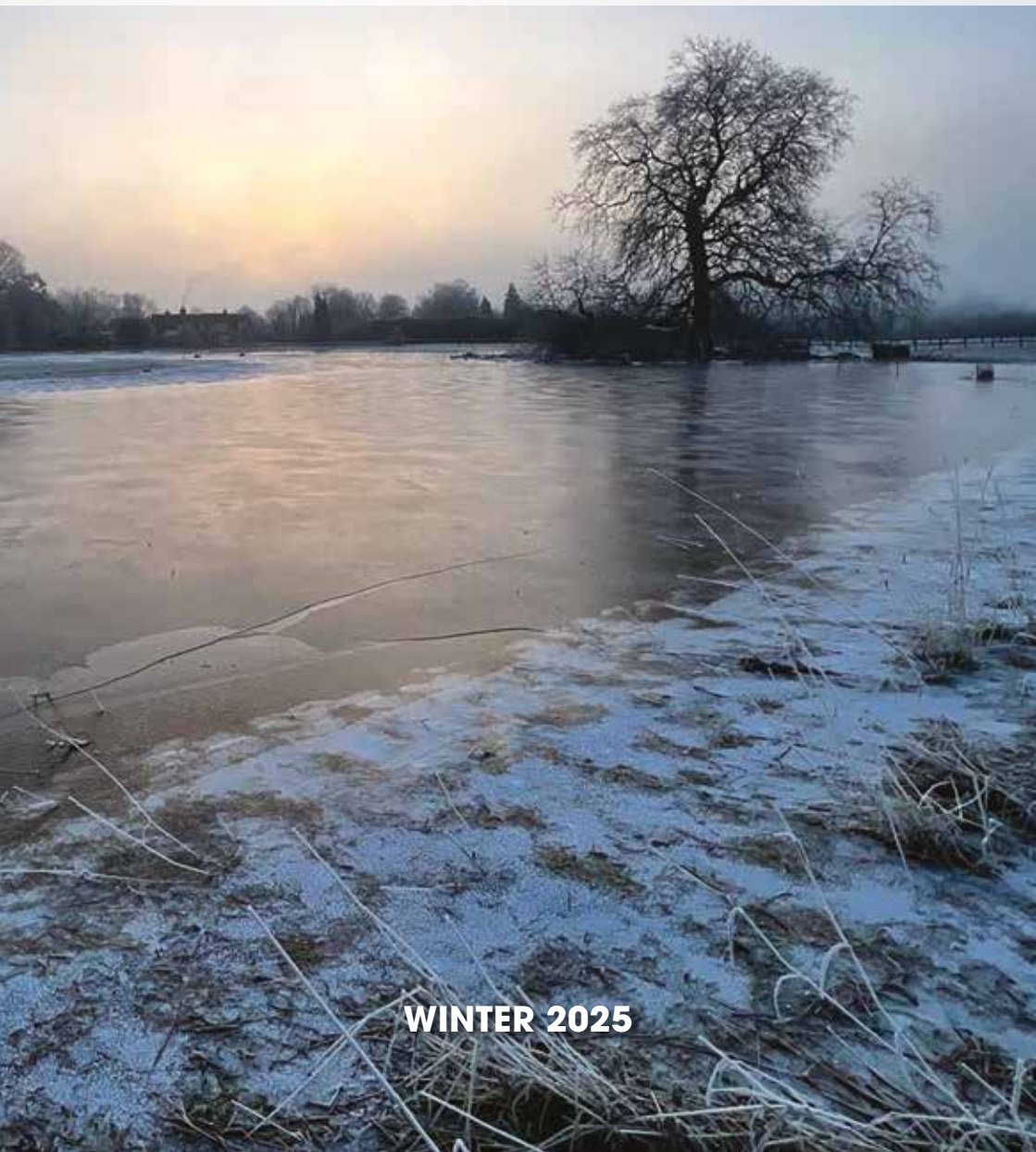


Tidmarsh with Sulham Parish Magazine



WINTER 2025



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Welcome to the Winter issue of the Tidmarsh with Sulham magazine! We have another varied edition for you to enjoy;- amongst the topics we have news on village fundraising events, local seasonal events and some recent celebrations for some local residents. We have an update from Sulham farm, a lyrical tribute to Winter in the garden and some delicious recipes to prepare. As well of course as dates for your diary during this festive season and beyond.

Importantly please see the **Special Appeal on page 19** for your donations - if you see value - to keep this magazine running.

And lastly, you will find with this magazine a Questionnaire to collect your feedback on how we can build a stronger community for us all to enjoy.

Thank you to Mark Farrington for the front cover capturing a frozen landscape at dusk in Tidmarsh.

As always, please keep your ideas and contributions for new content coming! And wishing you all a very happy and healthy Christmas and New Year.

Lucy Clow, Editor

editortsmag@gmail.com

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

DATE	EVENT	TIME
21 December	Crib Service - St Nicholas Church, Sulham	11.15 am
24 December	Christingle - St Laurence Church, Tidmarsh	3.00 pm
	Midnight Mass - St Laurence Church, Tidmarsh	11.00 pm
25 December	Christmas Family Worship - St Nicholas Church, Sulham	10.00 am
2 January	Village Walk - Meet at Village Hall	9.30 am
	Coffee Morning - Village Hall	11.15 am
4 January	Holy Communion - St Laurence Church, Tidmarsh	11.15 am
14 January	Parish Council Meeting - Village Hall	8.00 pm
18 January	Family Worship - St Nicholas Church, Sulham	11.15 am
1 February	Holy Communion - St Laurence Church, Tidmarsh	11.15 am
6 February	Village Walk - Meet at Village Hall	9.30 am
	Coffee Morning - Village Hall	11.00 am
11 February	Parish Council Meeting - Village Hall	8.00 pm
15 February	Family Worship - St Nicholas Church, Sulham	11.15 am
1 March	Holy Communion - St Laurence Church, Tidmarsh	11.15 am
6 March	Village Walk - Meet at Village Hall	9.30 am
	Coffee Morning - Village Hall	11.00 am
11 March	Parish Council Meeting - Village Hall	8.00 pm
15 March	Family Worship - St Nicholas Church, Sulham	11.15 am

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ANNUAL SULHAM VS TIDMARSH CRICKET MATCH

The annual Sulham vs Tidmarsh 20 over cricket match was held on the 21st September at Sulhamstead Cricket Club. In glorious sunshine, Sulham batted first and were soon struggling; losing 3 wickets for only 11 runs against some fine bowling. Ben Morgan stepped in to steady the ship with a fine innings of 25 runs, helped by Tidmarsh dropping 3 catches in the field. Youngsters Jack Anderson and Jacob Bolsover tried to increase the scoring rate but both were out cheaply and wickets continued to tumble against some tight bowling and good fielding. With the batting middle order collapsing, leaving Sulham with 58 runs on the board with 9 wickets down, captain John Alderton came in as last man and the last wicket partnership added 30 runs, before the innings came to an end in the 18th over.

