

# UPPER KENNET NEWS

Published by the Upper Kennet Parochial Church Council

July 2026



## Rector's Letter

There is a thirst for God but many do not know where to begin.

Lots of people are seeking answers to spiritual questions. Who is there to help them? These days it is very often the blind leading the blind. In this age where everyone thinks their opinion is as good or better than anyone else's, there is so much nonsense out there on the internet. Lots of uninformed, baseless opinions – a cacophony of superficial wish fulfilment.

Our desire for God is hard-wired into who we are as human beings.

And if God is dismissed, we will find something or someone else to worship. Many have come to realise that conspiracy theories, or theories about alien intervention or living in a simulation are basically substitute theologies. If we are not offered intelligent teaching or guidance in spiritual or metaphysical truths, we make up our own or latch on to any wild theories or ideas that float around the internet. People will search for something God-like. That pilgrim impulse never goes completely away.

Certainly here at Avebury, apart from those interested simply in Avebury as an ancient British monument, this village has continuous pilgrims coming through. Some are Christian or Christ-curious. Many others want to touch the stones and sense something 'other'.

There are those who believe they sense the power and memory in this land. The trace of what our ancestors used to do here, left behind for us to continue to experience. And I respect that impulse. I know what that impulse feels like.

But as someone who has been touched by the mysteries and call of Christianity, and who has been called to feast at the table of Jesus, the Word made flesh, I'd suggest that the pilgrim call to worship at these local stones only takes

Merlin spoke to Arthur and said:  
*Now take this oak leaf in your hand  
And lean against the tree,  
And feel your own roots delving deep,  
Where hidden springs and waters seep,  
And let your branching thoughts still keep,  
A place for mystery.  
So Arthur held the oak leaf close  
And leant against the tree,  
And soon he felt a change begin,  
As though he grew grey bark for skin,  
A strong new life sprung deep within,*

*A whole new way to be.  
He shared the long life of the oak  
So strong for change and chance.  
Older by far and deeper than,  
The busy little lives of men,  
He breathed in sunlight drank in rain,  
A living link in that great chain,  
Of life itself warmed by the sun.  
Where all advanced and all return  
In one lone joyous dance.*

Malcolm Guite

us half-way to our destination. Though I don't see it as a false path or a misguided path, so much as part of a journey of exploration that some people are taking.

Like our ancestors who lived here, who obviously felt a strong connection with the sky and planets above and shaped the earth to reflect that with the henge and stones, people today want to sense the grandeur and the seriousness of that endeavour of thousands of years ago.

They want to connect with that combination of magnificence and community.

I have many friends who connect with God through nature. They swim in the rivers and light fires in the woods and sleep out under the stars. Developing a deep connection with nature is the beginning of a spiritual path. Trees and plants and animals are all living

beings albeit after a different order. All living things have a certain level of consciousness and everything that is conscious has the ability to engage in relationship with us and with each other. And ultimately behind all being and behind us is the living Spirit of God's Presence.

God often speaks to me through God's creation. My main retreat place for many years was Lindisfarne in Northumbria. A semi-island cut off from the mainland twice a day. I used to go to connect with the ancient Celtic saints but soon learnt that it was actually the landscape itself that spoke to me of God's Presence. I'm sure this was true of those original saints too. A presence that only a poem can express.

Every blessing  
Jonathan – the Rector

## Lindisfarne

Arriving as the tide's about to close,  
The swirling gates sweep slothly ones away,  
I am embraced, now home, to all betrothed,  
To sea, to wind, to sun's bright spark on wave.

Her perfume is what opens me to her,  
The smell of smoky fires and briny air,  
Those Celtic Saints to whom I came to learn,  
Could not reveal to me, what I sought there.

For God is depth of ocean, dragging tides,  
The scent of burning coals by Seraph sent,  
Both soul and body worship as they writhe,  
As Love it burns away our poor intent.

No God for me, once prayed, will make all fine,  
I'll seek the God who calls in smoke and brine.

Jonathon Poston

## Notice Board

### Baptisms

Theodore Angus Gough Beckwith  
Broad Hinton 24th May  
Scout Meadow Wethered  
Avebury 6th June

### Burial of Ashes

Philip Banting  
Broad Hinton 13th June

## Kennet Valley Lottery Club draw winners

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

£100 Number 9 Mike Morrisey  
£75 Number 57 D.A & S.M. Wylie  
£50 Number 84 Andy Miller

**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 May

1st	£56.00	39	Name withheld
2nd	£42.00	6	Archie Galbraith
3rd	£28.00	93	Jane Crabbe
4th	£14.00	10	Greg Hallam

(some winners prefer that their names are not published)  
**If you would like to join the lottery email: marksaunders888@gmail.com**  
Your way to help support the churches of Winterbourne Monkton and Berwick Bassett  
Lottery is licensed by Wiltshire Council

