

# GREAT HAMPDEN PARISH MAGAZINE



## CHRISTMAS 2024

# CALM CHRISTINGLE

**Christmas Eve  
11.15am**

**A special calm, Great Hampden, edition of the  
Christingle services held later that day in Prestwood.**



Follow The Star  
CALM and BRIGHT

## **St Mary Magdalene, Great Hampden**

St Mary Magdalene, Great Hampden is a well-loved parish church serving Great Hampden and the surrounding villages. We are made up of people of different ages and backgrounds who enjoy being a part of the life of our church. We come together to give thanks to God every Sunday at 11.15am and we invite you to join us!

# **Services in Great Hampden**

Everyone is very welcome at all or any of our services and we look forward to seeing you there.

The full service programme for the benefice is available at:

<https://www.htprestwood.org.uk/>

## **Christmas Carol Service**

***Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> December*** at 6 p.m.

This very popular service will be followed by mince pies and mulled wine.

## **Christingle Service**

***Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> December*** at 11.15 a.m.

The collection will be in aid of The Children's Society.

## **Christmas Day Family Eucharist Service**

***Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> December*** at 11.15 a.m.

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## **If you need help...**

If anyone in the Parish of Great and Little Hampden needs help with shopping, collecting prescriptions or help in any other way please contact the Parish Council on 07850 278478

Welcome to the Christmas edition of the Great Hampden parish magazine!

You will have already noticed the splendidly restored hatchment from the church on the front cover. I have seen many of these in different churches over the years, but I have never seen one returned to its full glory, resplendent in its original, vivid colours. Seeing it made me think how easy it is to forget that, in many ways, the past was just as brightly coloured as the present. Faded medieval wall paintings, scuffed and obscured decorations on floor tiles, sun-bleached fabrics and even black-and-white photographs can belie the technicolour beauty created in times past. How wonderful it is, in our time, to be able to bring to life and enjoy the colours of a previous century.

As I approach the end of my first year of editing the magazine, I would like to say a big thank you to all our contributors, without whom it would be a much poorer endeavour. Special thanks to Hilary and Andrew Reid for their meticulous proofreading, and to Val Firth and all those who help to deliver the magazine to our readers.

I wish you all a very happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year. To invoke an ancient salutation: wassail! Wes hál! May you be in good health!

### **STOKE MANDEVILLE AND OTHER PARISHES CHARITY**

**“Providing for the general benefit of the inhabitants of the Parishes of Stoke Mandeville, Great and Little Hampden and Great Missenden”**

Applications for grants from Great and Little Hampden residents are to be submitted to the Administrator of the Charity by 1<sup>st</sup> of each month in which the meetings are held.

The Trustees meet in January, April, July and October.

Applications can be sent by post or email to the Administrator, Mrs. C. B. Dobson.

Contact details are on the Charity website:

<https://www.smandopc.org/>

Email address: [smandopc@gmail.com](mailto:smandopc@gmail.com)

**Thank you to all the contributors to this magazine and thanks also to The Stoke Mandeville and Other Parishes Charity which pays for the printing.**

**Copy date for the Easter edition of this magazine is Monday 24 March 2025 –  
please forward your articles to [GHParishMagazine@gmail.com](mailto:GHParishMagazine@gmail.com)**





## DEINIOL'S PIECE

I hope you are as delighted as I am that our church will be open, with the works fully completed and redecorated, in time for our Christmas celebrations. Of course, with a mediaeval building like ours, nothing is certain. It is still possible that some hitherto unknown problem will come to light—but with each passing day that seems less likely.

In this phase of plaster repairs, we have discovered old cracks in the walls which are packed with roof tiles, which seems a very old-fashioned way to go about it. We have had to research and develop a specialist way of fixing the void we discovered under the sanctuary floor, without lifting or disturbing the tiles. We will be using very modern processes and materials for that, including foam concrete.

In the New Year we will be reflecting on this momentous year in the life of our church, with a proper review and opportunities to share and celebrate what has been achieved. We closed the building on January 1<sup>st</sup> 2024 and it is an amazing testament to the strength of our prayer, the energy of our project team, the dedication of our fundraising team, and the generosity of our donors that we have achieved all our objectives by the year's end.

We have raised about £100,000 in grants, including from the National Lottery Heritage Fund, but the majority of the funds have come from individuals who have caught and shared our vision. If you are one of them, thank you. You have played a part in securing our wonderful building for the future.

As we enter 2025, we will have many opportunities to start enjoying the building. We are planning lectures, talks and other events from local groups, and organisations from further afield. I am in the early stages of working with a lottery-funded charity that puts on days encouraging young people to develop careers in traditional specialist crafts, such as flint knapping, carpentry and stonemasonry, which are at risk of dying out.

This sort of thing begins to realise the vision that the PCC (Church Council) developed in 2015: to view what could be perceived as our weaknesses as strengths. Our rural, isolated location is perfectly situated between major towns (and in this case their schools) to draw people in and provide new and exciting opportunities that no other building in this area can do. Our facilities mean that the church is now a unique venue for sharing the good news of the Kingdom of God and offering new possibilities to the community.

I do hope you will be able to come to our Christmas services and see for yourself. As we have said before, we hope most people will think, "What was all the fuss about?" But for those who have followed this project, who know what has gone on behind the scenes, and contributed to its success, we hope you will have a great sense of satisfaction.

Of course, our work goes on. Next year we will be hoping to buy some new stackable chairs, get new and comfy seat cushions for the pews, and develop our regular, ongoing funding, which every church needs to survive.

Christmas is the time of year when Jesus comes into the world. Every Christmastime, we re-enact and re-establish Christ's presence— in our worship and in all that we do to build up our relationships and our care for each other. In that spirit— that something old is ever-renewing, ever new, and ever vibrant— I invite you to join our worship this Christmas.



## CHURCHWARDEN'S NOTES

*Val Gristwood*

What an amazing year this has been for our church! This time last year, we were very excited about starting the renovations in the new year. That work has now been completed and we are extremely pleased with the newly-laid floor, including the disabled ramp, the new heating and lighting, and the fantastic sound system. We returned to the church in May in readiness for our first wedding. Now we have closed the church again, until the middle of December, so that the plaster repairs and redecoration can take place. Up until the beginning of September, we were not sure whether we would be able to raise enough money to do this. Then we received a very substantial grant from the Heritage Lottery fund, - just in the nick of time - enabling us to secure the decorators' slot. This was thanks to the outstanding work of Glyn Hassall in applying for grants. So at the moment we are again enjoying the hospitality of Hill House and looking forward to celebrating in our newly-decorated church at Christmas. Our first service back in Church will be on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December at 11.15 a.m.

The weather this Autumn has again been mild and only recently have the leaves changed colour and begun to fall. The jury is out as to whether we will have a very cold spell before too long. The uncertainty of our weather is very British and brings challenges whenever it falls outside what we normally expect. However, it seems that this is not now just a British idiom but one which is affecting many more countries which once had relatively predictable weather patterns. We must do all we can to ensure that global warming does not continue to cause these catastrophic weather events which have been experienced around the world recently.

We were very pleased to see our new Curate Kayleigh Lucas priested in June at the church of St Mary the Virgin in Old Amersham. She has now taken on an even greater role in assisting Deiniol and Nigel as a full member of the ministerial team.

