

ROUND AND ABOUT

August/September 2026 Burnham, Haymill, Priory, Hitcham, Taplow and Dorney Community Newspaper

No 281

roundandaboutburnham.co.uk

THE BIG SING

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 30,
1.45PM TO 3.30PM**

all are welcome to join us for
The Big Sing to celebrate
these four very significant
village anniversaries



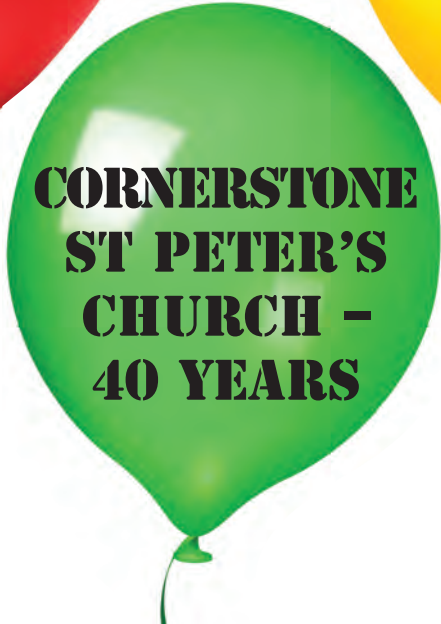
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130 YEARS**



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100 YEARS**



**BURNHAM
COMMUNITY
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60 YEARS**



**CORNERSTONE
ST PETER'S
CHURCH -
40 YEARS**

THE BIG SING will start with mainly children meeting and singing at Burnham Park Hall, with parents and friends meeting at St Peter's Church and mainly grandparents at The United Reformed Church from 2pm to 2.45pm. Please arrive at one of the venues above by 1.45pm or join the gathering of all the singers at 3pm for a really BIG SING outside Burnham Park Hall. (Song sheets provided)

**FIND OUT
MORE ABOUT
THE BIG SING
ON PAGE 3**

**ROUND AND ABOUT IS MANAGED BY A COMMITTEE OF BURNHAM
COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION, A REGISTERED CHARITY**



OUR DEADLINES

THESE ARE OUR 2026/27 deadlines for advertising and editorial contributions. Publication date in brackets.

Monday, September 7

(Thursday, Oct 1)

Monday, November 2 (26)

Tuesday, January 5 (28)

Monday, March 1 (25)

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Next issue deadline: Monday, September 7, publication date Thursday, October 1

To boost your local business with a new advert call 07812 164737; email enquiries@roundandaboutburnham.co.uk Visit our website www.roundandaboutburnham.co.uk or find us on Facebook @roundandaboutburnham

Our Big Sing anniversaries illustrate community longevity and tenacity

WHILE Round And About can't claim a significant anniversary like the four organisations that will be celebrated in The Big Sing on August 30 (See pages 1 and 3) we can claim to have been circulating in our villages for some 47 years (Roll on 2029!).

Our longevity and that of the 'big four' illustrates what a strong community there is in Burnham and our surrounding villages. There are many other groups that show similar long histories and will no doubt have anniversaries to celebrate in due course.

For those new to R&A, we deliver at least 8,000 copies door-to-door every two months bringing local news and provid-

ing a great platform for businesses to reach their local market. (See above)

We have a team of more than 100 volunteers who deliver our copies and although this team inevitably changes over time, all our rounds are currently covered.

If you interested in a future vacancy please call 01628 605131 or email us at enquiries@roundandaboutburnham.co.uk

Burnham Community Association (BCA) contact details

❑ **Good Neighbour Scheme: 07508 240762**

❑ **Minibus: 07786 430393**

❑ **Monday Club: Theresa Clews 07843 425864**

❑ **BCA email: info@burnhamcommunityassociation.org.uk**

❑ **www.friendsofburnhamlibrary.org**



CONTACTING ROUND AND ABOUT COMMITTEE MEMBERS

CHAIRMAN Jean Stanger (01628) 605131

DISTRIBUTION Jean Stanger (01628) 605131

ADVERTISING John East 07812 164737

MARKETING Mike Swain (01628) 661556

TREASURER Tom Arthur 07769 860428

EDITOR Jean Anderson 07769 860428

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The Big Sing celebrates village life

READERS MAY recall that two years ago Bucks Culture visited Burnham and took a wonderful photograph titled – Village – which is now proudly on display in Burnham Park Hall.

We thought that for this year – we would try and encourage an even more active role for all those who participated in Village – and came up with the idea that we would try to encourage all Round and About readers to come and sing on a Sunday afternoon (August 30) before the start of the new school year.

And we have been fortunate to attract sponsorship support from The Dental Surgery Burnham and Bucks Culture.

There are four anniversaries which we are keen to celebrate and we would like to ensure that all generations participate.

We are blessed with some wonderful musical talent and Elizabeth Cullen who leads Taplow Choirs, Sue Beach who leads Singing for the Memory, and the Reverends Vicci Davidson

and Josh Cleaver are all talented musicians.

We are also blessed with three wonderful venues in close proximity – St Peter's Burnham, United Reformed Church Hall and Burnham Park Hall – and we plan to practise in all three venues from 2pm before all coming together for a Big Sing outside Burnham Park Hall at 3pm.

Parents and children are invited to start in Burnham Park Hall, senior citizens to make their way to the United Reformed Church Hall and all of any age are invited to join us at St Peter's Church.

We are, of course, hoping for kind weather and perhaps many of those attending would like to picnic after the final song.

Look out for more details on this edition's front page and there will be comprehensive song sheets available on the day.

If you have any queries – then please e-mail – **Viv Nicholas**, The Burnham Foundation Chairman, @mrviv.nicholas@btinternet.com

Father and son 1,337-mile charity cycling challenge

LUCAS, FRESH from completing GCSEs, and his father William from The Fairway, Burnham, have embarked on a remarkable cycling journey to raise funds for two charities close to their hearts: PAPYRUS and the MS Society.

Lucas and his dad (pictured) have set themselves the daunting goal of cycling over 1,337 miles – the equivalent of riding from London to Cairo. Their adventure will be split into two major legs: first, a challenging tour from Windsor



Castle to the Palace of Versailles and back, followed by the iconic Land's End to John O'Groats route, renowned as one of the toughest cycling expeditions in the UK.

The pair have chosen to support PAPYRUS, a charity dedicated to the prevention of young suicide which claims the lives of 125 people a week in the UK, and the MS Society, which funds research and support for those living with multiple sclerosis. Both causes have had a profound impact on people's lives.

Lucas and William hope their ambitious ride will inspire others to donate to these vital causes. "Any donation, no matter how much, will help these important charities," they said.

The duo will share updates and route maps throughout their journey, aiming to keep supporters engaged and informed as they take on this epic challenge.

Donations can be made through JustGiving, and every contribution will make a difference.

<https://www.justgiving.com/team/barrett-cycle-2026>

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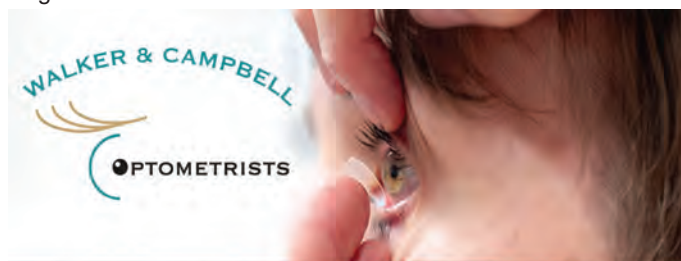
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For how to apply through local schools, churches or BHPT see <https://thehitchamtrust.weebly.com/>

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The heat was on for Burnham Village Fete

A HUGE THANK you to everyone who came along to Burnham Village Fete on July 11 and helped to make it such a wonderful day.

