



CHECKENDON VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

No 854

October 2026

Price 50p



Fly Agaric



©@emilycharlotte_photography

NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE DUE

Please send your £5 subscription to the Newsletter bank account: Name: 'Checkendon Newsletter'. Business account. Sort code 09 01 50. Account number 05617154. Alternatively, payment can be made by cheque, payable to 'Checkendon Newsletter' and sent to the Hon Treasurer, Richard Castle – Rooks Nest, Checkendon, RG8 0SX. Subscription is only £5 per annum. Please make sure you identify yourself. If you no longer want to receive the newsletter or would like to be a new subscriber, please email checkendon.news@yahoo.co.uk

This issue of the newsletter includes the updated Checkendon Village Directory for 2026.

The November 2026 issue of the Checkendon Newsletter will be published on Friday 30th October 2026.

Contributions by e-mail as soon as possible please, but no later than 5pm Sunday 18th September to

checkendon.news@yahoo.co.uk

CONTENTS

Langtree Team Services Rota – October 2026	3
Parish Diary Dates for October 2026 and Beyond	4
A Thank You from Sheila Griggs	4
David and Margaret Salt's 70 th Wedding Anniversary	4
Harvest Time	6
Checkendon Pre-School	7
Checkendon Primary School	8
Stoke Row Women's Institute	9
Whitchurch & Goring Heath History Society	9
Citizens Advice	10
Checkendon Cricket Club	11
St Peter and St Paul's Church,	11
Checkendon Christmas Choir	11
Wallingford Food Bank	12
Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum	13
Poppy Appeal 2026	14
Ipsden Quiz Night	15
Wallingford Accessible Boat Club...	16
The Bereavement Cafe	17
From Our MP	18
Grand Christmas Quiz	19
Crossword 128 By Tim Lowth	20
T-Shirts	21
A Journey Through Cholsey's Past	22
Crossword Solution	23
Noticeboard	23
Local Advertising	24
Checkendon Village Directory – October 2026	25

DIGITAL CHECKENDON

Did you know that there is a supportive village What's App group with over 65 members?

Email your name and phone number to Suzanne.m.bradley@icloud.com if you would like to join



Also, [Checkendon Villagers Facebook Page](#)

And the village website is

www.checkendon.net



LANGTREE TEAM SERVICES ROTA – OCTOBER 2026

Sunday 4th October – Eighteenth after Trinity (Proper 22) (Green)			
<i>Track 1 : Ps.19 (or Ps.19:7-end) Exod.20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20 Phil.3:4b-14 Matt.21:33-end</i>			
<i>Track 2 : Ps.80:9-17 Isa.5:1-7 Phil.3:4b-14 Matt.21:33-end</i>			
<i>Or, if observed as Dedication Festival : Ps.122 1 Kings 8:22-30 or Rev.21:9-14</i>			
Heb.12:18-24 Matt.21:12-16			
8am	Woodcote	Holy Communion	DB
9.30am	Stoke Row	Harvest Festival	KD
9.30am	Whitchurch OT	Parish Communion	JL
9.45am	Woodcote	Harvest Festival	DB
11am	Checkendon	Harvest Festival	KD
11am	North Stoke	Harvest Festival	JB
6.30pm	Ipsden	Harvest Service & Supper	JB
Sunday 11th October – Nineteenth Sunday after Trinity (Proper 23) (Green)			
<i>Track 1 : Ps.106:1-6, 19-23 (or Ps.106:1-6) Exod.32:1-14 Phil.4:1-9 Matt.22:1-14</i>			
<i>Track 2 : Ps.23 Isa.25:1-9 Phil.4:1-9 Matt.22:1-14</i>			
8am	Woodcote	Holy Communion	DB
9.30am	Stoke Row	Morning Prayer	PF
9.30am	Whitchurch Hill	Parish Communion	JL
9.30am	Woodcote	SLOW Harvest Festival	DB
10am	Ipsden / N. Stoke	Online Service via Zoom	JB
11am	Checkendon	Parish Communion	KD
Sunday 18th October – Luke the Evangelist (Twentieth Sunday after Trinity) (Green)			
<i>Ps.147:1-7 Isa.35:3-6 or Acts 16:6-12a 2 Tim.4:5-17 Luke 10:1-9</i>			
<i>or, for The Twentieth Sunday after Trinity (Proper 24) :</i>			
<i>Track 1 : Ps.99 Exod.33:12-end 1 Thess.1:1-10 Matt.22:15-22</i>			
<i>Track 2 : Ps.96:1-9 [10-13] Isa.45:1-7 1 Thess.1 :1-10 Matt.22:15-22</i>			
8am	Woodcote	Holy Communion	DB
9.30am	Ipsden	Holy Communion	DB
9.30am	Stoke Row	Informal Worship	PF
9.30am	Whitchurch OT	Service of the Word	JL
9.45am	Woodcote	Open Door	LWL
11am	Checkendon	Family Crafting Service	KD
11am	North Stoke	Holy Communion	DB
4pm	Whitchurch Hill	Outdoor Church	JL
Sunday 25th October – Last Sunday after Trinity (Proper 25) (Green) (Bible Sunday)			
<i>Track 1 : Ps.90:1-6, 13-end (or Ps.90:1-6) Deut.34:1-12 1 Thess.2:1-8 Matt.22:34-end</i>			
<i>Track 2 : Ps.1 Lev.19:1-2, 15-18 1 Thess.2:1-8 Matt.22:34-end</i>			
<i>Or, if Bible Sunday is observed :</i>			
<i>Ps. 119 : 9-16 Neh.8:1-4a[5-6] 8-12 Col.3:12-17 Matt.24:30-35</i>			
8am	Woodcote	Holy Communion	DB
9.30am	Ipsden	Morning Prayer	LWL
9.30am	Stoke Row	Holy Communion	KD
9.30am	Whitchurch Hill	Service of the Word	PF
9.45am	Woodcote	Parish Communion	DB
11am	Checkendon	Family Communion	KD
11am	North Stoke	Morning Prayer	BT

Key: KD = Rev. Kevin Davies : DB = Rev. David Benskin : JB = Rev. John Blair : PF = Mr. Peter Ferguson :
 JL = Rev. James Leach :: BT = Mr. Brian Turner: LWL = Lay Worship Leaders

**ZOOM SERVICES**

There is a weekly service of Evensong via Zoom (ID 410935129)
 led by Rev. John Blair on Wednesdays at 5pm.

PARISH DIARY DATES FOR OCTOBER 2026 AND BEYOND

DATE	TIME	EVENT	VENUE
Wednesday 7 October	10am – 12 noon	Bereavement Café	Woodcote Community Centre
Thursday 15 October	2.30pm	Talk about 'Gilbert and Sullivan' by Stephen Goss	Goring Heath Parish Hall
Friday 16 October	7pm for a 7.30 start	A Journey Through Cholsey's Past	Cholsey Pavilion archive@cholsey.com
Saturday 17 October	7pm	Ipsden Quiz	Ipsden Village Hall
Monday 19 October	3.15pm	Halloween cake sale	Checkendon Pre-School (@ Village Hall)
Tuesday 20 October	7pm	Kinder (Puppet Show)	Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum
Sunday 8 November		Remembrance Sunday	Checkendon Church
Thursday 19 November	2.30pm	Talk about 'Satire, Scandal and the Establishment in post-war Britain' by Tom Crook	Goring Heath Parish Hall
Saturday 28 November	7pm	Grand Christmas Quiz	Checkendon Village Hall
Wednesday 7 October	10am – 12 noon	Bereavement Café	Woodcote Community Centre

A THANK YOU FROM SHEILA GRIGGS

Dear Newsletter team,

Thank you so much for the tributes for Doug. We do appreciate the kind words which summed him up well. He enjoyed his various committees and quizzes the Bluebell walk and the boot sales. He cared for the village even after we moved to Woodcote, which was a good move to make easier living in a bungalow. His mobility deteriorated but he was still determined to make the most of life.

