

A photograph of a winter forest. The ground is covered in a layer of snow, with some footprints visible. In the foreground, there is a large, fallen log also covered in snow. The trees are mostly bare, with their branches and trunks dusted with snow. The sky is overcast and grey.

Tidmarsh with Sulham Parish Magazine

WINTER 2022

Your car in safe hands

Celebrating over 30 years of committed,
quality service in our community



FREE
local collection &
delivery service



Email: enquiries@prmotors.biz Web: prmotors.biz

Tel: 0118 984 4889  

Opening times: **Mon-Fri: 7:30am - 5:30pm**

Welcome to the Winter issue of the magazine which heralds the start of a new year and, I am pleased to say is full of news, articles and photographs and I think, makes for an interesting read.

Thank you to those of you who offered to help with the distribution of the magazine – this will be much appreciated next year when hopefully, travel will become a bit easier.

Please note Alan Maskell, Chair of The Village Halls' appeal for two more committee members and help with the Village Hall accounts – without volunteers, it simply cannot function, so please give consideration to helping keep our village hall open.

Wishing you all a very happy and healthy new year.

Jenny Cope, Editor

jenny@candcystems.co.uk

Telephone: 0774 777 5900

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

DATE	EVENT	TIME
7 Jan	Village Walk – Meet at Village Hall	9.30am
7 Jan	Coffee Morning – Village Hall	11.00am
12 Jan	Parish Council Meeting – Village Hall	8.00pm
4 Feb	Village Walk – Meet at Village Hall	9.30am
4 Feb	Coffee Morning – Village Hall	11.00am
9 Feb	Parish Council Meeting – Village Hall	8.00pm
12 Feb	Quiz Night – Pangbourne Village Hall (see page 10)	7.00pm
4 Mar	Village Walk – Meet at Village Hall	9.30am
4 Mar	Coffee Morning – Village Hall	11.00am
1 Apr	Village Walk – Meet at Village Hall	9.30am
1 Apr	Coffee Morning – Village Hall	11.00am
6 Apr	Annual Parish Assembly – Tidmarsh Village Hall	7.30pm

SPECIAL APPEAL – CAN YOU HELP THE VILLAGE HALL?

The village hall is an important asset that is used for community social and business activities. There is currently a concern that without sufficient volunteers to join in the running of the hall that it may have to close. The village coffee morning, quizzes, parish council meetings and local elections will be affected.

After many years of being treasurer and some as chair of the management committee, Peter King is stepping down from the treasurer post. We are very grateful to him for his dedication to this role and the sense of humour he brings to everything. At present we have nobody to succeed him in this key role. Can you help?

The role requires a knowledge of simple spreadsheets and access to the internet. It involves keeping a track of income and expenses, paying bills and preparing a few reports.

In addition to community activities the hall is hired out to various classes and societies as well as private individuals to raise money to pay for the running of the hall. This includes maintenance, utilities, legal fees. The management committee meets three times per year to discuss relevant points and plan social events.

We also need another one or two committee members to replace Joy King who was a great asset to the committee until health problems prevented her from joining in.

Please contact Alan Maskell, Chair for more information about these vacancies on 0118 984 5326 or 07954 140048.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS CRAFT CLASS

A children's after school Christmas craft class took place in the village hall on December 9th.



MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING

WORLD'S BIGGEST
COFFEE
MORNING
MACMILLAN
CANCER SUPPORT



The Coffee Morning held in Tidmarsh Village Hall on Friday October 1st raised a fantastic £360 for Macmillan Cancer Support.

Thank you to everyone who came for coffee and cake and who helped raise money for this charity that offers essential support to people living with cancer.



VILLAGE HALL NEWS

The Hall continues to be a centre offering regular slots and one-off hirings for a selection of sporting, recreational and hobby activities. An ongoing programme of maintenance projects keeps the hall an attractive and useful facility.

QUIZ SHIELD

In October the traditional Quiz Shield was fought for by five teams from Tidmarsh and Sulham.

The shield was for the first time in several years won by a team of friends and family from Sulham.

The contest was close and the evening was supplemented with a ploughman's lunch and raffle.

Thanks to Gillian Alderton for putting the food together and to those who donated raffle prizes and helped during the evening.



If you need to book or enquire about the Village Hall please contact our Booking Secretary Hilary Innes by phoning 0118 984 2561 or emailing tidmarshvillagehall@hotmail.com.

VILLAGE WALK

Village walks will continue on the first Friday of every month, meeting at Tidmarsh Village Hall at 9.30. Walks last approx. 1.5 hours.

The Village Hall will be open for coffee after the walks at 11 am.

Everyone is welcome. For Covid safety The Hall will be well ventilated.

CHRISTMAS STARTED WITH . . . WREATH MAKING IN THE VILLAGE HALL

A wonderful evening was organised by Gillian Alderton to get us all in the Christmas spirit. It was my first time at this event and I was very, very impressed – and believe me, I have been to a fair few wreath-making events over the years!



Phoebe Parsons making her wreath



Gillian Alderton and Storm with their creations

Sarah Rasmussen is an excellent florist and, most importantly, is able to demonstrate how to create an arrangement extremely well. We were instructed in sections which, for me, was most helpful as it was much easier to do a bit and then re-group to watch what we needed to do next. Whilst we were working on our creations, Sarah moved around the room, assisting and advising where needed.

However, what was most impressive, was that all the natural elements, from moss to fir to holly had all been ‘foraged’ by Sarah herself.

