

Challow News

September 2022



Harvest
festival

St. Nicholas Church
25th September - 11.00 am

St. Nicholas Church, East Challow. OX12 9SH
(Vale Benefice)



Parish Eucharist

Sundays - 11.00 am

Weekday Eucharist

Thursdays - 10.00 am

Vicar: Rev John Durant

01235 766484

The Vicarage, Main Street, Grove. OX12 7LQ

Email: vicar@valebenefice.org.uk

Associate Vicar: Rev Alec Gill

07739 563894

Email: vicaralec@valebenefice.org.uk

Licensed Lay Minister: Sue Powditch

Email: llm@valebenefice.org.uk

Benefice Office: Grove Parish Church, Main Street, Grove. OX12 7LQ

Open: Mon - Fri 10.00 - 12.00

Tel: 01235 771479

Email: office@valebenefice.org.uk

Churchwarden

Mrs Liz Belcher: 01235 763966

Pastoral Support

To help our Vicars Revd John Durant and Revd Alec Gill in the pastoral support of the village, Liz Belcher will be acting as the local contact within the village for those who are in need of a home visit, home communion or other support that we as a church may be able to provide.

If we can help, please contact Liz on 01235 763966

VICAR'S LETTER - A PAUSE FOR THOUGHT

Dear Friends

“Are you the new vicar!” is a question I have been asked a couple of times recently. Not in East Challow I hasten to add. I did flatter myself that someone thought I looked “new” and young despite feeling tired and old; but I suspect that is not what was meant.

Language can be confusing and sometimes the same phrase can mean different things or at least we can hear something that was not at all intended to be conveyed.

I have been intrigued by some correspondence in Hanney News about sin and forgiveness. Indeed I have been grateful, for it has stimulated some interesting conversations. But such terms as ‘sin’ are religious and need fuller explanation. Paul tries to explain the good news about Jesus in a variety of ways including being renewed. For instance he uses the language of relationships, of being reconciled or becoming friends with God or being adopted as God’s children. He uses the commercial terms of being redeemed or accounted and the legal term of being justified; he talks about manumission and freedom. He is very creative with his use of imagery to teach us that The Lord wants to help and save us.

You may not like the idea of being described as being in a position of needing help but there is no doubt that life at the moment has a lot of troubling issues. I applaud those who face the truth and seek a solution, like the local volunteer litter pickers who clean up our country lanes.

If you are in the fortunate position of having all you require then can I encourage you to be thankful but if you are aware of a need or concern may I remind you that The Lord Jesus is always ready to hear, help and renew.

God Bless

John

Wild Watch

The summer months will have seen an increase of the unpopular wasp joining us when we are trying to picnic. Wasps have a bad reputation, but I don't think they are nearly as annoying as they must find humans to be.

When I climbed under a net to pick cherries in a very confined space under the boughs of our cherry tree - a small wasp with a whining buzz began circling my head. Why? because she wanted a cherry too. I promised her I would leave her a couple if she didn't sting me, and as she didn't sting me I kept my part of the bargain.

Wasps are very thirsty creatures and often congregate at water. I was alarmed two summers ago when staying at a festival and in need of a shower, to find 6 wasps congregating around the shower head licking the drops of water as I stepped gingerly under it. If you move slowly and don't wave your arms about they will ignore you.

The reason we see more of them in the late summer is because wasps are carnivorous and eat grubs, aphids, and caterpillars in the spring and summer to feed to the larvae in the nest. In return the larvae secrete a sugary substance to feed the workers, but by August the queen stops laying infertile worker wasps and starts to lay fertile drones and queens for the following year, in far less numbers, making many worker wasps redundant and hungry.

The wasp is Mother Nature's pest controller and without them we would need to use far more chemicals on our plants.

There are 7000 different species of wasp in the UK, many of whom are solitary. In the autumn many bees and wasps and other pollinating insects rely on flowering ivy as a final source of nectar before the winter. Please try to allow some in your garden for all the hard working insects. Ivy is our rain forest and we need to cherish it. It is a life line for many insects, the start of the food chain, providing food and protection in the winter months (it also means that wasps keep away from the house, as ivy nectar is irresistible)

Juliet

Please share your sightings or observations with me: jgteare@yahoo.co.uk

- NEWS FROM THE PEWS -

We have had some mixed weather over this summer very hot at times, followed by cold and rain, then hot and dry. I hope the school holidays were enjoyed with plenty of good weather for the sake of both the teachers, children and their parents and carers, and you found plenty of things to occupy the time. I loved the school holidays as a child in Hanney, there was always plenty of places to explore across the fields with three siblings and plenty of neighbourhood kids to make 'camps' with. We could also paddle in a clear brook. There were wild flowers to pick and take home to Mum. Sadly most of this would not be allowed these days. I am sure all will return to school refreshed and raring to go. Good luck to the students that are starting new schools in the new term. and the new building at our St. Nicholas school will be open, so big changes there.