With thanks,

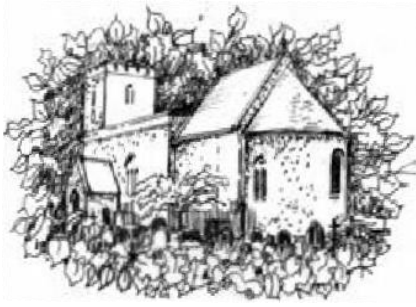
Sheila

DAVID AND MARGARET SALT'S 70TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

We send our warmest congratulations to Margaret and David Salt on their Platinum Wedding Anniversary. They said they had wonderful Anniversary celebrations, including receiving a card from the King and Queen and a visit from the Mayor.



It was a lucky day for Checkendon in 1975 when David and Margaret and their family came to the village. David was Rector of Checkendon till 1981, when the Langtree Team Ministry was formed and he then became Team Rector until 1984.



HARVEST TIME

The end of September, beginning of October, find schools and churches celebrating the harvest. For most gardeners, “harvest” begins anytime from April (early rhubarb) and can stretch into November, but for the average UK gardener like me the harvest is now tailing off, and beds or tubs are being cleared and tidied up. Out in the fields, the extreme heat and long dry summer meant that harvests of cereals were both earlier and thinner than hoped for. This will affect us all in food prices creeping higher towards the winter. Outdoor growers have done an incredible job this year keeping food on our shelves. We have all become very aware of the need to be better stewards of the “rain harvest” when it is given. Had it not been for the Rectory garden tap and the watering can, there would have not been the beans, cucurbits, or tomatoes we have enjoyed since June.

Sometimes our garden surprises us with its wonders. Last year a lettuce went to seed, and I so enjoyed its firework explosion to the sky, rocket like with little yellow flowers setting into small, smoky puffs of seed, that I let it stay on the bed a while into the autumn. Why should I not be surprised that, a year later, I should find two random, self-sown, lettuce plants elsewhere in the garden?

Our garden has this year also produced a bumper harvest of field mice. Pressure to return to cat ownership has, so far, been resisted, however. (The sight of guts on the back door mat, or a small liver on the utility room floor, are only for the strongest constitutions at 6.30am on a weekday morning...)

The turn of the season is a great opportunity to be thankful to God for the creation, even as it groans under the weight of human interference, even as we collectively push to the limit the inbuilt feedback loops of stability in global ecosystems.

Here at the Rectory, our summer has been one of hard work, not only in the garden, but in the property itself, as we have made the transition from a heating system that relies on the harvests of pre-history (that is, fossil fuel) to one that uses only the heat that is currently present in the global atmosphere (that is, an air source heat pump). The happy bottom line is that we are now “off oil”, thanks to the Church, and no longer compelled to put money in the pockets of any malign actors who hold the power of the taps.

(The wider context is that the Diocese of Oxford has received a block grant from the Church Commissioners, which it is using to “retrofit” as many of its oil heated clergy houses as it can. This is excellent news for the Langtree Team ministry, as Checkendon Rectory was the only vicarage in the Team that used oil. As of now, we are probably the most energy efficient. This “harvest” will reap benefits over many years.)

Our church Harvest thanksgiving services are on Sunday 4th October. At Checkendon there will also be a produce stall, hosted by our good friends Steve and Frances from Manor Farm, in Peppard, in support of the Ways and Means Trust, our local mental health charity. Do join us to give thanks, you will be very welcome.

Your Rector, Canon Kevin.

CHECKENDON PRE-SCHOOL



What's happening at Checkendon Pre-school:

Look what we have been doing....

Welcome back to the new term at Checkendon Preschool! It has been wonderful seeing everyone return, and the children have dived straight into an exciting autumn.

We've been embracing the changing season by exploring the autumnal woods, building fantastic dens, and looking after the pumpkins growing in our flowerbeds, all ready for Halloween. These hands-on outdoor experiences provide rich opportunities aligned with the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), supporting children's physical development through gross motor skills in den building, fostering communication and language as they discuss the changing natural world, and encouraging personal, social, and emotional development through cooperative play.

Our story of the term is the lovely *One Snowy Night*, which supports early literacy and listening skills, while sparking plenty of cozy imaginative play.

Looking ahead, we are eagerly anticipating our upcoming Halloween fundraiser as well as celebrating both Halloween and Bonfire Night together as a community, which helps build a strong sense of belonging and cultural understanding. We will be having a Halloween cake sale on Monday 19th October from 3:15pm, please come along and support us.

To find out more about Checkendon Pre-School, do visit our website www.checkendonpreschool.co.uk, call us on 01491 682589, e-mail preschoolcheckendon@gmail.com or just pop in – we always look forward to welcoming you to Checkendon Pre-School.

All Enquiries please contact: preschoolcheckendon@gmail.com, Tel: 01491 682589
www.checkendonpreschool.co.uk

Ways you can support Checkendon Pre-School

Easy fundraising. Please support the Pre-School and sign up to raise funds for the Pre-School -
<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/checkendonpreschool/>



Den Building



Climbing and Exploring



Pumpkin Patch

CHECKENDON PRIMARY SCHOOL



Checkendon Church of England (A) Primary School

Respect

Integrity

Compassion

Courage

Hope

Live

Love

Learn

Email: office.3801@checkendon.oxon.sch.uk

October 2026

Come and see our school

Checkendon CE Primary School continues to thrive, and we are delighted that our pupil numbers remain strong. We are always pleased to hear from families who are considering joining our school, whether for Reception or at another point in their child's primary education. Rather than holding large open mornings, we prefer to offer individual tours, giving families the opportunity to see the school in action, meet us and ask any questions they may have. If you know a family who may be looking for a school, please encourage them to have a look at our website and get in touch with us. We would be delighted to show them around and share what makes Checkendon such a special place to learn and grow.

Wheels Day in Oak Class

Oak Class enjoyed a brilliant **Wheels Day** this term, combining plenty of fun with some very important learning.

The children brought along their bikes and scooters and spent the morning developing their confidence and skills on wheels. A key part of the session was learning about **road safety** and thinking carefully about how we can keep ourselves and others safe when cycling or scooting. The children discussed the importance of being aware of their surroundings, looking and listening carefully and making sensible choices when travelling.



There was also some great practical investigation as the children explored how different surfaces affect how easily we can travel. They discovered that some surfaces were much harder to cycle or scoot across than others and had the opportunity to experience the difference for themselves. This prompted lots of discussion, predictions and problem-solving as they considered why wheels move more easily over some surfaces than others.

