

June 2026

Chaddleworth News



In this new edition...

- ✓ Fetes and Festivals,
- ✓ A double-page doggie spread,
- ✓ letters and notices from the parish,
- ✓ one Royal appointment and another with gravity,
- ✓ Chaddleworth Book Group and many more news items,
- ✓ Under 5s and School updates,
- ✓ the latest Chaddleworth Village Hall 100 Club winners,
- ✓ updates from the Parish Council,
- ✓ and plenty more information from our local groups, charities, and businesses.

Please provide your letters, suggestions and contributions for the next, August edition by 20th July 2026. Thank you! **Ed.**

Find us inside...



www.ChaddleworthParish.gov.uk
ChaddNews@gmail.com

Co-Editors: David Jennings, Tish Slade. Distribution Team: John Ballard, Ruth & Andrew Lee, Nikkie & Kevin Macnamara, Joe Mills, Grahame Murphy, Sue Ridgeway. Printing costs are paid for by Chaddleworth Parish Council.

Electronic colour eCopy available on the village website.

Donald Richard Collins Wheeler

Donald Richard Collins Wheeler, or Don as he was always known to his family and friends was born on the 29th of January 1935. He was the younger son of Ivy and Leslie Wheeler. Don started his education at the Preparatory School in Newbury, where he retained many of his friendships for life. This was followed by boarding at his secondary school, Romsey in Hampshire.

School was followed by a 5-year apprenticeship in aircraft engineering at Vickers Armstrong in Newbury. It wasn't uncommon that Don flew in helicopters as part of his day-to-day life. He was in one of the last years to be called up to do his 2-year National Service, he was assigned to the RAF.

He later joined the family motor business in Basingstoke, after little time he took over from his father to run the business.

He met his wife Jan whilst playing tennis with mutual friends, they got engaged 6 months later and married 18 months after that. A few years later they were blessed with two children, a son Tim in 1967 and then a daughter Anna in 1970.

They lived at Bucklebury for 36 years.

Don's loves included his garden where he spent many happy hours working away on all the plants, shrubs and trees. He enjoyed helping with the two ponies the children had, plus the family dog, always a busy time.

In 1996 after the children left home Don and Jan made the decision to move to Chaddleworth which is where they have lived since. He felt very lucky to have lived in Chaddleworth all these years. Don loved the village environment. He especially loved his early morning walks with their labrador Cacha across the fields, through the church yard back to home and always enjoying seeing the beautiful Highland cattle in the field.

Don was a sportsman, he loved his tennis from an early age, swimming, boating too. Don was a big car enthusiast, having worked in the industry all his working life.

Sadly, in early December 2025 Don tripped on some steps in a local café whilst out with Jan having afternoon tea and spent 12 weeks in hospital. Even though other medical issues became significant to his health, Jan and Anna managed to get Don home from hospital for 3 weeks, something Don was desperate to do. Don sadly passed away peacefully on the 25th March with both Jan and Anna holding his hands.

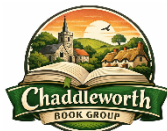
Anna Rainbow



Letters

Chaddleworth Book Group

Two **Chaddleworth Book Group** meetings were enjoyed in April and May.



At the April meeting, we hope that the 13 ladies did not disturb any other visitors to the lbex with lots of chat and laughter.

In May, the book "*Hamnet*" provided lots of discussion with the imagined story of plague, grief and loss in Shakespeare's family.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 23rd June at The Old Vicarage at 7:30 and the chosen book is "*The Island of Missing Trees*" by Elif Shafak. "*A beautifully written, magical, account of a love story*" (*Good Reads review*).

Even if you do not read a lot, (or at all) you will be welcomed. Come along to a meeting just to enjoy the company, make new friends, have a nice evening out.

We plan to hold a mixture of meeting places, some at the lbex, some in our homes. Hosting is totally voluntary and no one is expected to do it. It is understood that we all have differing amounts of time, energy or space. July meeting or book choice not yet decided.

The group so far, is a female one but men will certainly be made welcome.

Please phone or email Lea for information on **01488 638488** or lea.naples@motionlink.co.uk

Lea Naples

Help Please!

Chaddleworth St Andrew's Church needs to be cleaned once a month. As people who have been helping with this cleaning for years have left the village or retired there are now five months where we do not have volunteers and, therefore, I clean the church.

With two people the cleaning takes approximately one hour, with one person approximately two hours.

Please would you volunteer to help?
Sue Ridgeway 01488 638271

Great Shefford Under Fives

My husband and I had a wonderful day out at a Buckingham Palace Garden Party, to represent **Great Shefford Pre-School**, thanks to a nomination of a parent from Chaddleworth. I was very proud to represent our small charity and the contribution it makes to the lives of our families and community. Thank you!

Denise Herrington



Chaddleworth's Canicross Champion

Chaddleworth's spaniel **Diesel** has delivered a remarkable canicross season, capped off with a championship-winning performance at Catton Hall, Derbyshire.

Usually seen charging through local lanes while towing his mum, **Izzy Bush**, Diesel took on a new challenge this season following her recent operation, teaming up with experienced canicross runner **Mark Bentley**. Despite never having raced together before, the pair quickly formed a powerful partnership, consistently placing among seasoned competitors.

Heading into the Easter four-day finale, Diesel sat third overall but remained firmly in contention for the podium, with a race in hand. Competing in the Male Masters Short Course, the small but determined sprocker faced much larger hounds and collies, many with years of racing experience, while Diesel himself was only just beyond his novice season.