Despite the very hot weather, it was fantastic to see so many people enjoying the stalls, fun, games and sampling some homemade treats.

The fete was opened by The Countess Howe, His Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant Of Buckinghamshire, accompanied by Marie Hammon – Burnham Parish Council Chair and Chelsea Pensioner Colin Paterson. (all pictured right)



St Peter's Church's bottle and can stall



Scout group needs more volunteers

1ST BURNHAM and Hitcham Scout Group is a large, busy group on Almond Road that needs more volunteers, particularly leaders, to help deliver great programmes for our young people, working alongside our dedicated voluntary leadership team.

If you are interested, please get in touch via their website.

They currently have spaces for Beaver aged young people (from age 6) to start their Scouting adventure, register your interest at www.1stbandhscouts.org.uk/join.



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Although we didn't have the dog show, due to the heat, we were lucky to have signing duo Martin and Adele (pictured left) who came to entertain us.

We had stalls from local charities and small businesses, selling everything from candles, crystals, jam, cakes, jewellery and much more.

Finally a huge thanks to all the organisers, volunteers, stallholders and everyone who worked behind the scenes. Without your time, enthusiasm and hard work the fete simply wouldn't be possible.

We had a lovely day and look forward to seeing you again next year.

Mel Pope

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School campaign: A call to action!

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE Council published their draft local plan on July 7 and the consultation period will be from July 23 to September 6.

Our key concern is that the plan includes building 125 houses on the Burnham Upper School site. The Council plans to sell the school site and end our chances of getting our school back!

The plan is in direct opposition of Burnham Parish Council who recently gained approval of their own local plan which includes the school site as a community asset, and has an aspiration to reopen the school. It is also extremely frustrating and annoying that Bucks. Council did not inform the Parish Council or the public of this proposal before publishing their draft local plan.

This plan, and the lack of engagement from Bucks. Council should serve as a 'call to action' for all those concerned about the vitality and viability of our community in and around Burnham. The site not only includes the school but also a sports hall and playing fields which once again should be open for community use.

As a first step – would all those concerned community members and groups should express their disapproval by e-mailing these addresses. Planningpolicyteam.bc@buckinghamshire.gov.uk & Info@saveourschool.org.uk

Please email in your own words. You may wish to mention:

- The school site is an important community

asset for Burnham and the wider community

- Burnham needs a new non-selective secondary school

- The school site is also important for its playing fields and sports hall.

In addition, you should consider making contact with our local county councillors and members of parliament.

A further update, and more on how you can help, will follow. Check our website – saveourschool.org.uk for further information.

Viv Nicholas



Communication key for patient group

THE MANDATE of the Burnham Patients Group is to improve communication between Burnham Health Centre and the patient community.

We are keen to increase the diversity and experience of our small but dedicated team of volunteers.

Over the last 10 years, we have expanded beyond running surveys and responding to issues and suggestions. We are around at various Health and Wellbeing events in the village if you want to chat.

This year, we have tried to foresee the impact of potential developments and ensure that the practice and senior



NHS planners are aware of this before formal planning applications are submitted.

We support changes at the Health Centre, such as the Total Triage process and expansion of the social prescriber role.

We ran a Digital Café over several months and it helped patients move to

the Triage process.

On August 3 at 9am, we will be in the Health Centre reception with help and advice relating to health services. We hope to make this monthly.

If you are interested in helping or have any comments, please contact bobicb-bucks.burnham.ppg@nhs.net.

Carol Linton



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Great Developments at Burnham Beeches Rotary!

SUCCESSFUL DONKEY DERBY: On May 23 we held the 35th edition of our annual Donkey Derby event in Burnham Park. The weather was a little hot, but everyone had fun with lots of entertainment from local groups, loads of stalls, the bar and of course donkey rides galore from Kelly's Donkeys. Traylen's Funfair was also there.

We really appreciated the continued backing of Grundon Waste Management Limited who are once again supported the event and this year we were also delighted to welcome Bluebird Care as a main supporter.

A big thank you also to Burnham Parish Council for their support and for the use of Burnham Park, as well as to all stallholders and advertisers who contributed to the success of the event.

ROTARY CONTINUES TO SUPPORT LOCAL CAUSES:

Over the last few months, we have continued to support many local good causes. We recently awarded grants to Phoenix Rugby Club Fireflies, Farnham Common School River Dart trip and the Well@Lent Rise's Friday Lunch Project.

We are also one of the sponsors for Azure Theatre Group's team (pictured) at the Dance World Cup 2026 Finals in Dublin. Recently, the boys received their official team kit - a special moment for them. They headed out to Dublin on July 15.

We were delighted to jointly sponsor a young person to participate in the Rotary Young Leadership Award scheme. The candidate, Isobel, will attend a camp designed to develop leadership and communication skills. We are partnering with Maidenhead Bridge and Maidenhead Thames Rotary Clubs to cover all costs. We are looking forward to hearing from Isobel on her return!

Several of our members took part in the Farnhams' Open Gardens event. We also helped at the Maidenhead Open



Gardens, Dropmore School's Country Dancing Competition and at local litter picking mornings with Burnham Parish Council and Burnham Grammar School

BUSINESS PARTNERSHIP SCHEME: Burnham Beeches Rotary recently announced a Business Partnership initiative where local businesses can partner with our club to help grow their business through networking and publicity and working with us for the benefit of the community.

The initiative is attracting attention, and we are pleased that Signature at Farnham Common, Help In Hearing and Bluebird Care have joined as partners. To find out how partnering with us could help your business visit our website. <https://rotary-ribi.org/clubs/page.php?PgID=997999&ClubID=1525>

LOOKING AHEAD TO ORCHARD DAY:

Planning is well advanced for our Orchard Day on September 26 at Temple Dell on Templewood Lane. We are open from 12 until 4 pm and entry is free. There'll be Craft Stalls, Morris Dancing, Food Stalls, Homemade Cakes, Children's Activities, Arena Entertainment and of course the Bar/Prosecco stall. A new event this will be a Fun Dog Show – bring along your four-legged friend – for a chance to win. Save the date! For more information visit the website address above.

ROTARY IS FUN – COME AND JOIN US: We hold regular social events and in early May we held a Musical Evening with John Dunsterville a professional musician who is also a Rotarian. It was a great evening! Come and join the fun and help our local community – we are always on the lookout for new members but if your time is limited and you would like to occasionally help out why not become a 'Friend of Rotary'. Learn more on www.rcbb.co.uk (just click on the 'What We Do tab') or email FriendsofRotary@rcbb.co.uk

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The stripes are back: Burnham FC reveal new kits

BURNHAM FOOTBALL CLUB is delighted to announce that Burnham-based Brooklyns Financial and Brooklyns Residential have extended their support as First Team sponsors for a further two seasons. Their continued backing allows us to reveal our brand-new home and away kits ahead of the 2026/27 campaign.

