

Tidmarsh with Sulham Parish Magazine



AUTUMN 2020



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A message from your editor – Jenny Cope

Well what an amazing summer we have had and given that it wasn't an option for many people to travel, where better to spend the summer months than in our beautiful part of Berkshire with its lovely walks, the river Thames and our own lovely gardens!

One thing I did notice immediately the coffee shops and take away establishments opened was the return of the litter along my section of Mill Lane – drivers seem to favour a couple of areas of my boundary to throw away their paper Costa cups and McDonald's wrappings – these are by far the most 'picked up' rubbish my me on a Sunday before rubbish collection on Monday morning. I don't believe this could be anyone from the villages and am guessing its from vehicles cutting through to the A4/M4.

With so many events being cancelled this summer, it was great that Hall Place Equestrian Centre were able to run their Annual Show on Bank Holiday Monday. This was the 40th year of the show and it would have been a shame if it had not been able to run. The weather was glorious and the turn-out was excellent. The show is such a village tradition and very often when young children learn to ride, it's the place they enter their first show. We still sponsor a class every year and here is the chap who won the trophy this year!



Whilst at the show I got talking to the new proprietor of The Granary Room – Majid. He has refurbished the café with new coffee machines and offers cooked breakfasts, pastries, snacks etc throughout the day and has a really cute bar area for a glass of



wine or a beer later in the day. It is open every day from around 9ish and is open to the public (not just riders and users of Hall Place) so is ideal if you are out walking or just want to meet up with friends somewhere a bit different!

Once again in this issue, we have not included the 'dates for your diary' as things are still a bit uncertain as I write although the Friday morning walks and coffee mornings are due to re-commence in October.

My thanks to Alex Isaac who took the cover photograph this month – a duck family messing about on The Pang.

As always, please do send in your news, contributions and photographs – there won't be a magazine without them!

Jenny Cope – 07747 775 900, jenny@candcsystems.co.uk

Karen Fountaine – 07867 854 420, karencoltmoor@talktalk.net



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The Parish Council would like to thank all those who came forward to our request for volunteers to help others in the community during lockdown. There were only a handful of requests for help which highlighted that people had already been helping their neighbours.

Tidmarsh Millennium Green

A new permanent bin has been installed on Tidmarsh Millennium Green, this was purchased using funds held by the Parish Council which come from building developments in the parishes (known as section106 or more recently CIL funds). The Council is always open to suggestions on projects that would benefit from funding. There are a number of criteria, please contact the Parish Clerk to discuss the project. Unfortunately, the play area on Tidmarsh Millennium Green remains closed at present whilst contractors undertake repairs.

The Millennium Green, whilst mainly funded by the Parish Council, is the responsibility of the Millennium Green Trustees and they are looking to alter the vehicle entrance to the Green following an attempted unauthorised encampment. A number of residents have been involved in helping to protect the Green and the Trustees are grateful for their support.

Parish Councillor vacancy

There is currently a vacancy for a Parish Councillor, the role is open to those aged 18+ who live or work in or within three miles of the parish. Experience within the community sector would be desirable, an interest in improving our community is essential. The role is unpaid, out of parish travel costs and similar expenses can be reimbursed. If you are interested please contact the Parish Clerk for further details.

Contacting the Parish Council

To ensure that residents can easily contact the Parish Councillors, new email addresses have been introduced with a standardised format:

Jonathan Pearson (chairman): chairman@tidmarshwithsulham.co.uk

Steven Webb (vice chairman): s.webb@tidmarshwithsulham.co.uk

Jon Chishick: j.chishick@tidmarshwithsulham.co.uk

Sima Elliot: s.elliott@tidmarshwithsulham.co.uk

Andrew Madden: a.madden@tidmarshwithsulham.co.uk

The next Full Council meeting will be held on 9th September 2020 at 8pm via Zoom. The public are always free to attend Council meetings. Please visit contact the Parish Clerk or visit www.tidmarshwithsulham.co.uk/pc.htm for details of how to join the meeting.

Parish Clerk, Miss Jennie Currie, clerk@tidmarshwithsulham.co.uk, 01635 580190

THE PARISH OF PANGBOURNE WITH TIDMARSH AND SULHAM



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

A Letter from Reverend Heather Parbury as she leaves
to take a pre-retirement post in Coventry Diocese . . .

The Rectory, Pangbourne
August 2020

Dear Friends and Neighbours,

It is with both sadness and gratitude in my heart that I write this, which is likely to be my final letter to the parish of Pangbourne with Tidmarsh and Sulham as your rector.

Philip and I have lived here for over twelve years now, at first with two of our children still needing a family home, while I ministered to the three village communities and the wider parish which stretches from Wakemans in Upper Basildon, to Purley Rise and includes Maidenhatch and Bowden. Many members of our church congregations come from beyond the parish and some Christians who live in the parish travel to worship beyond but still need the parish church occasionally, so it has been both an interesting and complex ministry.