It was a wonderful example of learning beyond the classroom – active, practical and great fun. The children threw themselves into the morning with enthusiasm and particularly enjoyed being able to learn alongside their friends while putting their cycling and scooting skills to the test.



A huge well done to everyone in Oak Class for such a positive and energetic morning!

STOKE ROW WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

In August, there is traditionally no official meeting but Stoke Row WI always hold a 'fun day' in the local area exploring local points of interest, history and the activities of some of our local businesses. This year we descended on the Rising Sun pub at Witheridge Hill to find out more about the flower gardens in the grounds of the pub and the pick your own business known as the Flower Tap.



The walkers amongst us started the day with a walk through the woodlands around Witheridge Hill, picking the blackberries as we went, before meeting up with the rest of the group for a delicious lunch at the Rising Sun. After lunch, we were shown round the gardens and invited to pick our own flowers. Some members then had their flowers made up into a bouquet. One of our members used her chosen flowers to make her own flower arrangement which was then displayed in church over the following weekend. There was a delightful end to the day with tea and cake in the gardens amongst the beautiful flowers. Our thanks go to Tilley, our President, who arranged the whole day out and to John and the team at the Rising Sun for providing such an interesting afternoon.

Although August is usually a quiet month, there were still activities to enjoy. Some of our members joined up for a visit to the outdoor theatre production of The Three Musketeers at Basset Manor. Our book and craft groups met as usual and our games group found enough members available for a night of canasta at a member's house.

At our September meeting we will hear from Fiona Jones about later life planning and how to declutter and downsize and on 20 October we welcome back Analiza Jones to tell us about shellcraft from the Philippines. There will also be walks and regular meetings of our craft, book and drama groups, games, swimming, and coffee and chat sessions via Zoom. If you are interested in finding out more please contact our secretary via email: stokerowwi@oxfordshirewi.co.uk

Denise Stanworth

WHITCHURCH & GORING HEATH HISTORY SOCIETY

Just to prove that history is not just dates and long ago, we have two meetings this autumn of a different flavour.

Just to prove that history is not just dates and long ago, we have two meetings this autumn of a different flavour.

On Thursday 15th October, a talk on Gilbert and Sullivan by Stephen Goss explores the world of the famous Savoy comic operas which began in 1881, the most famous being HMS Pinafore, Pirates of Penzance, and The Mikado. He has also found some references to Berkshire and Oxfordshire.

A completely different experience awaits us on Thursday 19th November when Tom Crook brings us up to date with an account of Satire, Scandal and the Establishment in post-war Britain. His history of Private Eye may well be an eye opener!

Both meetings are at 2.30pm in Goring Heath Parish Hall. Non-members are welcome, and the £3 fee includes tea and biscuits.

CITIZENS ADVICE



Join our friendly team at Citizens Advice!

Are you seeking a new challenge, and want to contribute something positive to your community? Citizens Advice Oxfordshire is looking for dedicated and compassionate volunteer advisers to work in our offices.

Citizens Advice gives people the knowledge and confidence they need to find their way forward - whoever they are and whatever their problem. Our volunteers play a vital role, ensuring that people receive the advice and support they need.

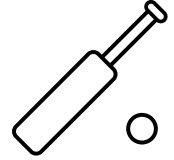
A Citizens Advice volunteer recently commented on the way many clients are transformed after benefitting from the close attention and help of an adviser. Lewis told the Henley Standard: "There are problems that seem insurmountable to those experiencing them, but we break down those seemingly impenetrable problems into manageable steps, providing a route out of despair. This process has a profound impact on the resilience and happiness of our clients."

What kind of basic skills will you need to volunteer with us? You will need to be confident with computers and have both a willingness to learn and a positive desire to help people. In the course of your volunteering you'll learn new skills and meet new people, helping clients with problems in the areas of debt management, benefits, employment, housing and relationships (no prior knowledge necessary). After extensive training you will be giving confidential advice to clients, mainly on the telephone at first, and then later by emails, in person or by using webchat.

We would like you to be available for two sessions per week, either mornings or afternoons or for a whole day. We offer a rewarding, flexible and supportive working environment.

If you would like to discuss these volunteering roles, please email: volunteer-recruitment@caox.org.uk and one of our staff will contact you.

CHECKENDON CRICKET CLUB



August Matches	September Matches
22nd Aug. v. Newbury 2nd XI (A). Won. Newbury 235 for 9 Checkendon 236 for 3 (P. Shokeen 78*, P. Bharadwaj 75*).	5th Sept. v. Eversley 3rd XI. (H). Won. Eversley 141 (S. Jobe 4 for 15, A. Lincoln 4 for 20) Checkendon 144 for 2 (J. Acland-Hood 50).
23rd. v. Langley (H). Lost. Checkendon 144 Langley 146 for 3.	6th. v. Berks & Hants CC (H). Won. Checkendon 227 for 8 (V. Viswambharan 69) Berks&Hants 177.

Wet weather finally caught up with us, leading to some cancelled and abandoned games, after a long hot summer. This could not prevent the 1st XI securing 3rd place in the Thames Valley League Div. 6A by defeating Eversley convincingly on the last league weekend. John Acland-Hood characteristically contributed a half century on his only appearance. This has been a particularly busy season, with plenty of wear and tear on the ground, but the spirit of all the teams has been excellent.

MJW.

ST PETER AND ST PAUL'S CHURCH, CHECKENDON CHRISTMAS CHOIR



Calling all singers!

Come and join our Checkendon Church Christmas Choir to help this year's candlelit carol service become even more magical. We will be singing 3x solo items, as well as bolstering the well-known congregational carols. It doesn't matter if you don't go to church - you will be very welcome anyway. You don't have to be able to read music, though it will be an advantage if you do.

Rehearsals will be in the church on Sunday mornings from November 22nd from 9.45am till 10.30am.

The Candlelit service is on 20th December at 6pm.

If interested, please contact Mary Daniels at marykatharine@live.co.uk
Do come and join us and share in the joy of music making.

WALLINGFORD FOOD BANK

A note from Steve Daniels (Checkendon Church Food bank co-ordinator):

For a number of years, we have put a Food Bank donation box just inside the church door. Donations have been taken from here to the Food Bank on a regular basis. Owing to a recent operation for me (meaning I am not permitted to lift heavy bags), my visits to the Bank will be far fewer for the next few months. If you have to leave food in the church, please continue to do so – however, please consider joining the growing number of donors now using supermarket donation boxes (along with the Bank the Food app) and / or donations being made online. Thank you.

Steve Daniels, 0771 228 2182

Food Bank Manager's Report August 2026

"For ideas of what we need, please check our app, Bank the Food. Please do avoid collecting dried pasta or tinned fish as we have lots of those. Please do check those use-by dates – we cannot use out of date food.

We have to shop every week to keep other food ready for those in need, so we are very grateful to those who give us money every month.

We are looking for a volunteer to manage our Facebook posts. These are especially vital as we head into Harvest. Our current volunteer needs to step back for a while. If you are already confident with Facebook, you will find it straightforward as our account is all set up. You can do this role from anywhere. If you think you might be able to help, please contact me at manager.wallingfordfoodbank@gmail.com

With thanks for all your support."

