

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

March Issue No. 536

Hi everyone and welcome to the latest edition of the newsletter.

Of course, not to be mistaken for a scene from the Palace of Westminster, this month we offer Sally Gantlett's shot of four fine-looking cross-breed dairy heifers enjoying a mixed feed of oats, beans and wheat at Woodhill Park Farm. The Gantlett family operates an organic farming regime at Woodhill Park supplying its milk to Berkeley Farm Dairy in Wroughton.

If you have any items, including local adverts, which you would like included in future newsletters, send these to cpb.newsletter@gmail.com, but could you please submit them by 26th of the month latest so that we have enough time to organise the Newsletter and send it out by the end of the month. If you no longer wish to receive the Newsletter, then please let us know and we will remove you from the mailing list.

Dates for the Diary

Every Monday	Zumba dancing 9.30am, Village Hall
Every Wednesday	Pilates 9.30am-10.30am, Village Hall
Sun. 1st March	Communion 9.00am, St. Peter's Church
Mon. 2nd March	Table Tennis 7.00pm–9.00pm, Village Hall
Thurs. 5th March.	Fish & Chip Van 5.30pm-7.30pm, Village Hall
Tues. 10th March	Games Afternoon 2.30pm-4.30pm, Village Hall
Thurs. 12th March.	Calligraphy Group 10.00am-12 noon, Village Hall
Sat. 14th March.	Pop-up Coffee Shop 10.00am-12noon, Village Hall
Sun. 15th March	Communion (Mothering Sunday) 9.00am, St. Peter's Church
Thurs. 19th March.	Women's Institute 7.15pm, Village Hall
Tues. 24th March	Games Afternoon 2.30pm-4.30pm, Village Hall
Fri. 27th March	Bushton Bookworms
Thurs. 26th March	Calligraphy Group 10.00am-12noon, Village Hall
Fri. 27th March.	Bushton Bookworms

Village Hall News



Not a lot of news from the hall this month. We are still struggling with getting the new heating system working as it should - please bear with us, hopefully Dimplex will have solved the issues before too long.

There is now another notice board inside the hall which is for the hall users' activities. The old one remains solely for Village Hall notices.

We are aware that a small amount of roofing felt has come off the shed and this will be replaced as soon as the weather conditions improve. Thank you to those who have mentioned it.

As I write this letter, we have been getting ready for the 'Spud and Skittles' (plus other board games) evening – hopefully, it will be as much fun as last time.

And there will be another Pop-Up Coffee Shop on Saturday 14th March from 10 to 12noon - do come, enjoy a coffee with a homemade cake (or two) and enjoy meeting your friends and neighbours.

Keep the date free for the Quiz - Saturday 18th April

And finally, a last call for the 101 Club - do get in touch with me if you want to join - it is just £15 a year and half the money collected gets returned to the members by way of First, Second and Third prizes each month, the other half goes towards the upkeep of the hall. Names will be drawn at the March Committee meeting and the list of winners for January, February and March will be in the April Newsletter.

Barbara Davis
0796 223 6678 rjbjdavis@btinternet.com

Regular Bookings

Monday: 9:30 Zumba 19:30 1st Monday evening Table Tennis
Tuesday: 2:30pm 2nd and 4th Tuesday Games (not summer term)
Tuesday: 19:00 to 21:00 Vastern Lodge every 2 weeks
Wednesday: 9:30 Yoga/Pilates, 11:00 to 12noon Private Dance Practice every 2 weeks
Thursday 10:00 2nd and 4th Calligraphy (not summer term) 3rd Evening 19:15 WI

MORE BOOKINGS WOULD BE WELCOME

If you want to host a large party, meeting or event, we can provide the space, facilities and lots of **FREE parking at very AFFORDABLE rates.**

Come and see what we have to offer

Just give Barbara a call on 07962 0236678 or email villagehallcpb@gmail.com

Clyffe Pypard and Bushton Village Hall

POP-UP COFFEE SHOP

Saturday 14th March

10.00am – 12.00noon

Choice of drinks
Home Made Cakes

Come and enjoy meeting
friends and neighbours

Contact
PennyShaddick@gmail.com
rjbjdavis@btinternet.com

Bushton Bookworms

Bushton Bookworms have at last been able to meet again after a bit of a break. We read and discussed "The Nightingale" by Kristin Hannah. The title comes from the name of the protagonist – Rossignol.

To say this is a hard-hitting novel is probably an understatement. Hannah tells the story of a young French woman who decides she has to help in the fight against the Nazi invasion of France in the second world war. Leaving her home town in the provinces, she is enrolled by the Resistance to accompany crashed allied airmen to the Spanish border so they can escape back to Britain, taking unimaginable risks.