As I look back fondly there have been Christian and Community milestones which returned each year – until the strangeness of 2020 hit us. Each year brought us the early Spring Flowers with yummy cakes and Teas in Sulham Churchyard; the calm and steady Palm Sunday Donkey; Dawn round the brazier in the Easter Day Garden then breakfast in Pangbourne Village Hall; occasional May excitements with teddies parachuting from the top of the church tower, or a town twinning welcome to Houdan visitors; the Tea and Prayer tents at the Pangbourne Meadows Fete; the School children, rainbows, brownies and guides in the summer garden; the Pangbourne College students', and Scouts', community service work parties in the churchyards; the traditional Village fete on the Tidmarsh green or in a beautiful private garden; the start of the school year with assemblies in Englefield Church of England Primary School; and so to Autumn leading us to Christmas – via Harvest Thanksgivings; Remembering those who've died – with grieving relatives at All Souls and the British Legion on Remembrance Sunday; and then celebrating the birth of the Saviour Jesus Christ with so many of little faith and none magically attracted to join the people of faith at the end of the year; and so it all began again . . . until . . .

This year has been different!

We have not enjoyed the annual milestones of community life in the same way, but some things have not changed. Indeed, much has developed and grown stronger under the duress of the Covid-19 pandemic. Regular weekly Christian prayer and Sunday worship have become better attended as the faithful have gathered online via zoom. Neighbours have met and served each other in ways we could only have imagined before 2020. Our key workers have been valued, thanked and celebrated as never before. Among the sadness there has been cause for thanksgiving.

And that is how I feel as I write.

Sadness at the sense of loss on moving away that inevitably accompanies saying 'Goodbye' to people and places I have come to know so well.

Gratitude to, and for, those with whom I have prayed to, worked for and worshipped our wonderful God, whether daily, weekly, monthly or once in a while – 'Thank You'. Together we have seen good things happening – Noah's Ark, Tuesday Teas, After School Club, people of all ages coming to faith and commitment, and the faithful answering the call to ministry in so many ways.

I would love to name names but there are so many of you to thank for your love, prayers and allowing me to work alongside you in our ministry here. How I wish we could have a great thanksgiving service in church! But our plans are not God's plans and he knows best.

We will be leaving families we have come to know at the most important times in their lives – you will automatically think of births, marriages and deaths which it is the privilege of the parish priest to accompany. 'Yes' to all of those, but also to the important times when people have come to realise God is actually there, Jesus really is alive, and the Holy Spirit can guide on a daily basis and the response is to worship him and love each other.

By the time you read this in September Philip and I will be packing up and moving on.

Perhaps one day you will be able to visit us at Brailes Vicarage in Warwickshire, just across the churchyard from St George's Church – I do hope some of you will find your way there when we can freely visit again.

It has been good to see so many of you on line on or out in the village this year but I am sorry I have not been able to come personally to homes and say a proper 'Good Bye'.

CHURCH NEWS

It is most sincerely meant in its original form – ‘God Be with Ye’ – to all who live in the Parish here as you rediscover, post pandemic, the parish church in the centre of your village life in whatever way it develops for your future in this lovely place, with my love and prayers,

*Reverend Heather
Rector of Pangbourne with
Tidmarsh and Sulham*

POST SCRIPT

A BIG Thank you for the beautiful Magnolia tree which I will try very hard to keep alive and flourishing to remind me of you all in PTS Church (and the many events associated with Churchyard of St James), and also for the generous gifts, good wishes and prayers for the future we have been receiving since taking my last service in August. *Rev HP*



SERVICES DURING SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER

We hope to be able to restart Sunday at Ten services in St James-the-Less, Pangbourne in September with a special Harvest service planned for Sunday 27th September.

Due to these uncertain times services are subject to change at short notice. To keep up-to-date with where and when worship will take place please check our website or the church noticeboard for any changes.

Annual Parochial Church Meetings – September 2020

1. The meeting to Elect Churchwardens by Parishioners – *3 vacancies*
2. The meeting of Electoral Roll members to receive the Annual Report and elect Parochial Church Council Members – *7 vacancies* and Deanery Synod members – *2 vacancies*

Due to the current COVID pandemic these meetings will be held via Zoom in September. The exact date will be confirmed at the start of September and details will be publicised on the Pangbourne Churches website.

www.pangbournechurches.org

REVEREND HEATHER PARBURY

Reverend Heather has been the Priest in Charge and then the Rector for our Parish of Pangbourne with Tidmarsh & Sulham for just over 12 years. Sadly this month we shall be saying goodbye to her and Philip as they move to Brailes in the Coventry diocese, Heather to take up a part-time post. Heather, with massive support from Philip, has worked hard for our three churches in this parish and I am sure many of you have reason to be



thankful for her ministry, be it for regular services or in times of joy or great sadness when she has baptised children, lead large services like Remembrance Day and conducted weddings and funerals. She and Philip are very much part of our local community and have contributed their time, not just to the churches, but in many other ways helping residents, helping at events and supporting local charities and causes.

