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AUGUST
2025
NEWS
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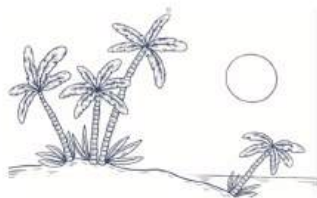
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Benefice Services AUGUST 2025

3rd Aug Trinity 7	Ramsdell	Holy Communion	8.00 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
10th Aug. Trinity 8	Ramsdell	Morning Prayer	9.30 am	
	Hannington	Morning Prayer	9.30 am	lay-led
	Baughurst	Holy Communion	11.0 am	CW
	Wolverton	No Service		
17th Aug. Trinity 9	Ramsdell	Morning Prayer	9.30 am	lay-led
	Hannington	Holy Communion	9.30 am	BCP
	Baughurst	Famiy Service	11.0 am	lay-led
	Wolverton	Morning Prayer	11.0 am	
24th Aug. Trinity 10	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		
31st Aug. Trinity 11	Baughurst	Pets Service	11.0 am	

Dear Reader,



August is the traditional month for holidays and we hope you've found ways to enjoy or deal with, the heatwaves we've had in July. Now August has arrived, we want the current summer holiday weather to continue. Our fingers are crossed.

In this month's magazine we have reports on some of the many village events that took place in June and July - please keep them coming in, it's good to learn how our communities come together for fund-raising and to enjoy themselves. Our individual villages also have events planned for August which we hope you will want to join in. On a different note there is a piece about village security (p.21) Another of our Advertisers tells you a bit about themselves (p.20) and our regular contributors have once again brought us their thoughts for this August issue.

We hope you enjoy this month's reading
Gill and Bruce Jones

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PARISH NEWS ADVERTISING RATES

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We print 1,000 copies of the magazine each month. They are delivered by hand to private houses, churches and local businesses.

Advertising Manager: Helen Haiderr 01256 851796

Email: bhrw.advertising@gmail.com

BAUGHURST NEWS

Baughurst PCC 200 Club Draw for 2025

The winner for the June draw was: Sue Page

Rowena Hensman



St. Stephen's Churchyard Tidy Up

Our monthly tidy up sessions are held on the 3rd Saturday of the month. We are very grateful if you can 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.

The next session will be on : **Saturday, 16th August at 10.30am** Refreshments will be provided.

Rowena Hensman

Heath End Village Hall

The artificial grass around the ball wall has been replaced. The village hall committee obtained grants for this. We have also installed CCTV at the hall.

Brenda Woods

Ramblers' Walks For Wellbeing

Day: Thursday – 14th August 2025 and 28th August 2025

Time: leaving at 10.30am from the Scout Hut, Ash Lane, Baughurst

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. Just turn up at 5 to 10 minutes before the leaving time to sign in and 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>

Sara Hanson

HANNINGTON NEWS

Friday 1st August 2025

Chuppa Ladies will meet at 2.30pm on Friday 1st August at the Village Hall, Please come and join us to to share afternoon refreshments and good company For information: Tel 01635 298052. All are welcome.

Thursday 7th August 2025

Hannington Wine Society Garden party

This will be held in two Hannington gardens and there will be a buffet and a selection of wines to try.

All welcome and no wine knowledge is required.

For full details please contact Rob Finlayson
at Hanningtonwinesoc@proton.me or on 07824 998831.

Date for your Diaries.

Egerton Wines will be giving a presentation of South African wines on Thursday 23rd October.

Saturday and Sunday 9th & 10th August 2025

The Village Hall Committee are delighted to host a

Trip Down Memory Lane

a curated exhibition of Hannington photographs and documents over the last 100 years.

Doors Open : **Sat. 2-6pm Sun. 10am-4pm**

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.

RAMSDELL NEWS

Ditches

The Parish Council have been advised that some local residents are using the ditches near, adjacent, or opposite their properties to dispose of their garden waste. Ditches are to be kept clear to stop flooding. We would also like to make you aware that it is, in fact, fly tipping. Please dispose of your garden waste correctly by contacting BDBC for a garden waste service or taking to a Household Waste Recycling Centre.

Thank you for your support.

Wootton St Lawrence with Ramsdell Parish Council

Lottery Winners for June

£50 Robert Beckett

£25 Maggie Richardson

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

Paul Markwick

Ladies Club

The Ladies Club held their July meeting in the village hall. Carol, a friend of Jo's, came and showed us how to meditate, with some success. Now we must keep it up.

Our **August meeting** on **Thursday August 7th** will be in Jane's garden at **2.30pm**. See you there

Dawn Armstrong

August Knit and Stitch

Thursday, 21st August from 2-4 pm in the hall. This will be a special event for the children's school holidays - see page 24 for details.