At the same time, her sister, whose husband has gone to fight and is later imprisoned, has to suffer the occupation, looking after her own small children then the son of her Jewish friend who has been transported, hiding the child's true identity. It gets worse, of course, including the animosity between the two sisters and more cruel treatment by the occupying forces of the inhabitants.

This is a telling of the war which pulls no punches: we did wonder whether it wasn't a case of 'everything bad, all at once'. It was certainly a terrible time and Hannah's other books (e.g. "The Women", set in Vietnam in its war) seem to set out to inform but also shock. We were split as to the appreciation of the novel. It was certainly a memorable read.



When we next meet on 27th March, we'll be talking about "The List of Suspicious Things" by Jennie Godfrey. If you have read this and would like to chat about it, or if you are new to the village and would like to join us, please do come along. Contact Sally Fox sally_fox@btinternet or 07568 311823 for details.

We are a small, friendly group and would be happy to welcome you!


Get Battered
FISH & CHIP EVENING
Thursday 5th March
5:30 until 7:30
At Bushton & Cliffe Pypard Village Hall
Join us for freshly cooked fish and chips to take away!

Women's Institute





February and its gloomy weather brought us back down to earth after the splendid celebrations of reaching one hundred years of the life of Bushton & Clyffe Pypard WI in December.

Our speaker for February was Julia, one of our own members sharing her commitment to her favoured charity - Pachamama - which aims to relieve period poverty for girls and young women in third world countries. At present there are far too many young women and girls who miss up to a week of school or work simply because they have a period. Julia explained and demonstrated how she makes reusable, washable sanitary pads that are packed in batches of six, alongside knickers and a pretty drawstring bag in which to keep them.

Next month is completely different, we will be tackling Tai Chi with Mark Green, so if you are feeling in need of some exercise with friends feel free to come and join us. The first meeting is free and a chance to see if the WI is for you, we offer a light supper, the business meeting and usually a speaker, or demonstration.

We meet in the Village Hall, 7.15pm on the third Thursday of the month, we'd love to see you, just turn up.

Calligraphy Group



The Calligraphy Group will be meeting twice this month. We meet on alternate Thursday mornings in the Village Hall.

We are a small friendly group and would be very pleased to welcome anyone else who is interested in learning or developing a new skill. Our activities are based around lettering, but we take it lightly and try to include other crafts as well. You don't need any special equipment to get started, I always have pens and ink. You can join in at any time.

If you are interested in joining this group or would like more information or to come for a "taster" session, please get in touch with Jan (01249 890726 / jan_hargrave@yahoo.co.uk)

Thomas Spackman Educational Trust Grant

Are you, or do you know, a young person living in the Clyffe Pypard or Broad Town area who would benefit from a grant from The Thomas Spackman Educational Trust?

The Charity's main focus is education or work-related training and apprenticeships, but the Charity may also be able to help a promising individual develop a particular talent; perhaps help fund tuition in a musical instrument or develop a sporting skill.

Applying is very easy. If you wish to find out more about the application process, please contact Rosemary Greenway or email: spackmantrust@gmail.com.

All formal applications need to be in by 31st March for the spring round and 30th September for the autumn round of awards.

Village WhatsApp Group
Clyffe Pypard & Bushton network

A village WhatsApp group has been created to enable residents to share village information quickly and easily, for example: local road accidents affecting access, fallen trees, flooding, lost pets, anything of relevance to the community etc. etc.

Everyone is welcome to join the group just right click on the link below:

https://chat.whatsapp.com/E1WopNfzp49KeHMHXpaTis

Country Notes – **A new monthly article brought to us by the Clyffe Pypard & Bushton Wildlife Group.**

As the land wakes up, there is a palpable sense of nature stirring, especially when the sun shines

You have probably already seen some birds searching out nesting sites and collecting twigs and other nesting materials. Certainly, the robins in our garden have started singing their territories. And perhaps there is also some deep ingrained sense of 'homing' within us humans that we share with the birds and other creatures, so it is perhaps not surprising that spring is the time when the housing market livens up!

Birds demonstrate a wide range of places to nest, depending upon their need for protection from the elements; to hide from (or be able to see) predators; being close to sources of food; and simply what is available. Some will adopt the most unusual places!



Picture of wren nest in boot

Before we humans walked the earth, birds would have nested in holes and hollows in trees, in scrub, alongside water and in grassy spaces and all manner of natural habitats. However, as soon as we came along, many birds began to thrive in the new and modified habitats we created – hedges, open fields, coppices, gardens and even our buildings. This has suited some birds so well that buildings are now their preferred habitat – think of House Sparrows, House Martins and Barn Swallows.