It is with great regret that we have to say goodbye to our lovely Curate Chris Ashton who is away to pastures green. It has been wonderful having him on our team in the Benefice. We wish him and his family well with his new appointment.

The countryside has been changing colour over the past months and the fields have been harvested, Coming from a family connected with farming I find this a special time. Really busy and stressful for farmers no doubt. The hedgerows are laden with sloes, blackberries, damsons and elder berries, so I expect many will be making pies and jams.

Our Harvest Festival is to be celebrated on 25th September and once again we will be decorating the Church, and this year we will be supporting our local food bank. We would appreciate any contributions of flowers, garden produce or items suitable to donate to the food bank, any sales of vegetables or monetary gifts will be given to the food bank. It seems appropriate in these somewhat bleak financial times to support this local resource. We will be decorating the Church on the Saturday 24th so feel free to drop off items that morning and anyone is welcome to join in and help, and of course come to the service on the Sunday. We will be holding a Harvest Coffee Morning at 12.30 after the service and all are welcome to join us to look at the displays of produce and flowers, and of course sample some snacks and Mandy's excellent cakes.

The Scarecrow trail was really entertaining to see, a great deal of work had gone into the exhibits. Well done all those who participated and created such imaginative exhibits you are really clever.

I have been watching the Swifts and House martins throughout the summer, it has been fascinating watching them circling above the Church in the evening. The Swifts will be leaving in mid July August and the House martins a bit later. They are amazing birds to observe and manage to fly the vast distance to migrate to Africa for the winter, and I look forward to them arriving here to nest again next year.

As always, with Covid still with us, please stay safe for yourselves and others.

Liz

Service Information

September 4th – Trinity 12 <i>Rev Alec Gill</i>	Jeremiah 18: 1-11 or Deuteronomy 30: 15 - 20 Philemon 1: 1 - 21
September 11th – Trinity 13 <i>Rev Alec Gill</i>	Jeremiah 4: 11 - 12 & 22 - 28 or Exodus 32: 7 -14 1 Timothy 1: 12 - 17
September 18th – Trinity 14 <i>Rev Velma Oxley</i>	Jeremiah 8: 18 – 9: 1 or Amos 8: 4 - 7 1 Timothy 2: 1 - 7
September 25th – Trinity 15 Harvest Festival	Jeremiah 32: 1 – 3a & 6 – 15 or Amos 6: 1a & 4 - 7 1 Timothy 6: 6 - 19

St. Nicholas Church - Rotas

Week	Prayers	Sacristan	Sidesperson	Reader	Music	Flowers
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1st	Philip	Philip	Frances Nigel	Alan or Ruth	Ruth	Heather
2nd	Mary	Mary	Linda Noel	Nigel	Ruth	Mary
3rd	Jenny or Jeff	Jenny	Jeff Liz	Jenny or Jeff	Graham	Jenny
4th	Juliet	Nigel	Tricia Sue	Graham	Graham	Mandy

5th	Jeff or Ruth	Linda or Ruth	Philip Nigel	Mary	Graham	Linda
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10 am Thursdays

1st	Mary
2nd	Jenny
3rd	Juliet
4th	Mandy

5th	Nigel
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Week	Cleaning
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1 & 2	Linda & Liz
3 & 4	Mandy

5	Sue & Tricia
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~ If you are unable to attend please arrange cover for your week ~

Churchyard Maintenance

3rd September - J. Penfold

17th September - G. Parker

God in the Sciences

Editor: Dr Ruth Bancewicz is based at The Faraday Institute for Science and Religion in Cambridge. Ruth writes on the positive relationship between Science and Christian faith.

Keeping Calm in the Storm

One of the most famous stories about Jesus is the calming of the storm (Luke 8:22-25). Of course, anyone could say that the wind stopped suddenly of its own accord, but the disciples were not fooled. They had seen a number of these 'coincidences' in Jesus' ministry, and they weren't about to ignore this one. Jesus had calmed the waves with only His words. Wasn't this an act of God? Who else could be in complete control of creation?

