

Haversham-cum-Little Linford Parish Magazine



February/March 2025

Issue 181

Maisies Superstore

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EDITORIAL

Thank you!

All the comments on the new look of the Parish Magazine were extremely positive, and I was delighted that our previous Editor, Lesley Gilbert, e-mailed me straightaway with her generous approval. There were mistakes, of course – there will never be a perfect publication, but I have rectified what I can and trust that I will be more vigilant in future.

There will be small changes in each issue as your editorial team try out different styles, so do tell us what you like or don't like – and why! We'll never please everyone, but we'll try to please as many of you as we can.

Thank you also for your contributions

to this issue. There's something to interest everyone, from various different community initiatives to all the latest news from the parish churches.

Don't miss the amazing picture of her cat sent in by five-year-old Ava. Absolutely wonderful!

As I said before, this magazine is your magazine – written by the residents for the residents so do send your contributions for the next issue to me by 14th March.

E-mail me at:
carol.langham@havershamlittlelinfordpc.gov.uk

or phone me on:
07961 047142.

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Obituary ALENA JOLLY née RAJTOROVA

Alena was born in Pribram, Czechoslovakia in 1947. After she had trained and started teaching in 1967, the Russian invasion of ally Czechoslovakia took place in August 1968, to crush the liberating movement known as the 'Prague Spring', led by first secretary Alexander Dubcek.

In the grim time that followed for the Czechs, Alena's father was able to get her out of the country and in February 1969 she came to England. She was subsequently sponsored by actors, Ken and Doreen Keeling, to guide her and teach her English.

Alena's teaching qualification was not recognised in the UK, so she worked hard to put herself through a further four years of education at Hammersmith College and Camberwell School of Art, where she obtained a B.A. First Class Honours degree in Textile Design in 1976. For a time,

while a student, she lived with and was inspired by, Marianne Straub, leading British commercial textile designer in mid-century Britain.

After a spell with textile giant Courtaulds, she took up teaching a range of audiences across London. Moving with new husband Stephen Jolly to Milton Keynes in 1981, she subsequently became the long-term Artist in Residence at Haversham School, teaching several generations of children, including her own daughter Ema, who has grown up inspired by mum to make her own creative way in the world. Many of the school's children have become parents with their own children in turn enjoying 'Mrs Jolly's craft classes'. These classes continued until recent times.

Alena is deeply missed by her husband Stephen, daughter Ema, grandchildren Silvy and Leo and son-in-law Peter.



ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

**The Parish Council warmly invites all residents to the
Annual Parish Meeting on Wednesday 7th May 2025
at 7.30 p.m. in the Social and Community Centre.
Please join us for refreshments and hear updates on
activities across the Parish in the last year.**

We look forward to seeing you there!

Open House Lunch

Julia and Ian Cheetham, on behalf of St Mary's Church, are providing an Open House Lunch at the Old Forge, normally on the third Monday of each month. The lunches are for any member of St. Mary's and St Leonard's Churches and residents of Haversham and Little Linford. The Old Forge is located on the High Street next to the Greyhound Pub. Coffee will be available from 10.30 a.m., lunch will be available at approximately 12.30 p.m. and tea and cake on offer in the afternoon until 3.30 p.m.

Maureen White on **07889 654906** has kindly agreed to provide transport for those who need help getting to The Old Forge.

The Open House Lunch in February will be on Monday 17th February 2025. The date for March is Monday 17th March 2025. There is no charge for Lunch and you will be warmly welcomed.

For further information please call **01908 914318**.

Haversham Jubilee Club

Members of the Jubilee Club had a super Christmas lunch at Frosts in the middle of December, both to celebrate the festive season and to bid farewell to our monthly club after nearly 23 years. There was lots of chatter and reminiscing about our many members over the years and, of course, that twinge of sadness when things come to pass, as all things must!!

I would like to thank everyone for their support for all these years, for creating a wonderful atmosphere of warmth and friendliness to all who came to the club, and a particular thank you for the very generous gift you gave me at our lunch.

The Jubilee Club will be sorely missed by members and it would be nice to think that, at some time, something could replace it to give our older friends a chance to meet up regularly.