Jean Mosley

Coffee Morning

There will be no coffee morning in August.

Next coffee morning will be **24th September** in the Village Hall.

Hosts: Hazel and Jenny F. *In Aid of Macmillan Cancer Care.*

WOLVERTON NEWS

Winners of the July 150 Club draw:

1st. No. 46 - S Slatford

2nd. No. 36 - Sophia Gabbott

3rd. No. 13 – Harriet Gabbott

The **Saturday Market** in Wolverton Village Hall on 5th July was very busy and at least the temperature was slightly cooler. Stalls included bric-a-brac, plants & vegetables, several crafts, and jigsaw puzzles. Refreshments were again provided by Kim & Graham Hodgkin and were very welcome.

The next Saturday market will be on **Saturday 2nd August, 9.30 am to 11 am** Admission is free. Please come along and support this small village market, browse the various stalls and enjoy a cup of tea or coffee with friends and neighbours. If you would like a stall of your own, please contact Wendy Morgan on 01635 297538.

Our next **Quiz night** in Wolverton Village Hall will be on **Friday 29th August**, doors open at 7pm for a prompt start at 7.30pm. Cost is £5 per head and teams of 4 or less please. A bar and a raffle will be available. All proceeds will go towards re-furbishing the Village Hall thatched roof. If you would like to book a table please email franceslangley@hotmail.com

Future Events

The **Harvest Lunch 2025** is planned for Saturday 8th November, doors will open at 12.30 pm for lunch at 1pm. Cost will be £10 per head. This is always a friendly and happy occasion, please do come along and join us. A bar and raffle will be available.

Frances Langley

A report on the Wolverton Midsummer Bazaar held on June 21st is on page 17.

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WEATHER WATCH



August brings the sheaves of
corn

Then the Harvest home is
borne



I love August – the feel of holiday time and memories of many a happy picnic in the harvest field, when we were farming. Sheaves of corn went out many years ago, so I have given you a picture of a bale of straw instead! Our garden is suddenly producing lots of delicious fruit and vegetables, thanks to all our watering with our syphoned-out bath water! Who needs to go to a gym when you can carry heavy cans of water around the garden.

The harvest in the fields is well under way as I write and may well be over by the time you read this. I remember when we were farming – one year we had finished harvest by 1st August and the following year we had not even started. I fear the yields will be well down as there has been no rain to swell the grains. Certainly there will be a lot less hay around for animals in the winter. We haven't mown our lawn for weeks.

So little rain has fallen in Ramsdell since 1st March. Only 72mm in 4 ½ months. I think I prefer that to the floods we have heard about on the news in Texas or Spain. It is reminiscent of 1976, but looking back at the figures we had 88mm during the same period in 1976.

The 60-year average rainfall for August is 61.8 mm at Wootton. The wettest years were 1999 with 135.3mm and 1992 with 133.5mm. The driest were 1995 with 12.1mm and 1976 with 13.1mm. Last year we had 28.5mm while in 2023 we had 100.5mm.

Daphne Oliver-Bellasis

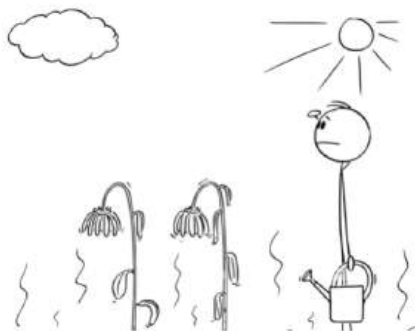
IN MY GARDEN

Well if we do not have some significant rain soon I will not have a garden to write about! Lots of shrubs are wilting and the crab apple tree is going yellow and dropping its leaves. If we get a hosepipe ban I think lots of plants will die.

I do have some colour in the garden, the pink and white phlox are at their best and one good thing with the lack of water is the hostas have no slugs! In the wall by the patio the busy lizzies which were slow to get going are looking great now - thanks to watering! I have been watering everything.

In the vegetable garden our first early potatoes are good but we only had two helpings of broad beans - then they all dried up. We are harvesting sugar snap peas and courgettes. In the poly tunnel we are picking mini munch cucumbers and tomatoes. The butternut squash and water melons are growing well but we haven't had any fruit from them yet.

I do hope the weather gets a bit cooler - I haven't had a chance to cut the box and yew hedges yet it's been much too hot. Another benefit to the dry weather is that even the weeds have dried up. Perhaps by the time you read this we will have had some significant rain and plants will have a chance to recover.