Heather's departure means that we shall have a vacancy for some time and during that period please address any queries to our Parish Administrator, email office.ptschurches@gmail.com or contact Jill Palfrey, Churchwarden, on 0118 984 2698 or 07721 614686, email jill.palfrey1@btinternet.com

Our thanks, love and prayers go with Heather and Philip as they embark on this new chapter in their working and family life.

Jill and Julia – Churchwardens

VILLAGE WALKS

Village walks will resume in October and will continue on the first Friday of each month meeting at Tidmarsh Village Hall at 9.30am with an easy paced walk lasting approximately 1.5 hours.

COFFEE MORNINGS

Village Coffee mornings will also resume, at 11am, on the first Friday of each month for those who feel comfortable attending. Social distancing will be observed. Coffee or tea will be provided in disposable cups. (The Village Hall has all Covid precautions in place.)

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BOOK CLUB

Our last book club was hosted by Caroline at Beedon Cottage in Sulham, socially distanced in a tent in the garden.



If you would like to join please email
alderton.boxcott@btinternet.com

Next read is:

AMERICAN DIRT by Jeanine Cummins



DON'T DROP IT NURSE!

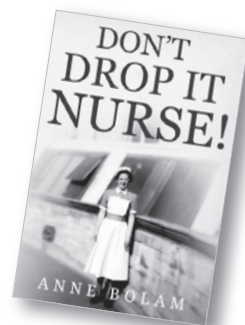
Anne Bolam, who for many years was an active church member and organist at St Nicholas church Sulham, has had her first book published at the age of 81!

Anne and her husband David, much loved members of the St Nicholas, St Laurence and St James church family, moved home a few years ago to be nearer to their daughters in Buckinghamshire but kept in close contact with their friends in the Pangbourne area. In 2016, a back operation left Anne unable to walk and as she valiantly worked to restore her leg power, encouraged by daughters and David, she also began writing memoirs of her life as a nurse. Writing went on hold for a time as Anne cared for David who became seriously ill and very sadly died. Anne finished her book last year and everyone who knew David knows how incredibly proud he would be of her.

Anne's nursing career began with training in Edinburgh where she was present at the first ever kidney transplant. After qualifying she travelled to work with The Royal Air Force Nursing Service to care for soldiers and prisoners of war in Aden, Yemen, where she met David. After retirement she continued working as a volunteer for the armed forces charity SSAFA. Her book is a charming reminiscence that shows how far the medical profession has come over the past 60 years; and how important nurses have been in that journey.

Anne remains active in her community, still playing piano as she considers it to be good exercise for her hand; which was affected by a stroke. Her lovely positive outlook on life is uplifting to all who know her.

Anne's book is titled, DON'T DROP IT NURSE! is published by Pegasus (pegasuspublishers.com) ISBN 9781784658489 and is priced £5.99. All profits from the book are going to charity.



Goodness . . . what a crazy end to our school year! I don't think any of us have lived through a term like this and we all hope we won't have to again! We are however very proud of the fact that we have been able to invite all our children back into school, most of them fulltime.

Our reception children bounced back in and have been working outdoors in their garden area with Mrs Sheppard and Mrs Jackson. They have been so resilient . . . it was as if we'd never been away. Woodland Learning has continued so many of our local neighbours will have seen our 'high-viz crocodile' walking down The Street.

Sadly, not many of our Year 1 pupils were able to return so we were able to open up that 'bubble' to our Year 2s as well. Mrs Carney and Mrs Hough made the classroom 'socially distanced' for half a group at a time with the rest of the children learning outside. They also had a wonderful 'trip' to meet Sophie in the five-a-day garden. Ably assisted by Sacha, Juliet and Megan, the children learned how compost was made, investigated the parts of plants and even had the chance to taste some of the produce from the garden . . . a super opportunity and one that we hope to repeat in the future.

Unfortunately we were initially unable to offer any return for our Year 3/4 pupils as we had run out of space. Our parent governors, Bec Butler and Ellie Helme, decided they needed to do something about this so they organised for a marquee to be erected on the school field which meant these children could spend two full days



a week in school for the last two weeks . . . so worthwhile. Our parents, governors and friends of the school then happily donated funds to cover the cost . . . a great team effort and one which shows our school values in action.