Designed in-house by the club and once again manufactured by Serious Sport, the new designs mark the return of the iconic striped shirt for both our home and away kits.

Each shirt is produced at Serious Sport's headquarters in Basingstoke using their innovative Tech 140 fabric, providing excellent breathability, comfort and performance in all weather conditions.

Our new home kit features a modern faded blue and white striped shirt, complemented by blue shorts and blue socks, maintaining the club's traditional colours while introducing a fresh contemporary look. The away kit adopts a striking red and black

striped design, paired with black shorts and black socks to create a bold alternative strip for the season ahead. In addition, our goalkeepers will take to the field in a distinctive green and black kit.

As part of the sponsorship agreement, the Brooklyns Financial logo will proudly feature on the front of the home shirts, while the Brooklyns Residential logo will be displayed on the front of the away shirts.

Everyone at Burnham FC would like to place on record our sincere thanks to Brooklyns Financial and Brooklyns Residential for their continued support of the club. Their commitment helps us continue to develop both on and off the pitch, and we look forward to representing them throughout the next two seasons.

We can't wait to see our players wearing the new kits as we prepare for another exciting campaign in 2026/27 - <https://burnham-fc1878.co.uk/the-stripes-are-back-burnham-fc-reveal-new-2026-27-kits>

Paul Butler



Burnham Bowlers progress in County Competitions

RICHARD THOMSON put Burnham on the bowls map when he defeated Ex England bowler and Commonwealth Games medalist John McGinness from Gerrards Cross in the County Singles competition 21-14. Richard is joined by Paul Jeffries and Steve Williams who have reached the Semi Finals in the Challenge Pairs. Martin Marriott, Steve Williams and Richard Thompson have reached the Semi Finals in the Triples and Loraine Ryan in the Challenge Singles Semi Finals. Well done to you all.

The two open days which we held in May and June have been very successful with 23 new playing members and nine social members joining the club. After having some coaching from more experienced bowlers the new playing members have soon got the

hang of it and regularly join in the Tuesday roll up or the bowls bash on a Friday evening. The experienced bowlers who have joined have integrated well into the club and have strengthened the existing teams.

Burnham made a good start to the Ray Keene League with some good results both home and away. The club has five teams in the league now with varying levels of experience.

We have also had some good results in the Thames and Chiltern league with Burnham recently winning on all rinks against Wargrave so gaining the maximum score of 10 points. There has also been the opportunity to play some friendly matches against other clubs in the area. At home all

the internal competitions are going well progressing towards finals week at the end of August. The good weather has resulted in lots of supporters coming up to watch these matches in the early evening enjoying a beer or a glass of wine.

If you did not manage to get to one of our open days you can come along to the club any Tuesday at 1.15 or Friday at 6.15 and give bowls a go you just need to wear flat shoes.

If you are looking for a venue this summer for a party, meeting or wake then the bowls club can be hired out. Bar and kitchen facilities are available if required and there is a large car park. For more information visit www.burnhambowlsclub.co.uk

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New lease of life for village pond

ON SATURDAY, June 13 the pond at Lent Green Lane echoed to the laughter of children, the chatter of crowds, and the quacks of pleasure of happy ducks as Burnham Parish Council was delighted to officially reopen the pond.

Burnham Parish Council now has an agreement to manage the pond for the next 21 years. Since taking it on from April 1 there has been a busy programme of tree works and other tidying-up to restore the pond to its former glory. The Council has also installed two new benches, additional litter bins, new safety signage and equipment, and a pond information board. The board, kindly funded by South East Bucks Community Board, gives visitors information about the history and wildlife

at the pond.

All of this work has been overseen by a group of councillors, council staff, community organisations, and the Friends of the Pond.

On the 13th the pond was officially reopened, and the information board unveiled, by the Countess Howe, Lord Lieutenant of Buckinghamshire. Lady Howe spoke about the importance of community projects like the one to restore the pond, as well as the importance of Burnham within Buckinghamshire.

In addition to Lady Howe there were speeches from Cllr Marie Hammon, Chair of Burnham Parish Council, Tia Latham on behalf of resident and 'Friends of the Pond', and the Rev Josh Cleaver, Vicar of St Peter's Church. Tia spoke about the importance of the pond to local residents and the role of the Friends of the Pond in looking after it. Rev Josh blessed the pond, which in past times was owned by the Vicar.

Cllr Marie Hammon said: "This is our land, our pond and our home. This moment marks a wonderful commem-



□ Council chair Marie Hammon (right), hooks a duck watched by Judith Foster and Adam Killeya

oration of the legacy of our village pond". She added: "There may be some new accommodation for our most important pond residents – the ducks – soon!"

There were also kids activities, on a duck theme, kindly organised by the Burnham Health Promotion Trust, and a great time was had by all.

Adam Killeya, Parish Clerk



Advertiser's announcement

Businesses set to benefit from dog friendly plans



BURNHAM IS TAKING a major step toward becoming one of Buckinghamshire's most dog friendly communities, with new initiatives designed to welcome dogs and their owners into the heart of the village, spearheaded by small business owner Claire Hunter.

As part of this effort, Claire's Comfy Canines is proud to announce the installation of two new dog waste bins in Burnham, supporting cleaner streets and encouraging responsible dog ownership. Window stickers have also been supplied for those businesses wishing to promote their dog friendly status.

This investment comes at a time when dog friendly policies are proving to be a powerful economic driver for local high streets. According to new UK data from DogFriendly, businesses that became dog friendly for the first time, in 2022 reported growth of 20-50%, demonstrating that welcoming dogs is not only popular with residents but also commercially beneficial.

"Burnham has a vibrant community of dog owners, and we want to help make the village a place where they feel welcome and supported," said Claire, founder of Claire's Comfy Canines. "By improving facilities and encouraging businesses to embrace dog friendly policies, we can boost footfall, increase dwell time, and strengthen our local economy."

This year marks 16 years of Claire's Comfy Canines, a business that has grown from a small local service into a trusted community hub for dog daycare, enrichment, and owner support. Over the years, the organisation has worked closely with families across Burnham and the surrounding areas, championing responsible dog ownership and creating a safe environment for dogs to spend their days.

With more than 13 million dogs in the UK and dog friendly venues seeing significant increases in customer spending and loyalty, our commitment to helping Burnham become more dog friendly positions the village at the forefront of a growing national movement. By investing in facilities and encourag-

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ing local businesses to open their doors to canine customers, Burnham is set to benefit socially, environmentally, and economically.

With thanks to Halo Hair, Freedom Hair, Woodstocks, Quickstep, Blue Bird care and Broadway flowers for already joining our campaign and the Parish Council for their support.



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quoting ref: Burnham Round & About

Summer activities keep council busy

PARISH COUNCIL members and staff have been keeping busy with lots of projects coming to fruition.

THE POND: Grand reopening! See page 9

PADEL UP AND RUNNING: The Padel Courts at the George Pitcher Memorial Ground are now up and running; two brand new and very well-appointed courts for this exciting and growing sport!

This perfectly complements all of the other amazing leisure opportunities at the GPMG, including our football pitches, the Learn2Dance Studio, and the Cherry Orchard Nature Park.

