



UPPER KENNET NEWS

December 2023

Published by Fyfield, West Overton and East Kennett Parochial Church Council for the Upper Kennet Benefice

Kennet Valley Lottery Club draw winners

£100 Number 48 P. Potmore
£75 Number 10 Pat Cutforth
£50 Number 50 Paul Clements

(Some winners prefer that their names are not published, in which case we just state the winning number)

If you would like to join the lottery, please pick up an application form from any church, or ring Jo Snape on 01672 861267 or email josiesnape@aol.com

Another way to support our churches at West Overton, Fyfield and East Kennett

100 Club

Draw Results for November

1st	£48.00	3	Lyn Saunders
2nd	£36.00	39	Mark Wightman
3rd	£24.00	58	Simon Petchey
4th	£12.00	62	Steven Gilbert

(some winners prefer that their names are not published)

If you would like to join the lottery ring Philip Scott on 01672 539104 or email philipscott2@me.com

Your way to help support the churches of Winterbourne Monkton and Berwick Bassett
Lottery is licensed by Wiltshire Council

Notice Board

Funeral

Christopher Graham Marsh
North Wiltshire Crematorium 15 November 2023

"A brief respite from everyday pressures – a time of peace, calm and silent reflection."

MEDITATION (TAIZÉ) Service

Every fortnight on a Wednesday evening at East Kennett Church from 6.30 to 6.55pm: a chance to just sit quietly and relax and enjoy the silence and the peace by candlelight, with a background of occasional singing and some words of wisdom.

Future dates for your diary:
Wednesday 6th December
& Wednesday 3rd January.

**VIEWS FROM
THE KENNET
VALLEY
2024 CALENDAR**
Now available at
the Avebury
Community Shop



A View from the Rectory

Coming to Christmas

There was no Christmas 2000 years ago. The land currently devastated by the events of the past two months was a land under occupation by Roman soldiers, and the journey of a betrothed couple - expecting their first child - in response to an edict from a foreign emperor was just 'one of those things'. Within two years that child and his family would be refugees in Egypt, fleeing the murderous intentions of a despotic 'puppet' king intent on eradication of any threat to his power and position.

Innocents suffered then. Innocents suffer now. We feel deeply for all of them, caught in a prison of violence and hatred whatever their nationality, faith or heritage. Many of them will not celebrate Hanukkah or Christmas, whether the miracle of an end to war occurs or not, just as many across Ukraine and Russia will not be free to enjoy what many of us take for granted. The freedom to choose to gather with others, and be together in our ancient churches that have held the joys and fears, the unanswered questions and great triumphs of our village communities, for over 1500 years. The freedom to experience a sense of something special in the air, something of the angels bending 'wings of gold' to earth and singing songs of peace; something of the hope that lay in a child's birth, and a man's death gave the promise of more beyond this world's brief life. At a recent Ministry Team meeting we were talking about how hard we make it for people to do just this and the inherent anxieties that stop people coming into our churches; we felt we wanted to make it really clear this year when so many are excluded from their own places of worship through war, destruction, terrorism and violence that the Inn is open, the room to 'be' is ready, and no... you don't have to sleep in the cow shed!

These words from the carol 'It came upon a midnight clear' and the eternal sadness of repeated history are especially poignant this year, and it is important we take every opportunity to give thanks for so much freedom we enjoy, the choices most of us have.

*But with the woes of sin and strife
The world has suffered long;
Beneath the angel-strain have rolled
Two thousand years of wrong;
And man, at war with man, hears not
The love-song which they bring; –
O hush the noise, ye men of strife,
And hear the angels sing!*

'And hear the angels sing' - so here it comes, a golden invitation to come together, sense the something special, and listen for the song that triumphs over war - the 'peace on earth' sung by the angels and sung again in our churches this Christmas.

YOU ARE INVITED

TO COME BECAUSE YOU CAN - AND TREASURE THE FREEDOM.
TO KNOW WE 'DO' MUDDY BOOTS, WELLIES, JEANS, MORNING SUITS, POSH FROCKS, NOISY OCTOGENARIANS, QUIET CHILDREN, OR VICE VERSA.
TO 'BE' AS YOU ARE – SAD OR TIRED OR FRAZZLED, IN NEED OF A SPACE TO BREATHE, FULL OF FAITH OR DOUBT, CARRYING HOPE OR BURDENS.
TO A PLACE WHERE YOU CAN BE YOU WHATEVER GENDER, HERITAGE, BELIEF OR UNBELIEF, WHETHER YOU SING LIKE THOSE ANGELS, OR HAVE A VOICE LIKE A BATH DRAINING.
BECAUSE THE BETHLEHEM CHILD WHO WELCOMES YOU IS A REFLECTION OF YOU.