Midway through the evening, mulled wine and mince pies and shortbread were served to further get us all in the Christmassy mood.

After expenses, the event raised £185 for St Nicholas Church.

Jenny Cope

NEWS FROM SULHAM FARMS

The Autumn period of any cereal growing farm always proves to be a very busy time. No sooner has the harvest finished it is time to re plant all the fields. Harvest finished on the 6th September after starting in mid July. This year yields were reasonable but it was a long drawn out spell with the cool sunless days of August meaning much of the grain had to be dried before going into storage. The grain here goes to a central Cooperative store and as with all transport this year there were big problems with bulk haulage and getting the grain moved from the farm. However with patience and having plenty of back up storage space we were able to keep the combine harvester going whenever conditions allowed.



A quick turn around of ploughing and cultivating meant that seed was starting to go in the ground again by the last week of September. The usual month of planting in October was made difficult by several heavy days of rain. In the last few years this has put an end to autumn planting as it became too wet to travel over the ground. This year was much different in that November was a dry and warm month so planting finished in extremely good conditions. In this area the rainfall recorded in November was much lower than the usual. In fact only 25% of what would be the average.

It is also the time of year when we sell some of the cattle on the farm. The ones sold are 18 months of age and have been feeding on grass during the summer. They move from our farm to be overwintered inside on other farms for breeding or beef production. We achieved some very good prices for our much sought after cattle.

After cancellations last year because of the pandemic we were able to join up with other farms in our local Agricultural Society and have the Annual Ploughing Match. This year it was hosted by our neighbours at Englefield and 50 tractors and ploughmen turned up. It is a keenly contested event with marks for straight furrows, burying all weeds and stubble and leaving an even and compact surface.

The number of working farms competing is reducing but is more than made up for by keen enthusiastic classic and vintage tractors drivers .

As we look forward to 2022 the farming industry faces a huge challenge as we move away from a subsidised Common Agricultural Policy to top up payments based on enhancing the environment, soils and water quality. Inflation pressures are also playing a major factor and though there has been a benefit in grain and meat prices the cost of inputs particularly those based on gas and energy prices are rising at a substantial rate.

As usual the weather may have the last say on if 2022 will good year !!

JH



**Does your house or garden need an experienced hand?
Leave it to Alan**

Local, Experienced, Creative

- Flower, Shrub & Vegetable beds
- Tree, Hedge & Lawn Trimming
- Fencing, Gates, Sheds
- Cleaning Gutters & General Maintenance
- Painting, Decorating, Tiling
- Flat Pack Assembly, Shelves, Fittings
- Patio renovation and cleaning

0118 984 5326 07954 140048

Email: maskellhandyman@outlook.com

**MASKELL HANDYMAN
AND GARDEN CARE**

Tidmarsh RG8 8EX

Fully insured References Available

QUIZ NIGHT

Saturday 12th February 2022
at 7.00pm

Pangbourne Village Hall

£15 per person including Fish & Chip supper
Teams of six

**Call 0118 984 3368 or email sbillyeald@aol.com
by Monday 31st January to book your team's place**

Let us know of any special dietary requirement
Bring your own salt, vinegar and ketchup
(and knife and fork if you wish!)

There will be a bar for wine, beer and soft drinks

*All proceeds to PCC of Pangbourne with Tidmarsh & Sulham
to help maintain our three beautiful churches*

A.B.
WALKER

THE FUNERAL PEOPLE

A FAMILY BUSINESS SERVING THE COMMUNITY
SINCE 1826

READING 0118 957 3650
THATCHAM 01635 873672

TRADITIONAL AND CONTEMPORARY FUNERALS
DIRECT CREMATION
FLORAL DESIGN
MONUMENTAL MASONRY
PRE-PAID FUNERALS, AND LATER LIFE LEGAL
SERVICES
BEREAVEMENT CARE

WWW.ABWALKER.CO.UK



SELECTED
Independent
FUNERAL HOMES

Golden Charter
Funeral Plans 



CHURCH SERVICES

St James | St Laurence | St Nicholas

For up-to-date details of all worship visit our website: www.pangbournechurches.org/services

JANUARY

Sunday 2nd

10 am	Holy Communion	St James
11.15am	Holy Communion	St Laurence

Sunday 9th

7.45am	Holy Communion (BCP)	St James
10am	All Together Worship	St Nicholas

Sunday 16th

10am	Holy Communion	St James
11.15am	Family Worship	St Nicholas

Sunday 23rd

10 am	Holy Communion	St James
-------	----------------	----------

Sunday 30th

10 am	Holy Communion	St James
-------	----------------	----------

FEBRUARY

Sunday 6th

10 am	Holy Communion	St James
11.15am	Holy Communion	St Laurence

Sunday 13th

7.45am	Holy Communion (BCP)	St James
10am	All Together Worship	St James

Sunday 20th

10am	Holy Communion	St James
11.15am	Family Worship	St Nicholas

Sunday 27th

10 am	Holy Communion	St James
-------	----------------	----------



NOAH'S ARK

10am each Friday in term time

St James the Less

www.pangbournechurches.org/noah-s-ark

Story time, songs and chat for babies, toddlers, parents, grandparents and carers



Crocus Sunday

St Nicholas Church, Sulham

Come and see the wonderful display of crocuses and snowdrops in St Nicholas churchyard.

See our website nearer the time for exact date.



Ash Wednesday
— Lent Begins

Ash Wednesday Service

10 am on 2nd March

St James the Less

A word from Rev Mark...

