

May 2026

MAGAZINE AVAILABLE ONLINE AT

www.cublington.com

THE CUBLINGTON CRIER

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



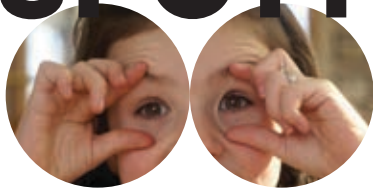
No.462

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



NOT LONG NOW TO THE FETE ON 20TH JUNE!

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 **THANKS**

Spotted & heard!

Dawn service Easter morning



Spotted

Very smart new chairs and tables at the Village Hall



Spotted

Rogue (Mad?) cows on the rampage through the village and ending up on the Gibby's front and then back garden! What are the chances?!



Spotted

New cows (no not those ones) in the Old Village field... beware, they're still very inquisitive!



Spotted

Mysterious abandoned (stolen?) van sparked on the High Street for the last few weeks. The owners, in Portsmouth, have been notified and are arranging collection.



Spotted

A shattered Harvey Knights having successfully completed his 3 Peaks challenge. Well done Harvey!

Spotted

Some of you may have already spotted the new container storage shed on the west side of the North Field. Many thanks once again to Hugh and George for installing it so expertly!



Spotted

Jupiter with two moons in transit seen from Cublington!

Spotted

A great evening at the Orchard Pop Up Pub on Friday 3rd April - if you haven't sampled the social yet - come on down!





Editorial

May brings with it a gentle sense of renewal across our village. As the days stretch longer and the hedgerows burst into bloom, there's a quiet invitation to step outside, breathe deeply and reconnect with nature, with neighbours and with ourselves.

This time of year has always held a special kind of magic. Gardens begin to stir back to life, local footpaths beckon walkers and wanderers, and the simple pleasure of a sunny afternoon reminds us how much beauty surrounds us right here at home. It's also a wonderful opportunity to get out and support our local events, groups and small businesses that keep the heart of our community beating.

In this issue you will find a variety of updates and opportunities to get involved from upcoming gatherings to seasonal inspiration. Whether you are new to the village or have called it home for decades, there is always something new to discover and someone new to meet.

May is also a time to pause and reflect. As we move further in to the year, it offers a moment to consider what we'd like to nurture in our own lives - be it wellbeing, connection, or creativity. Sometimes, the smallest steps can lead to the most meaningful changes.

Wherever this month finds you - busy, restful, or somewhere inbetween - we hope you find moments of joy, calm and community.

Wishing you a bright and beautiful May.

The Selmes Family

**June Crier deadline is slightly earlier please.
13th May**



June EDITORS: Liz & Bob

Congratulations!

to Will and Rebecca on the birth of their daughter Eleanor.

Well done!

to Harvey Knights who completed the Three Peaks challenge raising money for Pancreatic Cancer. 520 miles, snow, wind, rain, blisters, dodgy tummy and ending 10kg lighter!

Welcome!

to several new families in the village... please introduce yourself so we can properly welcome you all in the next Crier!

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.**

THE FETE COMMITTEE WOULD LOVE YOUR HELP PLEASE!

Without the villagers' input we cannot even begin to run the fete - the major village fundraiser every year. Vital funds get distributed to most of the village venues and causes every year. It's a huge undertaking and that's why we need your input.

So please, we need your briq-a-braq, your old books, any nice raffle prizes, any tombola donations - tins/bottles/sweets/cans/smellies, any **bottles or cans for the Wheelbarrow of Booze**, any **toys** for the toy stall, any **plants** for the plant stall, and **cakes...** we'd love you to **make a cake for the Cake Stall** - large cakes, small cakes, lemon drizzle, Victoria sponges, cup cakes, chocolate cakes, fruit cakes, rhubarb cakes, apple cakes. Perhaps you might have a **crafty friend who'd like to sell from a stall?** Do you know anyone who could bring their **classic car?**

Do you have a **dog** to enter the dog show? Could you help out in the car park or on a stall for an hour?

Most of all we'd love to see you there on the day - or even the afternoon/evening before, as we set it all up!

Thanks for reading. See you all there!

The Fete Committee



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.

**Available for clubs, parties
and any special events
Booking now!**

**Online booking diary:
www.ogpavilion.keepandshare.com**

Find a date you want and contact

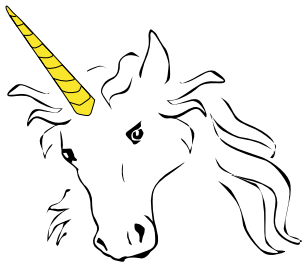
Bob Paine on 01296 680483

bobpaine2002@hotmail.com

to book it!

Contact Bob on 01296 680483 or

bobpaine2002@hotmail.com



THE UNICORN



OUR SAVE PUB



Support the campaign by pledging or donating today via GoFundMe:

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/save-the-unicorn-pub>

Follow us for updates and ways to get involved:

Instagram: @savetheunicornpub

Facebook: facebook.com/profile.php?id=61577249199617

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

Following the flyer from Chris George in the April edition of The Crier announcing that the Unicorn would be opening for new business this summer, The Friends of the Unicorn received an email asking that we remove the 'Save our Pub' signs. The Friends group sent a reply to Chris expressing our delight at the news that the pub will be open again this summer offering to remove the signs once an opening date had been confirmed.

In support of the pub reopening, we offered to share information with the new tenants once the lease has been signed. Our survey of local residents received over 90 responses as to their thoughts and wishes for the pub reopening, all of which would be very helpful to the new tenants. Also to share details of the many events and activities held at The Orchard 'pop up' since the closure of the Unicorn at the end of August 2024, all of which have been very well supported by village residents and others from the local area.

At the time of writing this article for The Crier, no response has been received to our email.

Friends of The Unicorn Cublington



Please join us at the next Chatty Cafe, Monday, 4th May 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

**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**



THANK YOU

On behalf of everyone who uses and enjoys our village hall, we just want to say a big thank you for all the donations from village events and individuals that have helped us buy 40 new chairs.

The new chairs are much more comfortable and really help make the hall feel more welcoming for everyone—whether it's for meetings, events, celebrations, or just getting together.

It's great to see our community come together to support the hall like this. Your generosity helps keep it a place where people of all ages can meet, join in, and feel at home.

Thanks again for all your support—we really do appreciate it!

The Village Hall Committee

WHERE IN THE WORLD? TIM'S FIENDISH FLYING PHOTOS

**TEMPORARILY
GROUNDED**

*Very sadly still due to the ongoing problems in the middle east region we are unable to fly different routes to bring you a new photo this month.
Blame Donald Trump! we'll be back as soon as circumstances allow. Tim*



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 Chess Club meetings 11th, 25th May

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

Steve

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

MAKE A NOTE OF THESE DATES

May

1st Thai night

15th Maya Asian food van

31st tbc

June

12th Willies garden kitchen food van

26th Bee Thai 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

THE CUBLINGTON CALENDAR



You'll always find something to do in Cublington!

May

Friday 1st - Orchard pop up pub Thai night The Biggs Pavilion 6pm
details via Cublington Life WhatsApp

Monday 4th Chatty Cafe The Biggs Pavilion 10.00-11.30am

Monday 4th Art Group Village Hall 1.45-3.45pm

Tuesday 5th Sound Bath Village Hall 7pm-9pm

Wednesday 6th Wine Down Village Hall 5.30-7.30pm

Saturday 9th North Field Work Party North Field 9.30-11.45am

Saturday 9th Afternoon Tea Village Hall 3pm - 5pm

Monday 11th Art Group Village Hall 1.45-3.45pm

Monday 11th Chess Club Village Hall 4-6pm

Tuesday 12th Village Meet up Village lunch

Biggs Pavilion 1pm menus posted on WhatsApp group

Tuesday 12th Cubbers Bookworms Book Club Village Hall

Wednesday 13th Wine Down Village Hall 5.30-7.30pm

Friday 15th Art Group Tutored Session Village Hall 1.45-3.45pm

Friday 15th - Orchard pop up pub Maya Asian food van The Biggs Pavilion 6pm

Monday 18th Art Group Village Hall 1.45-3.45pm

Tuesday 19th Parish Council AGM Village Hall 7-9pm

Wednesday 20th Wine Down Village Hall 5.30-7.30pm

Friday 22nd - Orchard pop up pub The Biggs Pavilion 6pm

Saturday 23rd North Field Work Party North Field 9.30-11.45am

Monday 25th Art Group Village Hall 1.45-3.45pm

Monday 25th Chess Club Village Hall 4-6pm

Tuesday 26th Sound Bath Village Hall 7pm-9pm

Wednesday 27th Wine Down Village Hall 5.30-7.30pm

Friday 29th - Orchard pop up pub - drinks only The Biggs Pavilion 6pm

June

Monday 1st Chatty Cafe The Biggs Pavilion 10.00-11.30am

Monday 1st Art Group Village Hall 1.45-3.45pm

Wednesday 3rd Cublington Winos 7.15pm Biggs Pavilion

Monday 8th Art Group Village Hall 1.45-3.45pm

Tuesday 9th Village Meet up Village lunch

Biggs Pavilion 1pm menus posted on WhatsApp group

Wednesday 10th Wine Down Village Hall 5.30-7.30pm

Friday 12th - Orchard pop up pub Willies garden kitchen food van The Biggs Pavilion 6pm