Jesus dealt graciously with the very pressing and practical issue of the raging storm before He did a bit of teaching, asking His followers "Where is your faith?" It's not surprising that they were scared, given the circumstances, but clearly Jesus expected better of them. He had already been teaching them for some time, and clearly knew they were ready to trust Him.

In similar circumstances, Christians often do several things in quick succession. We start by panicking and being afraid. After a while we might remember what we know about God's character and pray for help, trusting that whatever happens He will help us to handle it. Most often, we don't get the storm-calming effect when we ask for it, but battling on with faith and God's help is much easier than trying to keep going in a panic.

'Peace' in this kind of situation is a very active holding on to what we know about God. The difference between trusting and not trusting can be like night and day in terms of stress levels. I have found that it can make the difference between unmanageable stress and something that stretches me and teaches me something new.

Knowing some science can help us to trust God. A Being who created the whole universe, sustaining the wonderfully creative processes that produced diverse life on earth, must be both extremely powerful and extremely wise.

The God who can both calm the waves and walk on them must be in complete control of the things He made.

When this knowledge goes hand in hand with experience of God's intimate love for us and care for us in every situation that we find ourselves in, I am reassured that He's got things in hand. I will always need help from others to pray faithfully in stormy situations, but hopefully I've seen enough now not to panic for too long.

Time (and my closest friends) will tell!



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TOPICAL TALK

Have you taken your mantelpiece seriously yet?

One of the latest trends in fun home decorating is to 'dress' your fireplace. Known as 'mantelscaping', it can range from simply rearranging your favourite things among seasonal flowers, to creating a huge and dramatic floral display with the help of bunched chicken wire that waterfalls down your mantelpiece in a grand sweep to the floor. So if you like putting photos on Instagram, here is your opportunity!

One designer calls mantelscaping a "simple and joyful way" of ushering in a sense of the approaching season. Another finds "there is something meditative" about arranging your favourite things and seasonal flowers on a newly dusted and empty mantel. Whatever it is, "even if the rest of your room looks messy, your mantel can be a grand moment."

So – why not get creative? Take a new look at your own mantelpiece. Empty it, dust it, and then re-decorate it with anything from vases and candles to books, collectables, seasonal flowers, artworks and even shells and driftwood.

And don't do it just once. "Moving things around, and frequently ringing the changes of what you display, will help keep a room feeling fresh and inspiring."

Don't miss the World's Biggest Coffee Morning for Macmillan Cancer Support

The World's Biggest Coffee Morning is Macmillan Cancer Support's biggest annual fundraising event, held to support people living with cancer. People all over the UK either host or attend a Coffee Morning to raise money for Macmillan.

The official date is Friday 30th September, but a coffee morning to support Macmillan can be held at any time. From a group in the garden, sharing a coffee over a screen or a takeaway cake and cuppa, you can hold yours however you like.

Last year, 2021, Macmillan raised over £11 million and hopes to top that this year.

Find out more at: <https://coffee.macmillan.org.uk>

Your toddler and your smartphone

When parents of toddlers often browse social media, they risk damaging the development of their child.

A recent study has found that when mothers are on their smartphones, they talk to their toddlers only a quarter as much, give few opportunities for the child to practise conversation with them, provide a slower response to the child's explicit bids, and even sometimes ignore the child when the child really needs help.

As mother-child interactions determine the child's future linguistic development, vocabulary and self-confidence, the study concluded that the use of smartphones by mothers can have "an adverse impact on the foundation of child development," which in turn may have "far-reaching" consequences.

Gardening could save your life – but only if you really get stuck in

A recent study has found that just an hour a week of digging and shovelling could be enough to cut your risk of dying. Such 'muscle strengthening exercises' has been found linked to a 10 to 20 per cent lower risk of death from all causes.

The study, recently published in the *British Journal of Sports Medicine*, also found that if you combine that hour a week of strength-training with regular aerobic exercise, you may even reduce your overall risk of an early death by as much as 40 per cent.

So brisk walking and cycling are great – but add in a bit of muscle building, too. Sadly, the growth in online shopping means we are not even carrying our shopping bags home from the supermarket as much as we used to do.

Be kind to hedgehogs

The latest State of Britain's Hedgehogs report warns that between 30 per cent and 75 per cent of the UK's population of hedgehogs has been lost in rural areas in the last two decades. The largest falls are in the eastern half of England.