The courts are run by our tenants and friends at Padel Powerhouse limited, and can be booked here <https://playtomic.com/clubs/padel-powerhouse-burnham>

We are now hoping to have an 'official opening' on the morning of Saturday, August 1 – please check our social media for details, or follow Padel Powerhouse on Insta (@padelpowerhouse)

SILVER SERVICE – Council recognised by local council award scheme: Burnham

Parish Council was delighted to be recently awarded the silver level of the local council award scheme.

To achieve this award we submitted lots of evidence about what we do as a council. The scheme says that "receiving the Silver Award is an excellent achievement showing that the parish council achieves good practices in governance, community engagement and council improvement."

"Furthermore, this award shows that the parish council has gone above and beyond the legal obligations; that they

lead your community and continuously seek opportunities to improve and develop even further".

TRIM TRAIL: The Trim Trail in the park is now officially open. The exciting project brings 11 new pieces of high-quality equipment to the park, including monkey bars, an assault net, pull-up bars and more.

The project was very kindly funded and led by Burnham Health Promotion Trust (see page 12) in collaboration with the Parish Council. It is already proving very popular!



□ Council Clerk Adam Killea on the Trim Trail

We are hoping to get a water fountain added outside the library very soon, to help keep everyone using the trail refreshed and hydrated!

BGS DESIGN PROJECTS: We have been delighted to work with the very talented A Level students from Burnham Grammar School who, as part of their A Level coursework, have designed some amazing new features for the hall.

These include some awesome designs to go on our stairs, making the journey to our landing more colourful and interesting.

Even better, when you get to the landing you will find an awesome new table also showing scenes from the community and history of Burnham.

We really appreciate all the hard work of the students and school staff on this project. When you add this to the Well Stitchers Embroidery, the Village Project Photo, the Heritage Wall, the St Peter's Church tapestry, and lots of other photographs from Burnham's history in our various rooms and corridors, the hall is looking more and more Burnham every day!

Coming up at the hall

THE EXCITING events coming up at the Hall in August and September include:

● **Tuesday, August 4:** Kid's Beach Party. 4-8pm. £3 per child (free for the accompanying adult). Tickets from ticketsource/burnhampark

● **Friday, August 7:** Band Night with Neon Daze (modern pop, rock, reggae and ballads): FREE

● **Sunday, August 9:** So you think you know music Quiz Night. 7:30pm for 8pm FREE

● **Sunday, September 13:** So you think you know music Quiz Night. 7:30pm for 8pm FREE



We will also have exciting events coming up in October including a comedy night on Friday, October 9 and a Children's Halloween Party on Saturday, October 31 – more details in the next edition.

This is in addition to all of our amazing regular hires and events put on by other organisations: please follow Burnham Park Hall on Facebook to keep up to date!

If you are interested in hiring the hall please visit our website <https://www.burnhampark.co.uk/>, and come into the hall for a chat about how we can help!



SPONSOR OF ROUND AND ABOUT

See the website for more news plus details of upcoming council meetings
www.burnhamparish.gov.uk

OTHER UPDATES

● We had stalls at both the Almost the Donkey Derby and the Village Fete – both fantastic events. Massive thanks to everyone involved in the organisation, and to everyone who visited our stall!

● Friday, June 12 saw our second 'Theatre in the Park' event with an amazing performance of The Wife by the Rude Mechanical Theatre Company. The weather was great, as was the cast! We hope to see them back again next year!



● We were delighted to unveil two new dog bins sponsored by Claire's Comfy Canines – one at Burnham Park and the other in the Cherry Orchard, and hope that all the doggos of Burnham will appreciate them! (See page 9)



● We were also very pleased to install an additional defibrillator and bleed kit at the Five Bells – thanks to Phoenix Rugby Club for the defib, The Burnham Foundation for supplying the bleed kit, and the Five Bells for letting us put it on their pub!

ALSO COMING UP

● An official unveiling of the new library box is planned for Friday, July 31 – 3 for 3.30pm at the bus shelter outside the Hall.

● **Community Clean-up:** We really appreciate all that so many of you do to help keep Burnham looking nice. Our final 'community clean-up day' of the season is on Saturday, September 19 meeting at 10am at the hall. Tea, coffee and biscuits will be provided.

● We are currently working hard on a project to expand play area provision in Burnham with some new and different equipment. We have been consulting residents and hope to announce plans later in the year: watch this space!

Update from Burnham Health Promotion Trust

www.bhpt.org.uk ● 01628 661441 ● www.facebook.com/groups/1252256924944049/

HELLO TO Round And About readers. We hope you are managing to stay hydrated and cool in this hot weather.

In this edition we wanted to remind you of some regular offerings and a couple of new things that we have been working on. You can visit our website to view our timetable of activities along with other information on useful local services.

Trim Trail

DON'T FORGET to go and visit the new trim trail (pictured right), now set up in Burnham Park, a collaboration between BHPT and Burnham Parish Council. Funded by BHPT, the course is designed to test all levels of fitness and can be used by young and old.

There is also a memorial bench to honour Dr Bev Daily, one of the original founders of BHPT.



If you would like to speak to us, please ring our office number on 01628 661441.

Do leave a message if the answer machine is on, we might be on another call, but we will get back to you.

Look after yourselves and each other.

Dawn Harries and the staff & Trustees of Burnham Health Promotion Trust



Ladies Wellness course

A NEW Ladies Wellness course has started up in Burnham. A project between BHPT & Halsa Physiotherapy, this six-week course will consist of: **Breath & Release; Core & Pelvic Health; Posture & Everyday Pain; Strength for Life; Balance, Energy & Flow; Self-Care & Sustainability**

Run by Taz, a fully qualified Physiotherapist, the course is subsidised by BHPT so will cost just £30 for the whole six weeks and will be based at Burnham Park Hall. The course is open to all ladies between 18 years and 100+.

To find out more information and register your interest in future courses, please email lisa@bhpt.org.uk

Singing For Your Memory & Memory Café

IF YOU OR anybody you know is suffering with any form of memory loss, then this may be just the group for you!

We are a community singing group who meet on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month at Burnham Community Library, 11am-noon. We sing a range of songs from all decades and some show tunes. You don't have to have any singing experience and it's free. Singing is a great way to exercise the memory and put a smile on your face.

On the alternate weeks to singing there is a Memory Café at Burnham Community Library, again 11-noon. It is on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of every month.

There is an opportunity to meet other people experiencing similar issues, play memory games and share stories to get the brain working! For more information contact Gemma on gemma@bhpt.org.uk

Heritage Society News

OUR MONTHLY memory sharing sessions continue to be very popular with our most recent topic being School Days in Burnham. All sorts of interesting, and sometimes very surprising, stories were shared!

There won't be a meeting in August but we will be back in September when the theme will be Adult Education.

Perhaps you joined one of the enormous queues at Burnham Upper School at the start of each autumn term with hundreds of people keen to register for one of the many courses offered by the Adult Education Centre.

If you remember this, or if you would like to find out more, then please join us at May's Chocolate House, 75 High Street, Burnham on Wednesday, September 9, between 11am and 12.30.

Thank you to those of you who braved the intense heat to visit our stall at the Village Fete on July 11.

Our display celebrated 60 years of Burnham Community Association, and this will form part of a bigger display which we are currently preparing to coincide with the Round and About Big Sing on Sunday, August 30 (see front page).



