



informmer

£1

The latest village news and events, delivered to your door

Ickford future events to put in your diary . . .

We promise they will be fun and sociable.

- **22nd March** – 11.00am
Rector David Kaboleh's Farewell. Refreshments in the Church after the 10am service.
- **6th April** – 11.45am
Ickford Duck Race.
Starts at the Ickford Bridges.
- **22nd April** – 7.30pm
A Midsomer Day Out.
A talk on local Midsomer Murder locations by Tony Long. See FOSN advert inside.
- **9th May** – 6.30pm
Ickford Progressive Supper.
Full details and how to obtain tickets in a separate article.
- **27th June** – 11.45am
The Great Ickford Bake-off.
More details later in the year.
- **16th August** – 12.00am
Ploughman's Lunch.
More details later in the year.



IN AN EMERGENCY

Do you know where to find our DEFIBRILLATOR?



It's located on the wall of the Pavilion, in the Ickford Recreation Ground, Sheldon Road.

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OUR MP VISITS

Article by Nigel Hillier
nigelh@vale.co.uk

ICKFORD

TO LISTEN TO OUR CONCERNS

ON THURSDAY 22ND JANUARY OUR MP GREG SMITH visited the Rising Sun Public House for a "Pint of View" session.

Greg said of this visit:

"Pint of View is a more informal way of making myself accessible to constituents, whilst supporting our fantastic local pubs in Mid Buckinghamshire. I really enjoyed meeting so many constituents at the Rising Sun in Ickford and chatting about a whole range of local and national issues."

The evening was well attended and Greg made sure that he listened to as many of us as possible during the two hour visit.

Greg's support team accompanied him to take notes for follow up actions.

Needless to say there were many matters raised during the evening. Not least of these was the Sigma application to build 68 new homes adjacent to the village and outside its boundaries. The application reference is 25/02196/AOP.

continued page 2 . . .



Greg has often said that “we need to build wider homes but in the right places.” A field with flood zone 3 areas is not a right place, clearly.

The above application was associated with wider concerns about the government’s housebuilding targets and the negative impacts that it might have on the Buckinghamshire countryside.

Residents were also worried about the adequacy of home-to-school transport. With the growth in homes in Ickford those services will be under increasing pressure.

It was hardly surprising that the potholes, drainage and the poor state of the roads were also topics amongst a number of others.

On a very positive note it’s great to see our local pub serving the community so well. Thank you Ali and Rene.

This is good news when so many pubs are struggling thanks to the financial burdens imposed upon them by this Chancellor.

How appropriate that Greg’s hand is on the XT pump, a local brewer. ❖

Ickford Parish Council: its beginnings

A **‘REMARKABLE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING’** took place in the Royal Oak public house, according to the Bucks Advertiser, on 15th December 1894. Mr Tapping, Master Baker and keeper of the Post Office opened the meeting. The Rev’d Thomas Archer Turner was voted in as chairman, and asked everyone to stand as he asked for a blessing on the proceedings of the evening, and said the Lord’s Prayer.



He does seem to have strong views for the time on equality, and asked for nominations of reliable men and women, ‘in whom the parish could place confidence, irrespective of politics or religion’. He also asked that all classes be represented, presumably land owners, working class and merchants.

Five people were nominated: Luke Brooks, 29, a farm labourer, Jesse Cherry 20, a labourer, Julia Cross 45, a spinster making her own living as a pillow lace maker, George Dover 49, a travelling salesman, and Charles Nelmes 43, a timber sawyer.

The next official meeting was held, again at the Royal Oak, on 7th January 1895, all members present. The Rev’d Turner was unanimously voted in as chairman. A Mr J.E.D. Ostreban, the manager of the Bucks and Oxon Bank in Thame, was chosen as treasurer. They were waiting for details from the Local Government Board for guidance in drawing up rules of procedure.

There was some discussion about Ickford being the only village in the area whose Parish Council met in a public house. This was because the village still did not have a school room, as Ickford had no proper school. The Rev’d Turner offered a room at the Rectory, and this was accepted.

The other item on the agenda was the existing watercourses and ponds in Ickford. A joint committee was appointed to inspect them and report back on them.

In March 1896, Rev’d Thomas Turner resigned as chairman of the Parish Council, deeply upset with his parishioners. He had been petitioning land owners for more land to rent cheaply to villagers as allotments for growing food. Only the Church was renting land for this purpose, and the landowners were refusing.

However some ‘Ickford lads’ had been brought before the magistrates at Brill

recently, and had been dealt with very harshly for perjury and dishonesty. It was their parents the vicar had been fighting for, and the fact that the parents had allowed this was a ‘cause of much pain and grief’ to him. So he resigned, and the whole letter was published in the *Oxford Times*.

The following incident may have been the one that caused the Rev’d Thomas Archer Turner so much grief.