We have a wonderful legacy in our church, which was 803 years old this year. We wish to maintain this historic church for future generations but the day-to-day running and maintenance of a building of this age is costly. There are two ways of supporting our church finances:

Firstly, the **PARISH GIVING SCHEME** – if you do not currently give financially or have not reviewed your giving recently, please pick up one of the leaflets at the back of the church or from me. You can 'inflation-proof' your giving and give as regularly as you wish.

Secondly, **CONTACTLESS DONATIONS** – if you wish to pay by card, there is a unit at the back of the church on the table by the font. The default gift amount on the contactless unit is £10 but this amount can be changed as you wish.

## Looking back...

...this year to **nine beautiful weddings** at St Mary Magdalene, **eight baptisms** and **two funerals**, together with several **interments of ashes** in the churchyard.

...to the **Moonrakers concert on 11<sup>th</sup> May**. This was a brilliant evening featuring music from around the UK and Ireland. A total of just under £400 was raised towards our redecoration project.

...to our **Patronal Festival for St Mary Magdalene on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> July**. This was a special **Combined Benefice Eucharistic Service**, when we were delighted to welcome back the Reverend Paul Smith, Team Vicar in Abingdon-on-Thames, and a past curate in our Benefice, as our speaker at the service. It was a very enjoyable event and we were able to share a picnic and a glass of Pimm's in the church grounds in pleasant weather afterwards.

...to the **Buckinghamshire Historic Churches Trust's Ride and Stride event on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> September**. With the help of volunteers from our church community, we were pleased to be able to open the church and provide refreshments for this, especially as the Trust has been generous in providing a grant towards our project.

...to our **Chamber Music Concert on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> September**. This was a wonderful concert, titled 'An American in Paris' with musical arrangements by Alex Caldon, and featuring our outstanding musicians Alexandra Caldon, Charlotte Reid, Alex Caldon and Sam Laughton, together with other professional musicians. Wine and canapés were served during the interval. The concert raised over £1,300 for our 2023 and Beyond Project. Our thanks to Kayleigh for the photograph below.





...to the **Wendover Deanery Synod meeting on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> September**, where a visiting speaker talked on the subject of 'Ministry in the Rural Church' to a gathering of over 30 people from the Deanery area as they enjoyed refreshments.

...to our **Harvest Festival Service on 6<sup>th</sup> October**. This occasion was marked by a service in Church, with donations of fresh and non-perishable food and gifts. This was followed by a superb Harvest Lunch in the Village Hall, provided by Kate and Charlie Brocklehurst and their team. We raised £324 from the lunch tickets together with £103 from the auction of the fresh produce and £90 from the raffle of a bottle of whisky, which was kindly donated by Margaret and Jeff Nanton. This money was sent to Farm Africa and the non-perishable items were given to the local food bank.

...to our special **Remembrance Day Commemoration on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> November**. A service was held in Hill House by the Reverend Deiniol Heywood and this was followed at 12 noon by a short Service of Remembrance at the War Memorial on the Common. This was attended by a number of members of the village and congregation. Wreaths were laid by Frances Smith, the Chair of Great and Little Hampden Parish Council, and Louise Evans Woodward. The Commendation was read by Alvin Evans Woodward and the Kohima Epitaph was read by David Brown. The Reverend Deiniol Heywood read out the names of those, below, from the village who gave up their lives fighting for our country during both World Wars and the Falklands War. Martin Everitt played the Last Post and Reveille on the bugle. Our collection has been donated to the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal.

### **THE GREAT WAR**

Miles Hobart-Hampden

Lawrence Mills

Arthur Jeffs

Walter Saw

Charles Mills

Ernest Storey

### **SECOND WORLD WAR**

Hugh Caldwell

Eric Martin

Neville Day

Peter Nankeville

Geoffrey Day

Arthur Turner

Tom Essex

### **THE FALKLANDS CONFLICT**

David Tinker

## **Looking forward...**

...we have been invited again by Louise and Constantine to **sing carols at the Hampden Arms, on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30 p.m.** This will be in aid of the charity Embrace the Middle East.

**...to 22<sup>nd</sup> December at 6 p.m., when we will enjoy our popular Carol Service,** with music organised by our Musical Director, Sam Laughton, together with Alex and Alexandra Caldon. This is an occasion not to be missed! The service will be followed by mince pies and mulled wine.

**...to our Christingle Service on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> December at 11.15 a.m.** The younger members of the Church will participate in the service, preparing the Christingle oranges. As usual, the collection will be in aid of The Children's Society.

**...to our Christmas Day Family Eucharist Service on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> December at 11.15 a.m.**

## **Our website**

For all up-to-date details of our clergy, Churchwardens and PCC, as well as details of forthcoming services and other events, please visit our website: [www.greathampden.org.uk](http://www.greathampden.org.uk). In extreme weather conditions, any change to or cancellation of services will be posted on the website as quickly as possible.

## **Opening of the Church**

The PCC and Churchwarden are keen that our beautiful church is opened to anyone who wishes to visit it. The Churchwarden from time to time receives requests to visit the church from individuals and groups and is always happy to arrange to open the church at a mutually convenient time. If any magazine reader hears of anyone who wants to visit the church in this way please refer them to the Churchwarden, Val Gristwood, on 01494 865558. It is a delight to meet people who are genuinely interested in the church or its history or who perhaps have a past family connection with it.

## **Finally, several big 'Thank Yous'**

As we approach the end of this church year, I, as Churchwarden, would like to record my thanks to all those people who help at St. Mary Magdalene in so many ways. Firstly, thank you Deiniol for your enthusiasm, drive, and leadership. Secondly, a big thank you to Nigel and Kayleigh for your support in all that we do at the church. There are so many others to thank.

Sam Laughton, Adrian Felaar and our other organists; Alexandra Caldon, Charlotte Reid and Alex Caldon, professional musicians with a long connection to Great Hampden church, who provide us with at least one excellent concert during the year and play at some of our services, despite their very busy schedules. Thank you to our Treasurer, Alan Costin, our Secretary, Libby Rodda, and to Tony Blackburn for looking after the fabric of the church and especially the 2023 Project. Thank you to Kate Brocklehurst, who oversees the altar linen, to Margaret Gray who masterminds the flower arranging, to our small group of PCC members who act as vergers at weddings and funerals, our sidesmen, readers, cleaners, flower arrangers and grass mowers. My particular thanks to Roger Craft, for your continued support and wisdom, garnered from so many years as a Churchwarden.

Finally, a very special thank you to Alice Owen who has taken on the editing of the Parish Magazine, following the retirement of Val Firth last December. Alice has done an exceptional job during her first year and we are so grateful to her for taking over and continuing the excellent magazine which Val had overseen for many years.

Last but not least, I would like to wish you all a very blessed Christmas and pray for a more peaceful New Year, especially in all the areas of the world where there is war and conflict.

## CONGRATULATIONS

Our warmest congratulations to Peter and Jayne Collier on the occasion of their daughter Cordelia's marriage to Rhodri Llewellyn. The wedding took place on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> October at the Church of St Candida and Holy Cross in Whitchurch Canonorum, Dorset. We wish Cordelia and Rhodri every happiness together.





## PROJECT 2023 AND BEYOND

*Tony Blackburn*

How things change! In the last edition of the magazine, I reported that work had progressed as far as funds allowed and so we re-opened the church for the first wedding of the year on 4<sup>th</sup> May. However, thanks to the dogged perseverance of Glyn Hassall in pursuing possible grants, we hit the jackpot with an award from the National Lottery! The grant was large enough to allow us to commission the final phase of plaster repairs and redecoration.