Lesley Gilbert



NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Top 5 reasons to join

1

Get local **Police Alerts** via email. **Alerts** are official, accurate and timely, and include updates about criminal activities in your area. You can reply directly back to the author of an Alert. **Alerts** can also include crime prevention tips and valuable advice to protect you, your family and your belongings. Note: **Alerts** are not mis-information sometimes generated by social media.

2

Join a **Neighbourhood Watch scheme** near you. Use the website's postcode search **Find my local scheme**. If nothing near you, apply to start one up and we can help. Registered **schemes** have access to **FREE Neighbourhood Watch** stickers, leaflets, crime prevention information and hi-viz street-signs. They help act as a deterrent to crime and anti-social behaviour.

3

Being neighbourly is a good way to look out for each other. **Scheme** members can feel more secure and safe, for a better quality of life. These factors play an important part in building safer communities.

4

Schemes and members build direct links with their local **Police** team and help identify local crime and anti-social behaviour. Having confidence and reporting direct to the **Police** is encouraged.

5

Insurance companies and suppliers of locks and crime prevention equipment welcome membership of **Neighbourhood Watch**. **Discounts** may apply.



JOIN

ourwatch.org.uk

Make this a better place to live. Together

Neighbourhood Watch

Given the recent spate of attempted thefts in and around the Parish, and a general concern about crime, could now be the time to join a local Neighbourhood Watch scheme?

There are two schemes already registered in the New Village, one covering most of the streets in New

Haversham and the other focused on Keppel Avenue. It is not clear how active these two schemes are or who is the registered scheme co-ordinator.

The local MK

Neighbourhood Watch Association (MKNHWA) is going through a bit of a relaunch and is engaging with local communities and Parish/Town Councils, so perhaps now is the time to refresh our own schemes and include ones for both the Old Village and Little Linford? The MKNHWA team are keen to help! You can find out more including the benefits of joining a scheme at

www.mknhwa.org.uk/

As part of our overall commitment to improving community safety, the Parish Council is keen to support residents if they want to set-up/refresh the scheme locally. Please contact the clerk if you are interested in getting involved (or if you are one of the existing scheme co-ordinators) to discuss how together we can make the Parish safer.

If there is enough interest, we will invite MKNHWA representatives to attend the Annual Parish Meeting on 7th May to understand more about the support on offer.



New Haversham NW scheme area



Keppel Avenue NW scheme area



CRIME STATISTICS FOR HAVERSHAM FROM THAMES VALLEY POLICE

For period 15/12/24 to 20/01/25

Crime report incidents:

Burglary – motor bike and bikes taken	1
Criminal damage – van door broken	1
Theft from vehicle – nothing taken	1

HAVERSHAM SOCIAL AND COMMUNITY CENTRE (HSCC)



Useful Information

The HSCC charity was established to maintain and operate the Social and Community Centre, under licence from Milton Keynes City Council, for the benefit of Parish residents. You can hire the hall for your events, activities, classes and parties. To help fund the Social and Community Centre, the HSCC also runs a number of community events each year.

Booking the Social and Community Centre

The Small Hall (approx. 37m²) is available between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m.

weekdays during term time only. The Entire Hall (approx. 150m²) is available 6 p.m. to 11 p.m. weekdays during term time and 8 a.m. to 11 p.m. at all other times.

Minimum hire period is 1½ hours. Kitchen facilities are available at no charge for light refreshments. There is a charge of £25 per session for full catering use with access to the cooker.

To enquire or book please e-mail: bookings@havershamsocialcentre.org.uk

For more information on the HSCC, please visit our webpage at: www.havershamsocialcentre.org.uk

One-off hire rates	Parish Resident	Non-Resident
Entire Hall – per hour	£32.50	£38.00
Small Hall – per hour	£12.00	£15.00
Entire Hall – All Day (Note 1)	£390.00	£456.00
Entire Hall – Children's Party (Note 2)	£75.00	£95.00

Note 1: All day is 8.00 a.m. to 11.00 p.m. – non-school days only

Note 2: 4 hours ending no later than 6.00 p.m.

