 PAYE £53.00 – PAYE	
27-Nov-25 Clerk Salary	£211.55
- Nov salary	
1-Dec-25 Mainly Mowing	£125.00
- Grass cutting	
8-Dec-25 BMKALC	£35.00
Training for newclerks – finance	
24-Dec-25 Clerk Salary	£230.49
- Dec salary	
24-Dec-25 PAYE	£57.60 - PAYE

**5.2 To consider the accounting statement to 31st December 2025**

The clerk presented the accounts to 31st December 2025 and the forecast for the year ending 31st March 2026. There was a deficit of -£425.72 for the period to 31st December, and the cash balance was £20,926.77. It was noted that the deficit is largely due to disputed charges from SSE for electricity supply, for which we will be credited next year.

A deficit is forecast to 31st March 2026 of £-6921.99. This deficit reflects further expenditure on traffic calming measures proposed in the feasibility study. The estimated cash balance on 31st March 2026 is £14,430.50.

**5.3 To approve the precept application for 2026.**

A forecast of income and expenditure for 2026/27 was presented to the meeting which included a further £4000 to fund traffic calming measures. The Council unanimously agreed that the precept should increase by £1,445 to £16,000 (9.93% increase). This represents an increase of 1.7% per household.

**6.1 Orchard Ground/ North Field Report**

The visits by various food vendors to Orchard Ground for events in the Biggs Pavilion have been very well supported. The committee are looking into an improved online booking system similar to that used by the Village Hall.

Work continues on the North Field, with further tree planting in the nursery area. Funding is being sought to establish a pond in the bottom corner where drainage is suitable. The donation of wood chips from hedge cutting around the village are greatly appreciated, and many thanks to Kaiden Gregory, whose collection of Christmas trees around the village has added to the supply.

**6.1 New charity and Lease**

The draft lease with Cublington Orchard Ground Association is now ready to go to the solicitors for checking. We have still to finalise The Memorandum of Understanding with the Cricket Club has still to be finalised,

**7. Planning Permissions**

**7.1 PL/25/6106/KA(4/12/2025) Application type: Notification of proposed works to trees in a conservation area.**

Location: Holly Bush Barn, Wing Road, Cublington LU7 0LF

**PL/25/6075/KA(11/12/2025) Application type: Notification of proposed works to trees in a conservation area**

Location: Manor Farm House,

Ridings Way, Cublington LU7 0LW  
**PL/25/6062 (14/12/2025) Application type: Full Planning Permission Removal of existing extension and rebuild single storey rear and side extension** Location: Orchard Ground Farm, Silver Street, Cublington LU7 0LJ

**PL/25/5277/FA (16/12/2025) Application Type: Full Planning Permission. Single storey rear extension, dormer loft conversion and front porch**  
Location: 2 Silver Street, Cublington LU7 0LJ

There were no objections to the above applications.

**Reference: PR202512-376533 (19/12/205)**

**Application Type: Premises Licence**

**Location: The Unicorn PH, High Street, Cublington LU7 0LQ**

The application for renewal of the Unicorn's licence is wholeheartedly welcomed by the Council, and it is also supported by the Save the Unicorn campaign group. It was noted that the renewal of the Unicorn's status as Community Asset will be in place by June.

**8. Village Matters**

**8.1 Traffic calming : Feasibility study and 20mph traffic signs**

The feasibility study into possible traffic calming measures commissioned by the PC was discussed. It was noted the costs are estimated at £5k to £50k, to be met by the Parish Council through current funds available and future precept. It was agreed that the recommen-

dations would be placed in The Crier together with estimated costs and comments invited.

It was noted that Buckinghamshire Council did not support a policy of 20 mph zones in rural areas. It was understood that the policy had been agreed some 12 years earlier. Cllr Kathy Gibbon agreed to provide contact details for officers in the Highways Department so that the Parish Council could make enquiries as to whether there was any likelihood of the policy being reviewed, particularly in the light of policies in neighbouring authorities and the sevenfold increase in traffic which the recent survey had revealed.

Depending on the outcome of enquiries, consideration would be given to raising an ePetition, in collaboration with other Parishes, requesting a change in policy.

The "20's Plenty" signs had been ordered. It was noted that we have been advised of restrictions as to where they could be placed. It was agreed that an article would be placed in The Crier with advice on location, and residents with suitable sites to display signs invited to contact the Parish Council.

**8.2 War Memorial**

The was no progress to report on this occasion.

**The next meeting of the Parish Council will take place on Tuesday 17th March 2026 at 7.30pm at the Village Hall**



.....

Thank you to everyone who supported us with the sudden loss of Charlie2, my grey pony. Charlie2 joined us a year ago, after Shatzar's retirement and my hip replacement, but sadly our plans for this year came to naught.

I have close links with a horse charity in Malta, which relocates retired Trotters (racehorses which compete in trotting races, the jockey sits in a light cart behind them) to homes in the UK and Rave has now made the journey from Malta to Hardwick, with 16 others, on the February truck. Rave is an older horse who was initially rehomed on the island, but after 5 years, was returned to the charity. I went out to see him and there was space on the truck, so he is now learning about being a British Horse - grass, mud, rain and more grass!

**Jane A**



Main Contact :  
cublingtonpc.clerk@gmail.com

## TRAFFIC CALMING – FEASIBILITY REPORT 2025

**Cublington Parish Council** has longstanding concerns about speeding and high traffic volumes, especially HGVs. Previous measures (e.g. a double roundabout proposed in 2000) did not proceed, largely due to cost. A 2019 feasibility study led to limited gateway improvements. Continued concerns led to CPC commissioning a new feasibility study in 2025 to reassess options. This is a summary of that report from Buckinghamshire Council Highways Department.

Please feel free to contact <cublingtonpc.clerk@gmail.com> if you have comments or suggestions for the Council, or if you would like to be sent a PDF of the full report.

**Data Findings**

- **7-day Automatic Traffic Count (ATC) surveys carried out Feb–Mar 2025** show **widespread speeding** above the 30mph limit.
- **Traffic volume** measured on Wing Road was 9,965 movements, compared to 1,351 in the equivalent survey in 2019. This represents a **seven-fold increase in traffic movement**.
- Highest speeds were recorded on **Wing Road (eastbound)** and **Aston Abbotts Road**.
- Community **Speedwatch** temporarily reduced speeds, showing visible enforcement works.
- Police enforcement is unlikely because speeds, while high, do not meet priority thresholds.

**Highways Department Site Visit Observations**

- A **STOP sign** at Aston Abbotts Road is **not justified**, as visibility is adequate.
- Many “soft” measures already exist (VAS signs, dragons’ teeth, gateway features, red surfacing), but speeding persists.
- Additional **low-cost enhancements** identified:
  - Replace existing 30mph signs with **yellow-backed terminals**.
  - On Whitchurch Road: **Road Narrows signs** and **edge-of-carriageway lines** to visually narrow the road.
- A **20mph limit** cannot be justified because average speeds exceed the required threshold.
- More substantial “hard” measures may be needed despite potential aesthetic impacts.