# UPPER KENNET CHURCHES SERVICES

	St Nicholas FYFIELD	St Michael & All Angels WEST OVERTON	Christ Church EAST KENNETT	St James AVEBURY	St Mary Magdalene WINTERBNE MONKTON	St Katherine & St Peter WINTERBNE BASSETT	St Peter ad Vincula BROAD HINTON
Wednesday 1 July				<u>10.30 am</u> Celtic Communion Service			
5 July Trinity 5	<u>8.30 am</u> Holy Communion					<u>10.30 am</u> Morning Service	<u>10 am</u> Parish Communion
Wednesday 8 July			<u>6 pm</u> Meditation Service (Taizé)	<u>10.30 am</u> Celtic Morning Service			
12 July Trinity 6		<u>10 am</u> Morning Service	<u>4 pm</u> Muddy church	<u>10 am</u> Parish Communion			
Wednesday 15 July				<u>10.30 am</u> Celtic Communion Service			
19 July Trinity 7			<u>8 am</u> Holy Communion		<u>10 am</u> Parish Communion		<u>10 am</u> Morning Prayer
Wednesday 22 July			<u>6 pm</u> Meditation Service (Taizé)	<u>10.30 am</u> Celtic Communion Service			
26 July Trinity 8		<u>10 am</u> Parish Communion					
Wednesday 29 July				<u>10.30 am</u> Celtic Communion Service			
2 August Trinity 9	<u>8.30 am</u> Holy Communion					<u>10.30 am</u> Morning Service	<u>10 am</u> Parish Communion

## Readings

<b>Sunday 5 July – Green</b> <b>Trinity 5</b> Genesis 24.34-38, 42-49, 58- end Psalm 45.10-end <i>or Canticle:</i> Song of Solomon 2.8-13 Romans 7.15-25a Matthew 11.16-19, 25-end	139.1-11] Romans 8.12-25 Matthew 13.24-30, 34-6-43
<b>Sunday 12 July – Green</b> <b>Trinity 6</b> Genesis 25.19-end Psalm 119.105-112 Romans 8.1-11 Matthew 13.1-9, 18-23	<b>Sunday 26 July – Green</b> <b>Trinity 8</b> Genesis 29.15-28 Psalm 105.1-11, 45b [or 105.11] or 128 Romans 8.26-end Matthew 13.31-33, 44-52
<b>Sunday 19 July – Green</b> <b>Trinity 7</b> Genesis 28.10-19a Psalm 139.1-11, 23-24 [or	<b>Sunday 2 August – Green</b> <b>Trinity 9</b> Genesis 32.22-31 Psalm 17.1-7,16 [or 17.1-7] Romans 9.1-15 Matthew 14.13-21

## Can you give yourself 25 minutes a fortnight?

Just to relax, turn off, and forget the trials and stresses of life, and everyday pressures, and to enjoy a time of peace, calm and silent reflection. Every fortnight on a Wednesday evening at **East Kennett Church from 6.00 to 6.25pm** we hold a Taize meditation service: a chance to just sit quietly and relax and enjoy the silence and the peace by candlelight, with a background of occasional singing - often accompanied by guitar playing, plus a few words of wisdom and brief prayers – but mainly peace and calm. No complicated service to follow, just peace and relaxation. Put these dates in your diary and drop in to join us when you feel like it:

**Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> July, Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> July &  
Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> August 2026.**

We look forward to seeing you.  
Graham Kitchen, Jo Snape and Lindie White

## Update on Marlborough Deanery's partnership with Morobo Diocese

Bishop Data has written of "the challenges facing us in the Diocese, like insecurity, murder, looting, poverty, sickness etc." In the face of these challenges, to which the government appears to have no solution, the church has an increasingly important role to play. Outreach programmes have resulted in many people giving their lives to Jesus, and the Bishop was grateful for the money we sent to provide Bibles for new converts in the military.

We have committed the Deanery to providing money to fund the next four years' work and planting on the farm. The rains have come just in time to save the latest crop of maize, and the bee hives have yielded a good harvest of honey, which has generated some useful income for the church.

As ever, there is much that can be done to support the church in Morobo. One particular request is for musical instruments to enhance the worship, especially for young people. Bishop Data mentions "keyboard, microphones, speakers, mixture, trumpets, shakers, guitars, drums, percussion." If anyone feels able to contribute either instruments or money for the purchase of them, please get in touch with us at the Deanery Sub-Committee via [ctg100@hotmail.com](mailto:ctg100@hotmail.com).

Morobo is holding its Diocesan Synod in January 2027. We have been invited to send representatives to this – an exciting opportunity to witness at first hand the life and mission of our brothers and sisters there.

**Come and ENJOY AN EVENING OF MUSIC & LAUGHTER**  
at **St Nicholas Church, Fyfield**

**11 SEPTEMBER 2026**  
BETWEEN **7PM** AND **9.15PM**

**JONATHON WOODHOUSE**  
— on the —  
**SAXOPHONE**

**TICKET PRICES**  
ADULTS **£25pp** UNDER 18 YEARS OLD **£10pp**  
PRICE INCLUDES A DRINK AND NIBBLES

**NIGEL SMITH**  
— the —  
**HILARIOUS POET**

**ALL PROCEEDS GO TOWARDS THE CHURCH RESTORATION FUND**  
Box Office contact Lydia on **07919 073272**  
★ We look forward to seeing you there! ★

## West Overton Coffee Morning

A big thank you to all who attended or helped at the coffee morning on 13 June and to those who baked for it and those who provided plants and other items for sale.