□ Heritage Society volunteers James and Robin

For more details about any of the above or for more information about the Heritage Society please email burnhamheritage@btinternet.com or call 01628 665932 or visit the Burnham and District Heritage Society Facebook Page.

Shirley Shaw



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Youth Centre in urgent need of new trustee

THE TRUSTEES of Burnham Youth Centre urgently require a new trustee to look after the accounts and finances.

This would suit someone with a financial background or just good with figures. They would look after the bank account, paying bills and invoicing for lettings etc. Also, they would need to produce year end accounts for the Charity Commission.

The youth centre building is leased to the Trustees by Buckinghamshire Council on a peppercorn rent. We are responsible for the general maintenance and upkeep of the building and the financial side of running the centre to enable the Youth Club to operate.

To fund this, we raise funds through lettings to local groups and organisations as well as private individuals. We can also access grants for specific projects.

The Youth Club presently runs two nights a week and provides a place for young people in the Burnham area to socialise and develop life skills in a safe environment.

The Trustees do not get involved in the Youth Club sessions. These are run by a separate management committee and a valued group of volunteers.

The Trustees are a small group and meet monthly.

If you think you can help, please contact: **Judith Foster** – judithfoster23@btinternet.com or 07710 375274



Shedders keep creating!

OUR HECTIC time has continued with the new Shed fitting out taking longer than anticipated.

However, we have still managed to provide five elevated planters, an external Skittle Alley, a friendship bench, a duck house, repaired three vacuum cleaners, a T-Pee for a local school and we are currently making 30 commemorative coasters for the Bell Ringers Society.

On the plus side, our request has been answered with the arrival of a



UK
Men's
Sheds
Association

new member who has donated a wood turning lathe.

In return we have been giving him individual lessons and he has already made his first wooden item (see picture above).

We are now working hard to replenish our stores to attend two more Summer Events

If you are interested in joining us or would like to find out more about us please contact me, Tony Jones, on (07712) 436933.

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The Youth Centre is also available to hire for parties, clubs and meetings etc.

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Heatwaves cause extra concern for stressed ancient pollards

AT THE TIME of writing, the country is entering its third heatwave of the year, sparking another series of heat-health alerts, but these concerns are not restricted to humans; there are similar concerns for the trees at Burnham Beeches, especially the ancient ones.

The beech (pictured, right) and oak pollards of Burnham Beeches are of course some of the key features of the nature reserve, being not only remarkable and rare in themselves, but also providing essential, irreplaceable habitat for some of the 65 or more rare and endangered species that are found here, not to mention the more common wildlife. These magnificent specimens have probably lived twice as long as they would have, had they remained uncut, but their great age means that they are extremely sensitive and vulnerable to habitat change.

For decades the Beeches' team have pioneered ways of working with challenging trees like this, keeping them alive as long as possible whilst newly created pollards are allowed to develop into the veteran trees of the future. This has helped to slow down the decline in numbers of ancient pollards in the woodland but, working on and around the trees to give them more light and space is just part of the answer.

Recent visitor number surveys have shown that Burnham Beeches has around 450,000 visits per annum; slightly lower than previous surveys but still more visitors per hectare than almost any other nature reserve of similar conservation status.

The footsteps of each visit can, and do, lead to soil compaction, crushing the gaps in the soil which allow water and air to penetrate through to the roots. In severe cases this can cause the roots to



die back and the tree to die – the case of the Major Oak in Sherwood Forest which recently died, was thought to be due (in part) to compaction through decades of 'over adoration' from visitors.

Someone walking the same route can quickly create a new path, causing vegetation to die, erosion and soil compaction. Burnham Beeches' team has for many years been concerned about the potential impact of the volume of visits to the reserve and, following surveys and advice from consultants, earlier this year began the process of encouraging visitors to use the main, surfaced paths which can cope with the footfall, rather than cut their own tracks through the woods. It is particularly important not to walk through the root zones of the old trees.

During January and February there was relentless rain, followed by an unusually dry April and then heatwaves during May, June and now July. Unfortunately, whilst heavy downpours may bring a lot of water, it comes too fast so the water runs off before it is able to soak into the soil. Additionally, the dry and hot weather in spring started when many trees were coming into leaf causing heat stress and scorching young tender leaves – some old pollards, but also some birch and pine, have

already succumbed to the conditions. Of the trees which have produced leaves, many are sparsely foliated and what leaves they have are very small – sure signs of severe stress. Experience has shown us that when trees only manage small leaves, they can be dead within a year or two.

Another concern is the scattering of ashes of loved ones and pets. We understand the sentiment behind this, but this eco system is complex and sensitive and this practice can be extremely harmful for the reserve and its trees, changing soil chemistry and damaging the trees. In addition to the high alkalinity of ashes (typically equivalent to extremely chalky soil compared to the acidic Burnham Beeches soil), they also contain elements that are harmful to trees – it has been said that this is similar to pouring bleach around the tree. One ancient pollard currently of great concern, has regularly had ashes spread around it.

If climate change projections for global warming in the south of England are correct, the beech trees of Burnham Beeches will increasingly be under threat. The team have been mitigating against this by creating new pollards from a variety of species which may be more resilient to climate change but, if future generations are to enjoy the Beeches.

There are also ways that visitors can help:

- Stick to the surfaced paths to minimise compaction
- Please respect the dead hedges and other barriers created to keep people to the main paths
- Always clear up after your dog
- Never scatter ashes
- Support the work of the Burnham Beeches Charity by making a donation

Chris Morris, Chief Ranger, Burnham Beeches

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How does our riverside grow?

THE CHAPEL OF St Mary Magdalene at Boveney had recently been restored when I painted it in 2013. Since that time elder (*Sambucus nigra*) and other shrubs have grown up along the field boundary - a reminder that in nature nothing stays the same. When the present church was built in the 12th century there was a wharf nearby and a thriving community working on and by the River Thames. I sometimes wonder how different the river and its vegetation would have been. With no locks great skill would have been required to navigate the river, which was probably wider and more shallow than it is today.



Baskets were woven from willows (*Salix* sp), which would have grown abundantly along the river, although the exact species were different from some of those growing there today. The weeping willow (*Salix babylonica*) is a native of China and was first introduced to England in the 18th century, and so would not have been present in medieval times. Neither would it have been possible to collect conkers along Conker Alley in Boveney, because the horsechestnut (*Aesculus hippocastanum*) comes from the Balkan Peninsula and has only been grown in Britain since the 16th century.

The sunny weather and heat waves during May and June meant that the yellow and red cherry plums (*Prunus cerastifera*) ripened early this year, and it was June rather than July when the fallen ripe fruit covered the towpath near Boveney Lock. A forerunner of our modern plums but, like the horsechestnut, was only introduced into Britain in the 16th century. The cherry plum is common in hedgerows around Taplow. Being a Southern European species, it is possible this could be related to global warming.

A native plant that is becoming more common along the river by Boveney is gladdens or stinking Iris (*Iris foetidissima*). During late spring and early summer you probably missed its pale, yellowy-mauve flowers because they do not show up amongst the clumps of bright green sword shaped leaves, which grow in the hedgerow, often in deep shade. However at this time of year you may notice the fat, shiny green seed pods, which as autumn approaches will dry out, turn brown and split to reveal the striking vivid orange-red seeds. These berries are a good source of food for birds and other animals during the winter months, but they are poisonous to humans.