However, there is some evidence that in our towns and cities, a more stable population may be establishing itself, thanks to the constant help from considerate gardeners and animal-lovers. If you have a garden, and would like to help hedgehogs this coming winter, please visit:

<https://www.rspca.org.uk/adviceandwelfare/wildlife/animals/hedgehogs/garden>



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Is open for everyone to join

You don't have to be regular church goer to
belong to the 200 club

> > Numbers are £2 each < <

Monthly prizes are

£50 ~ £20 ~ £10

[£100 additional prize in December]

Contact Tricia Shand

01235 764222

the.shandies@btinternet.com

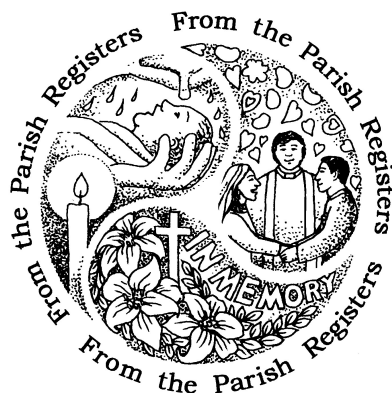
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Blessing & Thanksgiving

Nancy Violet Cadle

~~~~~

Sophia Poppy Glass

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### Internment of Ashes

Barbara Payne

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All Information / details are held as Public  
Records within the Vale Benefice

## How many hours of sleep do you really need at night?

Margaret Thatcher famously thrived on four hours a night. These days, 40 per cent of us struggle to nod off at all, while the hoped for 'ideal' is eight hours a night. But how much do we *really need*?

Recent research at the University of Cambridge and Shanghai's Fudan University looked in depth at sleeping patterns, mental health and wellbeing, cognitive tests, brain-imaging and genetic data.

The scientists concluded that the ideal is to aim for exactly *seven* hours' sleep a night, from our thirties to old age. Getting too much more sleep than that, as well as too much less, may cause mental health problems and worse cognitive performance.

The study also found that consistency mattered – so it's no good getting nine hours one night then six the next.

## Eat your porridge

A daily serving of whole-grains can help slow down your middle-aged spread.

Recent research has found that the whole-grains found in oats, as well as brown bread and brown rice, are the key to midlife weight control and loss. Whole-grains are usually low in fat, rich in fibre and starchy carbohydrate and often have a low glycaemic index. They also provide a range of nutrients, vitamins, and fats.

One scientist explained that "the data suggests that people who eat more whole-grains are better able to maintain their blood sugar and blood pressure over time. Managing these risk factors as we age may help to protect against heart disease."

So, eating porridge for breakfast could be an easy way to improve your health.

## 'Choir Churches' to be funded as part of projects to spread the Christian faith

Children are to get a chance to learn music in the English choral tradition, as part of plans by the Church of England to inspire young people to learn about the Christian faith.

A total of £249,530 has been awarded to The Church of England in Lancashire to invest in up to 24 'Choir Churches' where children will be taught hymns and anthems from the English choral tradition, meeting as a new congregation of parents, teachers, and the wider community.

Dioceses are being encouraged to apply for funding for projects lasting up to three years that could act as blueprints for future mission and growth across the country.

## Paper Money

£20 & £50

These paper notes will cease to be Legal Tender after 30th September 2022



"Finally, we're still waiting for someone from last week's Parent & Toddler Group to come and claim this lost property..."

## Something to Share

When I see, hear or read something that really excites me and speaks to something inside me I always want to share the experience with someone else. It may be the colour of a sunsets light through the trees, a piece of music that's new to me or a different version, a book or a poem.

Not everyone responds to the same things, so I think around my friends and family as to who would enjoy what I have just experienced and then I tell them about it.

This past year I have been lucky to find some really enjoyable books, both from the Library and Charity shops. Two in particular have resonated with me. I have shared them with friends but thought maybe someone who reads the Challow News might enjoy them as well.

They are "Keeping Mum" by James Gould-Bourn and "The Phone Box at the Edge of the World" by Laura Imai Messina.



They are as different as a hedgehog and a butterfly, but both have a common theme of how people deal with coming to terms with the death of loved ones.



You might think it's not a good subject for two really wonderful books.

**"Keeping Mum"** is both sad and happy and also hilarious.

It takes you to places that you might not expect. The characters really come alive on the page. I rarely read books twice, but I have read this one twice and can see myself reading it again.