We raised just under £180 which will go towards keeping West Overton, Fyfield and East Kennett Churches open.

## Upper Kennet Churches

### Home Visits & Home Communion

Please contact the Church Office if you would like one of our Pastoral Team to come and visit you or if you cannot get to church and would like Home Communion.

Telephone: 01672 861786

e-mail: [upperkennetchurches@gmail.com](mailto:upperkennetchurches@gmail.com)

## 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)



**SUNDAY JULY 26<sup>TH</sup>**  
4 til 6 pm

**£20pp**

The Old Rectory  
Winterbourne Bassett  
SN4 9PU

# Ritzy Tea

In aid of the Church Fabric Fund

Dress to Impress  
Pimms Bar  
Live Music

Tickets from Clare Stiles  
[c.j.stiles@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:c.j.stiles@hotmail.co.uk) 07880 583095

Could you spare a little time to brighten someone's day?



**Friends of Savernake Hospital and the Community**  
Register Charity No. 262732.

We are looking for a friendly, good-humoured person who would enjoy chatting to the patients up at Savernake Hospital,

whilst talking our trolley shop around the thirty-bed ward **once a week**.

This would be followed by an **hour-long** shift in our shop in the foyer.

If you are a good listener, enjoy meeting people, and would like to **make a real difference**, we would.

If you think you might be interested, contact our shop manager, Ian Philpott for further details via [shop@friendsofsavernake.org](mailto:shop@friendsofsavernake.org)

Make a real difference in your local community



Would you like to learn about dreams?

# INTRODUCTION TO DREAMS

with Janis Muir

12th August 2026  
10am - 1pm  
@ THE HEDGE SHOP  
AVEBURY SN8 1RF

£15  
TO RESERVE A SEAT  
EMAIL: [janis@coastaldepot.co.uk](mailto:janis@coastaldepot.co.uk)  
OR TEL: 01774747205. SEE MY SHOP ONLINE  
\* HOPE TO SEE YOU \*



## East Kennett report

It is all change in East Kennett, as the outgoing chairman and secretary were thanked and sent on their way with a couple of bottles of Irish whisky. After a five year stint in the chair Philip Dodson has made way for Niki Hinman, and Alan Brown for Debbie Simpson.

Local councillor Jane Davies was unable to attend in person but her report had concerns about highways, road conditions and potholes.

"If problems persist, please escalate them through your Parish Clerk and contact me directly - I am always happy to follow up with highways engineers on your behalf," she wrote.

There is a meeting of the Local Highways and Footpaths Infrastructure Group) every two months which the Chair attends. No works are due in East Kennett other than line painting prior to which verges require repairs.

Graham Kitchen, Church Warden, gave an update on Church matters reminding all that the C of E does not contribute anything financially to help keep their churches open and functioning.

East Kennett church functions, which have raised around £2k over the past couple years have included a vinyl night, where people brought records to play and reminisce - with a glass of wine.

The ever popular Christmas carols, a flower arranging tutorial, a recital and talks from

interesting villagers including life behind the doors of Number 10 Downing Street and the new ways of farming in the Kennet Valley.

"We have to pay an annual levy to Salisbury Diocese of approx £23,000 for our 3 churches (EK, WO and Fyfield) towards the cost of our vicar (and house) plus insurances amounting to £6500 pa. We are responsible for electricity costs and for all repairs and maintenance," explained Mr Kitchen.

Fred Jones has kindly agreed to continue to mow the grass every fortnight, occasionally assisted by Peter Triggs, both who were thanked by the Chair at the recent village meeting, and a further call for volunteers to help with weeding the paths went out.

"We have an ongoing dispute with Scottish and Southern Electricity: their overhead cable is pulling away some of the stonework. The cable needs to be buried underground. The stonework repair will cost approx. £10,000 which we are insisting that they pay (my file is about 2 inches thick at the moment!)," added Mr Kitchen.

A Whatsapp Group was suggested for establishing a working party for the church grounds.

A new WhatsApp Group for village notices will be set up as a read only group.

Admin will post all notices relevant to the village on this group.

Chair Niki Hinman and Clerk Debbie Simpson will be Admin.

The current Village WhatsApp Chat Group will remain.

If anyone does not have a mobile number and cannot therefore join the Notices Group, please contact the Clerk.

It was agreed that a village defibrillator would be desirable. The matter to be explored further via Cllr Jane Davies along with a Speed Indicator Device (SID).

Philip Dodson explained that the village could apply for a budget to assist with costs and in addition would need to fund £2,500.