Tidmarsh started their innings confidently, knowing they had to only make 89 runs to win. Opening batsman Sam Pudwell batted brilliantly before retiring with 25 runs, but with 5 wickets falling quickly at the other end for only 10 runs, the two teams were neck and neck after 10 overs. Alex Hogevoold steadied the innings, scoring 18 runs before being bowled by debutant Alex Hales, who also then took a great catch off his own bowling to remove Charlie Woodward. With 9 wickets down and 10 more runs needed to win, captain Stuart Challand came to the wicket to see his team home, despite almost being run out when dashing up to the wicket to get the winning run.

So yet another very close finish saw Tidmarsh score 89 for 9, to win by 1 wicket with 4 overs to spare. This great community event ended with players reliving the days' events over a drink (or two), in the evening at The Greyhound. Big thanks to Keith Briggs at Sulhamstead C.C., the



ladies who laid on a great tea, the spectators who gave such great support and all the players (young and old) who helped make it such a great day.

John Alderton

BIG WELCOME

To Tanya and Ian who have recently moved into Purley Hall Lodge, Sulham.

COMMUNITY RESUSCITATION COURSES & DEFIBILLATOR



In September Gillian Alderton and Caroline Home hosted two highly successful resuscitation courses for members of the local community. Both sessions were very well attended, with participants eager to learn vital life-saving skills. During the course, attendees were taught how to recognise the signs of cardiac arrest, how to perform effective CPR, and how to use an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) with confidence.

A highlight of the sessions was the practical, hands-on approach, which gave everyone the chance to ask questions in a supportive and friendly environment. It was fantastic to see such strong community engagement and enthusiasm for learning skills that could one day help save a life.

We're also delighted to share that a Defibrillator has been installed at The Greyhound pub in Tidmarsh, thanks to the generosity of a local benefactor and the support of all the staff at the Greyhound pub and Fullers. This addition will be a valuable asset to the village and surrounding area.

Should you need to use it you can dial 999 and the access code will be released to you.

We hope to run more resuscitation courses in the near future, so please keep an eye out for updates – we'd love to see even more of you signing up next time!

Caroline Home

BEAT THE THIRTEEN TORS TREK

Readers of this magazine may remember that a group of women from our community and their friends have been raising money for Marie Curie, culminating in the 'Beat the Thirteen Tors Challenge' on Dartmoor. The challenge entailed scaling 13 peaks of the moor, and covering 15 miles. After many preparatory walks in



beautiful local countryside around here, and armed with good walking gear and lots of treats, on 11 October the group set off and successfully completed the challenge - and in good time. They were very lucky that the weather was kind to them on the day! In total the group raised a magnificent £3,900; thank you to all who so kindly donated to this important charity.

Lucy Clow & Gilian Alderton

PUMPKIN CARVING

The Greyhound in Tidmarsh hosted a pumpkin carving evening on the 27th of October, drawing a fantastic turnout from both villages. The pub buzzed with laughter and friendly competition as everyone set to work creating their spooky masterpieces. Midway through the evening, delicious pizza was served, keeping the carvers fuelled and adding to the relaxed vibe. The atmosphere was lively, with neighbours chatting and cheering each other on, and a real sense of community filled the room. The friendly rivalry continued right up until the end, when prizes were awarded for the best carvings in both the children's and adults' categories. Congratulations to Jo Clark, Rebecca Home, Sydney Woods and Andrew Madden's daughter Alice, with a special competitive award going to Andrew himself on the night. Huge thanks to Stuart for hosting and to Vita for organising such a great night – let's definitely do it again next year!



HALLOWEEN TRAIL

On 31st October, Bronwyn and the Village Events Group laid on a Halloween Trail for all the children of the community. We did not have many takers - but those that did make it were very excited and collected lots of treats!

ST NICHOLAS CHURCH CHRISTENING

Congratulations to Celia and Andrew whose son Wilf was christened in St Nicholas church on October 19th.

The Remembrance Sunday service in St Nicholas was well attended. A cross was laid at the grave of Winifred Burtenshaw who died in the first world war. Names were read of all those from Sulham and Tidmarsh who lost their lives in wars.

A Carols by Candlelight service was held in St Nicholas on 7 December. The church was packed full and enjoyed minced pies, mulled wine and chat after the service. A total of £120 was donated to the church.

There will be Carols by Candlelight at St Nicholas on Sunday December 7th. A Crib service on December 21st and a Christmas Day service. There will be Christingle and Midnight Mass at St Laurence on December 24th.

Repairs

After the severe water ingress last year, plans had been put in place to repair the damage to the interior decoration and damaged plaster work in and around the bell tower. The church authority then put this on hold so that a church conservator could examine the building and assess what is needed.

Bianca Madden MSc ACR Conservator of Wall Painting and Polychromy visited the church in November and her report states that the work cannot proceed until the fabric of the building has dried out. A conservator will have to be in charge of the repairs. Ms Madden also discovered some earlier wall decoration in the chancel/apse that could be restored at a future date. If anyone would like further details please contact the church warden.

This all comes at the expense of St Nicholas church funds. If anyone would like to contribute anything to the restoration work or has a fundraising idea please contact the PTS treasurer.

Gillian Alderton

A PLATINUM CELEBRATION

On Wednesday, 29th October 2025, a very special occasion took place at The Greyhound. Surrounded by good friends and family members, John and Jean Harland celebrated two incredibly significant milestones – Jean's 96th birthday, and their 70th

Wedding Anniversary (platinum). This particularly noteworthy anniversary has been marked no less than by HM King Charles III: a celebratory card was sent to them by him.

