

January 2025

www.cublington.com

THE CUBLINGTON CRIER

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



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

Here's your chance to
turn over a new leaf.
May you have a
successful journey ahead.

Happy New Year!





Cublington's Starry Skies

OK, OK – I know we are all fed up with the long nights and the prospect of another few months before Spring arrives. However, why not use this time to wrap up in warm clothing and wander out at night, when it's clear, and enjoy the magnificent night sky?

Cublington offers an excellent spot for stargazing in the winter months. The combination of rural tranquillity and low light pollution makes it an ideal location for observing the night sky. Winter often brings clearer skies due to lower humidity and colder air, which means less atmospheric distortion. This makes stars and constellations sharper and more vibrant. The crisp winter air also reduces the chances of haze or clouds, leading to ideal stargazing conditions. But that's not all - Cublington is situated away from much of the bright lights of larger towns and cities, providing a darker sky ideal for astronomy.



Happy New Year Cublington!

How lucky are we all to live in such a lovely village and to start a new year surrounded by friendly faces and beautiful countryside. Chris and I have now been living in the village for 7 years! We spent the first few years hidden away behind the village hall and mostly in lock-down so it has seemed a lot less time than that from our prospective. We have been happily (mostly) bringing the Old Post Office back to life for the past few years since moving in and now feel completely at home and settled so thank you all for being so welcoming!

January can be a hard month for all but especially those who are were already struggling, so it is important to look out for each other at this time and check in on those that may need it as there will be a time or times in life when we all need that extra care and support. Christmas and New Year can be a little depressing in general; the longer nights in Winter might seem like a seasonal challenge at first, but they actually offer a number of unexpected benefits that we can be truly grateful for.

The longer nights provide the perfect excuse to slow down and enjoy the comfort of being indoors all warm and cosy; the early darkness encouraging us to relax, recharge, and savour moments with our loved ones. This restful downtime can be beneficial for mental and physical health, offering us a chance to unwind after a busy day. Winter's longer nights can give us the space to recalibrate, slow down, and focus on what truly matters, all while connecting with the quieter, more introspective side of life. The slower pace of winter can help us reset and gain clarity and can provide uninterrupted time to dive into hobbies or creative projects that might otherwise get pushed aside. Whether it's knitting, painting, writing, crafting, or learning something new, the extra hours of darkness encourage us to focus inward and indulge in creative expression. It's a time when we can nurture our passions or start new projects without feeling rushed.

Let's not forget that the nights are, believe it or not, getting shorter now that the Winter Solstice is past. So, while they are still with us, let's take the chance to slow down, reconnect with ourselves, and appreciate the beauty and stillness of the season. They are an invitation to rest, reflect, and recharge—giving us the space to be more mindful and grateful for the quieter moments that enrich our lives.

Carolyn and Chris x

February EDITORs:
The Alexander's

**February Crier
deadline is
15th January**

Another Thank you

We have another big thank you this month. The Crier has received a fabulous anonymous donation to our running costs. Thank you so much. You know who you are!

Remember, if you use a supplier or tradesman, please ask if they would like a small advert in the Crier

Every little helps!

Thank you from the Crier team

Welcome

To Dominic and Louise and their four daughters (!) moving into Ridings Way. We hope you'll be very happy here in the village.

Farewell Alan

Alan Yates has moved down to the West Country to be nearer Carrie and his grandkids. A letter appears inside.

Spaceman Chris

As Chris has put together such a fantastic article, we decided to try and print some of it in colour. Sadly we can't afford it all. The first part of the article is on the inside cover opposite, then follows overleaf, the last page is on the inside back cover. However....

Should you wish to see all of the pages in colour, we encourage you to access the Crier online, posted as a pdf on the www.cublington.com website.

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

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 village is surrounded by fields and rolling countryside, offering plenty of open ground for setting up a telescope or simply lying back on a blanket to watch the stars. With little to no local infrastructure that disrupts the view, it's easy to get a wide-angle view of the night sky from, say, North Field. The peaceful surroundings make it easier to focus on the stars without distraction.

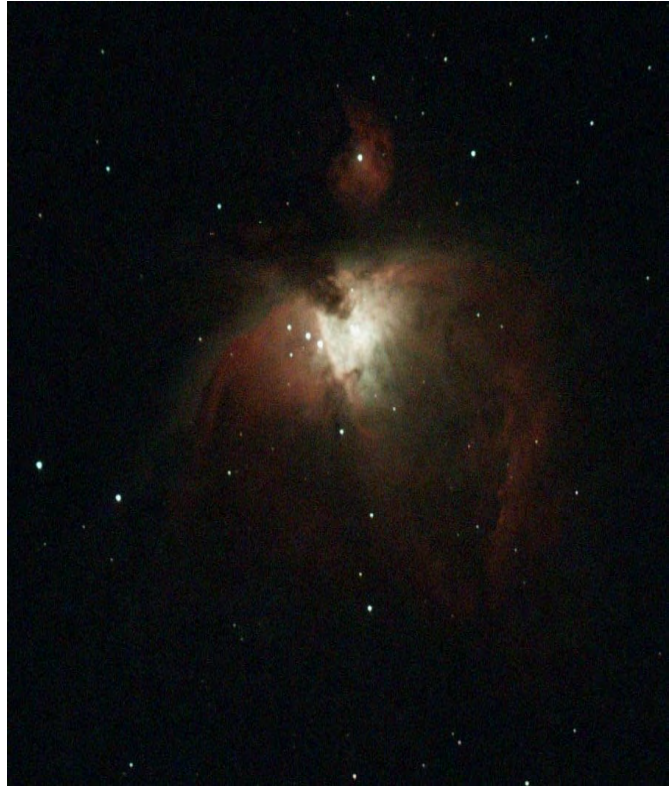


So, what can we see right now? Winter brings some of the most iconic constellations into view. The constellation of Orion, with its distinctive belt of three stars, dominates the winter sky. Additionally, Gemini, Taurus and the Pleiades (Seven Sisters) star cluster are visible, while the Andromeda Galaxy, our nearest spiral neighbour and the furthest object you can see with

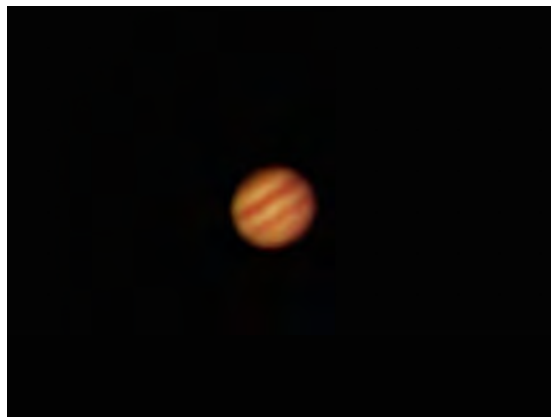
the naked eye at 2.5 million light years away, is also high in the sky at this time. We are also into the peak of sunspot activity, meaning more chances to see the magnificent Northern Lights.



Here are a few pictures I've taken over the last few months – all you need is a camera with a timed shutter opening (up to 10 seconds is most useful) and tripod. If you can get yourself an automatic controller (very cheap on Amazon), you can take a lot of shots and start using free online software to produce stunning pictures.



If you want to do some stargazing rather than photography, a pair of binoculars will also start to open up the cosmos for you. Now you can see the craters on the moon, the moons of Jupiter, the Great Nebula in Orion and the Andromeda Galaxy in all their glory. (A little tip – if you can mount your binoculars on a tripod, it'll make things a little easier.) It's a great way to start finding your way around the night sky.



THE CUBLINGTON CRIER



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

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

Happy New Year from everyone at the Crier!

More Crier thank you's...

Two more thank you's. The first is to Bron and Chris Jones. For many years they have been the Crier archivists, storing all the Crier back issues in their loft. They have decided to relinquish the privilege and pass the baton onto the second of our thank you's! The Village Hall is taking on the storage of the archive and we'd like to thank them for volunteering for this massive task. Without this facility we cannot offer items like the first edition pdf as below. Thank you both.