Happy New Year! As I write this we are once again in a period of uncertainty with regards to the Covid pandemic and it is hard to know from day to day what restrictions might be required of us. Nevertheless I pray with hope and optimism that 2022 will be a favourable year for us in this area and beyond.

God willing, we will be continuing our weekly programme of Sunday services at Pangbourne and monthly services at Tidmarsh and Sulham, in addition to Wednesday Holy Communion and the Noah's Ark group on Fridays.

In the church year, January 6th marks the start of the season of Epiphany. This includes the coming of the wise men to visit the infant Jesus and the miracle of Jesus turning water to wine. The word Epiphany is connected with revelation, an unveiling of the curtain so we can see and be reminded of the presence of God in our midst. Though none of us can know what will happen in 2022, I take comfort that God can see the paths ahead that are yet to be shown to us.

Blessings to you all, Revd Mark

www.pangbournechurches.org



Q1Care

Are you searching for peace of mind?

Put your loved one in our safe professional care. Call us for a free assessment and understand what we can do for YOU.

Companionship - Complex care - Live-in support - Night and day

Join our amazing care team!

Contracts available, in-house training suite and career progression, a focus on work/life balance. We provide the best rates in town and excellent mileage reimbursement.

Please contact heloise.slater@q1care.co.uk for more information.

Home Care across West Berkshire & South Oxfordshire

Email us: **info@q1care.co.uk** /

heloise.slater@q1care.co.uk

Call us: **0118 932 3865**

TIDMARSH WITH SULHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Tidmarsh Millennium Green Trust (the Council is corporate trustee)

The Council's management committee has organised a new orchard to be planted on the Green as part of the Queen's Green Canopy, in celebration of her forthcoming jubilee. The trees were specially selected to feature heritage varieties, which have a local connection:

- Breedon Pippin – raised around 1801 by Rev Symonds Breedon in Bere Court, Pangbourne, who isolated a seed from the cider pommace. In 1826, the Breedon Pippin variety was sent to the London Horticultural Society. It is considered one of the best apple cider varieties.
- Charles Ross – raised by Charles Ross, head gardener at Welford Park, Berkshire, from 1860 until 1908. He crossed Peasgood's Nonsuch and Cox's Orange Pippin, and his first selection from the results became the apple named after him. It was first exhibited in 1890 and marketed in 1899 when it gained an RHS First Class Certificate.
- John Standish – Raised around 1873, probably by John Standish of Ascot. It was introduced in 1921 by Isaac House & Sons and showcased at the 1922 Imperial Fruit Show.
- Winston – named Winter King in 1935 and then renamed Winston in 1944, after Winston Churchill. Raised in 1920 by William Pope of Welford Park, Berkshire, it was a cross between Cox's Orange Pippin and Worcester Pearmain.
- Williams pear – The Williams pear is thought to date from 1765 to 1770 from the yard of a schoolmaster named Mr. John Stair in Aldermaston. A nurseryman named Williams later acquired the variety, and after introducing it to the rest of England, the pear became known as the Williams Pear. However, the pear's full name is Williams' Bon Chretien.

An ornamental cherry tree *Prunus 'Taihaku'* was planted along the eastern boundary, filling a gap in the line of trees on the that side of the green. All the existing trees on the Green have been surveyed and the committee are currently seeking quotes for the maintenance work which is required.

Greening Campaign

The Parish Council is seeking volunteers to create a group to lead on the Tidmarsh with Sulham Greening Campaign. The Greening Campaign is a national organisation and there are a number of parishes in Berkshire which have successfully made a difference in their communities.

The Greening Campaign is a structured approach which guides communities

through a process. It also shares best practice so we have the best chance of succeeding as we move our community towards being more sustainable.

Phase 1 is all about how to get our community on board. We need to build community engagement and support for our campaign, so we have a solid foundation on which to place the following phases. The national Greening Campaign are there to support us in doing that.

We recognise that most people have jobs and families that take up most of their lives. The Greening Campaign are trying to make this change as simple and as trusted as possible by giving us the best information they have. They will also link us with other trusted organisations who will support us at various stages of the programme. You will not be left floundering, wondering how to tackle this issue!

If you are interested in getting involved as an individual or an established group then please contact the Parish Clerk.

Monthly meetings

The next Full Council meetings will be held on 12th January and 9th February 2022 in Tidmarsh Village Hall. The Council meets monthly, throughout 2022 these will be held on the second Wednesday of the month.

The public are always welcome to attend Council meetings. Please contact the Parish Clerk or visit www.tidmarshwithsulham.co.uk/pc.htm for the agenda for the meeting.

Contacting the Parish Council

Residents are welcome to contact the Parish Clerk (details below) or to directly approach a Councillor.

Steve Webb (chairman): chairman@tidmarshwithsulham.co.uk

Jonathan Pearson (vice chairman): j.pearson@tidmarshwithsulham.co.uk

Solvej Biddle: s.biddle@tidmarshwithsulham.co.uk

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

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

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

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

ST NICHOLAS CHURCH

Regular 3rd Sunday services recommenced in St Nicholas church in November. The family service on November 21st was led by the new PTS priest in charge Mark Hopkins and he was warmly welcomed by the church community.

3rd Sunday services start at 11.15 am. Everyone is welcome. Coffee tea and cake are served after the services.

ST LAURENCE CHURCHYARD

On Saturday 9th October, a group of ten volunteers tackled the clearing of some of the brambles, ivy and other vegetation that had become overgrown in the churchyard and boundary walls. Over the past eighteen months, whilst the public use of the Church has been curtailed.