Monday 15th Art Group Village Hall 1.45-3.45pm

Wednesday 17th Wine Down Village Hall 5.30-7.30pm

Saturday 20th Cublington Fete No holidays allowed! ;)

Monday 22nd Art Group Village Hall 1.45-3.45pm

Wednesday 24th Wine Down Village Hall 5.30-7.30pm

Friday 26th - Orchard pop up pub Bee Thai food van The Biggs Pavilion 6pm

July

Monday 6th Chatty Cafe The Biggs Pavilion 10.00-11.30am

August

Monday 3rd Chatty Cafe The Biggs Pavilion 10.00-11.30am

Wednesday 5th Cublington Winos 7.15pm Biggs Pavilion

Saturday 15th VJ Day Further Exhibition Village Hall

Saturday 22nd Cublington Horticultural Show Biggs Pavilion

The categories will be in the April Crier so you can plan your entries

September

Saturday 12th Bucks Historic Churches Trust Ride and Stride

October

Saturday 10th Cublington Art Exhibition Biggs Pavilion 10am-4pm

Sunday 11th Cublington Art Exhibition Biggs Pavilion 10am-4pm

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.



COME ALONG AND HAVE A GO.

NEW MEMBERS ALWAYS WELCOMED.

Tennis is a game for life.

If you start early it gives you social opportunities for life.

Tennis 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!

- 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

AND WHY NOT SIGN UP for tennis coaching with Paul Hobday? LTA level 4 coach

It's not too late...Term started April 24th for 12 weeks

Paul Hobday will be again offering coaching sessions on Friday evenings

4.30-5.30pm Kids tennis 11 weeks total as gap for half term. £66 member / £77 non member.

5.30-6.30pm Beginners / Intermediates

6.30-7.30pm Intermediates / Advanced. £84 members £108 non members

Contact: nmsheridan1@hotmail.com to book your slot .

JOIN IN OUR CLUB SOCIAL SESSIONS via the relevant Club WhatsApp group **Contact:** gary@cublington.com and he'll add you.

Mixed Tuesday Evenings, 7-8.30pm Club Saturday 3-5pm, Club Sunday 3-5pm
(All Members only).

NOTE: Club matches take priority - check the calendar and the relevant WhatsApp group to see who might be attending.

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND NON-MEMBER COURT BOOKINGS

(£12 PER HOUR) :

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

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Caroline Lane 01296 681373
carolinelane@btinternet.com

SAFEGUARDING OFFICER

Jean Barnett 01296 392471
To be contacted if you have any concerns about safeguarding.



Cublington and the Buckinghamshire Best Kept Village Competition 2026: A Shared Opportunity

Each year, villages across the county take part in the Buckinghamshire Best Kept Village competition - a long-standing tradition that celebrates communities that take pride in their environment, heritage, and collective spirit.

In 2025 Cublington won the Gurney Cup and we now proudly display the Best Kept Village sign at the crossroads. This award followed a Community Award for the North Field Woodland creation project. For Cublington, participation is more than a bid for recognition; it is an opportunity to strengthen community bonds, enhance the village's character, and reinforce a shared sense of stewardship. The Parish Council is proud to support the Best Kept Village competition for 2026.

Judging takes place in May and early June.

Why It Matters for Cublington

Entering the competition brings a number of tangible and intangible benefits:

1. Strengthening Community Spirit

2. Enhancing the Village Environment

A focus on tidiness, planting, and maintenance leads to a more attractive and welcoming village. Improved green spaces, well-kept verges, and cared-for properties benefit everyone - residents and visitors alike.

3. Preserving Heritage and Character

Cublington's rural charm and historical features are among its greatest assets. Participation in the competition encourages careful attention to these elements, ensuring they are preserved and presented at their best.

What Judges Typically Look For

While criteria may vary slightly year to year, judges generally assess:

- Cleanliness and absence of litter
- Range of blooms on display
- Condition of verges, hedges, and public spaces
- Appearance and maintenance of private properties visible from public areas
- Community involvement and initiative
- Environmental awareness and biodiversity efforts
- Care of local features such as noticeboards, benches, and signage

Every household can make a meaningful contribution. Small, consistent actions across the village collectively make a strong impression.

1. Front Gardens and Boundaries

Keep lawns trimmed, hedges neatly cut, and borders weed-free. Seasonal planting- such as colourful bedding plants or hanging baskets- can make a noticeable difference

2. Property Maintenance

Attend to visible repairs: flaking paint, broken fences, or worn gates can detract from the overall appearance.

3. Verges and Pavements

Where appropriate and safe to do so, residents can help maintain the verge outside their property- cutting grass edges, removing weeds, and keeping pathways clear.

5. Community Features

Support efforts to maintain shared spaces such as the Orchard Ground, noticeboards, bus stops, and seating areas.

6. Planting for Pollinators

Incorporate plants that support bees, butterflies, and other wildlife. Native species and varied planting not only look attractive but also demonstrate environmental awareness.

7. Signage and Details

Clean and straighten house name signs, ensure they are legible, and consider tasteful additions that complement the village's character.

A Collective Effort

The success of Cublington in the competition will not rest on a single grand gesture, but on the accumulation of many small efforts. Consistency across the village is key - judges notice the overall feel as much as individual highlights.

Perhaps most importantly, participation should be enjoyable. It offers a reason to spend time outdoors, take pride in one's surroundings, and connect with neighbours. Whether or not Cublington secures a top award, the process itself leaves a lasting legacy: a more vibrant, cared-for village that everyone can be proud to call home.

Thank you

Cllr Michael Reilly

On behalf of Cublington Parish Council





MUSIC IN QUIET PLACES

Classical concert

St James church, Aston
Abbotts

SUNDAY 7 June, 7.30pm

Tickets £15

Caroline Lane, 01296 681373

carolinelane@btinternet.com

or direct at bmiqp.org

Programme includes:

Arenzky (Quartet for 2 Cellos, Violin and
Viola)

Dotzauer (Grand Quartet Concertant)

Raising money for the church

Raising money for the church

Also in Wingrave Sat 13 June with a different programme

Cublington

SUMMER FETE *Fun Dog Show*

Saturday 20th June

from 1pm

at Orchard Ground, Cublington LU7 0LR
FREE PARKING

ALL YOUR TRADITIONAL FAVOURITES

- BBQ • Bar • DOG show •
- Children's Games • Winslow band •
- Punch & Judy • Blacksmith demo •
- Arts & crafts • Cream Teas
- Cakes • Produce • Plants • Raffle •
- Games Galore & much, much more •

Fun for all the family!

£2 entry - kids U12 & 65+ free
cash & card payments available

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

for your very own copy.



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

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

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



(The Cublington Wine Appreciation Society)

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"

Some pictures taken at the recent Winos evening hosted by Sandra & Nigel. Nigel made an excellent wine waiter, the theme of the evening was can you taste the difference between Posh and Plonk wine. Overall I believe we did but with a few surprises along the way, a really fun evening had by all!



The next Cublington Wine Appreciation Society (aka The Winos) meeting is on **Wednesday 3rd June** in the Biggs Pavilion. **Contact Jackie 07968 672707 for more information.**

The Wine Appreciation Society meet on the first Wednesday of every other month.