At least there's no
mowing to do!
Happy Gardening
Hazel Taylor

WENDYS WANDERINGS

Well, we are having a real English Summer... hot, Sunny, Wimbledon, strawberries, barbeques, wearing hats and sunglasses. All things Summer.

I would like to add to that list Fabulous Birthday Garden Parties. Because I have just been to one in Ramsdell. A Fiesta Party!! with everyone dressed in bright colours wearing flowers or crazy hats, a mariachi band, the garden full of wonderful plants, two teepees, caterers, family from Wales, old university friends, children and neighbours. I arrived early at three o'clock to meet the adult magician who wandered around doing tricks whilst the cocktails and canapes were served and everyone had a chance to mingle and wander and meet new people. Then, the barbeque was served with the most amazing salads. Afterwards we had dancing and exploring the Labyrinth. Then as it got dark the fire pits were lit and the singing started (the Welsh always sing so well). Those who wanted to went home and young lads took over the cocktail bar in true Tom Cruise style creating new versions of their own. As the energy dipped, the birthday girl brought out the cheese which livened everyone up no end. Thank you Pond Cottage for a marvellous party which reminded me of the seventies when we village youngsters all had small children and partied every weekend at someone's house taking the children with us until they dropped then putting them to bed where ever we were. Happy Days.

The next day we had a family barbeque in the field then at 6 o'clock I went and joined many people for drinks at the village hall to say goodbye to Maggie Richardson who is leaving the village after fifty years. It was lovely to see old villagers who have left the village, come back to wish her well. We will miss her very much she was so much part the fabric of Ramsdell. We wish her well in her new home near her daughter.

Enjoy the Summer and keep partying!!

Wendy Pagdin

Reports on Local Events (1)

Wolverton Midsummer Bazaar

On **21st June**, a Midsummer Bazaar took place in Wolverton Village Hall to raise money for refurbishing the thatched roof. We have quotations in the region of £20,000 for the work and have applied for several grants to help pay for the work, but the committee is also raising funds.

We received generous donations of prizes plus home-made cakes, books, and plants. Unfortunately, footfall was less than we had hoped, (probably due to the intense heat). Thanks go to everyone who came along and thanks to all those who helped set up, run stalls, and clean up afterwards. We raised £528.85 on the day plus sales of more puzzles and donations later of £71.50 totalling £600.35.

There's still time to make a donation towards the roof; you can pay directly into our bank account: Wolverton Village Hall, Sort Code. 30-95-89, A/c No: 00494459. We appreciate any help you can give.

Frances Langley

Open Gardens Around Ramsdell 28th and 29th June

The heat was challenging but this was a popular event with a chance to visit gardens in and around Ramsdell on Saturday and Sunday afternoons. The village hall was open for teas and the plant sale.

Heartfelt thanks go to all who opened their gardens; who manned the teas, plant stall and ticket sales; who baked cakes, donated plants or helped us in any way and of course thanks to all those who came and supported the event. £850 was raised for the village hall.

Jenny Finch

For a report on the Kingsclere Singers and Priory School Choir concert, please see page 23.



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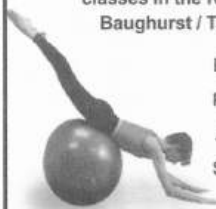
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MEET THE ADVERTISERS - Black Fox Chimney Sweeping

The world of chimney sweeping has moved on quite a lot from the days when small boys had to climb up inside chimneys to sweep soot out by hand.



However, a clean chimney is just as important today as it was back then to make sure your fire burns cleanly, efficiently and safely in your home.

Gone are the days when chimney sweeping was a messy business with soot going everywhere. Modern chimney sweeping uses flexible rods and nylon cord brushes which are spun inside the chimney. This, combined with a powerful industrial vacuum cleaner makes the process quick, clean and effective.



My name is Lee and I run Black Fox Chimney Sweeping, an independent business based in Newbury. I cover most of West Berkshire and North Hampshire sweeping everything from huge inglenook fireplaces in stately homes to tiny wood burning stoves on canal boats. I've been a chimney sweep

for many years and I'm a member of the association of professional independent chimney sweeps. I pride myself on doing a professional and thorough job whilst being scrupulously clean and tidy. But don't take my word for it. Have a look at some of my many 5 star Google reviews:

- Clean and very professional - would highly recommend."
- The best service we've ever had from a chimney sweep! Lee was cheerful, professional, helpful, tidy and efficient."
- Lee at Black Fox is brilliant: a really thorough clean of chimney and stove plus some very helpful expert advice. Highly recommended."

www.blackfoxsweep.co.uk.

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Village Security - Are we doing enough to protect our local area?

I am a member of a Group called the Force [Hampshire Constabulary] Independent Advisory Group, which is the Hampshire Constabulary's sounding board to the public, I am involved with rural crime at all levels.