UPPER KENNET CHURCHES SERVICES

	St Nicholas FYFIELD	St Michael & All Angels WEST OVERTON	Christ Church EAST KENNETT	St James AVEBURY	St Mary Magdalene WINTERB'RNE MONKTON	St Katherine & St Peter WINTERB'RNE BASSETT	St Peter ad Vincula BROAD HINTON
3 December Advent 2	8.30 am Prayer Book Communion					10.30 am Morning Service	10 am Benefice Communion Service
Wednesday 6 December			6.30 pm Meditation Service (Taizé)	10.30 am Celtic Communion			
10 December Advent 3		10 am Morning Service 2-4 pm Vigil in memory of Emma Russell		10 am Benefice Communion Service			4.30 pm Tea & Christingle Service
Wednesday 13 December				10.30 am Celtic Communion			
Friday 15 December	6.30 pm Carol Service						
17 December Advent 4		5 pm Carol Service	8 am Prayer Book Communion	4.30 pm Carols by Candlelight	10 am Benefice Communion Service BERWICK BASSETT 3pm Carol Service		6 pm Carols by Candlelight
Tuesday 19 December						7 pm Carol Service	
Wednesday 20 December				10.30 am Celtic Communion			
24 December Christmas Eve		5 pm Crib Service 11.30 pm Midnight Mass		4 pm Crib Service 10 pm First Mass of Christmas	3 pm Carols round the Crib	3 pm Crib Service	11.30 pm Midnight Mass
25 December Christmas Day	8.30am Holy Communion		11 am Christmas Service		10 am Christmas Communion	10.30 am Christmas Service	
31 December 1st Sunday of Christmas	10 AM – WINTERBOURNE BASSETT - BENEFICE COMMUNION SERVICE						

Piano Recital

The piano recital given by Kim Emery at East Kennett Church was superb. Playing to a full church, the evening was an absolute delight.

Our grateful thanks to Kim and to everyone who helped create such a magical setting (see picture) and to those who provided food and wine to replenish us physically. The evening raised over £700 for the church maintenance fund.



Morning Prayer 8.30-9am daily

Join us by zoom for half an hour to start the day in an atmosphere of quiet prayer and reflection with others, from the comfort of your own armchair. We are a small group who value this wonderful opportunity to gather ourselves for the day, to focus on what lies ahead and to enjoy silence together.

For more details, the service sheet and the zoom link, contact:

Rev'd Maria Shepherdson:
01672 539643 or revmariashepherdson@outlook.com



Readings

Sunday 3 December – Purple

1st Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 64.1-9
Psalm 80.1-8,18-20
1 Corinthians 1.3-9
Mark 13.24-end

Sunday 10 December – Purple

2nd Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 40.1-11
Psalm 85.1-2,8-end
2 Peter 3.8-15a
Mark 1.1-8

Sunday 17 December – Purple

3rd Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 61.1-4,8-end
Psalm 126 or Canticle:
Magnificat
1 Thessalonians 5.16-24
John.1.6-8,19-28

Sunday 24 December – Purple

Christmas Eve

2 Samuel 7.1-11,16
Canticle: Magnificat
or Psalm 89.1-4,19-26
Romans 16.25-end
Luke 1.26-38

25 December - Gold or White

Christmas Day & Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve

Isaiah 62.6-end or
Isaiah 52.7-10
Psalm 97 or
Psalm 98
Titus 3.4-7 or
Hebrews 1.1-4
Luke 2 [1-7] 8-20 or
John 1.1-14

31 December – White 1st Sunday of Christmas

Isaiah 61.10-62.3
Psalm 148 [or 148.7-end]
Galatians 4.4-7
Luke 2.15-21

Update on the Deanery Partnership with Morobo Diocese

Almost a year into this new partnership we have much for which to be thankful.

- The Morobo clergy are now in possession of Bibles.
- The money for ten bicycles has been received, and an anonymous donor has given money for ten more, to enable the clergy to get round their parishes much more easily.
- Arrangements are in hand to get some robes to Bishop Data to replace the ones that were stolen.
- The first year of planting "seeds of sustenance and hope" has been a great success, and there is enough money in the kitty for the next round of planting: beans, ground nuts and maize. New wellies will make life easier for those doing the hoeing and planting.
- Bishop Data and his clergy continue to work energetically for the Gospel.

Look out for some ideas we are offering, to help focus our praying this Advent.