As we keep saying...

Every Crier issue costs us about £1.40 per copy to produce. We're sure you'll agree it's well worth it. All the firms who advertise within these pages help pay for this publication. So, if you have used a company or know of one who you think might like to advertise in the Crier, please let us know. Also please remember to mention you saw their ad in "The Crier" when you use someone.

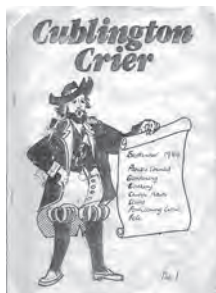


Cheers. It helps us keep up the quality of the monthly Crier magazine.

*The Crier
online...*

is now on
Cublington.com

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



If you would like a pdf copy of the very first edition of the Crier sent to you, please send an email to

info@cublingtoncrier.co.uk and I will organise it.

We do have a team of deliverers who help us distribute the Crier every month, and also a growing list of volunteers on stand by should they be required. Thank you to all.

We'll be in touch if we need you. Gary & Gill

The Crier Editorial Rota

Please book your slot! Now booking 2026, and shortly 2027 (yes really!) - so absolutely plenty of time to think about your content!

2025...
Mar Mountfield family
Apr Vanessa & Jason Taylor
May Jenny & Andy Brown
June. Julie King & Ian
July Sandra and Nigel
Sept Sam Conway
Oct Vanessa & Simon Morgan
Nov. Richard & Polly Thornely
Dec Pierre & Nicola

2026...
Jan ?
Feb - Toosey's
March - Julie & Doug Merriman
April - Chris & Kevin Schults
May ?
June ?
July ?
Aug ?
Dec - Graham & Judy Dunn

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

Crier Contact details

PLEASE DROP ARTICLES TO 18 RIDINGS WAY OR EMAIL AS BELOW

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

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



As this edition has to be printed before Christmas, in advance of the 24th, thank you to the advent windows households, part of our Cublington Christmas with so much skill and artistry on show!



SPOTTED!

It was a normal morning, well kind of, it was my birthday, and even now I can't hide the excitement though I've had 71 of them.

But this morning was a very different birthday morning, I got up as usual and peered out of the bedroom window and to my surprise and delight there was a kingfisher.

Wow wow I said, you don't see many kingfishers even by rivers and there was one in my garden only a few meters away. They are beautiful birds with bright orange and blue feathers and smaller than a blackbird. I called Jacks in excitement, I didn't want the bird to fly away before Jacks could see it. We both looked at the bird, it was just sitting there, occasionally moving its head but mostly relaxed on the branch.

We then realised why it had come to visit us. The pond, oh no we thought! Our goldfish and more importantly Zayna's (my grand daughter) gold fish SAMMY were in the pond and the kingfisher wasn't there just to look it was there to HUNT!!

We looked at each other and before we had time to react the kingfisher had dived into the pond and had a goldfish in its mouth. No no we both shouted but Jacks reacted with a loud bang on the window. We must protect Sammy at all costs.

The kingfisher panicked as well and dropped the goldfish before it could take off. We could not see any fish. Jacks immediately sprung into action and started running down the stairs. Jacks was by the pond frantically looking for the goldfish, I was looking from the bedroom window.

Jacks looked up to me and shrugged her shoulders, there was no sign of the goldfish, maybe the kingfisher had eaten it. We had just about given up the cause when Jacks turned round and there was a goldfish laying on the gravel behind her.

It was not moving, we assumed it was dead, we had done everything to save the fish but we thought we had failed.

Jacks moved to pick up the fish and suddenly it was wriggling everywhere, it was alive! Wow we both screamed and Jacks realising it had to be in water as soon as possible threw the fish to the pond. She missed, the fish landed in the plants next to the pond.

I was panicking and shouting, we can't lose the fish after all this, surely not. Jacks picked up the fish again and this time got him in the pond. He lay there without moving, we thought the worse but suddenly he took off and dived to the bottom of the pond.

In all the panic we weren't sure whether it was Sammy or one of the others and then as we were looking at the pond, Sammy appeared, he had been hiding from the kingfisher all along! He knew when a kingfisher was about you hide and don't play.



MORE DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



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

January 25

- Monday 6th Chatty Cafe** Biggs Pavilion 10am
- Monday 6th Art Club** Village Hall 1-4pm
- Monday 6th Chess Club** Village Hall 4-6pm
- 8th Wednesday Wine Down** Village Hall 5.30-7.30pm
- Friday 10th The Orchard Pop Up Pub** Biggs Pavilion 7-10pm
- Monday 13th Art Club** Village Hall 1-4pm
- 15th "February Crier" Copy Deadline!**
- 15th Wednesday Wine Down** Village Hall 5.30-7.30pm
- Monday 20th Art Club** Village Hall 1-4pm
- Monday 20th Chess Club** Village Hall 4-6pm
- 22nd Wednesday Wine Down** Village Hall 5.30-7.30pm
- Friday 24th The Orchard Pop Up Pub** Biggs Pavilion 7-10pm
including SLOE GIN COMPETITION 2025
- Monday 27th Art Club** Village Hall 1-4pm
- 29th Wednesday Wine Down** Village Hall 5.30-7.30pm
- Friday 31st Meet the Rector Film Night**
6.45pm, Biggs Pavilion - an epic cycle trip to India

February 25

- Saturday 1st Trivia Evening** Biggs Pavilion
- Monday 3rd Chatty Cafe** Biggs Pavilion 10am
- Monday 3rd Art Club** Village Hall 1-4pm
- Monday 3rd Chess Club** Village Hall
- Wednesday 5th First Garden Bin Collection 2025**
- Wednesday 5th Cublington Winos** Biggs Pavilion 7pm
- Friday 7th The Orchard Pop Up Pub** Biggs Pavilion 7-10pm
- Monday 10th Art Club** Village Hall 1-4pm
- Monday 17th Art Club** Village Hall 1-4pm
- Monday 17th Chess Club** Village Hall
- Thursday 20th Panto!!** Village Hall 7pm
- Friday 21st Panto!!** Village Hall 7pm
- Friday 21st The Orchard Pop Up Pub** Biggs Pavilion 7-10pm
- Saturday 22nd Panto!!** Village Hall 3pm & 8pm
- Monday 24th Art Club** Village Hall 1-4pm

March 25

- Monday 3rd Chatty Cafe** Biggs Pavilion 10am
- Monday 3rd Art Club** Village Hall 1-4pm
- Monday 3rd Chess Club** Village Hall
- Friday 7th The Orchard Pop Up Pub** Biggs Pavilion 7-10pm
- Monday 10th Art Club** Village Hall 1-4pm
- Saturday 15th Ukelele Concert** St Nicolas Church
Back by popular demand
- Monday 17th Art Club** Village Hall 1-4pm
- Monday 17th Chess Club** Village Hall

June 25

- Saturday 21st Cublington Fete** Orchard Ground
No holidays allowed!

PLEASE

let us know of any event in the village you are running. If we don't know about it we can't help publicise it.

By the 15th of every month before please.



Hire The Biggs Pavilion

Rental Rates

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

£8 per hour

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

Discounts for block bookings

Dances, discos & parties

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

Cublington residents £70 Non Villagers £100

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

Cublington residents £250 Outside of village £300

A refundable deposit of £25 is required at time of booking.

Deposit will be returned if no costs are incurred with regard to cleanliness or damage to property, fixtures or fittings.

Available for parties and special events
Booking events now!

Online booking diary:
www.ogpavilion.keepandshare.com

Find a date you want and contact

Bob Paine on 01296 680483

bobpaine2002@hotmail.com

to book it!



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.