Rates exclude refundable damage deposit – cancellation charges apply

Regular hire rates	Parish Resident	Non-Resident
Entire Hall – per hour	£12.50	£18.75
Small Hall – per hour	£5.00	£7.50
Entire Hall – All Day (Note 3)	£150.00	£225.00

Note 3: All day is 8.00 a.m. to 11.00 p.m. – non-school days only

Minimum 10 sessions per calendar year – cancellation charges apply

To enquire or book please e-mail:

bookings@havershamsocialcentre.org.uk

For more information on the HSCC, please visit our webpage at
www.havershamsocialcentre.org.uk

Regular Activities at the Social and Community Centre

There are a number of regular activities held at the Social and Community Centre, both open and closed groups. If you want to run a regular class or activity, then please contact us to check availability.

If you wish to attend any of the activities listed below, please contact the organiser direct via the details provided:

St Mary's Church Youth Group:
every Thursday during term time from 6.30 p.m. to 8.30 p.m. Open to school years 5 to 10.

For more information contact Amy at st.marys.youth@outlook.com or 07415 982901, or just turn up!

Sound Bath Meditation Sessions:
Held by Shon on the 2nd Wednesday evening of every month, 7.30 p.m. to 8.30 p.m.

For more information and to book, visit <https://www.facebook.com/SoundBathHaversham/events>

Revival Fellowship:
2nd Sunday of each month from 11a.m. to 2p.m.

For current information and contact details, please visit our website at: www.revivalfellowship.uk



JASPERS BRUSHES

(Haversham resident)

**CHIMNEY SWEEP &
CCTV INSPECTION/
SURVEY SERVICE**



Please call Jason on **07895 222080** for an evening or weekend appointment. You can also find me on Facebook.

My rates are reasonable and start at only £55 with a certificate of the sweep also issued. I'm fully insured, and offer a clean and tidy service.

I have been trained by the National Association of Chimney Sweeps (NACS), and I am a current member of the NACS, with a Badge number of 023/17.



PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

– the view from the Chair

Perhaps a tad late to be wishing everyone a Happy New Year, but I hope 2025 has been good to you so far, notwithstanding the grey and often foggy outlook at the moment. Despite the inevitable slowdown over the festive period, lots has been going on over the last couple of months so here we go!

Wolverton Eco Park and Recycling Centre

I expect many of you have seen the articles in the local and national news about the proposals to create an Eco Park at the existing waste processing centre in Old Wolverton plus two 'super-site' recycling and reuse facilities, the northern one also being at Old Wolverton. Like many of you, the Parish Council is worried about this and I went along to the MKCC Delegated Decisions meeting on 14 January to raise our concerns. The Eco Park proposal is about integrating the facilities that are already at the site and increasing the efficiency and recycling effectiveness as well as the level of electricity generated. This will be used to power MKCC vehicles, including the refuse trucks, and other premises. The Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) is more concerning. It is a new build and, subject to planning permission, will be a replacement household waste site, meaning the closure of the existing sites at New Bradwell and Newport Pagnell. A second site is proposed in the south of the city and the Bleak Hall facility will also close.

I am well aware that many residents have been affected by the existing processing centre in terms of smells, noise and light pollution and I raised concerns regarding these aspects. We hope that, given the troubled history, efforts will continue to be made to mitigate these various pollution concerns as the Eco Park is established. However, the larger worries are related to the decision to progress the HWRC. The main concern is traffic. Given the eastern approach to the site (where much of the development of MK is taking place) is through a traffic light-controlled single lane tunnel, under the railway, the lack of any consideration of traffic issues and likely gridlock, is a serious omission. We also question the location in terms of the future layout of the city – surely the site should be closer to the eastern expansion?

Based on these reasons, we felt that the evidence and analysis upon which a decision could be made was lacking. So, at our Parish Council meeting on 20 January, we discussed this proposal, and resolved to 'call-in' the decision on the HWRC, which means it will now go for further scrutiny by a cross-party committee. I am aware that residents have also progressed a call-in and having your voice alongside ours will, I hope, make a difference.

