

### Strength in numbers...UK Solar Alliance Rally in London

On a lovely sunny day, on April 18th, members of Stop Botley West, including six of us representing Cassington, set out to London to join other groups campaigning against large scale solar proposals in our areas.

It was a positive group of about 100 like-minded people from six different proposed solar farms, all of whom care deeply about our countryside, wanting to protect our farmland for agriculture and for the good of all our communities. There was significant interest from the press, who were taking photographs and interviewing individuals and we even had a couple of MPs join us.

Meeting up with members of other groups in the country who are also facing the prospect of these giant solar farms was very heartening to us all and made our commitment to fighting BWSF much stronger.



Westminster hall that afternoon on large-scale ground-based solar development. The debate lasted 3 hours and was very encouraging to those of us concerned about vast swathes of our countryside being transformed into huge industrial landscapes.

If you would like to know which MPs are fighting for us and what they are saying, do read the debate on Hansard. Hansard.Parliament.uk



### DON'T FORGET YOUR PHOTO ID FOR THE ELECTIONS ON THURSDAY 2nd MAY 2024

The elections are for the Police and Crime Commissioner and one of our West Oxfordshire District Councillors.

See who is standing and read their statements inside this edition.

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And there is still a lot to do! So do join your village Solar Action Group. Contact Ruth at [ruth@atherstone.net](mailto:ruth@atherstone.net).

The rally was timed to coincide with a debate in

### Cassington Plant Sale

Saturday 4th May 2024  
Cassington Village Green

11am - 1pm

Flowers, Fruit and Vegetable plants will be available.



# welcome Anne's CAWNer

Welcome to the 563rd edition of CAWN. I fear I am losing my touch - or perhaps I no longer have my ear to the ground? It has certainly been a while since I have been able to tell you about an engagement, wedding or birth in the village.

The news from the world outside this village is so depressing, with tales of war and the never ending cost of living crisis, so each month I try to find something positive and/or uplifting for the front page. If you have any happy news that you would like to share then please do get in touch.

This month we have 2 pages of statements from our potential Police and Crime Commissioner and WODC candidates. I hope you find it helpful to read what they have to say before the vote on Thursday. Please don't forget to take your photo ID with you!

We also have a selection of events coming up, including the plant sale on the 4th May, the latest production from Bartholomew Players and what looks like it should be a beautiful concert by Eynsham Choral Society. Added to which May is Oxfordshire Arts week and at least 3 members or former members of this village have work on display. I do hope you find the time to visit some of the galleries and studios that are open for this event.

Thank you to all the contributors this month. I am always happy for you to send submissions or ideas for articles, so please do keep them coming!

Happy reading!

Anne x

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### With special thanks to...

Lorna Mills, Fineprint Witney, Emily Lemaire and her team and to everyone who actively participates in the production of Cassington & Worton News.

## EYNSHAM CHORAL SOCIETY

CONDUCTOR: STUART DUNLOP

ORGANIST: GABRIELE DAMIANI



**Cantique de Jean Racine by Fauré**

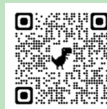
**Requiem by Fauré**

**Te Deum by Haydn**

**Stabat Mater by Rheinberger**

Saturday 18th May 2024

7.30pm



St Leonard's Church, Eynsham

Tickets £15 from Evenlode DIY or [eynshamchoral@gmail.com](mailto:eynshamchoral@gmail.com)  
With thanks to West Oxfordshire District Council for their support

## May stargazing highlights

### May 6 Eta Aquarids Meteor Shower.

The Eta Aquarids is an above average shower. It is produced by dust particles left behind by Halley's comet. The shower runs annually from April 19 to May 28. This year it peaks on the night of May 6 and the morning of the May 7. The nearly new moon means dark skies for what should be an excellent show this year. Best viewing will be from a dark location after midnight. Meteors will radiate from the constellation Aquarius, but can appear anywhere in the sky.

### May 8 - New Moon.

The Moon will be on the same side of the Earth as the Sun and will not be visible in the night sky. This is the best time of the month to observe faint objects such as galaxies and star clusters because there is no moonlight to interfere.

### May 9 - Mercury at Greatest Western Elongation.

This is the best time to view Mercury since it will be at its highest point above the horizon in the morning sky. Look for the planet low in the eastern sky just before sunrise.

### May 23 - Full Moon.

The Moon will be on the opposite side of the Earth to the Sun and its face will be fully illuminated. This full moon was known by early Native American tribes as the Flower Moon because this was the time of year when spring flowers appeared in abundance. This moon has also been known as the Corn Planting Moon and the Milk Moon.

# ELEVATE

SUNDAY 12TH MAY

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## CASSINGTON BIKE NIGHT

24 JUNE 2024

### MARSHALLS WANTED

Bike Night is confirmed for Monday 24<sup>th</sup> June and is a great event that supports so many of the businesses and groups in our village.

If you can spare an hour or two on the night to keep bikes moving and pedestrians safe please email Dan Bakewell at [CassingtonBikeNight@hotmail.com](mailto:CassingtonBikeNight@hotmail.com)

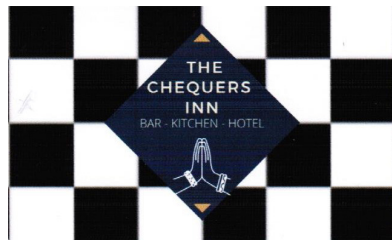
No experience needed, please do help if you can, it does feel great to be a part of it.

### Cassington Cafe

The Cassington Cafe will take place in the village hall on the first Thursday mornings in the month at 10am. In May the cafe will be held on the second Thursday, due to the elections taking place in the hall on Thursday 2nd May.

The dates for 2024 are: May 9, June 6, July 4, NOT August, Sept 5, Oct 3, Nov 7 and December 5.