**Why not join the
Cublington Life
WhatsApp group
Now has 155 members!**



Originally set up to provide help during the pandemic, this group has changed into a very strong 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.

Hi all - just a quick reminder from the admins that Cublington Life is intended for sharing useful local information, events, recommendations, help for the community and updates related to the village.

There are currently 155 villagers on this WhatsApp group and we'd just ask that posts stay relevant to the local community and respectful of others so the group remains helpful for everyone.

Thank you.

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 an administrator knows and adds you.

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



Cublington Oil Syndicate

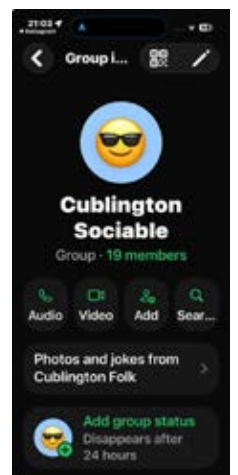
Main Contact: Alison Head
cublingtonoil@gmail.com

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

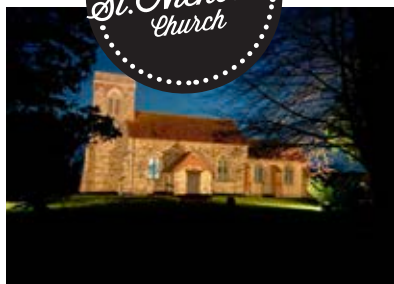
**And if you want to...
why not join the new
WhatsApp group!**

Let me know if you'd like to be on the Cublington Sociable group WhatsApp, send me your telephone number and I can make sure we add you. **Admin is: Di Grace**



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

St. Nicholas
Church



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

"The church lights were also sponsored in April by Michael and Jane Alexander to celebrate their Ruby Wedding on 25th April. Congratulations to them both".

"Penny Allen is sponsoring the May lights to celebrate the 95th birthday of her dad, Alan Lindfield, on 16th May."



St Nicholas Church May Newsletter

We had a joyous Easter celebration at St Nicholas. The traditional 6.15am sunrise service was well attended and the clear skies enabled us to enjoy a picturesque sun rising over the church tower shortly after the start of the service. Punctuated with the bleating of the young lambs the service was live streamed from the Alexander's stable yard and enjoyed by a number of groups in the UK and abroad. The later service in the church was also well attended and this was followed by an easter egg hunt for the children.

Well done to those who organised these events. We have had stonemasons working at the church during April carrying out repairs to the rear of the building. This is one area of many that will need specialist work in the next few years to maintain the fabric.

The fundraising jumble sale made a brilliant £407 and we had a concert by a Berkhamsted Ukulele group also organised for end of April and hopefully this will be successful and well attended.

The churchyard has had several positive comments made recently by visitors and workmen saying how tidy and cared for it is looking. Thank you to everyone who volunteers to mow and keep it in order through out the season. There will be a little area at the back of the churchyard which will again be set aside for conservation, biodiversity and rewilding to allow flora and fauna to thrive in a small patch. Please leave this area when mowing around the churchyard.

We wish you a joyful month of May and hope to welcome you to services and refreshments afterwards in St Nicholas.



From the rector

The earth is the Lord's, and all its fullness,
the world and those who dwell therein.
For He has founded it upon the seas,
and established it upon the waters.
Who may ascend the hill of the Lord?
Or who may stand in His holy place?
He who has clean hands and a pure heart,
who has not lifted up his soul to an idol,
nor sworn deceitfully.



Psalm 24:1-4

Ride and Stride Pilgrimage

The ancient tribes of Israel would make a pilgrimage to the Temple at Jerusalem every year. For the northern tribes who had journeyed down the River Jordan, the final leg involved an eighteen-mile climb from Jericho in the east, which is 825 feet below sea level, to Jerusalem, 2,500 feet above sea level. It was an arduous, if visually spectacular, climb through the winding canyons and wadis of the Judean wilderness. They would encourage themselves with pilgrim songs like Psalm 24: "Who may ascend the hill of the Lord? Or who may stand in His holy place?" The hill of the Lord is a steep climb!

I made the journey in reverse, from Jerusalem to Jericho in the West Bank, back in 2014, a week before my ordination as a priest—although I did this journey from the luxury of a minibus.

Some of you might have been following the BBC series Pilgrimage, in which celebrities of different faiths and beliefs follow ancient pilgrim paths together. For the ancient Israelite tribes, as they sang their way towards the Temple, it was an opportunity to meditate and reconnect with God through the grandeur of creation: "The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it." It was also a chance to refocus on what is really important in life: "clean hands and a pure heart." Jesus expanded the idea of idolatry to include all the things we can devote ourselves to that may divert us from the true meaning of our lives, such as the worship of money.

We live on ancient pilgrimage routes here in Buckinghamshire. I have the privilege of being the Team Rector to a group of churches called the Cottesloe Benefice, which comprises eight incredible medieval churches: All Saints, Soulbury; St Michael and All Angels, Stewkley; St Nicholas, Cublington; St James the Great, Aston Abbots; SS Peter and Paul, Wingrave; St Mary's, Mentmore; St Giles, Cheddington; and All Saints, Wing. In Saxon times, the crypt at All Saints, Wing, was a major pilgrimage destination. Medieval paintings have been found in a house in

Wingrave, thought to have been a pilgrim lodging house. It is an uphill struggle to maintain our holy places. Some of you might have visited the beautiful medieval church of All Saints at Hulcott, near Bierton. It has stood there since the thirteenth century but has sadly closed in the last five years. We mustn't lose any more of these treasures in our villages.

So, I invite you to mark off a day in your diaries for a special pilgrimage. Saturday 12th September is an event called Ride & Stride. The idea is to walk, cycle, or even ride your horse to as many participating churches as possible, raising money for those churches and for the Buckinghamshire Historic Churches Trust. <https://bucks-historic-churches.org.uk/ride-stride/>

I intend to set off from All Saints, Soulbury, early in the morning on foot and visit each of these churches, arriving at All Saints, Wing, in the evening. The total distance will be about the same as that from Jericho to Jerusalem, and we will ascend 942 feet.

Could you join me for this? Could you walk one of the legs between churches with us? Could you organise your own event—walking, cycling, or riding? Perhaps you could support in other ways, by being part of a welcoming committee offering hospitality in one of our churches.

I would love as many of you as possible—from our villages, schools, and beyond, from all faiths and from none—to join this pilgrimage with us. It is also a unique opportunity to visit some of the churches that are usually closed during the week. I will share more details in the coming months.

***"Who may ascend the mountain of the Lord?
Who may stand in His holy place?"***

Perhaps you may!

Revd Dom Wright



Church Services for May

	Service	Taken by	OT/NT readings	Reader	Gospel (and Coffee) Reader	prayers
3rd	First Sunday	Annie	Martyn		Gillian	Jane
**2nd	Theological Breakfast	9.15am	At Rectory Cottage, 9.30am		All Welcome	
10	HC	Will	Sally		Diane	
17	LayLed	Jane & Michael	Peter		Gina	
24	HC	Will	Helen		Penny	
31	AT SOULBURY		tba			

*"Laura Kyrke-Smith MP visits
Bucks College Group during National
Apprenticeship Week"*



It's a privilege to write for the latest issue of The Cublington Crier and to update you on some of the work I've been doing locally and in Parliament.

Potholes: Enough is enough

Potholes are one of the most common complaints I receive from residents across the villages, and Watermead is no exception. Quite simply, the condition of some of our roads is not good enough and residents deserve better.

The Government has allocated Buckinghamshire Council £104.4 million for highway maintenance over the next four years. This includes £20.7 million to spend on roads in this financial year. Given the scale of the problem locally, residents understandably want to see that money translated into visible improvements on the ground.

I frequently write to the Council about individual roads. I have written again, asking for clear answers on how this funding is being spent, what the repair priorities are, and when residents can expect to see work carried out. I will continue pressing the Council until we see real progress.

Buckinghamshire Council's Local Plan

Many residents have also contacted me about Buckinghamshire Council's Local Plan and the new housing sites being considered locally.