**Highways Department Recommendations**

- Introduce measures **incrementally**, starting with:
  - **Short-term:** yellow-backed 30mph signs; Road Narrows signs + edge lining.
  - **Medium-term:** chicanes on Wing Road and Aston Abbotts Road.
  - **If needed:** speed cushions along High Street/Wing Road.
- Conduct full **topographical and utility surveys** before installation.
- Continue **Community Speedwatch**, which has proven effective.

### Summary of Traffic Calming Options

	<b>A. Yellow-Backed 30mph Signs (on all approaches to the village)</b>	<b>B. Road Narrows Signs + Edge Lining (Whitchurch Road)</b>	<b>C. Chicanes (Wing Road &amp; Aston Abbotts Road)</b>	<b>D. Speed Cushions (High Street / Wing Road)</b>
<b>Pros</b>	cheap, more visible	highlights narrow section, improves awareness	effective speed reduction; discourages rat-running	effective at reducing speeds; cycle/bus/HGV-friendly
<b>Cons</b>	may look out of place; risk of driver desensitisation	visual clutter, maintenance required	may cause delays; can be difficult for HGVs/buses; noise from braking /acceleration	noise, vibration, urbanising effect; may not slow wide vehicles; require lighting
<b>Cost</b>	~£5,000	~£10,000 combined	~£25,000 each	~£50,000 for 8 pairs + consultation



# WHY NOT TRY YOUR SKILL AT THE CUBLINGTON CHESS CLUB?!

We meet bi-weekly on a Monday from 4-6pm in the village hall and a small charge is requested to cover the hire.

Next meetings 2nd, 16th, 30th March

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

**DON'T FORGET!**

**EVERY WEDNESDAY!**

**+ OCCASIONAL FOOD VANS**

SEE CRIER WHAT'S ON DIARY FOR FULL DETAILS



You are invited to the Community

*Weekly Wine Down*

Bring your own drinks!

£3 donation appreciated

**Wednesday Evenings**

**5.30pm - 7.30pm**

NEW TO THE VILLAGE?

**YOUR *Fascinating* VILLAGE'S HISTORY...**

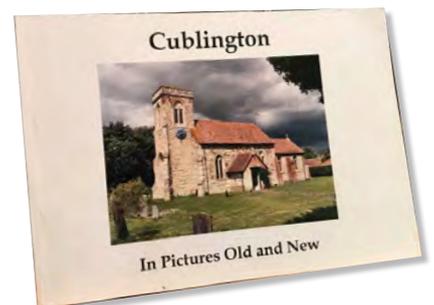
**IN PICTURES**

*Cublington in Pictures Old and New*

Priced at £20

(a contribution from sales will go to the upkeep of St Nicholas Church)

Contact [gary@cublington.com](mailto:gary@cublington.com) for your very own copy.

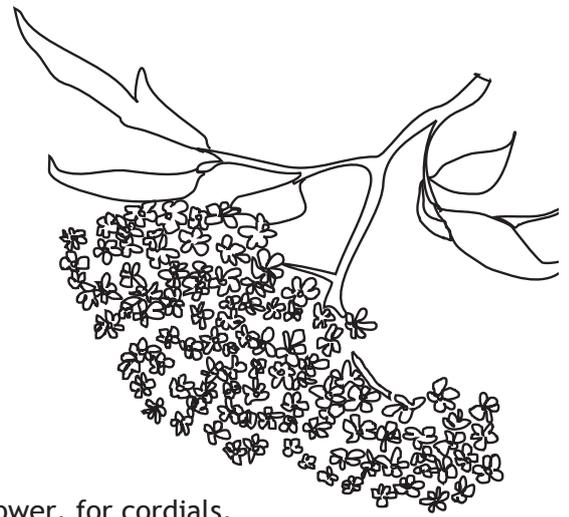


So far over £330 has been donated to the church from sales.

Foraging Continued...  
from February edition  
By Charlie Toosey



Hawthorn, also know as bread and cheese.  
Add young leaves and closed flower heads  
to salads for a nutty flavour.

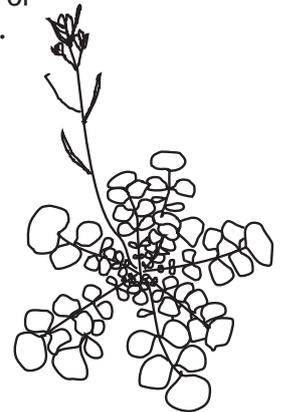


Elderflower, for cordials,  
vinegar or champagne!

Wild garlic, you are lucky  
if you find some.  
Delicious in soups,  
omelettes and salads.



Hairy Bittercress  
Unlike the name (it is not hairy),  
this is a delicious  
peppery rocket-like herb.  
Great for salads or  
food decoration.



Garlic mustard - great for soups,  
sauces and in sandwiches also good with cheese.  
Found around the cricket ground and the  
North Field.



Brambles  
Young shoots can be eaten  
like asparagus (similar to young  
Hogweed).

And of course the  
berries in August.



# THE CUBLINGTON CALENDAR



**You'll always find something to do in Cublington!**

## March 26

- Monday 2nd Chatty Cafe** The Biggs Pavilion 10.00-11.30am  
**Monday 2nd Art Group** Village Hall 1.45-3.45pm  
**Monday 2nd Chess Club** Village Hall 4-6pm  
**Wednesday 4th Tai Chi** Village Hall 9.45am - 10.45am, 11am - 12pm  
**Wednesday 4th Pizza Night Wine Down** Village Hall 5.30pm - 7.30pm  
**Friday 6th March Orchard pop up pub** The Biggs Pavilion 6pm **Roast wrap food van**  
**Saturday 7th Village Litterpick** Meet Biggs Pavilion 9.30am for briefing  
**Monday 9th Art Group** Village Hall 1.45pm - 3.45pm  
**Tuesday 10th Village Meet up Village lunch** Biggs Pavilion 1pm menus posted on WhatsApp group  
**Tuesday 10th Sound Bath** Village Hall 7.00pm - 10.00pm  
**Wednesday 11th Tai Chi** Village Hall 9.45am - 10.45am, 11am - 12pm  
**Wednesday 11th Wine Down** Village Hall 5.30-7.30pm  
**Monday 16th Art Group** Village Hall 1.45pm - 3.45pm  
**Monday 16th Chess Club** Village Hall 4pm - 6pm  
**Tuesday 17th PCC Meeting** Village Hall 7.30pm - 9.30pm  
**Wednesday 18th Tai Chi** Biggs Pavilion 9.45am - 10.45am, 11am - 12pm  
**Wednesday 18th Wine Down** Village Hall 5.30-7.30pm  
**Friday 20th March - Orchard pop up pub** The Biggs Pavilion 6pm **Mexican Tacos** - see menu opposite  
**Monday 23rd Art Group** Village Hall 1.45pm - 3.45pm  
**Wednesday 25th Tai Chi** Village Hall 9.45am - 10.45am, 11am - 12pm  
**Wednesday 25th Wine Down** Village Hall 5.30-7.30pm  
**Saturday 28th Children's Easter Craft Session** Village Hall 10.30am - 12pm  
**Monday 30th Tennis Club AGM** The Biggs Pavilion 7.30pm