Of note, Lockeridge has recently installed a SID on the road close to Kennet Valley Hall.

On the entertainment and events front, much enthusiasm was shown for another village BBQ, date to be set, but likely in September, more talks, recitals, vinyl nights and anything that gets people in the village together. An entertainment committee of Phil and Carol Dodson, Lucy Lloyd and Vickie Sheriff was formed.

East Kennett has an annual Village Meeting in lieu of belonging to a Parish Council.

## AVEBURY PANTO 2026

The Avebury Players are delighted to announce that our 2026 panto will be 'Alice in Az' written by our own very talented in-house writer Justine Cooper. The dates for the performances will be 8<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> December. If you would like to be part of the fun, we are looking for newcomers to be involved in our production. We are especially looking for:

- Actors
- Help with costumes (don't worry, you don't necessarily need to be able to sew but we need someone to organise our costumes)
- Help with front of house and refreshments
- Help with organisation

If you would like to be involved, please contact either Alison or Michele.

Alison Andre [aogreaves@gmail.com](mailto:aogreaves@gmail.com)

Michele Lomas [michele.m.lomas@gmail.com](mailto:michele.m.lomas@gmail.com)



# Kennet Valley School



We are very lucky that Kennet Valley School is in such a stunning setting with many interesting places and experiences nearby. We are also lucky to have small, mixed age classes so we can make the most of this

Our Year 6 children recently joined pupils from other schools across the Diocese at Salisbury Cathedral for the Year 6 Leavers' Service.

Together, we sang hymns and songs, shared prayers, and reflected on the wonderful journey our children have had throughout their primary school years. We were especially delighted that some of our pupils had the opportunity to be actively involved in the service, including leading the procession, lighting a candle, reading prayers they had written and carrying our school banner.

It was a very proud and emotional occasion as we celebrate all they have achieved throughout their time at Kennet Valley and prepare them for the next exciting chapter of their education as they transition to secondary school.

Recently, on one of our outside learning adventures, we visited, the Gourmet Goat Farmer near Avebury. where we learnt so much about farming in the local area and where food comes from. We took part in many hands-on activities, including making butter with the goats milk, grinding wheat to make flour and meeting the goats and their newly born kids.

Another outdoor learning adventure for Lyra and Pavo class took place at White Barrow Farm which is very close to the school. We fed the animals and explored the meadow, identifying wild flowers and looking for mini-beasts

We are so proud of all the children from Kennet Valley School who took part in the recent triathlon in aid of charity. They showed great enthusiasm, determination, and encouragement for one

another during the 750m run, 50m swim and 1000m cycle events. Every child gave their best effort, cheered on their teammates, and embraced the day with huge smiles and fantastic team spirit. Most importantly they had fun. When asked what the highlights were, the children replied "It was great fun with all the people watching and cheering us on. It challenged us to push ourselves to our limit. We worked well as a team together." The children proudly brought their medals into school, and we were delighted to celebrate their success together during collective worship.

Well done to all our amazing participants — you should be incredibly proud of yourselves. We certainly are!

Don't forget that there is a toddler group in School every Friday morning in term-time 9.00-10.00 a.m

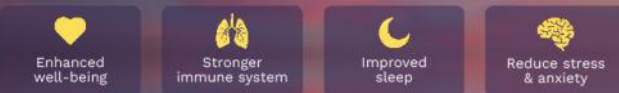
If you would like the dates for Stay and Play or the Community teas which are held in School please contact the School on 01672 861643.



FEATURED IN  
VOGUE CNN Forbes

## The Art of Living Part 1 Course

Formerly known as the Meditation and Breath Workshop



Fri 17 July - Sun 19 July

Badbury Park Community Hub, Homington Avenue  
Badbury Park, Swindon SN3 6FX

REGISTER NOW: <https://shorturl.at/gfHXL>

Contact: Amit 07448 675488 | Stef 07516 313502



## GARDENER

I am a gardener looking for gardening work in the Avebury, Winterbourne Bassett, Broad Hinton and East Kennett area. I am experienced and qualified but as I don't drive you would need to provide tools.

I'm happy to cycle or use public transport to reach you and I look forward to hearing from you.

If you are interested please contact me:

**Martin Andre**

[martinjandre@gmail.com](mailto:martinjandre@gmail.com) 01672 539641 or 07887 717626

2026 AVEBURY

THE AVEBURY SOCIETY INVITES YOU TO

# CELEBRATE AVEBURY

## 40 YEARS

### A WORLD HERITAGE SITE

A day of Talks, History and Exhibitions followed by food, fun and games

# 12<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2026

<p><b>11:30AM TALK IN SOCIAL CENTRE</b> Speakers, Exhibitions and DETAILS TO FOLLOW.</p>	<p>★ TALK WILL BE PRIORITY TO MEMBERS</p>
<p><b>EXHIBITIONS IN VILLAGE VENUES</b> Displays and exhibitions associated with Avebury; creative and entertaining activities.</p>	<p>★ EXHIBITIONS FREE TO ALL</p>
<p><b>1PM BYO PICNIC LUNCH IN A MARQUEE</b> On cricket field.</p>	<p>★ LUNCH TABLE SPACES WILL NEED BOOKING VIA THE WEBSITE</p>
<p><b>FOOD, FUN AND GAMES</b> An afternoon of social activities for all ages.</p>	