We do need to build more homes nationally. I hear from so many young people who can't afford to rent or buy, and so many people waiting for social housing, and we have to change this for the sake of future generations.

But housing growth must be planned properly. The key point residents raise with me time and again is that our area doesn't have the infrastructure and services to cope.

National planning policy is clear: Development must be supported by the infrastructure communities need. New homes must come alongside investment in schools, healthcare, transport and local services.

National guidance is also clear that development should not come at the expense of protecting our natural environment.

Buckinghamshire Council has left our area vulnerable because for six years - since the unitary authority was created - it has failed to bring forward a Local Plan for housing development. This is despite the excellent work of villages on their own neighbourhood plans, which should have fed into the Council's Local Plan. The lack of a Local Plan left the Government no choice but to set targets for the county.

The target of around 95,000 homes by 2045 includes tens of thousands of homes that were already in the pipeline from existing neighbourhood plans and planning permissions, alongside additional homes required under the Government's standard method for calculating housing need.

I am pleased to see that Buckinghamshire Council's work on the Local Plan is now underway. Members of Parliament do not have any formal role in setting this plan - nor in individual planning applications that may come forward as a result of it. But I will continue to engage closely with both the Council and residents, to ensure that the process is transparent, residents have a genuine opportunity to be heard, and any proposals clearly demonstrate how infrastructure will be delivered.

I will continue to press for housing development that is properly planned, sustainable and fair to our communities.

Supporting young people and local skills

During February half-term I hosted my "Your Voice, Your Future" work experience programme for local 16-18 year olds. It was inspiring to hear their ideas, including for improving local bus services and creating better career pathways for young people in our area. I will be holding the next programme in July. If you would like to take part, or if you know of anyone who would be interested, keep an eye out for information on how to apply on my website or via my social media.

I also visited Bucks College Group during National Apprenticeship Week, where I met students training in carpentry, joinery, auto care and hairdressing - practical skills that are essential to our local economy.

Apprenticeships are a real win-win when colleges and employers work together, and I will continue championing opportunities for young people locally.

If there is ever anything I can do to support you, please do drop me a line at laura.kyrkesmith.mp@parliament.uk.

I am always keen to hear directly about the issues that matter to you.

Orchard Ground & North Field

Cublington Orchard Ground Association (COGA)

was registered as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation on 30th September 2025, Charity Registration Number 1215172

LATEST UPDATES

North Field Update

As the April Crier went to print, a picture was included of a large fallen branch from the black poplar on North Field, thank you Lee for reporting this, in fact about half of the tree had fallen away. With the help of Tom Farands, we were quickly able to clear the footpath in the far corner of the field. Several of our work mornings have been taken up clearing away the massive amount of wood that had fallen from the tree. Thank you to Hugh for helping with the rebalancing work on the tree as the majority of what was left was growing over the track that leads down to the small holding.

Black Poplars are the UK's most endangered native timber tree. They are protected in Buckinghamshire. It is estimated that only 7,000 of these trees still survive in England and Wales, more than half of these are in Aylesbury Vale in an area of the river Thames and its tributaries where the wet conditions around the river banks and marshy farmland provide ideal growing conditions; the brook at Willowbrook on the drive to Whitchurch is a tributary of the river Thames; so our black poplar is one of the few. Female black poplars produce fluffy white cotton like seeds in the spring, the male trees have red catkins; the tree on North Field is a male.

An arborialist advised that the tree should be made safe, that we should take pictures and record our work; and that if this was done there was no reason that the tree should live for several more generations. As you will see as you walk North Field, the tree is now balanced, the rot that has been exposed runs down into the centre of the roots will be a home for many beetles and other invertebrates as the tree moves into the next stages of its life. The tree is estimated to be around 250 years old and shows signs of being previously pollarded in years gone by. Black Poplar wood is a hard wood tree with timber that is lightweight and straight grained. Historically it was used to make cart wheels, floorboards in barns and mills, thatching spars and wooden clogs; the decking of the Mary Rose was black poplar timber, (Henry VIII's ship that sank in the English Channel.)

After a tree inspection last year, using a grant from the village fete committee we bought six black poplar tree whips which had been genetically tested, four female and two male. Hopefully these along with our mature tree will help ensure the continuation of black poplar trees in our local area..



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

**9th & 23rd of May,
6th and 27th of June.**

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
are now available!*

*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!

*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 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**

THANK YOU

47 supporters have raised a brilliant £3013.68 - many, many thanks to them all. 44 supporters have raised £1621.81 - phenomenal!!!

**1st - Sarah George - £688.90.
2nd - Gwyneira Waters - £393.53.
3rd - Kevin Shults - £309.44.**

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

Thank you.

www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/orchardground

Orchard Ground Committee's
TRIVIA QUIZ

Raised £335 for annual running costs!



The 3rd Trivia quiz took place at The Biggs pavilion with eight teams contesting to become the Trivial champions.

It was neck and neck with some teams saving their jokers right up to the last minute.

The girls team Kathy's Kreations came out on top. Well done to Gillian Sally Chris and Kathy.

As usual much amusement was shared by all.



What people said...

A great trivia quiz at the Biggs Pavilion last night with lots of fun and laughter, congratulation to Kathy's team as the winners. Thanks to Jackie and Jenny for organising and running the event. Great fun.

Thanks Jackie and Jenny and other organisers for a great evening. A lot of laughs as well as the quiz.

It was a fabulous night - and great fun had by all - thanks to Jenny and Jackie for the brilliant (and fun) MCing.

Thank you to everyone who attended this event - we (Orchard Ground) really appreciate your support - all profits go towards the upkeep of our wonderful village facility - the Biggs Pavilion

OG Committee



Ask on
Cublington Life

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 on Cublington Life WhatsApp group.

COME & TRY

INTERESTED IN GIVING KAYAKING A GO FOR FREE?

LEIGHTON BUZZARD CANOE CLUB

Saturday 9th May
11am - 1pm

Friday 12th June
6pm - 8pm

Saturday 27th June
11am - 1pm

Saturday 18th July
11am - 1pm

Saturday 1st August
11am - 1pm

We are a super friendly club. There is no need to book, just pop down to the club on one of these dates and have a go

Ages 9+ and able to swim 50m
 Shower/changing facilities available

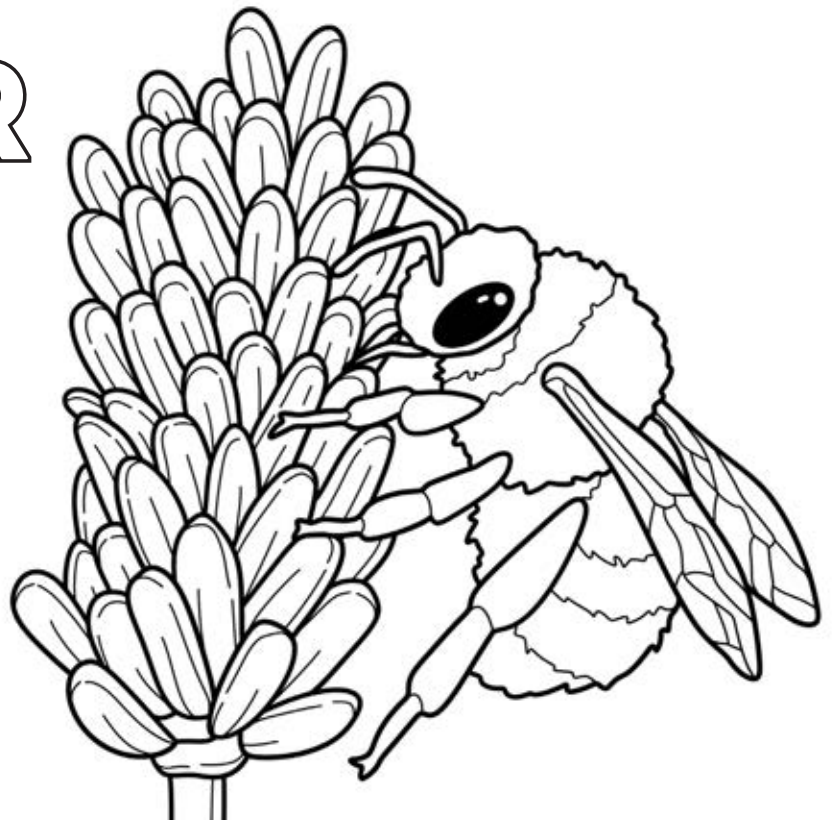
Leighton Buzzard Canoe Club
 Mentmore Road
 Leighton Buzzard
 LU7 2AE
 (Behind Tiddenfoot Leisure Centre)