Fyfield Church Pub Quiz

Friday the 10th of November saw a packed pub at 'The Who'd A' for the Fyfield Church Pub Quiz. We raised a **fantastic £1,300!** Thank you so much to everyone who came along and supported the event, especially the generous bidders in our auction! Thanks must also go to Vard, Alex and Lauren at the pub for a great atmosphere and delicious curry. It was extremely close with only 8 points separating the top and bottom teams but 'JK & the Lockeridge Legends' were triumphant. We hope to host another quiz in February so keep an eye out for details as tickets sell out fast!





CHRISTMAS BAZAAR



Saturday 2nd December
10am to 3.30pm
Kennet Valley Hall

- ❖ Home-made cakes, jams etc. and produce
- ❖ White elephant stands
- ❖ Bottle stall
- ❖ Christmas cards, decorations, calendars
- ❖ Children's stands
- ❖ Jigsaws
- ❖ Exceptional raffle
- ❖ Woolly sheep felt emporium
- ❖ Homemade gifts
- ❖ Honey stall

INDOOR REFRESHMENTS
 OUTDOOR HOT DOG STAND
 plus
CHRISTMAS TREE SALE

Any queries call 01672 861786 or 861798
*In aid of our Churches at West Overton,
 East Kennett & Fyfield*







Fyfield Carols by Candlelight

Friday 15th December
6.30pm

St Nicholas Church, Fyfield
Refreshments afterwards



Avebury Social Centre

Soup Lunch

Monday 11th December

- looking forward to seeing you (& many others)
 from Avebury & villages nearby

soup, bread & cheese & cake & a chance to chat
£1 or a donation / 12 noon—2.00pm
 this month donations will go to
Marlborough Poverty Action at Christmas

— IF YOU NEED TRANSPORT, PLEASE CALL 01672 539253 BEFORE THE DAY —



Wassail

(To or be Blessed)



We invite you to join us for a traditional folk blessing for our apple trees and land. Noisy children with pots and pans to bang very, very welcome

We shall Wassail, Wassail all over the town (well village actually)

We will bless apple trees throughout the village including the Community Shop, Henge Shop, Avebury Community Orchard and the Avebury Manor Orchard where there will be traditional children's treats with the Lord of the Manor.

We will perform seasonal songs, music, a Plough Play and the Rector will bless the plough in the National Trust farm yard. After which we will all process the plough and present it to Katie and Jonathan Guest and our local farmers for the success of our local farms and the coming harvest. From there the plough will be processed to the Church ready for Sunday's traditional Plough Sunday service.

When: Wassail Saturday 13th January 2024, at 1 pm at the top of Avebury High Street in the Coach House courtyard.

Plough Sunday Church Service 10.30 am, Sunday 14th January 2024 in St James' Church, Avebury.



St James' Church, Avebury

Traditional Plough Sunday Service

with Holy Communion

10.30am, Sunday 14th January 2024

Come to the Wassail on Saturday 1-4pm

Then join us the next day for a traditional

Plough Sunday service

Bring your tools and seeds for blessing as we sing

'We Plough the Fields and Scatter'.

Celebrate our farming tradition at the start of the new agricultural year.

Bless the earth and promise to cherish it.

Election of Churchwardens and members of the PCC of The Parish of Upper Kennet Nov 15th 2023

(formerly The parish of Avebury, the parish of Broad Hinton, the parish of Overton and Fyfield with East Kennett, the parish of Winterbourne Bassett and the parish of Winterbourne Monkton with Berwick Bassett)

Those named below were elected to serve for the remainder of the year until the APCM of this parish in April /May 2024 under church of primary responsibility. All church wardens are members of the PCC by right and may choose to share attendance duties.

Church wardens

Avebury Mrs Sandra Hues Mrs Helen Vickers Mrs Maureen Dixon

Broad Hinton Mrs Gill Crabtree Mr Robert Fitzpatrick

East Kennett Mr Graham Kitchen Mrs Jo Snape

West Overton Mrs Susan Rogers and a **Vacancy**

Winterbourne Monkton with Berwick Ms Penny Gold and a **Vacancy**

Winterbourne Bassett Mrs Claire Stiles Mr Peter Barry

PCC members

Elizabeth Daley, John Haines, Simon Jones, Anghared Hughes, Phillip Scott,

Co-opted member for Fyfield: Vicky Evans

PCC officers

Lay Chair and Lay Vice Chair: Simon Jones and Anghared Hughes

PCC secretary: Mr Peter Barry (Pro-Tem) Assistant Secretary Post **Vacant**

Electoral roll officer: Claire Stiles

Deanary Synod: Stuart Laing and Penny Gold

Treasurer(s) The treasurers' of the former PCCs remain as ex officio members of the PCC until such time an oversight Treasurer is named and a new PCC account set up to ensure continuity of financial commitments and proper financial management at year end and beyond. Peter Cole, (WB) Rod Palfrey (BH) Lizzie Daley (Ave) Phillip Scott (WM) and Mark Beverley (WO et al, and Graham Kitchen (Upper Kennet Churches)

Independent Financial examiners appointed at APCMS remain as such.