The children from Years 1-4 who have been shielding and who haven't been able to join us fulltime have been able to come in for two afternoons a week for the last three weeks of term – a chance to re-engage with school and re-establish friendships – so important for positive mental health.

Our Year 5 and 6 children have been in two separate bubbles: Year 5 with Mrs Kelley and Mrs Newsome and Year 6 with Mrs Latimer, then Mrs Watts and Mrs Harwood. The Year 5s have shown great focus and this has been an important time for them to ensure they are prepared for the move to Year 6 in September. From what we've seen they are going to be superb role models for the rest of the school.

For our Year 6s this has been a bitter-sweet term. We have had to cancel most of the special events that mark the end of their time at primary school but instead have made a real effort to make it stand out for them. Firstly, they enjoyed a lovely picnic

and scavenger hunt in the deer park. Then they wrote their own end of year play and we videoed it for parents. We also presented them with certificates, trophies and Bibles along with some lovely photographs of the group. After school finished on the last day, which was thankfully gorgeously hot and sunny, they all went to enjoy a splash about at Lagoon Water Park. The result of these efforts was a different but memorable end to Year 6 for a group of wonderful pupils who will be greatly missed.

Sadly we are saying goodbye to our Year 5/6 teacher, Mrs Serena Watts. She is leaving us to become a fulltime bee-keeper . . . an exciting new venture! We are delighted that she has offered to return each summer to carry on running our own bee-keeping club which she set up two years ago. Mrs Watts has given so much to our school, teaching our oldest pupils, running the pottery club, leading residential to Wales and Swanage, being our Special Needs Coordinator and so much more. Her infectious laugh will be sorely missed. We now look forward to welcoming our new teacher, Miss Amy Langston who we know will be a real asset to our school.

We are so lucky at Englefield to have such a supportive parent body. During the past few weeks we have been helped in so many ways, not least the management and repair of the gazebos that have enabled us to continue outdoor learning in bad weather. The Lusted family has sponsored our new KS1 football kit which we know the children are looking forward to wearing . . . fingers crossed that matches can resume in the autumn.

We have also been given a wonderful new bench for our school field with a plaque showing all our Year 6 leavers; a lovely memento. This was donated by the Kolb family, whose daughters Maizie and Connie have come through Englefield. We look forward to many happy hours sitting on the bench in the sunshine enjoying our school grounds.



We have been blessed this year with such a sense of community which I know we will take forward to make us even stronger. We wish all our friends and families a more relaxed and fun-filled summer and look forward to welcoming everyone back in September.



THE GARDEN SCHOOL

I love it when we have a new business in the heart of our community and I recently found out that Fran Wakefield of The Tithe Barn Garden, has set up a gardening school with her daughter Rose. This new family run business is based in Tidmarsh offering practical courses and workshops inspired by a love of nature, gardening and design. Mother and daughter team Fran and Rose work with a host of experienced tutors offering courses for all levels of expertise covering horticulture, floristry, arts and craft. Workshops are run from a Georgian coach house that sits beside the Tithe Barn's formal walled rose garden. The gardens schools aim is to encourage creativity and an appreciation for all things natural.



Fran has a real passion for horticulture and design. In 2013, she won the inaugural English Garden magazine competition for best gardeners' garden after being put forward by the NGS. Her ever-evolving home has also featured in many design and lifestyle magazines. Fran's award-winning garden has been opened annually for the National Garden Scheme charity and to gardening clubs from home and abroad since 2007.

Rose is a Central St Martins graduate with a well-established career in Fashion and Interior design. Having recently moved back to Tidmarsh from London, Rose is responsible for the Tithe Barn Garden School operations using the expertise she has gathered working for British luxury brands.



As a business that has started-up during these unprecedented times, the studio space has been designed to accommodate social distancing and best practice COVID-19 rules from the very outset in order that guests can enjoy the courses and feel at ease.

Their courses are now available to book on their website: **www.tithebarn garden.co.uk**.

For all enquiries contact
hello@tithebarn garden.co.uk.

The Mini Masterpieces auction website closed on June 14th with an exciting flurry of bids right at the end.

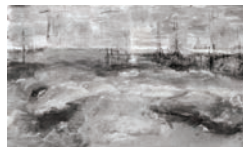
Overall 680 bids were placed, the 125 winning bids totalled an amazing £4,678, a further £557 in donations brought the total to £5,235. Of those visiting the website 90% made a bid or pledged money. The highest bid was £200. We posted three paintings to Australia and one to Switzerland, the rest went to all corners of the UK. Much of this worldwide interest was thanks to an online news article about the auction written by Linda Serck from the BBC.

We received nothing but compliments about the standard of the art. The fundraising teams at Sue Ryder Duchess of Kent Hospice and South Oxfordshire Palliative Care Hub were delighted to receive the money, as vital fundraising events that the charity depends on had to be cancelled due to Covid 19 lockdown and in addition all charity shops were closed. The money will help them to continue giving support and care to those living with life limiting illnesses.

