



CHECKENDON VILLAGE NEWSLETTER



No 851

July 2026

Price 50p



Parish Diary Dates for July – August 2026

DATE	TIME	EVENT	VENUE
Thursday 9 th July	6.30-8pm	Bubbles & Blooms Garden Party	SOFO Museum
Thursday 9 th July – Sunday 12 th July		Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum July flower show	SOFO Museum
Friday 10 th July	7.30pm	Three Pressed Men in Concert	Cholsey Pavilion
Saturday 11 th July	12 – 2.30pm	Jazz at the Yard	Wyfold RDA Stables
Saturday 11 th July	7-10pm	Ceilidh	Shiplake Memorial Hall
Wednesday 15 th July	3 – 5pm	Games Club	Ipsden Village Hall
Saturday 18 th July	3pm	Summer Afternoon Concert	St Thomas' Church Goring
Saturday 25 th July	6 – 9pm	Music at the Barn (Ipsden)	Ipsden Farm
Saturday 1 st August	11am – 6pm	Nettlebed Arts & Crafts Show	Nettlebed School
Sunday 2 nd August	10am – 4.30pm	Nettlebed Arts & Crafts Show	Nettlebed School

The **AUGUST 2026** issue of the Checkendon Newsletter will be published
on **Friday 31 JULY 2026**

Contributions by e-mail as soon as possible please, but no later than **5pm Saturday 18 July** to Checkendon.news@yahoo.co.uk

NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE OVERDUE!

Have you forgotten to pay your subscription? If so, Please send your £5 to the Newsletter bank account today:
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



CHECKENDON VILLAGE NEWSLETTER



No 851

July 2026

Price 50p

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<i>Langtree Church Services.....</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>The Rector Writes.....</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>Summer Afternoon Concert</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>Games Club</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>Three Pressed Men in Concert</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum July flower show</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>Music at the Barn (Ipsden)</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>Checkendon Adventure Playground.....</i>	<i>8</i>
<i>Checkendon Primary School</i>	<i>9</i>
<i>The Power of Art in Reception</i>	<i>9</i>
<i>Stoke Row's Women's Institute</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>Cholsey Repair Café.....</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>Woodcote Volunteers.....</i>	<i>11</i>
<i>The Checkendon Newsletter</i>	<i>13</i>
<i>Wyfold Group Riding for the Disabled Events</i>	<i>14</i>
<i>Wallingford Food Bank</i>	<i>15</i>
<i>Wild Oxfordshire</i>	<i>16</i>
<i>Checkendon Cricket Club</i>	<i>17</i>
<i>From Our MP.....</i>	<i>18</i>
<i>Whitchurch and Goring Heath History Society</i>	<i>19</i>
<i>District Counsellor update</i>	<i>20</i>
<i>Crossword 125 By Tim Lowth.....</i>	<i>21</i>
<i>Checkendon Parish Council AGM Draft Minutes.....</i>	<i>22</i>
<i>District Councillors' Annual Report</i>	<i>23</i>
<i>Crossword Solution</i>	<i>24</i>
<i>Noticeboard</i>	<i>24</i>
<i>Local Advertising.....</i>	<i>25</i>

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 CHURCH SERVICES

JULY 2026

Sunday 5th July – Fifth Sunday after Trinity (Proper 9) (Green)**Track 1 : Ps.45 : 10-end or Canticle : Song of Sol.2 : 8-13 Gen.24 : 34-38, 42-49, 58-end****Rom.7 : 15-25a Matt.11 : 16-19, 25-end****Track 2 : Ps.145 : 8-15 Zech.9 : 9-12 Rom.7 15-25a Matt.11 : 16-19, 25-end**

8am	Woodcote	Holy Communion	JB
9.30am	Ipsden	Holy Communion	JB
9.30am	Stoke Row	Family Service + Baptism	KD
9.30am	Whitchurch OT	Parish Communion	JL
9.45am	Woodcote	Worshipping Together	LWL
11am	Checkendon	Morning Prayer	KD
11am	North Stoke	Holy Communion	JB

Sunday 12th July - Sixth Sunday after Trinity (Proper 10) (Green)**Track 1 : Ps.119 : 105-112 Gen.25 : 19-end Rom.8 : 1-11 Matt.13 : 1-9, 18-23****Track 2 : Ps.65 (or Ps.65 : 8-end) Isa.55 : 10-13 Rom.8 : 1-11 Matt.13 : 1-9, 18-23**

8am	Woodcote	Holy Communion	DB
9.30am	Stoke Row	Morning Prayer	PF
9.30am	Whitchurch Hill	Family Communion	JL
9.45am	Woodcote	Open Door	LWL
10am	Ipsden / North Stoke	Service online via Zoom	JB
11am	Checkendon	Holy Communion	KD

Sunday 19th July – Seventh Sunday after Trinity (Proper 11) (Green)**Track 1 : Ps.139 : 1-11, 23-24 (or Ps.139 : 1-11) Gen.28 : 10-19a Rom.8 : 1 Matt.13 : 24-30, 36-43****Track 2 : Ps.86 : 11-end Wisd.12 : 13, 16, 16-19 or Isa.44 : 6-8 Rom.8 : 12-25 Matt.13 : 24-30, 36-43**

8am	Woodcote	Holy Communion	DB
9.30am	Ipsden	Holy Communion	JB
9.30am	Stoke Row	Informal Worship	PF
9.30am	Whitchurch OT	Service of the Word	JL
9.45am	Woodcote	SLOW church in Village Hall	DB
11am	Checkendon	Family Service	KD
11am	North Stoke	Holy Communion	JB
4pm	Whitchurch Hill	Outdoor Church	JL

Sunday 26th July – Eighth Sunday after Trinity (Proper 12) (Green)**Track 1 : Ps.105 : 1-11, 45b (or Ps.105 : 1-11) or Ps.128 Gen.29 : 15-28 Rom.8 : 26-end****Matt.13 : 31-33, 44-52****Track 2 : Ps.119 : 129-136 1 Kings 3 : 5-12 Rom.8 : 26-end Matt.13 : 31-33, 44-52**

8am	Woodcote	Holy Communion	DB
9.30am	Ipsden	Morning Prayer	PF
9.30am	Stoke Row	Holy Communion	JB
9.30am	Whitchurch Hill	Service of the Word	LWL
9.45am	Woodcote	Parish Communion	DB
11am	Checkendon	Family Communion	JB
11am	North Stoke	Morning Prayer	BT

KD = Kevin Davies : JL = James Leach : JB = John Blair : DB = David Benskin : BT = Brian Turner :
 PF = Peter Ferguson : 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.



THE RECTOR WRITES

By Revd Kevin Davies



THE CHURCHYARD

What a beautiful haven of peace and tranquillity our lovely churchyard is!

It is a credit to all those who work so hard to tend the graves of loved ones, and particularly to the church council, who organise and pay for the mowing, strimming, and hedge cutting. The church council also takes care of all the boundaries, gates, walls and fences.

From time to time I (as Rector) receive requests in connection with the graveyard, and folk are sometimes surprised by the degree of legislation that covers what may or may not be possible. So, I thought it appropriate to rehearse here a few of the “ground rules” which pertain to the churchyard of your parish church.

One important right granted is that anyone who is resident in the village at the time of their death may be buried in the churchyard. You don’t have to attend church to get this right, you just must live here at the time of your death. This right does not extend to being able to choose where your grave is to be – this falls to the incumbent (vicar) and churchwardens and is normally simply in the next available plot.