Pamela Taylor

Looking ahead at May's Chocolate House

WITH THE extreme heat recently, we've had some quieter days in May's but we are looking forward to an active autumn.

Over recent months we've been talking to lots of people to find out about the sorts of activities they would like to see in May's and we've got plenty of ideas which we are busy developing. We're very pleased to be working with Radfield Care and we plan to launch 'Memory Mondays' on September 7 from 11am to 12.30pm. We are also starting our 'Wellbeing Wednesday' programme in September with a different activity or theme each week. On Tuesday, September 8 from 11.15am to 12.30pm, we'll be starting May's Storytime for pre-school children and their parents or carers. Full details of all the above will be available from the shop and on our Facebook page later in August.

Due to volunteers' holidays, we will be opening for restricted hours until early August. We are sorry that we will not be open on Saturday,



August 1, so our next 'Welcome to Burnham' event will be on Saturday, September 5, from 11am to 1pm. During August we hope to organise some children's activities so do look out for details in the shop window and on our Facebook page.

Plans are well underway for our special community event 'Families Together in Burnham' which will take place from 11am to 4pm on Sunday, October 18, in Burnham Youth Centre. It follows on from a similar and very popular event which we held in Burnham Park Hall in October 2024.

The aim of the day is to give grandparents, parents and children the opportunity to enjoy spending time together whilst participating in a variety of community-led activities with other local families.

Tickets will be available from the shop towards the end of August and will cost £5 per person to include drinks and a light lunch.

So, there's plenty to look forward to in the autumn but in the meantime, we're keeping the chocolates cool and we've added ice-creams and delicious chocolate milkshakes to our menu so we do hope you will call in to see us very soon.

Shirley Shaw

Lasting memories

BETWEEN SEPTEMBER 2025 and July 2026 more than 100 children from St Peter's School and Lent Rise School have participated in LaST (Learning and Sharing Together) intergenerational projects. Children from Years 5 and 6 have visited Perry House, where the project began nearly 25 years ago, and children from Year 5 at Lent Rise School have visited Lent Rise House Care Home in our newest project which began in September 2025.

Since January this year we have been delighted to welcome sixth form volunteers from Burnham Grammar School to both projects. I am very grateful to members of the Rotary Club of Burnham Beeches and to Mr Leung at Burnham Grammar School for their help in making this happen.

With a different theme each week, the children, sixth formers and older people learn together, share memories, make new memories and hopefully have fun!

We look forward to both projects continuing in the autumn term.



□ Making connections - cat's cradle proved very popular with everyone!

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Catholic ladies welcome C of E vicar

RECENTLY, The Catholic Women's League of Our Lady of Peace Church held their Branch meeting at St Andrew's Church, Cippenham. (pictured left)

We invited the Vicar of St Peter's Church, Burnham, the Rev Josh Cleaver, to talk to us about his journey to faith.

It was an incredible talk and moved many of the members.

We also celebrated the 90th birthday of Gloria with a cake and everyone enjoyed a splendid afternoon tea.

Louise Dance, Branch treasurer

Upcoming events at Burnham Library

THERE IS A busy period ahead for Burnham Library starting with the Summer Reading Challenge.

The 2026 Summer Reading Challenge is Read to the Beat, delivered by The Reading Agency in partnership with public libraries and powered by Universal Music Group UK.

On August 28 at 10.30am children's poet Simon Mole will be visiting the library.

The free event is for age 4+ and families. Booking is essential on bit.ly/ReadToTheBeatWithSimonMole

The theme inspires children to explore the connection between stories and songs, discovering how reading and music both ignite imagination and creativity.

On Tuesday, August 18, visitors to the library will be able to meet Guide Dogs and chat to volunteers and staff about the charity. They will be there from 1.30pm to 3.30pm.

This summer also marks Library Resources Officer Karen Ward's 10 years at the library. Karen's colleagues and library users thank her "for the wonderful work she does in Burnham every week".

Theatrical subject for HHS

HEDGERLEY Historical Society does not meet in August however on Wednesday, September 16 (8pm Hedgerley Memorial Hall) they will enjoy a talk on Tudor and Jacobean theatre.

Murder, Mayhem and Mischief. is presented by former archaeologist Paul McGarrity. He will explain that Tudor and Jacobean theatre was so much more than William Shakespeare. This talk looks at the history, archaeology, and the fanciful tales from one of the most interesting times in English history.

For more details visit www.hedgerleyhistoricalsociety.org

Out and about with The Well



WITH Wake-up-Wednesday in abeyance for the holidays The Meeting Place and Friday Lunch group have been undertaking summer activities.

It was pleasing to see the charities parlours in use in Hitcham, mid-June, at St Mary's Cream Tea and Open Garden day and towards the end of May for Burnham Parish Council's clean up day, coinciding with Burnham Beeches Rotary Club's Almost the Donkey Derby where a stall was also taken. A pitch was also acquired at Burnham Community Association's (BCA's) Village Fete.

Trips have been taken, utilising BCA's Minibus, with visits to Bekonscot model village, Hedsor Fair, Henley, and Marlow. The furthest trip so far was to Brighton (pictured at the Devil's Dyke).

July has also seen a Red, White and Blue Vintage Cream Tea and a trip to Taplow Court.

The Meeting Place is on Wednesday mornings and Friday Lunch on Friday mornings (although no Friday Lunch in August), both at The Methodist Church Hall, Lent Rise.

The Well @ Lent Rise charity operates on a donation basis, apart from trips, so that all may participate.

Terry Gamble



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CHURCH NEWS

OUR LADY OF PEACE & ST ANDREW'S PARISH

WEEKLY SERVICES: Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday: 9.30am - OLP, Burnham, Sunday: 11.30am - St Andrew's, Cippenham Thursday: 9.30am - St Andrew's, Saturday: 6pm - OLP, Burnham.

Weekday masses are preceded with morning prayer starting at 9.15 and followed by the Rosary.

LIVE STREAMING of Sunday morning 9.30am AS WE move through the summer months, we give thanks for the many people who make our parish such a welcoming, vibrant and faith-filled community.

Our parish is built not only through worship but also through the generosity, commitment and talents of those who freely give their time in service to others.

There are many opportunities to become involved in parish life. Whether you feel called to serve as an altar server, join one of our music groups, become a youth group coordinator, assist as a Confirmation or First Holy Communion catechist, help with gardening and maintenance, or support one of our other ministries, there is a place for everyone. Every contribution, however great or small, strengthens our parish and enriches our shared life of faith.

Our Confirmation candidates continue their preparation with dedication and enthusiasm. As they journey towards receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation, we keep them and their families in our prayers. May the Holy Spirit continue to guide and inspire them.

Our youth group remains a

Mass on Facebook & YouTube: ourladyofpeace-catholicchurchburnham www.youtube.com/channel/UCegtwpudlmz48G-m3gPNy4Q

For more on church activities phone 01628 605764. Or email parish.ourladyofpeace@northamptondiocese.org

Parish priest: Fr Amalraj Lawrence, Parish Secretary: Venecia Godinho

joyful and growing part of parish life. Each gathering includes games, discussions, debates and creative activities that encourage friendship, faith and fun. We warmly invite all young people of secondary school age to join us on the first Thursday of every month. We are especially looking forward to our annual sleepover in September, always a highlight of the year.