On 23rd February Julia Cross, a fellow parish Councillor, and Ickford’s chosen representative on the Long Crendon District Council, had been reading in an armchair by her fireside in her house in Sheldon Road. She had heard smashes and, on going upstairs, saw about 20 youths outside her house. (Quite frightening for a single lady). She saw two of them throw something at her house and heard a smash again. She identified Albert Dover and Herbert Bates. They were summoned before the magistrates and in their defence they called as witnesses: Albert Bunce, William Slade, James Brazell (sic), and Archibald Archer. After patiently listening to their evidence, the magistrate said he didn’t believe a single word they’d said and had no doubt none of it was true. The two boys were fined 10 shillings each.¹

Mr William Parsons-Guy, a farmer, on Rev’d Archer Turner’s resignation, became the second chairman of the Ickford Parish Council.

History does repeat itself: water courses and allotments are still on the Parish Council’s agenda today!

Josie Claridge

1. an account was given in the Bicester Herald on 13th March of the hearing at Brill Assizes on 9th March 1896.

Church Matters

AS MANY OF YOU WILL ALREADY KNOW, OUR RECTOR DAVID KABOLEH WILL BE LEAVING US

on Sunday 5th April to take up a new appointment as Team Rector of the Claydon and Swan Group. He will also be assisting the Bishops of Buckingham and Reading in significant projects.

After Easter the Benefice churches will be in Interregnum. This is a period without a vicar, giving time for a new vicar to be appointed. It can be a long process of interviewing and consultation in order to find a suitable successor. During that period the Area Dean and the Archdeacon will organize for visiting clergy to conduct services of Holy Communion in our Benefice churches. All services at St Nicholas will remain the same.

David has ministered to the Benefice and to St Nicholas for 18 years and has made many friends. He has celebrated happy times with you at christenings and weddings and supported you during sad times at funerals of loved ones. Through these life events he has come to know many of you well and will be greatly missed by everyone whose lives he has touched.

You are welcome to attend David's last service in the Benefice at St Mary's Church, Oakley, on Easter Sunday, where we will wish him and Catherine, 'Goodbye and Thank You' for all they have done serving St Nicholas and Ickford.

Congratulations David on your appointment to such an important position in the Diocese and best wishes to you and Catherine in the future from us all at St Nicholas.

During the interregnum, which is a difficult time, it is important that the community supports our weekly services. especially attending communion services, 3rd Sunday of the month at 9:00 am and 4th Sunday of the month at 10:00 am, as there will be visiting clergy.



THE GARDEN FÊTE

This will be held at The Old Rectory on Saturday 4th July from 2-5pm. Please put this in your diary now.

SPECIAL SERVICES UNTIL EASTER

Mothering Sunday 15th March 10:00 am.

A Café Service for all the family with coffee, cakes and crafts. Followed by a short praise service featuring The Puppets enacting the story of Moses in the Bulrushes.

Ickford goodbye to David Kaboleh

Sunday 22nd March at 10:00 am.

Come to the Rector's last service in Ickford, or just come to the refreshments afterwards in the church.

Palm Sunday 29th March at 10:00 am.

A United Benefice of Holy Communion and distribution of Palm Crosses at St Nicholas Church.

The service is followed by the PCC AGM at 11:30 am. All people in Ickford are welcome to attend this meeting.

Maundy Thursday 2nd April at 7:00pm

A United Benefice Service of Holy Communion at Shabbington Church.

Good Friday 3rd April at 2:30pm

'The Way of the Cross'; a service of readings and hymns illustrating Jesus's trial and journey to the cross.

EASTER DAY SUNDAY 5th APRIL

This will be a glorious United Benefice Service of Holy Communion at St Mary's Church, Oakley at 10:30 am.

It will be the last service led by our vicar David Kaboleh. St Mary's is where David's induction service was held 18 years ago and it is fitting that his last service is held there.

There is no service at St Nicholas on Easter Day. ❖

Ickford Little Stars

Toddler and Carer Group

Little Stars has served toddlers and their parents and carers very well over many years. it's a great place to come to for free play, a craft activity, a story and a song – and that's just the children! Adults can enjoy time out and chat over a coffee. It's a great way to make friends if you are new to the village.

Every Wednesday at the church, in term time from 10:00 – 11:30 am, why not give it a try.

We are fully equipped and the manager is CRB checked and has Safeguarding status. ❖

RENDEZVOUS

This is an important meeting place every Tuesday during term time, from 10:30 – 12:30 in the church.

People get together and chat over coffee and cake. It's a great way to meet up with friends and make new ones. If you are new to the village, or have lived here for some time, why not come along and join the fun? You'll find a warm welcome.

St Nicholas is not just about Services; meeting people is just as important!

During the year there are family services - sometimes led by our puppets.

There are exhibitions, concerts and afternoon teas and talks on a variety of subjects.

We host The Bernwode Breakfast/Brunch from time to time – open to everybody.

As above we also have Little Stars and Rendezvous.

Our church is small, but we want it to grow. We can't do this without YOU.