## April 26

- Wednesday 1st Cublington Winos** 7.15pm Biggs Pavilion  
**Monday 6th Chatty Cafe** The Biggs Pavilion 10.00-11.30am  
**Monday 6th Art Group** Village Hall 1.45-3.45pm  
**Friday 10th Trivia Quiz** 7.30 pm The Biggs Pavilion Teams of six £5pp. Details elsewhere  
**Sunday 19th Seedling Sale** Village Hall 11am - 12.30pm.  
**Saturday 25th Ukelele Concert** St Nicholas church

## May 26

- Monday 4th Chatty Cafe** The Biggs Pavilion 10.00-11.30am  
**Monday 4th Art Group** Village Hall 1.45-3.45pm  
**Saturday 9th Afternoon Tea** Village Hall 3pm - 5pm

## June 26

- Monday 1st Chatty Cafe** The Biggs Pavilion 10.00-11.30am  
**Wednesday 3rd Cublington Winos** 7.15pm Biggs Pavilion  
**Saturday 20th Cublington Fete** No holidays allowed! ;)

## August 26

- Saturday 22nd Cublington Horticultural Show** Biggs Pavilion  
The categories will be in the April Crier so you can plan your entries

**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  
come along  
& help

# ANNUAL LITTERPICK AND VILLAGE TIDY UP

**Sat. 7th March 9.30am**

MEET AT THE BIGGS PAVILION



It will be up to you to bring gloves/bags/pick up sticks/hi-vis vests. Thanks and see you there!  
Bob bobpaine2002@hotmail.com

**\* STILL MORE PARTICIPANTS NEEDED PLEASE \***

# *Fundraising made simple...*

## **THANK YOU**



**Easyfundraising has raised a total £3040.77 from 47 people who live in the village - so, thank you all again. The top three money raisers are as follows:**

**1st - £688.80 - Sarah George.  
2nd - £391.04 - Gwyneira Waters.  
3rd - £306.16 - Martyn Waters.**

**Please join in for your village - it costs you absolutely nothing and helps us a lot!**

Nearly £1600 has been raised by the other 44 villagers so thank you all very, very much!

**Thank you.**

**[www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/orchardground](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/orchardground)**

*Orchard Ground Committee Presents*

# **A TRIVIA QUIZ**

*Friday 10th April 7.30pm*

*@ The Biggs Pavilion, Orchard Ground*

***Join us for a fun evening based on Trivial Pursuits game***

Teams of up to 6 - £5.00 per person • Bring your own drinks and nibbles

***Contact Jackie to book your table on 07968 672706***

# *Mothing Sunday - 15th March 2026*



In the 16th century, Mothing Sunday was less about mothers and more about church. Back then, people would make a journey to their 'mother' church once a year. The service which took place at the 'mother' church symbolised the coming together of families. This would have represented a significant journey for many. Another tradition was to allow those working in the fields on wealthy farms and estates in England to have the day off on the fourth Sunday of Lent to visit their mothers and possibly go to church too. This was a variation on the theme of visiting the 'mother' church and was a move towards a more family focussed occasion. Before the days of cars and roads, family get-togethers were far more rare. In some ways this tradition is still alive today as grown up children often visit their parents on Mothing Sunday.

Simmel cake has a strong affiliation to Mothing Sunday as it is usually associated with Spring and Easter. It resembles a Christmas fruit cake but should be slightly lighter in texture. The other difference is the two layers of marzipan. Simmel cake should have a layer of marzipan running through the middle like a Victoria sponge and then another layer of marzipan on the top. Traditionally, you should also roll some marzipan into eleven eggs and place these on the top. The eggs are supposed to symbolise the disciples who followed Jesus – note that Judas is excluded. Mothing Sunday falls in the middle of Lent and it was traditional for people to relax their fasting on this day - hence making the cake. On this Sunday, churches around the country will be sharing their own traditions, celebrating and giving thanks to the huge impact mothers have on each of our lives.

\*\*\*\*\*

## **MAD AS A MARCH HARE!**

Have you ever heard the saying “mad as a March hare” and wondered what it means? This saying dates back to at least the 16th century, but it really gained popularity thanks to Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland by Lewis Carroll, where the March Hare is portrayed as delightfully eccentric, sipping tea at the Mad Hatter’s famous tea party.

So why March? Well, hares are generally calm creatures, but come early spring March to be exact - things get a little crazy. This is mating season, and in their quest for a mate, hares display some pretty bizarre behaviour. They chase each other frantically, leap high into the air, and even engage in full-on “boxing” matches with their paws. People observing these antics centuries ago naturally assumed the hares had gone a bit mad, and the phrase was born.



Hares often get mistaken for rabbits, but they’re actually quite different! Here are some fun facts:

- Hares are built for speed. Unlike rabbits, which are more inclined to hide in burrows, hares rely on their powerful legs to outrun predators. Some can hit speeds of up to 45 mph!
- That "boxing" isn't what it seems. While it's often assumed that male hares are fighting each other, it's actually the females swatting away overly eager suitors who won't take no for an answer.
- They're active at night. Hares are mostly nocturnal, so they spend their days resting and their nights foraging for food.
- They've got incredible vision. Thanks to their large eyes, hares can see nearly 360 degrees around them - perfect for spotting sneaky predators.
- Sadly, hares are declining in the UK - the numbers have dropped by more than 80% in the last 100 years due to loss of habitat. This makes the elusive hare even harder to spot in the countryside.

**PLEASE JOIN THE**

# St Nicholas Church Cublington



*More new  
volunteers wanted  
now for  
2026 please!*

You may have noticed a slight change to the normal schedule this last growing season. To try and keep days between mowing more equal. Volunteers are allocated a weekend as a target but can work either side of it depending on other commitments or inclement weather.

***We're now looking for volunteers to do a slot for this year's rota!***

***Contact Dennis on 07748525145 or email [djandpallen@gmail.com](mailto:djandpallen@gmail.com) if you can help in any way!***

***Rota published next month!***



**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.

***The Crier says - "Ask them if they want to advertise in the Crier."***

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



**Ask on  
Cublington Life**



**is plenty**

***The Parish Council has recently purchased some signs with the message '20 is Plenty' which we wish to place through the village.***

The signs are A4 size. If you feel you have a suitable location where one (or two) of them could be displayed, please contact [cublingtonpc.clerk@gmail.com](mailto:cublingtonpc.clerk@gmail.com) (as there are some restrictions on where signs can be placed.) We can then coordinate signs at suitable intervals and for maximum impact.