So, the church was closed once again after the last wedding of the year on 5<sup>th</sup> October to commence work, with a targeted completion for Christmas. As before, services transferred to Hill House by kind courtesy of the Oliver Family.

The church is now fully scaffolded, and plasterwork and redecoration has commenced – two coats of a special breathable paint.

Our 800-year-old church is not without its surprises! On removing the damaged kerbs around the sanctuary, a large void was discovered underneath. Work has stopped whilst we seek advice from a structural engineer, for options to avoid the potential collapse of the floor. To be continued!...

Whilst the project has been progressing, the five hatchments which hung on the south and west walls of the nave have been at the conservators for repair and cleaning. They now look stunning, with bright colours, and will be re-hung when the decoration is finished, in time for Christmas.







## WE SHALL REMEMBER THEM

***Adapted from an article in the October 1987 edition of this magazine***

This month, on 10th November, we remembered those who died for their country in the last century. In particular, perhaps, our thoughts and prayers are with the family of David Tinker who died, aged 25, on 12th June 1982, during the Falklands conflict. David and his family regularly attended Great Hampden Church when David was a boy and he also sang in the choir. It

was on Remembrance Sunday that year that the memorial plaque to David Tinker was unveiled in Great Hampden Church.

After David Tinker's death, his father Hugh published letters written by David from the Falklands, under the title *A Message from the Falklands: The Life and Gallant Death of David Tinker, Lieut. R.N.*. His father wrote, 'When the ships were waiting near Ascension Island everyone was required to make out a will to be returned to Britain. David asked in his will, if he were to be buried in earth, for an inscription to be placed on his grave. These were among the last words written by Rupert Brooke in 'Fragments written during the voyage to Gallipoli April 1915' and David must have considered that his voyage might have the same ending.

'He wears  
The ungathered blossom of quiet; stiller he  
Than a deep well at noon, or lovers met,  
Than sleep, or the heart after wrath. He is  
The silence following great words of peace.'

On 10th November, we remembered all those who, like David Tinker, wear 'the ungathered blossom of quiet.'



Our thanks to Ian Firth for this photograph of the Service of Remembrance.





## PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

### *Cllr Frances Smith, Chair of Great and Little Hampden Parish Council*

I must start by announcing that Claire Paige has resigned from the Parish Council.

Thank you, Claire, for your help and support, for your work on the Pond Survey and your efforts to have traffic-calming measures installed.

We will be looking for a new councillor. Nick Baxter or I can provide information to anyone wishing to join us.

We have been given permission by the landowner in Little Hampden to install a defibrillator. Thank you, Mr Figg. This should be done by Christmas. Nick Baxter, our local First Responder, will run a training session on how to use a defibrillator. Please get in touch with him via the Parish Council website if you are interested in joining.

We are still looking for ways to spend the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) money, which will otherwise have to be returned in the next few weeks.

Finally, our congratulations to Nick Baxter on being awarded The King's Coronation Medal for services to the ambulance service.

**Council website:** <https://greatandlittlehampdenparishcouncil.gov.uk/>

**Councillors' email addresses:**

[frances.smith@greatandlittlehampdenparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:frances.smith@greatandlittlehampdenparishcouncil.gov.uk)

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**Nick Baxter, Clerk:** [clerk@greatandlittlehampdenparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@greatandlittlehampdenparishcouncil.gov.uk)



## A MESSAGE FROM BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNCILLOR

### *David Carroll*

May I firstly thank the residents who give their time to support our community in so many ways. The Parish Council is doing a brilliant job on our behalf. Our local pub, the Hampden Arms, is the hub of our community, and the cricket club is doing very well. We have a beautiful church, St Mary Magdalene, which we

all value and appreciate.

The road programme of works is progressing but I will continue to lobby on your behalf to improve our roads.

The new Government has announced sweeping changes to the planning system and a 42% increase in housing numbers for Buckinghamshire, which could potentially affect our area, and the protection of the Green Belt and Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. I have always tried to protect our wonderful countryside, and this will continue. Hopefully the new numbers from the Government can be accommodated on brownfield sites in Buckinghamshire and safeguard our environment for future generations.

I receive many enquiries on various issues from residents and really do try to resolve them if possible. Thank you for your continued support.



## GREAT HAMPDEN VILLAGE HALL

***Philip Maton***

It has been wonderful to see so many people enjoying our village hall since the last edition of this magazine. The hall exists to benefit our villagers, and we're pleased to say it's been fulfilling that purpose brilliantly!

Our AGM in September was very well attended – perhaps the cheese and wine helped draw a crowd! The new Coffee Mornings were a great success, bringing our community together, as was the recent Harvest Lunch. Once again, the hall was filled to capacity for the quiz night.

We're thrilled that the Coffee Mornings will continue through the winter. We're also looking forward to seeing you at **the next quiz night on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2025**. It's been lovely to see the hall used for a variety of other events, from children's parties to work meetings, the Women's Institute gatherings, and cricket matches. If you'd like to learn more about hiring the hall, please don't hesitate to contact me or a member of the committee.

Behind the scenes, we're busy with some exciting plans. Early next year, we'll be launching a new website, along with a regular email newsletter. We're also galvanizing a group of volunteers to tidy the outdoor area around the hall. Our finances are in good shape, allowing us to begin a renewal programme, which we're currently scoping. Larger projects, like roof insulation, may also be on the horizon. While these are no small tasks, we're optimistic – watch this space!

Finally, a few words of thanks. Andrew Reid stood down as Chairman at the AGM, having been a driving force in fostering community engagement at the village hall. Val Firth has also stepped back from the committee. Both Andrew and Val remain actively involved in our events, along with a fantastic team of helpers, bakers, and cleaners. To all of them, and to my fellow committee members – Kate, Cynthia, and Rob – I'm deeply grateful.



## 200 CLUB

***Kate Brocklehurst***

Thank you to everyone who renewed their membership of the 200 Club for another year.

Thanks, too, to all our new members. We only have four numbers left so we have more members than ever before, which is a fantastic income for the hall.

The Village Hall Committee is extremely grateful to you all for your support of the hall.

| Month          | First Prize  | Second Prize      | Third Prize   |
|----------------|--------------|-------------------|---------------|
| July 2024      | Susie Oliver | Roger Springall   | Gareth Tupper |
| August 2024    | Ian Andrews  | Anne-Marie Pearce | Peter Chapman |
| September 2024 | Susie Oliver | Susie Oliver      | Ian Andrews   |
| October 2024   | Louise Lucas | Marion Eve        | Tiddy Yates   |



## GREAT HAMPDEN VILLAGERS' COFFEE MORNINGS

*Andrew Reid*

At the suggestion of long-time Great Hampden residents Pat and Don Gomm, the Village Hall Committee resolved to initiate a monthly Villagers' Coffee Morning to enable people from across the village to come together to meet up with other villagers and to enjoy a sociable cuppa and a chat. The response to our first two such mornings has been most encouraging, with people resident in the village for just a few months coming along and mixing with those whose attachment to the village stretches over many decades. From feedback we have received, it seems that the occasions have been thoroughly enjoyed by one and all, and that really encourages the team whose hard work makes it all happen.

**Our next Villagers' Coffee Morning will be on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December, between the hours of 10 a.m. and 12 noon and will have a Christmas theme.** As well as the usual coffees, teas, cakes and bacon baps (which have proved to be highly popular – surprise, surprise! - for who can resist the smell of freshly-fried bacon wafting through the air!) there will be special seasonal offerings.