We'd love to see you, do come along. ❖



Having a party?
Hire Ickford Pavilion (next to the park!)
for only £7.50 an hour
email: ickfordpavilion@gmail.com
<https://www.facebook.com/ickfordpavilion>

Ickford Parish Council – Report Spring 2026

Nigel Jackson *Council Chair.*

THIS IS THE TIME OF YEAR WHEN we submit our precept to Buckinghamshire Council for the funding of our Parish Council expenditure. This makes up a small part of your Council Tax and having reviewed our costs we have submitted an increase of 5% – this means that for a Band D house the Parish Council element of your council tax will increase from £64.00 to £67.20 for the year. We felt that an increment was needed to cover general increases in our expenditure, flooding support, costs towards tidying up the pond in Little Ickford as well as modifications to the bus shelter outside the school.

As you may be aware there has still been no decision on the planning application for 68 homes at Pound Green Field. In my last report this was down to archaeological investigations which have now happened and unfortunately did not find anything significant enough to reject the application. Currently it looks like we are no closer to a decision and the main focus is around the applicants submitting extensive documentation to try and get Bucks Highways and the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) to withdraw their objections.

As part of this process the Parish Council has been consulted two more times and you can find our responses on our website (<https://www.ickford-pc.gov.uk/2026/02/2040/>). All the documentation can be seen on the Old Bucks (AVDC) Planning website (<https://publicaccess.aylesburyvaldc.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=documents&keyVal=SZHLJWCLFR700>).

In summary we do not believe that the new documents address the issues raised by the Parish Council and the large majority of Ickford residents, and we are asking Highways and the LLFA to continue with their rejection of the application. Despite the length of their responses there is no mention of sewage capacity which we have raised as a key issue. They are relying on the erroneous statement from Thames Water that there is sewage capacity for the new development. I expect many of you will have noticed that there is regularly a tanker at the top of Church Road to take away sewage when groundwater is high, so current capacity is not enough let alone for 68 more homes.

The work to deal with all the overgrown trees around the pond has been postponed again due to UK Power Networks not being



available to do their work. They have now pushed this into April. Once this has been completed then we can plan for the rest of the tidy up sometime in the summer when (hopefully) it will be drier! We have agreed to fund a replacement for the damaged kissing gate into the field behind the shop and are expecting the Ramblers to do this soon. We are also actively looking at cost-effective options to modify, open up and improve the bus shelter by the school and hope to do this work as soon as we can.

At the last IPC meeting we agreed to fund two solar powered 'smiley face' speed indicator signs to try and reduce the speed of vehicles coming through the village. We will continue to do Speedwatch sessions as an additional deterrent. John Hopwood from IPC has volunteered to replace Martin Armitstead as a Speedwatch Co-ordinator along with Patrick Melson and myself. In order to do more Speedwatch sessions we need more Speedwatch operators. If you are interested, please contact John Hopwood (john.hopwood@ickford-pc.gov.uk) or myself (n.jackson@ickford-pc.gov.uk).

Everybody is welcome to attend the council meetings in the Pavilion on the second Tuesday of the month at 6:30pm. The next ones are on Tuesday 10th March and Tuesday 14th April. ❖

**Wednesday 22 April 2026
7.30pm at St Nicholas Church**

A MIDSOMER DAY OUT

A journey through the historic town of Thame and some of the delightful villages in Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire used in the filming of *Midsomer Murders*

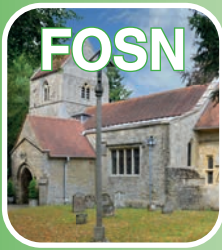


By Tony Long

£10 includes a glass of wine and nibbles
Tickets: Liz Jordain elizabeth.jordain@gmail.com

Friends of St Nicholas, Ickford





Friends of St Nicholas Church

<https://www.ickfordchurchfriends.com>

Our group visit to the The National Museum of Computing, Block H, Bletchley Park on 24th February.

After weeks of grey skies, the sun came out and a group of 18 members from the FOSN braved the potholes of rural Buckinghamshire to visit the National Museum of Computing at Bletchley Park. This was organized by Ickford resident Peter Shiret who is a volunteer at the museum.

How many of us realise that the world's first computers were designed, developed and built at Bletchley? Peter and his colleagues told us the story of these momentous events in a tour of the museum, which included original and rebuilt examples of these historic machines.

Many of us know about the work of Alan Turing and the Bombe machine from the film that told the story of code breaking during World War II. It was fascinating to see a working example of an Enigma machine which produced the code and the Bombe machine that cracked it.

The importance of Bletchley Park was illustrated by the fact that, in 1942, shipping convoys bringing vital supplies to Britain were subject to such high losses from German submarines that Churchill thought that he was four weeks from suing for peace with Nazi Germany. Fortunately, Bletchley Park turned this situation around and the rest, as they say, is history.