Day one saw him storm to victory over a shortened 1,500m course, finishing in 5:15 mins and winning the day by a single second – securing at least third place overall. On day two, with everything to play for, Diesel powered through the 3km course in an outstanding 11:23 mins, finishing second while his closest rival placed fourth, enough to clinch the overall series title with a race still to go!

On the final day, despite already securing victory and running on tired legs, Diesel and Mark went even faster, finishing 19 seconds quicker than the previous day and sealing their status as **Midlands Male Masters Short Course Champions for 2025-26**.

From a Dogs Trust rescue to a champion, Diesel's journey is truly inspiring! Small in size, huge in heart, and without doubt the best puller on the start line.

Massive congratulations to Diesel! **Izzy**

Canicross is the sport of off-road, cross-country running where you run tethered to your dog. Originally developed in Europe as off-season dry-land training for sled dogs, it is now a highly popular, inclusive sport for runners and dogs of all breeds and abilities.

Dogs Trust Newbury

Dogs Trust Newbury, located in Hamstead



Marshall, is urgently appealing for more dog lovers to come forward to volunteer as foster carers. The appeal comes as the charity continues to receive over 700 enquiries a week from people facing the heartbreaking decision to rehome their dogs.

It said foster carers have "all the joys of having a dog without the long-term commitment and with the flexibility to take a break whenever needed".



Natasha Tarrant, Chaddleworth parishioner and Rehoming Centre Manager at Dogs Trust Newbury, said:

"With so many dogs needing our help right now, foster carers are absolutely vital. By offering a temporary home, you're giving a dog safety, comfort and love at a time when they need it most."

She added: *"We know that many dogs don't cope well in a kennel environment, so Dogs Trust Newbury is focusing on fostering as an alternative for those that would find kennel life hard. Fostering is such a rewarding experience, and a way to make a real difference without a long-term commitment."*

Foster carers open their homes to dogs on a temporary basis until they are matched with their forever families, whether that's for a few days or a few months. Dogs Trust also shares its training expertise with foster carers, helping them to build confidence and gain a deeper understanding of dogs and their behaviour. All costs are covered by the charity, including food, bedding, grooming, and vet treatment.

Ideally homes would be adult-only but the charity said it would consider applications from homes with children aged 10 and over.

It would also need volunteers to be within "reasonable" distance from the Berkshire rehoming centre or others run by the charity because foster dogs might need to go to a vet, a training team for support or meet potential new families.

To find out more or to apply to become a Dogs Trust foster carer, please visit www.dogstrust.org.uk/foster

Visits to Dogs Trust Newbury are now by appointment only. If you would like to apply to adopt a dog, please fill in our online application form and, if a match is found, the charity will arrange an appointment for you to meet them.

www.dogstrust.org.uk/newbury





Alzheimer's Society

Alzheimer's Society Skydive

On Sunday we took on an unforgettable challenge as we completed our charity skydive in support of **Alzheimer's Society** – and what an incredible experience it was!

From the moment we stepped onto the plane to the adrenaline rush of falling through the sky, every second was amazing. After the freefall came the peaceful glide back down under the parachute, giving us the chance to take in the incredible views and truly appreciate what we were doing it for.

Thanks to the generosity and support from everyone who donated, attended our coffee



morning, and joined in with the meat raffle, we are so proud to say we have raised a total of **£2,276** (and counting) for Alzheimer's Society.

We are incredibly grateful to everyone who helped us reach this amazing amount for such an important cause. Your support means so much!

If you would still like to donate, please use link or scan the QR code...

Thank you so much!

Tish & Markus Slade

www.justgiving.com/team/tishmarkusfundraiser



Congratulations to the New Couple



Huge Congratulations to Lin and Merv on their engagement on Saturday 18th April (Lin's birthday) from everyone in the village that knows them. **Nikkie**

**DOWNLAND
VOLUNTEER
GROUP**



Downland Volunteer Group

Volunteer Health Transport

The last year has been another busy one for the Downland Volunteer Group. In the last financial year ending in March this year we made 1293 trips for Downland residents to attend their medical appointments of which 27 were for residents in Chaddleworth

In January this year we celebrated the 40th anniversary of the formation of the DVG. Most of the village news sheets and the

Newbury Weekly News carried the story. We also held a buffet lunch to celebrate attended by District Councillors, Doctors from the Downland Practice, who are very supportive of our work, West Berks Council personnel and the first Chairperson and co-founder of the DVG. We also had representatives from the Downs School who in 1984 in a social studies class identified the need for transport to help residents attend their medical appointments. Because the Downland villages are spread out it is difficult to provide adequate public transport.

We continue to promote our service with new people moving into the area and our constant challenge to attract more volunteer car drivers. Chaddleworth supports the DVG with three volunteer car drivers one of which is also a Director and Treasurer. We would welcome more volunteers as demand continues and we lose some older drivers because of their age or for health reasons. Driving a resident to the surgery would normally take no more than 2 hours out of your day and trips to the surgery account for 25% of our total trips. If you know of anyone that can help or wants to escape their laptop for a few hours, driving for the DVG is rewarding for both passenger and driver and your mileage claim is paid tax free.

We also operate the Downland Volunteer Group HandeBus, the first all-electric community transport vehicle in West Berkshire which helps certain villages to go shopping and also offers 'Fantastic Friday' trips for neighbours to visit places of interest nearby.