Mulled wine will be served, as well as mince pies, bakes and Christmastide cakes such as chocolate logs. There will also be some small special cakes for children and a game or two for them to play as well – so, something for all the family to enjoy! If you weren't one of the 50 plus people who attended our first two mornings, don't miss out again – make it third time lucky and come and enjoy yourself in great company.







Our thanks to Anne-Marie Pearce for both photographs.

**2025 will see a continuation of our monthly Villagers' Coffee Mornings on the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of each month – that's 25<sup>th</sup> January and 22<sup>nd</sup> February.** Why not mark these dates in your brand-new 2025 diary and make a New Year's resolution to attend one, if not both, of those mornings?

Finally, a special word of thanks to the team of villagers who have contributed to running the Villagers' Coffee Mornings. From setting up the hall and publicising the events to making cakes and supplying food, from preparing and serving the teas, coffees, and bacon baps to the inevitable washing up and cleaning of the hall, they have each played their part and we must pay tribute to their commitment to our communal village life. They have been, to date, Sian Edwards, Pat Gomm, Don Gomm, Veronica Carter, Marsha Gutfeld, Anne-Marie Pearce, Denise Kinnard, Julia Heck, Hilary Reid, Andrew Reid – and not forgetting dear Louise from the Hampden Arms for supplying at cost on sale or return the delicious bacon and baps, thus removing the risk of our over- or under- buying provisions. **If you can help in 2025 by joining the team in making first-class cakes or in helping in the kitchen or front of house, please do let us know – after all, many hands make light work!**



## GREAT HAMPDEN WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

*Sue Davis*

A new WI year, a new programme and ever more new members: Great Hampden WI is on a roll! To keep us engaged over the summer, Sally arranged a private visit to Chenies Manor. Although a house with a long history, this is still very much a family home. Queen Elizabeth I sat under the ancient and decrepit oak tree in the garden, and Henry VIII's ghost can be heard groaning at the bottom of stairs he could not climb. Our enthusiastic guide entertained us with such anecdotes of the people who owned and visited Chenies, but also explained the significance of this survival of a house which was considered old in Tudor times. Outside, deep hedges surround a secret garden, while the sunken garden showed off the rich colours of Chenies' celebrated dahlias. The herb garden intrigued with its poison bed and its medieval wellhouse with a pony-worked wheel to bring water up from its own, very deep borehole. Ancient lawnmowers, pulled by ponies, survive, as do the ponies' leather boots, worn to prevent hoof marks in the grass. As is usual with our companionable WI, the getting-together with fellow members over tea and cake was an equal highlight of the visit.

Our first lunch of the new season was organised by Hilary Reid. Twenty members met at Zaza Italian restaurant in Amersham. Thank you, Hilary, for choosing such an excellent venue - we all enjoyed our meet-up there.

We knew we were in for a treat with our September meeting speaker, as Tom Way is an old favourite who just gets better and better - both with his wildlife photography and his presentation. His beautiful images, whether of African big cats or British water voles, contrasted with his 'warts and all' presentation, including stories such as the time he dropped his £25,000 uninsured camera into water while tutoring fellow wildlife photographers in Africa. But he kept on going, and we love to share his trials and triumphs.

Our WI is one of four WIs which form The Hampden Group. We were asked to organise a Group Meeting, so we decided to combine this with our October meeting when we celebrated our 101<sup>st</sup> birthday. We extended a welcome to fifty members, and provided tea and homemade cake made by members (perhaps cake should be this issue's theme?). Our speaker was Countess Howe who enlightened us about her role as His Majesty's Lord Lieutenant of Buckinghamshire. Her passion for, and commitment to, the job was obvious, and we all very much enjoyed her engaging talk, followed by cheerful chat and gossip!

We also used this occasion to unveil our commemorative banner made by the craft group to celebrate 100 years of Great Hampden WI - from 1923 to 2023 - and the village hall, which was installed at the same time and where all our meetings have been held. The hall is the central motif, and the border reflects the beauty and importance of Hampden's woodland setting. Surrounding the hall is a light-hearted reimagining of women from each decade of the WI's existence. We are lucky to number so many talented craftswomen in our WI. Thank you to all who came, sewed, laughed and ate cake during its making. The framed banner will hang in the hall.



Our President, Val Firth, is due to step down at November's AGM, after her third time in this role. We thank her for giving her expertise and energy, and leading Great Hampden WI so ably.

Our meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> December rings in Christmas with music from a clarinet group. Earlier in the month, the Hampden Arms will be the venue for our Christmas lunch. Then January sees us welcome in the new year with our now-traditional 'Claridges in the Chilterns' afternoon tea (with cake). This will simply be a chance to get together after Christmas and enjoy being part of Great Hampden's own thriving Women's Institute.

**Great Hampden WI meets every third Thursday of each month, except August. Times vary between summer (7.30 p.m.) and winter (2.30 p.m.). New members are very welcome.**



**Countess Howe, His Majesty's Lord Lieutenant of Buckinghamshire**



## Great Hampden Cricket Club

### *John Hussey*

#### **Going up in the world—a look back on a special season**

A man walks clockwise round the boundary. He looks familiar. The match has begun. It's effectively a promotion playoff at Wing CC. The man has his back turned to play and is searching the sky. I walk anticlockwise round to meet him.

"Andy Newitt! You made it!"

"Now, you see John, years ago there would have been skylarks out there."

"Er, good of you to come over for the big..."

"It's the red kites, John."

"You've had a long drive."

Andy drops his voice to a whisper, "John, the kites take ground-nesting birds."

We walk on. Hampden had started poorly but are fighting back against Wing's strong bowling. If we win it will be fitting that Mr Newitt is here. He's been a club stalwart since the 1960s and has often driven from Wales to play, then sleep the night in his car. The over finishes. Andy is examining a mass of brambles.

I venture, "If we get 180, I think we're favourites."

Andy nods but his gaze has turned to the northwest and the watercolour fields that grow fainter and fainter as they dissolve into the Midland Plain. He sighs, "It's been a good year for blackberries." The score mounts steadily.

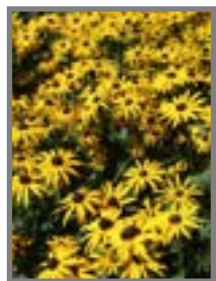
What a summer! A record 14-game winning streak, a cup final, and promotion. And one man did more than anyone else to make this so. Again, I must report that Sohail Abbas' season was the best I've ever seen from a Hampden player. The first GHCC skipper of Asian origin, he's built a great team spirit and a will to win. As a batsman, he so often clubbed the club to victory. As a bowler he got crucial wickets in almost every game. He won the respect of the league, and several times I noticed opponents nod at each other as he walked in, as if to say, "Here's the man we have to get out." Sohail's contribution was celebrated at the awards dinner. Our skipper won Best Batsman and Best Bowler, and also Players' Player, receiving every vote cast – a unique achievement as far as I'm aware.