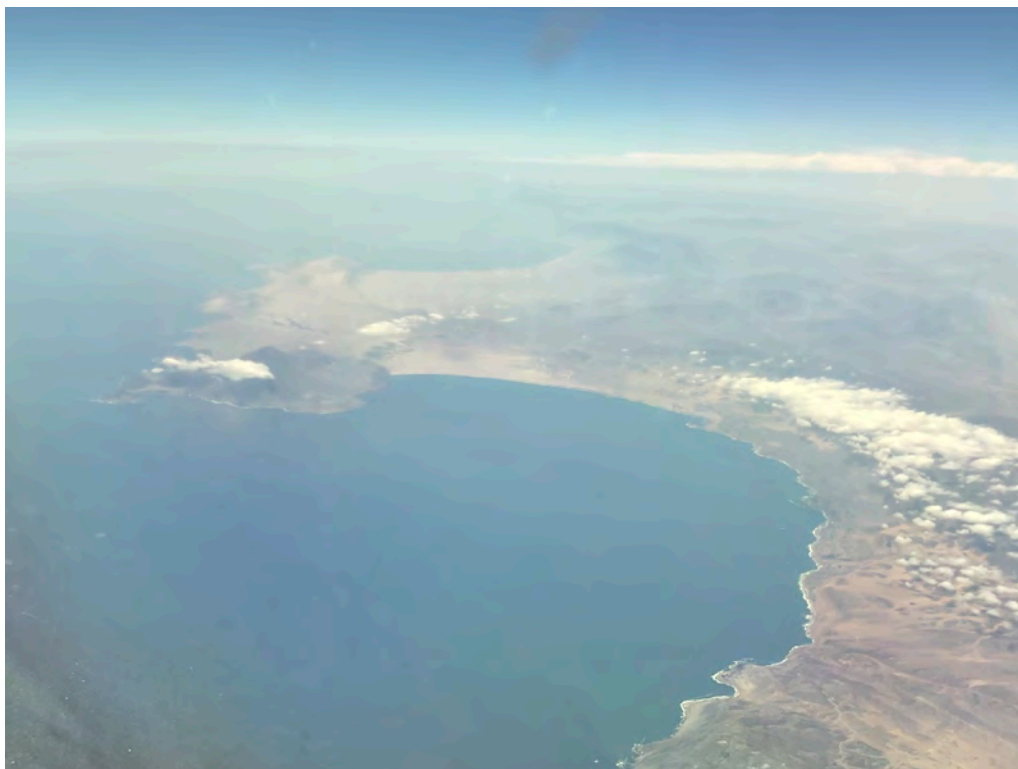
7-10PM
 Biggs Pavillion

13 & 27 DECEMBER, 10 & 24 JANUARY TBC

Over 30 people attended the Caribbean themed evening at The Orchard pop up pub on Friday 13th. It was a fabulous atmosphere and great to catch up with so many villagers. We enjoyed dishes such as goat curry and a spicy jerk chicken provided by Onepot catering food van together with a rum punch created by Liz.

WHERE IN THE WORLD?

Tim's Fiendish Flying Photos



Where is this in the world?

Perhaps easy for some, though the last couple we've not had any correct answers!

First correct answer to

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

Last month's answer:

Was... *La Paz, capital of Bolivia. El Alto airport could be seen in the left foreground, at an elevation of over 4000m! and was won by... nobody. Better luck this month!*



Happy New Year from Cublington Village Hall

What a difference a year makes! Thanks to the hard work of the Committee and the incredible support from the Cublington community, the Village Hall has once again become a welcoming, accessible, and comfortable space at the heart of village life. Alongside hosting several regular group activities, we've proudly held a successful Open Day, a bustling Christmas Market, and, since the closure of the Unicorn, the increasingly popular weekly Wednesday Wine Down gatherings.

We are deeply grateful to the Fete Committee, Art Exhibition, and Cabaret organisers, whose generosity in donating funds from their events has allowed us to make significant improvements. These contributions have enabled essential upgrades to both indoor and outdoor access, enhanced the hall's lighting, and supported various other improvements to the building and its facilities.

We extend our thanks to all those who have made generous donations, given their time and shared their expertise. We would especially like to thank April Gilbert, Dominic from Letterbox4You, (the new letterbox looks very smart!!) Martyn, Dawn and Peter, Chris and Kevin, Richard and Polly, Gillian, Vanessa and Jason, Danny, Dennis and Chris Brandon - and to the many others who have worked with us over the year. A heartfelt thank you to Bob, Liz, and the team at Orchard Ground for their invaluable advice and loaned equipment.

We're fortunate to have a choice of such versatile venues available in Cublington. Finally, we want to express our sincere thanks to everyone who has supported us—whether by hiring the hall, lending a hand, or attending events over the past year. We wish you all a happy and healthy New Year, and we look forward to seeing you in 2025!

Gwyneira
Chair, Village Hall Committee

Orchard Ground & North Field

LATEST UPDATES

North Field Update

It's been a busy few weeks for the North Field volunteers doing maintenance tasks and planting trees which have been donated by local residents. A new gate post has been fitted to the main gate to Northfield and the side rail fencing on both sides has been replaced, the stone path by the side gate on Stewkley Road has been extended. Donated trees which have been planted include a walnut tree, a copper beech, a crab apple, a rowan, three desert apples, a holly, a flowering cherry and a fruiting cherry.



Conservation Volunteers have offered 50 'feed the birds' hedging whips to North Field which will be delivered in early January. A grant has been submitted to The Tree Council for funding for some 'more mature trees' including silver birch, field maple, crab apple, holly, and rowan trees, also some soft fruit bushes for the community orchard. A decision is expected early in the new year; two previous grants have



been successful, hopefully this one will be too. Discussions have taken place with grant funders in regard to a storage container for North Field, with the grant application submitted by the time The Crier goes to print. This will make life for the volunteers much easier as equipment is currently stored in various garages around the village. Once we have a secure storage unit, we can explore grant funding for a rough cut mower or flail mower for use on North Field.

Dates for working groups are listed below, the 11th January will be a community planting morning, to plant the 'feed the birds' hedging whips, I do hope you will be able to join us and the refreshments afterwards. The field is quite wet, so either wearing wellies or stout boots is strongly recommended.

**Dates for the North Field working groups:
Saturday 9.30am until 12.00 noon**

**11th January:
Community planting morning;**

25th January; 8th, 22nd February;

Working groups finish with hot drinks and bacon/sausage rolls. All are welcome to drop in to the pavilion for refreshments.

Martyn Waters

Colin's 2024 Chairmans report is posted elsewhere in this Crier.

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

New committee members & volunteers always wanted.

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

Sloe Gin Recipe -

Competition Friday 24th January at the Orchard Pop Up Pub

There are lots of different views on when to pick sloes, some say they need a frost, some say put them in the freezer. Some say they need pricking with a pin all over (I used to do this which really hurts when you miss the sloe so gave up that practice). Some people say you need good quality gin and others say any cheap gin will do. There is no right or wrong way just different ways.

The actual making of sloe gin is very easy, you need a jar, some sloes, some sugar and don't forget some gin. Half fill your jar with sloes, add some sugar (the amount depends on the size of your jar and how sweet you want your liqueur - remember you can always add more sugar at the decanting stage) and then top with gin. Shake everyday if you remember for about 10 days, then leave in the cupboard for as long as you can. Strain off the sloes - we then filter ours through a coffee filter - taste, sweeten if necessary - bottle and enjoy. If you make it now it should be ready for the sloe gin competition but will definitely be ready for next years competition if you can leave it that long.



CUBLINGTON CHESS CLUB



The latest meeting of the chess club took place in the village hall recently. Several new faces are joining in so the word is spreading!

New members very welcome - as long as you have a chess set and have a few hours to spare every other Monday!

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

Next meetings are January 6th and 20th, 3rd and 17th February

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

Steve



SLOE *Gin* *Competition 2025*

24th JANUARY – THE ORCHARD Biggs Pavilion – 7.00pm

The Orchard is excited to host its first ever Sloe Gin Competition.

There will be 4 categories

- New Sloe Gin
- Vintage Sloe Gin
- Any other flavoured Gin
- Any other flavoured Spirit i.e. Vodka, Whisky etc

Never made Sloe Gin? – there is still fruit on the trees and a recipe in this months Crier and if you're quick it will be ready to enter into the New Sloe category.