Fortunately, the weather that day was fine and dry, so it was a pleasure to be outside working in almost as good as a summer day.

Four builders' bags of greenery were filled and taken to the recycling centre. The Churchyard certainly looked much neater and cared for by the end of the day.

There is certainly more work to do and if you can help, please check the magazine for the next group gardening session or contact me with your details, in order that I can let you know.

Many thanks to our volunteers that day, Jon Chishick, Peter Hutt, Steve and Belinda Thorne, Tom Kopka, Julia Sheppard, Ian Woodward and Jennifer Nutt.

Also thanks to Geoff and Pat Eastlake, who had already weeded and tended to the rose beds and pathway, and who continue to help with the upkeep of the churchyard during the year.

John Butler 0118 9842621

POPPY APPEAL 2021

I would like to thank all those who supported the Poppy Appeal this year in Tidmarsh. Once again this was a record year.

The total collected in the village was £1216.30 with The Greyhound also recording a best yet total of £181.03

Thank you once again.

John Harland



LITTER PICK

A keen band of three, Brian and Valerie Worsley and myself, littered picked our way along the A340 from Tidmarsh towards Pangbourne on Tuesday 5th October.

We collected three full bags of discarded rubbish from the roadside path and verges.

This refuse included over 50 bottles and cans, plastic car trims plus a quantity of plastic bags and crisp packets.

Later the Worsleys, very kindly took on Mill Lane together and cleared similar roadside rubbish.

So thanks from Tidmarsh and Sulham residents should go to them for their community good work.

Picture of the three intrepid pickers, before the start of their roadside cleanup.

John Butler



Swans on the Pang – taken by Felicity Pethica

GARDENING JOBS IN JANUARY

- Prune Wisteria, cutting back summer side-shoots to 2 or 3 buds.
- Prune rose bushes to just above an outward-facing bud, remove crossing or dead branches.
- Clip old foliage from ornamental grasses to within a few centimetres of the ground.
- Cut down old stems of perennial plants like Sedum but be careful of any new growth.
- Remove old Hellebore leaves to make the emerging blooms more visible in early spring.
- Start chitting (sprouting) early potatoes – place in a bright cool frost-free place in egg box
- Begin pruning your apple trees and pear trees, blackcurrant bushes, gooseberries and redcurrants but avoid very frosty periods
- Leave plums, cherries and apricots unpruned until the summer as pruning now will make them prone to silver leaf infections.
- Avoid walking on your lawn when it is blanketed by heavy frost or snow, as this will damage it.
- Check Dahlia tubers in storage, remove any that are showing signs of rotting.



GARDENING JOBS IN FEBRUARY

- Prune overwintered fuchsias back to one or two buds on each shoot.
- On Winter Flowering Jasmine cut back previous years growth to 5cm from the old wood
- Prune winter flowering shrubs such as Mahonia and Viburnum x bodnantense after flowering
- Lift and divide snowdrops whilst still 'in the green' if you want to move propagate them.
- Plant Lilies and Allium bulbs. Sow vegetable seeds, eg, leeks, onions and celeriac under cover.



- Prepare vegetable seed beds by removing all weeds and forking in plenty of compost. Cover prepared soil with sheets of black plastic to keep it drier and warmer for spring planting.
- Cut autumn-fruiting raspberry canes to the ground to stimulate new canes. Trim summerfruiting raspberry canes that have grown beyond the top of their supports; cut just above a bud
- Mulch fruit trees with well rotted manure or garden compost – avoid the trunk.
- Soak sweet pea seeds in tepid water overnight before planting them, to speed up germination.

GARDENING JOBS IN MARCH

- Whatever you do in your garden, you must prepare the ground. It has to be reasonably drained, so if it is waterlogged dig in organic material and grit or sharp sand to improve drainage. Dig in a 5cm (or more) layer of compost or well rotted manure into your beds and a general purpose fertiliser such as chicken manure or fish, blood and bone. Most plants do not like poorly drained soil.
- Feed trees, shrubs and hedges with a slow-release fertiliser by lightly forking it into the soil surface. Identify whether your shrub is ericaceous (acid-loving) and get special fertiliser and compost e.g, blueberry
- Plant summer-flowering bulbs such as Gladiolus, Lilies and Alliums. Lift and divide established perennial plants to improve their vigour and create new plants. Put plant supports in now so the plants grow up through them. Pot up begonia tubers that have new leaves.
- Deadhead daffodils as the flowers finish and let the foliage die back naturally.
- Towards the end of March plant your chitted early potatoes outside in the ground.
- Start sowing winter brassicas in a seed trays in a cold greenhouse.



Alan Maskell looks after gardens in the RG8 area

THE NEW MEDITERRANEAN WAY OF DINING: LA'DE

Successful North- London restaurant La'De has opened its doors in Pangbourne.

La'De is the new Mediterranean inspired restaurant with a selection of dishes from Turkish, Greek, and Italian cuisine. The family-owned restaurant has been offering its Anatolian roots with warm hospitality to its customer's pre-Covid and the team still pride itself on high-quality takeaway service.

La'De has a wide range of dishes on its menu, all representing the nutritional balance of Mediterranean cuisine, including a selection of well-known Turkish delicacies such as kebabs and lahmacun but also offers oven-baked Italian pizzas to upgrade your dinner experience.

The warm welcome of La'De awaits you with complimentary deals and free delivery on their website www.ladekitchen.com from their Pangbourne, Muswell Hill, Woodley and soon from Newbury and Camberley restaurants.