Of course, across such a triumphant season, there were many other great performances. There was Shaz Arshad's brilliant maiden hundred. Ditto classy Jonny Maund. There was the 'century that should have been' when Raheel Muhammad's 96 hauled us out of trouble at Ballinger. There was Jay Ahmed's quietly destructive bowling. And, so often the glue that held batting, bowling, and fielding together, Waleed Azad very deservedly won Best Newcomer. Muhammad 'Ikky' Ikram, ever the showman, won Best Moment – for his tour-of-Bucks celebration when he got the wicket that won the semi-final. Meanwhile, two non-playing contributions were crucial to our promotion (Widmer just beating us to the title). With points going to teams with a scorer, young Rory Eden was a huge help. Steve 'Gunns' Gunnell earned many points and much respect as a very good, very fair umpire. Cheers!

Alongside Sohail, it's been Hampden's President who has done a great deal to give the club the dream and the drive to reach new heights. Rob Stanley works so hard on so many aspects – from pitch preparation to league communications, to pitch hiring, fundraising, and much more. It's hard to overstate how important this is, and it was little surprise when he won the Clubman of the Year award. Rob and Sohail share a vision of a bigger club, involving two teams not one – for the first time since the 90s. And they are making it happen.

Andy and I watch the match end. Wing are well short of Hampden's 218 and have just one wicket left. A young girl walks amongst the spectators. She carries a bowl of the blackberries she's just picked and offers these to Wing fans and Hampden ones alike. Suddenly, there's a shout of triumph. It's Ikky. Of course, it's Ikky. He's captured the last wicket. We've won by 82 runs. We've won promotion. The lads walk, grinning and joking, from the field. Skipper Sohail is proud and overjoyed.

Andy applauds and smiles. The journey is worthwhile. It's been a good year for the blackberries.



## GARDENING COLUMN

### *'Geraldine Grainger'*

This summer was the Earth's warmest on record (but NOT in the Hampdens). It was also the warmest across Europe at 1.5 degrees above the long-term average (but NOT in the Hampdens). For the UK, it was the coolest summer since 2015. Yes, it may have been, but it was also the horribly wettest summer I can remember. It must have been in the small

print in the Brexit Agreement. I did not bank on leaving the EU and allowing the Europeans to steal our sun and summer. I am advised the 'El Nino' weather effect has now ended in the southern hemisphere and global temperatures are likely to stabilise. That does not increase my confidence for our summer next year.

The rain, with its constant presence and its capability to arrive at some time in any given day, even those that had a dry forecast, meant much less gardening than usual. Many of the seeds I sowed did not successfully progress after reaching about 2 inches (5 centimetres or thereabouts for the youngsters). Even the ever-reliable cosmos had a poor showing. However, I did notice in some other gardens that their cosmos had a very good display (envious). I may have to accept that the dampness had reduced my enthusiasm for tending the poor seedlings. The sweet peas (four varieties) grew to a size for planting out and then two of the varieties did not grow anymore and collapsed, whilst the other two marched on and made a decent effort. I found the constant wetness very defeating and actually visited the garden much less frequently and hence it looks quite a mess. All this talk about how gardens help your wellbeing, increasing your happiness and fitness, only works for me if the weather is a little kinder. It's the joints and the tendons that advise you to stay indoors.

In the last few weeks I have made some efforts to plant spring bulbs and the wet soil has made digging a little easier although the gloves get quite claggy. I will get round to using my wooden boxes for the fallen leaves and make some leaf mould. Similarly, I will cut the perennials into bits and let them rot in the beds rather than shoving them in black bags and disposing of them at the dump. I also leave some spaces unkempt for wildlife to have a haven over winter. I have an old builders bag and leave that scrunched up and out in the winter and in the spring I always find a large toad living inside

I have purchased my stores of bird food for this winter, as I have already seen redwings in the area, as well as blackbirds, rapidly eating through the remaining crab apples on the tree. It is a joy to see the large number and variety in the garden and, adding them up over the years, I have recorded forty-two different bird species.

When the 'garden shows' mention jobs for the weekend or in the next week they are far too optimistic and should take into account that wet gardeners are struggling for motivation. I suggest they should be a bit like Countryfile and put up the forthcoming weather forecast so that you can make an immediate judgement, and request they send you some indoor jobs.

This year's Christmas present should be welly boots but you will always be caught out by the weather so I also seek a new wide-brimmed sun hat.

PS. The banning of peat-based composts has been delayed due to the change of government and I cannot find out any information about when it will go back to Parliament. This may mean that the ban at the end of 2024 will be pushed back. Hildreth's seems to be the only supplier of peat compost in the area.



## NEWS FROM THE HAMPDEN ARMS

### *Louise Lucas*

The autumnal season is well and truly with us as I sit down to write the latest edition of all that is pub news. Great Hampden is looking glorious with the amazing, vibrant autumn colours you can see whilst walking around the village. The trees really are remarkable and, if you haven't been out and about yet, it is well worth getting out for a stroll. Since I last wrote, Evie has passed her A-levels and she is now beginning her degree in social work. She also voted for the first time in a General Election, Emily has started year 11, so must knuckle down and concentrate on her GCSEs.

**One Can Trust:** there is a donation box for this wonderful local charity in the entrance hall to the pub. At the time of going to print, the charity is asking for deodorant, toothbrushes, tinned meat meals, rice, jams, cooking sauces and tinned veg.

**Village book exchange:** as an avid reader, I often have books to pass on to others. Please feel free to place books on the table in the pub entrance lobby (in good condition and suitable for all – nothing too rude/racy!). Drop off or just pop in to browse and collect!

### Looking back

**Quiz nights** are as popular as ever for our loyal quiz-goers. If you ever feel like a fun and friendly night out then please come along on the third Wednesday of the month at 8 p.m. £3 per team member to play, with a maximum of six persons per team. £20 cash prize to the winning team. In June, we raised £150 for the Florence Nightingale Hospice; in July, we raised £160 for Macmillan Cancer Support; in August, we held a special quiz for Aylesbury Rugby Club's Under-13s team tour to Ireland and raised a whopping £181; in September, we reached £172 for the Florence Nightingale Hospice; and lastly, in October we raised £163 for Macmillan Cancer Support. The next quiz will be on Boxing Day at 8 p.m. and all monies raised will go to the MPS Society.

A **Macmillan cake sale** was held towards the end of September, and organised in true military style by Evie. A final figure of £335 was raised for this amazing charity. Thank you to all those who baked for her and those who came along and purchased all the goodies!

Our **firework party** was held on Sunday 3 November and we were treated to a great display of fireworks. Thank you to all who came to support the event, and a huge thank you to Stuart Booker and Garry Goldie-Jones for setting up and letting them off. I think they secretly quite enjoy themselves!

### Looking ahead

The **Christmas lights will be lit on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December at 6 p.m.** Please gather outside the pub, where mince pies and mulled wine will be served.

Our **Christmas menus** will run from Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> December through to Christmas Eve. Please find the menus in the next few pages of the magazine.

The **Christmas Raffle** will run from Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December through to Boxing Day evening, when tickets will be drawn after the quiz. Great Hampden's own secret Santa has again very kindly donated a luxury food hamper, full of lots of lovely goodies to be won. Tickets are £2 each and all monies raised will go towards the Spinal Unit at Stoke Mandeville Hospital in its 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary year.

We'll be holding a **festive sing-along on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December from 9 p.m.** Steve Bird will host this fun-packed evening of singing, 100% guaranteed to get you in the festive mood!

We will be **carol singing on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30 p.m.** with our dear friends from St Mary Magdalene Church. Come along and join us in singing many of the traditional, family-favourite carols – a firm



fixture in the calendar in the run-up to Christmas!