QUIZ NIGHT  
AT THE  
CHEQUERS  
Wednesday 8th  
May  
at 7.30pm



## OBSERVATION

by Stephen Wright

Mum and I recently used a day off work to go to Thame for lunch before going for a nice walk around Cutteslowe Park. Mum confessed that Jenna and I will need to provide a grandchild so that mum has an excuse to go on the miniature train ride at Cutteslowe again, so we've added that to our list of to dos.

I recently moved in with Jenna and out of my ten-person houseshare. Jenna's house in St Albans is small but nice, although one of the drawbacks is that someone recently cut down all of the hedges at the end of the garden, meaning I now have a clear view outside of my bedroom window of the nearby graveyard - a nice daily reminder of death when I wake up in the morning.

There's also a neighbourhood cat called Miguel who sometimes lets himself in through the bathroom window, which makes Jenna want to get a cat, despite the fact that we have this one on loan and don't have to feed it.



Bartholomew Players present

# PACK OF LIES

by Hugh Whitmore

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www.greensfunerals.co.uk



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## St Peter's Churchyard

Every parishioner who lives in Cassington is entitled to be buried or have their ashes interred in the churchyard. There are, however, statutory churchyard regulations that all of us must follow, including the type of memorial permitted. A one-off fee is charged at the time of burial/interment.

Part of the churchyard regulations is that all graves should be flat with no delineation, flower pots, ornaments, plastic flowers or markers. This enables ease of grass cutting/strimming and avoids accidental damage.

The churchyard takes a lot of constant maintenance including weeding, hedge and tree trimming and grass cutting which is funded in part by the collection of the one - off fees but this by no means covers the full costs. We are grateful to those who tend individual graves.

We are therefore seeking your help to clear all materials mentioned above and any wooden markers, which are meant to be temporary until a memorial stone is installed. We would also welcome offers of help to weed and cut back vegetation in the churchyard or donations to pay towards the ongoing maintenance.

Further information about the installation of memorials and statutory churchyard regulations can be obtained from the church office on 01865 883325 or email [stleonards\\_stpeters@btconnect.com](mailto:stleonards_stpeters@btconnect.com)

John Hemingway and Jan Macdonald,  
St Peter's Churchwardens

Cassington Parish Council needs a ground maintenance person for various parts of the village including the Burial Ground that we are responsible for - to start ASAP.

For further information please contact the Clerk on [Cassingtonclerk@cassington-pc.gov.uk](mailto:Cassingtonclerk@cassington-pc.gov.uk)

## Food Bank News

Thank you for continuing to support via the box outside St Peter's Church (or if full place inside the porch) and/or via single financial donations or regular standing order.



We cannot pass on fresh produce but please give tinned and dried foods and other groceries which need to be well within their "Best Before" date.

We support:

Eynsham Food bank (07450 328530)

North Oxfordshire Food Bank (07929721172)

If you need some food support or know someone in need of food support please phone the food banks directly at the numbers above or contact our clergy

Duncan Fraser (vicar) 07810324088 or  
Roger Aston 01865 880757

Thank you.

## BELL RINGING

Please note that teams from the Oxford guild will be visiting Cassington church on Monday 6th May, probably between 5-6pm to ring for up to an hour as part of their Guild ringing day across the area. Plans are still being drawn up and if the time changes I will give notice in the May CAWN'



## THE CATHOLIC CHURCH OF ST PETER, EYNSHAM

Serving the Hanboroughs, Freeland, Cassington, South Leigh, Stanton Harcourt, Sutton and Northmoor.

Masses at St. Peter's Catholic Church, Eynsham

Saturday (For Sunday) 5pm. Sunday 10am.

Face coverings required with social distancing.

For details of weekday Masses please visit the parish web page <https://stpeterseysham.org.uk/>

Contact details:-Parish Priest: Fr Mark Lagorio

Tel: 01865 881613

Email : [stpeterschurcheysham@gmail.com](mailto:stpeterschurcheysham@gmail.com)

Parish Safeguarding Representative:

Eric White [ericj\\_white@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:ericj_white@yahoo.co.uk)

For details on Covid-safe worship, other news, and links for live screening, please visit the parish web page.

You can also watch Mass from many other Churches live or recorded online.

Churchservices.tv

<https://www.mcnmedia.tv/>

<https://www.youtube.com/user/Godzdogz>

The Church of St Peter's is here as a fellowship to worship God,  
build people up in Christ and share his love with others

**May 2024**

The church is open for individuals' private prayer daily.

**Services this month**

**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> May** – 9.30am Holy Communion

**Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> May** – 9.30am Morning Worship

**Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> May** - 9.30am Holy Communion

**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> May** – 5pm Evening Prayer

**On-line streamed services are available every Sunday from 10.30 am at**  
[www.stpeterschurchcassington.org](http://www.stpeterschurchcassington.org) or [www.stleonardseynsham.org.uk](http://www.stleonardseynsham.org.uk)

If you have particular spiritual needs feel free to contact:

**Vicar** – Revd Duncan Fraser 07810 324088 / [vicarslp@gmail.com](mailto:vicarslp@gmail.com)

**Enquiries:** Church Office 01865 883325 / [stleonards\\_stpeters@btconnect.com](mailto:stleonards_stpeters@btconnect.com)

**CALLING ALL ST PETER'S SCHOOL PARENTS!**

The Tinies and Toddlers group (who meet in the village hall on Tuesdays in term time) invite you on Tuesday afternoons at 2.30 for tea/coffee and an opportunity to chat before you pick up your children from school.