Alice Penney, Manager



HOW YOU CAN HELP US

- ☒ WE'RE WORKING WITH CHARITY, BANKTHEFOOD
- ☒ WANT TO KNOW EXACTLY WHAT WE NEED?
- ☒ DOWNLOAD THE FREE APP AT WWW.BANKTHEFOOD.ORG
- ☒ SEARCH FOR US USING THE POSTCODE FINDER
- ☒ THE APP WILL PING YOUR PHONE A LIST OF URGENT ITEMS
- ☒ MAKE A DONATION & MAKE A DIFFERENCE



WWW.BANKTHEFOOD.ORG Bank the Food

Bank the Food is a registered charity (Charity Commission for England and Wales 1194187)

NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE DUE

Please send your £5 subscription to the Newsletter bank account: Name: 'Checkendon Newsletter'. Business account. Sort code 09 01 50. Account number 05617154. Subscription is only £5 per annum. Please make sure you identify yourself. If you no longer want to receive the newsletter or would like to be a new subscriber, please email checkendon.news@yahoo.co.uk

SOLDIERS OF OXFORDSHIRE MUSEUM



Soldiers of
Oxfordshire
Museum

Smoking Apples Theatre presents award-winning show *Kinder* at Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum, Woodstock

A Smoking Apples production aimed at ages 9 - 18 years

Tells the story of a Czech-Jewish girl escaping on a 'Kindertransport' train in the 1930s

Multi-award-winning show uses inventive table-top puppetry and shadow play

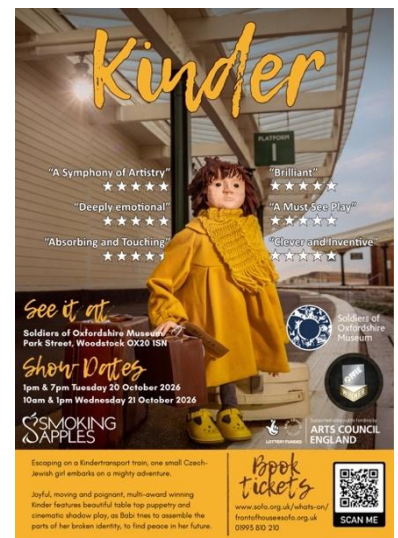
Escaping on a Kindertransport train, one small Czech-Jewish girl embarks on a mighty adventure. Crossing between the past and present, Babi travels across Europe; from bon bons in Germany to the smell of the sea in Margate, she discovers how tiny acts of kindness can change the course of a person's life.

With natural synergy with the stories told in the museum's permanent displays, Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum, Woodstock will host four shows this October.

The public show at 7pm, Tuesday 20 October 2026 is open to all, while further showings are aimed at school and community group bookings, with discounted tickets perfect for organised trips. These show times are available at 1pm, Tuesday 20 October; 10am, Wednesday 21 October; 1pm, Wednesday 21 October 2026.

Tickets for all show times can be purchased via:

<https://www.sofa.org.uk/?s=smoking+apples>



POPPY APPEAL 2026



Checkendon hosts six poppy boxes around the village and we proudly give a substantial amount to the British Legion Appeal; last year we raised £913.

As you know, this goes to support the Forces Community in many different ways: physical health support, mental health support, independent living advice, carers and family support, to name a few.

Look out for the boxes in The Black Horse, The Highwayman, Checkendon Church, Checkendon Equestrian Centre, Byways, and the School, where the children will be able to buy a poppy and other items, carefully managed by staff there.

The Appeal launches, this year, on 22nd October but unmanned boxes can be distributed from 1 October. Remembrance Sunday is on 8th November. The district QR code is available by the boxes for cashless donations.

With thanks for your support.

Jane Sheppard



IPSDEN QUIZ NIGHT

Could you answer the Life in the UK test?

Join the Ipsden Quiz on 17th October to find out

Bring yourself or a team to compete for prizes at the Ipsden Village Hall

Saturday 17 October 2026

7 to 10 pm (doors open at 6:30)

A 2-course supper will be served

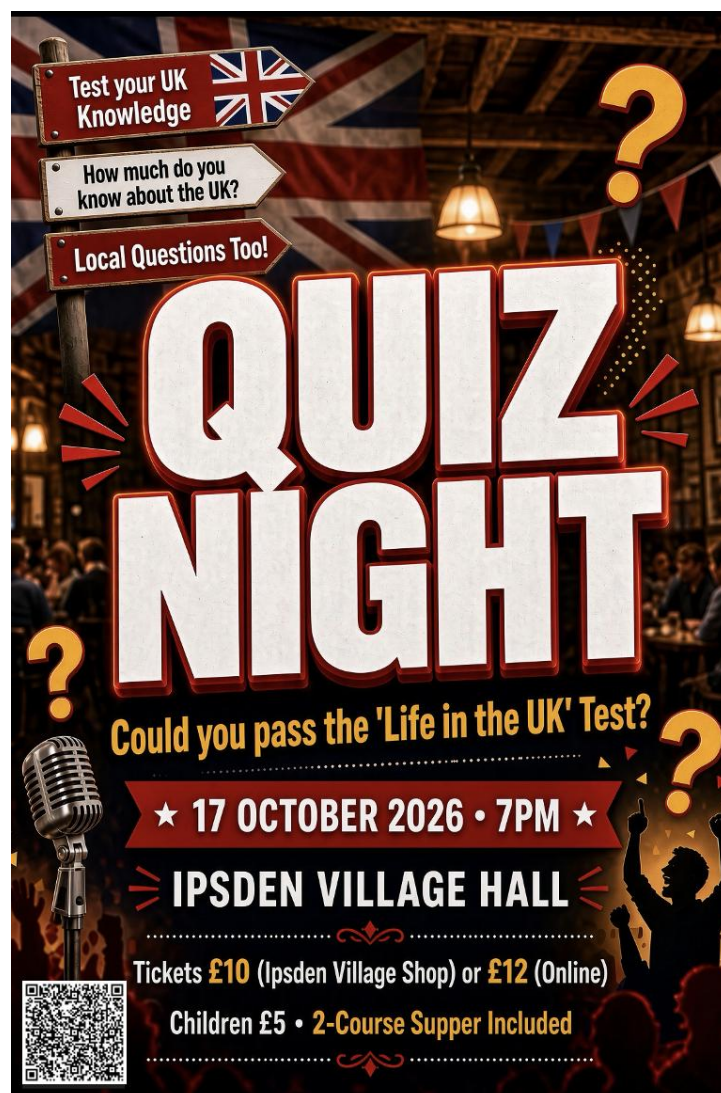
Tickets £10 from the Ipsden Village Shop or £12 online

Children welcome - £5

All proceeds go towards the Ipsden St. Mary the Virgin Church

link to the online ticket purchase:

<https://www.ticketsource.com/booking/t-dkggaea>



WALLINGFORD ACCESSIBLE BOAT CLUB...



...is looking for new volunteers.

The Wallingford-based charity, which enables people with disabilities and limited mobility to enjoy trips on the Thames, expects to carry more than 620 passengers this year – another record for the volunteer-run service.

Now the charity is hoping to expand its team of more than 60 volunteers so it can help even more people get out on the water in 2027.

“For many of our passengers, this is their only opportunity during the year to get out on the water and experience the freedom of being on the Thames,” said John Jenkins MBE, Chair of Wallingford Accessible Boat Club.