Last year DVG volunteers gave a total of **3352** hours of their time for free to support the Downland community

Email dvg.office@btinternet.com or phone **01635 578394** (between 9.30am-11.30am Monday -Friday). Our website is www.downlandvolgroup.org **Joe Clerkin**



River Baptism

Great Shefford welcomed an exciting new event at St Mary's Church. The day was beautiful, albeit a bit chilly, with a few passing showers. Gathered together at the church, the enticing aroma of BBQ filled the air, accompanied by a gentle waft of smoke. A lovely service followed with *Bishop Mary*, the Bishop of Reading, along with *Rev Mike* and *Rev Matt*.

We were gathered to celebrate as eight people from the congregation, including a Chaddleworth parishioner, were to be baptised. Each shared their heartfelt journey to faith, making for an emotional experience for them and for the listening congregation.

Following the service and enjoying some rousing singing in church, still singing everyone made their way down to the River Lambourn led by Bishop Mary, Rev Mike, and Rev Matt.

An area had been prepared to welcome everyone, with kind permission from Dominic & Miranda Armstrong. After warming up by the fire, Bishop Mary, Rev Mike, and Rev Matt hesitatingly stepped into the river. Then, eight people were baptised with a full immersion in the river!

Everyone then returned to the church for a cosy cup of coffee they finished the service before heading outside for a wonderfully prepared BBQ and drinks, socialising, and to enjoy the lovely afternoon sun.

Denise Herrington



Chaddleworth Easter Egg Hunt

Chaddleworth Entertainments would like to thank everyone who came along to the annual egg hunt. It was such a lovely afternoon and the weather held out for everyone to find some rabbits and eggs!

This event is funded by money raised by *Chaddleworth Entertainments*, mostly by the annual village fete. Thank you to all of the volunteers that came along to help out!

Tish





The Ibx Inn Race Night

What a night it was in support of Berkshire Youth. A huge thank you to the organisers, and everyone who came along, placed their bets, cheered on the races – it was a brilliant evening. We are very pleased to have raised over £500 for this wonderful cause.

Gavin, Tish & The Ibx Team

101 Squadron Memorial Service

U.S. and UK military personnel joined local community members for a memorial service at RAF Welford, England, 31st March 2026. The service honoured the brave multinational crew of 101 Squadron Lancaster DV290 SR-X, which tragically crashed on the airfield at RAF Welford 31st March 1944. The team was returning home from a Nuremberg raid having conducted vital electronic countermeasures. Sadly, the entire crew of 8 perished in the crash. Decades later, we continue to remember their sacrifice and service. The memorial stands as a lasting tribute to their courage and the enduring bond between nations.



Easter Duck Derby

Huge thanks for your tremendous support for the Duck Derby this year to raise money to preserve our historic village churches. We sold all 1,000 ducks again and had a wonderful Easter teas at the hall.

Denise Herrington

The winners are:

- 🦆 £200 duck 979 Ian from Chaddleworth
- 🦆 £100 duck 391 Liz Saunders
- 🦆 £50 duck 748 Carrie Scarrott
- 🦆 £30 duck 429 Jacky Gell
- 🦆 £20 duck 378 Felix Low



Thank you to *Councillor G. Bread* for laying a wreath at this year's RAF Welford Memorial Service on behalf of Chaddleworth Parish.

Chaddleworth Cricket Club



CHAD VS RAMSBURY

Kieran opened brilliantly, taking an early wicket thanks to a catch behind from wicketkeeper Steve Turner, while Ben Barrett settled into a tight spell after a couple of early boundaries.

Chad fielded superbly throughout, with Ted and Craig Edwards combining saving a four from being scored, before another Ramsbury wicket fell into Steve Turner's gloves. By the ninth over Ramsbury were 50-2, with Kieran later taking a superb diving catch off bens bowling.

After a great tea, Chad began their chase. The two Steves opened, but both fell early before Jack and Craig steadied things. Jack then accelerated alongside Ben Barrett, Eddie Campbell and Paul, hitting a series of boundaries and sixes before retiring on 50.

Ted continued the scoring with Paul as Chad pushed on. Unfortunately, due to an injury to a Ramsbury player, the game was abandoned early and finished as a draw. We wish the Ramsbury player a speedy recovery.

UPCOMING FIXTURES

7th June – Peasmore – 1:30pm (H)

14th June – Crazies Hill & Cockpole Green – 1pm (H)

21st June – Wantage & Grove – 1:30pm (A)

28th June – Reading Uni Alum – 1pm (H)

5th July – Letcombe Regis – 2pm (A)

12th July – Inkpen – 1pm (A)

19th July – Gentlemen of West London – 1pm (H)

26th July – Willow Tree CC – 1pm (H)



PAVILLION DEFIBRILLATOR

Chaddleworth Cricket Club has now got a defibrillator, that makes three in the village! This potentially life-saving device has been installed on the side of the cricket pavilion and with the kind permission of the landowner, Peter Hambro, will be fully accessible to the public 24/7. What 3 Words location [///handyman.lakeside.streaking](https://www.what3words.com/#!/handyman.lakeside.streaking)

Our defibrillator has been registered on The Circuit, the national defibrillator network, which provides the NHS ambulance services with vital information about defibrillators across the UK so that in those crucial moments after a cardiac arrest they can be accessed quickly to help save lives.

A huge thank you to the Chaddleworth Parish Council for their agreement to help Chaddleworth CC fund this new installation.

We hope none of the three defibrillators in the village (cricket club, village hall & telephone box opposite The Ibex) ever need to be used but it's good to know that you're never very far from one in the village just in case!

