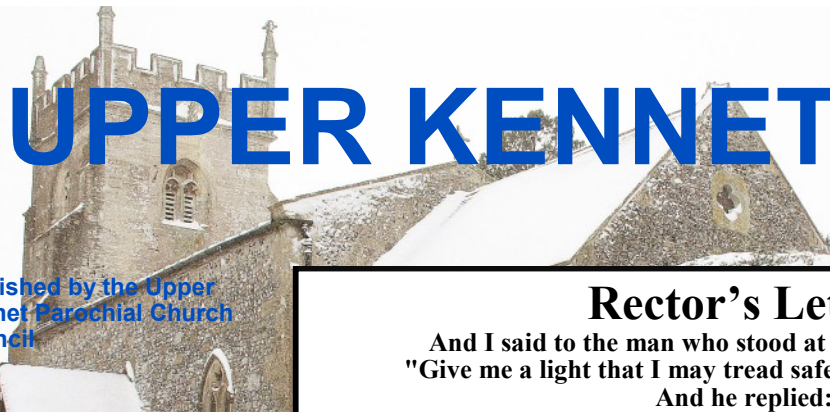




# UPPER KENNET NEWS

January 2026

Published by the Upper Kennet Parochial Church Council



## Kennet Valley Lottery Club draw winners

£100 Number 87 Caro & James Simper  
 £75 Number 83 Sandra Tremeer  
 £50 Number 2 Anne Robinson  
 £50 Number 73 Maria Morrissy

(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

## Notice Board

### Burial of Ashes

Gillian Ruth Swanton  
West Overton 25<sup>th</sup> November 2025

## 100 Club

### Draw Results for December

1st	£48	43	Clarrisa Currie Leigh-Wood
2nd	£36	26	David Taylor
3rd	£24	14	Jill Durnford
4th	£12	33	Nigel Fielder

(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

**"A brief respite from everyday pressures – a time of peace, calm and silent reflection."  
MEDITATION (TAIZE) Service**

Every fortnight on a Wednesday evening at East Kennett Church from 6.00 to 6.25pm: 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 7th January, Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> January & Wednesday 4th February

## Rector's Letter

And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year:  
"Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown".

And he replied:

"Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the Hand of God.  
That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way".

I was talking recently in church of how we do Christmas back to front. Pre-Christmas we have lots of 'Christmas' parties and celebrations and Christmas Day itself is a day when we stop and rest (apart from the mums and all those who do the cooking of course!). This means that post-Christmas is a bit of an anticlimax and many people stumble into January on a bit of low.

The original pattern was that Advent – the four weeks before Christmas – was a time of reflection, a bit like Lent before Easter. Then Christmas Day was the Big Party celebration and everyone partied for the 12 days of Christmas which was over 12 Holy Nights 25<sup>th</sup> Dec - 5th Jan. Doesn't that sound like more fun and a much more positive way to enter the New Year!

I may be one of the few people who actually like January. The beginning of a New Year and the possibility of a new start always fills me with a sense of excitement and hope. A chance to let go of those things from the previous year that are no longer affirming or enriching and to sense that the life within the earth, as it prepares itself for what it will reveal in spring, is bringing a new tide with it. A possibility of new challenges and gifts that will be the beginning of new stories and adventures for each one of us. As the days lengthen and the earth awakens, the secret of what the new year holds for us is slowly revealed bit by bit.

In the church, after the 12 day celebration of Christmas, we celebrate Epiphany on 6<sup>th</sup> Jan. This is a day when we remember the wise men (traditionally numbered as three) who took gifts of Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh to the Christ child. Epiphany is both the manifesting of the Christ child to the Gentile Wise Men, and also speaks of a moment of sudden revelation.

I invite you to recognise that this new year holds within it, for you, a great revelation. It will reveal to you secrets about yourself as you live through it. And it will also reveal to you something of the nature of God as you negotiate its bittersweet symphony. Take time to find the extraordinary in the ordinary. The Son of God in a manger in a stable is everywhere to be found. This wondrous story speaks to us of how the extraordinary lurks within ordinary events - something of the divine in the often messy muddle of everyday life.