The Museum opened in 2007 in Block H, which was built in the 1940's as the first purpose-built computer centre in the world, having housed six of the ten Colossus computers that were in use at the end of war.

The Museum is a separate charity from the Bletchley Park museum and relies entirely on ticket sales and donations for its funding.

It was a fascinating tour which was thoroughly enjoyed by all. ❖

THE HUMAN STORY OF CODEBREAKING

The key to the success of breaking the German High Command messages was, without doubt, the dedicated teamwork which existed both within and between the Testery and the Newmanry.

PRODUCING THE NEWMANRY

Newman (FRS), was a brilliant mathematician who joined Bletchley Park from Cambridge University August 1943 at the age of 48.

After a few months working in the Research section he developed ideas for using electronic machinery to speed up the manual process of message tape analysis in the Testery.

From December 1943 the Newmanry were responsible for breaking the 'W' wheel settings and the Testery for breaking the remaining wheels ('u' and 'v') using manual methods. The two sections continued to work hand in glove, night and day, until the end of the war.

Both sections were located in F Block and later on the Newmanry also occupied H Block which was opened in September 1944.

A visit to F Block in the early 70's

THE TURING BOMBE REBUILD PROJECT

Back by popular demand . . . a night to remember!

The Ickford Progressive Supper returns on Saturday 9th May.

THIS IS AN EVENING WHERE neighbours become dinner hosts, guests become explorers and every course is served at a different place!

And if you are new to the village or are not sure what it's all about – here is your itinerary for the evening!

Part One – kicks off at 6:30pm with everyone together for welcome drinks accompanied by canapés at **Brook House, 3 Worminghall Road, Ickford.**

Part Two – we then move on at 7:30pm for the main course which is held at many homes throughout the village (*please bring drinks of your choice*).

Part Three – the fun continues at the village hall where we all get back together for puddings, drinks, a raffle and music to round off the evening!

Tickets are only £25 per head so book now to avoid disappointment. (*Deadline 10th April*).

Contact:

Jules Richards 07469 871170 juliet.richards27961@gmail.com
Gwen Jackson 07718 379093 gwenbulkeley@hotmail.co.uk

Whether you are new to the village or have lived here for decades, this evening promises to be a wonderful opportunity to connect, eat delicious home cooked food and celebrate the unique character of our wonderful village and community. ❖

It's back... the ICKFORD PROGRESSIVE SUPPER

May 9th, 6.30pm

Tickets £25 per person (3 courses)

- Welcome pre-dinner drinks and nibbles hosted by Will and Jules Richards
- Delicious main course hosted at homes around the village. (*guests should bring their drinks of choice*)
- Fun continues with Puddings, Drinks, Music and Raffle at the Village Hall

RAFFLE PRIZES

BOOK NOW to reserve your place (Deadline 10th April)
Contact: Jules Richards, 07469 871170 juliet.richards27961@gmail.com
or Gwen Jackson, 07718 379093 gwenbulkeley@hotmail.co.uk
Proceeds towards the upkeep of our beautiful 13th century church

Sir, THREE ICKFORD VILLAGE WATER QUESTIONS!

Firstly – where does the village pond get its water from?

Secondly – where does the pond near the bridges get its water from?

Thirdly – questions about the drainage ditch in Church Road? My understanding (but I could be wrong) is that it flows in a culvert underneath the churchyard and the towards the river where its outflow is controlled by a sluice gate. Obviously the timing has to be right otherwise there might be a backflow from the river thus exacerbating the problem.

Whose responsibility is this? I've never known and would be very interested to find out.

Keep up the good work, the Informer may be repetitive at times but this does not detract from its usefulness. ❖

Regards, Michael Tippen.

Editor: *These are very interesting questions. If anyone in the village has answer information to these questions, would you please send me your thoughts to: david@davidconnell.co.uk*

Thanks to everyone who participated in the amazing creative designs of Advent Windows last December. It really was a pleasure to see



Our 400 year old Ickford Church Bells would like you to ring them!

ARE YOU A LAPSED BELL RINGER OR WILLING TO GIVE A BELL RINGING A GO? Consider a taster session in the Ickford bell tower with its unusual saddleback roof, and visit the bells.



The church of St Nicholas, Ickford has three church bells which are around 400 years old. They have been treasured, rung and maintained by Ickford villagers all this time. I often reflect as I ring upon the generations of bellringers who guided the bell as it swung and heard the same sound as myself. It is a unique privilege.

We have only three bells because Ickford was a poor low status village. To extend our skills we also ring at Shabbington church on six bells, unusually arranged in an anticlockwise direction.

Ickford bells have rung out for significant national events, weddings, funerals and church services, forming a special English soundscape for Ickford village.

Please consider joining us so the 400 year old Ickford tradition continues.

The oldest bell is the Treble (Bell 1) which weighs 4³/₄ cwt (242 kg - weight of a standard motorbike) tuned to note C# and was cast in about 1599 by John Appowell at his Buckingham foundry. At this time Queen Elizabeth I was on the throne and the Globe theatre in London was performing Shakespeare's plays.