***We really hope they will help make a difference to traffic speeds through the village.***



Views of Aylesbury Vale

## Two Tiny Forests in Northfield

If you've walked past some of the planting areas in Northfield and wondered why they look so dense and slightly untidy, they're meant to. They are Miyawaki forests — a different way of creating woodland that grows far faster than traditional tree planting.

Instead of spacing trees neatly apart, the method packs young native trees and shrubs closely together, usually several per square metre. The plants compete for light, and with the grass, which pushes them to grow quickly upward while forming a layered, natural structure. Within a few years the result will hopefully resemble a mature woodland rather than a typical plantation.

Our Northfield project now has two of these tiny forests. Although small, they work surprisingly hard. Dense planting traps pollution, absorbs rainwater and provides shade, but the biggest change is wildlife. Insects arrive first, then birds, and soil life rapidly improves beneath the leaf litter.

After the first few of years, they largely look after themselves. The tight canopy suppresses weeds and keeps moisture in the ground, meaning less maintenance than conventional planting.

They're not designed to replace open green spaces — they complement them. Think of them as biodiversity hotspots: compact, fast-growing pockets of nature.

So if the areas look a bit wild at the moment, that's a good sign. Give them a few seasons and Northfield will have two fully functioning miniature woodlands created in a fraction of the usual time.

*Charlie Toosey*

.....

*Dont forget, if you want to see all the Crier in full colour...*

*Should you wish to see all of the pages in colour, we encourage you to access the Crier online, posted as a pdf on the [www.cublington.com](http://www.cublington.com) website.*

If I ever forget to put the Crier up there, please do give me a shout!

*Cheers Gary/Ed*

# SLOE *Gin*

## COMPETITION RESULTS

Held on Saturday 31st January

Firstly, a big thank you to everyone who entered and attended our 2nd Sloe Gin Competition. There was a record number of entries at 22 and approx. 30 people attended the judging and tastings.

The standard was high and the tastings numerous with much discussion over merits of each drink !!



*The deserved winners were*

### New Sloe

1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>
Tom Gadsby	Andy Brown	Michael Riley

### Vintage Sloe

1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>
Jan Antosiewicz	Martyn Waters	Claire Warren

### Other flavoured Gin

1 <sup>st</sup> Sloe & Raspberry	2 <sup>nd</sup> Greengage	3 <sup>rd</sup> Rhubarb & Ginger
Chris Shults	Andy Brown	Chris Shults

*Start thinking about what flavours you could enter next year.*

### Any Other Spirit

1 <sup>st</sup> Cherry Vodka	2 <sup>nd</sup> Berry Whisky	3 <sup>rd</sup> Plum Brandy
Michael Riley	Andy Brown	Stella Millington

## WEEKLY BIN COLLECTIONS

*Richard Burford has kindly agreed to publish weekly Bin collection data on the Cublington Life WhatsApp Group. Watch out for it every Tuesday evening...*

*Thanks Richard*



## BABYSITTING DIRECTORY - all listed are 14+



- Alice Gadsby - 680452\*
- Charlotte Keane 688133
- Katie Keane 688133 or 07803 939530
- Hannah Alexander - 681104
- Izzy Law - 688019 or 07896 894914
- Maisy Parsons 01296 68230 007368 26143
- Charles Powell 01296 680467
- Darcey Sheriden 07387 996828



\* School or Uni holidays only

**Remember to put your bins out by 6.30am on the collection day, preferably the night before! Wednesdays is our day, Thursday if it follows a Bank Holiday**

**Batteries and ink cartridges can be left out in a separate bag every week.**

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



## ***From our man in the stalls***

***“What a triumph! The roar of the greasepaint!  
The smell of the crowd!”***

One of the finest village pantomimes that your correspondent has witnessed in 24 years of sneaking into the back of the stalls.

There were dark deeds afoot in Cublington. The opening scene, set in the village square (we have a village square?) saw Di Grace as the narrator introduce the action with Jane Alexander’s woodcutter, newcomer Steve Robertson’s Cyril, father of Hansel & Gretel, and Michael Alexander’s Mayor Bumbledrop, with faithful servant Bung, played by Martyn Waters as a cross between Where’s Wally and a young David Gower discussing the presence of a wolf and witch in the North Field Forest.

It is an immutable law of panto that if a witch or a wolf are mentioned in scene one then some of the innocent protagonists will fall into their clutches later in the piece. And then escape again. But that’s enough spoilers for now.

Steve Markham appeared dressed half as a policeman and half as RuPaul. Checking my notes from previous pantos it seems that it is very hard to get Steve OUT of stockings. We met Granny, Sandra Loli with a suspiciously witch-like nose, a pair of naughty elves, Tinsel and Bauble played by Holly & Linda Justice and the seemingly doomed Hansel & Gretel played by Alison Head and Vanessa Taylor.

And more baddies, a frankly disturbing Ezmeralda, stepmother to Hansel & Gretel, and clearly planning to get them bumped off so that she could spend more time with their father Cyril. You’ve got to love a bearded pantomime dame. And there was a wolf, Penny Allen, who spoke! The cast, and audience

launched into a rendition of ‘Who’s afraid of the Big Bad Wolf’ to a cry of ‘Dennis is’ from Colin Justice.

The action switched to the North Field Forest (those trees have grown fast) where the children, and elves were seemingly on a self-sufficiency course, foraging for mushrooms and berries. Despite frantic cries of ‘She’s behind you’ and ‘Rodney you plonker’ (really? Ed.) the innocents were lured to the witch’s Gingerbread Cottage where Hansel and Gretel found themselves locked in a rather flimsy-looking cage. The witch was keen to get on with cooking the children - she was using a Nigella recipe I think - when her oven blew a fuse. Enter ‘A Village Celebrity’, our very own Danny the electrician. Whether or not he fixed the oven Danny went down a storm with the audience and received a five-star rating on Checktrade.

By this point the magic mushrooms (or at least the Brewdog) was beginning to tell on your correspondent and the story got even more hazy. The children, and elves escaped. The wolf may or may not have eaten Ezmeralda, the witch, or both. There were celebrations and more singing back in the village square, marshmallows hidden in dog poo bags (yes, really! How did that work with the children in the matinee?) a very generous raffle and some more encores and community singing.

Many thanks to all who made this happen, to Martyn, Vanessa and Di for writing and directing. To Cublington’s beating musical heart, Evelyn Griffiths. To Jackie Farrands for stage managing. Martyn Gates for the scenery, the tireless prompt Kim Walls, and all who contributed to the costumes, make-up, lighting, sound, front of house and the programme. You all help to make this village special.