Sidespersons' elected at APCMS last April remain as such.

Churchwardens named above have already been duly sworn into office at Visitations or by another approved means.

Meeting Date for New PCC 18th January 7pm Kennet Valley VA Primary School Hall

Please Speak to Rector or Lay Chair/lay Vice Chair of PCC if interested in vacancies

Rev Maria Shepherdson Rector and Mr Peter Barry Meeting Secretary



**St Mary Magdalene Church
Winterbourne Monkton
AUCTION FOR
THE IDEAL
CHRISTMAS
PRESENT**

Can't think what to buy someone for Christmas? We have the ideal solution

Bid for a piece of History –

A little YEW Tree sapling grown from a cutting of our Millenium Yew Tree in the churchyard (with thanks to Martyn Meekes). Our Millenium Yew Tree was grown from an ancient tree estimated to be at least 2000 years old (to celebrate the new millennium). An Authenticated certificate is available.

The yew tree can be kept to whatever size you wish with regular trimming or used as a topiary. Viewing of the cutting can be found at Moonraker, Winterbourne Monkton (phone first) 01672 539347

The Auction will be held with sealed bids delivered to **Penny Gold Meadow Cottage** Winterbourne Monkton by **Friday Dec 15th** and the lucky winner will be announced at the Village Club Christmas dinner on 19th Dec and informed by email/phone. There is a reserve price of £15

Any money raised will be donated to St Mary Magdalene church, Winterbourne Monkton



News from the Tower

Ringling at Avebury in October was bedevilled by the holiday season continuing – to the point that the practice on the 17th was cancelled when only 4 ringers said they could ring and on 24th when only 5 offered. In fact whilst holidays played a part, other things such as sickness, theatre trips, family commitments and panto rehearsals (for Michele) combined to play a part. Also as mentioned before, ringing at Avebury is presently rather dependent on ringers coming from outside the village. In days of old when more ringers were local, low attendances such as those above did not stop practices. Ringing for a few means that there is plenty of chance to ring; teaching can be concentrated on individuals, and an early finish can be made if desired. However today, when some ringers drive from All Cannings and Heddington, they cannot be expected to come in wintry weather to a poorly attended session which might finish early. The moral of this tale is that we welcome any new ringers, especially if they live in or near Avebury. Just turn up at Church at 7.30 pm on Tuesdays, or phone Brian Vickers on 01672 539482.

However, all is not lost. We had 7 ringers at practice on 31st Oct, 8 on 7th Nov and 9 on 14th. Despite me having an unavoidable commitment on Remembrance Sunday, Stephen Andre, Andy and Kathryn Miller, Michele Lomas, Sean and Samuel Tye all rang for the service. The bells were half muffled = meaning that one 'ding' was quieter than the next on a bell as a solemn token of remembrance. In fact all 8 bells were half muffled, and a band from the Marlborough Branch rang a quarter peal on the 8 bells after lunch.

Brian Vickers.

Under The Beech Tree A Space to Breathe

Under the Beech Tree
A Space to Breathe
We will be taking a break
until Spring.
It is just going to be too
cold and wet!



AVEBURY SOCIAL CENTRE

The Trustee quarterly meeting took place on the Monday 23rd October when Mr Richard Nutt joined the committee as the prospective Treasurer to take over from Mr Michael Daley who would be retiring at the end of this year. Michael was thanked for his hard work and in particular for gaining the grants over the covid period. That said, having the finance does not always help when trying to get work done and the Chairman apologised for not yet being able to find a builder willing to repair the damaged ceiling at the rear of the hall.

Plans to celebrate **the Halls 50th year as the Social Centre for Avebury** were put in place and these led to a very enjoyable evening on the 15th of November when the Trustees welcomed guests to the Hall. A display of the original first Committee book brought back many memories as did the photographs of when the new extension of Kitchen and Loos were added after much fundraising. The Chairman gave a short speech thanking those who originally took on the task of taking over the old school and those since who have spent much time running and supporting the Hall; too many names to mention (and a fear of missing any one out!) forbids individual recognition but we were pleased to welcome the daughters of Mrs Thelma Pithouse and Gretchen Rawlins as well as Di Gater to the event.