Know that within the stark skeletons of January trees and beneath the hard, frosty ground, life is waiting to come into being to reveal its secrets. Astonishingly this miracle calls to us at this time of year every year. My prayer is that you don't miss the epiphany this moment brings you, and that you may be open to divine moments of revelation as they brush your cheek.

A miraculous, transformative and splendid New Year to you all!

Every blessing,  
Jonathan – the Rector

## St James' Church, Avebury Plough Sunday Service with Holy Communion 10 am, Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> January

Bring your tools and seeds for blessing.  
Celebrate our farming tradition at the start of the new agricultural year.  
Bless the earth and promise to cherish it.



# 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
4 January Epiphany						<b>10.30 am</b> Morning Service	<b>10 am</b> Parish Communion
Wednesday 7 January			<b>6 pm</b> Meditation Service (Taizé)	<b>10.30 am</b> Celtic Communion Service			
11 January Baptism of Christ		<b>10 am</b> Morning Service		<b>10 am</b> Plough Sunday Communion Service			
Wednesday 14 January				<b>10.30 am</b> Celtic Communion Service			
18 January Epiphany 2			<b>8 am</b> Holy Communion		<b>10 am</b> Parish Communion		<b>10 am</b> Morning Prayer
Wednesday 21 January			<b>6 pm</b> Meditation Service (Taizé)	<b>10.30 am</b> Celtic Communion Service			
25 January Epiphany 3		<b>10 am</b> Parish Communion					
Wednesday 28 January				<b>10.30 am</b> Celtic Communion Service			
1 February Candlemas	<b>8.30 am</b> Holy Communion					<b>10.30 am</b> Morning Service	<b>10 am</b> Parish Communion

## Upper Kennet Churches Winter Crisis Appeal

### Are you able to help?

Ten years ago, the Upper Kennet Churches launched a **Winter Crisis Appeal Fund** to help those who were experiencing short term financial problems.

Over that period, we have had many donations and we have been able to help a large number of families who were in desperate need.

This year, again, we would ask if you could make a donation if you are able to.

If so, please give your donation to a church warden, or send a cheque to Upper Kennet Churches Office, St. Michael & All Angels Church, Church Hill, West Overton, SN8 4ER; or BACS transfer using sort code 30-92-63 (Lloyds Bank-Upper Kennet Churches Council) account 01498496 (ref: WCA).

Thank you.

### Do you need help?

If you:

- live in one of the Upper Kennet Villages
- are worried about where the next meal is coming from
- have to choose between heating and eating
- are facing a sudden financial emergency

we might be able to assist with a week's food supply, or fuel support, or just general advice.

Contact Rev'd Jonathan Poston on 01672 560584, or a Lay Pastoral Assistant on 01672 861786. Your call will be treated in total confidence.

This is not a substitute for Social Benefits or the Food Bank. It is a gesture from people who understand what you are experiencing.

## Readings

### 4 January – Gold or White Epiphany

Isaiah 60.1-6  
Psalm 72. [1-9] 10-15  
Ephesians 3.1-12  
Matthew 2.1-12

### 11 January – Gold or White Baptism of Christ

Isaiah 42.1-9  
Psalm 29  
Acts 10.34-43  
Matthew 3.13-end

### 18 January – White Epiphany 2

Isaiah 49.1-7  
Psalm 40.1-12  
1 Corinthians 1.1-9  
John 1.29-42

### 25 January – Gold or White Epiphany 3

Isaiah 9.1-4  
Psalm 27.1, 4-12 [or 27.1-11]  
1 Corinthians 1.10-18  
Matthew 4.12-23

### 1 February – Gold or White Presentation of Christ in the Temple

**Candlemas**  
Malachi 3.1-5  
Psalm 24.[1-6] 7-end  
Hebrews 2 14-end  
Luke 2.22-40

## 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:  
Sibella Laing: 01672 861600 or [sibella.laing@outlook.com](mailto:sibella.laing@outlook.com)



## Quiz night success

A Friday evening in November saw another exciting pub quiz in aid of the restoration of Fyfield Church. As ever, tickets sold out in record time and the auction was a huge success.