Today, as never before, our local security is in our own hands. Police budgets are in the same place as NHS, social care, defence, education. It is under extreme pressure. Do we expect too much from our police? Probably. Can we help more? Yes.

The key issue is the need for all of us to keep reporting all types of crime or unusual behaviour. We can do this either online (details below) or by telephoning 101. We need to be vigilant around our area. If we notice a vehicle or people who seem out of place – report it. The idea is to make our villages unfriendly to the 'ne'er do wells' by letting the police know. A seemingly unimportant fact to us, might help them solve a problem.

You can email our Dedicated Rural Officer PC (28153) Ulrike Maier -[ulrike.maier@hampshire.police.uk]. She looks after our area as part of her wider area. Or if you feel strongly about a Policing issue contact our Police Complaints Commissioner, Ms Donna Jones - [donna.jones@hampshire.police.uk]. She is responsible to us for Police performance in Hampshire.

Hugh Oliver-Bellasis, OBE

REV JILL'S JOTTINGS FOR AUGUST

Dear Parishioners,

Last week's Church Times once again carried the advertisement for a priest for your Benefice. I trust that in the fullness of time there will be an appointment. It prompted me to check my records to see when I began my monthly visits - December 2021. I've shared in a number of weddings, baptisms and funeral services, as well as Carol and Pet services, too. I have always been made very welcome - thank you and I count myself very blessed (at a somewhat advanced age!) still to be invited and capable of continuing.

Also spotted in last week's Church Times was an article about retired clergy. Apparently we take 40% of all Church of England services. We do not know what the future holds. Throughout its history and indeed over the course of my own life, Church has changed and developed.

Most importantly we are now starting to realise what 'God is love' might actually mean. Whilst, of course, there are serious consequences for violent, selfish, dishonest and cruel behaviour, we understand God's responses as a longing to heal and make new beginnings possible. The Bible quote 'Vengeance is mine saith the Lord' is no longer understood as primarily about punishment but as God taking responsibility and relieving human beings of the need for vengeance.

There is always much to ponder. News of conflict, cruelty, terror and greed is plentiful. How it can all be resolved seems, humanly speaking, impossible. The Bible speaks of God exercising both justice and mercy, both qualities are needed for us to trust the word of Mother Julian of Norwich.

"All shall be well and all manner things shall be well".

Shalom, Rev. Jill Bental

REPORTS ON LOCAL EVENTS (2)

Kingsclere Singers and Priory School Choir concert on Saturday 12th July.

Ramsdell Village Hall was packed for this delightful afternoon concert given by these two choirs and held in aid of the village hall. They entertained us with songs from the musicals and elsewhere, some light-hearted, some amusing, others moving or meaningful, the enthusiasm and enjoyment of both choirs being infectious. Each choir sang their numbers before combining thrillingly at the end.

We left having also been refreshed in the interval by cold drinks aplenty and home-made cakes (included in the ticket price) on this hot afternoon. Our thanks to everyone who helped to make this such a pleasant event in spite of the heat and especially to the singers for giving us all a musical treat. We hope they will come again. Both choirs gave freely of their time for which we are very grateful. £240 was raised for the Village Hall.' *Jenny Finch*

Kingsclere Singers' New Term Starts Monday 8th Sep.

We at the Kingsclere Singers are a friendly easy going group of people that just love to sing together and be social in a safe place.

If you love singing, with what ever ability you have and you just want to find a friendly, inviting place to be yourself and release the stresses, repetitiveness, or lonely weeks. Please come and give us a chance to lift your spirits in song.

We are all looking forward to meeting you, you can find us on Facebook (Kingsclere Singers Group) or at our website www.kingsclere-singers.co.uk





Knit and Stitch AUGUST Everyone welcome

**Thursday 21st August 2pm to 4pm
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Thanks to everyone's generosity I raised £600.

Thank you! Helen

Kingsclere Community Library

August is all about children!! **Summer Reading Fun** has started and it will run until at least the middle of September. It's open to children of all ages – books can be read by the child, by the parent to the child or listened to on a CD. It all counts! Sign up and **read 6 books and receive a certificate, a medal and a chocolate treat.** Get your entry wallet and stickers from **KINGSCLERE COMMUNITY LIBRARY** and start reading!

Don't forget that Chris is running Stories and Songs sessions for children of any age on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month at 2.30, so pop in and join the fun!

If you have a couple of hours to spare and would like to help keep the Kingsclere Community Library open, please come and talk to us.

HOURS	Tuesday and Thursday	1.00pm – 5.30pm
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Editorial Contacts are on page 3 & Advertising Rates on Page 5 of the magazine.

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