Bell 2 weighs 5³/₄ cwt (292 kg) tuned to note B and cast around 1716 by George Chandler Drayton at the Parslow foundry. It is our youngest bell at only 309 years old. At this time King George I, who did not speak English, was on the throne. George Frideric Handel composed and performed his Water Music for the King.

The Tenor (Bell 3) weighs 8¹/₂ cwt (431 kg) equivalent to the weight of five adult men. It is tuned to note A. The bell was cast circa 1623 by Ellis I Knight at the Reading foundry.

Around this time the astronomer and physicist Galileo discovered that the Earth orbits the Sun. The tenor is tolled at solemn occasions such as recently for the death of Queen Elizabeth II and Remembrance Day. When Bell 3 (Tenor) was cast King James I was on the throne. Just two years later King Charles 1 became monarch. 20 years later the English Civil war conflicts commenced. Gilbert Sheldon (a prominent supporter of the Royalist cause) would have heard the Ickford tenor bell as he was Rector at Ickford before his progression to Archbishop of Canterbury and priest to King Charles I and King Charles II. Sheldon gave the money to build the Sheldonian Theatre in Oxford. He also gave Ickford church a lovely chalice and platter which is displayed at the Cathedral Church, Christ Church, Oxford.

The sound of English-style bellringing is a special part of our heritage. The unique way of ringing bells, and the special way they are hung to make this possible, evolved in England over four hundred years ago. Ickford was there at the inception of English church bell ringing and has kept ringing ever since (except during the world wars).

If you would like to know more about ringing in Ickford and with the six bells at our sister tower at Shabbington:

Contact – Karen 07786 473055 (leave a message) or email: pile.karen@outlook.com ❖



We have spaces available!

We welcome visits to Pre-School, so you can see what we do. If you would like your child to join Pre-School, or have a look around, please contact us on 01844 338785 or email: psasc.ickford@googlemail.com.

– learning through play –

WHAT A WHIRLWIND THE LAST FEW MONTHS HAVE BEEN. It has been Christmas, a New Year, Valentines Day, Pancake Day, Chinese New Year, Ramadan and a half term thrown in for good measure!!

Christmas was a busy but magical time for our children. We had lots of Christmas crafts to take home, Christmas stories and our lovely Christmas Fair where Santa made an appearance again. The children performed some carols in front of the parents and although they were very nervous, they did so well. Ans of course we posted our letters to Santa!

After two weeks off to enjoy the festivities, we were back in January with a bang. Sadly, due to the weather we were unable to make much use of the lovely, finally finished garden. Our large castle climbing frame and slide had arrived before Christmas and was quickly put together. The children did manage to make some use of it before we broke up but the January and February “showers” stopped a lot of play.

There was a lot going on which kept our children very busy. We learnt all about life-cycles as our first topic back. We planted sunflower seeds and learnt all about how the flowers grow, what they need to survive and what we see when they start to grow. The children also learnt all about the lifecycle of a butterfly and made some

beautiful, fluttering painted butterflies to take home and share what they had learnt with their family.

In all this we celebrated Valentines Day and Pancake Day, both fell in the half term so we made sure they weren't forgotten and did some activities, crafts and baking before and after the week off. We also celebrated Chinese New Year and learnt all about the Fire Horse, we had our decorations up and made our role play area just like a street in China with chopsticks, tea and lots of red and gold. We also spent time learning about the story of Ramadan and will continue to do so until EID when our lovely new member of staff Bryony will share some delicious snacks she makes for her family. The children are really enjoying being able to experience and learn about other cultures.

Heading into March with the sun finally shining we will be getting outside more to enjoy our fabulous garden. This term is learning about space and under the sea, the highest point in our solar system and the lowest within our seas. The children will be learning all about the planets, astronauts, rockets, our oceans and creatures that live in them. Communication week is prominent and so we will be guiding the children on how to communicate better through reading, writing, story telling with our Helicopter Stories as well as verbally.

And who can forget about World Book Day so staff and children are all encouraged to come dressed up as their favourite character from their favourite book, we can't wait to share the photos.

We will be welcoming new families to our preschool family, we can't wait to meet you all and have your children with us.

We have welcomed two new members of staff to the team, Bryony is our day time assistant and Kirsty who is our after-school club assistant, welcome to the team ladies.

Sadly, we say goodbye to one our long-term staff members, Ellen Chapman. We will so sad to see her go but after 14 years she has decided it is time to try something new. We wish her all the best.

We are looking for a new team member, if anyone is interested or know anyone that would be interested in working with us at our lovely, friendly setting then please do email dep.manager.ickford@gmail.com. We are looking for someone who is Level 3 qualified, ideally with first aid but we can provide the training if not.

We are looking forward to another term leading up to Easter where I am sure there will be lots of fun activities and games planned in, maybe even an Easter Egg hunt!!