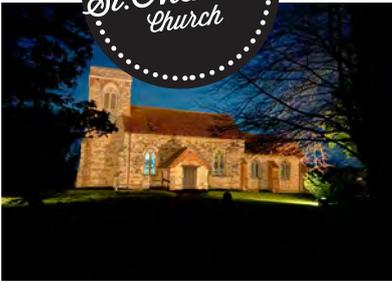
***Can’t wait for next year.***

**To see these pictures and the rest of the magazine in full colour, visit [www.cublington.com](http://www.cublington.com) where the latest edition is available to view.**





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!

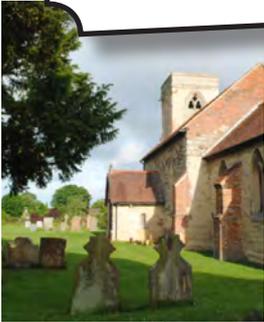
**Main Contact: Penny Allen 01296 682006**

If you would like to, please contact Penny direct on 682006 or djandpallen@gmail.com or to The Crier with a dedication. *Floodlighting now available in many colours. Please indicate a colour choice if required which will be used to light the church on the date or weekend of your sponsorship. The lights will then return to normal for the remainder of the sponsorship.*

*Thank you*

### ST NICHOLAS CHURCH LIGHTS SPONSORS

*Sadly, once again, no sponsors for the lights this month.*



## Church Services for March

1	First Sunday	Sarah & Steve	Linda	Penny	Jane
7	Theological Breakfast	9.15am	At Rectory Cottage, 9.30am	All welcome	
8	HC	Will	Diane*	Linda*	
15	Lay led	Jane & Michael	Penny	Sally	
22	HC	Will	Diane	Julie	
29	?Benefice	?location			



### News from Buckinghamshire Council

***No sir, it's no comfort at all! Talk to the numerous residents who've had their cars ruined by this shoddy, not fit for purpose policy! Ed.***

#### Winter roads

We may finally see some slightly more settled weather in coming days, although we have still experienced considerable rainfall and another drop in temperatures resulting in our crews making gritting runs on our roads again recently.

It all amounts to ongoing pressure on the road network, and we continue to deal with a huge number of winter defects that have been reported to us.

As I said previously, we have endured one of the wettest Januaries on record, coupled with a cycle of freezing conditions, which has wreaked havoc on roads across the country – with Buckinghamshire being no exception. We have responded in kind already increasing the number of repair crews on the network by 50%, prioritising emergencies and urgent safety critical repairs and have even more crews adding to our capacity next week. We have already completed 3,108 jobs during the first seven weeks of 2026.

A permanent fix is often very difficult in wet and cold conditions, with more expensive repairs likely to fail just as quickly as temporary fixes. That's why residents will see quite a volume of temporary repairs until weather allows for a more long-lasting repair, when it will last.

We know this is also about long-term investment in our roads which is why we are delivering on our £120 million road improvement programme with a 17% increase in capital funding (typically the money used for larger resurfacing schemes) being proposed in next year's budget. We will deliver 220 of these larger schemes this financial year and plan to increase that number next year.

I know this may be little comfort if the pothole(s) you keep seeing hasn't yet been repaired but please check it's been reported using FixMyStreet. If it hasn't, then make sure it's logged with the council and it will be inspected and scheduled for an appropriate fix as required.

# From the rector



*“There is nothing concealed that will not be disclosed, or hidden that will not be made known. What you have said in the dark will be heard in the daylight, and what you have whispered in the ear in the inner rooms will be proclaimed from the roofs.” Luke 12: 2-3*

Jesus hadn't seen the Epstein files, but he was an astute observer of the politics of his day.

What might have been surprising to those who originally heard these words, however, is that Jesus wasn't calling out the hypocrisy of the tyrants at the top of the world order, such as the Roman Emperor Tiberius, under whose brutal occupation the Jewish community suffered, and whose sexual violence on the island of Capri was infamous. There would continue to be a string of terrible emperors who wielded ultimate power and whose depravity knew no bounds — Emperor Nero, for example, who now looks like some kind of proto reality star.

What was shocking about these words of Jesus was that he was calling out the hypocrisy of those widely regarded by ordinary people as the good guys — the Pharisees. In Western culture, the word Pharisee has become synonymous with hypocrite because of stories like this in the Bible. I think this is massively unfair and has fuelled terrible antisemitism over the centuries. The Pharisees were not primarily from the ruling classes or the Temple aristocracy in Jerusalem; rather, they sought to live out their faith among ordinary people in towns and villages. In my view, the reason Jesus's debates with the Pharisees were so sharp was because he cared about them and was invested in their care and teaching of the people. Jesus is pointing out that the world is not neatly divided into “good people” and “bad people”. If all our thoughts, comments, and actions were open for the world to see, most of us would be quite embarrassed. Later on, some Pharisees would go on to become part of the backbone of early Church leadership. Saint Paul was a Pharisee.

*In recent months, a lid has been lifted on evil behaviour, insider trading, governmental lobbying, and obscene greed. There have been tragic consequences for the immediate victims and damage to our democratic institutions. Other scandals have exposed hypocrisy in the Church. Jesus calls us not to accept this, but to be shrewd — to look out for hypocrisy and to demand high standards of one another and of public life. Ultimately, however, these words of Jesus give me great comfort. Although the tentacles of evil run through human institutions, Christians believe that the power of evil was ultimately exposed, defeated, and disarmed when Jesus, the Son of God, was publicly crucified. There will be more shock and tragedy along the way, but truth will ultimately win. In his “How Long, Not Long” speech, Dr Martin Luther King Jr. said: “The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice.”*

**Rev'd Dom, Team Rector**



**Please join us** at the next Chatty Cafe,  
Monday, 2nd March at the Biggs Pavilion  
between 10.00 and 11.30am

**“Chatty Café”**

What  
they  
say..

*“Great Chatty Cafe today - thanks to everyone who made cakes”.*

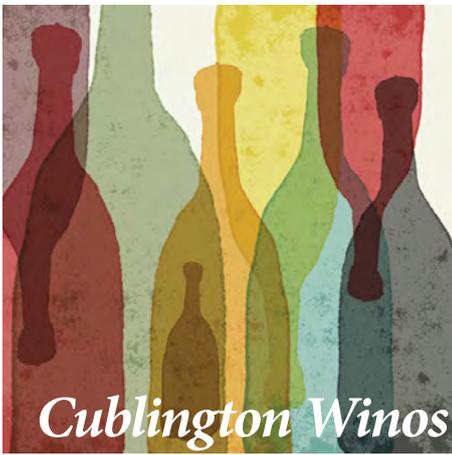
*It's a highlight of the month!*

*“It's great that so many want to come”.*

*“It's a lovely get together so thanks to all who make it happen”.*



**We hope to see you there.... Maggie and Sally**



## Cublington Winos

(The Cublington Wine Appreciation Society)



The November meeting was hosted by Sue and Roger who discussed how we may be influenced by the design of the label when choosing our wines.

Five wines were tasted which were Gavi, Bonny Doon Le Cigare Orange, Les Sarrins Cotes de Provence, Mouton Cadet Bordeaux and Wynns The Siding Cabernet Sauvignon.