Not sure what all the fuss is about? – come along and try some – samples of the winning gins should be available to try after the judging.

Footnote: we will be looking for volunteer judges – hic hic – demand for these roles will be high so get your name in early!!

For further information contact Jenny on 07732 253485 – WhatsApp is possible.

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



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

11th January: Community planting morning;

25th January; 8th February; 22nd February;

There is an open invitation to you to come along for tea/coffee and bacon rolls with the volunteers at the end of their working mornings.

Please contact Martyn Waters for any further information:

martyn.waters@icloud.com. M: 07973754356



**CUBLINGTON
VILLAGE HALL**

Available for Hire



Check availability and book online at
www.hallbookingonline.com/cublington

	<i>Residents</i>	<i>Non Residents</i>
Groups/Classes	£8 ph	£10 ph
Regular Sessions up to 3 hours	£15	£20
Functions/Parties per half day	£50	£75

For more information or to arrange a viewing contact
cublingtonvillagehall@gmail.com or call 07515 398111

BABYSITTING DIRECTORY - *all listed are 14+*



Alice Gadsby - 680452*

Charlotte Keane 688133

Katie Keane 688133 or
07803939530

Hannah Alexander - 681104

Izzy Law - 688019
or 07896 894914

Maisy Parsons 01296 68230
007368 26143

Charles Powell 01296 680467



* School or Uni holidays only

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


January brings snow, making our feet & fingers glow

Come into the warmth of the library and discover new times and places to explore through a good book.



Opening Times

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




Winter Reading Challenge is taking place online until 20th February 2025. These are activities for children up to the age of 11. See more information at <http://www.wintermini.org.uk>. Sign up online & complete your target by 20th Feb. Let's read, achieve & celebrate!

Bounce and Rhyme is a free group for babies aged 0-3 (and their carers) to introduce them to books and keep them entertained through story time and interactive songs. We are looking for someone to run such a session in the library on a Wednesday morning. It would have to be on a voluntary basis, but we will provide all materials needed. If you are interested, please make initial contact by sending an email to: wingcommunitylibrary@gmail.com so we can set up a meeting to discuss how to make this happen.

Library Elf is a **FREE** national scheme that helps you to avoid fines when items are due for return or renewal. Sign up here: buckinghamshire.gov.uk/libraries/library-membership/get-email-alerts/

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

Go to <https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/libraries/> to gain access to the library catalogue and FREE digital resources. Keep up to date by following our  [Facebook](#) page.





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

JAN BIN COLLECTIONS



Date	Collection Type
Wed, December 18, 2024	Food, Recycling
Fri, December 27, 2024	Food, Waste
Fri, January 3, 2025	Food, Recycling
Thu, January 9, 2025	Food, Waste
Wed, January 15, 2025	Food, Recycling
Wed, January 22, 2025	Food, Waste
Wed, January 29, 2025	Food, Recycling
Wed, February 5, 2025	Garden, Food, Waste



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 an loved. Sponsored by the Alexanders



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

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

Main Contact: Penny Allen 01296 682006

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

Thank you

ST NICHOLAS CHURCH LIGHTS SPONSORS

After all the dedications in December, sad to report nothing in January

.....////////.....



Church Services for January

Jan	5	First Sunday	Annie	PENNY	GILLIAN
	12	HC	?Dom	JULIE	GINA
	19	Lay led	?S&S	DIANE	PENNY
	26	HC	?	GILLIAN	LUCY
Feb	2	First Sunday	Annie	LINDA/Holly	MARTYN/Gwyneira

- 5th Jan - 9am Morning Worship
- 12th Jan - 9am Holy Communion
- 19th Jan - 9am Family Service
- 26th Jan - 9m Holy Communion



Please join in on the churchyard lawn mowing team for next year... many hands make light work as they say! Booking slots right now!

Contact Dennis Allen on 07748 525145 or email djandpallen@gmail.com

From The Rector



Epiphany

Have you ever had an Epiphany? The word 'Epiphany' is described in the Cambridge Dictionary as a moment when you suddenly feel that you understand, or suddenly become conscious of, something that is very important to you. It can also refer to a powerful religious experience.

This year Epiphany begins on Sunday 5th January and lasts until Sunday 2nd February. During the season of Epiphany the church ponders a number of Epiphanies...

First, we recall the story the 'Magi' in the Bible, sometimes referred to as the "Three Wise Men". The number three comes from their presenting three gifts to the infant Jesus of gold, frankincense and myrrh. But in fact the Bible doesn't say how many Magi there were. The tradition in the Syriac Church of the East is that there were actually twelve Magi! Neither were they necessarily men. The Magi were a priestly caste from Persia who could be women or men. The surprising part of the story is that it was these priests from a different faith were the first to recognise and worship Jesus before he had done anything remarkable. This was a moment of Epiphany.

A week later we remember the dramatic moment when the grown up Jesus was revealed to be the Son of God at his public baptism. This epiphany was dramatically experienced by John the Baptist, and some of those around him, as hearing God's audible voice from the heavens.

On the third week we remember Saint Paul's epiphany. This was after Jesus's crucifixion. A firebrand both before and after his epiphany Paul, or Saul as he was previously called, was on a mission to destroy the new Christian sect. But on his way to persecute the new believers in Damascus he had an epiphany. He was thrown to the ground during a powerful vision in which he finally recognised the risen Jesus.

At the end of Epiphany we remember the presentation of Jesus as a baby in the Temple, where an elderly man named Simeon and a prophet called Anna recognised Jesus as God's salvation for 'all peoples', and a 'light to the Gentiles'. Jesus isn't just the for the Jewish nation but for everybody in the whole world.

Epiphanies come in different shapes and sizes and at different times of life. The main characteristic is that they are unexpected and life changing. I would encourage you to be open to the unexpected this Epiphany. My prayer, as a priest living amongst you, is that you will experience an Epiphany, a deep realisation of who Jesus the Son of God is, his love, his light and his salvation for you.

Happy New Year,

Revd Dom Wright

Tel. 07732 554611



January 31st

6.45pm, Biggs Pavilion

Meet the Rector Film Night

- an epic cycle trip to India

Limited Edition

Cublington
Tote Bags

Now just £8 each
or 2 for £15



All proceeds go to village causes

20 already sold, Over £200
donated to the North Field trees project

Interested? Then please contact me.

email: info@cublingtoncrier.co.uk or call Gary on 688548

Wednesday Evening Wanderings...

Reluctantly, I am calling a halt to the Wednesday Wanders as the nights draw in and the weather gets cold there has been very limited uptake.

If anyone does fancy a wander please ring me on the Wednesday morning to arrange something on 07762 439453

Andy



Join the

Cublington

Life WhatsApp
group

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

Let me know if you'd like to be on the
Cublington Life group WhatsApp, send me



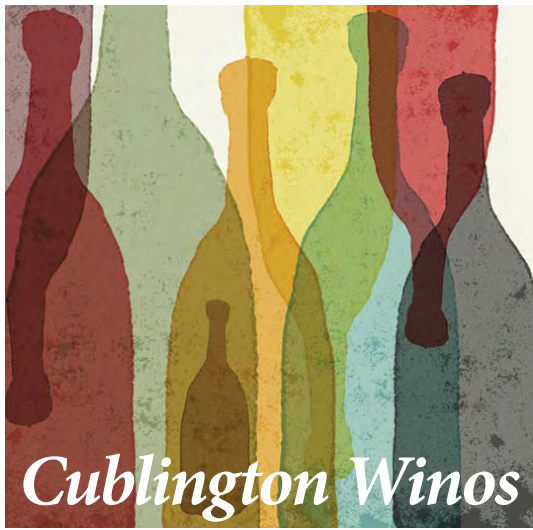
Need a plumber, a carpenter, a
builder, a decorator or electrician?

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.