CHADFEST 2026

12th - 14th June

FRIDAY 12TH OPEN MIC

FROM 6PM-LATE



With Sion Whiley

SATURDAY 13TH CHADDLEWORTH FETE & POST-FETE PARTY

FROM 12PM - LATE

SUNDAY 14TH

FROM 12-6PM

SOUL ON SUNDAY

📍 CHADDLEWORTH VILLAGE HALL

CHADDLEWORTH ENTERTAINMENTS
PRESENTS...

CHAD FEST 2026!

FRIDAY 12TH JUNE

Open Mic Night with Sion Whiley

From 6pm – Late

Bands, singers, musicians and performers of all kinds are invited to come along and get involved.

SATURDAY 13TH JUNE

Chaddleshworth Fete | 12-4pm

The classic village fete with something for everyone including Fun Dog Show, BBQ & Bar, Raffle & Silent Auction, and lots of games!

Post-Fete Party | From 6pm – Late

Live music from The Station and The Precious Lies, followed by a Silent Disco to finish the night!

SUNDAY 14TH JUNE

Soul on Sunday | 12-6pm

Bar open from 12pm, with folk singalongs and an open-air Sunday service at 3pm with Rev Mike West Downland Benefice.

WE NEED YOU!

Cake makers, raffle prizes, plants and bottles. We need as many donations as we can! If you have something you can donate, big or small, please give Tish a message on 07795840489 to organise a drop off.

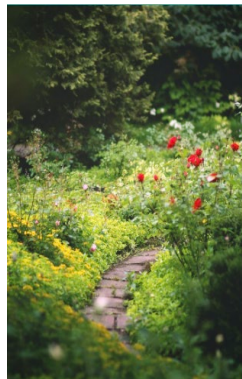
CAKES TO BE DONATED ON THE MORNING OF THE FETE. PLEASE DROP OFF AT THE VILLAGE HALL FROM 10AM.

OPEN GARDENS

Sunday 28th June

Tickets available from The Ibx Inn 12-4pm.

Tickets are £5pp. Minibus available – maps provided with ticket.



Chaddleworth Tunnels a 'History Bit' Feature



There are a number of myths about the tunnels beneath Chaddleworth. Way back in the early 1980's I went to visit Jack and Ida Pearce in 'Jasmine Cottage' Main Street' and Jack who used to patch up the thatch on his cottage into his 90's took me down into the tunnels beneath his cottage. He showed me the tunnels but at that time they didn't extend very far as a tree in the garden had caused the one heading south east (thought by some to head to St Margarets Priory now within RAF Welford although at nearly a mile as the 'crow flies' it would be quite a task) to collapse.

Below the clay in this village is a vast seam of chalk that ensures the filtration of falling rain water and makes the crystal clear stream of the river Lambourn that flows through Great Shefford with it's genesis in the large aquifer north of Henley Farm. It does however cause the extremely 'hard' water that furs up all our kettles. Chalk ensures fairly easy digging so it is possible that tunnels could have been dug just using hand tools.

I have been in St Margarets Priory several times over the years and yes there is what appeared to be a 'bricked up' tunnel entrance in the cellar.

The tunnel heading north traverses the road 'Main Street' and leads to the well that used to be at 'Well Hidden' where Helen Eeley now lives. It was thought that some of the monks at the Priory did in fact reside in the village and the bungalow called 'Monks Orchard' is perhaps an indicator of that? **Grahame Murphy**



Community Plan

The Chaddleworth Community Plan report is complete and the implementation phase is underway.

The report sets out findings and proposed actions across six themes – Safer, Communications, Prosperous, Healthy, Greener, and Community – all based on your survey responses.

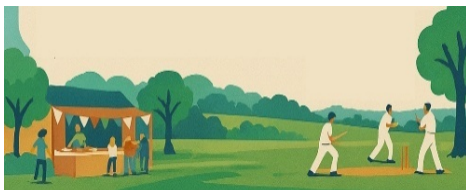
Initial activity is underway to develop a Chaddleworth Welcome Pack with information for new residents and to help them become part of our community.

Any suggestions for items to include in the pack that would be found helpful or just welcoming are sought.

Get Involved – We Need You!

Many of the actions identified in the report need new volunteers to drive them forward. There are two important working groups needed for Community (including a number of subgroups) and Communications. From greener initiatives to improving community facilities, there is something for everyone.

Please let us know your thoughts and whether you will get involved. Contact the Community Plan Steering Group via chaddleworthplan@gmail.com



St Andrew's Church, Chaddleworth – part of the West Downland Benefice

Dear Friends,

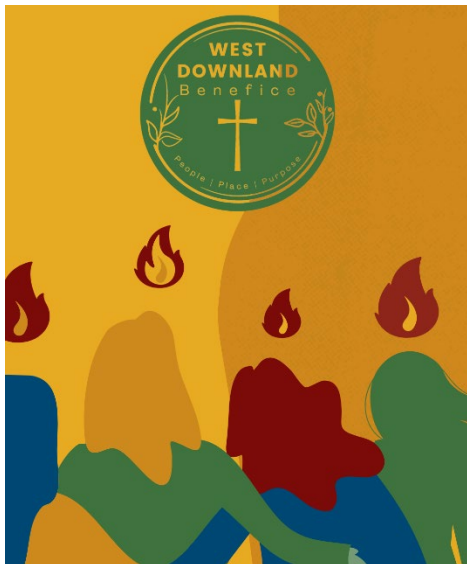
Pentecost is one of those moments in the church's year that never quite lets you settle back comfortably into your seat. The rushing wind, the flickering fire, the sudden, startling discovery that people from every corner of the known world could hear and understand one another – it's a story that insists community is not an accident. It is something given, something grown, and something we are all invited into.