**CASSINGTON TINIES & TODDLERS**  
**(Tinies Café) Spring 2024**  
**A Parent/Carer & Toddler group**

Cassington Village Hall 1.30 –3.00 on Tuesday (other than where stated, term-time only)

May 7th, 14th, 21st, no session on 28th (half term)

June 4th, none on 11th, there is on 18th, none on 25th

July 2nd, 9th, and 16th (last session this term)

Toys, crafts, songs & refreshments for under-fives and their carers

This group is run by St Peter's Church with local parents

For more information please contact: Jane Aston at

[janeaston53@aol.com](mailto:janeaston53@aol.com) Tel: 01865 880757

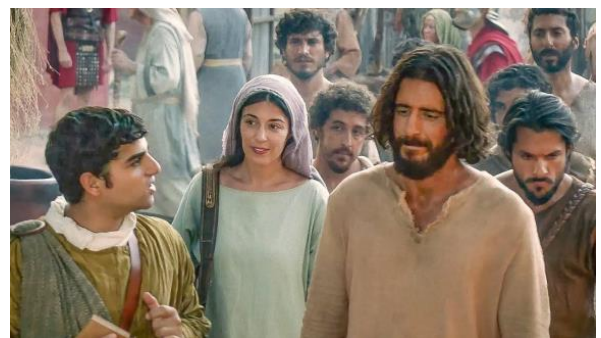
Charlotte Metcalf at [candcmetcalf@gmail.com](mailto:candcmetcalf@gmail.com)

Tel:07814550878

**To all our Friends...**

**A warm invitation to join us**

at 7pm Monday 13 May 2024 at The Tolkien Room,  
St Peter's Catholic Church, Eynsham to watch  
Season 1 Episodes 7 and 8 of The Chosen  
'Invitations' and 'I Am He'



If you haven't come along yet each episode is stand alone - you can come at any point.

Meet, talk, share refreshments.

We hope you can come.

**You will be most welcome.**

## CANDIDATES FOR ELECTION AS THE THAMES VALLEY POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

On 2nd May, you will be able to vote for your Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC). Police and Crime Commissioners are elected to hold your police force to account for delivering the kind of policing you want to see. PCCs are responsible for the totality of policing in their force area and aim to cut crime and deliver an effective and efficient police service. PCCs bring a public voice to policing and they do this by:

- Engaging with the public and victims of crime to help set police and crime plans;
- Ensuring the police force budget is spent where it matters most; and
- Appointing the chief constable, holding them to account for delivery of their objectives, and if necessary, dismissing them.

The PCC does not “run” the police force. Chief constables continue to be responsible for the day-to-day operations of the police, but they are accountable to the public via the PCC.

Your editor contacted all the candidates standing in the election, and here are the statements that were received from those that submitted them. In addition there are 2 further candidates who did not submit statements. They are:



**Tim Bearder,**  
**Liberal Democrats**



**Russell Douglas-Fowler,**  
**Independent** →



Statements from all the candidates can be found on the website <https://choosemyppcc.org.uk/area/thames-valley>

### **Ben Holden-Crowther**

#### **More Police Officers for Thames Valley**

Dear Cassington and Worton Residents,

We simply do not have enough police officers in the Thames Valley, meaning that relatively serious crimes such as shoplifting and burglary are being routinely overlooked. Money being wasted in other areas needs to be urgently directed towards strong local policing for your area.

The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner spends almost £2 million annually on around 40 members of staff. We will ensure financial prudence and greatly reduce wasteful office expenditure (including the £18,000 recently spent on a pointless website rebranding).

Considering the current state of our police force, it's clear that short-term focused political parties should not be tasked with setting the policing priorities for our local area. Your vote for our local candidate will help us wrestle back control of policing from inept and uninspiring politicians.

In the last election for Police and Crime Commissioner, the turnout in the Thames Valley was just 35.8%, meaning that 1,173,265 people in our area lost their opportunity to vote at this really important election. By voting for More Police Officers for Thames Valley, you can show that you care about making our local area a safer place to live.



### **Matthew Barber**

#### **Conservative Candidate**

I've been privileged to serve you as Police & Crime Commissioner since 2021. Since then I've appointed the new Chief Constable, delivered record numbers of police officers and we've seen crime at levels well below that prior to the pandemic.



But there's more to do and whoever you choose as your next Police & Crime Commissioner will need a clear plan and understanding of the challenges ahead. As well as being the voice of the public and holding the police to account, they will be responsible for a budget of over £584m.

I am proud of what we have achieved together so far: Thames Valley now has 5,120 police officers – over 600 higher than 2010 and compared to before the pandemic, knife crime, burglary, robbery and vehicle crime are all down significantly.

In the last year alone I have worked with the police to:

- DOUBLE the number of neighbourhood police officers
- Tackle shoplifting with charges more than DOUBLING
- Continued our zero-tolerance approach to knife possession which sees criminals getting longer sentences

I've got a clear plan for how I will work to make Thames Valley safer, improving CCTV, increasing hotspots which you can read more about at [matthewbarber.co.uk/plan](https://matthewbarber.co.uk/plan).

### **Tim Starkey**

#### **Labour and Cooperative Party**

I have worked with the police for 22 years as a barrister, prosecuting cases ranging from child sex abuse to drug dealing, this experience has shown me what needs to change.



My mission is to re-build trust in police. Claims to have “doubled neighbourhood policing” are from a year ago where neighbourhood officers had been cut to just 150 over 108 Thames Valley teams and don't include PCSOs (459 in 2015, just 252 now) who are a vital part of any neighbourhood team. More important than numbers are how the police interact with their community. The December 2023 inspection revealed how TVP “requires improvement” for “responding to the public” and “investigating crime”. Better training as to “lines of enquiry”, closer working with the CPS so officers understand what evidence is needed in court and better use of technology can improve low detection rates.