Email: comeandtry@lbcc.org.uk

PADDLE ENGLAND QUALITY CLUB

COLOUR ME IN

*May 20th
World Bee Day*



**CUBLINGTON NORTH FIELD -
BEST KEPT VILLAGE
COMMUNITY PROJECT AWARD
WINNER 2023**

**Dates for the North Field working
groups, Saturdays 9.30am until
12.00 noon**

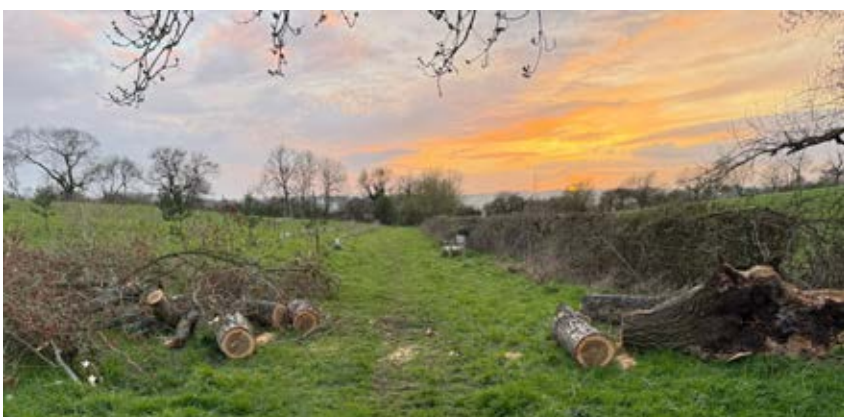
**9th & 23rd of May,
6th and 27th of June.**



*If you can spare an hour or so on any of these days,
that would be fantastic! 9.30am - 12 noon;*

We've recently 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. M: 07973754356



Spotted

*The North Field workparty successfully removed
the fallen branch from the black poplar.*

PLEASE JOIN THE



St Nicholas Church Cublington



Last year was interesting. As the dry summer progressed it became unnecessary to cut the grass. So some of you will have been disappointed to have missed their turn. If you want to step forward for an extra cut this year please don't hesitate to contact me.

If, when you arrive for your turn and the grass does not need cutting using the strimmer around the gravestones would be an excellent alternative.

I have adjusted the rota slightly as requested. If I forgot or misunderstood your request please let me know on **07748525145** or email **djandpallen@gmail.com**

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.

Cheers

<i>Weekend</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>August 29th - 30th</i>	<i>Tom and Helen Gadsby</i>
<i>May 02rd - 03th</i>	Mike and Sandie Joy	<i>Sept 5th - 6th</i>	Andy Brown + Nigel loli
<i>May 9th - 10th</i>	Barrie Sim	<i>Sept 12th -13th</i>	Mark Harris
<i>May 16th - 17th</i>	Vacant	<i>Sept 19th - 20th</i>	Alan Richardson
<i>May 23rd - 24th</i>	Kevin Shults and Peter Spinks	<i>Sept 26th - 27th</i>	Andy Peck
<i>May 30st - 31st</i>	Pete Farrington	<i>Oct 3rd - 4th</i>	James Francis
<i>June 6th - 7th</i>	Colin Antosiewicz	<i>Oct 10th - 11th</i>	Harry Gadsby
<i>June 13th -14th</i>	Sarah and Jason Keane	<i>Oct 17th - 18th</i>	Chris and Ali Mountfield
<i>June 20th- 21st</i>	Vacant	<i>Oct 24th - 25th</i>	Vacant
<i>June 27th - 28th</i>	Martin Gibby		
<i>July 4th - 5th</i>	Jason and Vanessa Taylor		
<i>July 11th -12th</i>	Chris Brandon		
<i>July 18th - 19th</i>	Michael Alexander		
<i>July 25th - 26th</i>	Vacant		
<i>August 1st - 2nd</i>	Caroline and Mike Lightfoot-		
<i>August 8th- 9th</i>	Nigel Loli + Andy Brown		
<i>August 15th -16th</i>	Abbie and Lee Stopher		
<i>August 22nd - 23rd</i>	Graham Dunn		

*Several vacant dates.
More new
volunteers wanted
now please!*

Contact Dennis on 07748525145 or email djandpallen@gmail.com if you can help in any way.

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

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.





PARISH NEWS

Email: clerk@cublington-pc.gov.uk
Website: www.cublington.com

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held 7.30pm on Tuesday 17th March 2026 at Cublington Village Hall

Present:

Councillors G Antosiewicz (Chair),
H Vale (Vice Chair), M Waters, K Shults, and
Clerk A Head.

Members of the Public: None in attendance

MINUTE REF 2026/3/

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received and accepted from
Councillor M Reilly.

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on
Tuesday 13th January 2026 were approved and signed
by the Chair.

3. Declarations of Interest – none received.

4. Buckinghamshire Unitary Councillors' Report

Buckinghamshire Unitary Councillors were unable to
attend due to road closures in Bierton and sent their
apologies.

5. Local Plan Consultation

The Clerk reported that, after consultation, comments
had been submitted on behalf of Cublington Parish
Council regarding the Local Plan. These are attached.
The major concerns expressed are regarding the
infrastructure associated with this large development,
particularly the amount of increased traffic through
the village. Individual councillors had also responded
as members of the public.

The Council expressed its grateful thanks to Pippa
Cheetham for her information and advice regarding
the consultation process.

6. Financial Matters

6.1 Accounts for Payment

The following invoices were approved for payment. It
was noted that a credit note for £508.20 has now been
received from SSE Energy in respect of overbilling
on the previous contract. This will be set against the
invoices for the next year.

28-Jan-26	Nexus Data Systems	123.00	Web hosting - cublington.com
30-Jan-26	Clerk Salary January	230.49	
30-Jan-26	PAYE January	57.60	
31-Jan-26	SSE Energy	773.40	Street lighting (old contract)
18-Feb-26	SSE Energy	97.76	Street lighting Jan 26
25-Feb-26	Clerk Salary February	230.49	
25-Feb-26	PAYE February	57.60	

6.2 Accounts to 31st March 2026

The Clerk presented the accounting statement to the
end of March 2026. It was noted that the Council
has earmarked reserves of £8,000 for traffic calming
measures, to be supplemented by a further £4,000
agreed in the 2026/27 precept.

7. Orchard Ground and North Field

Events at Orchard Ground continued to be well
supported, particularly the Pop-Up Pub on Friday
evenings.

The Trivia Quiz was reported to be nearly fully
booked.

Work continues on improvements at Orchard Ground
and North Field. The cricket club has obtained a
grant from the ECB to enlarge the paved area in
front of the Biggs Pavilion, with works scheduled for
September. A grant has also been agreed in principle
for improvements to the pond at the bottom of North
Field as a wildlife resource. At the request of Cllr
Waters, on behalf of the Orchard Ground Association,
the Council agreed to purchase a container to be used
for storage on the North Field. Cllr Vale suggested
a suitable supplier, and it was agreed to buy the
container, to be brought on site as soon as ground
conditions improve. Orchard Ground agreed to
refund to the Council the cost of the container net of
VAT.

7.1 The clerk reported that the Draft lease to COGA
and the MoU with Cublington Cricket Club have
been sent to Barry McLoughlin at Kidd Rapinet for
checking. The Council await his comments.

**7.2 The Memorandum of Understanding between
Cublington Cricket Club and Cublington Orchard
Ground** Association has now been finalised and sent
to the solicitor as noted above (7.1).

8. The Unicorn Public House - Asset of Community Value

Councillor Waters gave an update on behalf of the
Save the Pub working group. It was disappointing to
hear that, despite an offer at the asking price having
been made by a consortium of local people, the pub
has been taken off the market and its future remains
unclear.

The working group request that the Parish Council
apply to renew the listing of the Unicorn Public House
as an Asset of Community Value. Buckinghamshire
Council have advised that an application could be
submitted up to six weeks before expiry. The Council

agreed to submit the application after Tuesday, 28th April 2026, to be actioned by the Clerk.