Judith Farthing

Upper Kennet Churches

Christmas Services

CHRISTINGLE SERVICE

Sunday 10 December
Broad Hinton 4.30 pm Tea & Christingle Service

CAROL SERVICES

Friday 15 December
Fyfield 6.30 pm Carols by Candlelight

Sunday 17 December
Berwick Bassett 3 pm Carol Service
Avebury 4.30 pm Carols by Candlelight
West Overton 5 pm Carol Service
Broad Hinton 6 pm Carols by Candlelight

Tuesday 19 December
Winterbourne Bassett 7 pm Carols by Candlelight

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Christmas Eve
Winterbourne Bassett 3 pm Crib Service
Winterbourne Monkton 3 pm Carols round the Crib
Avebury 4 pm Crib Service
Avebury 10 pm First Mass of Christmas
West Overton 5 pm Outdoor Crib Service (weather permitting)
West Overton 11.30 pm Midnight Mass
Broad Hinton 11.30 pm Midnight Mass

Christmas Day
Fyfield 8.30 am Christmas Communion
Winterbourne Monkton 10 am Christmas Communion
Winterbourne Bassett 10.30 am Christmas Service
East Kennett 11 am Christmas Morning Family Service

Back by popular demand...
On Sat 20th January 2024

BURNS NIGHT SUPPER AND CEILIDH

at the Kennet Valley Hall,
Lockeridge
7pm - 11pm
Live Pipe Music
Delicious Hot Food
Ceilidh dancing
with popular local caller John Carver
All left feet welcome!

Ticket price: £25
Bring cash on the night
for bar and raffle

Email:
info@angharadughes.com
to secure tickets



Avebury Community Shop

Shop Phone Number: 01672 539200
Opening Hours 10am – 4pm every day

Happy Christmas

We wish all our customers and supporters a very happy Christmas. Order forms for seasonal produce will be available in the shop from the beginning of December.

Meet the Team

This month we feature one of our younger volunteers. Merlin is 18 and lives in Broad Town. She is really excited to be working in our shop because she loves Avebury and has always wanted to work in a small shop. Merlin was inspired to volunteer when she called into the shop and spoke to one of our volunteers who encouraged her to sign up.



Merlin has had a tough time recently; she has been very seriously ill and unable to walk for a long time. She is hoping that working in the shop will be a way back to employment. Working in

the shop is an opportunity to meet people from all over the world and she loves the idea of helping the community.

Her favourite products are Robyn's Farmhouse gluten free pies and quiches and Little Bag of Herbs teas.

Merlin loves anything creative including art and drama. She writes and edits the Broad Town News.

Gift Vouchers and hampers

If you are stuck for ideas for Christmas presents, how about considering giving an Avebury Shop Gift Voucher. They are available for any sum of money and are a great way of supporting your local shop and providing a useful and sustainable gift. We can also produce Christmas hampers for you, tailored to your requirements. Please ask in the shop and we will be in touch to create something unique for you.

Avebury Community Shop

Your one-stop Christmas Shop for your fresh quality Sumbler Meats, Fresh Fruit and Vegetables, Milk, Cheeses, wines, ciders, meads, beers and spirits and Bread to bake off at home. Pick up your order forms from the beginning of December and you won't have to battle the crowds as we will call you in to collect your order from The Shop, where parking is free and the staff are friendly. Help us to help you support your local Community.

Volunteers Needed

We still need more people to join the team. Anyone, young or more mature would be welcome to join the team of volunteers. If you would like to consider volunteering, please contact one of our shop managers, Lyn or Martin, on 01672 539200. Full training will be given along with copious tea and coffee and homemade cakes or biscuits.

Michele Lomas
(Chair of Avebury Community Shop)



Church Christmas Tree Sale 2nd December Kennet Valley Hall 10 am – 4 pm



We have been able to hold the price of our 2023 Christmas Trees the same as last year in order to remain very competitive. All our trees are locally grown and are premium Nordmann Fir. All our profits are spent on maintaining our churches at West Overton, Fyfield and East Kennett.

Minimum Height	Price	Quantity	Free delivery at the weekend	Choose on the day and free delivery	Choose and collect on the day
4ft	£30				
5ft	£40				
6ft	£50				
7ft	£60				
8ft	£80				

Bigger trees are available for pre-order. Please ask for a quote.

Payment Methods

☐ BACS Payment. Sort code: 30-92-63 Account 01498496

☐ Cheques payable to Upper Kennet Churches Council

Please send orders (with a cheque if applicable) to:

- Address: The Church Office, St Michael & All Angels' Church, Church Hill, West Overton, SN8 4ER. Telephone: 01672 861798.
- Email: treasurerwestoverton@outlook.com

Name: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____

Help the driver find you! Additional delivery instructions or a what3words address

(<https://what3words.com>)

The AGM of Kennet Valley Hall Management Committee

will be held at the Hall
on Monday November 27th at 7.30 pm

Your local village hall is a registered charity and independent of any statutory body – and therefore needs to be self-financing. The Hall is managed and maintained by a team of volunteers who represent the community groups that use the hall, together with all the residents of East Kennett, West Overton, Lockeridge and Fyfield.