If you move away your right of burial moves with you to your new parish churchyard and ceases here, unless (i) you are on the electoral roll (membership) of St Peter and St Paul’s Church or (ii) you have a relative (such as a spouse or parent) already buried in Checkendon churchyard and there is room in that particular grave. In this instance a new (different) grave is not possible.

It is important to realize that the right of burial for parishioners does not extend to the burial of ashes, which is entirely at the discretion of the minister. Our churchyard has a designated area for the burial of cremated remains, the Garden of Remembrance, which has been set aside so that in the future, when there is no more room for burials, parishioners may have a resting place somewhere in the churchyard. For this to work properly, no containers or caskets may be buried in the Garden of Remembrance and no memorials may be erected there, for the simple reason that if it were to fill up over time, the very reason for its being set aside would be nullified.

Once a Garden of Remembrance has been established in a churchyard, ashes may not be buried elsewhere, unless there is an existing family grave. This is an important thing to note in connection with Checkendon Churchyard; interments of ashes are only possible in the Garden of Remembrance, or an existing grave.

It is a good idea to talk through with your next of kin what your wishes are in relation to your funeral, and then they (or you) can always ask questions of the relevant people to clarify what options may be possible. The churchyard and its curtilage are legally owned by the incumbent, and their care is the responsibility of the churchwardens and church council. This “ownership” doesn’t mean the incumbent has the right for example to sell the churchyard, but it gives him and the churchwardens the right to eject people (or their pets...) who are behaving inappropriately.

One important distinction between a Church of England churchyard and a civic cemetery is that in the churchyard you don’t own, and can’t buy, a “plot”. You just “borrow” it for seventy years. Everything “under the ground” remains held in trust by the vicar and churchwardens, and is the responsibility of the parochial church council. Even if you have a right to be buried in the churchyard, there is no corresponding right to erect a memorial. Permission to erect anything or do any works whatsoever in the churchyard has to be given in writing, either by the incumbent, or by a church lawyer.

Most churches have a document which outlines simply what is or is not permitted. You can inspect ours on the Team Ministry website.

<https://langtreechurches.org/langtree-team-ministry/churchyards/>

Once a memorial has been erected, it remains the property of the next of kin, who also have a duty to maintain it, and ensure that it is not a hazard to other users of the churchyard. Please can I use this opportunity to gently remind everyone that artificial flowers of any kind are not permitted in the churchyard, apart from Remembrance Day poppies. It is quite acceptable to plant bulbs in the soil of any grave, but trees, shrubs and perennials need written permission before they are planted.

The Church Council is aware that our churchyard is a very important local amenity, used by Christians and non-Christians alike, not only as a final resting place for loved ones, but also as a sanctuary of peace and quiet, for both people and nature. It is consecrated ground, which means “set apart for God”. We’d like to thank all those who help to maintain and care for it, and to ask all of you for your co-operation in keeping it as lovely as it is.

Your Rector, Revd Kevin Davies.



SUMMER AFTERNOON CONCERT

Checkendon pianist Mary Daniels, along with fellow pianist Edward Knighton and violinist Maxton Pitcher, will be giving a mixed solo and collaborative concert at St. Thomas’s Church, Goring, on **Saturday 18th July at 3pm**.

The hour-long concert will feature solo piano music by Bach, Beethoven and Chopin, including Beethoven’s ever popular ‘Moonlight’ sonata. In addition, there will be pieces for violin and piano by Frank Bridge, Elgar and Kreisler, including Elgar’s beautiful ‘Salut d’amour’. Edward will be playing a reflective piano transcription of an orchestral work by Rameau and the programme will be interspersed with popular piano duets by Handel, Faure and Warlock.

Free entry but any donations go towards church funds.

GAMES CLUB

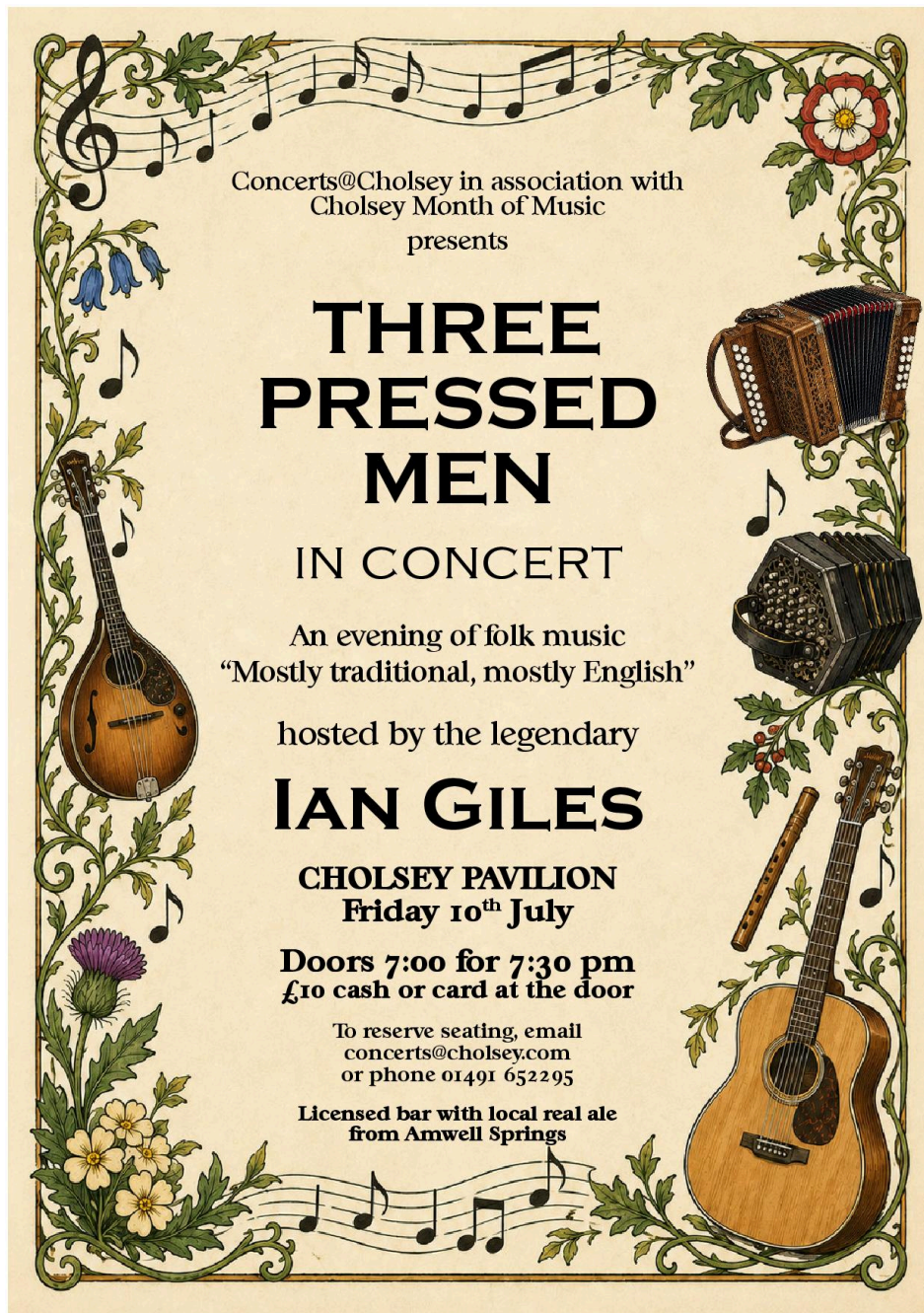


Taking place on the third Wednesday of each month, the next Games Club will be on **July 15th 3 until 5pm** at Ipsden Village Hall. Games will be provided, and there’ll be refreshments too.