(The Cublington Wine Appreciation Society)



Our Christmas wine appreciation society evening was traditional not in the sense of Christmas but the opportunity to re taste all the wines we had tried during the course of the year, ie the left overs! These though are unopened so not real left overs. We also enjoyed a buffet meal.

There have been many quizzes mostly wine related involving trying wines from different varieties or countries or maybe which country drinks the most wine.

This time as it was Christmas we decided to make the evening very easy or so we thought. So round one we served a rose and a white asking the members, all of whom were blindfolded, to choose which was rose and which was white. Subsequent rounds included trying to work out which was Chardonnay and which was Sauvignon blanc, then which was Rioja and which was a Merlot.

The results were embarrassing, after the years of attending the wine appreciation society evenings a significant number got the results wrong. Obviously more practice is required! Liz also compiled a general knowledge quiz based around the village and of course wine.

So if you think you could do better as they say on the TV programme The Chase, why don't you come and have a go!

The next get together is Wednesday 5th February. Contact Jackie 07968 672707 for more information. Steve and Jackie.



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

NOW 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 appreciated.

All very welcome! We know there are more of you out there so don't be shy!

We would like to encourage you to join us... having fun creating art



Come along
and JOIN IN...

“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".



Please join us on **Monday, 6th January** at the Pavilion between 10 and 11.30 for tea/coffee, and some social chat!

Hope to see you there.

Maggie and Sally

Please join us at the next Chatty Cafe,
Monday, 6th January at the Biggs Pavilion between 10.00 and 11.30.

NEW
STOCK

*Cublington
in Pictures
Old and New*

*Priced £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.**

YOUR *Extraordinary* **VILLAGE'S** **HISTORY...** **IN PICTURES**



*A message from
Alan Yates*

To all my friends in the village. Many of you know that I have moved to Devon to embark on a new phase of my life. I am sorry if I was unable to speak to you in person to say goodbye but everything relating to my house sale moved very rapidly in the last few days. After living in the village for over 20 years I have accumulated many good memories that will always be with me. Cublington is a good place to live and I am sure it will remain so for a very long time because of its strong community spirit.

*Best wishes,
Alan*





January Birthdays

Happy birthday to you...

Matilda Samuel Duthie – 8 on the 24th

Cade Gouviea-Smith - 11 on the 29th

Madison Gouviea-Smith - 11 on the 29th (yes twins)

Emily Burgess – 14 on the 31st



New to the village? Let us know your children's birth dates. Up until their 15th birthday, they will get a mention... but only if we know... info@cublingtoncrier.co.uk

TASTY RECIPE

CREAMY MUSHROOM SOUP

This is a very tasty and easy soup, any mushrooms will work well in this recipe. If I see mushrooms reduced in the supermarket I will quite often buy them and make soup. Freezes well.

Ingredients:

- 1 onion (finely chopped)
- 3 cloves of garlic
- 700g of mushrooms (chopped)
- 750ml of vegetable stock

Melt some butter or oil in a large saucepan. Add the onion and cook gently for 10 minutes, add the garlic and mushrooms and continue to cook until the mushrooms have given out their liquid. Pour in the stock and season with salt & pepper, bring to the boil and simmer for 15 minutes. Remove the pan from the heat and blitz the soup either with a stick blender or in a blender, the soup needs blitzing thoroughly to make as smooth as possible. Reheat if necessary and add a little crème fraiche or cream into the bowl when serving.



TRIVIA NIGHT IS SOLD OUT

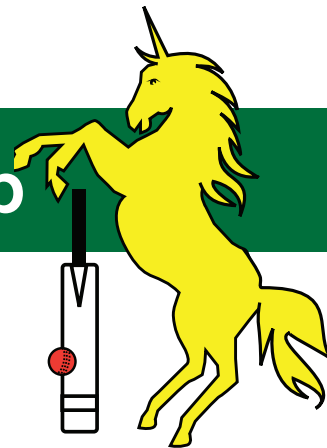
Saturday 1st Feb 2025 from 7.30pm THE BIGGS PAVILLION

! A quiz with a difference – An evening of Trivia or a Trivial evening but hopefully fun !! SOLD OUT ! ?

All proceeds will go to Orchard Ground.



Cublington Cricket Club



Established 1863

Disability Cricket at the Orchard Ground

Sunday 24th November saw the launch of the Cublington CC's Disability Cricket project. The Biggs Pavilion played host to villagers and members of the cricket club, all of whom contributed wisdom and ideas to help get the project off the ground. An excellent presentation from Harry Gadsby covered:

- Why disability cricket is important - hugely empowering to participants
- Who can attend? The programme will be open to anyone with physical, mental and sensory disabilities, initially offered young people
- A gap in the market - only two other clubs in Buckinghamshire offer this
- How the sessions will look - weekly from May to August
- Training and match play, culminating in a disability cricket festival at the Orchard Ground on bank Holiday Monday, 25 th August featuring teams from Buckinghamshire and neighbouring counties
- Funding - we want this to be free to participants so will be seeking outside funding, from sporting bodies, public grants, corporate sponsors and elsewhere
- Volunteering - we need coaches, safeguarding officers, people to organise hospitality, fundraisers
- Marketing - we plan to engage with local press, hospital radio, SEN schools.

And we need a great name for the project

A brainstorming session threw up many great ideas and so Cublington Disability cricket is up and running. Many thanks to Harry for leading this fantastic project and for all who attended and offered their expertise and enthusiasm.

There is plenty of room for more people to get involved.

If you would like to help, please contact Harry Gadsby on 07491 651137 or Tom Gadsby on 07527 989639

We can't wait for the new season and very much look forward to welcoming our new cricketers to the club.

Disability Cricket

IN 2025

Cublington Cricket Club is excited to launch a disability cricket section.

To learn more please contact Harry Gadsby (07491 651137) or scan the QR code.



Cublington Cricket Club: Tesco Blue Token Scheme

Cublington Cricket Club has been chosen by Tesco to be one of three community groups for their 'blue token' scheme from early October 2024 until mid January 2025 for their main Vimy Road store in Leighton Buzzard and two Tesco local stores. Shoppers in these Tesco stores should receive a 'blue token' and can deposit this near the exit for their chosen community group. One the scheme ends, blue token votes will be added up. Of the three community groups, the one getting the highest number of blue token votes will receive a donation of £1,500 from Tesco, the next group £1,000, and the third group £500.00. If you shop at Tesco, please use this opportunity to support Cublington Cricket Club; please pass on details to your friends and neighbours too. A donation from Tesco to Cublington Cricket Club will help towards their work in providing children and young people with opportunities to play fun and competitive cricket.

WE NEED PLAYERS AND GROUND MAINTENANCE VOLUNTEERS FOR NEXT SEASON 2025

www.cublingtoncc.org



Christmas Wreath Making Workshop A big thank you

We would like to say a BIG thank you to all of those that came to the festive wreath making workshops, we had a great time whilst raising funds for Sophie's World Challenge expedition in July 2025.

It was amazing to see so many of you creating beautiful wreaths whilst partaking in a glass of bubbles or two and a festive treat.

It really was the perfect way to start the festive season!

The pick a square for a 3-course meal for 2 at the Woburn and the meat voucher for Parrots Farm Shop have been drawn and vouchers given to the winners!!

It seems that many of you enjoyed the workshop as much as we did and we keep getting asked if we will be holding a wreath making workshop next year and the answer is YES!!!

We look forward to seeing you all again next year.

Happy New Year to you all and thank you

Sarah and Sophie Dunn

X

100 CLUB DRAWS 2024/25

January draws will be published next month.

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



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

If you want to buy a ticket online for **the next set of ten draws starting again in May 25** then please contact me direct at bobpaine2002@hotmail.com or call me on 01296 680483 and we will organise it.

Your continued support is very much appreciated.

Bob & the Orchard Ground Committee.

If you would like a ticket for next time, please do get in touch!

Thank you for your continued support! Happy New year!