**"The Phone Box on the Edge of the World"** is translated from the Japanese.

The format is very different from anything that I have read before.

The book is based on a true story and there is an actual phone box in a remote Japanese village. The writing is beautiful, poignant and gentle. Every time I put the book down I said to my husband "it is so very beautiful".

Since I read "Keeping Mum" I have seen it on the Library shelves several times, where I go to it and say a brief "hello and thank you" this may seem odd, but that's what I do.

**Mary Mann**

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### King Alfred Quilters

Programme for September 2022

*7th September - Talk by Textile Embroidery Yvette Phillips 7pm East Challow Village Hall*

*21st September - Sewing Morning Challow & Childrey Cricket Club 10am - 2pm*

Visitors and New Members are always welcome. You do not have to be a member to come along to one of our evening talks and demonstrations, (£5.00 entrance fee for non members), but we are sure once you have seen some of the lovely handmade items and been inspired you might want to join us to have a go. However, our sewing mornings are for members, if you would like to join our morning group then please pop along and speak to one of our committee members either on an evening meeting or a daytime one, or you can contact us on one of the numbers below.

We are a friendly bunch and can offer help and advice, and welcome members of any level and age and our programme of events is varied throughout the year.

We look forward to seeing you, and for more information, please contact

**Janice Miller 01235 771552 - Mary Wearn 07789 888569**



# Harvest Festival



## **Open Invitation to all East Challow residents**

We are appealing for donations of Fruit, Vegetables  
and Flowers to decorate our Church

We will also accept store cupboard items of canned  
& packet food etc.

**Please bring them along to the church on  
Saturday 24th September between 1pm and 4pm**



## **Sunday 25th September**

### **Harvest Festival**

**Service of Celebration & Thanksgiving  
will commence at 11.00 am**

*Everyone is welcome to join us where we will give our thanks for this years Harvest*

( Colouring in sheets for the children will also be available )

There will also be a "Harvest Coffee Morning" with cake & refreshments available after the service at 12.30 where everyone is welcome to join us to look at the displays before they are sold and removed



All of the donations of food will be available  
to buy after the service, with the proceeds  
being donated to our chosen charity



including the donated store cupboard items also





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St. Nicholas Church

200 Club - Monthly Draw

## July Results

£50 - N° 6 - S. Green

£20 - N° 36 - Mrs M. Lovegrove

£10 - N° 142 - Mrs L. Hopkins

## August Results

£50 - N° 22 - Mrs Mackinnon

£20 - N° 36 - Mrs M. Lovegrove

£10 - N° 136 - Mrs S. Campbell

## Would you like to join?

For further information please contact

Tricia Shand - 01235 764222

email - [the.shandies@btinternet.com](mailto:the.shandies@btinternet.com)



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**All entries for the October  
Issue of the Challow News**

Must be submitted by

**15th September 2022**

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## Church of England unveils strategy to help rural churches to thrive

The Church of England has launched a 10-point strategy to help its thousands of rural churches survive and thrive.

The CofE has published "***How Village Churches Thrive***" a practical guide to help the churches – many of them historic listed buildings with small congregations – to have a sustainable future.

The strategy sets out 10 key areas, where applying relatively small changes can make a big difference to the revitalisation, recovery and renewal of our village churches, amplifying the efforts that may well be happening already.

### **The ten key recommendations set out in the strategy are:**

**Extend a warm welcome.** Think carefully and objectively about who your welcome is aimed at.

**Make the most of life events – weddings, baptisms and funerals.** Many people's first contact with church begins through the church being there for them at life's big moments.

**Use buildings creatively.** With thought and planning, your buildings can provide opportunities for people to connect with the community.

**Care for 'God's Acre.'** Engage the whole community in loving and caring for the churchyard.

**Be the 'heartbeat' of a village community.** Your church could affect positive change in village life. Leading a community audit could be an important place to start.

**Celebrate your heritage.** The history of the church buildings presents an opportunity for churches to connect with new people of all ages and backgrounds.

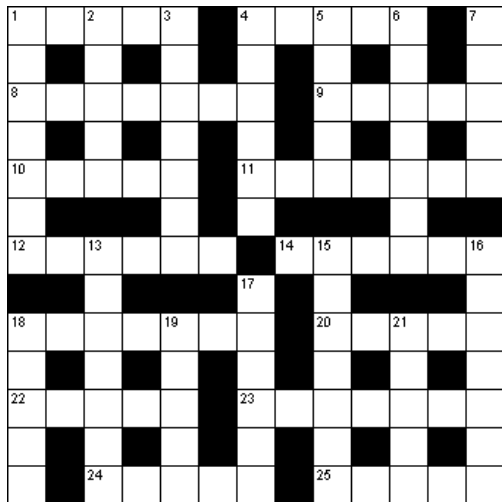