“The demand we have seen this year shows just how valued the service has become. We would love to offer that experience to even more people in 2027, but to do that we need more volunteers to join us.

“You don’t need any boating experience. We’re looking for people who would enjoy being part of a friendly local team and can give some of their time, skills and enthusiasm to help others.”

Based at The Riverside in Wallingford, Wallingford Accessible Boat Club (WABC) operates WOW-one, a specially designed Wheelyboat that allows wheelchair users to board and leave the boat safely and securely without having to transfer from their wheelchairs.

In 2025, WABC carried almost 500 passengers, up 18% on the previous year. In 2026, the charity expects that figure to rise to more than 620 passengers, and exceed 750 passengers next year.

Volunteers wanted

WABC is looking for people who can help in several areas:

Operational volunteers – helping to run trips, welcome passengers and support the crew on board.

Marketing and fundraising volunteers – helping promote the charity and raise the funds needed to keep the service running.

Technology and website volunteers – helping improve WABC’s website, digital presence and online booking system.

No previous boating experience is required. WABC provides free training and ongoing support.

Volunteering offers the opportunity to learn new skills, spend time on the Thames, meet new people and become part of a welcoming local volunteer community – while helping people who might otherwise be unable to enjoy the river.

Anyone interested in volunteering or finding out more can contact Jane Haigh by emailing enquiries@wabc.org.uk, calling 07960 225805, or visiting www.wabc.org.uk.

THE BEREAVEMENT CAFE



The Bereavement Cafe was set up about 2 years ago to support people of all ages in our local villages who have lost someone. It is an informal group where you can meet others who have an understanding of what you are going through. The focus is on creating a relaxed atmosphere where people can talk about how they are feeling and how bereavement and grief are affecting them or alternatively talk about the weather and enjoy the cake!

Grief does not have a timeline, so please feel able to come whether you have just lost someone or whether it was a while ago.

We meet at the Community Centre (next to the library) in Woodcote on the first Wednesday of each month between 10am-12noon. Next meeting will 7th October.

Contact details:

Reverend David Benskin: email: revdbenskin@gmail.com

telephone: 01491 550367

Sue Endacott: email: sj.endacott@gmail.com

telephone: 01189843858

Mary Daniels

FROM OUR MP



Freddie van Mierlo MP writes...

October 2026

In August, following a short and much needed break from politics with a family holiday to Austria, I returned to work refreshed and full of energy to start my Summer Tour; the tour was a chance to get out to parts of the constituency I hadn't managed to visit during the year.

I thoroughly enjoyed visiting all corners of the constituency and am hugely grateful to everyone who came to meet with me in Checkendon (as well as Stanton St John, Forest Hill, Warborough, Little Milton, Stoke Row, Kingston Blount, Sydenham, South Stoke and Whitchurch-on-Thames). I met with over sixty constituents during the tour and benefitted from informative meetings with parish, district and county councillors in each location too.

I am continuing to follow up on actions raised my Checkendon surgeries, including work with Councillor Ben Higgins on road surfaces, lines and signs and look forward to reporting back on progress.

Whilst Westminster took a break over the Summer, I continued to scribe letters to ensure that ministers had a full post bag to return back to – this included a letter to stick up for parents with young children at UK borders who need to wait the longest of anyone to pass checks and wrote again to the Government (but this time the new Secretary of State Angela Eagle) on Marsh Lock Bridge in Henley.

I attended an August summit in Watlington with the Parish Council and top brass from the County Council, to ensure that the Watlington Relief Road stays on track.

I was thrilled to hear the news over the Summer that a banking hub has been secured for Henley – access to banking services is vital for our local towns - in late August I met with Thame Town Council to discuss getting one secured for Thame now too and have submitted a joint request from myself and the Town Council to LINK (the responsible body) to assess the town again

My Summer Tour surgeries were a real highlight of 2026 for me and I'm keen to continue listening and engaging - solving local issues where I can and weighing in on national and international concerns on your behalf - I'm already planning where to go next year! In the meantime, please don't hesitate to get in touch if you have any issues or concerns I can help with, please contact me by emailing freddie.vanmierlo.mp@parliament.uk

With very best wishes,



Freddie van Mierlo MP

Henley & Thame

GRAND CHRISTMAS QUIZ

GRAND CHRISTMAS QUIZ



**CHECKENDON VILLAGE HALL
SATURDAY 28th NOVEMBER, 7PM.**

The very next Checkendon Quiz Evening (in aid of Village Hall Funds) will be held in the Village Hall, RG8 0SR on Saturday 28th November. Arrive at 7pm, for a prompt start soon thereafter.

Entrance to the Quiz and Hot Food Supper* – with pudding - is included, all at the AMAZING price of £16.00. Exceptional value and hospitality yet again, in true Checkendon tradition. There will also be a pay bar and a raffle.

Steve Daniels is our Questionmaster, so expect a wide range of interesting quick-fire questions, pictures and a live music round. BIG, BIG prizes plus one of our unique and collectable trophies will be awarded plus the 'The Golden Ticket' award.

There will be one special round to honour the late Mr Doug Griggs, who died in August. Doug, in years past, was our regular Questionmaster, Chairman of the Village Hall Committee, Chairman of the Parish Council, Village Quiz Team captain, farmer, young farmer!, alumni of Checkendon Primary School and lots more. This round will revolve around this Parish and all things very local that were familiar to Doug.

Do join us to meet old friends and new at this seasonal event. No previous experience, or skill at quizzes, is at all necessary.

Many come just for the excellent catering!
We look forward to seeing you.

Please book singly, or in pairs / groups - we can arrange teams on the night.

(Maximum of 6 in a team.)

Prior booking is essential, as we have to limit numbers - and need to know how many mouths to feed. Final date for booking is midnight on 18th November, subject to spaces still being available. Early booking is therefore advised, as we are likely to be oversubscribed.

Pay at tables on the night.

Contact: corbishleytim@yahoo.co.uk or on **01491 681723**.

**Please inform us – in advance - whether you require the vegetarian options or have other special dietary requirements.*