You can place your order via the website www.ladekitchen.com or by calling 0118 327 9143.



THE MIDNIGHT LIBRARY BY MATT HAIG



The story begins with the protagonist Nora feeling deeply unhappy with her life and wishing it could have followed a different path, she attempts suicide. Author Matt Haig has invented a Midnight Library where books describe different versions of her life. Nora has the chance to see how things would be if she had made other choices.

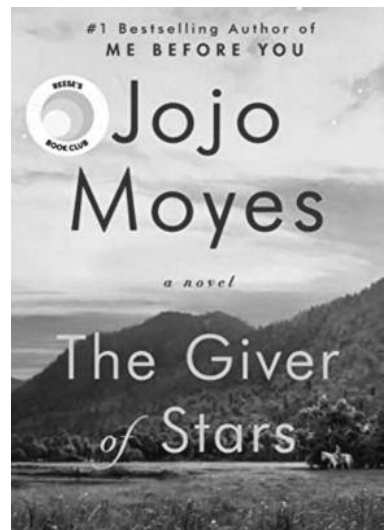
This clever book looks at the psychological effects of life choices made.

This was the first read for book club of this type of speculative fiction and most readers really enjoyed it.

THE GIVER OF STARS BY JOJO MOYES

An historical drama set in the US Depression era in the Appalachian mountains. The author has based her story around the factual Horseback Librarians of Kentucky. English girl Alice Wright weds American Bennett Van Cleave on his European Tour to escape the limitations of her life in England. Sadly she finds different restrictions in her new life in America and so she volunteers for Eleanor Roosevelt's travelling libraries. Alice finds adventure, friendships and a new freedom as she embarks on a path that fundamentally changes her identity.

This book was enjoyed by most of book club as an easy, uncomplicated read.



Next read:

One August Night by Victoria Hislop

STEPHEN MASTERS BVet Med MRCVS

Many of you will know Stephen from The Valley Vet Group (practices in Pangbourne, Tutts Clump and Spencers Wood) or maybe you have seen him walking his 3 rescue dogs around Tidmarsh – whatever your acquaintance – this article is to celebrate Stephens 40 years as a vet in this area and to wish him well in his well-deserved retirement from January 1st 2022 – although I don't think he is exactly slowing down any time soon . . .



I had the pleasure of having a coffee with Stephen and his wife Ali a Veterinary Nurse (who has also worked at the Valley Vet Practice for over 30 years and will be continuing for the foreseeable future) to discuss his life over the past years and find out some more information about the man we often only talk to when he is treating one of our much-loved pets. And, there is a lot more to know!

Stephen spent a lot of time riding horses at university and competing in Europe during his 3rd and 4th years and so it was assumed he would enter equine practice but he started in mixed practice in Surrey in 1981. At that time there was a lot of racing, stud work, polo ponies, hunters, eventing and in his first year, 5 clients competed at Badminton and the highest profile client was probably Eric Mollar, the owner of the 1983 Derby winner.

After a couple of years, Stephen (and his horse Sam) moved to join Neil Partridge and Meyrick Stephens at what was then Stephens & Partridge – a mixed practice formed from the original practice in Reading. When he joined, the practice was 80% large animals with two sites – Tutts Clump and Mortimer and Stephen was recruited to predominately look after small animals and equine. The practice developed over the years and at one point, consisted of 5 premises. The practice evolved and Stephen became a partner and it morphed into the Valley Veterinary Group.

At one point they had 40 large dairy farms on their books – now Berkshire have fewer than 5. The Ministry work, Reading Market, Quarantine Kennels, The Wolves, The Greyhound Track, a fish farm in Aldermaston- have now all gone.

Stephen married Ali in 1989 at St James the Less church in Pangbourne and he has 2 grown up children both who still live and work locally. The Masters family have lived in the locality since 1987.

Since 2016 Stephen along with Ali, has given his support, advice and expertise to Sadies Dog Rescue, a rescue based in Romania. Stephen's support has gone way above and beyond that of your 'everyday' vet, welcoming new arrivals as they came to the U.K. for medical care that is unavailable in Romania. Stephen has always found room and time to ensure their dogs had the very best attention.

He has performed countless, life changing essential surgeries on their animals at a 'not for profit' charitable basis, playing no small part in allowing them to live their very best lives. He has always been able to 'squeeze' them into his busy schedule at Valley Vets.

Vital to their work has been Stephen's direct support of their team in Romania. Always on the end of the phone for them when truly difficult decisions have had to be made about an animal's care, and always ready and willing to share his expertise with their vets in Bacau when their understanding of a condition was limited.



So, when Stephen is not being a vet – what does he do? Well, he is a very keen rider still but has changed from horses to bikes travelling on average 100 miles a week with his friends – retirement will see more time to enjoy getting out and about.

He also enjoys boating on the Thames and keeps a boat in Wargrave for those lovely summer days on the river.

And, of course, you will still see him walking through Tidmarsh with his dogs!

Happy Retirement Stephen!

Jenny Cope



CONTINUING THE HISTORY OF THE TIDMARSH WITH SULHAM VILLAGE HALL – PART 2

Further ideas and suggestion for the building of the village hall.

