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PARISH
JULY
2025
NEWS
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CONTENTS JULY 2025

Contents	3	Wendy's Wanderings	16
Benefice Services	4	Summer Concert Ramsdell	17
Letter from the Editors	5	Another Word from the Copse	20
Baughurst News	6	-do-	21
Hannington News	7	Rev. Jill's Jottings	22
Ramsdell News	8	Meet the Advertisers	23
Wolverton News	9	Kingsclere Library	24
Weather Watch	14	Local Events	25
In My Garden	15	CPRE Countryside Awards	26

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Benefice Services JULY 2025

6th July Trinity 3	Ramsdell	Holy Communion	8.0 am	BCP
	Hannington	Children's Service + HC	9.30 am	CW
	Wolverton	Holy Communion	11.0 am	CW
	Baughurst	Songs of Praise	11.0 am	lay-led

13th July Trinity 4	Ramsdell	Morning Prayer	9.30 am	
	Hannington	Morning Prayer	9.30 am	lay-led
	Baughurst	Holy Communion	11.0 am	CW
	Wolverton	No Service		

20th July Trinity 5	Ramsdell	Family Service	9.30 am	Lay-led
	Hannington	Holy Communion	9.30 am	BCP
	Baughurst	Informal Service*	11.0 am	lay-led
	Wolverton	Morning Prayer	11.0 am	

27th July Trinity 6	Ramsdell	Holy Communion	9.30 am	CW
	Hannington	Morning Prayer	9.30 am	lay-led
	Baughurst	Holy Communion	11.0 am	BCP
	Wolverton	No Service		

* Informal lay-led service with refreshments afterwards.
Children are very welcome

Dear Reader, It was hard to know how to represent July in our letter this month and we've chosen a picture of a wild orchid because we have two in our garden (one has been pecked at by a pigeon). It is such a treat to have a small magenta petalled plant like this arrive on the wind and settle with us. We hope it stays and multiplies. At this time of year we leave patches of our garden wild and enjoy no weeding and very little mowing until the end of July.



Our regular contributors are in their gardens, too this month. And there are some summer events coming up on the village News pages and also p.17. The other side of the dry weather brings a warning of fire risk in a hot, dry summer (see pp 20/21). Kingsclere Library publish the results of their Limerick writing competition (p.24). We're also pleased to continue our occasional series Meet the Advertisers (p.23) and hope to bring you more of these.

We hope there's something for everyone in this issue,

Gill and Bruce Jones

Joint Editors bhrweditors@gmail.com 01256 851642

PARISH NEWS ADVERTISING RATES

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Advertising Manager: Helen Haiderr 01256 851796

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BAUGHURST NEWS

Events during July at Heath End Village Hall

Messy Play: Thursdays 9.30 - 11.45

Fridays. 9.15 - 11.45

Crafts and Laughs: Wednesdays 13.50 - 15.30

U3A Country Dancing: Wednesdays. 13.30 - 15.30

For more information about any of these events please visit the village hall website: www.heathendvillagehall.co.uk

Brenda Woods

Baughurst PCC 200 Club Draw for May 2025

The winner was Mrs R Hensman

Ramblers' Walks For Wellbeing

1. Day: Thursday – 10th July 2025 and 24th July 2025 leaving 10.30 am

2. Day: Tuesday 1st July 2025 and 15th July leaving 18.30pm **NEW**

Meet: phone Russell Clark for details of meeting place 07891 708255

Description: at a medium pace in the countryside, between 60-90 minutes, including some short hills and muddy paths. Refreshments at Gourmet Queens Café on Heath End Road after the morning walk and the Badgers Wood after the evening walk . Just turn up at 5 to 10 minutes before the leaving time to sign in. Wear suitable shoes and bring water if the weather is hot

Contact: Sara Hanson 07717 755030 (s.hanson2@me.com) for further information

Walks are also advertised on <https://www.bvaction.org.uk/wellbeingwalks>

St. Stephen's Churchyard Tidy Up

The July session will be on **Saturday, 20th July at**

10.30 am. Refreshments will be provided. We would be very grateful if you could come along with some gardening tools to help make our Churchyard beautiful! even if you can only spare half an hour. Please come as this will make a big difference.



HANNINGTON NEWS

CHUPPA

Friday 4th July at 2.30pm

For those of our CHUPPA ladies group who have been enjoying our monthly meetings, July brings along something a bit different. You are cordially invited by Sylvia Pointer-Smith to meet up in her garden at Summerdown Cottage for our usual chat and refreshments. We look forward to seeing you.