Orchard Ground & North Field

As 2024 comes to an end and we have the first dusting of snow in Cublington, it is time for the Orchard Ground Committee to take stock of what has been yet another eventful year.

As always, the success of the Orchard Ground project is a testament to the volunteering of committee members, villagers, club members, Parish Councillors, and wider supporters.

The first success of the year was Jackie and Jenny's trivia evening. Although the questions were somewhat dated with a 1980's vibe, it added to the fun and who knows Margaret Thatcher could still win a second term and the Band Aid single could be the Christmas number one!! A good amount of money was raised and a fun evening was had by all. We have the next one in the pipeline for next year!!

Although not an event organised by the committee, the Chatty Cafe continues to make use of the pavilion throughout the year and we should be proud that the facilities can be used for something like this that gives villagers a place to meet, socialise, catch up on village gossip and have a nice cup of tea.

North Field continues to go from strength to strength and many villagers make use of this facility on a daily basis. With all the rain that we have had it is somewhat wet underfoot, but those with a good pair of wellies brave it to walk their dogs. The addition of the benches is a nice touch and is another step toward turning it from a field to a recreational area. The trees are growing well and the hawthorn hedge is becoming ever more established. We have seen the construction of the base for the storage container which will give us somewhere to keep tools - rather than the back of Martyn's car! 'Thank you' has to go to the support North Field receives from the whole village in terms of monetary donations - especially from the fete - donations of trees, benches, tools, machinery and most of all time given by the bacon-roll-fuelled working parties. Charlie's woven willow wicker men look fun and hopefully we can promote the growth of a meadow and more willow in that area. Congratulations to Kaiden Gregory who was awarded his Green Blue Peter badge for his work on North Field. (No sticky back plastic required there!). Dennis Allen's enthusiasm for getting his tools out, loading burnable waste on to a trailer and torching said waste whilst honing his inner pyromaniac is much appreciated. The gate on Stewkley Road looks immaculate and creates another route for walkers. At the end of the working parties we have to thank our team of gourmet cooks Chris, Kevin and Jenny for feeding the workers with bacon rolls which taste o-so-sweet after putting in the hard graft!!

The Ground Force day is usually considered to be the unofficial opening of the Cricket season at Orchard Ground and this year, as in previous years, it was very well attended. A big thank you has to go to Harry and Tom Gadsby who do a great job corralling Cricket Club members to pitch up and

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

pitch in to get everything ready for the season ahead. The Cricket Club and their grounds contractors and volunteers do a sterling job keeping the square and outfield in immaculate condition. Sadly, due to unprecedented bad weather, the pitch was severely affected by excess water and, as a result, the number of games played was reduced. I hope that we can all agree that drainage at Orchard Ground is an issue and one that needs to be dealt with, to benefit not only the Cricket Club but all users.

Harry and Tom came up with a great solution for addressing this but due to funding constraints and bad weather the drainage project hasn't yet happened. It is a significant capital project for Orchard Ground as an organisation and something that we can aim for moving forward. I would like to thank everyone who put in time trying to get this off the ground and we are definitely further forward now than we were last year. A lot of fundraising will be required but Orchard Ground will aim to support the Cricket Club in whatever way we can to complete this project.

June saw the annual village fete with fete committee under the new management of Gina Reilly. As always it was a huge success and is one of the fundraising events that makes a sizeable donation to Orchard Ground and North field.

Unfortunately the Car Park turned into a mud bath but the clouds parted, Pimms was drunk and burgers devoured. The fly-past by the Red Arrows was definitely a highlight. Thank you to Gina and team for a fete well executed.

July saw the General election and potentially the last £350 we will see for five years unless the Keir Starmer government collapses. Orchard Ground has definitely benefited from the UK's political turmoil in recent years. But there will be council elections to come.

Unfortunately Orchard Ground was not successful in getting the grant to improve accessibility to the pavilion from what was formerly known as Wren. Accessibility to the pavilion is important and as a community facility this is something that we will ensure that we pursue. Alternative funding options are already being considered. Thank you Martyn for your time in putting in this grant.

August saw the closure of The Unicorn which, although has seen the village without a pub, has presented Orchard Ground with an opportunity to open its doors and give Cublington's answer to Peggy Mitchell - Miranda Gregory - the chance to be a landlady. 'The Orchard' as it has been dubbed is in its infancy but it offers potential to utilize the pavilion as a social space for the village while bringing in much needed revenue.

The drainage project has forced us to look at our finances and address some underlying issues in how the economics of Orchard Ground work. The rising costs of water and electricity due to global macro factors has been a heavy financial burden for Orchard Ground. Going forward, it was agreed that fees charged to clubs for the use of facilities will have to be looked at on an annual basis. Also, additional revenue streams will have to be found in order to balance the books - so any suggestions will be gratefully received. Orchard Ground is certainly not alone in having to make tough decisions in regard to finances. Families, businesses

and other community organisations are facing the same pressures. Over the past few years we have been incredibly fortunate with grants that we have received but there is no guarantee that these will be there in the future. As a committee we have to communicate the costs involved in simply keeping the facilities we have open to all users and how vital financial support is to the very survival of the organisation.

So now on to the Thank Yous. I will start with the committee members. Without all of your input, expertise, time, energy, enthusiasm and vision the village would not have the facility that it has and in the condition in which it is enjoyed.

Liz, you do a great job keeping on top of the pounds, shillings and pence, paying suppliers, bills, taking in cheques etc. Everything is meticulously accounted for and well organised. If we need to know something financial related you answer the questions quickly and accurately.

Bob, thank you for managing the bookings, welcoming hirers and ensuring that the pavilion is left in an immaculate state when they leave. Also, the effort that you put into organising the 100 Club is phenomenal. Selling tickets, distributing prizes, drawing the tickets and also running the numbers to encourage the committee to raise the cost of a ticket. I would also like to apologise for my lateness in getting the tickets that I sold to you. I know that I am the worst offender but meeting deadlines is not something that I am good at.

Jenny, as secretary, thank you for completing the minutes in a timely fashion, making sure that all the points are included and sending out agendas so that we know what to deal with at each meeting. Your talent for cooking bacon rolls is much appreciated too.

Jackie, thank you for your input on the committee, helpful suggestions and quiz mastery skills. Special thanks should also be extended for what I am told was a very successful Cabaret Night. The decision to make a donation to Orchard Ground is much appreciated.

Gary, Thank you for the Tennis Club updates, additions to AOB and the contribution that The Crier makes to letting the village know what is happening at Orchard Ground and North Field. The village would be lost without your Graphic Design skills; the new sign at the entrance looks very eye catching and is a great way to welcome users and advertise to potential users the facilities that are on offer.

Harry, you are the newest victim, sorry member of the Orchard Ground Committee - you bring down the average age considerably! I am no longer the youngest member, and as Premier League teams have youth development programs, I hope that you stay with us for many years to come. You have done a great job informing us of what has been happening in the Cricket Club and put in a lot of effort to try and get the drainage project off the ground. Your ideas are great and your enthusiasm for maintaining the pitch is impressive.

Miranda, using your creativity you managed to turn what is the magnolia box of the main hall of the pavilion into a warm, welcoming and different space as The Orchard. I don't know about everyone else, but it certainly doesn't feel like you are in the pavilion. Your help in getting the card

payment system set up in time for the fete was invaluable and helped the stalls that used them to dramatically increase their takings not only benefitting Orchard Ground but other village groups as well.

Martyn, your passion, tenacity, hard work and laser-like focus in seeking grants is astounding. You do an amazing job organizing the North Field working parties and making sure that Bob doesn't spend too much time sitting on his backside! You have set out policy documents in order to professionalize the management of the asset and the work that you are putting in to forming the charitable trust will ensure that Orchard Ground will benefit the village for many years to come. I am also told by Cllr Antosiewicz that the reports you give to the Parish Council about what the Orchard Ground Committee is working on are thorough and keep the Parish Council updated and informed.