John and Jean, as most will know, are long-standing residents of this village – Jean was born in Sulham, and then “migrated” to Tidmarsh. They are a familiar and welcome sight at The Greyhound and around the village with their wit, kindness, and warmth, and they are always good company. Moreover, their knowledge of local history is amazing. They have been so much part of the village’s life and activities for decades: from involvement with the Village Hall’s events (the Village Hall being where they first met in 1954!) to collecting monies for the Thames Valley Air Ambulance or the Royal British Legion poppy appeal.



Their 70th wedding anniversary celebration included an amusing and touching speech by Chris Gregory, a toast to their enduring married life and Jean’s birthday, cutting a beautiful 70th anniversary cake made by one of their close friends, and a delicious buffet laid on by Tash and her team at The Greyhound.

Platinum is deemed to be a “noble metal” due to its extreme stability and rarity value: in John’s and Jean’s case, they are a noble couple whose longevity of marriage is a treasured, rare thing. Warmest congratulations to them both on reaching this milestone and we look forward to celebrating your 71st anniversary in 2026!

W. Rapley



POPPY APPEAL

This year the collection raised over £2,000 pounds (£1,820 collected from the village and £270 from the Greyhound). The money raised supports serving and ex-service personnel of the British Armed forces and their families. Funds raised support the community through various means, such as financial advice, help with injuries, employment assistance, and mental health support, ensuring they receive help throughout their lives when needed.

THAMES VALLEY AIR AMBULANCE APPEAL

The amount raised this year was £1,500: £1,400 plus £100 from the Greyhound collection box.

Thank you to all those who donated.

John Harland



Tidmarsh & Sulham Village Coffee Morning

**First Friday of each month
11 - 12 am**

***Friendly and free, coffee and biscuits.
Time shared with neighbours and
friends.***

Next date - Friday 2nd January

A coffee shared is a friendship brewed!

Tidmarsh Village Hall. Lifts available if needed
Email: alderton.boxcott@btinternet.com

COMMITTEE NEWS

In September Karen Fountaine resigned her post as Chairman of the Village Hall Committee and Lucy Clow was voted in as the new Chair. Lucy and the rest of the Trustees extend their thanks to Karen for the work she carried out during her time in role.

MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING

Sulham & Tidmarsh Macmillan Coffee morning held in The Village Hall on October 3rd raised a fantastic £405 for this charity that supports people living with cancer. Thank you to everyone who attended and donated so generously.

VILLAGE QUIZ



The Inter Village Quiz was held this year on October 4th in The Village Hall. Teams from both villages enjoyed a fun evening with an excellent quiz set by Annette and John Chishick.

A team from Sulham won. Many thanks to our quizmaster John and the Village Hall committee.

SAVE THE DATE

On Sunday February 8th there will be an exhibition of old photographs of Sulham & Tidmarsh an (with kind permission of Jean Harland) in Tidmarsh Village Hall. Tea, coffee and cake will be available.

VILLAGE WALK AND COFFEE MORNING

The Village Walk sets off on the first Friday of the month from the Village Hall at 9.30. The walk is gentle paced and lasts approximately 1.5 hours. It is followed by coffee in The Hall when neighbours and friends from both villages come together with the walkers for coffee and chat. Everyone is very welcome to come along. Sociable doggies are always welcome.



KEEPING IN TOUCH WITH WHAT'S GOING ON IN THE VILLAGES

These days we all increasingly rely on electronic ways to communicate information and events, as well as reading about them in the Parish mag or on posters.

We also have a Tidmarsh & Sulham website, which hosts a noticeboard of events and parish news: www.tidmarshwithsulham.co.uk

Gillian Alderton & Caroline Home



NEW COMMUNITY

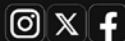
CHOIR

**ST. MARY'S, PURLEY
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PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Mr Jon Dunn resigned his post as Chairman of the Parish Council in October and Bronwyn Wynne was voted in as the new Chair of the Parish Council in November. Bronwyn extends her thanks to Jon for the work he carried out under his tenure.

Wendy Rapley stepped down from her role as Parish Clerk in November and again Bronwyn extends her thanks to her for her service to the community. The role of Parish Clerk is presently vacant and should anyone be interested in this position please call Bronwyn on 07887564693. The role is for 28 hours a month and would require attending monthly Parish Council Meetings in addition to other tasks.

While there are changes in the Parish Council, Bronwyn and the remaining Councillors are determined to work together focusing on the needs of the residents. The Parish Council wants to collaborate with residents – what do people want and what do they want improved? The Parish Council is here to help.

MORE LIMERICKS

From September's Village Show ...

A walker got lost by the Pang
Where a blackbird so sweetly sang,
Then she lead him astray
To the Greyhound (hooray)
There he stayed til the last orders bell rang
Fiona Daniel



A Coach Guard of great Renown
Was famous all over the Town, (Tidmarsh)
He would tootle his Trumpet
To attract all the Crumpet,
And now he's all Broken Down
The Tidmarsh Tootler

If you have an idea for a community event using the Village Hall, or wish to book the hall for an event, please email: tidmarshvillagehall@hotmail.com.



CAROLS ON THE GREEN - A FESTIVE EVENING FOR THE WHOLE COMMUNITY

Join us on Friday 19th December from 6pm for a fun-filled evening of Carols on the Green

Treat yourself to a cup of mulled cider or hot chocolate from The Greyhound pub, grab a free mince pie and sing along as Reverend Rachel leads the celebrations 🎵🎶

Expect plenty of carol singing, laughter, and a wonderful community atmosphere as we celebrate together in the run-up to Christmas.

👤 Everyone welcome – we'd love to see you there!

📍 On the Millennium Green, Tidmarsh

🕒 From 6pm

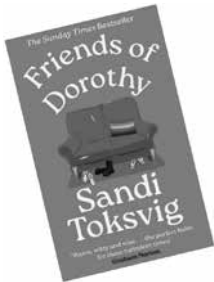
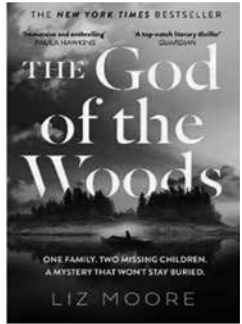
The God of the Woods by Liz Moore

This is a compelling thriller that explores the mysterious disappearances of two siblings, set against the backdrop of a summer camp in the 1970s.