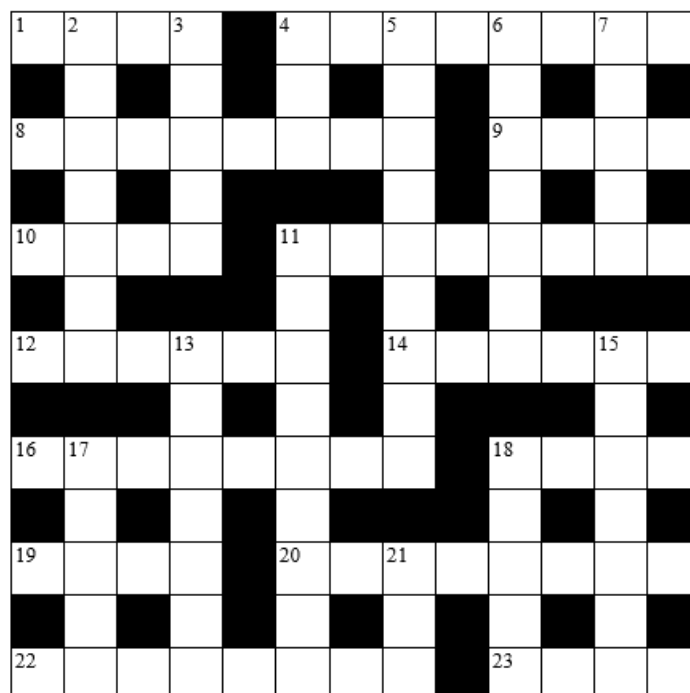
CROSSWORD 128 BY TIM LOWTH

Across

- 1,4 Randomly reprint a heap for the next in line (4,8)
 4 See 1 across
 8 Cooked breakfast item, for example, put in broken fridge (5,3)
 9 Unblemished herb (4)
 10 Freezes in Bicester (4)
 11 In residence, Elon doesn't begin to take on a mortgage (4,4)
 12 Old woman moves left, leading to chaos (6)
 14 Work to rule in good Norwegian city wavers at first (2,4)
 16 Round Table member's tall cone is broken (8)
 18 Need to change terrestrial paradise (4)
 19 Rug is returned on 2nd of August for spiritual teacher (4)
 20 Fungus identified in dance party after disingenuous hype (8)
 22 Harshly cut off city in the fens (8)
 23 You and I and Pat (who's heartless!) cried (4)

Down

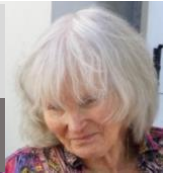
- 2 Rachel stops early after each aural complaint (7)
 3 Dances maybe, or staggers? (5)
 4,11 Admitted one was wrong and devoured lowly pastry-based item (3,6,3)
 5,21 Resolve gymslip fight? That's unlikely to happen! (4,5,3)
 6 Wolf-reared city founder is a strangely rum soul (7)
 7 Some men in Japan are trained assassins (5)
 11 See 4 down
 13 Last two in fragile truce renegotiated a stern reproof (7)
 15 Extend beyond complete circuit of racetrack (7)
 17 A pretty accent (5)
 18 Shove the Spanish with a weapon (5)
 21 See 5 down



T-SHIRTS

Daphne Horne

Columnist



Tunics, similar shape to t-shirts or tee shirts, have been worn for hundreds of years.

T-shirts evolved from undergarments. The all-in-one undergarment worn in the nineteenth century was divided at the waist and the top tucked into the bottoms. They were named t-shirts because of their shape, short sleeves and straight body. The British Navy issued t-shirts as undergarments to the sailors. The sailors removed their tunics and wore the t-shirt in order to keep their uniforms clean. This idea spread and those doing manual work soon popularised this idea. T-shirts are made from inexpensive stretchy material called stockinette or jersey knit. They are easy to wash and clean.

In the twentieth century, the t-shirt became the accepted working garment of labourers, miners and those working in hot environments. In the 1950s, two Hollywood film stars James Dean and Marlon Brando wore t-shirts in films, which popularised the shirts even further. They became the latest fashion for men as a sign of masculinity. T-shirts were adopted by boys and worn in different colours. They became standard casual clothing.

In the 1950s, the idea of printing on t-shirts became popular, the first appearing with an image of Walt Disney's Mickey Mouse. Thereafter, they were printed with advertisements, protests and souvenirs. T-shirts were adopted by women and long t-shirts often worn as nightwear. By the 1980s, t-shirts were being printed with a variety of images and slogans. Methods evolved that enabled people to decorate their own t-shirts.

By the twenty first century, t-shirts were being worn with humorous slogans and some manufacturers were even printing offensive messages. T-shirts are now the most widely worn garment and two billion are sold worldwide each year.

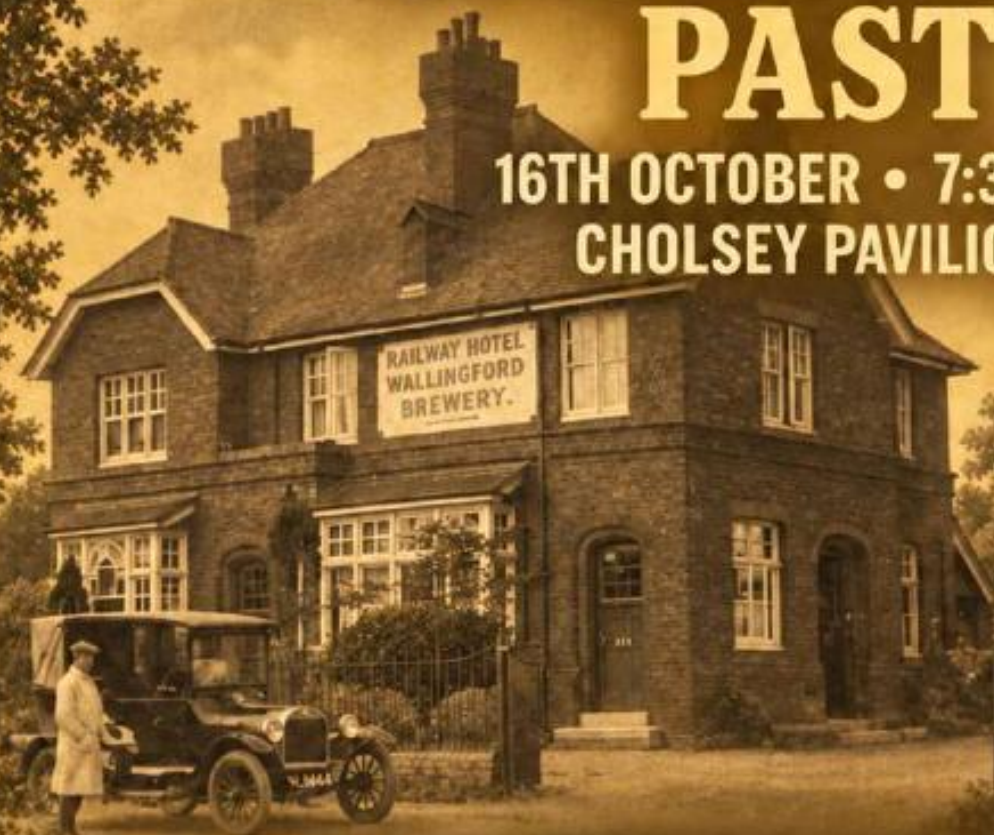
The Asian market competes for the manufacture of t-shirts with China being the largest, producing over fifty percent. India, Turkey, Vietnam, Pakistan and Bangladesh are catching up. China has dominance in the manufacture of t-shirts as the country has fields of cotton available, with lower labour costs.