I often see delays of 5 years from rapes being reported to coming to trial, meaning 2/3 of victims drop out. Fast tracking these cases and communicating better with victims is vital.

Finally, forging partnerships to prevent crime: restoring youth services and targeted mentoring for young people at risk of getting mixed up in county lines or other criminality.



**NEW DATE!**

**Rotary**  
Club of Eynsham 

Presents a  
**Sherlock Holmes Murder Mystery**

# **The Mysterious Death of the Marchesa Pallavicino**

**Saturday 8th June**

Join a team or bring a team - prizes for the winners.  
Come along for an evening of sleuthing at

**Eynsham Village Hall**  
OX29 4QW **Doors open 7.00**  
**for 7.30pm**

**Tickets £18.00**

Available from

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Roy Wilkinson 01865 883917 or  
Philip Spencer 01865 881025  
<https://www.trybooking.com/uk/DJCQ>



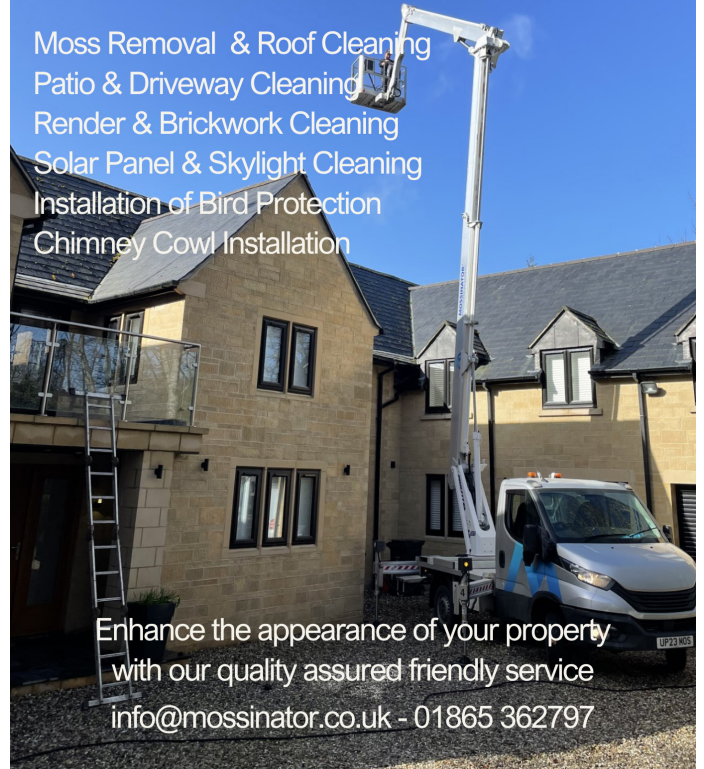
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**Mob-07748840065**

Email

[matthew@pvpowersystemsLtd.co.uk](mailto:matthew@pvpowersystemsLtd.co.uk)

### Andy Goodwin - Liberal Democrat



Andy lives in Eynsham, is married with four daughters at Bartholomew school. He's very active in the community: organising Run Wytham Woods, a 10km race raising over £30,000 for the primary school; helping with the Eynsham Christmas vouchers scheme; and coaching girls' football.

Andy works in Information Technology and in his spare time creates willow sculptures and enjoys playing football. I want to welcome new residents moving to our wonderful villages, listening to all and helping to deliver the best results for our community. I am opposed to the extensive size of Botley West Solar Farm, we need solar energy but in planned and considered way. As part of the Lib Dem team that has led the WODC administration this past two years, we will focus on:

- Putting residents first
- A new housing plan, with realistic housing targets for West Oxfordshire
- Continued scrutiny on Thames Water, challenging them and ensuring adequate sewage treatment capacity is in place for all new housing
- Backing the plans for carbon net zero housing for Salt Cross
- Building more affordable homes, on top of the 267 delivered in 2023
- Open democracy, streaming council meetings online

Here to talk, Andy Goodwin can be contacted at: [andygooders@hotmail.com](mailto:andygooders@hotmail.com)

### Nicholas Goodwin - Green



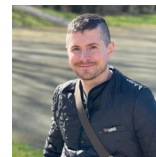
Nicholas has lived in Eynsham for twenty years. He works for the University of Oxford, regularly cycling but grateful for the H2 bus when it rains. He attended St Peter's Church and one of his daughters enjoyed Step 2 Dance.

West Oxfordshire is a good place to live with thriving community groups and a strong awareness of green issues. It was reassuring to hear the High Court has supported the idea that WODC can require developers of the Salt Cross to provide good quality, net-zero-carbon homes.

Members of the West Oxfordshire Green Party, have expertise in solar technologies and in food, farming and soil health. We are scrupulously investigating the Botley West Solar scheme, and looking for ways its environmental and community benefits could be maximized. If the proposal is supported by the National Planning Inspectorate, we want it to be as beneficial as it can be.

The Green Party, Liberal Democrats and Labour group (the 'West Oxfordshire Alliance') aim to work for everyone in West Oxfordshire. They have funded community groups helping people with the increasing cost of living and pressured Thames Water to reduce sewage leaking into the river but there is so much more to do. We must find new ways of tackling the climate crisis, such as supporting the Community Action Plan to reach Zero Carbon. Please use your vote to ensure the effort continues.

### Sean Grace - Conservative



I'm pleased to introduce myself as your Local Conservative candidate this year. I'm a hardworking and motivated father of two lovely toddlers, and I work for a software company in the social care sector. I'm also studying towards an MBA at Oxford Brookes and I am always looking for ways that I can give back to our local community and make sure you have a strong voice. In my spare time I enjoy trips with my family and I love running, playing golf and travelling.