A thank you has to be extended to those who sit on the Charitable Trust committee. Reviewing the constitution, tenancy agreements, insurance policies and legislation that the charity will have to adhere to can be tedious. We had hoped to get the charity set up by the AGM, but the process is taking longer than anticipated. Pippa Cheetham, Charlie Toosey, Jenny Brown, Andy Brown, Liz Smith and Hugh Vale have all contributed immensely.

Thanks from myself on behalf of the committee has to go to the Parish Council. They all do a lot of work in the background that keeps the wheels turning. At the end of the day they are the ultimate custodians of Orchard Ground and if we ever find ourselves in difficulty they are always there to help us out.

Particular thanks has to go the Parish Council Chaiman, Cllr Antosiewicz (aka Mum!) who is always willing to listen to some of my wacky ideas of things that Orchard Ground could potentially do but always brings me back to down to earth and reminds me that we live in democracy and not a dictatorship!

Thank you to Mike Joy who, as Clerk to the Parish Council, is always on hand to answer any questions we have of a technical nature and give advice when needed. He has certainly gone above and beyond with the work he has put in to helping establish the charity.

Thanks has to go to Hugh Vale for volunteering his time, machinery and expertise to Orchard Ground. He has been involved from the very beginning and his advice is invaluable and much appreciated.

Thank you to Rosie, our cleaner does an incredible job keeping the pavilion spotlessly clean.

Thank you to Martyn Gates, our unofficial auditor who ensures that we are not syphoning money to our retirement funds.

We have a lot of work ahead of us and who knows what the future holds. Nuclear war with Russia, famine, social upheaval or another Pandemic? But we should all feel blessed that we live in a village that has the facilities which it does and the community to support them.

To end, in the words of President elect Trump, I hope that our future above all else will be bigger, better, bolder, richer, safer and stronger than it ever has been before.

Thank you once again.

* MORE PARTICIPANTS PLEASE *

Whenever you shop online... just one click will raise much needed funds for village projects.

THANK YOU to the 46 **AMAZING** supporters who have so far raised an **IMMENSE £2659** for Orchard Ground maintenance (shopping 4,716 times!) and other projects by simply clicking online when they shop! Phenomenal!! You could do the same!

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

1st - Sarah George - £570.05.
2nd - Gwyneira Waters - £358.95.
3rd - Martyn Waters - £293.14.
4th - Margaret Brandon - £265.10.
5th - Kevin Shults - £233.81.



easyfundraising

www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/orchardground

Nearly £1000 has been raised by the other 42 villagers so thank you all very, very much!


**CUBLINGTON
VILLAGE HALL**



You are invited to the Community
Weekly Wine Down

Bring your own drinks
£3 admission

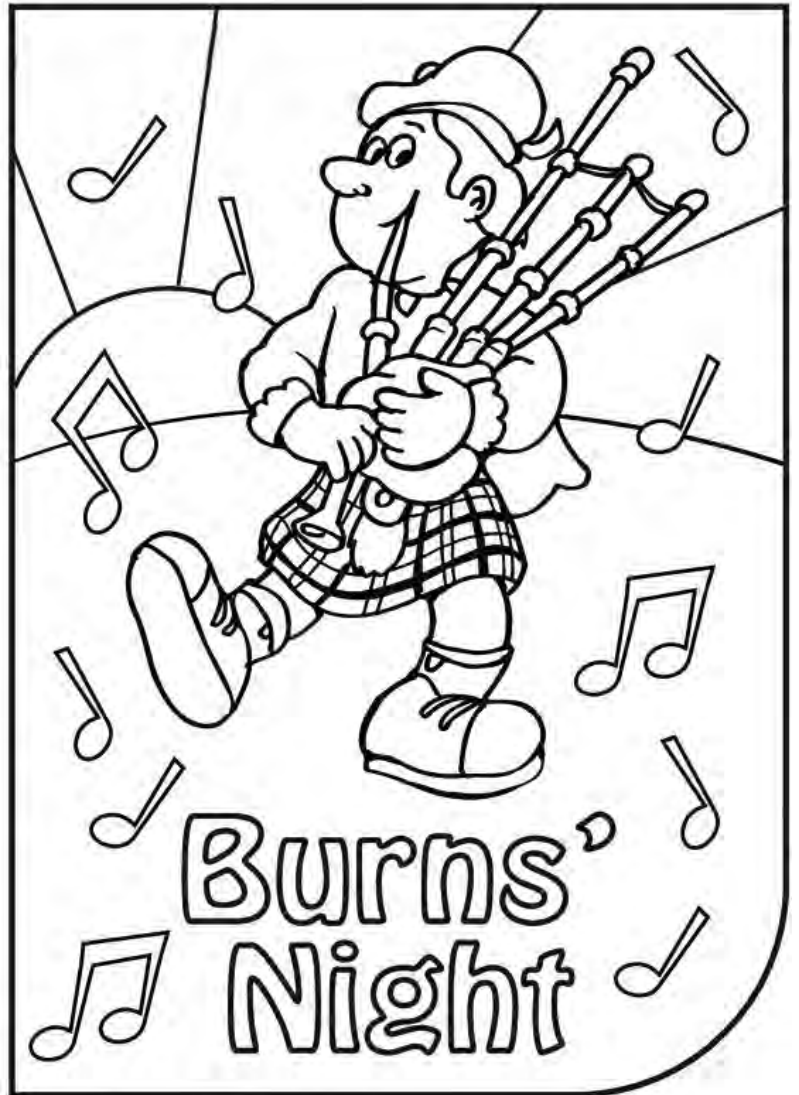
Wednesday Evenings
5.30pm - 7.30pm



KIDS

COLOUR THESE IN

Burns Night
on the 25th
of January



Winnie the Pooh Day
(to celebrate the
birthday of the author
A.A.Milne) on the 18th
of January



St Nicholas Church January Newsletter

To meet the editorial deadline this newsletter is written before the majority of the Christmas services and activities have got underway but we hope you all had a wonderful Christmas celebration with family and friends.

Jane Alexander arranged the Advent Windows again with a walk to view them all on Christmas Eve. The standard has been high again and this year's theme of Peace is very much needed across the wider world.

We started our Christmas celebrations at St Nicholas with our Christingle service on the 1st December. In previous years the Nursery School children had supported this service and we were concerned that with the school now shut the annual service may have to stop. Sandie Joy should be congratulated on her efforts to advertise and organise this years Christingle and consequently the event was really well supported with lots of children attending with their parents. Thank you to all the children who read during the service and for making it a success.

The Christmas Parish Lunch was held on the 8th December and the Biggs Pavilion was filled with villagers enjoying a wonderful Turkey dinner cooked by Gina, Vanessa and their team. Well done to everyone involved and thank you for the wonderful contributions of desserts and £330.00 total donations given by those who attended.

As some of you may know we have a new Team Rector, Rev Dominic Wright who has joined us from Solihull. Dom is keen to meet and introduce himself to all parishioners and as part of this he is holding a film night on Friday 31st January in the Biggs Pavilion (doors open 6.45 for a 7pm start). Dom, who is a keen cyclist, undertook a sabbatical in which he rode the pilgrimage route of St Thomas between the Holy Land and India. He filmed his route and experiences and has put together a little film which he is showing around the Benefice. Please come and support this and make our new Rector feel welcomed by Cublington.

The next fundraising event for St Nicholas is Saturday 15th March when we are holding a Ukulele concert. Do put this in your diaries. The group from Berkhamsted played for us a year ago and were really good and their repertoire was broad and not necessarily what you would be expecting!

We wish you all a Peaceful and Happy New Year for 2025.

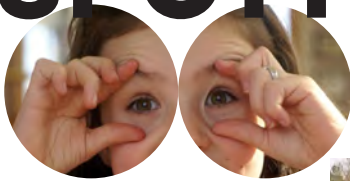


YOUR VILLAGE NEEDS YOU!

As with all villages and village life, there are always jobs to do. If by reading through the Crier at any time, you fancy helping out, please contact me and I'll see if I can point you in the right direction. For instance to slow speeds in the village, we need more volunteers for the Speedwatch Programme. Too many accidents through the village of late!