Daphne Horne

A JOURNEY THROUGH CHOLSEY'S PAST

A JOURNEY THROUGH CHOLSEY'S PAST

16TH OCTOBER • 7:30 PM
CHOLSEY PAVILION



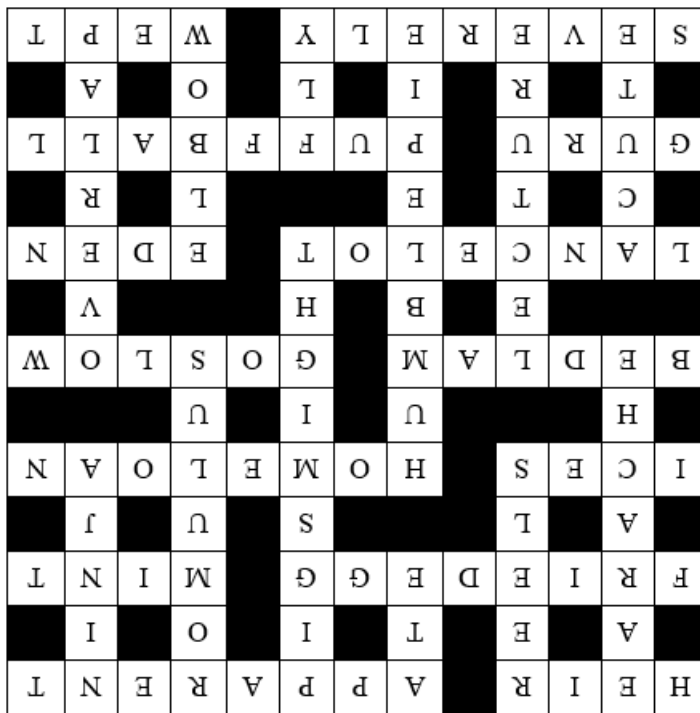
3 ERAS • 3 SPEAKERS



**HISTORICAL MUSIC BY
THREE PRESSED MEN**

**£5.00 - CASH OR CARD AT THE DOOR
INTERVAL REFRESHMENTS INCLUDED**

CROSSWORD SOLUTION



 MOBILE POST OFFICE		
Mondays	Stoke Row – Opposite Village Hall RG9 5QL	10.15 – 11.15
Mondays	Woodcote Layby Whitehouse Lane RG8 0RX	08.00 – 10.00
Tuesdays	Checkendon Opposite School RG8 0SR	10.00 – 10.30
Tuesdays	Stoke Row – Opposite Village Hall RG9 5QL	09.30 – 10.00
Tuesdays	Woodcote Layby Whitehouse Lane RG8 0RX	11.00 – 13.00
Wednesdays	Nettlebed Outside Village Hall RG9 5DD	12.00 – 13.30
Thursdays	Nettlebed Outside Village Hall RG9 5DD	13.15 – 16.15
Thursdays	Woodcote Layby Whitehouse Lane RG8 0RX	11.45 – 12.45

NOTICEBOARD

NEWSLETTER INFORMATION

Spare copies of the Newsletter are available from the Church (just inside the door on the right). Money (50p a copy) can be put in the box in the wall on the left-hand side of the door. Some copies are also left in the 'Village Library' in the old bus shelter.

ORDERING THE NEWSLETTER

Email: checkendon.news@yahoo.co.uk or phone 01491 680359

Annual sub £5 per household for 12 issues email or printed.

Please send your subscription, preferably online, to the Newsletter bank account. Name: 'Checkendon Newsletter.' Sort code: 09 01 50. Account number: 05617154. Subscription is £5 per annum. Please make sure you identify yourself.

CHECKENDON VILLAGE HALL

Main Street, Checkendon, RG8 0SR

AVAILABILITY:

Late afternoon and evenings, all day and evening times during school holiday periods, Bank Holidays, and weekends.

Competitive rates starting from £7.50 per hour.

Discounts available for village residents, Checkendon Pre-School, and Primary School parents.

ENQUIRES AND BOOKINGS: Tel: Mrs Mary Daniels 07580 419 096.
marykatharine@live.co.uk

Viewing can be arranged.

To advertise in the Newsletter

Please email:
checkendon.news@yahoo.co.uk
with 'Advert' in the subject line

LOCAL ADVERTISING



Checkendon Equestrian Centre

Lovegrove's Lane, Checkendon, RG8 0NE

BHS Approved Riding School, livery yard, facility hire and competition centre.

www.checkendonequestrian.co.uk

Email: info@checkendonequestrian.co.uk

NORMAN COX FENCING SUPPLIES

www.normancox.co.uk

Fencing – timber, wire, stock & electric materials & tools.

Gates – extensive range of gates, posts, and ironmongery.

Sheds /garden buildings – standard and bespoke designs.

Landscaping supplies – sleepers, play bark, log roll.

Trellis & hazel/willow panels. Oak supplies – cut to order.

Garden furniture & features – in stock & made to order.

THE TIMBER YARD, Checkendon, RG8 0TH

Tel: 01491 680671

PILATES at Stoke Row Sports Pavilion

Tuesday & Thursday mornings: 9:15 - 10:15am

Thursday evening: 6 - 7pm

Pilates for Runners & Cyclists: Thursday evening: 7:15 - 8:15pm



with Sophie - APPI certified pilates instructor

Email sophie@lobsterpilates.com

for more details and to book your place!

Whether your choice is vinyl, streaming or CDs, we can help you get the best sound within your home.

Come and see us for a chat and a listen.

You'll find us at The Forge.



The Forge, Checkendon, RG8 0SP

Tel: 01491 818 577 Web: ripcaster.co.uk



COUNTRY ROOFING SUPPLIES

All you need under one roof

Visit us at

Timbers Farm, Henley-on-Thames RG9 5SY

Call us on 01491 641024

www.countryroofingsupplies.co.uk

GARAGE

LONG ESTABLISHED QUALITY

Family Run Garage in Woodcote Since 1979

All Makes of Cars & Small Vans Serviced and Repaired, Painted & MOT-Tested.

Including JAGUAR Cars.

Contact Terry * Lee or Janet. on 01491-680286

Email tscars@live.co.uk

Web Address tscars-woodcote.co.uk

EAGLE PLASTERING & HOME IMPROVEMENTS

- Plastering
- Artex 'removal'
- Tiling
- Kitchen and bathroom fitting
- Extensions and renovations
- Listed Buildings/Lime plastering
- All home improvements and repairs

FOR A FAST FRIENDLY AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICE, CALL MARK NOW ON

01491 641 220

07960 310 383

www.eagleplastering.co.uk



Lovely and Hardworking Cleaners Available

High Cleaning Standards

- Cleaning Products and Equipment Provided
- Local References Available
- Affordable Rates
- Ironing Service Available
- Carpet Cleaning Service Available

For enquiries, please contact Kristyna:



07593 627 139

CHECKENDON VILLAGE DIRECTORY – OCTOBER 2026

Age UK	Local Link		www.ageuk.org.uk/oxfordshire
Badminton Club RG8	Thursday evenings Langtree School Sports Hall	Julie Drury	07980 413026 rg8bc1@gmail.com
Beavers	Stoke Row	Mark Davies	Mark.Davies2@outlook.com
Bereavement Cafe		Sue Endecott	
Brownies	Checkendon	Liz Hunt	checkendonbrownies@gmail.com
Checkendon Equestrian Centre	BHS approved Riding School & Livery Yard		01491 680255 info@checkendonequestrian.co.uk www.checkendonequestrian.co.uk
Churches (C of E)	https://langtreechurches.org/		
	Team Rector	Revd Canon Kevin Davies	01491 680252 - revkevddavies. langtree@yahoo.co.uk
Checkendon St Peter and Paul, Sunday Service 11am	Churchwardens	Bruce Potter Jane Sheppard	01491 642082 07813 565309
	Parochial Church Council:	Secretary: Debi Hornsby Treasurer: Suzanne Bradley	01491 680204 07715 164859
	Organist	Mary Daniels	07580 419096
	Flowers	Jane Falinska	01491 680307
	Bellringers	David Dickens	01491 681741
Ipsden/North Stoke	Team Vicars	Revd. John Blair	01491 682832 revjwblair@gmail.com
Whitchurch		Revd James Leach	0118 984 5702
Woodcote		Revd David Benskin	01491 680979
Langtree Team	Team Office	Mary Daniels	01491 684016
Team Council	Checkendon	Bruce Potter Jane Sheppard	01491 642082 01491 873099
Roman Catholic			
Woodcote	Mass Sunday 11.30 am	Priest Father Kenneth Macnab	01491 872181
Sonning Common	Mass Saturday 5.30pm Sunday 10.30 am		01189 723418
Stoke Row Chapel	Mark Taylor		01491 680793
Citizens Advice Bureau	Woodcote Community Centre, Friday 10.00am - 1.00pm staffed from Henley CAB		01491 578267
Community Education	Adult Learning, Oxon County Council		0845 351 0646
Council Offices	District: South Oxfordshire District Council Weekdays: 8.30am-5.00pm (4.30pm Fridays) Out of hours: Council Tax / Housing Benefit		01235 422422 01235 422410 0345 3022313
Councillors	(County) Ben Higgins (District) James Norman Jo Robb		ben.higgins@oxfordshire.gov.uk james.norman@southoxon.gov.uk

			01491 629504 Jo.Robb@southoxon.gov.uk
Cubs	Stoke Row Goring Heath	Andy Robbins Dave Broadbent	a.robbsins@hotmail.co.uk cubs@1stgoringheath.org.uk
Dentist	Byways Dental Practice, The Forge, Checkendon <i>NHS for children and students.</i> McQuillan Practice, 30 Wood Lane, Sonning Common.		01491 680412 0118 972 2626
Doctors' Surgeries	Goring and Woodcote Medical Practice		01491 872372
	Nettlebed Transport - Good Neighbour Scheme (£4)		01491 641204 01491 641425
	Sonning Common		0118 972 2745
	For essential or emergency transport see Woodcote Volunteers below		
	NHS Emergency phone		999
	NHS Direct		111
Electricity			105 or 0800 072 7282
Fallen tree/blocked road	Oxfordshire County Council		0345 310111.
Food Bank (Wallingford)		Steve Daniels Food bank (direct)	0771 228 2182 01491 876677
Housing Associations	SOHA, Royal Scott House, 99 Station Road, Didcot, OX11 7NN		01235 515900
	English Churches Housing Group (Balfours Field)		01235 515900
Milk Delivery	Milk and More, Mon, Wed, Fri deliveries		0345 6063606
Newsletter	Editors	Steve Lisansky Steve Daniels Vanessa Hart	checkendon.news@yahoo.co.uk 01491 680359 stevelisansky@gmail.com 0771 228 2182
Newspapers	For delivery to Checkendon	Londis, Woodcote Brighton's	01491 680510 0118 9667788
Pre-school	Village Hall Mon - Fri 7.30 - 3.30	Supervisor: Kelly Jarvis	01491 682589 www.checkendonpreschool.co.uk preschoolcheckendon@gmail.com
Parish Council	Chairman Clerk	Matthew Wickens Sandra Wickens	01491 682029 01491 682029 www.checkendon.net (links to other useful sites)
Councillors	Planning	Tim Corbishley Matthew Wickens Duncan Brown	01491 681723 01491 682029 01491 684255
	Playing Field	Matthew Wickens	01491 682029

		Phil Merson	
	Highways	David Petherick	
	School	Harriet Waggett	
	Adventure Playground	Tim Corbishley Harriett Waggett Phil Merson	01491 681723
	Responsible Financial Officer	Tim Corbishley	01491 681723
	Village Hall	Tim Corbishley Duncan Brown	01491 681723 01491 684255
	Footpaths	David Petherick	
	Web Site	Duncan Brown	01491 684255
	New Councillor	Phil Merson	
Police	Neighbourhood Specialist Officer	Barbara Taylor	07814485286
	Community Support Officer Non-emergency police	Janice Smith	07976714966 101
Public Houses		The Black Horse	01491 680418
		The Highwayman	01491 682020
Refuse & Recycling	See SODC web site www.southoxon.gov.uk (Also collection service for large unwanted items of furniture or appliances SODC):		01235 422406
	Biffa		03000 610610
	Brown Bin		01749 341247
Schools			
Checkendon C of E (A) Primary School	Headteacher	Sarah Hillier	01491 680693
	Office Chair of Governors Website	James Rawson	head.3801@checkendon.oxon.sch.uk office.3801@checkendon.oxon.sch.uk jamesrawson@gmail.com www.checkendonschool.co.uk
Langtree School (Secondary)	Headteacher	Simon Bamford	01491 680514
	Chair of Trustees Website	Deborah Allen	sbamford@langtreeschool.com dallen@langtreeschool.com http://langtree.oxon.sch.uk
Henley College	Principal	Simon Spearman	01491 579988
	Website		www.henleycol.ac.uk
Scouts	Goring Heath	David Burnip	01491 680181
	Stoke Row	Jan Seal-Roberts	jan.seal-roberts@hotmail.com
	Admissions General	Carly Hunt Mike Seal	01491 680479 carlynut55@googlemail.com mikecseal@hotmail.com
Sports Club	Checkendon Cricket Club	Matthew Wickens	01491 682029
Thames Water		Leaks	0845 9200800 0800 714614
	Bookings: Caretaker:	Mary Daniels Carol Russ	07580 419096 01491 681372
Woodcote Volunteers	Office: Woodcote Village Hall Mon-Fri 9.30--11.00 am		01491 681171
Women's Institute	Stoke Row (evening) Woodcote (afternoon)	Jackie Robinson Shirley Bryant	stokerowwi@oxfordshirewi.co.uk 01491 682542
Quiz Team	(Inter village quizzes)	Matthew Wickens	01491 682029

			smjwickens@aol.com
Veterinary Surgeon	Sonning Common	Sonning Common Vets (Active Vetcare)	0118 9723821
	Wallingford	Dovecourt (Abivale Veterinary Group)	01865 736868 wallingfordsurgery@abivale.com
	Gallowstree Common	Cherry Orchard Vets	0118 315 2199 hello@cherryorchardvets.co.uk

Links to many of the above can be found on the Checkendon website www.checkendon.net

Please let us know, in writing, of any alterations checkendon.news@yahoo.co.uk

EMAILS

In future editions of this Checkendon Village Directory, we would like to include emails for all the listings and people above. However, we don't actually have emails for everyone, at least not matched with names and groups. You could help us and your fellow villagers by making sure we have your email information ASAP and, in any event, before next September.

Thank you in anticipation

NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE DUE

Please send your £5 subscription to the Newsletter bank account: Name: 'Checkendon Newsletter'. Business account. Sort code 09 01 50. Account number 05617154. Alternatively, payment can be made by cheque, payable to 'Checkendon Newsletter' and sent to the Hon Treasurer, Richard Castle – Rooks Nest, Checkendon, RG8 0SX. Subscription is only £5 per annum. Please make sure you identify yourself. If you no longer want to receive the newsletter or would like to be a new subscriber, please email checkendon.news@yahoo.co.uk