Some of my local contributions have been initiating the Eynsham covid response and neighbourhood WhatsApp groups, along with helping to raise awareness of the community larder, reporting potholes using the FixMyStreet app and helping develop simple websites for local businesses free of charge. I care passionately about preserving a sense of community, improving local infrastructure (e.g. road surfaces, day care centers and waste collection services), and supporting young families, as I know first hand how challenging this can be.

I'm excited to run as a candidate this year as with National elections taking place local residents will be able to vote on the merit of hard work and local representation rather than to 'send a message' on national issues. I aim to take a pragmatic and direct approach to resolve local issues, no political game playing and no complacency. I look forward to meeting many of you on the doorsteps and at events and in continuation if I am selected to represent the area.

### Nick Relph - Labour



I spent my career as a senior executive in the NHS. I've served on Eynsham Parish Council for over ten years including a year as Chair. I'm passionate about our community having lived in the area for nearly forty years.

We desperately need change. Under the coalition and the Tories I can't think of a single public service which has improved. The cost-of-living crisis has made most of us significantly worse off and the tax burden is as high as I can remember. I know the only party that will sort this out is the Labour Party. My lifetime working in the NHS tells me only Labour has seriously invested in the NHS resulting in reduced waiting times and improved outcomes for patients. Many of our schools and roads are crumbling and have been desperately under resourced.

We face many challenges as a community, not least the large housing developments near us and the proposed nearby solar farm. We must keep up the pressure to ensure such large-scale developments are well planned and thoroughly consulted upon. The local community should benefit from these, and they must both protect and enhance our precious green spaces and help deliver net zero. Thames Water must be forced to protect our waterways and stop the disgraceful dumping of sewage into our rivers.

If you want to discuss any of the issues above or anything else that might make our community a better and happier place, please email me at [nickqrelph@gmail.com](mailto:nickqrelph@gmail.com).



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## **CHURCHFIELDS NEWS**

April has been filled with slivers of sunshine, celebrations, and exciting activities at Churchfields care home. Our residents enjoyed the lovely spring weather, as they spent plenty of time outdoors soaking up the sun and appreciating the sights and sounds of the season.

We continued to enjoy Easter throughout the first week of April. Our residents exercised their creativity and made some lovely decorations and charming Easter hats. We also enjoyed a lively quiz night with a drink or two. Some of our residents took advantage of the beautiful weather as they enjoyed a stroll to the local church for a lovely service.



Some of our staff members are Indian and so, we got together with them to participate in the vibrant celebration of the Indian festival of Holi with a splash of colour and laughter.

One of our highlights was celebrating a resident's remarkable 103rd birthday! She was treated to a delightful trip to the pub for a classic gin and tonic alongside her delicious birthday cake.



Back at the home, our conservatory became a haven for birdwatching, with residents refilling the bird feeders. Some



spent their time crafting lovely memory boxes while others enjoyed a fun sing-along with Donna, followed by a relaxing afternoon in the garden where residents picked fresh rhubarb for a delicious homemade jam.

Throughout April, Animal Ark brought us joy in the form of some beautiful animal friends, there were hedgehogs, hamsters and an adorable pair of rabbits. The weather was perfect for basking on the patio, soaking up the sun, playing some sit-down games and spending quality time.

One resident donated a set of well-worn stone cricket players that had graced her garden for years. Some of the residents came together to restore these weathered figures, giving them a new lease of life. In addition to these group activities, many residents also enjoyed personalised time with staff, engaging in activities like reading, playing games like Connect Four, and watching their favourite films.



April at Churchfields has been a vibrant month filled with joy, laughter, and meaningful connections. We look forward to sharing more of our heartwarming stories with you next month!

If you'd like to be part of our lovely community, drop by for a cuppa and a chat! In the meantime, please follow us on Facebook to find out more about life at Churchfields.

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Previous Parish Council Minutes can be found online at <http://www.cassington-pc.gov.uk>

Cllr Thompson and Cllr Metcalf explained that we are only going to pay for the stone walls that the Parish Council own. WODC undertakes some of the grass cutting at the Burial Ground and there is a tender out for the other parts of the village.

The majority of the residents that were present advised that they would have liked to have been advised earlier that the precept was going to be increased as much as it has been and the Council realised that the reason for the increase should have been communicated better.

The Parish Council would like to make note that the £20k for the Playground is a one off payment.

### Report from Clerk

Elms Road Ditch – Waiting to hear back from Blenheim

Replacement for Adrian – Still on going

VAS on Eynsham Road & Yarnton Road – Still on going

Replacement Speedwatch Sign – This has been replaced

PC Burial Ground Update – The clerk is still researching the walls and the boundary

Stile at field by Bell Lane – Still ongoing – 3 quotes have been given to the Parish Council. A member of the public has suggested Michael Oliver – The Clerk will ask for a quote.

Thames Water – The clerk has tried to contact Thames Water to get a map of the pipes. No response.

### Reports from County and District & Parish Councillors County Report

The county council is planning two new special schools in the Didcot area to serve southeast Oxfordshire.

In addition we are building or acquiring small children's homes to provide care in the county for those who would otherwise have to go somewhere else.

OCC is launching a £7m programme this spring to refurbish nearly 100 roads across the county this spring from 8 April

to 3 June. It is the biggest surface dressing programme for 20 years.

Oxfordshire has been awarded £2.384 million for improving walking and cycling infrastructure.

Adults with learning disabilities and autism have moved into new accommodation in Witney, purchased by OCC.

Oxfordshire has won another £3.6m to upgrade EV infrastructure.

As ever, I can be contacted at [dan.levy@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:dan.levy@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

### District Council Report

Judicial review on Salt Cross the high court had advised that the inspector had made an error. WODC are talking to the planning inspectorate to see what the next move will be.