Without everyone's help nothing would ever get done! Thanks.

SPOTTED!



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

Spotted

Loads of people at the lovely Christmas Fayre - extremely well attended and yet another great annual event in the village! Well done Gwyniera! great job.

Same again next year!



Spotted

Several car crashes at the crossroads... clearly this is becoming a real problem.

Be extra vigilant when driving through. Good to see Bucks council swiftly repainted the fading junction markings (from Stewkley) - What about the other ways equally faded? !

Spotted

Many families with young children attended the Christingle service earlier in December. Great for the church that so many attended.



Spotted

Orchard Ground actually had a grass cut in November, and Martin Gibby cut his lawn today - the 18th December! Amazing how the grass growing season is extending.

Global warming perhaps?

Spotted

Parakeets in the village AARRGGGHHH the invasion has begun.

Read about how they seemingly started breeding... Amazing



Spotted

Young at heart! Never too old to splash in puddles... Vicar of Dibley springs to mind

Ha Ha!



Electric Ladyland wasn't the only thing **Jim** **Hendrix** released in 1968. One day in that tumultuous year he left his flat on Brook Street, Mayfair, and strolled down nearby Carnaby Street with a birdcage in his hands. I like to think that he was dressed in a tasselled jacket and flares, his favourite Fender Stratocaster slung across his back. Or perhaps he travelled incognito, in a trenchcoat and dark glasses. Either way, somewhere on that street, the heart of Swinging London at the height of peace and love, he opened the door of the cage and unleashed two bright green birds: Adam and Eve, a breeding pair of ring-necked parakeets.



© Jimi Hendrix in Montagu Place, London, in 1967
Photograph: David Magnia/Alamy

As they vanished, a flash of tropical colour against the grey sky, passersby merely shrugged: just more hippy weirdness. Was it a psychedelic stunt? A symbolic gesture of freedom? The result of a week-long drugs bacchanal? No one really knows. What we *do* know is that this incident is the indisputable origin of London's population of feral parakeets, which now number in the tens

<https://www.theguardian.com/cities/2019/jun/06/the-great-green-expansion-how-ring-necked-parakeets-took-over-london>

Thank you...

"A huge thank you to St Nicholas Church and all the folks at Orchard Ground. We had a wonderful time celebrating our son's Christening and it was really special to be able to do so in the village.

Emily & Joe "

SUPPORTING OUR LOCAL AREA

To spread some cheer this year, Fine Homes Property has teamed up with the Brickhill Bistro to bring you some delicious treats.

If you are thinking of selling your home, book a free market appraisal with us and you will receive a golden ticket which entitles you to a selected afternoon tea or one of Kathryn's delicious cakes.

As well as this, when we sell your home we will donate 5% of our commission to a project in your village or a charity of your choice.



FINEHOMESPROPERTY

Your personal realtor

Marcus Feinhols

Marcus Feinhols MNAEA
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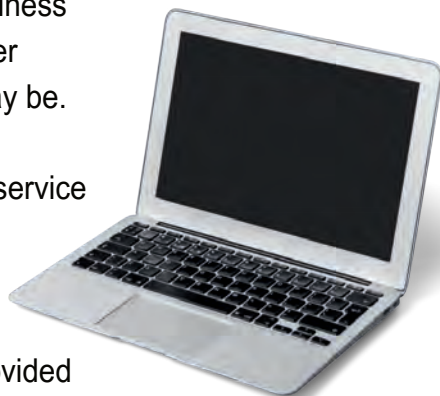
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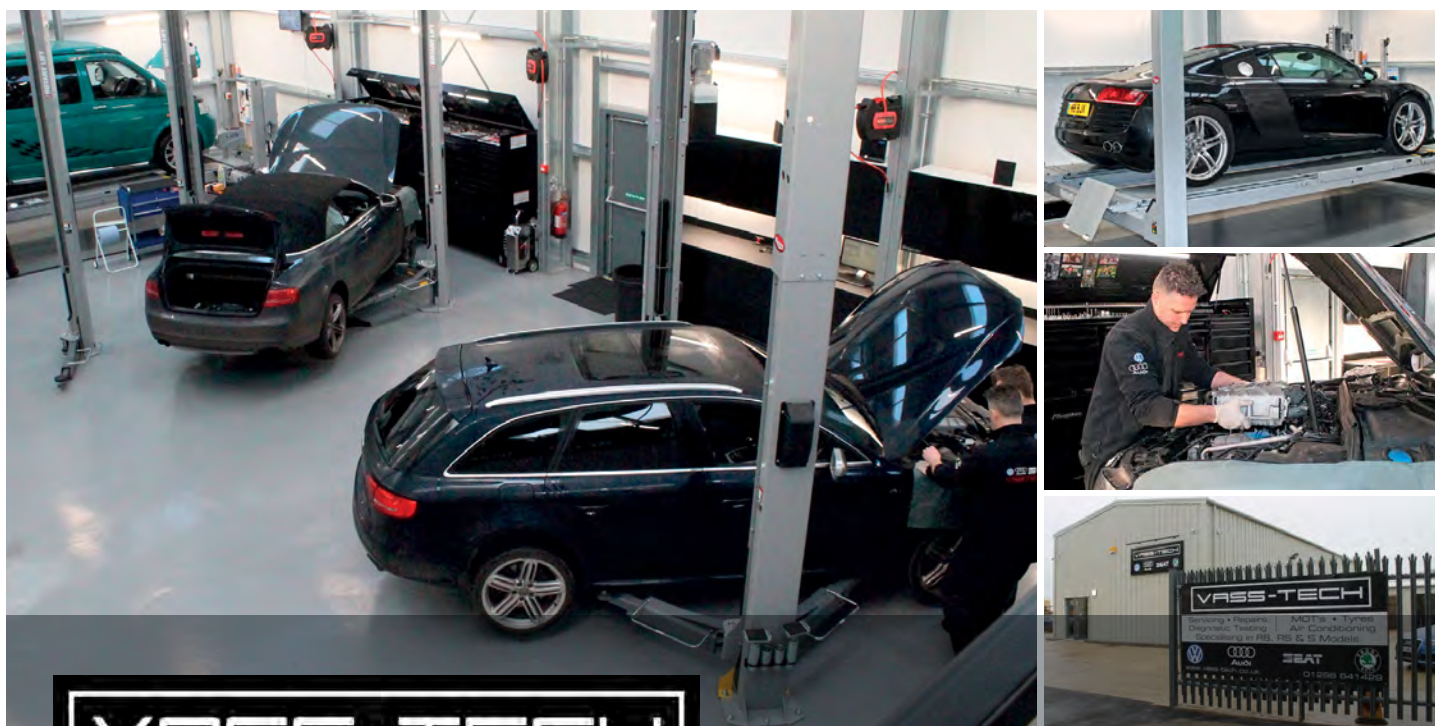
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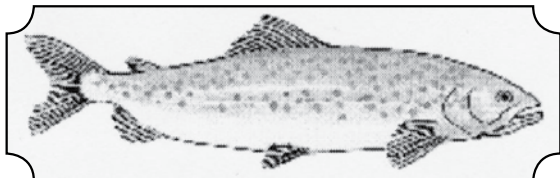
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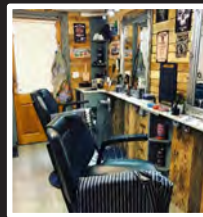
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The images in this article were taken from my back garden in the High Street except for the first image of the Northern Lights, which was taken from Silver Street, looking North over the fields.

Some of the pictures you will obviously recognize—The Moon being a prime example! In amongst them are the Andromeda Galaxy, the Great Nebula in Orion, the Pinwheel Galaxy, Jupiter and the Seven Sisters.

I'll finish with one other picture—that of the Eagle Nebula, which contains the famous Pillars of Creation, imaged by Hubble and the James Webb Space Telescope. This particular image isn't taken from Earth Orbit—it's from the Old Post Office!



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