Examples were shown of wine labels featuring celebrity endorsements which also included a specially designed label for our very own celebrity, Courgette Bob. Every year since 1945 Chateau Mouton Rothschild Vintage labels have been produced featuring artwork from celebrated artists and examples were shown. Also, there were popular wine labels with the producer's names obliterated to see who could still identify the brands.

It was another good fun evening for the 20 members that attended.

**The Wine Appreciation Society (aka The Winos) meet on the first Wednesday of every other month.**



### What people said:

*"What a fabulous evening! Thank you for an entertaining and enjoyably social evening with some excellent wines and interesting labels"*

*"Thank you for a lovely evening. Excellent wines. Great topic. Will look at labels now in a different light"*

*"A really enjoyable evening. Great wines and presentation. Loved the hand-made screen and other tailor-made illustrations"*

The next Cublington Wine Appreciation Society (aka The Winos) meeting is on **Wednesday 1st April** in the Biggs Pavilion.  
**Contact Jackie 07968 672707 for more information.**



## Cublington Oil Syndicate

**Main Contact: Alison Head**  
**cublingtonoil@gmail.com**

Lovell Fuels - 01844 202777  
YourNRG 01525 643019  
Certas Energy - 01296 561150  
Watson Fuels 01438 721594

We are aware that Alison now doesn't even have an oil fired boiler.... is there anyone willing to take on the Oil Syndicate in her place? Ed

Why not join the  
*Cublington Life*  
WhatsApp group

**Now has 144 members!**



A very useful village forum with useful information shared on road closures/fuel costs/power cuts/ broadband issues/ chimney sweeps/ window cleaners/electricians/ recommended kitchen fitters and the like all get posted on here.

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

# Orchard Ground & North Field

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**Cublington Orchard Ground Association (COGA)**  
was registered as a Charitable Incorporated  
Organisation on 30th September 2025,  
Charity Registration Number 1215172

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## LATEST UPDATES

### **Cublington Orchard Ground Association (COGA)**

The purpose of this registered charity is as follows:

To promote for the benefit of the inhabitants of the Parish of Cublington, Buckinghamshire and the surrounding area the provision of facilities for recreation or other leisure time occupation of individuals who have need of such facilities by reason of their youth, age, infirmity or disablement, financial hardship or social and economic circumstances or for the public at large in the interests of social welfare and with the object of improving the condition of life of the said inhabitants.

Once agreed by Cublington Parish Council's legal advisers, COGA will take a seven year renewable lease at a 'pepper corn rent' of £1.00 a year for Orchard Ground, The Biggs Pavilion, and North Field effectively placing a charity wrapper around all of this community asset. The Parish Council will then become the landlord with oversight and regular reporting requirements by COGA. The very important work of the Orchard Ground Committee will continue, as will the work of each of the very active organisations who provide the various cricket and tennis activities for our community, and the community allotments too.

As a registered charity, COGA will have access to a wider range of grant providers who only fund registered charities, and be able to take advantage of gift aid on personal donations. COGA will operate as a 'light touch umbrella' working with the Orchard Ground Committee.

### **North Field Update**

More maintenance work has been done during February, mulching around the trees which helps to stop the roots drying out and protects the roots in the summer, and helps keep the frosts out of the root systems. Wood chip has been used on several wet areas of the field on the access footpaths between Orchard Ground and North Field. We also had a morning of using the donate pallets to build a compost bin at the top of the field. Hay that is cut and dried on the field is collected as fodder, the docks, thistles and nettles can now be composted. A much larger bin has been built near to the field gate to Stewkley Road for chipped wood. This will help the wood chip to start composting down by retaining heat, rather than have a wide heap on the ground. Thank you's to Kerry in Silver Street and to Gordon in Bell Close for the loan of their 'first fix nail guns,' which made the work so much easier.

**Dates for the North Field working mornings, Saturdays 9.30am until 11.30ish**

**14th March and 28th March.**

**18th April; 9th May;**

As a reminder, the work mornings finish with hot drinks and hot bacon/sausage rolls. During the recent village pantomime, "The Untold Story of Hansel and Gretel" which was centred around Cublington, mention was made several times of the "North Field Forest weirdos, who plant stuff, dig stuff, and fence stuff." Our volunteers are a very friendly bunch, and will welcome you to share in their hot drinks and hot rolls at the end of their volunteering on the dates set out above. Do please drop in for a chat and some refreshments.

**Please contact Martyn Waters for any further information about the North Field project:**

**Martyn.waters@icloud.com**

**M: 07973754356**

**Martyn Waters**



**New Orchard Ground committee members & North Field volunteers always wanted.**

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



*New draw tickets available very soon...*

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

**100 CLUB 2026/7**  
**£1800 in prize money this year\***

**\* 50% of proceeds go in prizes**

Committee members will be out selling tickets for the 2026/27 draws in the near future.

Please continue supporting Orchard Ground - it really is appreciated.

Thank you.

**If** you want to buy a ticket online for **the next set of ten draws starting in May 2026** 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.**

*Make sure you get a ticket for every family member!*



*March Birthdays*

Happy birthday to you...

George Stopher 4 on 10th

Phillipa Francis 1 on 23rd



*What could be easier?...*



**easyfundraising**

[www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/orchardground](http://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 and is so easy!!

*Please don't think about it, just do it...*

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**

# 2025/26 "100 Club" Full Draw results

**New tickets available shortly. All proceeds to Orchard Ground & North Field**

## May

1st Prize - £60 - Ben Rayner.  
2nd Prize - £50 - Paul Thornton.  
3rd Prize - £40 - Gwyneira Waters.  
4th Prize - £20 - Maddison Matthews.

## June.

1st Prize - £60 - Duncan Mack.  
2nd Prize - £50 - Maureen Taylor.  
3rd Prize - £40 - Harley Matthews.  
4th Prize - £20 - Josie Francis.

## July

1st Prize - £60 - Joe Missen.  
2nd Prize - £50 - Jake Ashman.  
3rd Prize - £40 - Louise Sim.  
4th Prize - £20 - Alexia Yates.

## August

1st Prize - £60 - Amy Taylor.  
2nd Prize - £50 - Gary Brazier.  
3rd Prize - £40 - Andrea Sheridan.  
4th Prize - £20 - Brian Knights.

## September

1st Prize - £60 - Nicki Matthews.  
2nd Prize - £50 - Cublington CC.  
3rd Prize - £40 - Jean Barnett.  
4th Prize - £20 - Phoebe Mountfield.

## October

1st Prize - £60 - David Bradbury.  
2nd Prize - £50 - Gwyneira Waters.  
3rd Prize - £40 - Jake Taylor.  
4th Prize - £20 - Connor Taylor.

## November

1st Prize - £60 - Harriet Knights.  
2nd Prize - £50 - Gill Uden.  
3rd Prize - £40 - Charlie Powell.  
4th Prize - £20 - Gary Brazier.