Homes England funding the A40 in discussion with OCC have not given a response with regards to the A40

### Parish Council Report

Cllr King - Church Yard Bin – Clerk to contact John Hemmingway

Cllr Mills – The Bike Night Committee have asked if the Parish Council would pay for St Johns Ambulance - Parish Council have agreed

### Questions from the Public

A 30 tonne lorry has come through Cassington. There is a maximum weight limit of 20 tonne

Date of next meeting: Thursday 2nd May 2024 @7.30pm in St Peters School

### Parish Councillors

To contact the Parish Council, please email them on: -

Barbara King – [bking1@cassington-pc.gov.uk](mailto:bking1@cassington-pc.gov.uk)

Chris Metcalf – [cmetcalf@cassington-pc.gov.uk](mailto:cmetcalf@cassington-pc.gov.uk)

Alex Rogers – [arogers@cassington-pc.gov.uk](mailto:arogers@cassington-pc.gov.uk)

Graham Mills – [gmills@cassington-pc.gov.uk](mailto:gmills@cassington-pc.gov.uk)

Stewart Thompson – [sthompson@cassington-pc.gov.uk](mailto:sthompson@cassington-pc.gov.uk)

Clerk contact details: Mrs Tracey Cameron

Email: [cassingtonclerk@cassington-pc.gov.uk](mailto:cassingtonclerk@cassington-pc.gov.uk)

## Woodstock and District U3a



U3a is aimed at those no longer in full time employment with daytime hours available to participate in community based activity or interest groups. Our next quiz is on Thursday 24th May 2-4pm at the Scout/Guide Hut in Union Street Woodstock.

The monthly coffee morning in Woodstock offers a social gathering - the next is on Saturday 4 th May at The Crown and our host is Pat.

As a taster, visitors are welcome to the members' speaker meetings charged at £2 to include tea and biscuits. Doors open at 1.45 for 2pm speaker at St Hugh's Church Hall, Hensington Road, Woodstock. Our May meeting is on Thursday 2nd (local election-day) and we have The Woodland Trust – standing up for trees – followed at 3pm by the AGM – do join us if you can.

Further information and contact at [www.woodstocku3a.uk](http://www.woodstocku3a.uk)  
Sue Blackshaw – Chair Woodstock & District u3a

## SPEEDWATCH

The Cassington Speedwatch group held 7 sessions in March. 11 sessions were booked, 4 were cancelled due to bad weather. They reported the following to the Police.

No. of sessions:	7
Total number of vehicles:	1,420
No. of offending vehicles:	199
Between 25mph & 30mph:	138
Between 31mph & 40 mph:	61
Over 40 mph:	0
Highest offender:	40mph

The Cassington Speedwatch group try to meet at least twice a week to record speeding vehicles, in an attempt to make the road through this village safer for pedestrians, especially the young and the old. If you would like to help with this task, even if you can only do a few sessions each month, timed round your availability, then please contact Ron Macdonald at [cassington.speedwatch@gmail.com](mailto:cassington.speedwatch@gmail.com)

## Begbroke to Bladon Bluebell Walk

This month thanks go to Kath Humphris for suggesting this walk, and to Keira and her website Little Explorers. This walk will take you through fields and bluebell woodland as you wander from Begbroke to Bladon or the other way round.

If you are looking for a short walk then start at Heath Lane in Bladon, as that connects up to the woodland instantly. If you want a longer stroll through fields as well, then start at the church on St Michael's Lane, Begbroke. You will see a green footpath sign to Bladon. Follow the arrow down the lane and bear right through a field with horses (behind a fence) and then you reach vast fields. Keep to the established paths and in the second field veer left to the left hand corner - you will be able to see the woodland at this point.

Enter the woodland on the newly laid path; this was previously just a mud track but loose gravel has now been put down, and enjoy the fragrance and sights of the bluebells! This is Bladon Heath and also referred to as Bladon or Begbroke Woods.



The carpets of bluebells are just stunning and surround you as you meander through the woodland. Established paths off the main track invite you to walk amongst them – do be careful not to veer off these paths and trample the bluebells as they are protected by the Wildlife and Countryside Act. We couldn't believe how early they were, and what a bumper show, apparently it's due to the mild winter.

The walk connects to the village of Bladon and you will enter at Heath Lane. If you have children and you want to tag in an extra bit of fun, visit the nearby Bladon park, which has a fantastic range of play equipment. Access via the lane beside St Martin's Church (where Churchill is buried), it's just beyond the allotments.

A treasure of an adventure, especially with the bluebells, and a real local gem.

Little Explorers was started by Keira who is a Mum of 3 young boys. She wanted to share her love for adventures and find a like-minded community. Check out her website for more walks and suggestions of activities. <https://littleexplorers.com/>

  
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## 'Enjoy the Countryside while you can' Appreciating the Public Amenity Value of Our Land

It's a wonderful time of year to put your walking shoes and get out and about in the fresh air. With birdsong in full force and summer knocking on the door, there's plenty to discover this month on the footpaths, bridleways and byways that criss-cross much of the Oxfordshire countryside. With the undulating nature of the local landscape, you're never far from a spectacular view of the countryside. However, it's worth remembering that many of these views will be lost for a generation - possibly forever - if the Botley West solar power station proposal goes ahead.

- 68 miles of existing footpaths, essentially 'zero traffic' and rural in character, overwhelmed by 2 million solar panels,
- 156 Power Converter Stations the size of large shipping containers will drown out any birdsong with a 67dB hum,
- 11 miles long, 4 miles wide, 75% on green belt protected land, threatening rare water meadows by the Thames and adjacent to many other heritage assets,
- 45% of the solar panel area on best & most versatile (BMV) land - the best land for agriculture and food production,
- 2 years of construction noise, disruption and heavy lorry traffic which will impact the work commute, school run, hospital appointments, leisure trips and so on.