If you’re in Checkendon, we would love you to come to Games Club in Ipsden. Lifts can be arranged for those who need transport.

Any questions? Email katemoberly@hotmail.com

THREE PRESSED MEN IN CONCERT



Concerts@Cholsey in association with
Cholsey Month of Music
presents

THREE PRESSED MEN

IN CONCERT

An evening of folk music
"Mostly traditional, mostly English"

hosted by the legendary

IAN GILES

CHOLSEY PAVILION
Friday 10th July

Doors 7:00 for 7:30 pm
£10 cash or card at the door

To reserve seating, email
concerts@cholsey.com
or phone 01491 652295

Licensed bar with local real ale
from Amwell Springs

SOLDIERS OF OXFORDSHIRE MUSEUM JULY FLOWER SHOW

From Battlefields to Blooms



**Soldiers of
Oxfordshire
Museum**

Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum, the county's military history museum based in Woodstock, will have its first flower show, From Battlefields to Blooms, from Thursday 9 July to Sunday 12 July 2026, with arrangements by Bladon & Woodstock, Oxford, and Abingdon flower clubs.

Members of the three local clubs have spent time planning in the museum galleries, utilising the spaces in new and creative ways while responding to the stories featured in SOFO's permanent exhibitions.

The stunning work of the featured flower clubs has previously been seen in displays at Dorchester Abbey and Abingdon's 2019 *Fashion in Flowers* show. The arrangements on display in the Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum galleries will follow themes such as *Dig for Victory*, *Botanical Remedies* and *Lives Lost in the Trenches*.

The museum will also be running a campaign across its social media channels and in-house during the show, allowing people to donate in memory of their military loved ones or armed forces ancestors and have their name featured in a special *In Memoriam* flower display.

Those who wish to have an individual remembered in the flower show can submit names and details now by going to the museum website, www.sofo.org.uk/battlefieldstoblooms

Visitors will get the opportunity to experience the flower show, the museum's Lee Miller exhibition and live performances by The Waterloo Band and Bugles of The Rifles during the Bubbles & Blooms garden party, a collaborative fundraiser for SSAFA, the Armed Forces charity, and Soldiers of Oxfordshire Trust.

The event takes place from 6.30pm to 8pm, Thursday 9 July 2026, with tickets available from the museum website now, bit.ly/bubblesandblooms

MUSIC AT THE BARN (IPSDEN)

Ipsden's Music at the Barn 2026 - Live Music on a summer's evening in the beautiful 18th Century barn courtyard at Ipsden Farm, is on Saturday 25th July. Music will be from 6pm until about 9pm, and gates will open at 5.30pm.

Bring your own picnic, drinks, blankets and tables/chairs. Please - no BBQs to comply with insurance regulations. Come and relax, enjoy a varied programme of acoustic music by local musicians and singers who provide their time and talent for free.

Entry tickets are £8 for adults at the gate and from The Ipsden Village Shop, or £9 from Ticketsource. Under 16s are free. Online tickets from [PCC of Ipsden Entertainment Committee event tickets from TicketSource](#). There will be a raffle as usual. Donations to the raffle are very welcome, please contact slobhan.bennett28@btopenworld.com. Net proceeds will go to the Restoration Fund for St Mary's Church, Ipsden



CHECKENDON ADVENTURE PLAYGROUND

Renovations and changes to the Checkendon Adventure Playground

Commercial Play Towers



Three schemes have been discussed by the Parish Council to address the problem regarding the condition of the central tower in the Adventure Playground. This was built over forty years ago and in the opinion of the Council, has reached the end of its life being now beyond economical repair.

It has areas of rotten wood, fastenings that are corroding and needs constant attention. Much work has been done over many years to keep it safe and secure which will continue until it is replaced.

Options that the Council has discussed are

- (1) a major rebuild in its existing form which would require replacing over 90% of the timbers or
- (2) inviting playground manufacturers to design an alternative scheme using their proprietary (and approved by ROSPA, the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents) designs to fill this central area of the park.

The problem with a total rebuild of the existing structure is that it would not meet current ROSPA safety standards. It would be seen essentially as a new build.

The Council have therefore chosen as the best solution a scheme designed by The Discovery Timber Play Company. This will embody a new bridge from the mound, retain the tunnel entrance, providing a slide and scramble net. Most importantly it would comply with safety requirements for many years to come and largely be maintenance-free. A picture of the proposed scheme is shown.

The work is planned to take place in the Spring of 2027 when the park will be closed for perhaps two to three weeks. The cost of the new structure is £16,445 plus additional work to remove the old structure and rebuild the mound retaining wall above the tunnel. We anticipate the total cost to be around £19,500. Grants to finance this work are currently being applied for, but donations from villagers and past and present users would be gratefully accepted to help reach this target. Payments should be made to the Parish Council account and denoted by the word 'playground' for identification. Checkendon Parish Council 20-71-03 00091006

Tim Corbishley on behalf of Checkendon Parish Council.

CHECKENDON PRIMARY SCHOOL



Checkendon Church of England (A) Primary School

Respect

Integrity

Compassion

Courage

Hope

Live

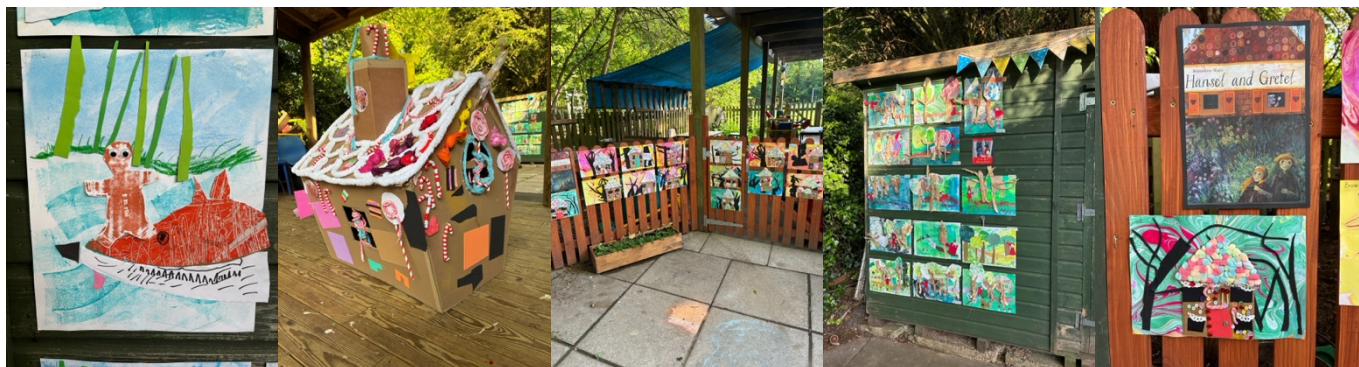
Love

Learn

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

April 2026

A paintbrush can become a magic wand



The Power of Art in Reception

At four years old, a paintbrush can become a magic wand, a cardboard box can transform into a castle, and a handful of crayons can bring an entire world to life. While children's artwork may sometimes look like colourful scribbles or simple shapes, it reflects powerful learning, creativity and growth.

This term, Reception proudly transformed their outside space into an art gallery to showcase the wonderful work they created during their Traditional Tales topic with Mrs Lovegrove. The children explored a wide range of artistic techniques including colour mixing, printing, marbling and mixed media, whilst also developing important fine motor skills through careful cutting, joining and working with small parts. The creativity, imagination and effort shown in every piece was fantastic, and the children were so proud to share their work with visitors.