**Cultivate fruitful festivals.** Festivals across the year provide ideal opportunities to celebrate, be innovative and creative, and – in partnership with schools, businesses and local groups – to welcome others of every age group.

**Welcome more children.** Engaging with younger people is a priority for the CofE nationally – and village settings can offer great opportunities for creative ministry with children. Projects formed in partnership, especially with local schools, are most likely to thrive.

**Reach the isolated and lonely.** Village churches are in 'the perfect position' to make a positive impact on isolation and loneliness.

**Communicate effectively.** Focused communication supports your parish vision and strategy and ensures that all your efforts have more chance of being effective.

Church House Publishing, who published the new guide, describe it as "Packed with practical advice and inspiring case studies to encourage and increase confidence in all who work or worship in a village church."



### Solutions on Page 22

#### Across

1. Extremely cold (5)
4. Out of fashion (5)
8. Communication channel (7)
9. Crowd scene actor (5)
10. Part of a church (5)
11. Unlawful (7)
12. Natural abilities or qualities (6)
14. Conundrum (6)
18. Malleable (7)
20. Irritated (5)
22. Spear (5)
23. Acute (7)
24. Stringed instrument (5)
25. Overheads (5)

#### Down

1. Chivalrous (7)
2. Guides (5)
3. Distinguish (7)
4. Writing implement (6)
5. Carapace (5)
6. Lured (7)
7. Intended (5)
13. Curt (7)
15. Ludicrous (7)
16. Interminable (7)
17. Sheep known for its high quality fleece (6)
18. Greek letter (5)
19. Paragon (5)
21. Male monarchs (5)

## East Challow Village Hall

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### Booking Secretary

Denise Knight

01235 769933

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Home Visits

# Community Notice Board

## Wantage Literary Festival



**24 October -  
5 November 2022**



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Wantage  
LITERARY FESTIVAL

[www.wantageliteraryfestival.co.uk](http://www.wantageliteraryfestival.co.uk)

Registered charity number: 1165315

## Wantage Literary Festival 2022

Come and celebrate all things  
literary with talks and events with  
our special guests from

24th October - 5th November

We have a fantastic line up for  
you this year, including:

Max Hastings  
Lady Carnarvon  
Sunny Ormonde  
Graeme Hall  
Larry Lamb  
and many more!

All events will be held at  
The Beacon, Wantage  
(OX12 9BX).

For more information and to  
purchase tickets, please go to:  
**[wantageliteraryfestival.co.uk](http://wantageliteraryfestival.co.uk)**

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## OUR AUTUMN / WINTER OFFERING

Bar opening times through this period will generally be

|           |                                         |
|-----------|-----------------------------------------|
| Monday    | CLOSED                                  |
| Tuesday   | CLOSED                                  |
| Wednesday | 4pm – 7pm                               |
| Thursday  | 4pm – 7pm (10pm when Darts match is on) |
| Friday    | 4pm – 7.30pm                            |
| Saturday  | CLOSED                                  |
| Sunday    | 11am – 3pm                              |

The clubhouse is available to hire for a range of events through the 'close season' either during the day or in the evening, and makes a superb setting for your birthday, anniversary, christening or wake.

Please contact us to discuss your function requirements; we will always look to do whatever we can to make your event a success.

If you would like to join the club as a member it's just £20 for the year, you can do so via our website.

We also require bar staff to cover some of our bar openings both during the weekday evenings and occasional outside events when the clubhouse has been hired on weekend evenings. For full details and rate of pay please e-mail us in first instance.

Remember that everyone is welcome at Challow; membership is not required to enjoy the facilities, although it does mean we can keep you up to date with news and events at the Club.

[www.challowcricket.co.uk](http://www.challowcricket.co.uk)  
[admin@challowcricket.co.uk](mailto:admin@challowcricket.co.uk)

**01235 763335**

## Could your skills and experience support education in your local community?



The Vale Academy Trust is looking to recruit three new directors, to take up their roles from October 2022. We are a multi-academy trust which runs 9 schools (listed below) in the Wantage and Abingdon areas. The Board of 12 pro bono directors is responsible for setting the strategic direction of the Trust, deciding overall policy, defining goals, setting targets, and evaluating performance.