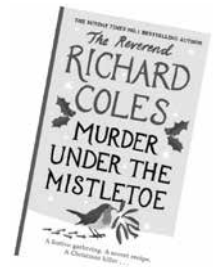
The narrative unfolds across multiple timelines, revealing deep family secrets and the impact of wealth and power on personal relationships.

The camp setting in the Adirondack Mountains of upper New York State is powerfully described, as are the motivations of the characters - many of which are shaped by societal issues of the time including sexism, class struggles and mental health, as well as friendship and loyalty

Once again, the book club was split into those which found the book hard to put down, while others found the alternating past and present timelines made the book confusing and a little tedious in the mid sections.



Our Winter and Christmas reads will be
Friends of Dorothy by Sandi Toksvig and
**Murder under the Mistletoe: A Canon
 Clement Christmas Novella** by Rev.
 Richard Coles



If you would like to come to Book Club evenings, for details of next date and venue please contact Lucy : editortsmag@gmail.com

CHURCH NEWS

CHURCH SERVICES IN ST JAMES | ST LAURENCE | ST NICHOLAS

JANUARY

Sunday 4th

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

Sunday 11th

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

Sunday 18th

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

Sunday 25th

7.45am	Holy Communion (BCP)	St James
10am	Holy Communion	St James

Midweek Holy Communion

10am every Wednesday morning in St James. All welcome
Ash Wednesday service is 18th February at 10am

FEBRUARY* and MARCH

Sunday 1st

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

Sunday 8th

7.45am	Holy Communion (BCP)	St James
10am	All Together Worship with Joyful Noise*	St James

Sunday 15th

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

Sunday 22nd

7.45am	Holy Communion (BCP)	St James
10am	Holy Communion	St James

A WORD FROM REVD MARK HOPKINS, RECTOR

Dear Friends,

2026 will be a historic year for the Church of England. On 28th January, Dame Sarah Mulally will legally become the 106th Archbishop of Canterbury, and the first woman to hold the office. I am excited and enthusiastic about the leadership and strength she will bring to the role.

Sadly, barely two weeks after the announcement of her appointment, the House of Bishops of the Church of England chose to end the process which was looking to explore blessing same-sex relationships in churches. As an LGBT+ chaplain for the Diocese of Oxford in addition to my role as Rector of Pangbourne, Tidmarsh and Sulham, I know firsthand the devastating effect this has had on Christians in the LGBT+ community; people who seek to worship God and explore their faith but often hear voices of judgment and condemnation.

At Pangbourne, Tidmarsh and Sulham we are committed to being an inclusive church where all can feel welcome to worship Jesus, whatever their background, gender, race or sexuality. January 6th marks the feast of the Epiphany, when the wise men came to visit the infant Jesus. We might remember these men as rich kings who brought expensive gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh, but in the Bible they are notable not for their wealth, but because they are foreigners and outsiders, in fulfilment of the prophecy of Isaiah 60:3: "And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising." These foreign men defied the cultural barriers of their time, worshipping the living God not in a marvellous temple that would have barred them from entering, but in the roughness of a humble stable.

If you are exploring spirituality and faith, or seeking to worship the new born king Jesus in 2026, at Pangbourne, Tidmarsh, Sulham churches, we strive to be a place where all can belong, and you are most welcome to join us on Sundays or through our midweek groups.

We will remain committed to this vision to seek to welcome all throughout 2026.

Happy New Year, Mark



The Parish of Pangbourne with Tidmarsh and Sulham
www.pangbournechurches.org

St James Cafe

COME FOR THE COFFEE 11am to 12pm

STAY FOR THE CHAT

7TH & 21ST JANUARY
4TH & 18TH FEBRUARY
4TH & 18TH MARCH



St James Church, Pangbourne

Joyful Noise

COMES TO THE ALL TOGETHER WORSHIP SERVICE - NOW AT A NEW TIME - IN ST JAMES THE LESS, PANGBOURNE

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10 TO 11 AM

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ASH
WEDNESDAY

Ash Wednesday Service
10am on 18th February
St James the Less

QUIZ NIGHT

Saturday 21st February 2026 at 7.00pm
Pangbourne Village Hall

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

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

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

LENT LUNCHES
in St James' Church, Pangbourne
12 to 1.30pm



on Wednesday 25th February &
4th, 11th, 18th and 25th March

Join us for a simple meal to
support the work of Christian Aid





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SPECIAL APPEAL

The Parish magazine needs your help with funding to ensure we can keep producing the magazine in 2026 and beyond. Even with current support we have a £1,500 shortfall. If you are able to make a £10 or £20 donation please drop off cash/cheque to me (Step Up Cottage, Sulham) or make a deposit to :-

TidmarshwithSulhamPM (one word) Sort Code: 04-06-05 A/C No. 29264078

Thank You!!

And thank you to those who donated in 2025, our advertisers and the Parish Council for their support in enabling this magazine to continue sharing updates on local news and events to our community.

PARISH QUESTIONNAIRE

Within this magazine you will also find a short questionnaire. Our team of volunteers would love to know what you would like for the future development of our community.

Please take the time to fill it in and drop it off to me (Step Up Cottage, Sulham) or Tidmarsh Village Hall post box. Alternatively, an electronic copy is available on the parish website <https://www.tidmarshwithsulham.co.uk/noticeboard.htm>, the village Facebook page, and via the village Whatsapp group.

Please reply by 31 January 2026

Thank You !