Local roads will be affected by construction activity and heavy lorry traffic. Traffic will divert to alternative routes and smaller roads will see higher levels of traffic. High security fences (together with security cameras) will reduce

footpaths to narrow corridors in between countless rows of solar panels, sub-stations and other electrical equipment; existing vistas will no longer exist and the public amenity value of our land will be decimated.



### What Can I Do?

Sign this UK Parliament Petition that has already attracted over 12,000 signatures

<https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/651262>

The petition asks the Government to introduce restrictions on solar to protect land and food security. It asks for formal priorities for development and regional density caps. These could help ensure energy targets are met without compromising rural landscapes or broader security interests. The petition runs until 23rd May 2024.

### Update from Stop Botley West

The Statutory Consultation is over and SBW have received a huge amount of feedback including over 1400 questionnaire responses. Many thanks to you all. The next step is for the Developer to submit their Development Consent Order application to the Inspectorate. At the same time, WODC, incorporating SBW's findings, will submit their Adequacy of Consultation report. To keep up to date visit [stopbotleywest.com](http://stopbotleywest.com) and register for updates. The SBW website is a growing resource containing lots of information, ideas, ways to help - and alternatives to 'mega solar' power stations - it's well worth taking a look!

Steve Jenkins, for [stopbotleywest.com](http://stopbotleywest.com)

## RECIPE OF THE MONTH

As we say goodbye to winter I imagine you are craving strawberries and cream but you will just have to wait for that treat. This pudding cheats as you use frozen berries so you can make it all year round. I like a mixture of red berries and raspberries but if you like blueberries pop them in as well.

### Berry Pudding

125g butter – this needs to be very soft  
Half a cup of sugar – golden castor sugar is nice for this  
Half a cup of self-raising flour  
Half a cup of ground almonds  
2 large eggs  
Three quarters of a cup of full cream milk  
One cup of frozen berries (or fresh). If you think they are going to be sour sprinkle with some icing sugar first.

You can make this in individual ramequins or in a gratin dish. Lightly butter or oil the dish/es and put to one side. In a food mixer blend the butter and sugar until lovely and light. Add the almonds, eggs and flour then pour in the milk – you need a good, thick batter but you may not need all the milk. Pour the batter into the dish/es and scatter the berries over the top. Cook for around 30 minutes at 180 degree Celsius. Serve warm with cold, cold cream.

When rhubarb comes in this is delicious with stewed rhubarb on top instead of the berries. You could add some orange zest to the batter in that case.

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# OXFORDSHIRE ARTS WEEK 2024



From 4th-27th May, over a thousand artists, makers and designers will exhibit and demonstrate in artists' studios, pop-up galleries, glorious gardens, ancient churches, Oxford Colleges and hundreds of other interesting venues. Just drop-in and explore for free. Chat about painting, photography, textiles, sculpture and ceramics; discover woodworking, glass art, mosaics and jewellery, and be intrigued by contemporary installations and multidisciplinary practice. Be inspired, entertained and surprised, and choose a treasure to take home with you!

Each week of the festival is different

North and West Oxfordshire: 4th-12th May

Oxford city: 11th-19th May

South Oxfordshire: 18th-27th May

Below are three of the venues where you will see work by past and present residents of Cassington!

Further details, and a guide to all the venues, can be found here: <https://www.artweeks.org/>



Paul Minter Hannah Farncombe Six Great Jewellers Barbara Payne Jenny Smith  
**May 18th - 27th Peach Croft Barn Artists Exhibition**  
 Caroline Ritson Trudi James C.M Jackson-Houlston Anna Lever Alison Jones Suzanne Bladon

## The Botley Drawing Group



The group was established in 2022 and has continued with it's Life Drawing sessions every Monday evening (during school term) throughout 2023. In the Summer months we met and drew at the Hinksey Heights Nature Trail.

This will be our second year of exhibiting our life drawings and also a selection of the works created personally by our artist members.

Venue:  
 Louie Memorial Pavilion, Arnolds Way,  
 Botley OX2 9JD

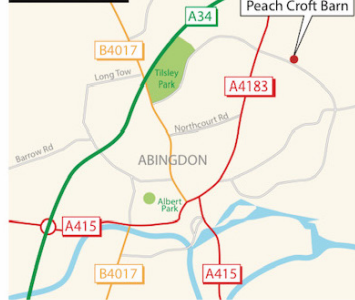
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Facilities available: Parking  
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 11th/12th and 18th/19th May 2024  
 Times: 11am-5pm

## OXFORDSHIRE ART WEEKS Peach Croft Barn Artists Exhibition



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**Exhibition open daily from**

**18th to 27th May**

**10.00am - 5pm**  
**Meet the Artists, Saturday 18th May**  
**10.00am - 12.00**

**Refreshments onsite. Card payment available.**

**474 18-27 May, 10.00am - 5.00pm daily**

## Amanda Bonfiglioli | David Brown

Artist Amanda Bonfiglioli's painting and sculpting skills bring life to potter David Brown's thrown vessels. Bowls, mugs, jugs and larger vases and bottles are individually painted and glazed, or enlivened with modelled details and stoppers. Amanda also sculpts decorative ceramic plaques on various themes.