9. Planning Matters

9.1 PL/25/5963/FA Full Planning Permission:

Rockwell, Reads Lane, Cublington, LU7 0LE. Change of use of agricultural barn to a residential dwelling with associated works (received 21/1/26) – there were no comments or objections regarding this application.

9.2 OF2054483 EUROLINK (UK) LTD – HGV

Operating Licence application – Cedar Farm

(received 5/2/26) - The Council noted that granting the licence under consideration would result in a significant increase in HGV traffic through the village. Representations opposing the licence had been submitted by the Parish Council and residents and acknowledged by the Traffic Commissioner's Office.

9.3 BRACKLEY FARMS LIMITED, EPR/DP3240QK/V003 Biomass boiler – variation to environmental permit application (received 9/3/26) -

It was noted that previous correspondence relating to this site confirmed it was outside the Parish Council's area and therefore CPC is not eligible to comment.

10. Data Protection and Communications

The Clerk outlined new regulations affecting Parish Council communications and data protection. The Council noted that arrangements must be in place before submission of the next AGAR return in June 2026.

The Clerk presented an overview of what would be required and the costs involved from 4 different providers. The first step will be changing the Council's email address and website to an approved domain.

Following discussion of the options, the Council agreed to apply for a gov.uk domain and commission a new website administered by Hugo Fox. The appropriate package for small councils includes initial design and set up of the website for £199, with ongoing costs of £10 per month for administering 5 x gov.uk domain email addresses. New policies for IT and Data Protection will also be required, to be presented by the Clerk for approval by the Council at the next meeting.

11. Traffic Calming

11.1 Potential locations for 20 mph signage were

discussed. Councillor Waters offered to supply stakes where permitted. Cllr Antosiewicz said there were only two responses from residents to the traffic-calming report published in the Crier, which expressed opposite views on the options available. After discussion, the Council agreed to the installation yellow-backed 30 mph signs at this stage. The clerk was also asked to obtain costings for mobile Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS) as a future option. Councillor Waters raised

concerns regarding the adequacy of sight lines at the crossroads, given current vehicle speeds. The clerk agreed to contact Bucks Highways to clarify this.

11.2 County-Wide 20 mph Proposal

A proposal had been received from Whaddon Parish Council for a coordinated approach in lobbying Buckinghamshire Council for county-wide 20 mph limits through villages. It was noted that Cublington has for some time been proactive in raising this issue with Buckinghamshire Council. The Clerk agreed to respond to Whaddon PC indicating our support for this initiative.

12. Community Matters

12.1 Litter Picking

The Council expressed its thanks to Bob and Liz Paine for organising the litter-picking event on Saturday 7th March and unanimously agreed to reimburse the cost of refreshments.

12.2 Proud of Bucks Awards

The Chair proposed nominating Chatty Café in the Reducing Social Isolation category – which was unanimously agreed. Cllr Antosiewicz agreed to submit the nomination on behalf of the Council.

12.3 Best Kept Village Awards 2026

As the village had won its category in 2025, it was eligible to enter the Tindall Cup only. The Council agreed to approach Cllr Reilly to see if he would be willing to submit the application.

13. Other matters

Cllr Shultz reported of various problems with footpaths and sites around the village. It was noted that these can be raised with Buckinghamshire Council through the Public Rights of Way section of their website, in a similar procedure to Fix My Street. Councillor Shults agreed to report the issues.

Meeting concluded at 8.45pm.

The next meeting is the annual Parish Meeting on Tuesday 19th May 2026 at 1900 in Cublington Village Hall.

To be immediately followed by the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council.

www.cublington.com

The village that moved

Our village website where you can find out just about everything that goes on in the village.



21st Cublington Horticultural Show 2026

Saturday 22nd August
The Biggs Pavilion, Orchard Ground

The Cublington Horticultural Show is well established in the village social calendar. Everyone is welcome to come along and refreshments will be available.

Now is the time to start growing your produce and practising your culinary skills for the domestic categories. It is important to make the Summer Fruit Drizzle Cake exactly as the recipe below.

If you would like to sponsor a category for between £10 and £30 it would be most appreciated.

Please contact Sue Brown 01296 681622
email: suebrownbottle@btinternet.com
or Sandie Joy 01296 682446
email: s.c.joy@btinternet.com.

It costs 50p per entry per category and all entries must be home produced. Please enter as many categories as possible.

There will be an overall winner of the Cublington Growers Cup. The Domestic Champion Trophy will be won by the person scoring the most points for that category. The Bakers Cup will be awarded for the best baked bread. Best Exhibit in Show will be decided by our show judges.

All sponsorship money plus the show proceeds go to Friends of St Nicholas which is administered by villagers to help maintain the fabric of our ancient and historic church.

A big thank you to all our sponsors!

Summer Fruit Drizzle Cake

Ingredients

2 large eggs

2 tsp vanilla extract

175g raspberries and blackberries

140g granulated sugar

1-2 tbsp citrus juice (lemon, lime or orange)

175g very soft butter plus extra for greasing

175g golden caster sugar

250g self-raising flour

Heat oven to 180C/160C fan/gas 4. Grease a 900g/2lb loaf tin and line the base and ends with a long strip of baking parchment. Put the butter, caster sugar, flour, eggs and vanilla extract into a large bowl and beat with an electric hand mixer for 5 minutes until pale and creamy - the mixture will be very thick.

Spread one-third of the cake mix into the tin, then scatter over 50g of the fruit. Carefully dot and spread another third of the cake mix on top and scatter with another 50g fruit. Finally dot the rest of the cake mix over and gently spread with the back of a spoon. Bake for 1 hour until an inserted skewer comes out clean.

Poke the cake all over with a skewer. Put remaining 75g fruit into a bowl with the granulated sugar. Stir in 1 tbsp of the citrus juice first with a fork, mashing a little of the fruit as you go. If it's a bit dry, add a splash more juice and spoon over the cake. Leave in the tin until the cake is cool and the topping is set and crisp.

Categories and Sponsors

Vegetable Categories

- 1 Vegetable tray, 4 kinds of vegetable displayed on a tray no more than 18" x 24", no more than three of each kind; could include any vegetable not mentioned below
Structured Growth Garden Design Ltd
- 2 Three parsnips, foliage trimmed back to 3" leaving tops
Jenny and Andy Brown
- 3 Three carrots long or intermediate, foliage trimmed back to 2" leaving tops
Vanessa and Simon Morgan
- 4 Three carrots short or stump rooted, foliage trimmed back to 2" leaving tops
Available to sponsor
- 5 Three white potatoes
Honor and Hugh Vale
- 6 Three coloured potatoes
Cublington Tennis Club
- 7 Six runner beans, stalks attached
Linda and Colin Justice
- 8 Six of any other climbing bean, e.g. French, stalks attached
Freddie and David Bradbury
- 9 Three beetroot with tops trimmed to 2". Leave root on
Sue and Roger Bottle
- 10 Three courgettes, length 4" - 8"
Courgette Bob
- 11 Five chillies
Available to sponsor
- 12 Three onions with tops trimmed and tied
Cublington Allotments
- 13 Five tomatoes maximum 1½", with calyx
Sally and Joe Missen
- 14 Five tomatoes on the vine
Gillian and Jan Antosiewicz
- 15 Salad tray with 4 kinds of salad items. Name them please.
Sandie and Mike Joy
- 16 Longest parsnip, measured to end of tap root
Gwyneira and Martyn Waters
- 17 Longest runner bean
Platinum Landscapes
- 18 Two of any other single variety of vegetable not listed in any other category
Diane Grace

- 19 Most oddly shaped vegetable
Letterbox4you
- 20 Heaviest pumpkin
Available to sponsor

Fruit Categories

- 21 Ten autumn raspberries, stalks attached
Judy and Graham Dunn
- 22 Three culinary apples, stalks attached
The Crier
- 23 Three dessert apples, stalks attached
Julie and Doug Merriman
- 24 Three pears, stalks attached
Sarah and Steve George