One suggestion put forward to raise money once the hall was built was to let the hall at weekends to cyclists for sleeping accommodation. At that time in the early 50's many clubs from the London area used to come to the Thames Valley (Tidmarsh appears to have been a good starting point for them) most weekends from Friday to Sunday for racing trials in this area. Some villager's were in fact already accommodating them, it was a welcome source of income in the lean years following the war. They would arrive on a Friday evening where an evening meal would be provided. Next morning after an early breakfast at about 6am they would set off on their cycling trials. Once these were over it was back to their digs for a full three-course breakfast and the rest of the day was theirs to do as they wished. Another evening meal would be provided if they were staying on for more trials next morning. Had they used the hall they would of course had to cater for themselves, whether this was a problem is not known but it seems the use of the hall was never taken up. Also too it seems at one time the members of the hall committee were contemplating providing refreshments for the clubs using the road through the village but again nothing appears to have come of this. All these ideas were in aid of fund raising.

Scrap Iron from off the local farms was another idea put forward but this was unable to be carried out due to an outbreak of foot and mouth.

A vegetable stall on the main road with produce supplied by villagers in the holiday period was yet another fund raising plan but it seems none of these suggestions were ever put to the test.

Evening classes too were considered but as there were already classes being held in Pangbourne the Education Authority were reluctant to hold them in Tidmarsh as well.

But in spite of all these suggestions put forward the fund began to increase and though still a long way to go things began to take shape at last.

Around this time Beeson Brothers thought they would expand and try their hand at making Breeze and Concrete Blocks, a material that was to be widely used in the rebuilding of the many council estates after the war. They started by making them by hand in a small shed on their land. It soon became obvious to them that this could be a profitable business as so many people were in need of housing after the cities had been flattened by the air-raids

They invested money to buy machinery and lorries and enlarged their work force. This was expanded considerably over the next few decades and changed hands several times.

Mr Eric Beeson the elder of the two brothers was by now a member of the hall committee and after much more discussion it was decided to build the hall using the new Concrete blocks at an estimated cost of £700.00 and by early 1953, £400.00 had been raised.

When this sum had been achieved Mr Henry Wilder of Sulham House generously donated £100.00 and now with the fund standing at £500.00 it was felt work could soon begin, but of course money-making activities still had to continue.

The Breeze Block Company as it was now known were to build the hall and the money raised was to pay for materials and labour although some of the labour they gave free of charge.

Of course there was no electricity on the site and one suggestion on this matter was to purchase a generator, also there was no water either and a suggestion was put forward to sink a well to enable the hall to have an adequate water supply, (most cottages in the two villages relied on having a well in the garden so this seemed a normal suggestion.) However these two items were put on hold for the time being, the main plan was to get the hall built

So at last the work on the long awaited hall could begin. The design of the hall was fairly basic as money would allow, and although over the years many additions and improvements have been made much of the layout remains the same.

Once it was decided to build the hall of the new concrete blocks the layout was to be as follows, a main hall with high-pitched roof. The floor of the hall would be of concrete and to have double glass doors opening directly into it from the car park. At this stage it would not have a ceiling At the east end there was a passage way with elsan toilets at either end, gents and ladies (not a place to linger) with the kitchen situated in between. The kitchen would be fitted with a sink, apparently the only mod cons in that area, and there would be electrical wiring as well. The passage way and kitchen, and toilet area were to be the lean-to structure as had previously been suggested. It had also been decided that some of the money raised should be used to bring the electricity on to the site, but at this stage water still had not been laid on as money would not allow, and some of the money had to be held in hand for chairs, tables and crockery etc.

The general feeling of the committee at this time was that, once the building was erected there would be more of an incentive by the general public i.e. the villagers to raise more money to equip and improve it. By now the fund stood at £697.00 and with a further donation of £3.00 it brought the total to £700.00.

The actual cost of the hall was estimated at £620.00 including the kitchen sink and with extra electric points this brought the final cost to £694.14.00.

TIDMARSH WITH SULHAM VILLAGE HALL

By now it was the autumn of 1953 but forever optimistic it was estimated that the hall would be built by that Christmas, ready for the opening in the New Year, and indeed it was.

Further suggestions at an estimated cost when funds permitted were as follows:

Marley Tiled Floor	£65.00
Ceiling	£27.00
Interior colour washing	£20.00

The marley tiled floor was considered to be the next important item on the list and it was hoped this could be laid during the building of the hall and so the fund raising went on with whist drives, carol parties and donations etc.

There were of course the usual obstacles to be overcome as always seems to occur when building work is in progress. The roofing did not arrive on time and it was doubtful if the concrete floor would dry out enough to lay the floor tiles in time for the opening. However the good news was that by late November 1953 the fund had swelled to £780.5.8. so it was now possible to purchase some chairs and other sundry items.

And so as the opening date of January 1st 1954 drew nearer the hall at last began to take shape. The walls both inside and out were of rough cast and painted a cream colour, there were six electric over head lights without shades and one or two power points. At this stage it was agreed to ask one of the villagers to donate two loads of gravel for the car park and with the loan of a tractor and voluntary help this was also undertaken.

The hall still did not have any heating and so on opening day heaters were borrowed from the church and crockery from Sulham School. Water too had to be brought to the hall in several containers and there was no money to buy curtains, but they had managed to put in the ceiling, buy six card tables, 24 chairs at a cost of £50.00, teapots, an electric kettle and add extra power points. They also overspent to the tune of £9.4.0.

After the Grand Opening there would be the first Annual General Meeting followed by a social. Lady Graham-Hodgeson was asked to do the honours. Entrance was free but a charge would be made for refreshments and of course there just had to be a raffle. The ladies on the committee were put in charge of refreshments and also the games. One lady member gave a recitation and a piano was loaned for singing. The evening ended with a film show of wild life in Africa by Sir Harold Graham-Hodgeson. There was a large attendance and although conditions were very basic a good time was had by all.