Have a look at some of our recent photos and if you want to volunteer or you just have a query please feel free to get in touch.

Check if you qualify for 30 hours funding on the following website: www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/. We are also able to accept the NEW 15 hours for two year olds.

Please do contact us if you would like to know more. We are open from 7.45am for Breakfast Club and 3.15pm-6pm for After School Club too (ages 2-11 years).

www.ickfordpreschool.com
(<https://www.facebook.com/Ickford-Pre-School>)



NATURE NOTES



Hares on the run.



Mallard Duck in waterlogged ground.

SPRING HAS SPRUNG THE GRASS IS "RIS"!
I WONDER WHERE THE "BOIDIES" IS?
THE "BOID" IS ON THE WING... AIN'T THAT ABSURD
I THOUGHT THE WING WAS ON THE BIRD!

WELL SPRING MAY JUST HAVE RISEN but it has been an extremely wet winter, muddy dog paws, muddy boots in the hallway.

When will it cease?

Meanwhile bats have been hiding, short of food. Hares have left the flooded fields, but gulls and wildfowl are having a 'whale' of a time.

I fear for our butterflies especially. Their lifecycle means that they lays eggs in the summer, then caterpillars emerge and eventually pupate into a chrysalis which usually, with a silk thread, hangs on grasses and leaves over the winter.

They have taken a battering and so have we! ❖



Butterfly cocons hanging on a lemon tree. Pupa



Beautiful Monarch Butterfly and Chrysalis

Village Contacts

After School Club . dep.manager.ickford@gmail.com

Suzanne Rogers 01844 338785

Allotments

Natalie Morton 01844 339358

Bell Ringing pile.karen@gmail.com

Karen Pile 07786 473055

Breakfast Club dep.manager.ickford@gmail.com

Suzanne Rogers 01844 338785

Church Warden

Anita Tansley 07952 328309

Friends of St Nicholas

Liz Jordain 07787 512959

Ickford Church – St Nicholas

Anita Tansley 07952 328309

Ickford Informer .. . ickfordpcclerk@gmail.com

Will Richards 01844 339705

David Connell 07885 900050

Ickford Parish Council

Pat Pointer (Clerk) .. . clerk@ickford-pc.gov.uk

Pre-school PTA dep.manager.ickford@gmail.com

Suzanne Rogers 01844 338785

Ickford Pre-school Committee

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Anne Choi anne.choi@ickfordpsasc.org

Ickford School PTA

Vicky Evemy .. . ptaickfordschool@gmail.com

Ickford School office@ickford.org.uk

office@ickford.org.uk 01844 339261

Ickford Stores and Post Office

Ram Thiru 01844 339256

Irish Dancing aocadance@gmail.com

Angela O'Connor former Lord of the Dance star

Little Stars

Meryl Munson 01844 339608

Pavilion ickfordpavilion@gmail.com

Louise Sayer 07766 806553

Rendezvous

Gill and Garry Rippin 01844 338807

St Nicholas Church - Rector

Rev. David Kaboleh 01844 338839

Tennis Club

Will Richards 01844 339705

The Rising Sun

René Klein 01844 396174

Tug-of-War teams matthew.french@yahoo.co.uk

Matthew French 07780 605172

Village Shop Association

Paul Farrell (chairperson) .. . 01844 339417

Hall Bookings .. ickfordvillagehall@hotmail.com

Liz Jordain 07787 512959

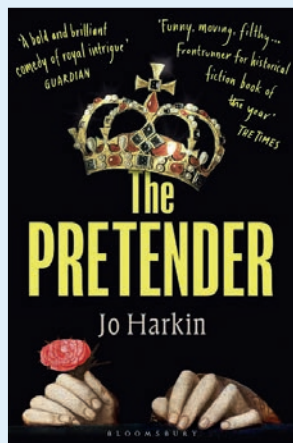
Fiona Hare 07717 894644

Book Reviews

by Jo Tiddy

SPRING IS ON ITS WAY, blossom is bursting out all over, and here is a new crop of books for your delight and delectation!

FOR THE GROWN UPS



The Pretender

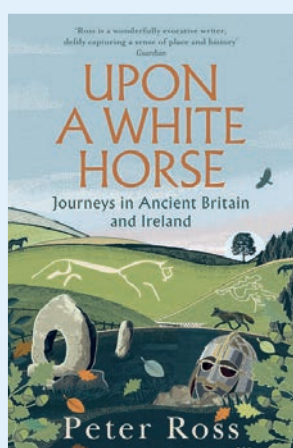
by Jo Harkin

(available in paperback from mid March)

A glorious romp through the life of Lambert Simnel, Pretender to Henry VII's throne. Plucked from obscurity in a small village, John Collan is exiled – first to Oxford, then to Burgundy, and then Ireland – and apprenticed to a series of unscrupulous political operators. He finds himself

groomed for power; not as John Collan, but as Edward Plantagenet, 17th Earl of Warwick – and rightful heir to the throne....