The victors yet again were the unstoppable 'Les Quizerables' with their small but mighty team of 4. Well done to them!

Thanks to the huge generosity and community spirit of everyone there, we raised an incredible £1,602 which will go straight into the church fund to help with phase 2 of our restoration. A tin of homemade Scottish shortbread fetched an incredible £115, Susanna's delicious homemade Chicken pie and shortbread biscuits went for £70 and the now famous tin of Quality Street went for a whopping £250!! Fantastic!

We're very grateful to the team at The Who'd A who do an incredible job looking after us. The cottage pies and veg were delicious!

Thank you ALL



## COFFEE MORNING at WEST OVERTON CHURCH

on  
**SATURDAY  
31 JANUARY**

from  
**10 am - 12 noon**

Any donations of cakes,  
produce and plants would be  
very welcome.

Please contact  
**Anne Robinson (861169)**  
for further details.

The proceeds will go towards keeping  
West Overton, East Kennett and Fyfield  
churches open.



## West Overton, Fyfield and East Kennett Grand Christmas Bazaar

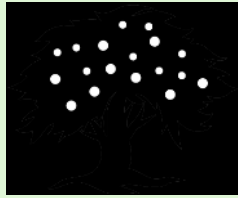
A big thank you to everyone who contributed to another very successful Grand Christmas Bazaar and Christmas Tree sale on the last Saturday of November. Thanks to all those involved in the planning and to the many volunteers who manned stalls on the day, with a special mention to Jo and her amazing family for organising and running the Christmas Tree sale – once again in, mainly, appalling weather conditions. All present had a lovely time and enjoyed the real sense of community.

Once all the Christmas Trees have been sold, we will be able to report back on the fundraising aspect of the day which makes an important contribution to the upkeep of our local churches.

Best wishes to everyone for 2026,

The Bazaar Committee  
(Alison, Jo, Sibella and Jacqui)

# 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 our village fruit, our farmers, their land and cows and the Avebury Manor Orchard where there will be traditional treats with the Lord of the Manor.*

*Performing seasonal songs, music, a Plough Play and the Rector will bless the plough in the National Trust farm yard. After which the plough will be processed to the Church ready for Sunday's traditional Plough Sunday service.*

*It's a day of celebration, blessings, music and fun for all!*



**Wassail Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> January  
at 13.00, top of Avebury High  
Street in the Coach House  
courtyard.**

**Plough Sunday Church Service 10.00 Sunday  
11<sup>th</sup> January in St James, Avebury.**



**Avebury  
Social Centre  
Soup  
Lunches  
Monday**

**5<sup>th</sup> January  
12 noon — 2.00pm**

**£1 - or donation of  
your choice**



**ALL Welcome from Avebury & local villages**

*If you need transport, call 01672 539253 before the day.*



## National Trust Avebury January 2026

### National Trust A Christmas to remember

Thank you to everyone who supported one of our Christmas events. Being able to open Avebury Manor again was fantastic and your visits have meant so much to the team who worked through the flood repairs. The manor will close again on Sunday 4 January to allow the Christmas displays to be removed and for some final repairs to take place. We will reopen the house in the spring with a new visitor experience and look forward to sharing that with you first.

### Caring for the monument

As in previous years, access to all four henge banks will close on Monday 5 January until Saturday 31 January. The closures are done each year at this time to help protect the earthworks during the wet, winter weather, however the rest of the monument and stone circles will remain open as usual.

### Community Tree Planting Day

Join our team in Avebury Manor Garden on Monday 19 January as we prepare and plant hazel trees in the orchard. This will be a hands-on opportunity to help shape this peaceful space, create a new nuttery, and leave a lasting legacy in Avebury for future generations to enjoy. No gardening experience is required and we will provide the tools and guidance. The day will run from 9:30am to 3pm. If you would like to take part, please email [emma.talbot@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:emma.talbot@nationaltrust.org.uk) or call 01672 538017.