AUGUST DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

“A Trip Down Memory Lane”

9th and 10th August in the Village Hall

The Village Hall Committee are delighted to host ‘A Trip Down Memory Lane’. A curated exhibition of photographs & documents of Hannington over the last 100 years. Doors of the Village Hall will be open **Sat 9th Aug 2-6pm & Sun 10th Aug 10am-4pm** with refreshments available. Free entrance but donations gratefully received for The Welsh Air Ambulance in recognition of their prompt action in recovering Mel Dickinson to Cardiff Hospital after his recent motorbike collision.

Hannington Wine Society

Following the very successful presentation by Anne-Marie May of local Provence wines last month, the next event will be the **Garden party** on **Thursday 7th August 2025**. This will be held in one or more Hannington gardens and there will be a buffet and a selection of wines to try. Full details to follow.

A further date for your diaries: Egerton Wines will be giving a presentation of South African wines on **Thursday 23rd October**.

If you would like to come and are not already a member of Hannington Wine Society please contact Rob Finlayson at Hanningtonwinesoc@proton.me or on 07824 998831.

RAMSDELL NEWS

Ramsdell Village Lottery Winners for May 2025

£50 Peter Monger

£25 Janet Markwick

For information and to join email Paul: rvh.lotto@gmx.com

Ramsdell Ladies Club

Our June meeting was held at Jo Tanner's house and instead of sitting outside we were inside, due to the weather - flaming June it was not! We had a couple of quizzes, tea and cake. Before we went home the rain eased and we went outside and saw the ducks.

In July we will be in the village hall. There will be a talk and demonstration of meditation.

Anyone can join us, we meet at **2.30pm.** on the **3rd of July.**

Dawn Armstrong

A Summer Concert in Ramsdell Village Hall

featuring **The Kingsclere Singers** and **Priory School Choir** with a medley of songs for a summer afternoon

on **Saturday, 12th July** - from **4-6pm** - entrance from 3pm

Entrance (on the door) £10 - £5 for a parent of a child in the choir - under 16s free - to include refreshments in the interval.

In aid of Ramsdell Village Hall (charity).

See also page 17

Knit and Stitch

Thursday, 17th July at 2pm in Ramsdell Village Hall.

Any handcraft is very welcome.

We are also knitting baby hats for NH Maternity Unit appeal - easy patterns are available for you to try.

Jean Mosley

Ramsdell Coffee Morning - Everyone welcome

In aid of Air Ambulance Hosts Hazel and Daphne.

Wednesday July 30th 10.30 - 12 noon. Village Hall

Hazel Taylor

WOLVERTON NEWS

Winners of the **150 Club for June:**

- 1st prize No 28 Simon Gee
- 2nd prize No 2 Maggie Jackson
- 3rd prize No 70 Jane Budd

Quiz Night in Wolverton Village Hall was again, a successful and happy event. 30 people had a lot of fun answering questions on General Knowledge, Making History, Ditloids, True or False and Colours. Thank you to all who came along and donated prizes for the raffle, these are much appreciated as all profit is for maintenance of the village hall. We are raising funds at present for much needed work to the thatched roof. Friday evening's profit totalled £230.35.

Thank you also to the committee and others for their help with selling raffle tickets, running the bar and helping clear up afterwards.

The next Quiz Night in the hall is planned for **Friday 29th August**.

The monthly **Saturday Market** in the village hall, was again quite busy with stalls selling Bric-a-brac, plants, several crafts and more.

The next market will be on **Saturday 5th July**, doors open **9.30 am until 11 am**. Admission is free, and refreshments are available.

Do come along to browse the various stalls, and enjoy a cup of tea/ coffee and biscuit with friends and neighbours. If you would like a stall of your own, please contact Wendy Morgan on 01635 297538.

Frances Langley

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WEATHER WATCH

Hot July brings cooling showers
Strawberries and gilly-flowers



We certainly could do with a few cooling showers round here. It is hard to believe that Dover was flooded last week and we didn't have a drop! But be careful what we wish for, it might start and forget how to stop. We are enjoying the strawberries from our garden – one bonus of the drier weather is fewer slugs than last year.

A gillyflower is a carnation, dianthus or wallflower – all fragrant flowers. Gillyflowers were allegedly referenced as payment for peppercorn rent in medieval feudal-tenure contracts. You can make gillyflower wine, rather like we make elderflower cordial today.

July's weather can be stormy with amazing thunderstorms, or beautifully sunny. There is always the question whether it will rain on St Swithin's Day (15th July) when it said that it will then rain for the next 40 days? I don't think this has ever worked exactly but can be an indication of the future weather.