## December 2025

1st Prize - £60 - Josie Francis.  
2nd Prize - £50 - Stella Millington.  
3rd Prize - £40 - Jake Ashman.  
4th Prize - £20 - Martyn Waters.

**One off Christmas £100 draw winner:  
Paddy Bush.**

## January 2026

1st Prize - £60 - Jean Coultas,  
2nd Prize - £50 - Michael Lightfoot.  
3rd Prize - £40 - Chris Brandon.  
4th Prize - £20 - Imogen Lackey.

## February 2026

1st Prize - £60 - Jason Taylor.  
2nd Prize - £50 - John Gregory.  
3rd Prize - £40 - Cublington CC.  
4th Prize - £20 - Gwyneira Waters.



All proceeds to Church funds

## ADVANCE NOTICE



**Save your stuff!**

**Donations very welcome.**

Clothes, books, DVDs, bric-a-brac and toys needed.

**Sorry we cannot take electrical items.**

Any queries please call or message me on 07811 789101.

*Sometime this April - date being agreed*



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*See website for full **SURVEY RESULTS***

Thank you to everyone who has completed the survey regarding what people would like to see in The Unicorn when it reopens.

*Support the campaign by pledging or donating today via GoFundMe:*

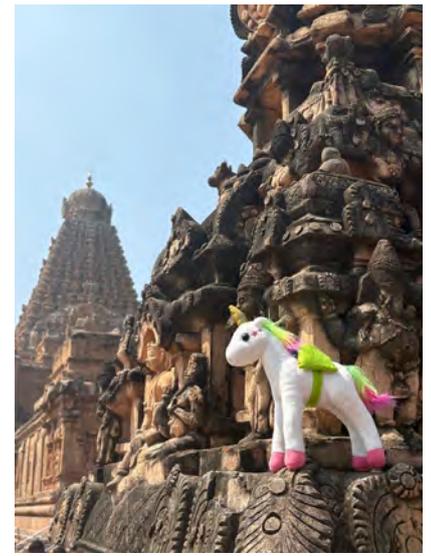
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*Microsite: <https://www.savetheunicorn.org/savetheunicorn.org>*



## **THE TRAVELS OF CUBBY THE UNICORN**

You may have already read the story of Cubby The Unicorn at <https://savetheunicorn.org/> or have followed a link previously published in The Crier. If you've missed it, Cubby tells the story of his living at the Unicorn Pub for over 250 years. There is even a song written using AI on the web site, The Ballad of Cubby The Unicorn.

As the pub is still closed, it's been a cold, lonely and friendless place for Cubby to live, "with no log fire cracking in the grate," to keep him warm. So he's been off on his travels around the world, looking for fun and friendships. He's been to Portland and Seattle in the USA, to Mumbai in India, Kuala Lumpur in Malaysia, Madiera and to Iceland too. Closer to home he has visited London, Winchester, The Isle of Wight and to Guernsey. And as the song says, "..... he's keeping one eye open, for a message loud and clear, he wants a forever home, right back where he began ...." and is waiting for news about The Unicorn pub.

*The Save the Pub Working Pub: working to secure the Unicorn Pub for our community.*

## ***St David's Day – Wales – 1st March***

St. David (Dewi Sant in Welsh) was a 6th-century monk, abbot, and bishop who founded religious communities in Wales and beyond.

His most famous miracle happened while he was preaching. The ground beneath him rose up to form a hill, making it easier for people to see and hear him.

St. David was known for his simple lifestyle. He and his monks ate only vegetables and drank only water, earning him the nickname “The Water Drinker.”

Legend says that St. David told Welsh soldiers to wear leeks on their helmets to distinguish themselves from their enemies in battle. That's why leeks are a national symbol of Wales today.

The small city of St. David's in Pembrokeshire, named after him, became an important pilgrimage site in the Middle Ages. The cathedral we see today is thought to be the fourth to stand on the site of David's original monastery

Some accounts say St. David lived to be over 100 years old, which was incredibly rare for the time - maybe due to his vegan lifestyle!

Before his death, he told his followers: "Be joyful, keep the faith, and do the little things that you have heard and seen me do." The phrase “Do the little things” is still a well-known Welsh saying.

He died on March 1st, around 589 AD, and that's why we celebrate their patron saint on this day every year.

St. David appears on 50p coins and the £5 commemorative banknotes issued by the Royal Mint of Wales.



## ***St Patrick's Day – Ireland – 17th March***

Bring out your green! St. Patrick's Day, observed every March 17th, is packed with parades, good luck charms, and all things green. The event started as a religious holiday, but over time it's become a celebration of Irish culture.

St. Patrick might be the patron saint of Ireland, but he didn't always live in Ireland. Patrick was born in Britain in the fourth century and didn't arrive in Ireland until he was 16 years old, when he was sent to work in the country.

After he arrived, Patrick became interested in Christianity and started teaching others about the religion. He is said to have converted many of the country's residents to Christians, and now St. Patrick's Day is celebrated on the day Patrick supposedly died.

St. Patrick was a real person, but some of the traditions associated with him and the holiday are actually myths. For instance, you'll often see the four-leaf clover on St. Patrick's Day. However, according to legend, Patrick used a three-leaf clover, or shamrock, as part of his teachings. Even though it's possible for a shamrock to grow a fourth leaf, a four-leaf clover is just considered a symbol of good luck.

Another legend says that Patrick chased all the snakes out of Ireland. However, these creatures never actually lived in the country. In fact, many animals found throughout Europe and North America don't live on the island of Ireland - the ocean keeps them away.

The fact that Ireland is an island—as well as green with leafy trees and grassy hills—means that the nation is sometimes called the Emerald Isle. But the colour that people originally associated with St. Patrick was blue! (Some ancient Irish flags even sport this colour.) Green was finally introduced to St. Patrick's Day festivities in the 18th century, when the shamrock (which is, of course, green) became a national symbol. Because of the shamrock's popularity and Ireland's landscape, the colour stuck to the holiday. Green is also the colour that mythical fairies called leprechauns like to dress in - today, at least. But tales about leprechauns date back to before green was in: The fairies were first described as wearing red.





**COME ALONG. HAVE A GO.  
NEW MEMBERS WELCOMED.**

## **OPEN Day/Afternoon Sunday April 26th from 1pm**

Tennis is a game for life. If you start early it gives you social opportunities for life.

It is also recognised as the perfect sport for the over 50's for all round fitness, cardio health and mental well-being. Come on - give it a go! Even if you're younger than that!

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- 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

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**NOTE: Club matches take priority - check the calendar before arriving**

**Contact:** gary@cublington.com and he'll add you to the relevant WhatsApp group.

### **MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY**

Caroline Lane 01296 681373

carolinelane@btinternet.com

### **FOR MORE INFORMATION AND NON-MEMBER COURT BOOKINGS**

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We've had two deliveries of chipped bark from village residents who were having some tree work. This chipped bark is a great help in providing material to top up the mulch around our trees and is being used on very wet areas of the footpaths. If you're having sometime work done and don't want to keep the bark chippings, give me a call if there is an opportunity for any chipped bark to be delivered to North Field; most contractors are very happy to tip this locally rather than transport it away.