But as we all make our buildings more weather and energy tight, and tidy up our gardens and landscapes, the nooks and crannies these birds need are disappearing. This is why putting up nesting boxes gives our birds a helping hand – because without these places (along with sources of food, of course) their numbers will continue to decline.

Country Notes cont'd…….

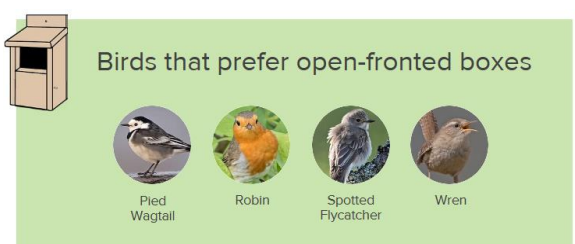
The swift is a classic example. Swifts were once the classic sound of summer, but they are becoming rarer in our parish and nationwide. Swifts only stop flying to nest and need a high-up cavity they can fly directly in and out of.

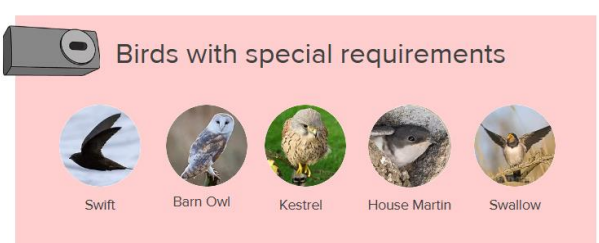
Some of us have already put up nest boxes, but there is always room for more. The trick is to know what species are likely to be around to make use of them and where to put them, because some birds can be very picky. Have a look at this website for suggestions: https://www.nestboxweek.com/which-birds-use-nestboxes

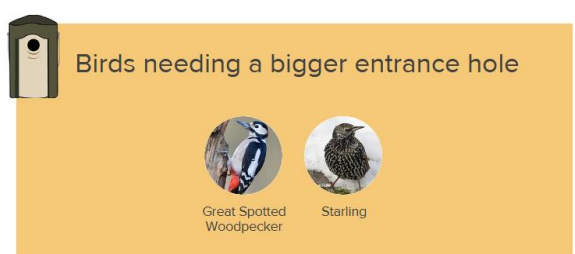
While we encourage everyone to make or buy a nestbox themselves, Clyffe Wildlife Group is looking to purchase about 6 boxes of various types for putting around the Parish. If you know a bird that might need a nesting place, and would like to put one up, then please drop us a line at clyffenature@gmail.com

Don't leave it too late as birds are already looking for suitable nesting sites.











Clyffe Pypard and Bushton Parish Council

https://clyffepypardbushton.org.uk

With no Parish Council (PC) meeting this past month there is less to report but, as you would expect, your Parish Councilors are still busy around the parish.

Some developments have been:

- **AED (defibrillator)**. The final decision on the location for the AED has been made. It will be sited outside Number 18 Clyffe Pypard and Ian Fraser has very kindly agreed to provide power once the correct agreements are in place. The PC is now completing grant applications to see if we can get support to cover the cost of the new device.
- **Asset Register**. The final design for the new Finger Post (to be sited at the bottom of Clyffe hill outside Grey Gables) is being circulated to councilors and will be agreed at the next PC meeting. The Army tradesmen undergoing trade training at Lyneham will then be making it for us as a community out-reach project.

Our new Clerk, Maria, is now settled into the role and her excellent admin skills and desire to understand every aspect of how the Parish operates are a real boon for the PC. As many of you would expect Peter Gantlett remains a font of knowledge and is still helping move issues along even while away on his travels – thank you Peter.

Repairs to the road surface around Rayner's Scrapyard and at the Clyffe end of Wood Street have now been undertaken by Wiltshire Council's Highways Department. The last (Highden Lane from the top of Clyffe hill towards Broad Hinton) of the three areas of concern that had been raised with Wiltshire Council's Senior Highway Engineer for our part of the county during a site visit back in July 2025, now has yellow spray paint on large areas of the the road surface along this stretch. Hopefully, this is a sign that repairs on this busy highway will be carried out soon.

Date of next PC meeting: Wednesday 18th March 2026 at 7.00pm.

Parish Litter Picking Group



We have an active and enthusiastic group of volunteers in Clyffe Pypard and Bushton Parish who regularly give of their time clearing litter from our road verges and footpaths. Each 'picker' has their own selected stretch of road or path that they cover, ideally, at least every 2 to 3 months. Some roads have more than one picker and some pickers cover more than one stretch of road. The area covered is tailored to the wishes of each volunteer.