We are looking for individuals who share our mission of "Building Brilliant Futures Together" and can bring their skills and experience to support it.

We are keen to broaden our Board membership in general, but would particularly welcome applications from candidates with experience in financial management, education, marketing or IT, and from parents or carers of school age children, whether or not they attend VAT schools.

If you think you may be interested in applying, or if you know someone who might be, please contact the Chair of the VAT Board Dr Beth Taylor at [btaylor@vale-academy.org](mailto:btaylor@vale-academy.org).

□ The Vale Academy Trust's schools include: Charlton Primary School, King Alfred's Academy, Larkmead School, Millbrook Primary School, St James CE Primary School, **St Nicholas CE Primary School**, Thameside Primary School, Wantage CE Primary School, St John's Academy (new school opening September 2023)



### East Challow Village Hall



### Management Committee A G M

### Wednesday 28th September at 7.30pm

The current committee are due to retire and a  
New Management Committee is required  
to take over the running of the hall

If there is not a committee in place, then the Village Hall will no longer be able to function

**Please come along and help support your Village Hall  
and learn about the roles of being a committee member**

~ Refreshments will be available ~

|               | £      | £ | £             |
|---------------|--------|---|---------------|
| <b>INCOME</b> |        |   |               |
| Lucky Dip     | 36.50  |   |               |
| Cake Stall    | 85.00  |   |               |
| Raffle        | 175.00 |   |               |
| <b>TOTAL</b>  |        |   | <u>296.50</u> |

|                                               |       |  |               |
|-----------------------------------------------|-------|--|---------------|
| <b>EXPENDITURE</b>                            |       |  |               |
| Flyers for advertising event                  | 28.19 |  |               |
| Bunting, flags etc for decoration             | 44.97 |  |               |
| <i>Tokens of appreciation for cricket and</i> |       |  |               |
| <i>Tug-O-War teams:</i>                       |       |  |               |
| Jubilee Teaspoons (18)                        | 71.82 |  |               |
| Jubilee Keyrings (12)                         | 35.88 |  |               |
| Jubilee Pens (17)                             | 28.83 |  |               |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                                  |       |  | <u>209.69</u> |

Amount carried forward to next event 86.81

OFFICER: *Frances Webb*  
FRANCES WEBB

SECONDER: *Les Clainings*  
LES CLAININGS

## Ride and Stride

Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust which gives donations to churches in need of help to improve or repair their buildings, will have its sponsored fund-raising

## "Ride and Stride"

### Saturday 10th September.

St. Nicholas in East Challow had a donation from this fund to help install the Kitchen and toilet some years ago.

People are sponsored to walk or ride to visit churches in an area taking part. St Nicholas would welcome more people to do this.

There has been little opportunity to fund-raise in the Covid years and the church costs about £21,000 per year to run.

More people are needed to undertake this challenge and would be very welcome to join the ride or sponsor a rider.

**Please get in touch with Janet Parker  
care of the church or 01235 765209.**

# S. J. ACKRILL

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### **Abingdon Reservoir – where are we?**

Water Resources South East (WRSE) published the summary and statistics of the Response to the consultation on their 'Emerging Regional Water Resources Plan' in May. There was across the board criticism of the Plan from Stakeholders, and as admitted by them, WRSE were taken by surprise at the scale and the level of dissatisfaction in the responses. The Group Against Reservoir Development (GARD) are waiting to hear that WRSE have *really listened*. Ofwat have criticised the lack of detailed cost and environmental evidence in the plan and WRSE have committed to provide more in the draft plan in the Autumn. Interestingly, there was a lot of support for Severn Thames Transfer which is GARD's preferred alternative to the Reservoir. The WRSE response can be seen at <https://wrse.uk/engagementhq.com/our-regional-plan>, following the link to the "Emerging Regional Plan consultation response". Ofwat's criticism of WRSE is at <https://www.ofwat.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/14-03-2022-WRSE-regional-plan-letter-for-web.pdf>. Further information can be seen at GARD's website ([www.abingdonreservoir.org.uk](http://www.abingdonreservoir.org.uk)).