Art plays a vital role in early childhood development. Through painting, drawing, cutting and creating, children build fine motor control, strengthen coordination and develop the foundations needed for writing and everyday tasks. It also encourages problem-solving and decision-making, as children choose colours, materials and designs. With no single "right answer," art helps build confidence and independence in their thinking.

Just as importantly, art gives children a voice. At this age, when words can sometimes feel limited, creativity allows them to express feelings, ideas and experiences in meaningful ways.

The Reception Art Gallery was a wonderful celebration of imagination and learning. Every piece reflected curiosity, effort and pride in achievement.

In the eyes of a four-year-old, every blank page is an opportunity, and every creative moment is a chance to shine.

STOKE ROW'S WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

In May we held our resolutions meeting at which we discussed the two resolutions being considered for the next national campaign: 'accessible public toilet facilities to promote dignity, health and social inclusion' and 'action on women's homelessness'.



There was strong support for both resolutions and voting was unanimous for both resolutions to go forward to the national vote. A comedy performance from our drama group brought a lighter touch to the evening when three of our members, Colleen, Penny and Judy entertained us with jokes and humorous poetry. Echoing the comedy theme our competition for the evening was a limerick on the subject of holiday. We had a record 11 entries amongst which were some very clever and amusing limericks. These were then read out and voted upon and the winner was Alison who was presented with some fancy luggage labels. Well done to everyone who took part! During the refreshment break there was a sale of accessories donated by our members-a great way to recycle and repurpose and raise funds for the group! Thanks to Penny for organising this.

Our June activities started with a lovely tranquil evening walk from Henley, over the hill to Remenham and then returning via the Thames path before heading to the Banana Tree in Henley for dinner. The weather had behaved, the food and 'mocktails' were delicious and we all had a great evening.

On 27 June we will be running the Saturday morning coffee shop in Woodcote and we hope you will come along to sample our wonderful homemade cake. Our June meeting will be our annual garden meeting in Sonning Common; on 21 July we will be hearing about Owl Conservation from Lu Barton and in August there is no official meeting but we will hold a 'fun day' in the Stoke Row area. There will also be 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

CHOLSEY REPAIR CAFÉ

The next **Cholsey Repair Café** will take place on **Saturday 18th July**, followed by another on **Saturday 19th September** at the **Cholsey Pavilion**. Doors open at 10.00 and close at 12.45.

Talented fixers offer help and advice free of charge, to get a wide variety of broken household items back into working order, although donations to cover operating costs are always appreciated. Excellent refreshments are available next door, in the Cholsey Community Café. Further details can be found at www.cholseyrepaircafe.com or you can email repaircafe@cholsey.com.



WOODCOTE VOLUNTEERS

Please come to our open morning on Saturday, August 8th from 10.00 – 12.30. We invite potential volunteers to join us for coffee on us and a chat. If you want to find out more about what is involved in being a volunteer driver, or the other volunteer roles, this is the opportunity to find out more, without any commitment. If volunteering is not for you, please come along anyway to support our work.



Volunteer story - As part of our occasional series of volunteer stories, this month we have a story from Brian, a volunteer driver for the past four years.

"I joined Woodcote Volunteers because I really liked the idea of being able to help local people who needed to get to their medical appointments – or whatever else they would otherwise have difficulty getting to. The automated booking system works really well for both clients and drivers. We get a daily email listing the drives needed (sometimes if the drive is urgent and within the next couple of days, you will get a phone call) and if you think one of them would suit you, you can click on it to find out more, then accept the booking. An email is sent to you to confirm all the details and you phone the client to agree a pickup time and let them know the approximate cost (based on the standard mileage allowance). At the same time, you get information about any mobility difficulties the client may have and whether you might need to pick up a wheelchair (supplied by Woodcote Volunteers). My experience on the day of the appointment has been entirely positive. The clients are always highly appreciative of the service we provide, and it is a pleasure to get the opportunity to chat to them on the journey. For anyone who has a car and a bit of time to spare, I can heartily recommend joining our team of volunteer drivers."

Further information about volunteering can be found on our website (see below). If you think you'd like to join Brian and become one of our team of volunteer drivers, we'd really love to hear from you. Either email info@woodcotevolunteers.org or, for an informal chat, call Jane on 01491 877749 and if necessary, leave a message. Alternatively, come along to our Coffee Morning at Woodcote Community Centre on August 8th to find out more.

New mileage rate - The HMRC-approved mileage allowance has been frozen at 45p a mile since 2011, but since April this year HMRC have increased that to 55p. Therefore, the WV Committee have decided that from 1st July 2026 this will be the new rate to be charged by our volunteer drivers. Although this will regrettably mean increased costs for our clients, at a time of rising petrol prices the Committee believes it is important for volunteer retainment and recruitment that drivers do not suffer any undue financial burden for offering their services.

Tea parties for our clients are held at the Community Centre in Woodcote on the first Wednesday afternoon of each month. We provide tea and home-made cakes and there is no charge. At our June tea party we had 18 guests who were entertained with another fun quiz entitled 'More or Less'. The next tea party will be on **Wednesday 1st July 2026 at 2.30 - 4.00 pm**. If you need a lift to get there, call our office phone number.

Help with using your digital devices

Our very successful series of free digital advice sessions is continuing. These are aimed at local residents who may be struggling with their smart phones, iPads or laptops, or with negotiating the internet. The friendly 45 min one-to-one sessions are held twice each month in Woodcote Community Centre at 2-4 pm on the 1st Saturday and at 10-12 noon on the 3rd Thursday of each month. The next sessions are on the **afternoon of Saturday 4th July** and the **morning of Thursday 16th July**. To book your slot, please call 01491 877749 and leave a voicemail if necessary.

Finally... To request a driver please call the Woodcote Volunteers' office on 01491 681171, giving at least three days' notice as it can be hard to find someone at short notice – but we will always try! Office opening hours are **Monday to Friday 9.30 – 11.00 am** (except bank holidays and the Christmas period). Outside these times leave a message and you will be called back the following working day.

Other details:

- To volunteer, email: info@woodcotevolunteers.org.uk
- Our website: www.woodcotevolunteers.org.uk
- Facebook page: www.facebook.com/woodcotevolunteers
- General enquiries – 01491 681171

The Nettlebed Art & Craft Show

Calling local artists! The Nettlebed Art and Craft Show returns for 2026.

We are delighted to announce the Annual Nettlebed Art & Craft show will be taking place on Saturday 1 and Sunday 2 August 2026 at Nettlebed School — a wonderful weekend celebrating local creativity, talent, and a great slice of cake.

Come along to enjoy a wide variety of artwork, handmade crafts, and exhibits from local artists and makers. Refreshments will be available, and everyone is warmly welcome to browse and maybe fall in love with a painting.

We are also keen to welcome new, local artists and craftspeople to exhibit their work this year. Whether you are an experienced exhibitor or showing your work for the first time, we would love to hear from you - please email Nettlebedas@gmail.com to more info and entry forms.

Proceeds from the event will go towards supporting local charities and community causes.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Many thanks in advance,

Harriet Archer

On Behalf of Nettlebed Art Society

Nettlebedasmedia@gmail.com



It is with sadness that we share the passing of Stuart Morgan who passed away on Saturday 23rd May.

Stuart will be fondly remembered locally as the Landlord of the Four Horseshoes and as sponsor of Checkendon FC.