At present all the roads in the parish are covered by the group. To anyone considering joining us, we can assure you that it is surprisingly satisfying creating order out of chaos along a stretch of road that has been blighted by those who selfishly throw waste from their vehicles when passing through our parish. There is also little like an hour or so's picking to ensure a good aerobic work-out! Sadly, it can also be dispiriting when, having swept a road of litter, more appears shortly after along the same stretch.

Where possible we request that our pickers recycle the collected litter along with their own household waste. Bulkier items such as small numbers of dumped tyres can be collected – just let either Tony or John know (email addresses below) where these items can be found. Reports of large quantities of dumped material, including asbestos, multiple tyres or used building items, should be made via Wiltshire Council's online MyWilts reporting facility https://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/mywilts-online-reporting.

Please contact either Tony Currivan judetonycurrivan@hotmail.com or John Hughes john.hughes@clyffepypardbushton.org.uk if you would like to join our litter picking group.

Reflective vests, litter grabbers, bags and bin-bag holders are available for issue to our volunteers.

Even if you don't wish to formally join our litter picking group, now numbering over 20 individuals, we encourage everyone in the community to keep the area around their own property free of litter – every bit helps keep our parish looking at its best.

You may be aware that the period **13th – 29th March** has been designated as the **Great British Spring Clean 2026**. If you can find time to get out and do a little to assist with this UK-wide initiative, it would be appreciated.

Bushton & Clyffe Pypard Village Hall SN4 7PX

? Big Quiz ?

SATURDAY 14th April
7:00 start

Teams of 6 or come as individuals

Ploughman Supper/tea/coffee supplied
Bring your own drinks, glasses and nibbles.
£8 per person.

Come and have some FUN

Book your place with Barbara:

rjbjdavis@btinternet.com 07962 2236678

Royal Wootton Bassett Monday Friendship Club

A social club for older people

Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church Hall,
High Street, Royal Wootton Bassett

Mondays 2-4 pm







Tea, Coffee & Biscuits | Fun, Games & Entertainment | Companionship
Please come along to chat, meet new people and take part in activities.
Small weekly charge.

For more information, contact:
Tracey: 07563 028703
Ginny: 07500 137135

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Registered address: The Wool Shed, New Park Street, Devizes, Wiltshire, SN10 1DY



Fresh Springs Care

Contact Us
Contact
T: 0179 320 0084
E: info@freshspringscare.co.uk
E: recruitment@freshspringscare.co.uk

Location
Office 83, Bowman Court, Whitehill Industrial Estate, Royal Wootton Bassett, SN4 7DB

www.10green.co.uk

Ten Green Bottles is an initiative by Berkeley Farm in Wroughton to deliver fresh milk, dairy, veg & bread to local villages. They now deliver to Clyffe Pypard and Bushton!

If you would like to sign up, go to their website or download the App. It's easy to do and great way to reduce plastic usage.

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Start My Clean

"Bin Cleaning... that's Top Binning!"

At Top Binning, we keep your bins **fresh**, **hygienic**, and **odour-free** while protecting the environment. Our professional cleaning system uses **minimal water**, **biodegradable products**, and a **self-contained wash bay** that captures and safely **disposes of waste water**. This means sparkling clean bins with **zero mess** left behind and **peace of mind** that your service is as green as it is effective.

Top Binning proudly services homes across Wiltshire. See if we're in your area below. 👇

Bowerhill, Bromham, Calne,
Clyffe Pypard, Cherhill, ...

See where we're wheelie busy

https://www.topbinning.co.uk

GOOD NEIGHBOUR SCHEME

LINK 6 & RWB

Covering the villages of Bradenstoke, Broad Town, Bushton, Clyffe Pypard, Lyneham and Tockenham, and the town of Royal Wootton Bassett.

Do you ...

... own your own car ? ✓

... have a few spare hours a week ? ✓

Would you like ..

... to help out in the community ? ✓

... a flexible volunteering opportunity? ✓

If the answer to all these is ✓✓✓✓ then **LINK 6 & RWB** would love to hear from you.

We are looking for additional **COMPANION DRIVERS** to help expand our volunteering offer.

Do please get in touch.

LINK 6 & RWB is a Good Neighbour scheme which offers a service for any member of our community who is in need of our help. They may be living with a disability, older people or those who have a temporary need through illness.

There is no charge for our help but the Link scheme depends on donations from anyone who uses our service.

Website: link6andrwb.org.uk

Call: 07879 394666

E-mail: info@link6andrwb.org.uk