Setting up and running the auction was hard work but Hayley and I loved doing it. We had an exciting few weeks as more and more lovely pictures dropped through the letterbox every day. Hayley (who was furloughed for a few weeks) masterminded the website and I handled admin and communications. No cross words passed between us and we were supported and helped all the way by the the rest of the family.



We are very grateful to everyone who supported us.



MAKING A WILL

MAKING A WILL

Making a Will is not something that we all do regularly as part of our daily lives. More and more people are choosing to make a Will as they realise that the wealth that they have built up needs to be managed properly and effectively through a Will.

DO I NEED A WILL?

- **Do you own your property?**

If so, the value of your property means that your estate will be a lot easier to administer if you make a Will. Making sure you take advantage of all inheritance tax reliefs can save your family a considerable sum of money with some advance planning.

- **Do you have young children?**

Many people assume that making a Will is for old people. But it is often more important for young families to make a Will. By making a Will you will be able to create a bespoke trust that will provide for your family's financial security. You will also be able to appoint Guardians, people who will look after your children.

- **Do you have a complicated family structure?**

Unmarried partners, second marriages, step children, family disputes and so on often lead to competing interests, none of which are recognised by the law. By making a Will, you will be able to address the competing and different needs of everyone in your family unit.

Are you concerned that your children might be disinherited if you need long term care and your wealth is used to pay for such care? Are you concerned that if your spouse or partner remarries and leaves what you have left to them to their new partner, thus disinheriting your children? If so, by making a Will including trusts, you can ensure that what you have worked for goes to whoever you choose, while ensuring the financial security of yourself and your loved ones.

WHAT IS A LASTING POWER OF ATTORNEY?

A lasting power of attorney (LPA) is a legal document that lets you appoint one or more people, known as 'attorneys' to help you make decisions or to make decisions on your behalf. This gives you more control over what happens to you if you have an accident or an illness and cannot make your own decisions.

There are two types of LPA:

- **Health and Welfare**
- **Property and Financial affairs**

You can choose to make one type or both.

Setting up LPAs is a timely process. Typically it takes 12 weeks from an initial appointment to receiving the final registered LPA ready for use. Therefore it is recommended that they are set up when you are fit and well. You then keep them safe until a time when they may be needed.

Hillhampton Wills & Probate Services, run by Sulham resident Joanne Baker, can create both Wills and LPAs for your family. Joanne has already helped many local families; the process is straightforward, cost effective and may even be enjoyable.



Fully insured and a member of the Institute of Professional Willwriters Joanne visits you in the comfort of your own home (or garden for a socially distanced appointment) and guides you through the process delivering fully legal Wills and LPAs to protect your assets and your family. Appointments may also be help by phone or video conference for those clients who are self isolating or who live further afield.



DO YOU NEED A WILL OR LASTING POWER OF ATTORNEY?

If so contact Hillhampton Wills, a local, family run company
on 0118 984 3167 or email joanne@hillhamptonwills.com

Joanne will visit you at your home. Appointments last approximately 1 hour
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A Single Will costs £150, a pair of Mirror Wills £210,
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MEMORIES OF CHRISTMAS AT SULHAM IN THE 1930s

I have many memories of Christmas's in Sulham as a small child in the 1930's, leading up to the Second World War. Christmas preparations in the mid thirties seemed to only begin a week or two before the big day, unlike today when the shops have their window displays on show almost as soon as the last of the summer holidays are over. I have no doubt my mother would have been saving dried fruit and other preserves many months before in preparation for all the cooking that was needed for the big day, but as children we were not aware of it. The first big event was the making and boiling of the Christmas puddings and I suppose this was some time in mid November. When I was old enough I remember one of my jobs was to stone the big fat juicy raisins, (where have they disappeared to today). It was a sticky job but I didn't mind as when she wasn't looking somehow a few found their way into my mouth, just as well she hadn't weighed them before hand. I also had to take the skin off the almonds after they were soaked in hot water but I wasn't so keen on this task.

Today of course all these come in little packets from the super market already prepared, but in those times they would have been bought from the local grocer a few each week when he delivered the week's shopping. Next, after all had been mixed in the large washbasin from the washstand upstairs, it was time to stir it and make a wish. Then came the boiling of the puddings, which seemed to go on for hours, well to be exact eight hours in all with another two or three on Christmas day. As they had to be in several saucepans (mother always made about six as there would be one for Easter, Whitson and my birthday) on the old black kitchen range, These were constantly topped up with more water from the huge kettle permanently on the boil and as well as stoking the range it was a long job and the room was filled with steam.