With the help of Margaret of Burgundy, the Yorkist rebels plan to invade England and depose Henry Tudor. Captured after the Battle of Stoke Field, Simnel's life is spared due to his tender age and he is put to work in the palace kitchens. Aptly described by one critic as 'a Plantagenet Adrian Mole', this wickedly funny book wears its historical research lightly.



Upon a White Horse

by Peter Ross

People may remember me waxing lyrical about Ross's previous books 'A tomb with a view' (cemeteries) and 'Steeple Chasing' (ecclesiastical buildings). Now he has turned his attention to prehistoric sites, and this is a fascinating exploration of some of Ancient Britain and Ireland's best known structures and places.

From Stonehenge to Sycamore Gap, this is a witty and informative book about why such places still resonate with us, and the people who look after them.....

FOR CHILDREN



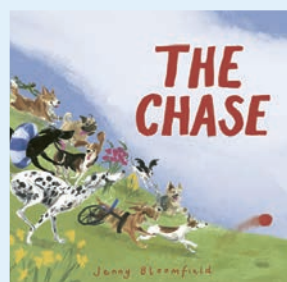
Ghostlines

by Katya Balen

Aimed at middle grade readers (8-10) the latest book from Katya Balen is set on a small island off the Scottish Coast. Tilda, a feisty, independent and frankly quite wild girl, is trying to come to terms with the fracturing of her family. She loves her home island of Ayrie, and the freedom she has there. When Albie, a newcomer

from the mainland, comes to live there, she is tasked with helping him to settle in. Albie does not wish to settle in, and Tilda doesn't much want to help him... Maybe a trip to the forbidden haunted nearby island will bond them.

Two glorious new picture paperbacks for the under-fives, united by a single theme, for all those dog lovers out there

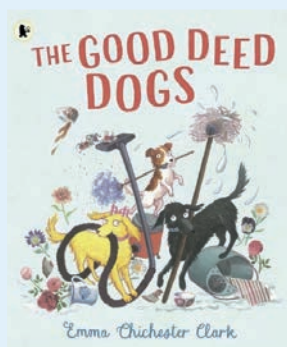


The Chase

by Jenny Bloomfield

A delightful book, which opens with a girl on a beach, a bright red ball, and a Jack Russell. One word – 'Fetch' and all the dogs in the vicinity join in the most joyful chase, collecting more followers on every

page. Beautiful and whimsical illustrations, with many humorous details to be discovered.



The Good Deed Dogs

by Emma Chichester Clark

Bodger, Billy and Betty are VERY good dogs who like to help out by doing good deeds. Invariably, things do not go to plan, and they have to sort out the carnage they cause.

However, when a kitten goes missing the helpful trio swing into action to save the day. Emma's drawings are delightful and this is a heart-warming story about kindness, friendship and never giving up. ❖

Ickford Village Hall Quiz Night

OUR ANNUAL QUIZ NIGHT was a fantastic success this year – completely sold out with 11 teams filling the hall with energy and excitement from the very start. The atmosphere was buzzing throughout the evening with plenty of laughs and friendly rivalry. We were expertly guided through the night by our brilliant quiz master, Paul, who kept everyone on their toes with a perfect mix of challenging questions. Congratulations to The Poplarists for winning – the scores were very tight at the top!

A special mention goes to Caron for organising a superb hamper raffle, which proved hugely popular and added even more excitement to the evening. Thank you as well to our hard working committee, who did a tremendous job behind the scenes – from seamless organisation to keeping the bar running smoothly all night.

Thanks to everyone's support and generosity, we raised over £1,800 which will go towards the maintenance and running costs of the Hall.

Upcoming dates for your diary

- | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| Monday 6 April | Duck Race |
| Saturday 27 June | The Great Ickford Bake-off |
| Saturday 31 October | Halloween party |
| Sunday 20 December | Santa's Sleigh |
| Saturday 23 January 2027 | Quiz night |



200 Club

Thank you for everyone for renewing/signing up to the revamped 200 Club!

The first two draws have now taken place and the **winners to date for 2026 are as follows:**

Month	First prize	Second prize
January	Clare Hennessy	Mandy Pearce
February	Ed Johnson	Paul Hare

Thank you for your continued support. Liv Croucher ❖

New plans for village hall



IN OCTOBER, THE VILLAGE NARROWLY VOTED against our proposal to build a new village hall on the recreation ground using the funds from the sale of the existing plot.

As a result, the only option for a new building is to look at selling around half the village hall's existing plot to help fund the construction of a new hall on the other half. As we don't have an accurate market value, we are starting a project which will see outline plans for residential properties on half the site. Once we have this, we will ask an architect to draw up plans for a new hall on the other half.

Clearly, the value will not be what we would have achieved for the whole site, so we will have to significantly downgrade our initial ambitions for the new hall, both in terms of its scale and facilities. This approach would also mean that it is likely the village will be without a hall for up to 18 months and that there would be no funds to replace the tennis court.