In spite of all the obstacles that had been encountered along the way to the actual opening of the hall, most felt it was well worth the time and effort and support that had been given by both small villages.

During the following first months the question arose that the next most pressing improvement must be the heating and once more this came under great discussion. In April of that year, 1954, it was finally decided which form this should take and a coal/coke burning stove was purchased. It then required additional costs of a chimney, hearth, fireguard and a coalbunker. Also further expenditure would be the fitting of a ceiling in the kitchen and shelves and cupboards

Several problems arose in those early days, one of which was the floor, it all depended on the weather if it was hot and humid or if there had been a lot of wet weather. Because the main doors opened directly into the hall the floor would begin to sweat and with mud treading in from outside it soon became like a skating rink. Also too the heating arrangement caused a few headaches. If the hall was required for an evening event the old tortoise stove would have to be lit in the morning. This would gobble up large amounts of coal or coke throughout the day (and someone would have to be there at intervals to keep it fed) and by evening the hall was still only just mildly warm.

The kitchen was very basic, just a sink and one cupboard. A huge copper boiler had been added and stood in one corner and was large enough to supply half of Tidmarsh and the floor was concrete. It did however have a one bar electric wall fire.

By now the furniture for the hall consisted of 40 or so metal chairs with green canvas seats, several long and heavy wooden trestle tables plus the six card tables. An odd collection of crockery, some of which came from the Parish Room at Sulham was acquired. A piano donated by Lady Graham-Hodgson stood in one corner and was used at parties for some time, but due to dampness in the hall after some years it could no longer be tuned and ceased to be playable. A gramophone of the wind up variety was a later addition.

With the hall now reasonably equipped it was felt to be able to take bookings and so now a price had to be agreed on. Until a proper list of lettings could be drawn up the prices fixed temporarily were 5/- for afternoons and 10/- for evenings for non-profit making activities such as the W.I. and The Mother's Union.

The W.I had also played their part in helping the hall by making and donating the much needed curtains and from their bring and buy and jumble sales donated some of the profit they made.

To be continued

Jean Harland

SOWING THE SEEDS FOR A FLOURISHING FUTURE

As we near the end of the autumn term, it is a time to reflect on how this year is going. We have had more freedom than in the previous academic year which means that some of our pupils have been able to go out of school for enriching curriculum events and we have been able to welcome some visitors too . . .

As Year 5 and 6 pupils missed their usual swimming slots in Years 3 and 4 due to Covid restrictions, we put on a special sequence of lessons this term to ensure they are all up to the required standard before they leave us. Nine Year 6 pupils also passed Levels 1 and 2 Bikeability which means they are confident to cycle safely on the road. Thank you to West Berkshire Council who deliver this essential provision in schools in readiness for the move to secondary school.

Our Harvest Festival was a beautiful service in St Mark's, thanks to Reverend Nick. Sadly, our parents weren't able to join us. The donated tinned and packet goods went to the Food Bank at New Beginnings in Reading. The staff at the charity were delighted with, and grateful for, the donations. Well done to the small choir who joined me at the usual Sunday Harvest service at St Mark's. They sang their hearts out and their presence was most appreciated by the congregation. So nice to bring a bit of 'singing joy' into people's lives at the moment.



As part of our Black History Week, each class learned about black people from the past and present who have shown courage in standing up for equal rights for all people around the world. Key Stage 1 found about Jamaican nurse, Mary Seacole, who bravely served in the Crimea at the same time as Florence Nightingale. Years 3 and 4 learned about modern black heroes such as Marcus Rashford, whose recent campaigning led to much better provision for children. Finally, Years 5 and 6 researched the life of the great campaigner for freedom, Nelson Mandela. Let's hope that learning about all of these heroes has a lasting impact on our children.



It was so lovely to welcome back drum and bass duo, Bassistry Arts. They gave each class a fantastic workshop, learning rhythms and songs which were then performed to the whole school in an assembly at the end of the day... we certainly showed Love of Life that day! Such a shame not to have the hall packed with parents but hopefully next year . . .

Showing Love of Others is one of our school values and we take our charitable work very seriously. This term we raised money for Jeans for Genes and for Children in Need. The children came in dressed as everything from robots to a bag of popcorn!

Our Santa Fun Run was held on the Englefield Drive on Friday 3rd December. We decided that the funds raised from sponsorship would go to a cause very close to our hearts. Ruby, the sister of one of our new pupils, needs some medical treatment which can only be accessed abroad. We wanted to help her family with this. If you would like to read her story please use the following link: <https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/rubyrocks>

Sadly, we had to cancel our Christmas Fayre and Market because of increasing Covid numbers. The PTA saved the day though by giving the children some Christmas games to play in the Village Hall, with a goodie bag to take home. Our raffle and craft sales are going on via the school office email . . . very Covid safe!



Our KS1 children have just finished recording their 'Roving Nativity' – much of this took place in wind and rain so possibly not as realistic as we might like!

This year we have decorated a tree for St Mark's, Englefield with hearts showing our five values: Love of God, Love of Others, Love of Myself, Love of God's World and Love of Life. We hope you are able to visit the church over Christmas to see our messages

Although this end of term isn't as we would like it to be, we are still feeling excited about the prospect of 'the special day' and are currently videoing our carols to share with our parents on line.

We would like to wish everyone in our local community a very happy Christmas and a joyous New Year.