Should any local resident feel they would like to be part of the management team, please contact the Chairman, Brian, on 861513.

All residents of the four villages are welcome to attend the AGM.

Mobile Library

The current dates are 21 November, 19 December and 16 January (2024), Tuesday Week 3 Route L, North mobile library.

It stops in:

Lockeridge at the Who'd A from	1045-1115
West Overton at Peacock	1125-1205
Avebury Trusloe bungalows	1215-1245
Avebury High Street	1355-1425
Avebury caravan park	1430-1500
Broad Hinton village hall	1515-1600

Manager Vacancy

Driven individual required to supervise sales, marketing and people management of our small but national food business. Job role and hours can be shaped around the right individual.

To discuss, please email office@thegourmetgoatfarmer.co.uk or call 07980881414



Avebury Parish Council

Meeting Tuesday 7th November.

Major concerns were raised by members of the public attending the meeting about the flooding around Trusloe Manor. The garden has been inundated with foul water as has the footpath that connects the end of Bray Street with Church walk. Thames Water have attended but have not found the source or come up with a solution. The general consensus was that water was backing up in the system and that the pumping station at Big Arch Bridge was overwhelmed. Rainfall recordings this year already outstrip last year's totals with 960mm to date vs 760mm for the whole of last year. Thames Water and Wiltshire Council have been contacted to urge them to come up with a solution as this has been an issue for quite a number of years.

The Council has also received communications from concerned residents in Green Street about the flooding there. Local farmers and Wiltshire Council are working with the National Trust to find a solution.

Local residents are urged to continue reporting local issues such as flooding, overgrown paths, etc. through the MyWilts app or webpage.

Other items included:

- We supported the planning application for improvements to the main car park surfacing and drainage which had been submitted by the National Trust. General manager, Mrs. Jan Tomlin, outlined the work to be done and explained that it will be undertaken in stages to minimise disruption.
- Community Emergency Volunteer – Mrs. Judy Farthing, who has filled the role for some years, has resigned and we need a volunteer to co-ordinate the emergency plan and put it into action. For more information please contact Mrs. Maggie Lewis (durranhouse@hotmail.com)
- The missing lamp in the Church yard has been reported several times. It will be followed up again.
- Cllr. Lewis reported that she had met with Mr. James Fry to identify a site for the defibrillator. He is happy for a defibrillator to be sited at Rawlins Park but the two potential sites he identified are not considered suitable by the Ambulance Service.

Maggie Lewis. Co-chairman, Avebury Parish Council

AVEBURY & DISTRICT WI



As our original speaker had to withdraw due to personal commitments we were instead taken on a journey along the Silk Road by Sue Drummond Haley. Sue started her journey in Tashkent and followed part of the ancient route, once the main trading route in the world between West and East, to Khiva visiting the historic heart and the madrassahs before following the ancient route past ruined forts to Bukhara, another WHS. The final stop was the fabled Samarkand with its fabulous Registan Square (pictured). The architecture and history of the area are not so well known in the West but it was a vital trading route for centuries, long before the discovery of America or the rise in importance of the sub-continent. We were grateful to Sue for stepping into the breach and coping with the technical issues we had with the projector, and also thanks to Andrew and Mike who gave much needed technical assistance!

Our next meeting is our Christmas lunch and I'm pleased (and surprised!) to say that I have had everyone's orders already. I look forward to seeing you all at the Hourglass, Devizes Marina. Lunch will start at 12.30 and **don't forget your Secret Santa gift, maximum value £5.**

The lunch club will meet the following day at the Red Lion, if you'd like to come along and meet members in a more informal setting, please contact Lyn Bennett Nutt (lyn@184systems.com)

Maggie Lewis. President, Avebury & District WI

MARLBOROUGH LINK COORDINATOR

We are facing a shortfall of coordinators to allocate drivers to clients and need to recruit some volunteers to do this vital job.

The coordinator team works on the basis of each volunteer covering the phones for one day per fortnight and using an excellent (easy to use) computer system to match drivers and clients. The schedule is infinitely flexible, with swapping and covering in all sorts of ways to enable team members to carry on their normal lives. You can do the job from anywhere that has an internet connection, so you aren't confined physically to Marlborough. And it's a great bunch of people to work with and a worthwhile and much valued service which operates in Marlborough and our surrounding villages.

For more information please contact:

Hugh de Saram e mail chair@wiltslinks.uk or

Penny Gold 01672 539158 goldpennygold@aol.com

Avian Influenza.

So far no restrictions have been announced by government but it is as well to keep a close watch on not only domestic but wild bird populations in case of infection.