★ ALL WILL BE WELCOME (AND EXPECTED!) ★

<http://www.aveburysociety.org>



Another Abandoned Barn, 2024 (Pascale Stacey)



On King's Play Hill, from the project *All Along the Watershed* (Richard Draper)

**Pascale Stacey and Richard Draper invite you to join them at their exhibition of paintings and photographs from the local landscape and further afield this July in Avebury - part of Marlborough Open Studios**

You can find us in Green Street, Avebury, 60 metres past the Chapel on your right, the second house on the left hand side. Look out for the MOS sign.



More details in the MOS brochure and at [marlboroughopenstudios.co.uk](http://marlboroughopenstudios.co.uk)

We are open:

July 4th and 5th Sat/Sun: 11am to 5pm  
July 8th to 10th Wed/Thurs/Fri: 2pm to 5pm  
July 11th and 12th Sat/Sun: 11am to 5pm  
July 15th to 17th Wed/Thurs/Fri: 2pm to 5pm  
July 18th and 19th Sat/Sun: 11am to 5pm

# Wine tasting



**In aid of  
Wansdyke Carriage Driving Group  
RDA**

**Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> July  
Wootton Rivers Village Hall  
from 7 p.m.**

**Wine tasting  
Quiz  
BBQ  
Raffle**

**Bar  
(cash or card)**

**Tickets £35 a head**

**Contact [wcdg18@gmail.com](mailto:wcdg18@gmail.com)  
for tickets**

## EVENTS AT

# THE NEW INN

5

JULY

**CHARITY BBQ & LIVE MUSIC**  
*Help us raise funds for 3 amazing causes with an afternoon in the countryside!*

9

JULY

**BOOK CLUB**  
*Meeting at 7.30pm - don't forget to pre-order your supper!*

10

JULY

**QUIZ NIGHT**  
*Max 6 per team - £2pp - booking is a must - 7pm start.*

31

JULY

**SUPPER CLUB**  
*Lou is back!  
Book now to enjoy a social evening with a delicious themed menu.*

**BOOKING IS HIGHLY RECOMMENDED.  
TO BOOK YOUR SPACE POP IN, MESSAGE US OR  
EMAIL [THENEWINN@ELDERBROOKHOUSE.COM](mailto:THENEWINN@ELDERBROOKHOUSE.COM)**

**PLEASE NOTE WE WILL BE OPENING AT 4PM ON SATURDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> JULY & CLOSED FOR A PRIVATE EVENT ON SATURDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> AUGUST.**

## OPENING HOURS

*Thursday & Friday - 5.30pm - 9pm  
Saturday & Sunday - 12pm - 9pm*



## Berwick Bassett & Winterbourne Monkton Parish Council

The Annual Parish Meeting was held in April, and the Parish Councillors were pleased to welcome more residents than in previous years to the meeting.

At the recent Annual Parish Council Meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> June 2026 the following officers were re-appointed. *Chair:* Simon Petchey, *Vice-Chair:* Jill Petchey, *Responsible Finance Officer:* Phil Scott.

Particular responsibilities were assigned as follows. *Planning:* Cllr Feeley, *Public Footpaths:* Cllr Galbraith, *Emergency & Flooding:* Cllr West, *Community:* Cllr J Petchey, *Environment:* Cllr Cooper.

Several years ago the National Trust withdrew permits for our parish residents to park in the Avebury High Street car park. Council has been campaigning to get this long-standing arrangement restored. Disappointingly we have not succeeded despite our residents' need to park for access to the Avebury post office and shop, and despite the key role our villagers play in supporting the shop.

Due to the Section 106 monies the Parish Council has funds available for improvements within the Parish. An online survey is planned for July, when residents will be asked for ideas. Work has already started on a project to upgrade and improve the parish footpaths and associated gates, with particular emphasis on improving the links between Berwick Bassett and Winterbourne Monkton.

Work has also started on possible replacement of the current Parish Website, which has long proved difficult to maintain and is not very user friendly.

The Chair has written to the Chief Constable to ask for improved policing of the fast stretches of the A4361 as a consequence of the recent accidents. No response has yet been received.

Information on Parish Councillors can be found on the website [www.bbwmipc.org](http://www.bbwmipc.org), and they can be contacted through our Clerk at [Clerk@bbwmipc.org](mailto:Clerk@bbwmipc.org).



## National Trust Avebury

### Discovering Untamed Avebury: landscape, people and nature

20 July

National Trust Archaeologist Dr Nick Snashall is hosting a new guided Avebury walk at 10am on 20 July. Covering around four miles of the landscape, Nick will reveal the strange and unfamiliar world that Avebury's prehistoric inhabitants would have known. A place where wild creatures roamed among chalkland streams and giant stones littered the downland. Spaces are limited and can be booked through our website.