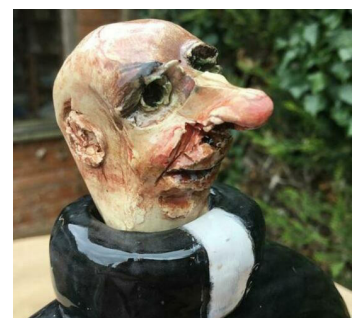
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[davidbrownoxford@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:davidbrownoxford@hotmail.co.uk)

Venue: Glenwood, Little Blenheim, Yarnton OX5 1LX  
 Telephone: 07380 219919

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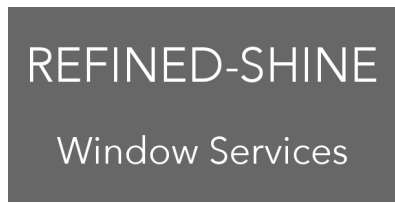


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# TEA TIME TEASER

This month we have some film titles. Can you work them out? Answers next month.

1. T best E M H
2. T M of K G
3. I J and T D O D
4. T S about M
5. T T C affair
6. I H one N
7. S in L
8. A good A I G

Answers to last month's anagrams

1. ISTANBUL
2. LONDON
3. DUBAI
4. ANTALYA
5. PARIS
6. HONG KONG
7. BANGKOK
8. NEW YORK CITY

## Eynsham Museum and Heritage Centre

Eynsham Museum and Heritage Centre (EMHC) is a registered charity that was established in 2021. In March 2023 Eynsham Parish Council granted EMHC a lease on the Bartholomew Room in the Market Square. The current exhibition is a working model of the station as it was in 1958, along with a video of the last passenger train, artefacts from Eynsham Station and a display illustrating the beginnings of the Witney line in 1861 to its closure by GWR in 1970.



The museum is run by volunteers and entry is free, but donations are very welcome!

Opening times: Sat 23 March – 27 May 2024 on Saturdays, Sundays and Bank Holiday Mondays from 11am to 4pm

### Eynsham's Rural Past exhibition (in the planning)

The Museum is planning a new exhibition for summer and autumn 2024. The topic is Eynsham's Rural Past. Do you have any items that you could loan to us? Examples might be old tools, art, craft or trade artefacts, or can you share your memories of Eynsham before all the farms and barns were swept away or converted into housing?

If so, please get in touch via the Contact us page on the Museum website: <https://eynshammuseum.org.uk/>



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## FILM

The film on Friday 10th May is *Wonka*. It is a 2023 musical fantasy comedy film directed by Paul King, who co-wrote the screenplay with Simon Farnaby based on a story by King. It tells the origin story of Willy Wonka, a character in the 1964 novel *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* by Roald Dahl, depicting his early days as a chocolatier.



Willy Wonka is the mastermind behind some of the most delicious and innovative chocolate creations the world has ever seen. But before shaking up the chocolate industry and making a name for himself as a confectionery genius, the ambitious young creator had to defy all odds. As a result, Willy transformed his wildest dreams into reality with a bold vision, determination, and unexpected help from new friends. After all, hard work and a dash of magic can make anything happen. Because, as Willy already knows, it only takes a dream to make a difference.

Tickets on the door are £5 for adults and £3 for children aged 14 and under.

For details of Neighbourhood Watch volunteers, County and District Councillors, Village Hall, Pavilion and MUGA booking fees please see the village website: [www.cassington-pc.gov.uk](http://www.cassington-pc.gov.uk)

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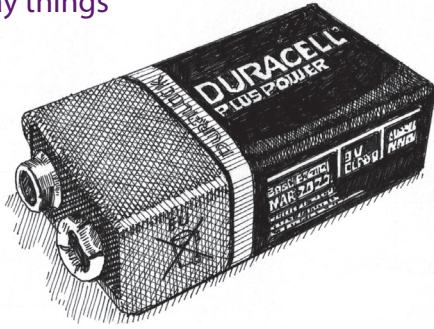
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Thanks xx



Do you have children or pets?

I live in Cassington and I'm available for babysitting or petsitting. I am studying childcare and education at college, have a paediatric first aid certificate and can show references if required.

Please text/call Seren on 07740 184757 or email on [lemaireseren@gmail.com](mailto:lemaireseren@gmail.com)

## CAWN Advertising rates

Village events and fund-raising stuff is free. Simple local services, 'for sales' etc., are also free on the "noticeboard" page/section. However donations towards printing costs welcomed. Suitable commercial businesses are invited to support our community by buying advertising space at the following rates:

- 1/8 page, £6 (£60 per year) (landscape)
- 1/4 page, £10 (£100 per year) (portrait)
- 1/2 page, £15 (£150 per year) (landscape)
- Full page, £25 (£250 per year) (portrait)

Technical details for artwork are available on request. All material included at the discretion of CAWN. Any surplus will be passed to the Cassington Parochial Charities to support our community.

# what's on?

Dates for your diary

## May 2024

Thurs 2nd	Elections in the Village hall
Thurs 2nd 7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting
Sat 4th 11am - 1pm	Plant Sale, Village Green
Sat 4th - Mon 27th	Oxfordshire Arts Week
Wed 8th 7.30pm	Quiz night at the Chequers
Thurs 9th 10am	Cassington Cafe
Fri 10th 7.30pm	Film "Wonka"
Wed 15th - Sat 18th 7.30	"Pack of Lies", Eynsham VH
Mon 20th	June CAWN deadline

## June 2024

Thurs 2nd 10am	Cassington Cafe
Thurs 2nd 7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting
Sat 8th 7pm	Murder/Mystery, Eynsham VH
Thurs 20th	July CAWN deadline
Mon 24th	Cassington Bike Night

Baby Cot and Mattress

Excellent Condition

Free on Collection

Phone Pat or John Vereker

01865 880693 before 6pm



## Gardening Tips for May



- Watch out for late frosts. Protect tender plants
- Earth up potatoes, and promptly plant any still remaining
- Plant out summer bedding at the end of the month (except in cold areas)
- Lift and divide overcrowded clumps of daffodils and other spring-flowering bulbs
- Check for nesting birds before clipping hedges.

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