### **Wantage Hospital and local health services - again**

Changes in the local health service seems to be a constant feature in these reports! We have been waiting for Oxford Heath (OH) to present their plans for community health service provision. I have been worried, as the Vale representative on HOSC, that this is a huge undertaking and we have heard nothing and will want to know the evidence base for any decisions taken, which was a major failing for the OX12 pilot study. Local concerns about the future of Wantage Hospital are certainly in OH's mind and we were invited to look around the hospital on June 23<sup>rd</sup>. OH presented the overall rationale behind community health services which we had heard before and the outpatient services which are currently run from the hospital including ophthalmology, ENT, eating disorders and mental health in addition to existing activities such as adult and children's speech, immunisation. We looked at the maternity unit, which is very modern but currently unused, as a result of staff shortages generally in Oxfordshire so that Wantage staff have been redeployed to Wallingford! I have suggested that we try for London weighting for NHS staff in Oxfordshire but was told that it had been considered many times and is unlikely to happen.

However, we have also been told of another layer of reorganisation to attempt to break the log-jam of acute bed shortages with the knock-on effects for the ambulance service. The emergency and community health service are to be merged into an Integrated Improvement Programme (IIP) again with the aim of accelerating the Home-First/Discharge to Assess policy. This is a great idea but is a huge transformation and it concerns me that we have three reorganisations happening simultaneously: the BOB ICS, Community Health Services and now IIP. We don't know whether there are resources for all this.

If you are having problem finding an NHS dentist please let me know so that I can pass this on.

### **Ock Catchment Partnership**

I recently attended the meeting of the Ock Catchment Partnership which is seeking to clean up rivers and streams in the catchment area of the Ock and its tributaries including Letcombe and Childrey brooks, both chalk streams, the latter which runs through our parish.

**Cllr Dr Paul Barrow**

Ridgeway Ward

# EAST CHALLOW ~ PARISH COUNCIL

[www.eastchallowpc.co.uk](http://www.eastchallowpc.co.uk)

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**Vermin: Rats** – Concern has been expressed about the rat population in the Village. A female rat will typically breed five times a year, producing an average of eight offspring per litter. Please consider whether there is anything you can do in your own garden to avoid encouraging them, for example clearing areas of waste, woodpiles and overgrown areas where they might find shelter. remember rats can get into small gaps!! Also try to make compost heaps as pest proof as possible and likewise spaces or voids such as under sheds or around pipes and soakaways – remember rats can get into small gaps!!

**Parking** – Please park responsibly around the Village as parked vehicles on pavements and grass verges cause problems for pedestrians and other vehicles.

**Pavilion Project** – Within the recreation area we have a pavilion which is in desperate need of repair. We would like to get it back into working order/replace it so that it can be used for Village activities and sports also as a base for the 1<sup>st</sup> Challow Beavers and Cubs – we will keep you updated with progress as and when made regarding this project.

**Parish Council Website** – Photographs Required

Old or new photographs of the Village, photographs of days of celebration from yesteryear etc that you would like to share on our website ... Please send them to the Parish Clerk.

**Waste Bins** (Reminder) – Please could you ensure that you remove your waste/recycling bin from the kerbside as soon as possible after the waste collection.

**Brown Bins - Garden Waste**

Please ensure that your Brown Bin is on the kerbside ready for collection before 07.00 am

The village is 1st on the collection route and this will ensure that your bin is emptied on the day rather than it remaining still full on the kerbside.



**Parish Council Meeting**

**Wednesday 21st September at 7.30pm**

All Villagers are invited to attend Parish Council meetings as observers.

**Parish Councillors**

Vanessa Bosley: (Chair) 01235 764068

Frances Webb (Vice Chair) 01235 765176

Sarah Parker, Trevor Hayes, Paul Barrow, Iris Game, Sue Terry



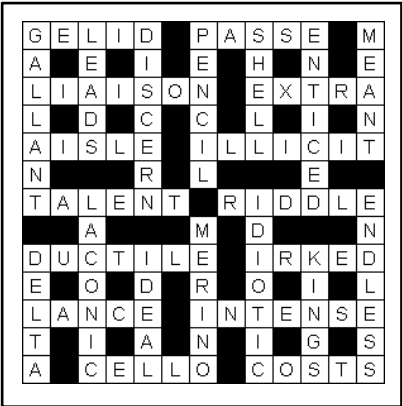
**Clerk to East Challow Parish Council**

**Linda Hooper**

East Challow Parish Clerk  
C/O East Challow Village Hall  
East Challow, Wantage, Oxon  
OX12 9SR

**07774 405472**

**eastchallowclerk@gmail.com**



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