**Please contact Martyn Waters** for any further information: [martyn.waters@icloud.com](mailto:martyn.waters@icloud.com). M: 07973754356



## CUBLINGTON VILLAGE HALL

# Hire Charges

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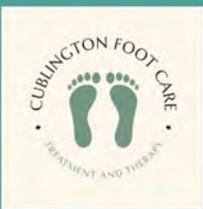
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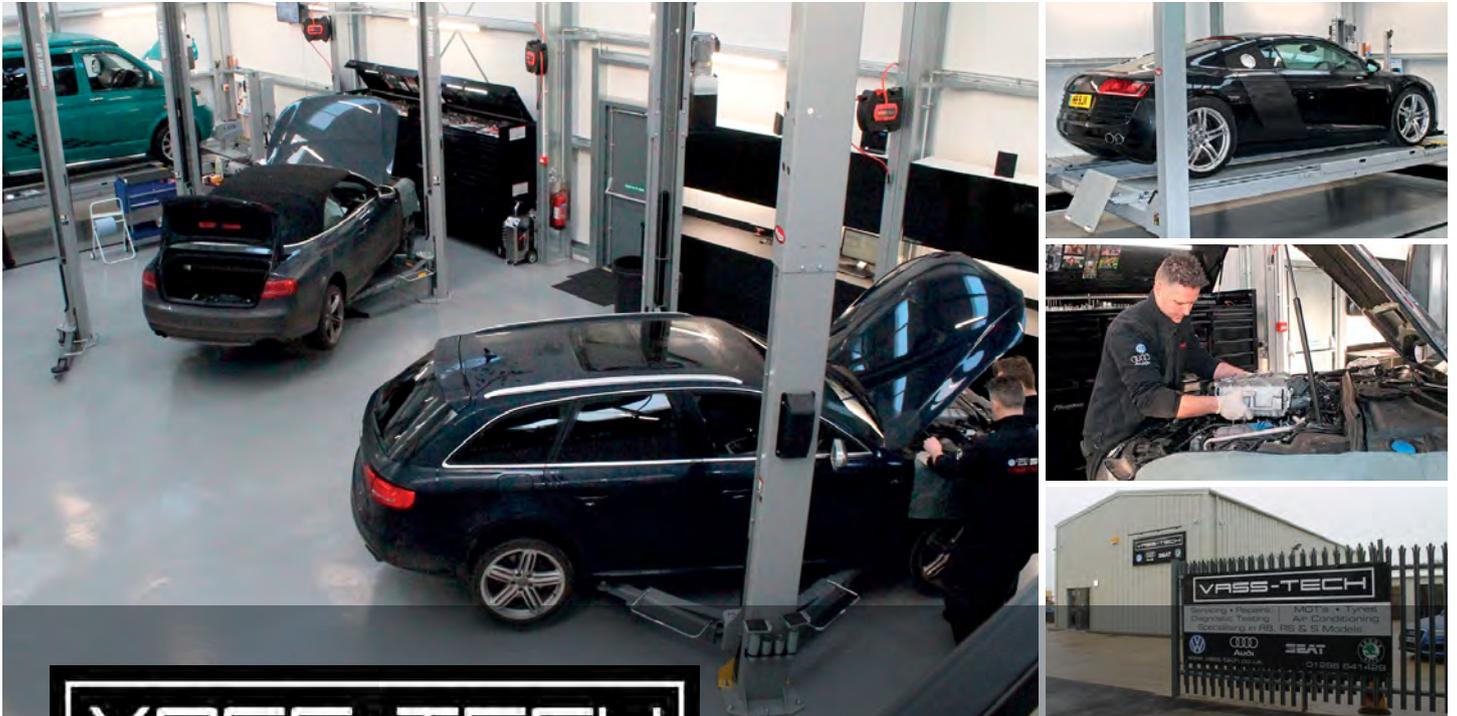
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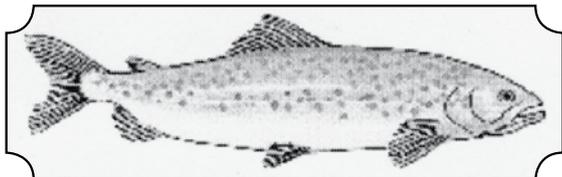


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# Villages Art Group

## CALLING ALL ARTISTS

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*Come along and paint and sketch and learn together*

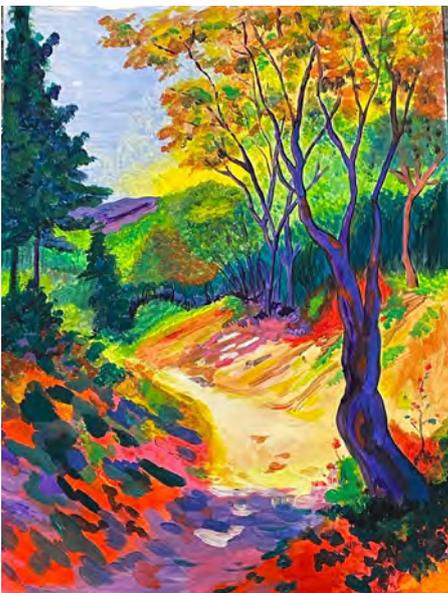
**- EVERY MONDAY 1.45-3.45pm**

### At the Village Hall, Cublington

*Please come along with your paints, pencils, easels etc and join us working side by side for a couple of hours. Tea/coffee cake and biscuits to sustain us! Small donation for hire of hall appreciated.*



*We would like to encourage you to join us... trying out new techniques and most of all, having fun creating art!*



# 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.

Send to [gary@cublingtoncrier.co.uk](mailto:gary@cublingtoncrier.co.uk) **THANKS**

## Spotted

Taking a mirror for a walk up Silver Street. Wish them luck.



## Spotted

Ooh er missus! There ain't nothing like a Dame eh?!



## Spotted

Before and after ... Someone has been busy cleaning the Play Area signs.

Well done! It has been "spotted"!



## Spotted

In the copse at Orchard Ground, just by the play area. Who's it for?



## Spotted

On the Littlecote to Stewkley Road, a strange shed being built with railway sleepers and brick infill... did it get planning permission I wonder!

## Spotted Ha Ha!

I can assure you no one hit me on the head when making the new compost bins at North Field, but it sure looks like someone did! Just a trick of the shadow. Caption competition anyone?



## Spotted

Amazing what you see on a walk! (Not the one featured in the WhatsApp Cublington Life group).

## Spotted

A bit further down the Littlecote to Stewkley Road, a set of locked gates across access to the public footpath through to Buchanan's Spinney at the centre of what would have been the airport.. Who does one complain to?