Over these past few Sundays, we've been sitting with the theme of Together – exploring what it really means to be a community of faith that has room for everyone. Not just in theory, or in the kind of polite way we might nod along to in church, but genuinely, practically, warmly. The kind of togetherness where you actually know your neighbour's name. Where the person who's been coming for thirty years and the person who wandered in for the first time last week are both made to feel that this place has something for them.

It's a vision worth holding onto – especially in village life, where it can sometimes feel as though community exists mostly in the past tense. But we don't think that's true. We see it in the people who turn up to help without being asked, in the conversations after services that spill out into the car park, in the quiet acts of neighbourliness that rarely make it into any newsletter. Community is alive here. It just sometimes needs a little encouragement to believe in itself.

So this is that encouragement. If you've been wondering whether there's a place for you in the life of this benefice – there is. Whether you're a lifelong churchgoer or someone who hasn't darkened a church door in years. Whether you're confident in your faith or full of questions and doubts. Whether you're young, old, settled here, or newly arrived. The door is genuinely open, and the welcome is genuinely meant.

Community, of course, is not only about what we receive – it's about what we bring. Each of



us carries something the rest of us need. A skill, a perspective, a willingness to make the tea or stack the chairs or simply show up. Togetherness is built in those small moments as much as in the big ones.

And speaking of big moments – we have a wonderful one coming up. On Saturday 27th June, our own Rev Matt will be ordained as a priest at a service in Reading Minster. This is a significant and joyful occasion, and everyone is warmly invited to come along and celebrate with him. Details of the service will be shared closer to the time, but please do put the date in your diary. It will be a day well worth making the journey for.

With my love and prayers,

Rev Mike
x

Office Contact Details

www.westdownland.co.uk

office@westdownland.co.uk

Telephone **07954 117093**

CHADFEST 2026

12th - 14th June

OPEN MIC NIGHT



FRIDAY 12TH JUNE
6PM-LATE



with Sion Whiley

POST-FETE PARTY

SATURDAY 13TH JUNE | 6-LATE

LIVE MUSIC | GREAT ALES | SILENT DISCO
Live Music by The Station & The Precious Lies

SOUL ON SUNDAY

SUNDAY 14TH JUNE | 12-6PM

FOLK SING ALONG & 'OPEN AIR' SUNDAY SERVICE

 **CHADDLEWORTH VILLAGE HALL**



Chaddleshworth and Shefford Schools PTFA

(Registered Charity 1190914)

Thanks to everyone for their unwavering support with our events. We've got plans underway for Father's Day, with a special surprise draw coming up and treats for the children to give all those special Dads, Grandads and Uncles.

We'll also be at the Chaddleshworth Fete again this year with face painting, preloved uniform and games, raising money to fund our whole-school trip at the end of term.



Join us for
the biggest event
of our year,

the **Summer Fete**

on **Saturday 4th**
July

from **11am**
to **2pm**

Entry is free.

C&S PTFA

Great Shefford Under Fives



(Registered Charity 1033744)

What a wonderful half term we have enjoyed! On the back of the Artemis 11 mission we have enjoyed making rockets and stories based on trips to the moon.

Anouska our music teacher visited with her 'boom whackers' for a fun musical session. We also walked to the church and met Judith the organist who played for us as we danced in the aisle with ribbons.

The weather has been kind for our outdoor learning. Everyone has loved to see the lambs in the fields, climbed trees and had afternoons in the woods. We are now on half term holidays but looking forward to a busy last term before summer.

Best wishes, **Denise Herrington**

www.greatsheffordunderfives.co.uk





Chaddleworth St Andrew's and Shefford C.E.

Federated Primary Schools

We have all been so incredibly busy with our learning and all the opportunities it has brought us. The Red Kite's residential and the whole school trip to Sheepdrove were a great way to bring the term to a close.

Well done, and thank you, to everyone; children, school staff, our families and school community!

And well done to all our year 6 children who approached their SATs assessments with a positive attitude, super perseverance and great resilience – we are all very proud of you!

Ms Munday,
Headteacher

www.csfschools.org



Red Kites Residential

The year 5 and 6 children have had a fantastic adventure over at Grittleton House with every single one of our Christian values put to use...

- ✓ **Community** – supporting and helping one another
- ✓ **Compassion** – showing kindness and care to those around us
- ✓ **Trust** – in each other, the Grittleton staff and ourselves to be able to stay away from home and join in with all the activities on offer

- ✓ **Perserverance** – keeping on going, even when tired, and trying our best in everything we were doing
- ✓ **Thankfulness** – appreciation to everyone around us and for the opportunities during the residential
- ✓ **Courage** – to stay away from home, to spend time with different people and try out new things

A huge thank you to Mrs Chrimes, Reverend Mike and Mrs Chapman for their support and care for all of our children, and each other, through the week.

Please take a look at the Red Kites blog to find out about the different activities and adventures throughout the week...

www.csfschools.org/learning/classes/red-kites-yr-5-6/red-kites-blog/



Newbury Spring Festival

Robins, Kingfishers and Owls were treated to a performance in the Oak Hall at Sheepdrove Organic Farm. A picnic lunch was enjoyed in the beautiful grounds before experiencing the musical presentation of the story of 'The Firebird'. We are grateful for this kind offer that came from the Trustees of the Sheepdrove Trust, Mr Peter & Mrs Juliet Kindersley of Sheepdrove, Lambourn and their daughter Rosie.