### Parking permits

The car park on Avebury High Street is owned and managed by the National Trust. Avebury Parish residents can apply for a parking permit by sending proof of address and their registration number to [avebury@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:avebury@nationaltrust.org.uk).

### Free entry and getting in touch

Residents of Avebury Parish will continue to receive free entry to the manor, garden and the Alexander Keiller Museum in 2026 by showing proof of address at the barn. If you need to contact us for any reason, you can email [avebury@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:avebury@nationaltrust.org.uk) or visit the museum during opening hours.

WHITE HORSE OPERA

COSI FAN TUTTE

BY  
W A MOZART



Avebury Social Centre SN8 IRF

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> February 7.30pm

Bar available. Tickets £15 from

Avebury Community Shop

Cash or cheque only &

[www.ticketsource.co.uk/whitehorseopera](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/whitehorseopera)

CHARITY NO. 1194308

## Avebury Tower News

With apologies to Christina Rossetti, the following says it all about the past month.

*"In the bleak early winter  
Avebury bells didn't moan.  
They stood silent like a stone.  
Holidays and sicknesses had fallen  
Without any snow on snow.  
They needed more ringers  
Not just those from long ago".*

What this meant in practice was that the missed practice on 18th November (due to too few ringers) was followed for the same reason by the following on 25th Nov. We managed to practice on 2nd December but only with 5 ringers. At least nobody had to wait for a bell to become free! Because Avebury bells are very light and therefore high pitched (some would say they sound a bit tinny!) we rang what is called "the back five" - our 5 heaviest bells. Technically when we rang a method on them, it provided a challenge for us because we had no tenor (heaviest) bell to lead off. For non-expert ringers this is unusual and therefore can be challenging. Happily we managed!

Looking to the future, two of our ringers have returned from their month long holiday in Australia and New Zealand, so we have hopes to have enough ringers for the

Parish Communion held at Avebury on 14th Dec. On the following Tuesday we will probably finish ringing half an hour early and have a little party at your correspondent's warm house near the Church. Regarding the Christmas ringing, last year we had only 4 ringers for the Sunday Carol service but rose to 7 for the Crib service. Hopefully this year we will again have not only Sean Tye, but also his father Bruce (who has rung for many years at St John's Devizes) and also his twin boys James and Samuel back from University. Due to noise considerations late at night, we do not usually ring for the First Mass of Christmas service. Hopefully we can ring in the New Year if we have enough ringers, but await numbers and might not be able to half muffle the bells.

Remains but to wish all readers a Very Happy Christmas and New Year.

Brian Vickers

Back by popular demand...  
On Sat 17th January 2026

# BURNS NIGHT SUPPER AND CEILIDH

at the Kennet Valley Hall,

Lockeridge

7pm - 11:00pm

Live Pipe Music

Delicious Hot Food and Ceilidh dancing  
with popular local caller John Carver

All left feet welcome!

**Ticket price: £30**

Email:

stuart-laing@outlook.com

to secure tickets

Bring cash on the night for  
raffle. Pay bar cash or card

Full payment required at time of booking

Kennet Valley Hall  
Lockeridge  
SN8 4EL

KVADS presents

## Jack and the Beanstalk

Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> January- 7.30pm  
Friday 30<sup>th</sup> January- 7.30pm  
Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> January- 2.30pm and 7.30pm

Children £6  
Adults £8

Contact Jean Clements on  
01672 861423

On sale from 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2026

# Avebury Parish Council

[www.aveburyparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.aveburyparishcouncil.gov.uk)



**January 2026**

[www.aveburyparishcouncil.gov.uk/](http://www.aveburyparishcouncil.gov.uk/)

## Councillor Update

Following on from Mik Bedford deciding to step down as Chair of APC and as we look ahead, we are pleased to confirm that after a unanimous vote, Sue Millward will be stepping up from her role as Vice Chair to become the new Chair of the Parish Council. A vote to appoint a new Vice Chair will take place at our February meeting.