### Festival of Archaeology Day – 28 July

Younger visitors can become an archaeologist for the day at Avebury on 28 July. Our Festival of Archaeology Day will include digging for buried artefacts and a guided, interactive timeline that will explore Avebury's fascinating history. All activities will be free and available from 11am to 3pm.

### Outdoor theatre: King Arthur and the Holy Fail

Tickets are selling fast for our two outdoor theatre events on Friday 21

August and Saturday 22 August. Fresh from last year's Shakespeare spectacular, The Three Inch Fools will return to Avebury Manor Garden with their playful take on the legend of King Arthur. Gates will open at 5:30pm with the performance beginning at 6:30pm. Tickets are available through our website.

### The Cart Shed Café – opening in July

We're excited to be opening a new dog-friendly café space this month. The new Cart Shed Café, located behind the barn, will offer a relaxed space for visitors with dogs to enjoy food, drinks, and ice cream. It's something many of you have asked for, and we're thrilled to bring it to life.

### Parking permits

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

### Getting in touch

If you need to contact the team for any reason, please visit the Estate Office (Monday to Friday) or you can email us at [avebury@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:avebury@nationaltrust.org.uk).

## 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

Thursday July 16 <sup>th</sup>	Pizzalola From 4.30pm	Thursday Sept 17 <sup>th</sup>	Pizzalola From 4.30
Saturday July 25 <sup>th</sup>	Coffee Morning 10.30am-1.00pm	Saturday Sept 26 <sup>th</sup>	Coffee Morning 10.30am-1.00pm
Friday August 14 <sup>th</sup>	Food Night From 4.30pm	Friday October 16 <sup>th</sup>	Film Night Film to be Announced
Saturday August 29 <sup>th</sup>	Coffee Morning 10.30am-1.00pm	Saturday October 24 <sup>th</sup>	Coffee Morning 10.30am -1.00pm



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.



# Kennet Valley Parish Council

Clerk's details: Alison Ingham [clerk@kvparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:clerk@kvparishcouncil.org.uk)  
Tel: 07897 797208 Or 07734 761912  
Website: [www.kvparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.kvparishcouncil.org.uk)

## HOT WEATHER AND WILDFIRES

We hope you are enjoying the lovely summer weather. For information and helpful tips on preventing wildfires, please go our website [kvparishcouncil.org.uk](http://kvparishcouncil.org.uk) or contact the Clerk if you need help to access this information.

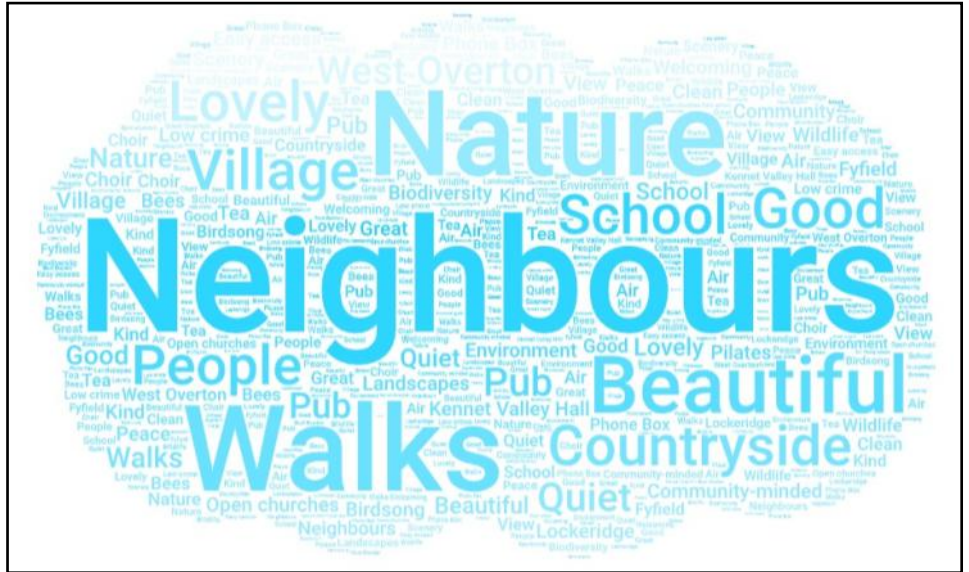
With best wishes, Alison, Clerk to  
Kennet Valley Parish Council

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT EVENT FOLLOW-UP

Following the Community Engagement event on 11th May 2026 at Kennet Valley Hall the Parish Council has begun to analyse the feedback from Parishioners about life in our area. The detailed work will continue over the summer to identify where actions can be taken, and which other organisations can assist.