The virus is very fast in showing signs of lethargy, loss of appetite and 'general misery'.

If spotted in wild birds do not touch.

In all cases report to the official government contact lines - details are to be found on the **Kenet Valley Parish Council** web site,

www.kvparishcouncil.org.uk where any relevant national and local updates of restrictions will be posted.

The New Inn

Winterbourne Monkton, SN4 9NW

thenewinn@elderbrookhouse.com

01672 539793

Charity Christmas Fair & Grotto

Sunday 3rd December - 2-7pm

Help us raise funds for Wiltshire Air Ambulance and Wiltshire Wildlife Trust, buy a gift or two & maybe meet the big man himself!



Festive Wreath Making Workshop

Sunday 10th December - 4pm

£45 per person including a glass of mulled wine.

All proceeds to Wiltshire Wildlife Trust and Wiltshire Air Ambulance.

What else is happening?

Friday 15th - Quiz Night - 7pm

Tables of up to 6 people, £2pp, all proceeds to St Mary Magdalene Church.

Sunday 16th - Festive Traditional Roast - 12-3pm

Booking and pre-ordering is recommended for all of our events.

OPENING HOURS
THURSDAY & FRIDAY - 5.30-9PM
SATURDAY - 8-11AM AND 5.30-9PM
SUNDAY - 12-9PM

SEE ONLINE FOR OUR FESTIVE OPENING HOURS



News from the National Trust

December 2023

'Twelve Days of Christmas' at Avebury Manor

Avebury Manor's Christmas offer is open until 1 January and this year's theme is 'The Twelve Days of Christmas'. Each day from the classic story has been reflected in a different room of the manor, using hundreds of decorations made by National Trust volunteers. As always, residents of Avebury, including Avebury Trusloe, Rawlins Park, Beckhampton and West Kennett get free entry to the manor, garden and museum. If you would like to visit, simply show proof of address on arrival. The full programme of Christmas events, including our popular Christmas market storytime for children, is available at www.nationaltrust.org.uk/avebury.

Have your say on the Avebury experience

A new partnership project, called LoGaCulture, is now underway with the aim of enhancing people's experience of Avebury through digital technologies. To start with, the project is looking for views on what Avebury means to people, how they think about the site, and what is important to them about living in or visiting Avebury. To take part, please fill in one of the project postcards in the Avebury Barn. For more information about the project, please visit <https://logaculture.eu/>.

Avebury Papers – Community Event

The Avebury Papers is a four-year partnership project to digitise, explore, and share a multimedia archive of Avebury's origins and its subsequent life-history. The project team are holding an event at Avebury's Education Centre on 19 December (1-2pm) to share some of the findings and photographs uncovered so far. Spaces are free but need to be booked at <http://www.aveburypapers.org/events/>

Looking after the monument

As part of our conservation work, we are constantly reviewing and adjusting the way we look after the monument in the changing climate. Like last year, we will be giving the henge banks in all four sectors of the monument some time to rest during January, to recover from the footfall over the festive season. This means we will be closing these areas off from any access. The rest of the monument will remain accessible as usual.

Limited car parking during the first part of January

We are carrying out archaeological investigation works in the main visitor car park during January, in preparation for some anticipated improvement works in February. This means parking capacity in the main visitor car park will be extremely limited from 2 to 12 January 2023. We will inform visitors through the website and social media and advise the use of public transport.

If there is anything you wish to discuss with us, please do get in touch via avebury@nationaltrust.org.uk

Saturday 2nd December

THE
CLUBHOUSE
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Eyes Down 8pm
Prizes Raffle
Cash Flyers
£5 for 6 Books

EVERYONE WELCOME



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The Hall has now been open for over a year. Interest in the hall has exceeded our expectations with regular bookings being made. Our Coffee and Cake Warm Hub Saturday morning events have proved popular and the addition of bacon and sausage rolls with other savoury items a great success. Toys and games for children, who are most welcome.

We have recently been fortunate to receive a grant from the National Lottery to enable us to install an advanced Audio Visual System together with hearing loop in the hall.

This will allow films to be shown and for potential hirers to give audio visual presentations.

The next event will be Saturday December 16th at 10.30 am

Please come along and meet friends and neighbours for a convivial chat.

Hall Bookings can be made by e mailing wmch-booking@hotmail.com

Please follow us on our Website wmch.club and on Facebook

Hiring Rates November 2022

General Hirers	Per Hour	WM & BB Residents	Per Hour
Weekday/evening	£15	Weekday/evening	£10
Weekend day/ evening	£17	Weekend day/evening	£12
Repeat Groups		Repeat Groups	
Weekday	£13	Weekday	£ 9
Weekend	£15	Weekend	£10
		Church/ Village Club	£9

The trustees reserve the right to review the charges regularly.