Hilary Latimer
Head Teacher



Perfect Boundary Limited



Hard Landscaping & Design

Approved Installer of Marshalls Products and addagrip Resin Bound Products
Professional Service; call for a Quotation.

Info@perfectboundarylimited.co.uk

www.perfectboundarylimited.co.uk

Tel. 01189 968 009 / 07796 202217



Proud member of
Cheekatrade.com
Where reputation matters

For all your printing needs

Our family run business has been established for over twenty years and has a client base as diverse as their requirements. Whether you're an individual or a blue chip company we can provide for all your printing needs.

- creative services • personal and company stationery
 - brochures and leaflets • magazines
- promotional material • personalisation and mail-merging
 - digital print for short runs and a quick turnaround
 - conventional print • large format and display systems
- finishing • storage and stock management of clients' stock

For further information, please contact
Peter (0118) 9311 488 or
email info@heraldgraphics.co.uk



HERALD
GRAPHICS

272-274 Elgar Road Sth,
Reading, Berks
RG2 0BZ

THAI | NOW

Truly Tremendous Thai Food *for* Fine Home Dining Takeaway and Catering

**We deliver to Pangbourne, Purley, Calcot, Tidmarsh
and the West side of Reading**

If you are outside of our delivery area then we can meet you in Pangbourne or at Sainsbury's petrol station in Calcot, please call the shop during opening hours to arrange.

THAI-NOW.COM 0118 945 1111



ThaiNowFood



thainowfood

Our reviews are great so come and try for yourself!

'Heavenly Thai flavours' | 'Best takeaway I've had this year'

'Friendly knowledgeable staff helped with selections'

📍 936 Oxford Road, Reading, RG30 6TJ (near Waitrose)



HALL PLACE

EQUESTRIAN CENTRE

BHS & ABRS APPROVED

**Qualified tuition for Beginners to
Competition Riders of all ages**

- * Superb Horses & Ponies**
- * Dressage * Show Jumping * Cross Country Course**
- * Show & Event Centre * Riding Club & Pony Club**
- * Parties * Holiday Activities**
- * Indoor & Outdoor Floodlit Arenas**
- * Granary Tea Room * Saddlery Shop**

0118 942 6938

Sulham Hill, Tilehurst, Reading, RG31 5UB

www.hall-place.com

N.Drum



Landscaping, Fencing & Maintenance

- Hard & Soft Landscaping
- Fencing
- Garden & Grounds Maintenance
- Garden Clearance
- Hedge Planting
- Hedge Cutting
- Grass Cutting
- Turfing
- Power Washing
- Winter Gritting
- Licensed Waste carrier
- Insured

**Call Nick - Home : 01235859229
Mobile: 07922701634**

ndrumlandscaping@gmail.com

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)

Priest in Charge of Pangbourne with Tidmarsh and Sulham

Rev Mark Hopkins

The Rectory, St James Close, Pangbourne

0118 984 2928

rector.ptschurches@gmail.com

Church Administrator

Vanessa Saunders

Church office open Tuesday and Friday

12.00-3.00pm

office.ptschurches@gmail.com

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

Friends of St Laurence

Chairman

John Chishick 0118 984 3666

Treasurer/Secretary

John Butler 0118 984 2621

Emergencies 999

All non-emergencies 101

Floodline 0345 988 1188

Medical

The Boathouse Surgery

Whitchurch Rd, Pangbourne 0118 984 2234

NHS Direct

111

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

Councillor for the Pangbourne Ward

Gareth Hurley (Conservative) 07891 508906

Tidmarsh with Sulham Parish Councillors

Steve Webb (Chairman)

chairman@tidmarshwithsulham.co.uk

Jonathan Pearson (Vice Chairman)

j.pearson@tidmarshwithsulham.co.uk

Solvej Biddle

s.biddle@tidmarshwithsulham.co.uk

Jon Chishick

j.chishick@tidmarshwithsulham.co.uk

Sima Elliot s.elliott@tidmarshwithsulham.co.uk

Andrew Madden

a.madden@tidmarshwithsulham.co.uk

Parish Magazine Committee

Jenny Cope (editor) 0774 777 5900

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

Jennie Currie

44 Harrington Close, Newbury,

Berkshire RG14 2RQ 01635 580 190

tidmarshwithsulham@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
--	----------------

Scouts and Girl Guides

1st Purley & Pangbourne Scout Group
Registration Secretary regsec@1stPandP.org.uk

Girl Guides 0800 169 5901
www.girlguiding.org.uk

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

Main switchboard	01635 42400
Streetcare	01635 519080
Planning applications	01635 519111

We welcome all advertisements, articles and letters submitted for inclusion in the magazine but the editor reserves the right to refuse, alter or amend material for any reason. The editor accepts no responsibility for, nor necessarily agrees with, views expressed in such submissions.

Please email any items, including photographs, for the next edition of magazine to jenny@candcsystems.co.uk by 1st March 2022 at the latest.

Whilst we make every effort to ensure the accuracy of the information printed in this magazine, the editor cannot accept responsibility for the consequences of any errors or omissions that may occur.

ADVERTISING

If you would like to advertise in our magazine, please call Jenny Cope on 0118 984 4671 or send an email to jenny@candcsystems.co.uk

12 MONTHS
(4 ISSUES)

Full page: £125.00

Half page: £75.00

Quarter page: £50.00

Please send your advert details or changes to jenny@candcsystems.co.uk



www.tidmarshwithsulham.co.uk