Our 60 year records show that the rainfall can vary from 140mm in 2007 or 122mm more recently in 2017. May 1982 only had 11mm, while 2022 was the driest ever with 0.2 mm and 2021 not far behind with 3.1mm. Who knows what 2025 will bring?

In May this year we had 18.5mm, well below the average of 54.9mm. As I write we are 100mm/4 inches behind the running total for the average year. This time last year, we were 150mm/6 inches ahead.

That's British weather for you!



Daphne Oliver-Bellasis

IN MY GARDEN

Now we are well and truly into summer and so far this year I have found my gardening hard work! First rain, then a cold east wind which dried everything up, then a little rain and now it's too hot. As I write this the temperature this weekend is going to be over 30 degrees centigrade. This is not good for the garden because I can't keep up with the watering.

But there are compensations. Some plants have been lovely. The roses are enjoying the weather - especially my Rambling Rector which is absolutely covered in flowers and gives off a lovely scent in the evenings. It borders my neighbour's drive and she's described it as a waterfall of roses. The bottle brush plant is also out with lovely orange flowers but the busy lizzies in the wall are not liking the heat. So far the hostas are really good this year, too because there are not many slugs around due to the dry weather. Hope it stays that way.



In the vegetable garden everything is struggling and needs lots of water. We haven't had any broad beans yet and the first early potatoes don't look too good either. I'll keep watering and hoping. The temperature in the polytunnel has been 44c. I'll let you know in August what sort of crop we've had.

In spite of the heat there are still jobs to be done. I will be cutting the hornbeam hedge by the road side. Also the box and yew hedges and anything else that is getting out of control. And course I'll be watering!

Happy Gardening (I think)
Hazel Taylor

WENDY'S WANDERINGS

Well here we are in Glorious June...already!... how did that happen? As we have now had rain, everything is growing like mad and we are surrounded by the lush vegetation of Hampshire,

Of course, June being the mid point of the year when we have maximum amount of sunlight and everything is expanding and exploding around us, we have to keep up and use the energy we have been given to do all the things we need to do.

We are in the middle of the amazing Strawberry Moon which is full at the time of my writing. Called strawberry by peoples in ancient times because it was the time of the wild strawberries. We now cultivate these wonderous delicious berries (which I had last night and can confirm that Hampshire strawberries are the best). Strawberries have a beautiful Spiritual symbolism. They represent the sweetness of divine love the ripening of spiritual gifts and the sweet success that is possible when we are aware of all the gifts of Nature.

Add to that the 21st of June Solstice Day and the longest Day with the most Light entering into our lives and you realize why it is called Glorious June.

I will be in my stone circle with a group of people on Solstice Day as usual. Not, I might add, at dawn! My circle is connected to the moon. So my ceremonies are conducted in the evening. We will be giving thanks for all our blessings, for the light of sunlight and all the crops (especially the strawberries!!) singing and celebrating the high point of the year.

Enjoy the Sun, the Moon, the abundance and all our blessings.
Wendy Pagdin

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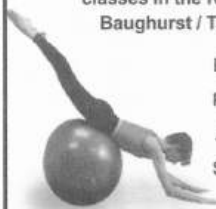
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Another word from the Copse

This spring, as we all know, has been hot and dry. Beautiful for most of us but not great for farmers! It must be such a challenge for anyone who works on the land. We've been watering and checking the 600+ whips and saplings we have planted over the past few years regularly - which is back breaking work but very necessary. We were delighted to find that we had only lost three this year, which is amazing.

(Someone did remove a number of them from along the bridleway, complete with stakes and protectors. We wonder where they ended up and hope they survived!)

Over the winter we coppiced about 100 square metres of hazel and have found the best way to protect the new growth from grazing by deer is to wrap them in chicken wire. While it is extremely expensive and not very pretty, we think we should be able to remove and reuse the chicken wire, making it quite a sustainable approach in the long term. It certainly seems to be more successful than using the brash to cover the stools as the deer simply push that out of the way.

If we let the deer have their way and eat all the new growth, the hazel will die and that leaves no home for the hazel dormouse to hibernate. So for the good of the whole woodland, this protection is crucial. And we think we have hazel dormice, but will be putting out footprint traps again a bit later in the season, to see if we can capture more evidence of them moving around the Copse.

But the really big news is about the conifers.

This news is scary! We have decided they have to go. They were planted as a crop, probably 70 years ago and have never been harvested.