## Business Forum

It has been a real pleasure to host the Business Forum this year, providing an opportunity for businesses in our parish to come together each quarter to share updates, ideas, and feedback with one another and with the Council. We believe it has become a highly valuable part of our work, and we look forward to continuing this collaboration with all local businesses in 2026.

## Rawlins Defibrillator

As mentioned in our last update, our fifth defibrillator has now been purchased and its location agreed. The electricians have been appointed, and installation will take place as soon as possible. We will let everyone know the exact location once the installation is complete.

## Litter Pick

SAVE THE DATE for our annual Village Litter Pick – this year we will be gathering on 28<sup>th</sup> February 2026. We will update with more specifics closer to the time.

## Bins

We have ordered blanking plates, and reduced-opening plates, for all the parish bins to help prevent rubbish from spilling out on busy days and to stop wildlife pulling waste from the bins. We will continue to actively monitor the how quickly the bins become full and the refuse collections through the winter and as we head into the summer, with a view to arranging additional collections if needed.

## Meet your Councillors



### Alice Macaire

Alice has called the parish home for nearly 15 years and feels incredibly privileged to live in one of the most beautiful valleys in the world. Married to a diplomat, she has lived in many countries – but it's here, in the heart of Wiltshire, that she's chosen to give back to the community. Alice joined the Parish Council to help celebrate, protect and enhance the area for both residents and visitors. She is married with two adult children and a small dog, and is passionate about the people and places that have shaped her life. Never one to shy away from a challenge, Alice has cycled from Land's End to John O'Groats (on an electric bike), kayaked 100 miles up the Kennet & Avon Canal to raise funds for a children's charity she runs in Kenya – and is soon to take on Cornwall's south coast by bike.

### Parish Steward

Under the Wiltshire Council Parish Steward scheme, each parish in Wiltshire is provided with a dedicated steward - a skilled highways operative who visits roughly once a month to carry out minor but important local road and footpath maintenance, such as clearing drains, trimming overgrown vegetation, fixing small potholes, cleaning and straightening road signs, and dealing with minor highway defects. During the winter months the Parish Steward may be called away to help with gritting and snow clearance on priority routes, which means scheduled visits to individual parishes can sometimes be postponed. If you see something around the parish that needs attention - a blocked drain, a damaged sign, overgrown hedges, or anything else - please do either get in touch with us or report it on MiWilts.

### Looking into 2026

As we look ahead to 2026, Avebury Parish Council will be using our February meeting to discuss and set our priorities for the year. We always welcome residents' views, so please do tell us what you think we should be focusing on. You can have

your say by joining us at the February meeting or by completing our online form, so keep an eye out - and if you have any ideas, please do get in touch. One area we know will be a key priority is road safety. This has been a long-standing concern for many in our community, and we hope that by exploring some fresh, outside-the-box ideas we can make meaningful progress towards safer roads for everyone.

**Avebury Parish Council wishes all residents a very happy and healthy New Year.** As we begin 2026, we would like to thank everyone across the parish for your continued support, involvement, and community spirit. We look forward to working with you in the year ahead and to making positive progress on the issues that matter most to our villages. Here's to a safe, successful, and connected year for the whole Upper Kennet community.

### Dates of note the PC is aware of:

Wassail Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> January – kick off 1pm – raising money for Avebury Orchard  
Plough service Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> January.  
Imbolc Saturday 31 Jan – 1 Feb (No camping)  
Litter pick – 28<sup>th</sup> February  
Defib training -14<sup>th</sup> March 10:30 am with South West Ambulance Services

### Next meeting

The next Ordinary Council Meeting of Avebury Parish Council will be held at 7.30pm on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2026 at the Avebury Social Centre.

### Contact your Parish Council

You can find details of how to contact individual councillors on our website, many of which are also on the Community What's App group.