January 2026		
Tue 6th Jan 10:00	Inkpen Common BBOWT	Cutting back bramble, cutting and treating birch and making some small scrapes SU381643. Please park at the common entrance or in the 3 lay-bys along Great Common Rd. ///blackmail.verge.edgy
Tue 13th Jan 10:00	Moor Copse Nature Reserve Tidmarsh BBOWT	Clearing vegetation including blackthorn. Park in the entrance to the Nature Reserve near Tidmarsh off the A340 at SU633738 //clays.reworked.speedily
Tue 20th Jan 10:00	Bucklebury Meadows	Working on hedges around the meadows behind the pub/restaurant in upper Bucklebury. Park in Morton's Lane SU543 686 ///chuckling.notion.regaining
Fri 23rd Jan 10:00	East Garston	Woodland conservation management tasks. Meet at the E Garston village hall car park, SU363767, Post Code: RG17 7EX ///float.goodnight.sideboard
Tue 27th Jan 10:00	Ufton Court	Coppicing/thinning out of woodland and using the arisings to construct a dead hedge. Parking will be directed on the day, head for: SU626666 ///ooze.stall.tubes
February 2026		
Tue 3rd Feb 10:00	Paices Wood	Creating scallops to let in more light, there will be a bonfire. Parking is at the top car park, SU586636 ///treaties.barman.unfocused
Tue 10th Feb 10:00	Malt House, West Woodhay	Hedge laying and coppicing. Parking is on the entrance to the field off the W. Woodhay Rd or as directed on the day, SU407639 ///belts.glorified.connects
Tue 17th Feb 10:00	Sheepdrove, Lambourne	Continue hedge laying and tidying previous length of hedge. Burn trimmings and stack logs. Park near the red barn SU349816. Do not use sat nav guidance to locate this site ///connected.ranges.over
Tue 24th Feb 10:00	Bucklebury Common	Heathland management. Felling and clearing trees and shrubs to create new haloes around important trees. Meet at the Crossroads SU556691 ///bedspread.rainfall.text
March 2026		
Tue 3rd March 10:00	Winterbourne Wood	Various woodland maintenance tasks. Park on the main woodland entrance track, SU447717 ///headboard.tubes.olive
Tue 10th March 10:00	Rushall Manor Farm	Continuing woodland conservation management tasks. Meet at the Black Barn off Back Lane between Stanford Dingley and Bradfield, SU584723 ///telephone.brink.crate
Tue 17th March 10:00	Malt House, West Woodhay	Hedge laying and coppice protection. Parking is on the entrance to the field off the W. Woodhay Rd or as directed on the day, SU407639 ///belts.glorified.connects
Tue 24th March 10:00	Sulham Farm	Woodland management. Park along the track adjacent to Sulham Church SU645742 ///across.influencing.spots
Tue 31st March 10:00	Little Hidden Farm Hungerford	Hedge laying and coppicing. Access by following the track through the farm until you can go no further. Park opposite the indoor riding school. SU351713 ///crisps.joke.encrusted

SULHAM FARM AND BIODIVERSITY NET GAIN PROJECT UPDATE

The near perfect weather conditions this autumn have made drilling this year's winter cereals a pleasure, with subsequent crop growth looking well. This was the first year that we used variable rate drilling on the farm and we have seen more even establishment as a result. The system works by using a GPS-based system with a pre-loaded map to alter the quantity of seed being applied by the drill as it travels across the field. This means that we can now apply higher rates of seed to areas where we would usually produce worse seed beds, for example parts of a field with higher clay content soils.

The excellent dry autumn has also helped with the FiveRivers project, restoring a length of the Sulham Brook. Trees have been cleared to let light onto the river, and banks have been re-graded and 'wiggled' to help increase flow rates at low water levels. This should help prevent silt depositing on the river bottom. All of this will help aquatic life thrive in the Brook.

You may have noticed hay bales being dotted across some of the pasture fields on the land around Home Farm;- this is to enable later housing of the cows and calves. Cattle are moved daily using electric fencing; the combination of grazed grass and hay in each compartment is calculated to be enough to meet the requirements of the cattle. The cattle will slowly work their way across the grass acreage, ending up on the BNG area just before being housed for calving. This has the advantage of being cheaper than housing the cattle, the meadows get re-seeded by any seed left in the hay and the wildlife benefits from year round grazing. We have also run a trial to see how well our store cattle fatten on our cover crop mix., They have been grazing the cover crop on the arable field south of Sulham Farm for the last 6 weeks. The idea of this is to reduce the concentrated feed used to fatten the cattle and also the brassicas in the mix are highly nutritious and available to graze at a time of year when the nutritional value of grass is dropping off. Whilst it is yet to be seen how well the cattle have grown on

the mix, we can be sure what they are leaving behind them will be benefiting the soil fertility.

*Andrew Clay,
Farm Manager, Sulham Estate*



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QUIZ NIGHT

Saturday 21st February 2026 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 31st January to book your team's place.

Let us know of any special dietary requirement.

Bring your own salt, vinegar & ketchup
(and knife & fork if you wish!)

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

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

WINTER IN TIME

Samhain. November 1st, the beginning of winter, the time of the Blotmonth. The dark time, the cold time, when animals were killed to conserve food, and belt tightening was consequent of far more than overspending. Families felt the full force of the disappearance of sunlight and warmth; 'roasting crabs' (apples) spitting and hissing in the pot were snatched heat and food from the hedgerows, as Shakespeare vividly records.

But winter in our garden is redolent of the affluence of the modern gardener freed from the terrors of the past. It can be full of scent, a daphne or mahonia, or myrtle placed near the entrance to home or garden. Winter can be filled with colour, striking in the gloom of mists, or rain, or snow. Colour is the province of clematis, cyclamen, cornus stems, white birch barks, yew topiary, hellebores, or frost trimmed roses; the indefatigable salvia, asters, or the amazingly vivid late Cosmos. Early winter is a marvellously busy time - planting up 'spaghetti' tubs of bulbs - layers of daffodils, tulips, scillas and crocus. And it is protection time for sensitive shrubs or tender cuttings; cold frames, glasshouses, use of fleeces around pots, and the terracotta forcing pot for rhubarb.

Most glamorous of all in winter, holly, yew, and mistletoe berries, pyrocanthus - orange and red, are shining through the starved gloom. Mesmerising the ancients with the fact of defiant life, defeating the aios si (the spirits of the Otherworld) who were beckoned by the dark, who dogged the health and imaginings of medieval man. We bring scarlet berries, glowing green foliage, pale mistletoe, ivy and spruce into our homes, as they did. For us a reminder of light and fun, for them a prayer, and hope.

Samhain, 'Sa win', or old Irish 'Sow wen'

Reading Recommendations:

'When Icicles hang by the wall' by William Shakespeare

'Mistletoe' by Walter de la Mare

Medieval Gardens by Michael Brown

The Medieval Cookbook by Maggie Black

Joy Ellis

SEASONAL RECIPES FROM THE OLD SCHOOL (HOUSE) KITCHEN

As usual, this cookery page starts with the weather. It's currently pouring with rain but in the next five minutes it could be sunny, snowing or even thunder snow. No memories associated with this season's main course offering but something simple, tasty and nice. It's followed by a slightly complicated drink from the master of complicated, Ottolenghi.