THE CHECKENDON NEWSLETTER

Daphne Horne

Columnist



The June edition of the Newsletter was number 850 indicating that it had been running for a considerable time. It has an interesting history dating back to 1955 which can be read in detail in the local history book *"Checkendon - A Short History"*. In August of 1955 a crowded meeting was held in the village hall to discuss producing the Newsletter. The founders were Mr. Philip Brownrigg of Wheelers and Mr. John Roberts of Bottom Farm. Mr. Brownrigg, a journalist and former editor of a national Sunday newspaper, was the first Newsletter editor and set a high standard. The first edition was free and subsequent copies one old penny or a shilling (5 pence) per year.

In her account of the Newsletter Mrs. Vanessa Hart said there were two main purposes the first *"to promote a new church service by the Rector, the Reverend Mundeford Allen."* This was an informal half-hour service, casual clothes worn so that people could then go on to various activities. The second was *"to give news of Checkendon people and events and to make the village a community of friendly neighbours."* The Newsletter had a picture of the church at the top drawn by Eric Kennington, a famous artist who had been a Churchwarden.

The first Newsletters were typed and duplicated at Mr. Brownrigg's office for five years. Mr. Brownrigg was posted to Rhodesia and Mr. Roberts became editor. At this time and for over ten years the typing and duplicating was done by Mrs. Rhoda Allen. She was then assisted by a team of volunteers for a further ten years. The Newsletter was typed on a wax stencil which was then duplicated on a Gestetner machine, a rather messy job using black ink. The team stapled the copies together. For a short time, the Newspaper was duplicated on a Xerox machine which also stapled it. The duplicating was then taken on by Nancy Barlow at Henley College paid for by the Newsletter.

At this time the Newsletter was delivered to people in the village, also a few at Woodcote and Stoke Row. Forty copies were sent to former residents who wished to keep in touch and fifty were sent by email

After fifty-three years of publication the Newsletter was given a new front page. It was re-named Checkendon Village Newsletter. The church picture was discontinued and the church services were put inside. The front page had a topical photograph each month. The first edition with the new front page was published in May 2008. There are now 170 paper copies of the Newsletter produced by Nancy Barlow at Henley College. Many people prefer this copy to keep for reference and it also enables Tim Lowth's fans to do his crossword. There are over 130 people who receive the email copy in full colour, many of whom are ex-Checkendonians who like to keep in touch.

The cost is now £5 per year which some people forget to pay as the volunteers who deliver the Newsletter do not now knock on doors for payment.

The Bodleian Library at Oxford, which is a 'Copyright Library', has a copy of every Newsletter.

The present editors are Steve Daniels and Steve Lisansky. Mrs Vanessa Hart still takes an interest in the Newsletter. There are three producers Sarah Moberly, Sally Robinson and Suzy Malhotra.

Daphne Horne

WYFOLD GROUP RIDING FOR THE DISABLED EVENTS



Wyfold Group
Riding for the Disabled Association

in collaboration with the

The Bader Heritage Band

proudly presents

Jazz at the yard

on

Saturday 11th July
12.00 - 2.30pm

Wyfold RDA stables
Wyfold Court, Kingwood, RG9 5WG
(off the Peppard - Stoke Row Road)

Tickets: £6 in advance
£8 on the gate
Under 16s free



Scan the QR code or visit: buytickets.at/wyfoldrda

Live Music / Family Fun / BBQ / Bar / Refreshments

Kindly supported by: 







Wyfold Group Riding for the Disabled Association
invites you to a

CEILIDH

with live music from the

Bader Heritage Band



SATURDAY 11th JULY
7.00 - 10.00 pm

Shiplake Memorial Hall (RG9 4DW)
Near Henley-on-Thames

Note: Tickets sold in advance only. No tickets available on the night.

Adults	£15
Under 16s	£8



Scan the QR code or visit: buytickets.at/wyfoldrda

No experience necessary
Alcoholic/non-alcoholic drinks and finger food available for purchase

Kindly supported by: 

WALLINGFORD FOOD BANK

From manager, Alice Penney,

"We are now entering our 'lean' months as we traditionally have fewer extra donations over the summer months and become dependent on our regular supporters, so do please consider giving some food, or a cash donation. We are also very short of decent carrier bags as below. If you all gave just one that would be amazing!"



If you are considering donating either food or money to us, please do have a look at our donations page

<https://wallingfordfoodbank.org.uk/donate/>

It has all the information you need to help us help local people in need. We still have lots of pasta, baked beans and tinned fish so please avoid donating those! Check the BanktheFood app for up-to-date requests for urgently needed items.

Current urgent needs

- Long life milk and fruit juice
- Pasta sauce, Rice
- Tea bags, small coffee jars
- Tins of fruit, Tins of meat, Tins of vegetables

If the shop does not have a donation box, or you want to donate surplus items from home, you can:

- a) take items directly to the Food Bank – at the back of the Ridgeway Community Church, Wallingford (access via Wood St) between 10am-1pm on Mondays or Thursdays;
- b) leave items in the plastic box just inside the door of Checkendon Church; or
- c) leave items (in a bag please) on my doorstep (Eveleigh, Whitehall Lane, RG8 0TN).

Text me on the number below to let me know, if you can. If you would like to donate and do not have transport, please give me a call / text and I'll come and collect.

I am also on the village WhatsApp group.

Steve Daniels, 0771 228 2182

WILD OXFORDSHIRE

As summer kicks off, it's the perfect time for all ages to get outdoors and help out your local wildlife (even on those not-so-sunny days).

Make seed bombs - Rewilding in the palm of your hand!

What you'll need: 1 cup natural powdered clay, 1 cup peat-free compost, 1–2 packets of native wildflower seeds (pollinator-friendly is best), Water (a little at a time), Bowl for mixing, Tray or cardboard for drying
 Mix the Dry Ingredients; In a bowl, mix: 1-part powdered clay, 1-part compost, Seeds. Add a little water at a time and mix with your hands until the mixture sticks together. It should not be too wet or crumbly. Roll the mix into small balls. Place the seed bombs on a tray or cardboard and leave them to dry for 24–48 hours in a warm place. Once dry, the seed bombs are ready to be tossed into bare soil areas in gardens or school grounds. Try and plant before rain is forecast or water them lightly and watch as pollinator habitats increases on your grounds.

Go Fungi spotting – Neither animal nor plant, fungi play a vital role in keeping our local habitats healthy. They help break down old leaves, wood, and other natural materials, turning them into rich soil that supports new life. Some species of fungi even form relationships with plant roots through the root-like mycelium. These 'mycorrhizal networks' help plants absorb water and nutrients while providing the fungi carbohydrate!

You can find fungi almost anywhere: on logs, in soil, under trees, even on walls and woodchips!

Fungi are best found in nearby woodlands; around fallen trees or logs; on leafy ground and tree stumps; in damp, shady spots after rain.

You'll need a notebook or spotting sheet, fungi ID app (like *iNaturalist* or *Shroomify UK*), A magnifying glass (optional), gloves



*1 Laetiporus sulphureus, Chicken of the Woods,
Ann Berkeley*

The most common fungi in the UK this summer are:

Waxcaps – Known for their shiny caps, Waxcaps can be red, violet, yellow, green, or pink. They are commonly found in grasslands, meadows, and urban lawns and parks.

Parasol mushrooms – Tall fungi with a wide, round cap, a brown-to-black scaly top, white gills, and a white or off-white stem. Often found in woods, meadows, and fields.

Puffballs – Round fungi with a stem, no cap, and no gills. They release clouds of spores when touched. Puffballs are often found in open meadows, fields, and well fertilised lawns, as well as forest undergrowth. They never grow on logs or trees, only on the ground.

Chicken of the Woods – Easy to spot thanks to its bright sulphur-yellow colour. It forms thick, soft, fan shaped shelves and grows high up on the trunks of mature trees such as oak.