Next it was the turn of the Christmas cake and so once again it was back to stoning the fruit etc. and that too was baked for several hours and like the puddings it had to be dosed with brandy or some other alcoholic beverage. The smells though were wonderful when you came in on a cold frosty day.

We always had one of our own hens for Christmas day, (never turkey) and of course all the vegetables came from our garden. My Father (being a Gardener) always grew celery, which he lovingly nurtured in time for Christmas. He would earth it up and then wrap each plant in corrugated paper so that it was lovely and white when it was harvested. However we were not allowed to have any before Christmas and always had to wait until the first frost had taken place so it was lovely and crisp, but teatime on that day was eagerly looked forward too, even after a huge Christmas lunch.

MEMORIES OF CHRISTMAS AT SULHAM IN THE 1930s

Another treat was a visit to one of the large Department stores in Reading to see Father Christmas in his grotto, I was always a little in awe of the old gentleman with his long white beard but I didn't mind his fairy helper. Probably I was more interested in the present I was given. Of course even though I had told him what I wanted for Christmas I still had to write him a letter and give to my Mother to post. Maybe he didn't hear me the first time.?

Another job I had to do was to make paper chains to decorate the living room; my mother would buy these coloured strips of paper and then make up a paste of flour and water to stick them with, none of the expensive baubles we see in the shops today. We didn't always have a Christmas tree and when we did it was just the top part of a small fir tree. My mother was always afraid of fire as there were no such thing as fairy lights back then so the only decoration were small candles on a clip, they would be lit on the day for a few minutes and then blown out.

As I grew older another event prior to Christmas was carol singing around the village, We would set off with a few candles in a jam jar (fine if it wasn't a windy or wet night) but if we were lucky we might have the aid of a torch. I cannot remember how much we collected on the night but I guess we shared it in the end. I do remember once we were asked if it was for charity but as none of us knew what it meant we came away empty handed.

Christmas day was spent quietly with just my parents and my Grandmother who lived with us, Grandfather having past away a few years previously. Christmas Day & Boxing Day was the only time we had a fire in our front room/parlour (it was only used when we had any visitors or the Rector came to call) but as it was such a rare occasion it took ages to get warm, in fact it was just about comfortable when it was time to go to bed. I however had plenty to occupy me after a visit from Father Christmas. I tried many times to stay awake to see him come down the bedroom chimney but I never managed to keep my eyes open that long. But oh the excitement in the morning when I discovered he had been and left a pillowcase filled with parcels of all shapes and sizes. All the family would gather round to see me open my presents.

On Boxing Day we always had a great time as my Mother's younger Sister and her husband came for the day. They would walk down from their home in Tilehurst for the day arriving just before dinnertime (it was never called lunch in those days) and stayed all day walking home around Midnight. There was never the slightest fear of any danger in those far off days. It was always a great day as my aunt and uncle were a jolly pair and it was a lovely family day. My Mother was a great cook

MEMORIES OF CHRISTMAS AT SULHAM IN THE 1930s

and our table groaned with all the food she had made. Beef, ham and pork together with various salads, trifles and yet another Christmas Pudding plus the cake were all there to be consumed and she liked to see empty plates. In the evening we would play games, my favourite being consequences which always caused great hilarity. The men folk would then have a glass of beer and the ladies would partake of a small glass of sherry or port wine, (the only time alcohol was consumed), but I remember my Aunt, Mother and Grandmother getting rather merry after just one glass.

The weather then seemed to be much more seasonal and although we didn't often have snow over the Christmas time (that seemed to occur generally in January) we did have severe frosts where the trees were covered in hoarfrost. The roads became quite treacherous and it would last for days, but it looked like a scene from a Christmas card.

So with Christmas over for another year there was one more excitement to come The Pantomime. This was held at the Palace Theatre in Cheapside Reading, now long gone of course. This was always looked forward too with great anticipation and many well known actors & actresses of the time would perform, So Mother would book seats, always in the upper circle as she said you had a better view being higher up, I always hoped that we would get seats in one or the other of the boxes at the side but they were too expensive she said, but Oh the anticipation of waiting for the performance to begin As you settled into your seats the brown safety curtain would be down and to cover its drabness was a lovely midnight blue curtain covered on hundreds of silver stars, Next in would come the orchestra, the orchestra pit was just below the stage. As soon as they began to play up would go the curtains and there on the stage would be the chorus girls and other members of the stage and so the show had begun, it seemed to me it was all over too quickly although it was a two hour show and next years pantomime seemed a long way off.

It was I'm sure quite a struggle for my parents when money was short in the thirties, but they always managed somehow to make Christmas very special and I can look back at that time with fond memories. Happy Days.