As mentioned earlier, **the next quiz is on Boxing Day at 8 p.m.** in aid of the MPS Society. Come along to escape the Christmas telly and have fun with friends and neighbours, whilst raising vital funds for this much-loved charity. £3 per team member to play and a maximum of 6 persons per team. Please call the pub on 488255 to book your table.

Our **Burns Night supper will take place on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2025.** Look out for posters and further details in early January. Pop the date in your diaries now!

So now time is pressing on and soon I must be back at work. I, my family and my team of amazing staff hope to see you at some point over the festive period. There is so much unrest and unknown at the moment in the world and as such life can be a little daunting and worrying. However there is always fun, friendship, comfort, laughter and chat to be had at your local village pub. If you are feeling lonely or a little down, or just fancy getting out of the house over the festive period, the pub is always here as a beacon of light for all who need her. May we wish all of our loyal customers, friends and fellow villagers a very merry Christmas, and a healthy and peaceful New Year.

With much festive love,

Louise, Constantine, Evie and Emily xxxx



**Evie's first time voting in a General Election**



**Evie's cake sale for Macmillan Cancer Support**





**Hampden Arms Festive Menu 2024**  
**2 courses £29.00 / 3 courses £35.00**

Soup of the Day - Curried Parsnip or Minestrone  
Avocado Prawn Salad  
Chicken Liver Pâté and Toast  
Coquille St Jacques  
Sautéed Garlic and Thyme Mushrooms

\*\*\*\*

Roast Turkey with all the Trimmings  
Pan-fried Swordfish Steak with Caper Butter  
Homemade Steak, Ale and Mushroom Pie  
Sirloin Steak Diane  
Cod and Asparagus Risotto  
All main courses served with potatoes and fresh vegetables

\*\*\*\*

Christmas Pudding  
Vanilla Craème Brûlée  
Bread and Butter Pudding  
Caramel Soufflé  
Chocolate Roulade



## **Hampden Arms Vegetarian Festive Menu 2024**

**2 courses £22.00 / 3 courses £28.00**

Soup of the Day - Curried Parsnip or Minestrone

Goat's Cheese and Aubergine Salad

Sautéed Garlic and Thyme Mushrooms

Creamy Pesto Tagliatelle

\*\*\*\*

Mushroom Risotto

Vegetarian Chilli served with Rice and Salad

Mixed Pepper Stroganoff

Avocado, Tomato and Halloumi Salad with a Pesto Drizzle

\*\*\*\*

Christmas Pudding

Vanilla Crème Brûlée

Bread and Butter Pudding

Caramel Soufflé

Chocolate Roulade



## **LOCAL BABYSITTER**

*My name is Evie Lucas, I live in the village pub and I am 19. I hold a full UK driving licence. I am available to babysit at any time whilst studying for a Social Work degree.*

*If you would like to talk to me further, I can be contacted on the following telephone numbers.*

*My mobile number is 07421 833390*

*My home landline is 01494 488 255*

*I look forward to hearing from you!*



## **No job too small!**

*My name is Emily Lucas, I live in the village pub and I am 16. I am currently in year 11 at Wycombe High School and I have played netball for the school team since year 7. I have been invited to go on a netball sports tour of South Africa in the summer of 2025 and would very much like to help my parents with the costs of this tour. I can babysit, house-sit, dog-walk, water plants or any other job you need help with.*

*I can be contacted on my mobile 07421 242896 or the home landline 01494 488255. I look forward to hearing from you and many thanks in advance.*



## Speen Helping Hospices - Raising Funds in Chilterns Villages Christmas 2024

### Supporting Helen & Douglas House for Children - South Bucks Hospice - Florence Nightingale Hospice Charity - Rennie Grove and Peace Hospice Care

There is nothing like doing your bit for the hospices funds and having a good time with friends.

The annual Spring Lunch at the Horse Trust was as popular as ever and tickets sold out very quickly.

The Comedy Night in September, pictured below and arranged by Elliot Wengler, was a terrific success and Lacey Green Village Hall was a great venue.

The Bridge Afternoon Tea in North Dean Village Hall attracted a more sedate audience who tucked into the home-made sandwiches, scones and cakes at half time!

The Christmas Market was held in the festive Chapel Hall, Speen. People started their Christmas shopping early and the handmade crafts and gifts, fragrances and beauty products, artisan chocolates, stunning jewellery, unusual Christmas decorations and Christmas cards were in demand.

Thank you to all who have supported us during the year. Please continue to do so, we do need you.

### Final Events in 2024

**Christmas Hamper** tickets are on sale at the Christmas Market and online [www.shh-shop.org](http://www.shh-shop.org)

### Would you like to get involved in SHH?

SHH would really welcome your engagement! That could be through ideas for future fundraising events or helping us to expand our coverage in the neighbouring Chiltern villages, a good contact that might help us at an event, or donating a prize for a raffle. If you would like to get involved with SHH please contact [grainnesuter@googlemail.com](mailto:grainnesuter@googlemail.com) or call 07778 803260.

Have you thought about taking part in a half-marathon, marathon or even a fun run in 2025? If so, would you fundraise for SHH? Our local hospices need your help to ensure they can continue to support families in a time of great need. If you are up for the challenge, please contact [grainnesuter@googlemail.com](mailto:grainnesuter@googlemail.com) or call 07778 803260.

For further information about all our events, please visit our website at [www.shh-shop.org](http://www.shh-shop.org)





## 'TALES' FROM LITTLE HAMPDEN

### *Sally Appleby*

Mrs Ancient has taken to entertaining lately. I am banished from the sitting room since I sneaked in before the guests arrived and polished off the nibbles she had made. I didn't eat all of them - I just licked all the cream cheese out of the celery sticks and tomatoes, leaving the tomatoes and celery. Who in their right mind likes celery or tomatoes!

Gosh she was cross and shouted at me. I don't like being shouted at but I suppose it is better than being walloped.

There seem to be quite a few new cats in the village. I think they breed at the stables and I can't resist chasing them. The other day I chased the most enormous cat (as big as me) almost to the top of the lane, whereupon it stopped, turned round and spat at me, and put her paw out to scratch me with enormous claws. I turned tail and ran back to Mrs Ancient who laughed and called me a 'wuss'. How rude it was, both of the cat and Mrs Ancient!

Last week, I was taken to an outdoor concert at The Drawing Room in Chesham. There was a crooner there and I just thought I would join him as I can croon too. Strangely he didn't appreciate it, though everyone else laughed, and Mrs Ancient dragged me back to the car where I had to stay until the end of the concert.

My favourite neighbour is back from France, the lovely Bettina, who is French and she brings me treats and takes me on long walks. She didn't tell me she was going and I sat outside her door crying to be allowed in to see her. Raj, her husband, brought me home after allowing me to check the house to confirm she wasn't there. I was also brought back by a neighbour when I had sneaked off to see if Bettina was back.

Last month there was dreadful thunderstorm with lightning. I went outside and barked and barked but it didn't stop. It was as bad as those ghastly fireworks, which I hate. I then sat on Mrs Ancient's lap to keep her company in case she was scared but she doesn't shiver like I do.