Alternatively you can contact our Clerk:

*Emma Watson, Clerk*

[clerk@aveburyparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@aveburyparishcouncil.gov.uk)





## Kennet Valley Parish Council

Clerk's details: Alison Ingham

[clerk@kvparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:clerk@kvparishcouncil.org.uk)

Tel: 07897 797208

Website:

[www.kvparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.kvparishcouncil.org.uk)

### BEWARE OF WINTER PAYMENT FUEL SCAMS

Between April and September 2025, Action Fraud received 2,790 crime reports relating to Winter Fuel Payment scams, with victims reporting losses totalling over £27,000. Winter Fuel Payments are made automatically and you do not need to do anything. If you receive any text messages about Winter Fuel Payments, it's a scam – **ignore it!**

### UPGRADING BROADBAND SERVICES IN WILTSHIRE: PROJECT GIGABIT OVERVIEW

Wiltshire Council has published details about the local arrangements for providing fast broadband services to households, businesses, schools etc as part of the national target to deliver gigabit-capable broadband to 99% of UK premises by 2032. Project Gigabit focuses on the premises which are not already covered by commercial company plans to ensure that hard-to-reach areas such as Kennet Valley can benefit from faster online services.

Please go to the Wiltshire Council website and click on **Digital Wiltshire** for full information about Project Gigabit, including details about how to register your interest. The weblink provides a set of FAQs for customers as well as contact details.

In addition, and of particular importance in our area, Wiltshire Council is also conducting a survey about **mobile signal coverage** and residents are invited to share information about the coverage in their areas. This information will help Wiltshire Council to approach the Mobile Network Operators with countywide details as part of an attempt to improve local mobile signal services. You can access the survey on the Digital Wiltshire website. Wiltshire Council also provides a link to the Virgin Media O2 Satellite Not spots initiative.

### PROJECT GIGABIT IN KENNET VALLEY

Openreach Network Planners are already surveying, planning and supervising the Fibre upgrade across the area so if you see an engineer at work in a high-viz jacket and, possibly, sporting an Openreach beanie, do feel free to introduce yourself and ask any questions.

Here is some information from Openreach Network Planners to explain what is happening and to ensure the build goes smoothly. Some areas will need excavation work in the footway/ carriageway as there is no physical infrastructure in place so they will have to add new properties that are fed via a pole will possibly have a re-route. The reason for this is SSEN has stopped allowing Openreach to attach its equipment on to their poles without a new licence. This process can take up to 12 months which slows down progress and has an impact on residents waiting for the new service. A new BT pole may be installed if this is the case there will be an increase in vehicles around the villages while the underground network is inspected as well as during the building phase timing: work is planned for Jan-Mar 2026 but progress will depend on what issues are identified during the works, for example if the underground ducts in the road are damaged and need repairs, and require road closure permits to be sought, there will be further delays.

## NEWS FROM THE WINTERBOURNE MONKTON COMMUNITY HALL



Registered Charity No 1199011

Please visit our Website [wmch.club](http://wmch.club) or follow us on Facebook.

Hall Bookings can be made by e mail to

[wmch-booking@hotmail.com](mailto:wmch-booking@hotmail.com)

### Events List

Friday January 16 <sup>th</sup>	Food Night Details to follow Doors open 5.30pm
Saturday January 24 <sup>th</sup>	Coffee Morning 10.30am – 1.00pm
Saturday February 21 <sup>st</sup>	Coffee Morning 10.30am – 1.00pm
Saturday February 28 <sup>th</sup>	Film Night The Thursday Murder Club Doors open 6.30 Film starts at 7.15

Bar open to purchase other drinks



We are always looking for new ideas for events. Any suggestions please let us know. Speak to a Committee Member or put a suggestion in our post box.

**DIARY DATE: DEFIBRILLATOR TRAINING, SATURDAY 16TH MAY 2026, KENNET VALLEY HALL**  
Our annual defibrillator and CPR training session will be held at Kennet Valley Hall from 10am – midday on Saturday 16th May 2026.

As a reminder, we have four defibrillators in the Kennet Valley Parish:

- St Nicholas Church porch, Lower Fyfield, SN8 1PP
- The Who'd A Thought It public house porch, Lockeridge, SN8 4EL
- Kennet Valley Hall porch, SN8 4EL
- The disused phone box near the bus stop in West Overton, SN8 4ER

Knowing how to use the defibrillators could save a life. Parishioners are invited to attend including those who have been to a previous session and want to refresh their knowledge.