Highways and Road Safety

The two new Speed Indicator Devices (SIDS) were installed on Wolverton Road in December and I hope these encourage



drivers to stick to the 20mph limit. I have certainly noticed people slowing down as a result. We will publish the analysis of the data for these SIDS on our website as part of the usual report.

The eagle-eyed amongst you may have noticed some white painted marks outside the school and also along Wolverton Road between the roundabouts. We have for some time been pressing for dropped kerbs

to be put in place at those locations and the building of what are known as 'informal crossings' and, whilst the work is dependent on confirming the costs, we are hopeful that these will be put in place to help those with prams etc., or those with mobility problems, to cross those roads more easily.

Following on from a Parish Walkabout with Highways last November, we are starting to see some highway maintenance being done. By the time you read this, work will have been completed on Haversham Hill to repair the road edge, clean and jet wash the gullies and underground drainage system and repair damage on both the High Street and the road towards the Church.

As I am sure most of you know, the 20mph scheme in the old village is not progressing after the recent consultation showed many objections. The consultation report can be found at the end of the consultation page at <https://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/consultations/informal-consultation-proposed-20mph->

zone-high-street-haversham.

After our encouragement, MKCC are now considering alternative measures to improve road safety. Details can be found in the report and include village gateways, better signage and lining, plus some changes to how the SIDS operate. You may also have noticed the rubber tubes across the road at the top of Haversham Hill – on the back of the 20-mph scheme decision, MKCC are conducting a speed survey in response to our ongoing request for the speed limit on the hill to be reduced to 30 mph. We also continue to press for a 40 mph limit on Wolverton Road to the south of the new village rather than the current 50 mph. Don't forget to use the Report It page on the MKCC website:

<https://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/pay-report-and-apply/report-it> if you see any local maintenance issues.

Flooding and Landscaping

I recently met with the MKCC officers responsible for Flooding (Lead Local Flood Authority – LLFA) and Landscaping, plus the senior officer responsible overall for environment (which covers these and several other services). Together we did a walkabout looking at a number of issues across the Parish.

We started at Rowan Drive, where several of you have experienced flooding. This situation is complicated as the source is most likely field run-off, but having seen the site, they shared some thoughts on how they may be able to help and are progressing them. More news when I have it. We also spent time on Haversham Hill and while the work there is being undertaken by Highways as mentioned above, it was helpful to get the flooding team there as both they and Highways have to work together to solve the types of problems we are experiencing.

I was reminded that it is critical that if you ever experience any flooding inside your

property, this is reported to the LLFA on each occasion to help them build up a picture of the issue. Find more about the LLFA here:

<https://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/flood-and-water-management>

On landscaping, we discussed some of the challenges of overgrown hedgerows



and street cleaning. They pointed out that not all hedgerows are their responsibility but rather that of the landowner and that is acknowledged given some of the cutting I know our local farmers have been

doing over the last few months. You may have seen some work by MKCC has recently taken place across the Parish, but perhaps the most significant change is the clearance of both the undergrowth and the path on Haversham Hill. I have

had two residents tell me they have never seen the path looking so good!

I also want to say thank you to those residents who spotted us out on the walkabout and came and shared their perspective on flooding and landscaping concerns. It helps when MKCC hear from you directly as well as from the Parish Council. Whilst there are always things that need to be fixed, I hope you can see the improvements that are being made.

Planning Matters

After a bit of a hiatus, MKCC are catching up on their backlog of planning applications. We are aware that a number of you have applications that have been pending a while, but in the last few days we have seen some of these being determined. The online planning system, can be found at:

www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/planning-register.

All historical as well as current applications can be found there.

In respect of the MK City Plan, we have had no further news since we submitted our representation during the Regulation 18 consultation. We will share updates as we get them and if you want to keep up with progress keep an eye on:

www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/city-plan.

In regard to the site allocated in the HcLL Neighbourhood Plan, we understand that Gade Homes have largely completed their work on the various 'site constraints' to identify suitable solutions. They will now go through a pre-application stage with MKCC that will likely lead to the formal planning application being submitted in early to mid-summer. As and when we hear more, we will share it via:

www.havershamlittlelinfordpc.gov.uk/npsitenews

Playground Project Update

As reported in the last magazine, the next stage of the project was to undertake a formal tender process. The team completed the necessary documents

for this and the tender went live on 4th December 2024, on the Public Sector Contracts Finder portal. We have had several potential suppliers express interest in making a bid, and prior to Christmas we showed a number of them around the site and explained what we were trying to accomplish and tried to answer their questions!