The Ibex Inn

We are open every day!

01488 639052

bookings@theibexinn.com



WELCOMING ASH – OUR NEW ASSISTANT MANAGER!



We're excited to official welcome Ash to them team as our manager! Ash has already hit the ground running, bringing fresh ideas and making some exciting changes that we're really looking forward to. We're thrilled to have him on board and can't wait for everyone to get to know him!

Keep an eye out for some discount vouchers coming through your doors soon!

Have an idea for an event you want to see at The Ibex?

We are always open to new ideas! If you have an idea you'd love to see on at the pub, please send them to bookings@theibexinn.com

• DATES FOR YOUR DIARY •



SUNDAY 21ST JUNE – FATHER'S DAY

Join us on Sunday 21st June with sittings available: 12-3pm, 3-6pm, 6-8pm. £10pp deposit required on booking.

SUNDAY 28TH JUNE – GARDEN BINGO

We're hopeful that the weather will be nice enough to play a bit of bingo in the garden. Starting from 5pm! Cash only.

SATURDAY 4TH JULY – GREEK NIGHT

We know you loved this last year so we're bringing it back! Opa! Must have your table booked by Monday 29th June. Menu TBC.

FRIDAY 24TH JULY – QUIZ NIGHT

The usual quiz night rules apply - £2pp with maximum 6 people per team! Please get in touch for our quiz night menu (must be pre-ordered by Monday 20th July)

SATURDAY 1ST AUGUST – IBEX FESTIVAL

Put the date in your diary! More details to come! Live music, BBQ, and great vibes!

HOW TO KEEP UP TO DATE:



The Ibex Inn

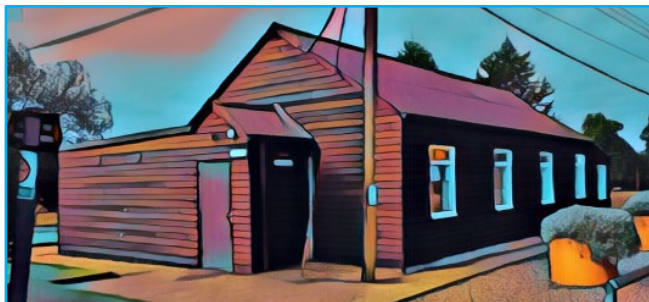


@theibexinn



Sign up to our mailing list:

www.theibexinn.com



Chaddleworth Village Hall

(Registered Charity 1055503)



The Chaddleworth 100 Club draw was made at the Annual Parish Meeting by Rev Mike, Shane, Peter and Charlie.

The lucky winners for April are number 34, **Lisa Slade** and number 31, **Liz Young** – each winning **£31.50**.

The lucky winners for May are number 54, **Marguerite Griffith-Jones** and number 49, **Ryan Brady** – each winning **£31.50** too.

THANK YOU to all the 63 current members.

Unfortunately, 30 members are currently lapsed. **Please would you renew your membership to continue to provide vital support to your Chaddleworth Village Hall and increase the prize amount too?**

Please consider joining or rejoining...

This is a really good way of supporting OUR Village Hall which has been around for well over 100 years and as you can imagine needs constant on-going maintenance.

The Village Hall Committee have a programme of improvements in the coming year that need financing, and the 100 Club supports these.

If you would like to utilise the Hall, become a trustee or assist with the care and maintenance of it, please contact us via ChaddleworthHall@gmail.com

How do I join the 100 Club?

Here's what you do if you "internet bank", set up a standing order for £2 per month (one number) or £24 a year. Payable to:

Recipient: **Chaddleworth Village Hall**
Sort Code: **23-05-80**
Account No: **56083967**
(which is a Business Bank Account with Metro Bank)

Alternatively, by cheque or cash is fine.

Contact us on **07827 309401** or chaddleworthhall@gmail.com to get your allocated lucky number!

PLEASE NOTE: NEW BANK DETAILS AND EMAIL ADDRESS



Chaddleworth Parish Council

Chaddleworth Parish Council meets every other month with the next regular meeting on **Tuesday 7th July 2026 at 7:30pm in Chaddleworth Village Hall**, all welcome.

The latest Chaddleworth Parish Council Annual Meeting covered:

- Election of Chair and Vice-chair for the forthcoming year,
- appointment of Councillors to Committees and Outside Bodies,
- adoption of standard documents, risk assessment, asset register and other policies for the coming year,
- selection of meeting dates for the coming year,
- acceptance of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) and Internal Audit report,
- review of the latest statement of accounts, budget vs expenditure for the current 26/27 financial year and for the end of the 25/26 financial year,
- Ward Member Cllr. C. Hooker's annual review,
- and several other items.

The meetings are public and parishioners are welcome to attend. Minutes of each meeting are published on the Chaddleworth Parish Website.

Chaddleworth Parish Website

Did you know the website has a map of live current planning applications submitted to West Berkshire Council for Chaddleworth and neighbouring Parishes? The interactive map shows planning application extents, clicking on individual applications displays some more information and contains links to the full details of the application. See the *Parish Council->Planning Process* page.

The website also includes:

- Parish Council meeting minutes,
- Over 20 Chaddleworth History articles,
- the back-catalogue of Chaddleworth News editions,
- information from local charities and organisations and links to these.