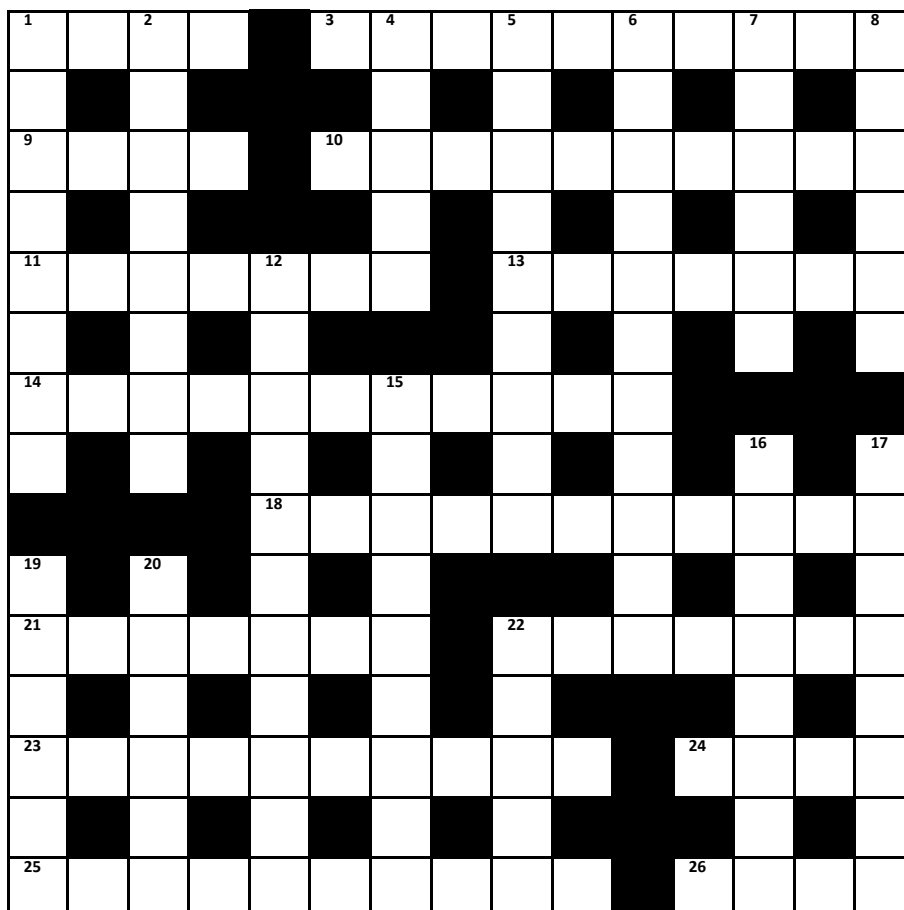
I'm not allowed to sleep in the car anymore. Mrs Ancient has a new car and she doesn't want it to smell of dog (what could be nicer though?). I am supposed to sleep downstairs but in the middle of the night I sneak up and get on Mrs Ancient's bed, so she wakes up to me in the morning. If she shuts the bedroom door, I push it hard to get in.

I have been to the vets recently - a visit I hate. They do unspeakable things to me and say it is for my own good. I am not convinced.

Last week, I attacked a cyclist who was going too fast down the hill. I like to get in first ever since I was run over by a cyclist outside the cottage on our drive. The cyclist came hurtling round the corner and his wheels went over me...just like that. This time, I only bit his foot in his soft-soled cycling shoes. Mrs Ancient was furious with me and apologised profusely. I'm now kept firmly on a lead outside the gate. It is somewhat restricting for a chap like me and hopefully Mrs Ancient will relent soon...watch this space.



## CHRISTMAS 2024 CROSSWORD



### Across

1. 80% musically slow, can be 100% fast! (4)
3. Boundary (10)
9. First father – and a mother! (4)
10. Spirit animating living creatures (5,5)
11. Strengthen physically or mentally (7)
13. One of the qualities hell has to offer (7)
14. Bits and pieces (4,3,4)
18. Healthy milk (4-7)
21. Windpipe (7)
22. Garden of Eden dress code (3,4)
23. Shaftesbury Avenue performance (10)
24. Car or skirt (4)
25. Office handling telephone enquiries (4,6)
26. Shortened version of Titanic's downfall (4)

### Down

1. Swans can die from this (4,4)
2. Not offside – what a car has to offer (8)
4. I stand on either side, a vegetable (5)
5. You can hear a variety when you pick up the 'phone (4,5)
6. Action following ash dieback for example (11)
7. Modern country where Jesus lived is setting up a king (6)
8. Throws out (6)
12. It puts you to sleep! (11)
15. Condemn one wacky description of Holland! (9)
16. Stupid person (8)
17. Providing moral instruction (8)
19. Still radio noise (6)
20. WWII Field Marshal – 'Other Men's Flowers' (6)
22. Natural ability (5)

### Solution to the Summer crossword

**Across:** 1. Easter 4. Affair 8. Below Par 10. Nephew 11. Oral 12. Attraction 13. Switchboards

16. Aromatherapy 20. Bolshevik 21. Amen. 22. Cha-Cha 23. Euphoria 24. Cashew 25. Greece.

**Down:** 1. Eyebrows 2. Spoil 3. Empeach 5. Funfair 6. Appetiser 7. Reebok 9. Rationalise 14. Transacts

15. Appetite 17. Operate 18. Hotspur 19. Gothic 21. Abode.

Thank you to those of you sending in solutions. In order of receipt, they came from: Ian Smith, Margaret Nanton, Jim and Libby Rodda, Philip Maton, David Hillas, Mary Heald and Andrew Reid. All much appreciated! Solutions to this puzzle will be most welcome! Send to Rob Merrick, Broombarrow Corner, Great Missenden, HP16 9PF or email [robmerrick1905@gmail.com](mailto:robmerrick1905@gmail.com).

# GREAT HAMPDEN VILLAGERS' COFFEE MORNING

Special Christmas Coffee Morning! Do put the date in your diary and come along on the morning to enjoy food and drink - and especially the company of your fellow villagers.

## THE DETAILS ARE:

Saturday 7th December

10:00 a.m - 12 Noon

At the Village Hall



## WHAT'S ON OFFER?

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| DATE & TIME   | EVENT  | VENUE             |
|---|--|-------------------|
| Sunday 1 December<br>6 p.m.                               | Christmas Lights                                     | The Hampden Arms  |
| Saturday 7 December<br>10 a.m. – 12 noon                  | Villagers' Coffee Morning                            | Village Hall      |
| Friday 6 December<br>7.30 p.m.                            | Festive Sing-Along                                   | The Hampden Arms  |
| Monday 16 December<br>7.30 p.m.                           | Carol Singing  | The Hampden Arms  |
| Thursday 12 December<br>Please note time <b>2.30 p.m.</b> | WI – Clarinet Group                                  | Village Hall      |
| Sunday 22 December<br>6 p.m.                              | Christmas Carol Service                              | St Mary Magdalene |
| Tuesday 24 December<br>11.15 a.m.                         | Calm Christingle                                     | St Mary Magdalene |
| Wednesday 25 December<br>11.15 a.m.                       | Christmas Day<br>Family Eucharist Service            | St Mary Magdalene |
| Thursday 26 December<br>8 p.m.                            | Boxing Day Quiz                                      | The Hampden Arms  |
| Thursday 16 January<br>Please note time <b>2.30 p.m.</b>  | WI<br>'Claridges in the Chilterns'                   | Village Hall      |
| Thursday 23 January                                       | Burns Night Supper                                   | The Hampden Arms  |
| Saturday 25 January<br>10 a.m. – 12 noon                  | Villagers' Coffee Morning                            | Village Hall      |
| Thursday 20 February<br>Please note time <b>2.30 p.m.</b> | WI – Alison Wall<br>Plague/Pest Houses and Pandemics | Village Hall      |
| Saturday 22 February<br>10 a.m. – 12 noon                 | Villagers' Coffee Morning                            | Village Hall      |
| Friday 14 March<br>7 for 7.30 p.m.                        | Spring Quiz  | Village Hall      |
| Thursday 20 March<br>Please note time <b>2.30 p.m.</b>    | WI – Terry Cann<br>Tribute to Geoff Hamilton         | Village Hall      |

## ST MARY MAGDALENE, GREAT HAMPDEN

[www.greathampden.org.uk](http://www.greathampden.org.uk)

01494 863805

[secretary@htprestwood.org.uk](mailto:secretary@htprestwood.org.uk).