The deadline for their submissions is 27th January 2025 (so a week before you will receive this magazine) and once we have them all, the playground team will evaluate them before the Parish Council choose the preferred supplier and we move into the detailed design and implementation phases. A number of you have expressed interest in seeing the designs, so once we get to that point, we will work out how best to make that happen. Meantime, please keep up to date with progress at:

<https://www.havershamlittlelinfordpc.gov.uk/playground-project>

Ward Boundary Review

The Local Government Boundary Commission are currently undertaking a review of Milton Keynes Ward Boundaries and recently published their draft recommendations for consultation, which runs until 24th February 2025.

In terms of the Parish, the draft proposal is that our Ward is reshaped to remove Newport Pagnell North, Stoke Goldington and Gayhurst, but add in New Bradwell, Oakridge Park and Bradville, thereby making our Ward more urban.

One of the key principles in this process, is to group together areas with similar community interests and identity and we do not feel that this proposal aligns with that intent. We have been discussing this with our neighbouring parish councils, both urban and rural, and we collectively feel that this is not the right solution for many reasons, so are working with them to prepare a representation and proposal that each of us will then submit

to the Commission. We believe that as far as possible wards should remain predominantly rural OR urban, as the issues faced are very different between the two.

To find out more and to respond to the consultation please go to:

www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/milton-keynes

Other News

HSCC: Jackie Brown's HSCC update is elsewhere, but as one of the Trustees, I am pleased to see improvements in the finances of the charity and the success of our various events last year. The hall is reasonably busy with both regular users and one-off events, but do contact the HSCC if you are interested in booking as we have many slots available – all the details are on pages 8 to 9.

As a charity the HSCC depends on volunteers to be Trustees, to look after the hall, to create, plan and run events and to just keep everything going. We do need additional help, so please consider if you can get involved – even in a small way.

Parish Magazine: we hope you enjoyed the last issue which was the first produced by our new editor and had some new and, I hope, interesting content. We very much want to make this your magazine, so please if you do have an article or other content to contribute, send it to Carol at:

carol.langham@havershamlittlelinfordpc.gov.uk.

It would be great to have a few things ready to go when each magazine is prepared.

Councillor Vacancy: we still have a vacancy for one more Parish Councillor. If you might consider joining the Parish Council team and are interested to find out more, then please contact the Clerk.

Parish Website: we have started the process of looking at how to improve our website, both to make it more accessible

but also more relevant and easier to maintain. Much of the content is legally required for the Parish Council, but as it is a Parish Website we want to make it work for all. If you have any ideas about things you would like to see on the site, then please let us know.

Community Speedwatch and Litter

Picking: Both activities continue to help keep our parish safe and tidy. The teams are always looking for extra volunteers too – so if you want to help, please do contact us.

Contacting Us and Helping Out

As well as this regular article, we use our Facebook page:

www.facebook.com/HcLLParishCouncil and website:

www.havershamlittlelinfordpc.gov.uk to share news and useful information – so please follow us on Facebook and visit

the website regularly.

If you have any issues, suggestions or questions for us, or would like to volunteer to help with one of our initiatives, then please either message us via Facebook or e-mail the Parish Clerk at:

clerk@havershamlittlelinfordpc.gov.uk.

We will do our best to respond promptly.

I hope that you have found this article informative and I will update you again in two months!

Richard Pryor – Chair



YOUR PARISH COUNCILLORS

Chair:	Richard Pryor 3 Mill Road Tel: 07824 483337	Vice-Chair:	Barry Clift 21 Wolverton Road Tel: 01908 312365
	Jess Cuniffe 07841 521367		Carol Langham 108 Wolverton Road Tel: 07961 047142
	Philip Turnbull 3 Granary Close Tel: 07710 423032		Rick Whyte The Crescent Tel: 07599 218001

PARISH CLERK

Maria Manthorpe E-mail: clerk@havershamlittlelinfordpc.gov.uk

NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

Parish Council meetings usually take place at 7.30 p.m. on the third Monday of each month at Haversham Social and Community Centre. The meetings are open to the public.