Shoulder of Lamb with Boulangere Potatoes, from the Telegraph

Serves eight. Cooking time 3 ½ hours. This is an amazing way to cook lamb!!

8 garlic cloves	1.2kg large potatoes, peeled and thinly sliced
2kg lamb shoulder (on the bone)	About 8 sprigs thyme, leaves picked
2 tbsp olive oil	600ml lamb or chicken stock
50g unsalted butter	
3 large onions, halved and sliced	

- Heat the oven to 140C/130C fan/gas mark 1.
- Cut 8 garlic cloves into slivers.
- Make incisions all over the 2kg lamb shoulder and push the garlic into them.
- Drizzle with 2 tbsp olive oil, season then rub this all over.
- Place the lamb in a large roasting tin and cook for 3 hours, or until the meat is falling off the bone.
- Meanwhile, melt 50g unsalted butter in a large pan and sauté 3 sliced onions, in batches, until they are softening and pale gold.
- Layer 1.2kg thinly sliced potatoes with the softened onions and some seasoning in a baking dish, scattering in the leaves from the 8 thyme sprigs as you create the layers.
- After the lamb has cooked for an hour, heat 600ml lamb or chicken stock in a pan then pour it over the potatoes and onions. Put the baking dish into the oven and

cook along with the lamb.

- When the lamb is ready, remove from the oven, cover and leave to rest for 15-20 minutes. In the meantime, turn the oven temperature up to 200C/190C fan/gas mark 6 so that the top of the potatoes (which should already be tender) can develop a good colour (if they need this). Serve with the lamb.

Chef's tips: *If the top of the potatoes isn't crispy enough for you – put it under the grill for a few minutes. In addition you can add flavourings to the lamb. For instance little sprigs of rosemary put into the slits of the skin would work and I have seen anchovies being used.*

Ottolenghi's Virgin Mary or the more conventional Bloody Mary

This makes enough for a party of three if using double shots, or 6 if using single. If you want a Virgin Mary omit the vodka. If you haven't got a party, I think the mix would keep in the fridge, or you could drink it all yourself and have a hangover, content with the fact that you have had some of your five a day.

120 ml worcestershire sauce	160ml vodka
½ tsp ground black pepper	1 tsp urfa chilli
1½ tsp balsamic vinegar (<i>aged if possible</i>)	2 tbps lime juice
½ tsp celery salt (or find sea salt)	1 tsp sugar
1 tsp aleppo chilli or less	1L tomato juice

- Place the first 7 ingredients into a small saucepan and bring to the boil. Immediately turn off the heat and pour into a large jug to cool completely.
- When cool, add in the remaining ingredients and stir to combine. Place a few cubes of ice into 4 tall glasses and pour over the Bloody Mary mix. Add a celery stalk to each glass and mix to chill. Enjoy immediately.

Margaret Myszor & Jules Reynolds

REVIEW: THE WELLINGTON ARMS, *Baughurst*

I've reached that stage in life where I like to spend a portion of my weekend on my bicycle. I frequently set off with no idea of where I am headed, simply setting a distance and direction into my Garmin and happily following the map. I have cycled thousands of miles on the Berkshire Downs or up and down the Chiltern Hills, often with no hope of finding my way home without my GPS. As I whizz past pretty villages with beautiful pubs I have the same recurring thought, I must remember the name of that pub so I can come back for a meal. Twenty minutes later I can't remember what



village I went through let alone the name of the pub! So it was with a vague familiarity that I approached the Wellington Arms in Baughurst, this time by car with family for company. The Wellington Arms is a pretty country pub/restaurant with attractive gardens, about 25 minutes from Sulham. In early November the gardens were receding but I imagine summer would be perfect for dining outside.

The pub's garden sets the tone for a welcoming experience. The staff were friendly, striking a balance of relaxed informality and professional efficiency. The decor matched the atmosphere and we felt comfortable at our table. Given the popularity of the venue, I was fortunate to get a reservation at short notice. By 1pm the restaurant appeared to be full and buzzing with activity.

We began with cocktails, including an excellent espresso martini that perked me up after my 5am alarm for 6am swim that morning. The wine list is extensive, and expensive, with options to (over)spend as much as you wish. We selected a Chardonnay, which was fine.

For starters we ordered leek & potato soup served with sourdough croutons and the twice-baked goat's cheese soufflé on braised leeks and topped with a mound of parmesan. I also recall having a side of parsnip crisps with Murray River salt, the river that meanders past the Australian town my wife is from, which was perfect with the wine.

For the main course we ordered baked potato gnocchi with garlic butter and parmesan and a Vicars ribeye steak served with chips. The gnocchi was rich and filling, just as it would be on the continent. The steak was perfectly cooked but a bit gristly. I often buy meat from Vicars, especially their boerewors, which is the best I have had in the UK! It was disappointing that my steak wasn't up to scratch but I put that down to bad luck. I wasn't interested in dessert but one was ordered by my daughter and as always, it was her favourite dish of the day.

I don't recall the precise total on the bill, but it wasn't cheap at nearly £300 for a table of 3, including a young teenager. The Wellington Arms is the sort of place to visit and enjoy for an occasion, not an everyday lunch.

Overall, the meal was good and the service excellent. Would I go back? Yes, but not in a hurry. Not because I didn't enjoy the experience, but because we are very fortunate to have an abundance of great eateries within in 30 minute drive from Sulham.

Andy Madden

CHRISTMAS AT BASILDON PARK

This Christmas, Basildon Park has taken inspiration from classic dance to decorate the house and its grounds.

They invite visitors to experience the magical world of ballet with a wonderland of beautifully adorned trees, garlands and twinkling fairy lights. The house has been delightfully decorated and the theme also extends out into the gardens.



Visiting a historic house that has been adorned for Christmas is a magical experience, and really helps get you into the Christmas spirit.

The event is open now and runs until 4 January 2026 (closed Christmas Eve and Christmas Day). The house is open from 11am, with the last entry at 3pm: basildonpark@nationaltrust.org.uk.

Lucy Clow

HEALTH

BONE HEALTH – DON'T WAIT FOR THE BREAK

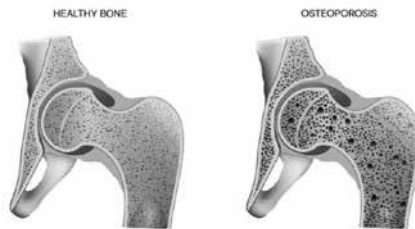
When most of us think about bone health, we imagine it becoming a concern later in life—something to worry about only after menopause for women or when a fracture happens. The truth is, strong bones are built and maintained long before the first signs of weakness appear. Prevention starts early, and new technology is now giving us the tools to assess bone health well before problems arise.