The Parish Council website and email are:

www.ChaddleworthParish.gov.uk
clerk@ChaddleworthParish.gov.uk

The regular **Downlands Ward Councillor's Report** is available via West Berkshire:

www.westberks.gov.uk/downloadsparishcouncilreport

Kind regards, **Councillor Clive Hooker**

Chaddleworth Bakers Trust

(Registered Charity 204875)

The Trustees recognise that energy bills have dramatically increased and are set to go up again in the autumn. All applications are always treated with the utmost confidentiality. If anyone is having difficulty in paying their bills and or are in 'fuel poverty' (spending 10% or more of their income on energy) they are urged to contact the Bakers Trust via the Parish Clerk on:

Clerk@ChaddleworthParish.gov.uk

Chaddleworth Annual Parish Meeting

A dozen odd parishioners met at Chaddleworth Village Hall for the Annual Parish Meeting.

Amongst the wealth of information shared were updates from:

- *Downland Benefice*, including the new Joint Council, thanks to Spike and Chris for looking after St Andrew's Churchyard so wonderfully, Rev Matt's upcoming ordination, seeking more participation;
- *Chaddleworth Entertainments*, including such great events held and planned, thanks to the wonderful team of volunteers, and seeking new ideas, volunteers – and cakes, bottles, raffle prizes and plants for the Fete;
- *Chaddleworth and Shefford Schools PTFA*, including the excellent Summer Fete and Winter Fayre allowing the funding of the whole school trips to the panto and to Cotswold Wildlife Park, thanks to previous and current PTFA members, thanks to everyone for the Tesco Groundstarts win which has funded the new cooking equipment in Chaddleworth school;
- *Chaddleworth St Andrew's and Shefford Church of England Federated Primary Schools*, including the recent residential trip, whole school trip, and the unwelcome changes to sports funding being introduced;
- *Great Shefford Under 5s*, including the Babby and Toddler and Pre-School groups, our popular visitors Rev Mike and Matt, outside activity every day, and the recent Buckingham Palace Garden Party;
- *Chaddleworth Cricket Club*, including the great young players showing talent,

the new defibrillator, new developments including pavilion renovation, and seeking new playing and non-playing members;

- *Chaddleworth Parish Council*, including thanks to the Councillors past and present, to Clive our Ward Member, playground swings replacement, and especially about the great progress on the Parish Plan;
- *Chaddleworth Parish Plan*, including thank you to the team for such good work, the completion of the survey, the completion of the report and the move now into the implementation phase;
- *Saunders Wynn and Coventry Educational Foundation*, including many donations made, a sound financial position, and seeking more application and options to support;
- *Downland Volunteer Group*, including additional support for schools, volume of trips, seeking more volunteers, celebrating our 40th anniversary, about the HandeBus and 'Fantastic Friday' trips;
- *Chaddleworth Village Hall*, a great space with use by ramblers, puppy training, yogis, the village organisation and private parties, plenty of availability, thank you to the management committee;
- *The Ibex Inn*, including thank you to everyone, upgrades made and planned, welcome to Ash the new manager, the management of The Royal Oak, Ecchinswell now too;
- *The Downlands Ward*, including updates for East Garston, Great Shefford, Beedon, Peasemore, Brightwalton, Leckhampstead, Farnborough, and appreciation of the vibrant activity in Chaddleworth;

- *Indigenous Brewery*, including new premises, staff recruitment, increasing production and plans for a small shop;
- *Head Farm*, on the new management structure, entering for the Newbury Agricultural Show best-farm award, and about the unfortunate amount of ash dieback with consequent felling undertaken and further needed;
- *Chaddleworth News*, including thanks to the editors, the distribution team, the printers and for all the many contributions which keep the content rich.

The Annual Parish Meeting, also called The Assembly, is for the electors of the Parish who have the right to attend and to speak on any matter of local interest. All from Chaddleworth Parish are welcome to attend. The next meeting is already scheduled for **Tuesday 25th May 2027**.

Saunders Wynn and Coventry Educational Foundation

(Registered Charity 269215)

The three named benefactors set up the Trust to offer financial help to further the educational needs of the children and students (up to the age of 25) of the Parish of Chaddleworth. The Trustees meet four times a year with the next meeting scheduled for **August 2026** to consider applications including any relating to the additional costs of home-schooling and remote study for students.

Previous contributions have been made towards the cost of school uniforms, books for university courses, music lessons, specific equipment and kit for courses, and residential activities. If you wish to apply for funds please contact the Foundation's Clerk, **Heather Murphy**, Tower Hill Cottage, Botmoor Way, Chaddleworth RG20 7EU or email botmoorway@gmail.com for an application form. All applications are treated in the strictest confidence. Any applications received after this scheduled meeting will still be considered for awards by the Trustees but there may be a delay before awards are made.

Leckhampstead Village Hall

Our mini market is held every third Saturday in the month. The next one is **20th June 2026**. **Jacqui Arnold, Co-chair**

MINI MARKET
&
COFFEE SHOP

Leckhampstead Village Hall
3rd Saturday
10-12





The Downland Practice Patient Participation Group

NHS App – Drop in Support

We're still keen to run NHS App support sessions to help patients get more confident using it. At the moment, staff capacity means we must continue to pause this item. The good news is that a new Communications & Resources Manager has been recruited. Once they are fully up to speed, we hope to start NHS App drop ins later this year, likely around October or November.