Flower Categories

- 25 Best single rose in a plain glass vase
Available to sponsor
- 26 Best flower arrangement in a plain glass vase, mixed garden flowers, not shrubs, to face all round
Available to sponsor
- 27 Vase of dahlias, five blooms, can be mixed
Jackie Farrands
- 28 Tallest sunflower, measured in-situ. Do not cut them down. Judging will take place in your garden
Chris and Kevin Shults

Children's Categories

- 29 Four chocolate brownies
Sheridan family
- 30 Decorated plant pot
Maggie Mackenzie

Domestic Categories

- 31 Beetroot chutney
Penny and Dennis Allen
- 32 Raspberry jam
Wonky Dog
- 33 Courgette quiche
Available to sponsor
- 34 Summer fruit drizzle cake
Evelyn and Gerry Griffiths
- 35 Chelsea bun
Gill and Gary Brazier

Virtual Pets

- 36 Photograph your pet and name it
Jane and Michael Alexander



The Cubbers Bookworms

Our first meeting was in at Cublington Village Hall commencing 21st April 7.30-9.30pm

Refreshments provided, tea Coffee and Biscuits
£5 per month

Our first book review was *The Women by Kristin Hannah*

NEXT MEETINGS

Tue 12 May 2026 19:30-21:30

Tue 16 Jun 2026 19:30-21:30

Tue 21 Jul 2026 19:30-21:30

Tue 18 Aug 2026 19:30-21:30

Probably won't go ahead due to Summer Holidays

Tue 15 Sep 2026 19:30-21:30

Tue 20 Oct 2026 19:30-21:30

Tue 17 Nov 2026 19:30-21:30

Tue 15 Dec 2026 19:30-21:30

This one may be cancelled as possibly too close to Christmas.

Our next book to be discussed on 12th May is Ethan Frome by Edith Wharton – a short one as we are having this meeting early due to the Village Hall not being available when we wanted it.

Anyone interested in joining us please let me know.

Di Grace

07866370330



The recent jumble sale raised £407 for church funds.

Thank you very much to everyone who supported it, those who donated items for sale and especially to the team of enthusiastic helpers who sorted donations, were great at selling and most importantly stayed to clear up at the end.

Sally

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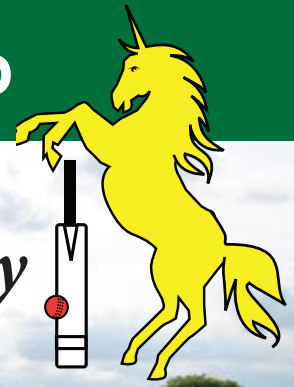
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Cublington Cricket Club



Come along and give cricket a try



Walking cricket to start on Thursday 7th May 2026

Do come along and give walking cricket a try at a FREE taster session at 6pm on Thursday 7th May at the Orchard ground. The aim is to have a bit of gentle, sociable exercise for an hour. There will also be a free beer or glass of wine afterwards.

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. Look out for further updates on Cublington Life.

Contact – Tom Gadsby, 07527 989639

Game Changers disability cricket

is now taking place outside at the Orchard Ground every Saturday from 10-11am. In the event of rain we will set up table cricket in the pavilion. Do please spread the word about this excellent and already very popular programme.

Contact – Harry Gadsby, Disability Cricket lead,

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

We will be running sessions on Fridays from 8th May at 6pm for eight weeks for our youngest players, girls and boys. Booking is now open on www.ecb.clubspark.uk. For location enter 'Cublington' and select 'All Stars' for 5-8 year olds or 'Dynamos' for 8-11 year olds. We also run a BBQ alongside

the session so that you don't even have to worry about cooking supper afterwards.

Contact – Nikhil Shetty, Head of All Stars & Dynamos, 07984 201237

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

The club offers structured training every Tuesday evening for seniors and those juniors from U13 upwards who would like to play senior cricket. We work hard to ensure that the transition from junior to senior cricket is a good experience. The session will run from 6.15- 7.45pm. There will also be nets on Thursday evenings at from 6.15 to 7.45. Open to all club members.

Contact – Tom Gadsby, CCC Chairman, 07527 989639

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

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May Birthdays

Happy birthday to you...

Giséle Lilou Van Grevelinghe 2 years old on the 18th

Marlon Van Grevelinghe 6 years old on the 4th

Lucy O'Connell 7 on the 4th

Edward Raymen 9 years old on the 24th





Dear resident

Buckinghamshire's Local Plan

I know much has been discussed in local communities about new development, particularly in relation to the Buckinghamshire Local Plan. Our task is to put forward a sound and compliant Local Plan for Buckinghamshire to government.

It's a legally required document which will set out where new development and essential infrastructure should be located and work is well underway.

Government has instructed Buckinghamshire to plan for 95,500 new homes – a 43% increase on the previous target. It is therefore essential that our Local Plan identifies the various locations to sustain this level of housebuilding. Failure to do so would expose the county to speculative development or the imposition of control of the plan from Westminster, both of which represent huge risk to Buckinghamshire.

We've recently completed a key stage: a four-week site survey seeking views on the initial list of potential development sites. This forms part of the wider technical assessments also underway.

We have received thousands of responses, and I want to thank everyone who has contributed; the insight gained will be integrated into the final draft. We fully recognise the long-term impact these national housing targets will have on Buckinghamshire, especially our rural communities. The Local Plan aims to meet these requirements in a managed and balanced way while protecting the green belt and the rural character that make Buckinghamshire such a special place. The need for new and enhanced infrastructure is obvious, and we also rely on external partners and providers to bring this important aspect of the Local Plan forward. We continue to call on Government to outline how the necessary infrastructure will be appropriately funded given that contributions from developers will almost certainly not cover the cost of what is required.

Next, we will confirm the proposed list of sites and launch a full public consultation on the draft Local Plan from July, before submitting it at the end of the year. Please continue to look out for updates so your community can remain involved.

Alongside this, a consultation is also open on the new Local Transport Plan (LTP). Transport infrastructure is vital for supporting sustainable growth, and residents' views will shape this plan. It is open until Monday 30 March so please take a look at the consultation on the Your Voice Bucks website and give us your views.

Heating oil support for residents

We know many Buckinghamshire households rely on heating oil and are concerned about recent price increases. The Government has announced targeted support linked to the new Crisis and Resilience Fund, aimed at low-income households. It's important to note that there has been a cut to this type of funding for Buckinghamshire by nearly £1 million over the past two years.

This support will be subject to qualifying criteria and we will share updates about accessing this support and how it will work at the earliest opportunity.

With cost-of-living pressures rising again, if you are experiencing financial hardship, including difficulty meeting energy costs, please visit the cost of living section of our website in the first instance where there is information on how to seek advice and support. Food vouchers for families eligible for free school meals will be available in Buckinghamshire during the upcoming Easter school holidays. You will be contacted by your school if this applies to you.

Library flex opening hours

Following the successful introduction of our Library flex model, libraries will be open for even longer over the spring and summer meaning more access for library users. Our new self-service technology means we can extend the opening hours at these buildings. From 7 April participating libraries will be open from 8:00am to 8:00pm on weekdays, with Amersham library continuing to operate its longer hours of 7:00am to 9:00pm.

This will be a seasonal change through to October; full details are on the council's website.

Growing our local economy

Supporting economic growth remains a major priority. I was pleased last Friday to be part of a delegation welcoming Lord Vallance, UK Science Minister, to Silverstone as part of a Buckinghamshire-initiated visit to highlight the innovation and development taking place within the Silverstone Enterprise Zone and wider Silverstone Park.

Buckinghamshire has three Enterprise Zones – at Silverstone, Westcott, and Aylesbury Woodlands. These are nationally significant centres for high-performance engineering, space technology, and innovation. They attract international investment, create skilled jobs, and strengthen our local economy. Lord Vallance saw first-hand how engineering expertise developed for Formula One is now being applied across wider industries.

These zones are central to our Economic Growth Plan, which sets out how we will work with partners to support innovation, attract investment, and ultimately create jobs and opportunities for our residents. Our partnership across the region is integral to realising the full economic potential of the area and bringing future growth and jobs to the region.

Roads update

The improving weather is helping our teams address the significant damage caused to roads this winter. We have increased pothole repair crews by 50%, and after weeks of intensive activity, reports of new defects are now beginning to fall.