Jean Harland

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This year has seen a very abundant harvest again for some fruit although small. Vegetables have been a mixture of success. Good soil, plenty of organic material and mulching help keep moisture in the roots, a necessity when rain is in short supply. Lawns may need attention.

OCTOBER

October is ideal to move trees and shrubs, and plant hedges. Hardwood cuttings can be taken now from deciduous shrubs. Clear up fallen rose leaves to prevent diseases such as black spot from over-wintering – don't compost the leaves, put them in general waste or burn.

Tidy borders and mulch with bark chips, well rotted manure, leaf mould or spent mushroom compost to insulate plant roots for the winter and keep weed growth in check. Reuse spent compost from containers.

Change summer bedding for winter bedding plants such as pansies, primulas. Plant daffodils.

Sow winter peas, broad beans and winter lettuce. Prepare bean plots for next year with well rotted manure. Divide clumps of rhubarb with spade and re-plant the healthiest looking pieces.

To test when apples are ripe gently lift them in the palm of your hand or give them a gentle pull – they should come away easily.

A last mowing can be made this month before leaving your lawn for the winter. Aerate your lawn with a garden fork, rake thatch from the surface and repair dead patches. Autumn lawn feed can be applied and is a good time for turfing.

NOVEMBER

Tender plants will need protecting from frost, gales and freezing rains. Move plants into the greenhouse, or into a sheltered spot, but if you can't, it is worth wrapping plants or pots in situ. Remember our feathered friends by leaving out food and especially water.

Winter flowering shrubs like fragrant honeysuckle, daphne, sweet gum are very fragrant to tempt insects; others such as dogwood have colourful stems or foliage.

Clear up fallen leaves – especially from lawns, ponds and beds

Raise containers onto pot feet to prevent water logging.

Plant tulip bulbs for a spring display next year.

Prune roses to prevent wind-rock which affects the roots.

Stop winter moth damage to fruit trees using grease bands around the trunks. Put out bird food to encourage winter birds into the garden.

DECEMBER

Keep an eye on winter protection, and if you have a greenhouse, make sure the heater works.

Check your winter protection structures are still securely in place. Prevent ponds and stand pipes from freezing.

Prune open-grown apples and pears except those trained against walls.
Prune acers, birches and vines before Christmas to avoid bleeding

Deciduous trees and shrubs can still be planted and transplanted. Keep mice away from stored produce
Reduce watering of houseplants.

Alan tends gardens in Tidmarsh and RG8 area.

Public Rights of Way and Open Access Land in West Berkshire during the Coronavirus pandemic

RIGHTS OF WAY /OPEN ACCESS LAND

All public rights of way (PROW) and open access land (including West Berkshire commons) remain open. Levels of use are higher than normal during this period, when many people are at home, and seeking outdoor exercise and recreation. At this time it is especially important to be considerate to others.

PROWs are signposted and maintained by the District Council:

Footpath – for pedestrians only.

Bridleway – for pedestrians, cyclists and equestrians only.

Restricted Byway – for pedestrians, cyclists, equestrians and carriage drivers only.

Byway – for for pedestrians, cyclists, equestrians, carriage drivers, and vehicles.

All PROWs are marked at the roadside with signposts, and at intervals along the routes with small arrows. Public footpaths in West Berkshire are marked with signs like these, and with yellow arrows.

Please stick to public rights of way, and stay within the limits of open access land.

Public rights of way map:

<https://gis1.westberks.gov.uk/applicationtemplates/onlinemap/>

Open access land map:

<http://www.openaccess.naturalengland.org.uk/wps/portal/oasys/maps/Section4>

Sometimes during this pandemic, a landowner may have requested that the public uses an alternative route, if the official line passes through a sensitive area. The official line must remain available.

RIGHT OF WAY CODE OF BEHAVIOUR

APPROPRIATE BEHAVIOUR

PROWs are highways, and you must use them with due care and attention.

Everyone must abide by the **Countryside Code**, and allow for the 2 metres social distancing to take place.

Respect other people:

- consider the local community and other people enjoying the outdoors
- leave gates and property as you find them and follow paths unless wider access is available

Protect the natural environment:

- leave no trace of your visit and take your litter home
- keep dogs under effective control

Enjoy the outdoors:

- plan ahead and be prepared
- follow advice and local signs

Respect other people

- Please respect the local community and other people using the outdoors.
Remember your actions can affect people's lives and livelihoods.

Note: Our Rights of Way Rangers and contractors are currently very busy clearing the paths of vegetation. Social distancing is extremely important in order to keep the operatives of the machinery and the public safe. Before starting work they are displaying signs which ask you to keep a social distance and where necessary to make sure the operatives see you before you proceed.

Occasionally, where paths are very narrow and/or winding, we are temporarily closing the paths whilst the clearance is taking place. Signs clearly state the path is temporarily closed.