On July 9, our church was filled as we celebrated our Year 6 Primary School Leavers (pictured below) before they embark on the next stage of their educational journey. The school choir sang beautifully, and the children participated fully throughout the serv-

ice. They are a credit to their school and to our parish, and we wish them every blessing for the future.

Also on July 9, we celebrated the Feast of Our Lady of Peace with a beautiful Mass, followed by a parish gathering in the sunshine. It was a wonderful opportunity to enjoy one another's company, share refreshments and strengthen the friendships that make our parish such a special community.

We thank God for His many blessings and for our thriving parish family, which continues to grow through faith, friendship and service. Through the kindness and dedication of so many volunteers, our parish remains a place of welcome, hope and belonging.

August is traditionally a quieter month as many families enjoy a well-earned summer break. We hope everyone has the opportunity to rest, recharge and spend precious time with family and friends.

We look forward to welcoming everyone back in September, refreshed and renewed, as we continue our shared journey of faith together.

Brid Vaughan



UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

WHAT A fabulous summer, absolutely stunning weather and some truly memorable sport.

As I write, the Wimbledon Men's final is being fiercely contested. The play is magnificent but I'm relieved I'm not there; just too hot!

In the US Scotland has been knocked out of the World Cup. Whilst the football may not have been top class; the Tartan Army has won legions of fans with their kilts, singing and neatly clearing their rubbish into bin bags. Bravo Scotland!

And as for England, by the time you read this you will know the result and I'm scared to jinx it!

However England is in the semi final having played some fabulous football. All very exciting.

Don't forget the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow from July 23 to August 2. This will be another exhibition of sport at its finest.

Whatever your plans for this summer whether you're staying at home or going away, have a great time.

It looks as if it'll continue to be a scorcher, so keep hydrated and apply sun cream generously.

Our regular services at Burnham URC are on the 2nd and 4th Sundays each month at 10:30am. We would be delighted to welcome you.

Thank you for reading, and God Bless our village.

Elizabeth Duff

BURNHAM METHODIST CHURCH

The Church at the Crossroads

WRITING ABOUT the Methodist Church in 'Church News', sitting at home with two fans going (no, not that sort), leads me to reflect on the warmth offered by church members in order to make the newer attendees, whether old or young to be comfortably settled for the morning service.

We also quite often have the pleasure of a new speaker, and gladly welcome their thoughts and views. Our own minister, the Rev Vicci Davidson, has the responsibility of a number of local churches, and we are delighted when she is with us.

You may well know that the premises are well used during the week, and newcomers are very welcome.

The **Monday Club** is a very pleasant active club, which meets, guess what, on Monday afternoons.

The **Meeting Place** also has a number of activities, but is very welcoming to visitors who enjoy a good chat and an equally good cup of coffee. The Meeting Place is on Wednesday, from around 9.30am.

On Thursday and Friday you might suspect that a lunch cafe would be open. You'd be right – and be able to enjoy a good lunch.

The writer has not forgotten the little ones who enjoy meeting together on Tuesday mornings. Writing as one of the helpers – I can assure you – they are wonderful!

More advice, if required, from the Rev Vicci. whose e-mail address is Rev.vicci@Mail.com

Hilary Evans

ST MARY'S HITCHAM

KENNETH GRAHAME, in his most-loved book, *The Wind in the Willows*, wrote that "There is nothing – absolutely nothing – half so much worth doing as simply messing about in boats", drifting down the river with all the time in the world. I think that probably sums up the summer for many of us!

A slower pace, long, light evenings, and the freedom to do very little and not to feel guilty about it! I also find that when the busyness dies away, perhaps on a slow walk or a lazy afternoon in the garden, that can often when the bigger questions start to drift into our minds. Is there more to life than this? What's the point of all our day-to-day drudgery? They're the questions we can easily push to one side in term time but come back with a vengeance as soon as life starts to get quieter!

They're also old questions, and they're the ones the Christians have been wrestling with for two thousand years. If you've ever found yourself wondering about them as well, I'd love to tell you about Alpha.

Alpha is a relaxed and friendly way to explore the big questions of life and faith. It's free, there's no pressure, and there's no assumption that you believe anything at all. We put it on especially for people who wouldn't call themselves 'religious' and for those who perhaps haven't even set foot in a church before.

Each evening, we share some food, watch a short film that introduces a question (Is there more to life than this? Who was Jesus? Why is there suffering?), and then chat about it together in small groups. Every view and every question is welcome, and you can say as much or as little as you like.

Our next Alpha runs on Wednesday evenings from September 16 to November 25, 7.30 to 9.30pm, beginning with a welcome

meal on the first night.

You can find out more and save yourself a seat at www.stmaryshitcham.org.uk/alpha, or email me directly at vicar@stmaryshitcham.org.uk. Feel free to come for the meal whether or not you intend to join us for the course!

A few other things are also happening at St Mary's this summer. Over the break, from Sunday, July 26 to August 23, we're holding one combined service at 10am each Sunday, traditional in style, in place of our usual pattern.

We're back to normal from August 30, with a contemporary service at 9am and a traditional one at 11am.

We have some good news for families too! We've recently appointed Julie Richards as our new Children and Families' Minister, and Kids Church now runs on the third Sunday of each month, right through August included, and will grow to weekly from January 2027. If you've got little ones, do come along. Julie would love to hear from you at julie@stmaryshitcham.org.uk.

For the very smallest, we have our Roots & Shoots Café on the last Saturday of every month, with soft play, craft and all the toddler toys for the children – plus homemade cakes, biscuits and proper coffee for the grown-ups to buy! No need to book, so just turn up and bring the crew. It's £1.50 per child, capped at £3 per family.

However you're spending your summer, you'd be very welcome at St Mary's, whether for a service, a coffee, or simply just out of curiosity.

You'll find us at www.stmaryshitcham.org.uk, on Instagram and Facebook @stmaryshitcham.

God bless, **Rev Chris Hassell**

ST NICOLAS CHURCH TAPLOW & ST ANNE'S DROPMORE

COOL SPACE for everyone – when the temperature is forecast to be above 30 degrees St Nicolas church will be open this summer during the heat of the day for anyone to pop in and help themselves to a cold drink and escape the heat of the sun for a while. Come and enjoy a moment's tranquillity in our beautiful building.

Saturday, August 2 Coffee and Cake – St Nicolas church building is open from 10am to 12.30 and we welcome you to pop in for a cuppa and wonderful homemade cake. A great time to spend with old friends and new in this beautiful place in the heart of Taplow village.

Thursday, September 10 – Taplow Talk 7pm – The Life of a Vicar's wife! See poster for more details and how to book tickets.

Ride and Stride – Saturday, September 12 – St Nicolas is teaming up with other local churches to participate in this sponsored walk/cycle to raise money for Buckinghamshire Historic Churches Trust, and the church building will be open throughout the day. Coffee and cake available 10am to 12.30pm, and cold drinks available all day.