Elf Cups – Cup shaped and bright red, scarlet elf cups grow on decaying sticks and branches in damp spots and leaf litter.

Safety - Never pick or eat mushrooms. Take photos, not samples. Wash your hands afterwards. Stick to public footpaths and avoid damaging habitats.

Gardening tips for July

Nectar is wildlife's friend; you can help attract bees, butterflies, and other nectar-loving insects to your patch by planting nectar-rich plants. Add climbers that may also produce berries and hips, such as Honeysuckle and Dog Rose. And go a step further and attract moths with night-scented plants like Evening Primrose and Night-Scented Stock.

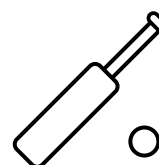
Cut back on the cutting back! After a beautiful bloom, avoid deadheading roses this time of year. This way, some will develop hips (the fruit of the species of rose plant), which will feed birds and small mammals come winter.

Big Butterfly Count - Here's another one for your diary: July marks the Big Butterfly Count. Don't just take part, give our fluttering friends a helping hand by leaving an area of grass to grow long until the end of summer. Species such as the Meadow Brown will use these patches to breed.



2Rosehips, Rhiannon Young

CHECKENDON CRICKET CLUB



May Matches	June Matches
23rd - v. Crowthorne & Crown Wood (H). Lost. C&CW 221 for 7 Checkendon 179 (S. Jobe 40).	7th v. Nettlebed (H). Lost. Nettlebed 207 for 7 (S. Jobe 4 for 40) Checkendon 162 (V. Gupta 59).
30th v. Bracknell (A). Won. Checkendon 312 for 7 (S. Ahmed 98) Bracknell 264 (R. Srinivas 4 for 52).	13th v. Stratfield Turgis (A). Won. Stratfield 154 for 8 (M. Sharma 4 for 41) Checkendon 157 for 5 (P. Bharadwaj 63*).
31st v. Elmhurst (H). Won. Checkendon 244 for 9 (P. Bharadwaj 57). Elmhurst 165 for 7.	14th v. Strokemakers (H). Won. Checkendon 203 (P. Bharadwaj 63, Jake Jackson 53) Strokemakers 154 for 9.

Apart from a League defeat to Crowthorne and Crown Wood, plus unsurprisingly losing to a particularly strong Nettlebed XI, there have been two good away wins in the Thames Valley Div. 6 and a resurgence from our Sunday side. Compact left-handed middle order batsman Praveen Bharadwaj has been in excellent form and it was good to see Jake Jackson back and in the runs. Club captain Sathia Jobe and left arm spinner Madhav Sharma have been the outstanding bowlers thus far. The standard of catching has improved out of all recognition and contributed significantly to our success.

MJW.

FROM OUR MP



Freddie van Mierlo MP writes...

July 2026



I wanted to say thank you to everyone who sponsored me to abseil Dorchester Abbey tower in aid of two very worthy causes - **Be Free Young Carers** and **Dorchester Abbey**. We raised over £1000! I'm also relieved to report that I reached the ground in one piece.



May saw the start of a new parliamentary 'Session'. That means the Government set out its legislative agenda in a King's Speech, and also, all previous activity has been reset. Previous Early Day Motions, Written Questions, and Private Members Bills have all been archived and consigned to posterity. That's the theory - in reality very little changes and I continue to grind on with campaigning locally and on national issues. Plus ca change!

Campaigns

I took the opportunity of a statement in the house on **HS2's** colossal £100 billion price tag to mention how just a few million pounds would benefit active travel projects like the **Thame-Haddenham Greenway**. I was also pleased this month to see the Environment Agency (EA) present its plans to Henley and Shiplake residents to fix **Marsh Lock Bridge**. I spent 3 hours at the event, fielding questions myself as well as asking them of the EA. It's clear to me that whilst residents were encouraged to see progress, they were impatient and frustrated at the wasted time arguing over who owns the bridge. The campaign to get **Oxford University Hospitals** (includes the John Radcliffe Hospital) to give patients in Oxfordshire a new life changing drug for **Duchenne muscular dystrophy** has reached a conclusion, it will be amongst the first hospital trusts to order the medication following NICE approval. Whilst I'm bitterly disappointed the Trust stuck stubbornly to its decision not to take part in an early access initiative, I'm relieved that the medicine is now available here. Finally, with the new session, my proposed legislation on **finances for water companies** fell, but the Government has proposed new legislation and I'll be re-tableting my ideas - this time as amendments to a Government Bill. I'll also be including one to ensure privately owned water companies in England and Wales are held to the same code of conduct as publicly owned bodies. My campaign to hold water companies to account continues...

In Westminster

It's been stop and start in Westminster with prorogation and a recess, but my select committee found time to explore developments in agri-tech including hydroponics, which linked in nicely with a visit I made to Chinnor Allotments on peat free horticulture - if only I'd heard their expertise before the committee session! I spoke at the second reading of the Government's **Health Bill**. This legislation is unlikely to make headlines but brings in some significant changes to the NHS's structure - giving more powers to the Secretary of State for health to intervene directly in local services. I welcome the fact that this will provide an opportunity for local campaigns to be escalated to the highest level when cuts or changes are proposed.

Across the constituency

It was great to visit **Mill Lane Primary School** in **Chinnor** last month, the Headteacher invited me and local County Councillor Georgina Heritage to visit the school to observe their daily struggle with temporary buildings still in use but long past their sell by date - the school has long been waiting for improvements. Very similar concerns about school buildings and maintenance were also raised on a visit to the vibrant **Peppard Primary School** in **Rotherfield Peppard**. I've made it clear to Oxfordshire County Council these concerns must urgently be addressed. Alongside the Allotments and Mill Lane School, my visit to **Chinnor** also included a visit to the brilliant **Chinnor Community Church Tots and Baby group**. I enjoyed a lovely lunch with the group and had some really useful conversations with local mums and dads around how essential **paternity leave and pay** is, as well as **flexible working**, and **local support networks**. Sticking with the school theme, I went back to **Chilworth House** - a specialist school for children with **SEND**. We covered the Government's White Paper proposed reforms with parents, as I heard how

transformational this kind of provision can be. Later in the month I heard from more parents about their SEND experiences at the SEND crisis evening forum in **Thame**.

In **Henley** I met with **Scottish and Southern Electric (SSE)** to visit a substation and hear all about their work keeping the lights on and minimising disruption where work is required. It follows on from a question I asked previously in parliament on **rural power network resilience**.

In **Reading**, I met with the new Chief Executive of the **Royal Berkshire Hospital NHS Foundation Trust**. At the meeting, I stressed how valuable **Townlands** is and hope to work with him to make it even stronger. I was grateful to receive a follow up briefing from **Thames Valley Police** in **Garsington** on Operation Multiball (the recent crackdown on anti-social parking and vehicle offences which resulted in multiple arrests). It's great to hear that new powers have been secured by the District Council to aid in future enforcement when rules are flouted. With special thanks for the warm welcome I received from **Checkendon Equestrian Centre**, **Le Manoir in Great Milton**, **Thame United** and the **Checkendon Polish Heritage Fete** this month. Many thanks also go to the local **B Corp Business group** I met at a meeting hosted at the **Ella's Kitchen HQ**, it was brilliant to hear about their plans to grow the impact and influence of the movement in the constituency.

And a final thanks to **Benson House Care Home** for their generosity providing a venue for my constituent surgeries once again. I wanted to close this newsletter this month by saying that my thoughts remain with the family and friends of the students affected by the outbreak of meningitis cases at Henley College last month, a heart-breaking and incredibly difficult time for all involved. I have asked Ministers for an update on when the Meningitis B vaccination programme will be reviewed.