Traditionally, bone density has been measured using DEXA scans (Dual-Energy X-ray Absorptiometry). While DEXA is still commonly used in many hospitals, it mainly looks at bone mineral density (BMD) and doesn't give a full picture of bone quality. This matters, because two people may have the same density score but very different fracture risks.

This is where REMS technology (Radiofrequency Echographic Multi-Spectrometry)

comes in. REMS is radiation-free, portable, and quick (just 1–2 minutes per scan). It not only measures bone density but also analyses bone microarchitecture—the fine structure of trabecular and cortical bone. From this, it generates a Fragility Score, which helps predict fracture risk more accurately than BMD alone. Studies show REMS can even pick up hidden weaknesses that DEXA misses, and its safety means scans can be repeated regularly to track progress.



What age could we start scanning? By your 30s or 40s, we've reached peak bone mass, and from then on it's about protecting what we have. Early assessment provides a baseline and helps identify risk factors long before a first fracture. Think of it as an MOT for your skeleton—proactive, not reactive.

This new era of medical technology provides a comprehensive view of bone health that is instrumental in creating personalised treatment plans. Armed with these insights, you can take meaningful steps to preserve and improve your health and longevity, through changes and interventions such as:

- Nutrition – Adequate calcium, vitamin D, and protein are essential for bone renewal.
- Lifestyle – Avoid smoking, limit alcohol, and manage stress.
- Exercise – Weight-bearing and resistance training strengthen bone naturally.
- Therapies – Supportive options like PEMF (Pulsed Electromagnetic Field) therapy promote bone healing and tissue regeneration.

On World Osteoporosis Day in late October came the launch of The Great British Bone Check - a free three minute tool that helps people understand their risk of osteoporosis, so they can act early, stay strong and protect their future. Bone scans take this to the next level giving you all the knowledge you need to take steps to improve your bone health.

REMS is already being used in hospitals, clinics, and even by NASA to monitor bone loss in astronauts and now it is accessible locally. For details of our next local scanning date at Formula Health, 27 Shooters Hill, Pangbourne, RG8 7DZ, please keep an eye on our website or Facebook and Instagram pages. To find out more about this groundbreaking technology visit www.screenmybones.com

Gemma Fisher M.Ost Med. – Director Formula Health Ltd

Englefield CE Primary School

Sowing the Seeds for a Flourishing Future



The nights are drawing in and we are all beginning to feel that tingle of excitement for Christmas. We even had a sprinkling of snow to get us all in the spirit. School, as usual, has been busy not only with classroom learning but also competitions and events, from sports to music and everything in between.

On Tuesday 11th November, a team of Y5/6 footballers played in a county competition against five other small schools. Whilst nervous to begin with, they showed great grit and determination. Working together as a team, supported and coached by Mr Fabianczyk and Mrs Hough, they won all their matches! A superb achievement in itself but the invitation to play in the Regional Competition in the new year is another wonderful opportunity. Good luck team!



Year 3 and year 4 took part in the Elstree cross country, putting their all in to cover a whopping 1k each! The team was amazing.

In their English lessons, Year 1 have been performing poetry about mud and spaghetti! This involved playing with mud and spaghetti but not at the same time...Mrs Carney discovered that Year 1 like mud but only when it's wet. Spaghetti is definitely a favourite food, especially when it 'wiggles and wriggles like a yellow worm'.



Our Year 2 children have been perfecting their self-portraits after learning about facial proportions. They've explored how to draw themselves accurately and use appropriate colours to represent their features. Freddie reflected, *"It was quite hard*



— we had to draw a lot of lines. But it was fun. Mine was quite good and small."



In our Year 3 and 4 class, the children have been learning how to build electrical circuits and discovering that a circuit must be complete for the bulb to light up. Arlo shared, *"I thought it was fun and good to know—we need electricity in everyday life."* Louis added, *"We also tested different materials between the crocodile clips to see if they could complete the circuit. Some didn't, and they're called insulators. The ones that did are called conductors."*



Our foundation stage children have been very busy bees. They have been learning about using their senses and ventured out into the garden to put their sense of smell to work. They used their sense of taste too when they made and tried pumpkin soup. Lorenzo said *"I kind of liked what it tasted like, I didn't like the colour but I still had half because it tasted nice"*.

In the classroom they have been sharing their favourite books. Arabella said *"The mermaid book is my favourite. I like that there are goats in the book too and the goats can fly! There are also fairies!"*. In art, they made Pudsey Bear using paper plates. Eleanor said *"It was a little bit hard but it looked so good. I really, really wanted to keep it"*.

Years 5 and 6 have just recently returned from their adventures in Rhos y Gwaliau in North Wales. They climbed a mountain, journeyed down into a slate mine, canoed across the lake and went gorge-walking - some amazing adventures which they will remember for many years. It was so good to see them challenging themselves and feeling that sense of pride in their achievements.



Our choir did a sterling job singing at the Junior Music Festival at the Hexagon in Reading. They sang in a choir of 450 voices which was an amazing experience for them.

Christmas is in the air with all the crafts going on in the school. The foundation children have been getting into the spirit of Christmas by making their very own ornaments, while Years 5 and 6 have been drawing Christmas themed pictures using pen.

As the term draws to a close, the sun will set on my time as Head Teacher of Englefield CE Primary School. I would like to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to everybody who has supported me during my time here: to the staff and governors at Englefield who keep the cogs turning, the children who make me smile every day, and to the parents and local community who so frequently come together in support of our wonderful school and its pupils. I will retire with so many fond and cherished memories of my time at Englefield.



Hilary Latimer

TIDMARSH TABLE TENNIS CLUB

When the Village Hall was opened on 1st January 1954, there were very few bookings, apart from a fortnightly whist drive, but soon the Women's Institute and the Mother's Union started to meet there as well as the Parish Council.

People in the village expressed an interest in playing Table Tennis, so in May 1954, a meeting was held and enough interest was garnered to start a club, with the Village Hall purchasing a table for us. We had about 14 members to start with and we soon managed to get two additional tables so that we could play across the Hall.