For more information, visit the West Berkshire Council Coronavirus PROW web site: <https://info.westberks.gov.uk/coronavirus-residents-prows>

CYCLING ON PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY

We are unfortunately receiving lots of complaints from walkers about cyclists riding inconsiderately and too fast both on footpaths and bridleways.

Cyclists have a legal right to ride on bridleways providing they give way to walkers and horseriders. There is no legal right to cycle on a public footpath although it isn't a specific offence to – it is a trespass against the landowner.

Please check the status of a right of way before cycling along it, so you know if it is appropriate for you to be using it. Please do not cycle on these routes.

The Kennet & Avon Canal Towpath is a public footpath but there are rights to cycle along it. The Canal and Rivers Trust have a Towpath Code <https://canalrivertrust.org.uk/news-and-views/our-campaigns/share-the-space-our-towpath-code> and tips for cyclists <https://canalrivertrust.org.uk/news-and-views/blogs/waterfront/cycling-on-the-towpath>

Please make sure you ride with consideration and care especially when passing walkers to ensure everyone can use and enjoy our rights of way safely.

Thank you.

West Berkshire District Council Public Rights of Way Team.
Prow@westberks.gov.uk 01635 519080.

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LOCAL INFORMATION

Advice and Support

West Berkshire Citizens Advice Bureau

Bartholomew St, Newbury 01635 516 605

Pangbourne and District Volunteer Centre

Mon-Fri (ex Tue) 9:30-11:30 am 0118 984 4586

Ecclesiastical

The Church of England Parish of Pangbourne
with Tidmarsh and Sulham (PTS)

Rector of Pangbourne with Tidmarsh and Sulham

Reverend Heather Parbury
The Rectory, St James Close,
Pangbourne 0118 984 2928
rector@pangbournechurches.info

Church Administrator

Vanessa Saunders
Church office open
Tuesday and Friday
12.00-3.00pm 0118 984 5066
admin@pangbournechurches.info

Church Wardens for St James, Pangbourne; St Laurence, Tidmarsh; St Nicholas, Sulham

Jill Palfrey 0118 984 2698
Julia Sheppard 0118 956 1820

PCC Treasurer

Stephen Billyeald 0118 981 3368

PCC Secretary

Helen Hopwood 07733 106020

Emergencies 999

All non-emergencies 101
Floodline 0345 988 1188

Medical

The Boathouse Surgery

Whitchurch Rd, Pangbourne 0118 984 2234

NHS Direct 0845 46 47

Berkshire West Primary Care Trust

Reading office 0118 950 3094
West Berkshire office (Newbury) 01635 42400

Government

MP for Reading West

Alok Sharma (Conservative) 0118 945 4881

Councillors for the Purley on Thames Ward

Tim Metcalfe (Conservative) 0118 942 8001
Rick Jones (Conservative) 0118 962 3793

Tidmarsh with Sulham Parish Councillors

Jonathan Pearson (Chairman) 0118 984 4837
Steve Webb (Vice Chairman) 0118 984 4194
Jon Chishick 0118 984 3666
Andrew Madden
Sima Elliot 07720 469 316

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Gillian Alderton 0118 984 2729
John Butler (treasurer) 0118 984 2621
Jennifer Nutt 0118 984 2370
Karen Fountaine 07867 854420

Parish clerk and responsible financial officer

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tidmarshwithsulham@gmail.com

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Steven Webb (vice chairman) 0118 984 4194
John Chishick 0118 984 3666
Sima Elliot simaelliot@hotmail.com
Andrew Madden
andrew.john.madden@gmail.com

District councillor

Gareth Hurley 07515 624899
or gareth.hurley1@westberks.gov.uk

Public Transport

Rail Travel

First Great Western	08457 000 125
National Rail Enquiries	08457 48 49 50
TrainTracker (train times/fares)	0871 200 49 50

Bus Travel

DJ Travel (Tidmarsh Fri Service)	0118 933 3725
Reading Buses	0118 959 4000
Newbury Buses	01635 567500
Thames Travel	01491 837988

Traveline

National/local bus, train, coach, ferry and underground info	0871 200 22 33
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Scouts and Girl Guides

Beavers, Simon Pickett	0118 933 1615
Cubs, Jane Barkshire	07811 446 488
Scouts, Simon Pickett	0118 933 1615
Rainbows, Helen Randall	01635 48765
Brownies, Clare Pincock	0118 984 4286
Guides, Helen Randall	01635 48765
Rangers, Helen Randall	01635 48765

Village Hall Committee

Alan Maskell	0118 984 5326
Hall Bookings (Hilary Innes)	0118 984 2561
Emergency Contact	07954 140048
Email:	tidmarshvillagehall@hotmail.com

West Berkshire District Council

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Planning applications	01635 519111

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