Freddie van Mierlo MP

WHITCHURCH AND GORING HEATH HISTORY SOCIETY

In June and July there are outings for members, starting with a forage around Lewknor, visiting churches, a pub, and admiring the Chilterns' scenery.

We don't meet in August but return to Goring Heath Parish Hall in September, with a lively lecture by Stephen Barker on Trench Humour in the First World War. We meet at 2.30pm and welcome non-members. Contact Vicky Jordan on vickyjordan5@hotmail.com for more details.

DISTRICT COUNSELLOR UPDATE

May 2026 - Cllr Jo Robb, Cllr James Norman

Waste Survey - Residents were invited to participate in the annual survey on waste services, recycling and street cleaning across the district. Last year, more than 2,100 people took part in the 2025 survey. Feedback from the survey resulted in staff training to make sure bins were returned to the right place after emptying and better communication on which items go in which bins. The survey was open until 4 June 2026.

BinDays - BinDays is an app with information on the days when and which bins will be emptied in your local area. It replaces Binzone and is more reliable and easier to manage. If people are using a smartphone, once they enter their postcode and select the 'install instructions' button, they will be able to add the app to their mobile for easy access next time. southoxon.gov.uk/BinDays. Please do let us know if you have any feedback on BinDays and note, the BinDays web app does **not** collect any user data.

Planning and Land Charges System - The new planning and land charges system is now live. A reminder that if you had an account and were receiving updates on planning applications, you need to create a new account and request updates. All existing accounts from the old system have been deregistered. An information session was held in late April but if you didn't make it, you can watch the meeting here:

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL0ObA70Ys7ceODUtCiqM6IWzucMQbYVhQ>

The Council is recommending:

One shared email account per Parish Council using the official council email address (this ensures all consultations are managed in one place and there is a clear audit trail);

Parish Councils will receive a link to the consultation for planning applications – this link will be unique for the Parish Council. Therefore, please do NOT share this link with residents – their views will be recorded as being those of the Parish Council. We recommend you instead share the generic link to the planning application or simply share the planning application reference number.

Council Meeting Livestreaming – Residents have been able to watch livestreamed Planning and other committee meetings but now, for the first time in years, residents can also watch Full Council meetings live from home. The first live-streamed SODC Full Council meeting was on 14 May. You can watch SODC Council and Committee meetings on the council's own YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCTj2pCic8vzucpzlaSWE3UQ> This is about making the Council more transparent and accountable.

Renters' Rights Act - From 1st May 2026, the Renters' Rights Act started to come into effect. This brings about the most significant changes to the private rental sector in 40 years. The Act introduces new powers for councils and new requirements for landlords. Councils have a statutory duty to enforce the new landlord legislation and we are anticipating an increase in demand for housing services from May. You can find out more at:

www.southoxon.gov.uk/renters-rights-act or you can contact the Housing team directly: housing@southandvale.gov.uk

Empty houses - National Empty Homes week was held in March. Between December and February, 163 empty properties across both Districts were brought back into use, many with the involvement of the Empty Homes Officer. If you know of any empty properties in the District which could be brought into use as much needed housing, please email EmptyHomes@SouthandVale.gov.uk

Recycling Update - It is disappointing that South Oxfordshire dropped from top recycling English council area to third place amongst English Council areas for our recycling rate for the year 2024/2025. Our recycling rate dropped to 61.3% and the national figure for recycling also fell. These figures were for the year ending in March last year. Reducing waste overall is important: the County Council has to pay a gate fee per tonne to have residual waste burned to generate electricity. That fee is quite high – reducing waste saves money for the council. Just to note, the County Council runs household waste recycling centres, including our local centre at Oakley Wood.

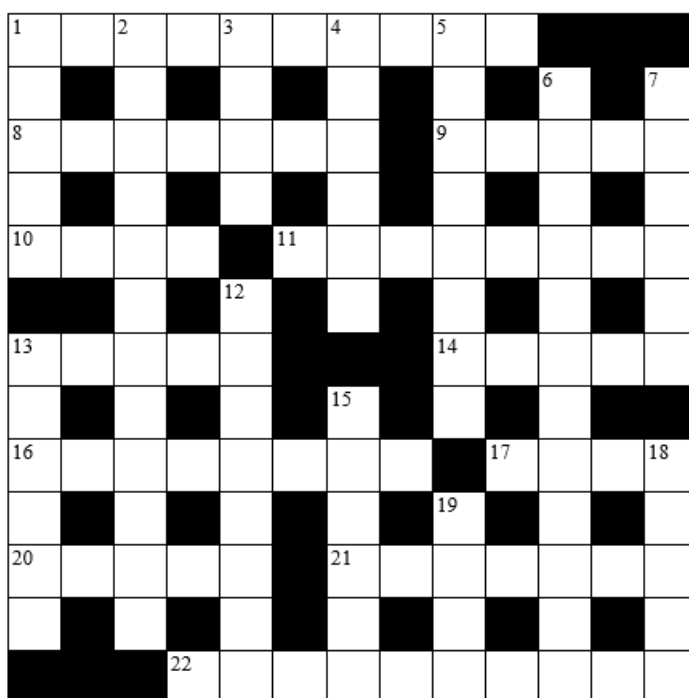
Since the booking system for these was introduced, there have been concerns this might increase fly-tipping. Rates of fly tipping are therefore being closely monitored by the District Councils. Please be alert and report any fly tips you see to Biffa: admin.southoxford@biffa.co.uk or call them on 01235 422123
SODC has carried out a number of successful prosecutions of offenders.

Disabled Facilities and other Grants - There are a range of grants available to residents who need to make improvements to their homes. These are to enable people to continue to live at home safely and in comfort, even if they become sick or disabled. Please do check the council's website – you or your friend/neighbour may be eligible and it's worth applying. <https://www.southoxon.gov.uk/south-oxfordshire-district-council/housing/help-with-improving-your-home/>

CROSSWORD 125 BY TIM LOWTH

Across

- 1 Deranged robot slept in a trap for crustaceans (7,3)
- 8 Sun god with trendy weapon creates an optical phenomenon (7)
- 9 East Ender's mate is in a state in Asia (5)
- 10 Resolutely follow Europe's last Venetian ruler (4)
- 11 Posh friend pursues Ann every year (8)
- 13 One can get into debt with this type of payment card (5)
- 14 Anger in the outskirts of Sanditon causes alarm (5)
- 16 "Forget the odds: it tilts!" the friend giggled nervously (8)
- 17 A military force goes back a great distance (4)
- 20 Madly loves to decipher (5)
- 21 They take rap for remedial treatment (7)
- 22 A tune Jean's arranged for an enduring author (4,6)



Down

- 1 Tempted by heartless Lou and Scarlet (5)
- 2 Supply your own drink in peculiar gin bar - with carafe (5,1,6)
- 3 Upcoming debut cut short underground (4)
- 4 Romeo, unpaid, is arguing (6)
- 5 Inevitably diverging from plan – but not so loud! (2,6)
- 6 All foals trip around Lot's wife's remains (6,2,4)
- 7 Carefully look around any ravine (6)
- 12 Around the third of December two aliens take an age, and so on... (2,6)
- 13 Loathe when journalist comes up with assessment (6)
- 15 Cease to be agitated in a North Yorkshire town (6)
- 18 Some spray on a synthetic fibre (5)
- 19 Beatrice is short with Gudrun's second boyfriend (4)

CHECKENDON PARISH COUNCIL AGM DRAFT MINUTES

These are the DRAFT minutes of the first part of a meeting of Checkendon Parish Council held on 18th May 2026. (These are draft minutes, not yet agreed by PC.)