Our focus is shifting towards longer-term repairs and the upcoming summer resurfacing programme, supported by the council's £120 million rolling investment in the road network. Please continue to report issues using Fix My Street and we will check the damage, classify the repair, prioritise the most serious problems and ultimately fix the problem in the shortest timeframe that we can.

Reopening of Buckingham Household Recycling Centre

Lastly, I'm pleased to confirm that following important works to the on-site drainage system, Buckingham Household Recycling Centre is due to reopen on Thursday this week (26 March) on time and in time for the

Come together this summer to support local hospice care



Local residents are being warmly invited to come

together, have fun and support a vital local cause as Florence Nightingale Hospice Charity launches a vibrant programme of summer events.

The events are a celebration of community spirit, with every pound raised helping to provide compassionate care for patients and their families at Florence Nightingale Hospice in Aylesbury, Butterfly House in High Wycombe, and in people's homes across Buckinghamshire and its borders.

The summer kicks off with the much-loved **Midnight Walk on Saturday 20th June at Roman Park Hall, Aylesbury**. Set against the backdrop of the summer solstice, this uplifting event invites participants to walk five or ten miles in celebration of life and in memory of loved ones. Friends, families and neighbours are all encouraged to take part, with the evening beginning with a calming "Solstice Unwind" session to set the tone for the walk.

Then, on **Sunday 2nd August, the community will take centre stage at the Aylesbury Waterside Theatre with a special production of Fame**. Featuring more than 100 talented local children, the show promises to be a joyful and inspiring highlight of the summer, with both matinee and evening performances available.

Together, these events offer a fantastic opportunity for local people to connect, celebrate and make a real difference - supporting hospice care that touches so many lives across Buckinghamshire and its borders.

For more information about the Midnight Walk and to sign up, visit

<https://fnhospice.org.uk/midnightwalk>

Tickets for Fame can be booked by visiting <https://atgtickets.com/aylesbury>

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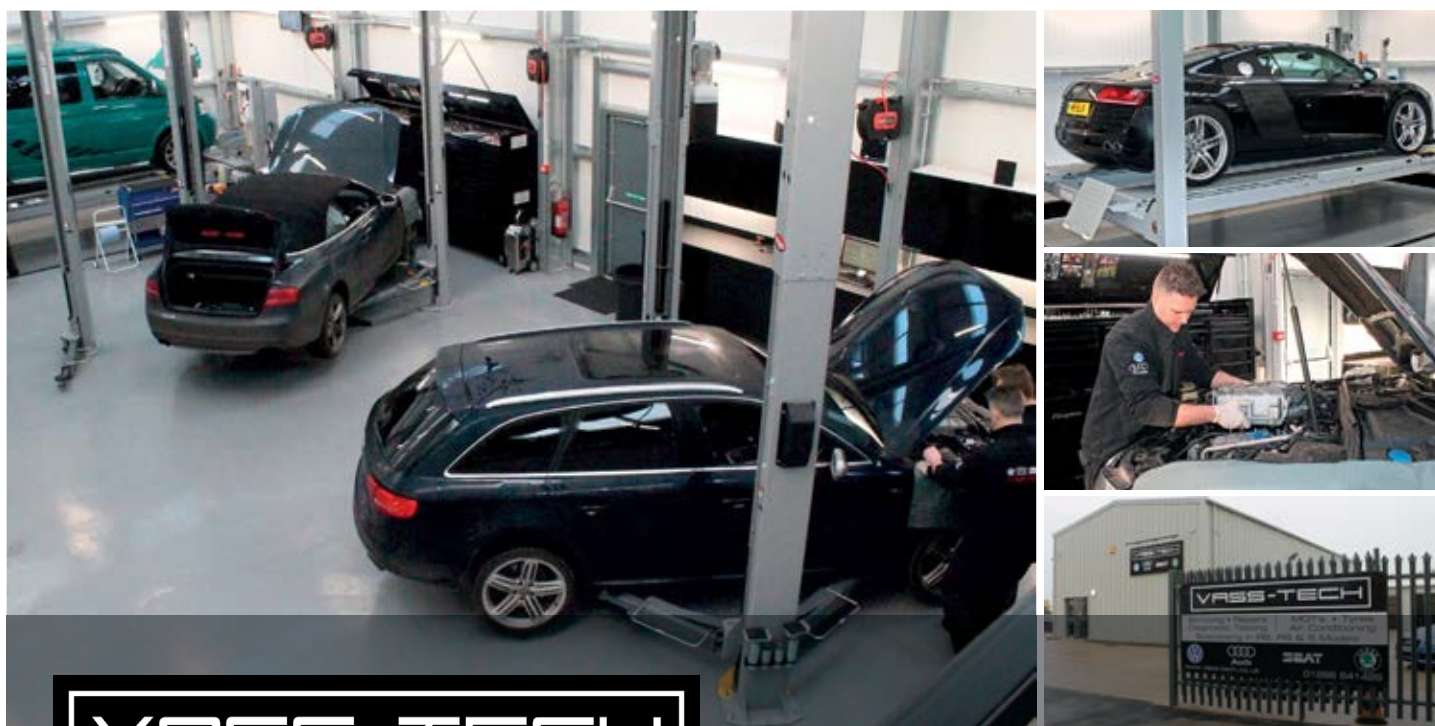
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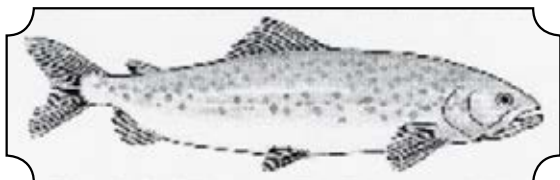
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Villages Art Group

CALLING ALL ARTISTS

(ANY LEVEL - DON'T BE SHY! EVERYONE WAS A BEGINNER ONCE!)

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.

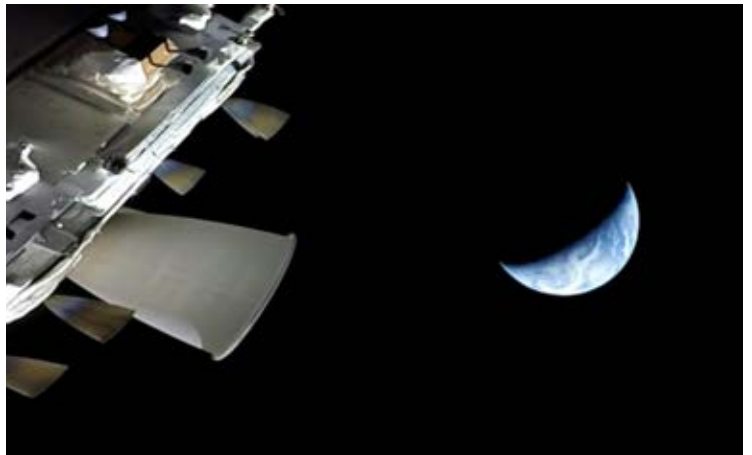


We would like to encourage you to join us... trying out new techniques and most of all, having fun creating art!

Q. WHAT'S THE CONNECTION BETWEEN CUBLINGTON AND THE MOON?



Ever wondered what people do at work all day? Well it can't get any better than this, the stuff of dreams perhaps?! We thought you might like to know about European Astrotech and their involvement in the recent Artemis moonshot! Enjoy.



The big engine pictured here has the valve just behind

A. CHRIS SMITH!

The photo you see above is of the Artemis service module oxidizer main engine valve being tested at Westcott. It is pretty big, as you'd expect, and is under the thermal blanket you see. The company I founded, European Astrotech, tested it at extreme temperatures in contact with the oxidizer for three weeks, periodically checking the performance of the valve to ensure it wouldn't let the astronauts down.

We are in protective suits and breathing apparatus because the oxidizer is highly toxic and corrosive.

This valve provides the oxidizer to the main engine that fires to push Artemis towards the moon during the trans-lunar injection (TLI) burn and keeps it on course for the moon and any course corrections required on the way back to Earth. It is part of the European Service Module and has around 6,000 pounds of thrust.

Our manned and lunar involvement doesn't end here – very soon we will be testing the Nyx manned capsule propulsion system, which will be one of the replacements for Crew Dragon that takes astronauts to the international space station, and the propulsion system for Argonaut, the European Lunar Lander supplying cargo to the lunar surface! Watch this space!

Chris