The trustees reserve the right to apply a security deposit. The security deposit will be refunded only after a post booking inspection of the hall. If the hall is left in an unsatisfactory condition with additional cleaning required or if there is any damage to the fabric, fixtures, or fittings then part or all of the deposit may be retained. Any decision taken by the trustees with regard to this matter are final

KENNET VALLEY PARISH COUNCIL

www.kvparishcouncil.org.uk

clerk@kvparishcouncil.org.uk

Tel: 07897 797208

CHRISTMAS DRINKS ON THE DENE – 10th December 2023

The Parish Council are delighted to support this Parish wide event and thank the individuals from Lockeridge for organizing and hosting it and the local couple who have kindly donated a tree and decorative lights. The Christmas Drinks on the Dene will take place on Sunday 10th December at 11am at Lockeridge Dene, apple juice and mulled wine will be provided. All residents of Lockeridge, West Overton and Fyfield are invited. So, dig out your Christmas jumper if you have one, grab a mug and we look forward to seeing you there.

EMERGENCY PLANNING

Wiltshire Council encourages residents to prepare for the winter and has issued guidance:

<http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/civil-emergencies-planning-for-an-emergency>

Emergency numbers

- Wiltshire Council's emergency number is 0300 456 01000
- Thames Water – 0800 009 3652 (0800 316 6899 (minicom / textphone)
- Please check your utility company for emergency contact details

FIRE PRECAUTIONS

The Dorset and Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service offer a free home visit and advice service for local to help keep our communities safe in their homes. The Safe & Well discussion covers topics such as:

- Using electricity safely
- Cooking safely
- Making an escape plan
- What to do if there is a fire
- Keeping children safe
- Good practice – night-time routine and other points relevant to you

Identifying and discussing any further support you may need if necessary
To request a free Safe & Well telephone appointment, please call 0800 038 2323 (please note that this is an answerphone service, monitored during office hours) or request a referral through their website. A selection of free leaflets containing useful information on safety in and around the home are also available.

Please see the website: <https://www.dwfire.org.uk/safe-and-well-visits/what-is-safe-and-well/>

NEXT MEETING

The date of the next full Parish Council meeting is **Monday 15th January 2024 at 6.30pm** in the **Kennet Valley Hall**.

As always members of the public are most welcome to attend – we look forward to seeing you there.



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WHO'S WHO in the Parish of Upper Kennet

RECTOR: REV'D MARIA SHEPHERDSON

01672 539643

The Rectory, 27 High Street, Avebury, SN8 1RF

Email: revmariashepherdson@outlook.com

If you require a priest in an emergency and are unable to contact Rev'd Maria please telephone one of the churchwardens.

BENEFICE SAFEGUARDING REPRESENTATIVES:

Mrs Elizabeth Daley 01672 539277

Mr Roderick Palfrey 01793 731067

Mrs Sibella Laing 01672 861600

Mrs Claire Stiles 01793 731620

Mr Graham Kitchen 01672 861798

Mrs Alison Andre 01672 539641

Mrs Angharad Hughes 07771 615534

sibella.laing@outlook.com

c.j.stiles@hotmail.co.uk

graham@grahamkitchen.com

(also a Lay Pastoral Assistant)

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LAY PASTORAL ASSISTANTS

LAY WORSHIP LEADERS

BENEFICE OFFICE: Anne Robinson, Sophie Roberts (Mon-Thurs, 10am-1pm)

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Tel: 01672 861786 e-mail: upperkennetchurches@gmail.com

BENEFICE WEBSITE: www.kennet8.org.uk

CHURCHWARDENS

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Mrs Maureen Dixon 01672 539690

Mrs Sandra Hues 01672 539444

Mrs Helen Vickers 01672 539482

Mr Graham Kitchen 01672 861798

Mrs Jo Snape 01672 861267

Mrs Susan Rogers 01672 861374

Vicky Evans 01672 861622

Ms Penny Gold 01672 539158

Mrs Claire Stiles 01793 731620

Mr Peter Barry 01793 731589

Mrs Gill Crabtree 07774 424125

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Rose Barclay

Mrs Liz Palfrey

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MAGAZINES

UPPER KENNET NEWS in Fyfield, West Overton, East & West Kennett, Beckhampton, Avebury Trusloe, Avebury, Winterbourne Monkton & Berwick Bassett:

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Please send all copy including advertising and payment to David Throup.

davidthroup@aol.com

Final copy date 20th of each month by 1pm latest.

LOCAL NEWS in Uffcott, Broad Hinton & Winterbourne Bassett:

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