Present - Mr. M. Wickens, Mr. D. Brown, Mr. T. Corbishley, Mr. P. Merson, Mr. D. Petherick, Cllr. J Norman and Cllr B. Higgins. Also 5 parishioners.

Initial Discussions - Report from Cllr Norman SODC

Regarding the new planning portal, Cllr Norman asked if PC members had accessed it, and it was agreed that it was initially more difficult, sometimes website down, links were less effective but using the reference numbers perhaps better. Cllr Norman explained that there is a briefing link available to help with access. Cllr Norman reported on the meeting with planning which he had attended before coming to Checkendon. The planning system has been adapted to make refusal more difficult.+

There was a request for more information from parishioners attending the meeting.

Cllr Norman explained that the government has set a target of 1.5 million new homes and to prevent local rejection of applications there must be clear material reasons. Currently there have been no completed tests of this in the National Landscape (AONB as was) but five houses near Wyfold have been refused, as it is against the local and neighbourhood plan and there is an appeal in place. SODC planning are wary of costs being awarded against them, and this may explain their position. (The South Oxfordshire Local Plan 2035). The local housing plan supply for South Oxfordshire is 1,235 homes a year. Measurement against this target is regardless of permission granted; the new homes only 'count' when built, and some developers are delaying the start of construction. There is no longer a requirement for low-cost housing. Cllr Norman expressed his frustration over the planning process but assured everyone present that he would continue to support/ fight for local fairness.

Report from Cllr Higgins OCC - Cllr Higgins supported the request for extending the 20mph speed limit on the south side of Checkendon, and Exlade Street, to Highways, and decisions should be completed by the end of June regarding potential revisions. There was great interest in potholes and discussion with parishioners attending the meeting. Cllr Higgins reported that Highway repairs have now "turned the corner", with four consecutive weeks where the overall number of outstanding defects has reduced, with more being completed than reported. Whilst there is still a significant backlog to be tackled to return to the normal planned response times, considerable resource continues to be deployed. The 2026 surface dressing programme started on 7 April and will run until 20 June. Currently the A4130 Henley to Crowmarsh has surface dressing work in progress. There has been some success in Lovegrove Lane, and this reflects central government funding which has risen from £22 million a year to £33 million. OCC are currently spending £49 million a year and have had to take out loans to fund this.

Parishioners flagged up potholes along the A4079 and some 'shoddy' repairs which are proving only temporary. Cllr Higgins is now trained as a 'super user' which allows him to escalate FixMyStreet reports for repair where they are in 20mph or 30mph areas, rather than having to wait for them to be centrally reviewed, so if there are any reports that need progressing, please contact ben.higgins@oxfordshire.gov.uk.

Parishioners also asked about flooding along the A4074, also opposite the old Four Horseshoes, by the Nuba Survival statue, in Bottom Lane and in Whitehall Lanes. Cllr Higgins reported that regular gully emptying has been increased from every four years to annually, and that in March this was completed in our area. Please report any issues on FixMyStreet and then contact him with any requests to escalate actions. Cllr Higgins also reported that the government has lifted the SEND improvement notice for Oxfordshire; 1500 new public EV charge points are to be installed across Oxfordshire; OCCs work with trade unions has been recognised nationally with PPMA Excellence in People Management Awards 2026; following a public consultation. Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Service station closures are no longer recommended.

Playing field fence - Parishioners asked for more information on the process and decisions made regarding the fence alongside the playing field. Mr Wickens explained that it was initially requested to prevent cricket balls going into the road, but there were additionally serious concerns regarding children running out onto the road.

There have also been recent incursions (such as Goring playing field) and that was another security consideration. The decision to complete a chain link fence was agreed at a previous meeting, with the suggestion that a low beech hedge would later be planted to reinstate the former field hedgerow.

There were also considerations of insurance. It was requested that more information be published on the website and in the Newsletter, including PC agendas, draft minutes (such as this one) and reports from SODC and OCC. A flexible height restriction barrier to the car park (allowing for the Post Office van), would be investigated. There was an offer of support regarding work to the pavilion. Latest plans for the Adventure Playground are outlined in the newsletter.

There was confirmation from Mr Steve Lisansky that the Newsletter could be published on the village website.

It was agreed by PC that a short section of post and rail fence with chain link attached would be trialled (opposite VH car park) as an alternative design.

Discussion about the planned power outages were beyond the remit of CPC.

DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' ANNUAL REPORT

In addition to the District Councillor's Update report on page 20, we have received the District Councillor's Annual Report. It makes exceptionally interesting reading, dwelling, as it does at length on the ongoing re-organisations of councils, and the establishment of new strategic bodies for Oxford and the Thames Valley, all of which takes time, resources and flexibility away from the objectives our council and councillors have set themselves

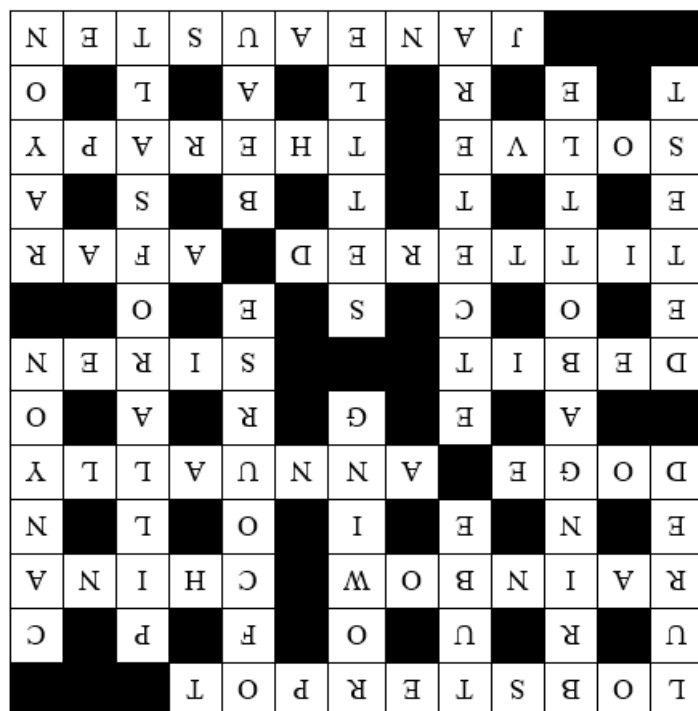
The report also covers

- Delivering the Council's Priorities in 2025/26
- Joint Local Plan 2041
- SODC Grant Schemes
- Budget
- Planning Reforms

The report is five pages long and we could not print the whole report in this newsletter. The Parish Council has posted the report online in the District council section of the Parish Council page of the Checkendon Village website. The link to download the report is below:

https://www.checkendon.net/files/ugd/e5399a_26ee25bba7d9437da8554dc8e34682.docx?dn=SODC%20Councillors%20Annual%20Report%202026.docx

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.

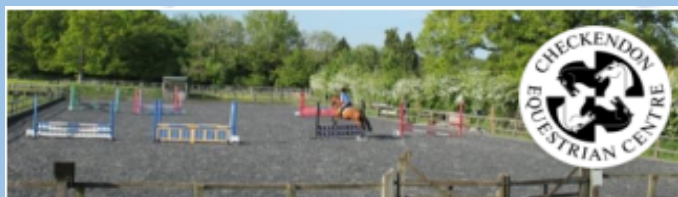
marykatharine@live.co.uk

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



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