To book your place please email [jill.turner@kvparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:jill.turner@kvparishcouncil.org.uk)

### NEXT PARISH MEETING

The next **Parish Meeting** takes place on Monday, 12<sup>th</sup> January 2026, 6.30pm at Kennet Valley Hall. As always, members of the public are most welcome to attend – we look forward to seeing you there.

With best wishes for 2026  
Alison, Clerk to Kennet Valley Parish Council

# Avebury Community Shop

Shop Phone Number: 01672 539200

**Opening Hours**  
10am – 4pm every day

## Post-Christmas bargains

Now that Christmas is fading from memory, there will be discounts in the shop on many seasonal treats, like mince pies, brandy snaps and confectionery. What do you mean you've decided to go on a diet?

## Bless the tree

If it's January it must be wassailing time. Wassailing (for the few who don't know) is the ancient tradition of blessing apple trees in song so they produce a good crop, and making a racket to drive away evil spirits. The revels begin in Avebury on Saturday January 10th at 1pm at the top of the High Street and will arrive around 1.15pm at the apple tree in the Community Shop garden, which will get its special blessing. Wassail!



## Warming treats

A happy reminder with freezing January in mind: the shop is now stocking delicious Tideford fresh soups to go along with our popular cook-it-yourself bread. We have two flavours: lentil and spinach dhal, and Thai green vegetable.

As for the bread: in the freezer upstairs there are sourdough loaves, organic brown bloomers, onion bloomers, mini baguettes and more. Delicious after a short time in your oven. And before you go to bed? Why not Twinings' Swiss chocolate drink as a gentle way of preparing you for the night...

## Topper idea

Last month we celebrated Kerry McKenna's postbox-toppers which sit proudly outside the shop. Kerry has several used toppers sitting in her shed: she has done Mother Earth, the Green Man, the Crow (known as Russell Crow) with Sunflowers and others. The next one is going to be a big dragon's head with wings outspread. Be afraid.

## Home deliveries

Remember we offer home deliveries if you're unwell or disabled. Our delivery area includes Avebury, Avebury Trusloe, Beckhampton, East and West Kennett, Winterbourne Monkton and Berwick Bassett.

*Tim Rice*

# The New Inn

& Elderbrook House



News from Your Local 01672 539793 [thenewinn@elderbrookhouse.co.uk](mailto:thenewinn@elderbrookhouse.co.uk)

*Thank you for your ongoing support!*

We've had an incredible year and we are so grateful to everyone in the local community who continues to support us.



## Highlights of 2025

### Cabbage Sunday

This year's event was a huge success - and for once, it didn't rain! With fabulous stalls, fab auction donations and wonderful community spirit we raised £2932.70 - which we are told is a record!

Please note The New Inn will be closed 2<sup>nd</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup> January

The New Inn, Winterbourne Monkton, SN4 9NW

### 'The Hayloft' is complete!

We are delighted to share that The Hayloft renovation is finished and now open for bookings.

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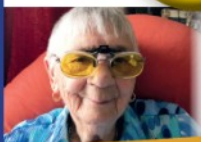
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### LAY PASTORAL ASSISTANT

Mr Graham Kitchen 01672 861798 graham@grahamkitchen.com

### LAY WORSHIP LEADERS

Mrs Claire Stiles 01793 731620 c.j.stiles@hotmail.co.uk who is also a **Lay Pastoral Assistant**

Mrs Alison Andre 01672 539641 who is also a **Lay Pastoral Assistant**

Mrs Angharad Hughes 07771 615534

Mr Magnus Thompson 07885 465916

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**WEST OVERTON** Mrs Susan Rogers 01672 861374 sjrogers44@gmail.com

Mr Stuart Laing 01672 861600 stuart-laing@outlook.com

**FYFIELD** Co-opted PCC member Vicky Evans 01672 861622 bixevans@gmail.com

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**PCC SECRETARY** Mr Peter Barry 01793 731589 peter17.barry@gmail.com

### LOCAL CHURCH COMMITTEES - SECRETARIES

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