Practice Learning Time (PLT)

The next PLT session will be on 9th June. The practice will close from 12:30pm that day and reopen the following morning at 8:00am. All calls will be diverted to Westcall for the duration. This is a practice-based training session for staff which are mandated to take place quarterly.

The Chieveley pharmacy will also close at 1:00pm but reopen from 5:30pm – 6:30pm so patients can still collect prescriptions.

Funding Pressures

The practice still hasn't been told what funding it will receive for the current year, even though this should have been confirmed from 1st April. This makes planning extremely difficult.

Costs continue to rise (staffing, utilities, building maintenance), while funding increases are minimal and below inflation. Like many practices nationally, this puts real pressure on services.

Key messages we want to share with patients are:

- ✓ Using practice services really matters.

- ✓ Dispensing prescriptions locally, getting vaccinations at the practice and using in house services all help protect funding and keep services sustainable.
- ✓ More clear and careful communication with patients is planned once the new communications role is in place.

Vaccinations & Spring Boosters

Spring booster clinics are underway, with the main clinic held on 25th April. Morning sessions are proving most effective.

Eligibility for boosters is much narrower this year, which has led to some understandable disappointment.

We only need one or two volunteers per session, so there's no big recruitment push, but if anyone is keen to help, please contact the practice either by phone or email pm.downland@nhs.net

Keeping in Touch

Clear, honest communication with patients is vital. Plans include:

- Practice updates on the website and Facebook
- Links to practice news from village and parish websites
- Simple explanations about how funding works and how patients can help support services they value

This work will really gather pace once the new Communications & Resources Manager starts work.

Pharmacy Update

Work continues plans to introduce automated dispensing machines. Compton is the priority site and should go ahead this year, once electrical works are completed. Chieveley will follow, but this depends on further funding and possible grants or community support.

These machines will add to existing services, not replace them, and should make prescription collection easier and more flexible for patients.

www.downlandpractice.nhs.uk



West Berkshire Council

Ancient Boxford timber returns home



A remarkable piece of West Berkshire's history has returned to where it was first discovered. Known as the 'Boxford Bog Oak', the 6,000-year-old carved timber, the oldest of its kind in Britain, is now on display at the Boxford Heritage Centre.

Found by chance in 2019, the ancient oak had been carefully preserved and displayed at West Berkshire Museum before being loaned back to the community. The move follows close collaboration between the Museum team and the Boxford History Project, including securing funding for a specialist display case to protect the timber.

You can see the original at Boxford Heritage Centre on the first Sunday of each month (2-5 pm). Entry is free.

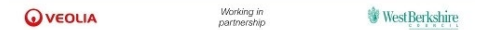
www.boxford.org.uk/category/heritage-centre/

Kerbside Recycling

West Berkshire Council is pleased to announce that residents can now add plastic tubes to their kerbside recycling bags for collection.

This includes all toothpaste tubes both hard and flexible, cosmetic tubes and food tubes. Some other examples include: herb pastes, cake/biscuit icing tubes, hand creams, moisturisers.

- ✓ Empty the tube completely – squeeze out any remaining product
- ✓ Leave the cap on – it can be recycled too
- ✓ Keep tubes flat, not rolled – rolling makes them smaller and harder to recover for recycling



Simply place your plastic tubes in the same container used to collect your plastic bottles, pots, tubs and trays, aerosols and tins/cans. Clean plastic pots, tubs, and trays including yoghurt pots, spread tubs, most ready meal trays, and clear fruit punnets. Please make sure that your plastic pots, tubs and trays are washed, and lids/film are removed before recycling.

Unfortunately, we cannot accept:

- black plastic trays
- plastic film – such as bread bags and tray coverings
- crisp packets
- plastic wrapping
- foil lids and trays
- flowerpots
- hot beverage pods
- Tetra Paks/cartons



Walking and Cycling Routes

West Berkshire is a walker's and cyclist's dream. Stroll or cycle along the Kennet and Avon Canal Towpath, take in the stunning views along the Ridgeway and Thames Path, or explore local trails around Newbury, Thatcham, Theale, and Mortimer.

You can download walking and cycling maps to plan your next adventure.

www.westberks.gov.uk/walkingandcyclingmaps



Midsummer Revels



Songs, tunes and tales for sunny days!

Featuring traditional English folksongs, self-written material and toe-tapping dance tunes, Midsummer Revels is a glorious feel-good evocation of sunny days, blue skies and green fields.

The café will be selling refreshments and light snacks.

Shaw House | Friday 5 June | Doors 6pm | Performance 7pm | Adult £15, Child £5

Bats at the Museum



A walk by local bat expert James Shipman. Did you know bats can live for up to 30 years? James explains where they live, how they fly in the dark, why they are so important and protected by law.

After a brief talk outside the Museum, James will help us to see several species that emerge at dusk nearby (weather dependent).

West Berkshire Museum | Friday 5 June | 9.45pm-10.20pm | £5

Find out about more of our events and exhibitions, download our brochure:

www.westberkshireheritage.org



Everyone is welcome to come along to one of our pop-up libraries and find a selection of books to borrow. If you are not yet a member of West Berkshire Libraries, you can join when you visit.

Leckhampstead Village Hall: First Wednesday of each month, 10am to 12pm with the next session on **Wednesday 3rd June**. West Berkshire Council is working with Leckhampstead Village Hall to provide this service

Other venues are: Basildon, St Stephens Church; Shaw-cum-Donnington, Myrtle Community Café; Compton Village Hall; Aldworth Village Hall.



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Thank
You!