The Parish Council will report on progress through the website and in Upper Kennet News. For now, we hope you like this word cloud generated from the data collected. Word clouds are created by analysing a piece of text and counting how often each word appears. The words that occur most frequently are shown in the largest, boldest type, while less common words appear smaller. This creates a simple visual snapshot of the main themes or ideas in the text, making it easy to see what topics stand out at a glance.

now in situ in Lockeridge and data on speeding motorists is being collected for Wiltshire Police. As part of the ongoing efforts to improve road safety the device will be moved around the village to other locations within the 20mph limit area during the summer. Thank you to the team of volunteers who assist in this important task.



## LOCKERIDGE SPEED INDICATOR DEVICE

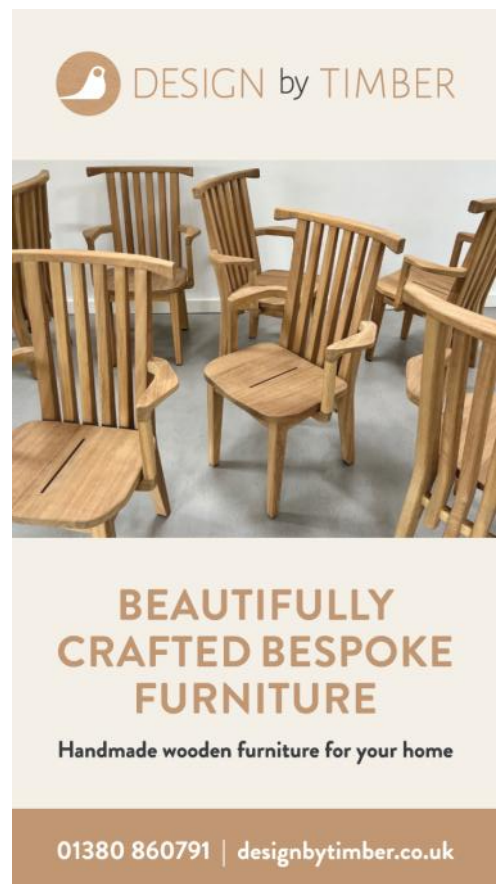
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## Avebury Tower News

Just to show that nobody is indispensable, the Avebury ringers kept ringing over the past few weeks without my presence in the ringing chamber up in the tower. This was due to the first cataract operation on one of my eyes. Happily I returned to ringing last Tuesday practice on 16th June. There was much indecisive debate as to how long should be taken off from ringing after a cataract operation. There is plenty of "expert" advice available as to how long you should not drive after such an operation, but there seem to be no specialists who ring bells to give advice! However Avebury bells are very light and easy to ring, so I returned. The problem is that I will again have to take time off when my other eye has to be operated on at a presently unknown date.

Meanwhile ringing has continued as usual with the sad exception that no ringers were available for the Parish Communion Service on 14th June. As ever, this shows how much we need more ringers, particularly any who can ring at Avebury for Service rings. If you want to learn to ring, please phone me on 01672 539482 and I will arrange tuition.

We have been asked to ring for a Wedding Blessing on Saturday 27th June, and have managed to get 6 ringers - but all except me travelling to Avebury and expecting petrol money. We will keep things simple in the hope of not having any obvious stoppages, and anybody listening might hopefully recognise our different "tunes". To start with a "conductor" will "call the changes". We start by ringing in "Rounds", which should be a sequence (repeated several times) of 6 notes starting high and descending to a low on the 6th note. The conductor will then say "3 after 2" and bell 3 should ring a little quicker and bell 2 slower so that the original order in rounds of:

1 2 3 4 5 6 The conductor then calls "2 after 3" when the order becomes

1 3 2 4 5 6 The next call will be "4 after 5" to make the order:

1 3 2 5 4 6 Then it is "2 after 5"

1 3 5 2 4 6 This sequence of first the odd numbered bells followed by the even numbered is called "Queens". We rang it many times for recent royal occasions.

We might well go back to ringing rounds by reversing the above sequences.

However if all goes well, then we might progress:

From 1 3 5 2 4 6

To 3 1 5 2 4 6

And 3 5 1 2 4 6

Finally 5 3 1 2 4 6

Hopefully listeners might recognise this as the tune to "Turn again Whittington" and needless to say this sequence is known to bellringers as "Whittingtons".

Quite enough for one month's entry! More in this vein "sometime".

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## Avebury Community Shop

Shop Phone Number: 01672 539200

### Opening Hours

10am – 4pm every day

### Solstice bonanza

Last month was the busiest in the shop's calendar, mainly because of the solstice celebrations on June 20 and 21. On a good solstice day we can take literally 30 times the amount on a quiet winter day. Avebury is heaving with people.

Running the shop at this time takes a huge amount of planning and organisation. The biggest thanks go to the managers Lyn, Martin and Simon (plus Holly) who co-ordinate it all in the background – in fact up on the first floor!

Shop opening hours are lengthened too, which requires the time and willingness of many volunteers. As always, we owe a huge debt of gratitude to all those who give up their free time at solstice and throughout the year.



### Ready, steady, goat

This year we also say big thanks to the Gourmet Goat Farmer, Laura Corbett, whose farm is a short distance up the road towards Swindon, offered to lend the shop her walk-in fridge for storage over solstice.