Once we have received an accurate valuation and plans for what facility we could create, we will ask the village to once again vote to approve our proposal so that we can proceed. We hope that this village meeting would be sometime in the early summer.

If you have any questions about our plans please contact us on: ickfordvhproject@gmail.com Ben Sayer ❖



ICKFORD VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE

Ickford Tasty Recipes

SPRING ROLLS

Serves: 8 40 Mins Cals: 144



Ingredients:

- 1 tbsp Groundnut oil, plus extra for deep-frying
- 200g/7oz Skinless chicken breast fillets, chopped into small pea-sized pieces
- 4 Dried Chinese mushrooms, soaked in hot water for 20 minutes, drained and finely chopped
- 1 tbsp Light soy sauce
- 1 tbsp five-spice powder
- 1 tsp grated fresh root ginger
- 75g/3oz beansprouts
- 2 large spring onions, finely sliced lengthways
- 1 small carrot, cut along into thin strips
- 1 tbsp oyster sauce
- ½ tbsp light soy sauce
- Pinch of sea salt and ground white pepper
- 16 large ready-made spring roll wrappers, thawed if frozen (available from Asian supermarkets)
- 1 egg yolk, beaten

Method:

1. Heat a wok until smoking and add the groundnut oil, then add the chicken and mushrooms and stir-fry for 1-2 minutes. Season with soy sauce and five-spice powder, then remove from the wok and set aside to cool for ten minutes. Wipe the wok clean with kitchen paper.
2. Place the grated ginger, beansprouts, spring onions and carrot into a bowl, then add the chicken and mushrooms and season with the oyster sauce, soy sauce, sea salt and ground white pepper. Stir well to combine.
3. Lay two spring roll wrappers one on top of the other (the extra thickness will prevent the skin from breaking) and position so that the corners are pointing upwards, downwards and to the sides.
4. Spoon two tablespoons of the filling into the centre of the wrapper. Brush each corner of the wrapper with the cornflour paste, then bring the two opposite corners on the sides together and, keeping your finger on those edges, bring the bottom corner towards the middle and then roll the pastry up tightly towards the top corner. Tuck the top edge in and seal it with a little of the beaten egg yolk. Repeat with the remaining spring roll wrappers and filling.
5. Heat the wok over a high heat and fill the wok to a quarter of its depth with groundnut oil. Heat until a cube of bread dropped in sizzles and turns golden-brown in 15 seconds. (CAUTION: hot oil can be dangerous. Do not leave unattended.) Carefully lower the spring rolls in small batches into the oil and deep-fry for 2-3 minutes, or until golden-brown. Remove with a slotted spoon and drain on kitchen paper.
6. Transfer the spring rolls onto a plate and serve immediately.



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to share. Don't let anyone tell you it's
too early.*

*The BBQ's are already asking me to
wake them up.*

Summer is nearly here . . .



Ickford Badminton Club is looking for new players!

- When:** Tuesdays and/or Thursdays (depending on players' availabilities), 7 - 9pm.
- Where:** Ickford School Sports Hall.
- Who:** Adult players with some experience - our level ranges from 'enthusiastic' to club standard.
- Our ethos:** A sociable evening, a good run-around and some exciting rallies are more important to us than who wins the games! We play doubles and swap pairings to balance different abilities.
- Cost:** £5 per person per session.
- Interested:** We'd love to hear from you!
Text Shaun Ferguson on 07485 085649
and come and have a go.

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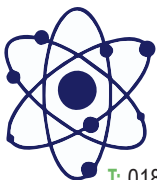
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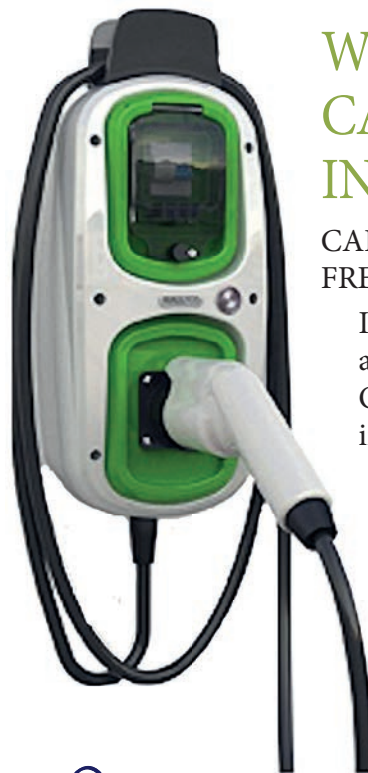


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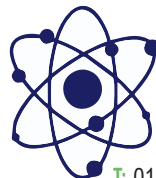
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Ickford Parish Council

To contact the Parish Council, please email the Clerk, Pat Pointer on: clerk@ickford-pc.gov.uk or by the 'Contact Us' page of Ickford Parish Council website: <https://www.ickford-pc.gov.uk/>

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