### Rector

Rev Deiniol Heywood  
140 Wycombe Road, Prestwood  
01494 866530

[rector@greathampden.org.uk](mailto:rector@greathampden.org.uk)

### Assistant Curates

Rev Nigel Spoor  
[nigel@htprestwood.org.uk](mailto:nigel@htprestwood.org.uk)

Rev Kayleigh Lucas  
[kayleigh@htprestwood.org.uk](mailto:kayleigh@htprestwood.org.uk)

### Churchwarden

Val Gristwood  
01494 865558  
[valgristwood@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:valgristwood@yahoo.co.uk)

### Honorary Treasurer

Alan Costin  
01628 488282

### Honorary Secretary

Libby Rodda  
01494 488840

### Director of Music

Sam Laughton  
01494 488944

## GREAT HAMPDEN WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

(meets 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month . For times see page 19)

### President

Val Firth  
01844 346735

### Secretary

Libby Rodda  
01494 488840

### Treasurer

Sue Davis  
01494 488388

## GREAT HAMPDEN CRICKET CLUB

<https://greathampden.play-cricket.com/home>

### Contacts

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[greathampdencc@gmail.com](mailto:greathampdencc@gmail.com)

John Hussey  
[john@abaresearch.co.uk](mailto:john@abaresearch.co.uk)

## GREAT & LITTLE HAMPDEN PARISH COUNCIL

### Chair

Councillor Frances Smith  
[frances.smith@greatandlittlehampdenparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:frances.smith@greatandlittlehampdenparishcouncil.gov.uk)

### Vice Chair

Councillor Karen Butler  
[karen.butler@greatandlittlehampdenparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:karen.butler@greatandlittlehampdenparishcouncil.gov.uk)

### Clerk

[clerk@greatandlittlehampdenparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@greatandlittlehampdenparishcouncil.gov.uk)  
07850 278478

## STOKE MANDEVILLE AND OTHER PARISHES CHARITY AND THE MONKS RISBOROUGH PAROCHIAL CHARITIES

### Trustee

Peter Collier  
01494 488031

### Administrator

Mrs C B Dobson  
01296 431859

### Monks Risborough Charity Trustee

Ian Firth  
01844 346735

## GREAT HAMPDEN VILLAGE HALL

### Chair

Philip Maton  
07769 403490

### Secretary and 200 Club

Kate Brocklehurst  
01494 488728

### Treasurer

Cynthia Blackburn  
01844 273556

Rob Stanley  
[greathampdencc@gmail.com](mailto:greathampdencc@gmail.com)

Bookings/general enquires to Kate Brocklehurst

## THE HAMPDEN SETTLEMENT ESTATE OFFICE

Secretary  
Saika Akhtar  
01494 488243  
[saika@hampdentrustees.co.uk](mailto:saika@hampdentrustees.co.uk)

PLEASE ADVISE THE EDITOR OF ANY CHANGES  
TO CONTACT DETAILS

# OXMOOR FARM

*Nestled amongst ancient woodland, The Barn is Great Hampden's go-to weekend café and restaurant. With a roaring wood-burner and the freshest local ingredients, it is the perfect place to kick back, relax and enjoy the best of what the Chiltern Hills has to offer. From morning coffees and fresh pastries to seasonal small plates and Neapolitan-style pizzas, we champion responsible, small-scale suppliers and bring only the finest seasonal ingredients to the table.*

*Our monthly Wild Feasts are known for bringing some of the country's best chefs to Buckinghamshire. At the core of everything we do is community. We know our local producers by name, forging relationships rooted in trust and mutual respect. This month we are welcoming back our suppliers and friends at No.2 Pound Street for a sensational wine and cheese tasting.*

*We want to educate, provide hands-on opportunities to engage with food and farming, and provide a space to connect with nature and local community. Since August we have hosted wellness events, sound baths and screened a documentary on the future of farming with a panel discussion. This month we are welcoming two local artisans to share their passions through small workshops. Whether you want to make a winning sourdough loaf, create your own Christmas wreath or enjoy a relaxed meal, we welcome you.*



## UPCOMING ON THE FARM

*Saturday 23rd November - Introduction to Sourdough w/ Bramble Bakes*

*Saturday 23rd November - Wild Feast w/ Lasse Petersen*

*Sunday 24th November - Wild Feast w/ Lasse Petersen*

*Thursday 28th November - Cheese & Wine evening w/ No.2 Pound Street*

*Saturday 30th November - Wreath Making Workshop w/ Blossom & Bauble*

*Sunday 1st December - Wreath Making Workshop w/ Blossom & Bauble*

*Saturday 7th December - Wild Feast w/ Sophie Gordon*

*Sunday 8th December - Wild Feast w/ Sophie Gordon*

[www.oxmoorfarm.co.uk](http://www.oxmoorfarm.co.uk)

[info@oxmoorfarm.co.uk](mailto:info@oxmoorfarm.co.uk)

[@oxmoorfarm](https://www.instagram.com/oxmoorfarm)

### The Barn Café

Saturday from 10am

Sunday from 10am

### The Barn Restaurant

Friday 4pm until late\*

Saturday 2pm until late\*

Sunday 12pm until 3pm

\*Fridays 4-6 little ones eat half price

\*Fridays & Saturdays 4-6 Margherita pizza & lager or glass of house wine for £14



# GREAT HAMPDEN WOMEN'S INSTITUTE VILLAGE SHOW 2025

Our next biennial Village Show will take place on **Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2025**, when we will once again gather together to show off our best offerings of craft, cookery, fruit, vegetables, flowers and flower arranging – and, of course, those special classes for children. **Do please put the date in your 2025 diary** and have a careful look at all the different classes you can enter when the schedule is published in the Easter 2025 issue of this Parish Magazine. Then get growing those prize runner beans, baking the best-ever Victoria sponge sandwich, and generally preparing everything for your part in what we hope will be another bumper Show.

If you are new to the village and wonder what it is all about, please contact Hilary Reid at [pheasantsreids@gmail.com](mailto:pheasantsreids@gmail.com) for more details and a copy of the 2023 schedule – which will give you a good idea of what to expect. It's not an experts' specialist 'Horticultural Show', it is our own 'Village Show' and great fun for all who take part!



**A celebration of 100 years of Great Hampden Women's Institute**





# Christmas Carol Service

**Sunday, December 22nd, 6.00pm  
St Mary Magdalene, Great Hampden,  
HP16 9RD**

**Wonderful music from  
Sam Laughton, Alex and  
Alexandra Caldon,  
Charlotte Reid and friends**

**In the newly redecorated  
church, with refreshments  
after. All welcome!**