In the late 60's we decided to have an annual dinner and this turned into an annual dance, held in the hall each year for around twenty years.

Some of the better players decided that they would like to play competitively, so we applied to join the Reading League. We were originally placed in Division 9 - the bottom at that time. In our first season we finished joint bottom with Reading Aerodrome, each winning one match and beating the other in the return game!

When the Club first started, all the players lived in Tidmarsh and Sulham, but over the years the Club became more popular and we introduced a Ladies team. The ladies played for about three years until Reading League scrapped the Ladies League. Nevertheless, the Club continued to gain popularity, increasing to eight teams in the Eighties.

Around 1980 the Club took on the task of redecorating the hall. But in the first week of the season, the fire officer's inspection found the hall had a polystyrene ceiling and the hall was closed. So we took down the whole ceiling and we were then allowed to play!

When the club started, Lady Graham Hodgson, who lived in the village, presented the club with a silver cup for an annual competition and it is still played for today on a handicap basis.

1983/84 was one of our most successful years. Seven of eight teams finished 1st or 2nd in their league and our team won the team Handicap cup. The club went on to win this cup regularly over the years. It took us about 50 years to get into the top division and we still have two teams there, though they are much nearer the bottom than the top!

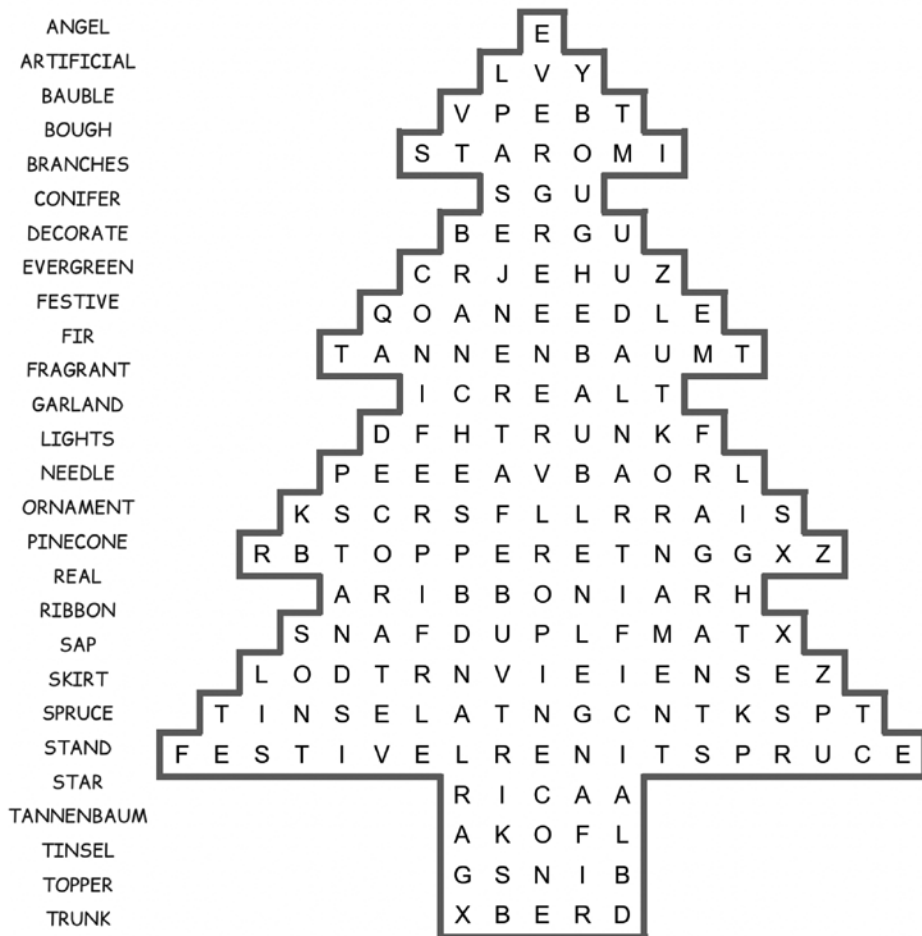
Over the years we had well over 100 players playing for the club. At its peak, there were 60 clubs and 160 teams in the Reading League. Now there are only 10 clubs and 44 teams of which we are one of the oldest.

Should anybody be interested in playing table tennis please contact me on 0118 9842736.

John Harland



PUZZLES



PHRASES AND THEIR ORIGINS

“Pot Calling the Kettle Black”: Used to refer to someone who is guilty of the very same thing they accuse another of doing. The roots of the phrase date back to the Medieval period, when both pots and kettles were from cast iron and would blacken from the soot of the fire.

“Bury the Hatchet”: Comes from a Native American practice that involved the literal burying of hatchets as a peace offering. This was eventually used in various peace treaties by colonels throughout the 18th century.

CODEWORD

Codewords are like crossword puzzles, but instead of clues, every letter of the alphabet has been replaced by a number, the same number representing the same letter throughout.

You have to decide which letter is represented by which number. To start you off, we reveal codes for some of the letters. Fill in these letters in the puzzle and start guessing words and discovering other letters.

20	6	1	12	5	21	25		14	1	5	10	4	5	17
17		22		21		5		20		9		22		20
16	20	8	22	25	12	10	4	2		7	22	16	12	10
24		23		12		9		2		26		12		13
12	23	12	9		15	12	8	8	5	9	22	17	17	5
8		14		15		17		20		20				17
8	22	4	20	22	17		5	17	5	21	22	17	9	5
		12		8		15		3		5		26		
12	26	10	5	14	20	5	17		14	4	26	6	1	14
18				25		10		26		12		12		12
21	22	17	14	12	21	10	5	4	12		20	10	5	11
12		22		13		5		22		10		20		26
10	5	15	15	20		21	5	1	10	20	21	21	20	22
1		8		16		16		20		19		5		20
4	10	12	14	14	12	14		5	8	19	5	8	19	5

A B C D E F G H I J K L M
N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

Answers will be posted on the parish council portal
<https://www.tidmarshwithsulham.co.uk/magazine.htm>

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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

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St Laurence, Tidmarsh; St Nicholas, Sulham

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Reading office 0118 950 3094

West Berkshire office (Newbury) 01635 42400

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National Rail Enquiries	08457 48 49 50
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National/local bus, train, coach, ferry and underground info	0871 200 22 33
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	www.girlguiding.org.uk

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