Now, they are falling over in strong winds or the tops are being ripped off. The plantation is dangerous and all the debris on the floor is a fire risk which terrifies me. I regularly do a walk at dusk to ensure we don't have anyone having a party around a fire in there, as has happened on one occasion. A fireman we spoke to said it would all be gone within an hour if it caught fire and it could take so much more with it. The conifers are so dark, it is a wildlife desert under them. You can see that in the photograph.



Providing the ground remains dry and hard enough, they will go at the end of the bird nesting season. It will look brutal – there's no getting away from that. It will be disruptive as the heavy equipment will have to cross the bridleway to get the lumber out and it will be taken along footpaths to Little Aldershot from where it can be picked up by articulated lorry.

So, apologies for any inconvenience we will cause. Equipment used in the plantation will be heavy and we have accepted that the soil in there has been damaged in the past so disturbing the ground may

actually be beneficial, bringing old seed banks up to the surface and allowing the woodland to recover.

We will leave a bit of conifer at the southern end of the plantation where the trees are more sheltered as there are some birds that do need them, such as the gold and fire crests, coal tits and the raptors who all enjoy nesting in their lofty heights. Then, we need to put up deer fencing to protect new growth (for this we need to get a grant) and finally, we will be planting in excess of 3000 new broad leaved deciduous trees, as dictated by the Forestry Commission's licence. The trees will be planted either this winter or winter 26/27.

While we are at it, we already have permission to thin the whole canopy by up to 30%. Once the conifers have been removed, we will begin to take out other trees, but this work will be done in a considered way, more slowly, choosing the trees with care and using more gentle equipment in order to avoid soil compaction.

So, we hold our breath and wait to see the impact of the changes we are planning. It will change the appearance of the landscape, but hopefully, in time, it will be an improved place for wildlife.

Anne Ayres
www.ghcopse.co.uk

REV. JILL'S JOTTINGS FOR JULY

Dear Readers,

Sunday June 15th is known in church as Trinity Sunday. Amongst much valuable guidance I was given whilst in training for the priesthood was this, "if you can avoid preaching on Trinity Sunday, do so!" The idea of the Trinity is complicated, indeed pretty inexplicable. How on earth can one God be three persons?

Thankfully after many helpful conversations with parishioners and after reading many books, I've learnt a bit. The word 'Persons', used in this context means characters, not individuals. It comes from a Greek word (*personae*) used when actors in plays used masks to represent the different characters in the play.



So speaking of God being 3 persons is a way of helping us to realise that there are three ways in which we might sense the reality of God.

- 1) God the Creator and Sustainer. It is indeed through the wonder, beauty, complexity and mystery of the natural world that touches so many of us and gives us a sense of purpose over and above the world.
- 2) God the Son. A remarkable human being who has shown us as much as we can grasp of the nature and purposes of God.
- 3) God the Holy Spirit. God's living presence in the world acting through conscience, imagination, reason and guiding us into what the old prayer book describes as a godly, righteous and sober life.

So, one God, who reveals God's nature and reality in three different ways.

And finally, there are other '3s' we know of: past, present, future; or solid, liquid, gas; or the primary colours, red, blue, yellow. I find that intriguing.

And absolutely finally, the opening chapter of the Holy Bible tells us that we are created by God in God's image - 'male and female created he them.'

*Shalom,
Rev. Jill Bentall*

MEET THE ADVERTISERS

An occasional series where the people who advertise here in the magazine give us a bit more information about themselves.

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Kingsclere Community Library



Consultation

We are currently running a short consultation, only six questions, and the main thing we are looking for is feedback about our opening hours. There are paper copies of the consultation for you to complete in the library, or you can find it on our website at www.kingsclerelibrary.co.uk. The consultation will run until the middle of July, so please don't delay, have your say!

The Limerick Competition

The results are in! All entries were sent to Andy Murrill, the Editor of the Newbury Weekly News who kindly agreed to judge this competition, and the winners are as follows:-

Winner of the 10 and under category is Poppy Preston, who submitted this wonderful limerick:-

I was reading a good book
Do you want to take a look
I read it with my Mum
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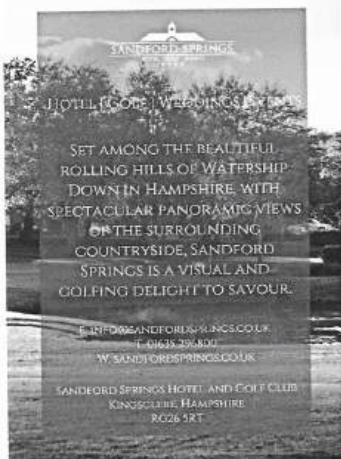
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Editorial Contacts are on page 3 & Advertising Rates on Page 5 of the magazine.

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