It was packed with all kinds of goodies over that weekend and was an invaluable storage spot. Normally at solstice our storage room upstairs – already heaving with products – is cluttered with people's cool boxes to keep the pasties, sandwiches etc cool for the customers. Many thanks to Laura for her thoughtfulness.

### Lammastide

Next month's day of publication, August 1<sup>st</sup>, is also the day of the ancient Christian festival of Lammas (or Loaf Mass). This is the first harvest festival of the year, to celebrate the early reaping of grain. It's another busy day for the shop as Avebury welcomes all kinds of people for Lammas (also related to the Gaelic festival of Lughnasa).

### Open-air delights

Now we're in the season of picnics and barbecues, you'd expect the shop to stock up accordingly. Back on the shelves are the delicious range of Delphi salad pots, which often have a Greek flavour, and a wide range of sandwiches.

As for cooking in the open air, you'll find burgers, sausages, halloumi, veg such as aubergines, peppers and courgettes, plus brioche buns and cheese-topped baps alongside pitta bread and wraps.

If you're looking for other BBQ meats – kebabs on skewers, say, in all kind of flavours – remember you can always order from Sumblers, the local butcher, if you give the Avebury Community Shop two or three days' notice.

### And afterwards

Don't forget the new ice cream from the Brinkworth Dairy, a family business in the Dauntsey Vale since 1910. Always good to find an excellent local producer.

### Home deliveries

Finally, 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

 **Martin Bell**  
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The Rectory, 27 High Street, Avebury, SN8 1RF

Email: [jont.post@gmail.com](mailto:jont.post@gmail.com)

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

### PARISH SAFEGUARDING REPRESENTATIVE

Mr Roderick Palfrey

07799 221816

**LICENSED LAY MINISTER (PTO)** Mrs Sibella Laing

01672 861600 [sibella.laing@outlook.com](mailto:sibella.laing@outlook.com)

### LAY PASTORAL ASSISTANT

Mr Graham Kitchen

01672 861798 [graham@grahamkitchen.com](mailto:graham@grahamkitchen.com)

### LAY WORSHIP LEADERS

Mrs Claire Stiles

01793 731620 [c.j.stiles@hotmail.co.uk](mailto: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

**UPPER KENNET CHURCHES OFFICE:** 01672 861786 [upperkennetchurches@gmail.com](mailto:upperkennetchurches@gmail.com)

Anne Robinson & Sophie Roberts (Mon-Wed, 10am-1pm & Fri 11.30am – 2.30pm)

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### CHURCHWARDENS

**AVEBURY** Mrs Sandra Hues

01672 539444 [shues01@hotmail.com](mailto:shues01@hotmail.com)

Mrs Helen Vickers

01672 539482 [brian.helen.vickers@googlemail.com](mailto:brian.helen.vickers@googlemail.com)

Mrs Maureen Dixon

01672 539690

**BROAD HINTON** Mrs Gill Crabtree

07774 424125 [gill.crabtree1@gmail.com](mailto:gill.crabtree1@gmail.com)

Mr Robert Fitzpatrick

01793 739156 [fitzpatrickrobert16@gmail.com](mailto:fitzpatrickrobert16@gmail.com)

**EAST KENNETT** Mr Graham Kitchen

01672 861798 [graham@grahamkitchen.com](mailto:graham@grahamkitchen.com)

Mrs Jo Snape

01672 861267 [Josiesnape@aol.com](mailto:Josiesnape@aol.com)

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01672 861374 [sjrogers44@gmail.com](mailto:sjrogers44@gmail.com)

Mr Stuart Laing

01672 861600 [stuart-laing@outlook.com](mailto:stuart-laing@outlook.com)

**FYFIELD** Co-opted PCC member Vicky Evans

01672 861622 [bixevans@gmail.com](mailto:bixevans@gmail.com)

**WINTERBOURNE MONKTON** Mr Philip Scott

01672 539104 [philipscott2@me.com](mailto:philipscott2@me.com)

**WINTERBOURNE BASSETT** Mrs Claire Stiles

01793 731620 [c.j.stiles@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:c.j.stiles@hotmail.co.uk)

**PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL: Co-Lay Chairs:** Simon Jones 07768 008160

Angharad Hughes

07771 615534

**PCC SECRETARY** Mr Peter Barry

### LOCAL CHURCH COMMITTEES - SECRETARIES

**AVEBURY** Lindie White

01672 861864 [lindiew@btinternet.com](mailto:lindiew@btinternet.com)

**EAST KENNETT, FYFIELD & WEST OVERTON** Sophie Roberts 01672 861786

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01672 539104

**WINTERBOURNE BASSETT** Rose Barclay

[rosebarclay@gmail.com](mailto:rosebarclay@gmail.com)

**BROAD HINTON** Mrs Liz Palfrey

01793 731067 [lizpalfrey@btinternet.com](mailto:lizpalfrey@btinternet.com)

### MAGAZINES

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