Organist/choir director needed – could you or someone you know be the answer to our prayer for an organist to play our lovely organ for a one-hour service on Sunday mornings and rehearse our wonderful choir? Job share/part time applications are welcome. Please check the website for more details or get in touch with Jane on

At Your Service:
behind the scenes
at the Vicarage

The Life of a Vicar's Wife
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jane.stnicolas@gmail.com

Worship at St Nicolas - Sundays at 10.45am and Wednesdays at 12.30pm

Parish Eucharist on 1st, 2nd, 3rd and any 5th Sunday, Informal worship for all on 4th Sunday. **Harvest Festival will be celebrated at Worship for All on Sunday, September 27.**

Taplow Tots and Tea reopens on **Wednesday, September 9**, for all parents/carers, babies and toddlers from 9.30am to 11.30am.

Hope Café is on the first Wednesday of every month 2pm to 3.30pm for all who enjoy tea, homemade cake and conversation. Opened in 2022 especially to support those who had been bereaved.

No need to book - just turn up. For more details ring Jane on 07848 228456

For more information on St Nicolas please visit our website www.st-nicolas-taplow.org

St Anne's Dropmore

YOU ARE warmly welcome to join us for worship on the 2nd or 4th Sunday of every month at 9.15am. An additional service is held at that time when there is a 5th Sunday in the month at special seasons. **Harvest Festival will be celebrated at Choral matins on September 27.**

We were delighted to welcome members of our local community to lunch to celebrate our Patronal Festival at the end of July and help us raise funds to cover the remaining portion of our new net zero carbon heating system which we installed following the failure of the old oil-fired heating system.

Weddings – both churches are available for weddings, whether you prefer the grand and spacious Victorian St Nicolas' building on the village green in Taplow, or the smaller, intimate arts and crafts building of St Anne's in the tranquillity of Burnham Beeches.

For more information contact the Rev Jane Cresswell on jane.stnicolas@gmail.com

CHURCH NEWS

ST PETER'S CHURCH

THANK YOU to all of you who joined in with our St Peter's week celebrations at the end of last month. It was a real privilege for us to be able to welcome many members of the community to enjoy the winning combination of tours up the bell tower followed by a cream tea (or vice versa).

In addition, our Beer and Hymns event was probably the most fun I've ever had in church as nearly 70 of us gathered on a very warm evening to sing our favourite hymns and drink our specially made Cornerstone beer. I was delighted to learn that across the evening we regularly exceeded the 'safe' 90 decibel mark in what was an evening full of joyful worship and celebration to mark the 40th year of Cornerstone.

Just as the construction of Cornerstone four decades ago was a significant endeavour which required the goodwill and support of the whole village community to be realised, St Peter's is again entering a similar season as we address the necessity for us to upgrade and future proof our lighting system in church.

The current lighting is in desperate need of an overhaul as it is both economically and ecologically inefficient, as well as being aesthetically limiting for such a beautiful building. We are very excited by the new LED lighting scheme which has

been proposed by Kennett Electrics of Beaconsfield who have extensive knowledge and experience of designing church lighting.

The proposal is to completely redo every aspect of the current (and virtually obsolete) tube lighting system and carry a full LED lighting scheme all the way through the church, from the west door through to the sanctuary, with various additional configurations being made to accentuate areas such as the north transept and the nave to make up for the natural light which was lost with the construction of Cornerstone.

The proposal also includes replacing the oil candles in the choir stalls with LED lamps which will not only mean the choir will be better able to see their music but also manages the risk of sheet music catching fire!

As I write this, we are awaiting final confirmation from Oxford Diocese to carry out the works over the summer. As you can probably imagine, the cost for such an extensive project in an ancient building is not insignificant, but as a PCC we are of the conviction that the lighting project is very much in keeping with the spirit of Cornerstone all those years ago – to ensure that this beautiful church which has kept watch over Burnham for 800 years, is fit for purpose to gather our com-

munity and equipped to host all types of events from weddings to school plays, carol concerts to bingo nights.

Therefore, to echo the words of my predecessor Rev Simon Brown in his appeal to the wider community to be a part of the Cornerstone project, 'Burnham, we need you'...If you're still reading, could I ask you consider contributing towards this very worthwhile project?

For more information, please email the church office at admin@stpetersburnham.org and we would be delighted to provide more details. Thank you.

Rev Josh Cleaver

Regular Services open to all
Communion Café – 10.15am on Monday, August 10, Monday, September 14
Midweek Eucharist – Wednesday 9.30am

Sundays: 8am – BCP Holy Communion; 10am – Parish Eucharist; 2nd Sunday - WoW Children and families service

Upcoming Events

Coach trip to Portsmouth – Monday, August 17, book your place via the church office

Ride and Stride – Saturday, September 12, more detail to follow

Songs of Praise – 3pm Sunday, September 27.

CIPPENHAM BAPTIST CHURCH

At 11 Elmshott Lane, Cippenham, Slough SL1 5QS.

ALL ARE WELCOME to our service on **Sunday mornings** at 10.30 with a variety of guest speakers.

We will be opening the church for '**Holiday Hub**' on 3 days during the summer break. **Tuesday, August 4, Monday 10, and Tuesday 18 from 10.45am to 1.45pm.** There will be summer holiday fun including games, fun, and snacks. (*Children must be accompanied by an adult*). Essential to register via our website at www.cippenhambaptist.org or email to lucy@cippenhambaptistchurch.com.

'**Trinity Baptist Church**' share our site and have their service at 1.30 on **Sunday afternoons.**

On **Monday mornings** from 10.15 to 11.30 '**Bumps and Babies**' for expectant and new parents with babies up to 2 years. A place to chat, make friends & enjoy a cuppa. Further details contact lucy@cippenhambaptistchurch.com

tistchurch.com.

Tuesday afternoon at 2.15 is '**Tuesday Fellowship**' for seniors which has a varied programme of quizzes, bible studies, speakers and outings. Contact Richard on 01753 535834 for details.

Friday morning from 10.30am our café '**The Haven**' is open in the church vestibule for coffee and a chat.

'**Always Growing**' preschool is open during Slough school terms on all weekdays with sessions between 9am & 3pm. (Funded 2, 3 & 4-year-old places are available).

Call 01628 604153 or 07960 379772 for more details or see www.alwaysgrowing.co.uk.

We rent out different sizes of halls and rooms for community use. Please ring the Church office on 01628 410859 or email office@cippenhambaptistchurch.com for information.

Have a look at our website at www.cippenhambaptist.org and find us on Facebook.

Ken Horn

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WI members celebrate 100th anniversary

THE WOMEN'S Institute of Taplow and Hitcham celebrate their 100th Anniversary this year with a number of exciting activities taking place.

In March a celebration lunch (pictured right) was held in our very own meeting hall in the presence of Joy Morrissey, MP for Beaconsfield, and Pippa Kirkbridge, High Sheriff of Buckinghamshire.

The event was well attended and after a wonderful homemade lunch the celebration cake was cut and distributed. The cake was made by one of the members, Chris Smith, who with her husband ran the local bakery for many years.

In June we held a hog roast and an exhibition which reflected the past years. We are also sewing



a 100 years remembrance wheel (left) and have commissioned a local artist Marilia Carvalho, also a member, to make a commemorative glass plaque for display.

Our WI is very special as it was established in 1926 at the request of Lady Nancy Astor of Cliveden. She was our president for many years and supported women's roles in society, local council elections and public posts.

We are a very friendly group with 75 members who meet on the first Tuesday of the month at the WI hut, Institute Road. We have regular speakers, demonstrations and days out. Do come along as you will be made most welcome.

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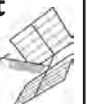
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