The next meetings are:

17 February 2025

17 March 2025

Parish Council meeting agendas are published online and on the parish notice boards the week before each meeting.

Additional news and information can also be found on the Parish website at havershamlittlelinfordpc.gov.uk

Can you help?

The **Haversham Social and Community Centre** opened its doors 60 years ago this year. It has survived due to the many volunteers who have helped over the years. We are looking for more people to join the team to keep us going!

Become a



Trustee

The **Trustee Board** looks after Charity governance, financial management, grant applications, reporting, marketing, and hall bookings

Help to **look after the premises** - conduct regular safety checks, manage cleaning and repairs, show new hirers around, act as a key holder for the Social & Community Centre

Care for the

Premises

Deliver our



Events

Join the **Events Team** to drive and improve the event schedule and explore ideas for the future. Work in one or more **Event Working Groups** who plan out and run each individual event

Limited available time? Join our "**Friends**" group so we can message you if we need a bit of help with things like event setup or doing odd bits of maintenance around the premises

Become an

HSCC Friend

If you are interested in any of these roles, please talk to one of the trustees or email us on contact@havershamsocialcentre.org.uk

If you want to become a "Friend" then email us your mobile number to be added to the WhatsApp group

ELECTRA

MILTON KEYNES
ALL-ELECTRIC
COMMUNITY BOAT

The 2024 season

What an excellent year 2024 was. We ran around 297 cruises carrying 2,828 guests (averaging 80% of our maximum capacity) with very few cancellations due to bad weather. We raised over £3,000 in donations from guests, for our sponsored 'family and friends' cruises; by doing so, we ran 12 cruises for groups in the community, who would not normally be able to come on Electra. We also generated over £13,000 towards the bigger project run by Bedford and Milton Keynes Waterway Trust, building a new waterway park between Milton Keynes and Bedford (see www.bmkwaterway.org/ for details).

The most popular cruises last year were

those with food, especially the fish and chips, and cream tea cruises. A new innovation in 2024 was running 'winter warmer' cruises during the colder months, particularly 'Souper Wednesday' with a choice of two delicious homemade soups, and hot mulled wine and mince pie trips during November and December. The festive 'Fish & Bubbles' (with Prosecco) was also very popular.

We also ran trips for seven schools and one Cubs group, on a total of 32 trips, linked to specific areas of the curriculum. We intend to increase these educational trips next year.

Another new innovation last year was running three Heritage Open Days, comprising a short cruise up and down



Happy Ukrainians enjoying a free sponsored cruise © Christian Taylor

the canal at Campbell Wharf; this was followed by a talk covering the history of the canals in Milton Keynes, which was delivered in the Electra Welcome Centre at the wharf, along with refreshments. A major development was the installation of a new charging point at Fenny Stratford, by Grenville Marina; this will enable us to extend our cruising routes further south, since the boat will not need to return to her usual mooring at Campbell Wharf to charge her batteries overnight.

All crew were offered a free end-of-season cruise of mulled wine and mince pies, in recognition of their excellent work.

Winter Rest

Electra is now having a few weeks of winter rest, providing time for essential annual maintenance; this may include some refinements to our electrical control systems. But January kicked off with training some new skippers and cabin hosts for the forthcoming season. (Should anyone be interested in joining our team, full information can be found on www.bmkwaterway.org/electra/volunteering/). In March, this will be followed by giving all of our 40-volunteer crew a day of

refresher training, just to get back into the swing of things for the new season after a break.

Plans for 2025

The new cruising season starts on 17th April. All bookings are made through the web site www.bmkwaterway.org/electra/. Bookings re-opened on 13th January. In addition to our regular trips, we will be running a new cruise from Fenny Stratford down to Soulbury Three Locks, thanks to the new charging point. Further, we plan to install new charging points, one in Wolverton (by the new flats) and hopefully another by the lock at Cosgrove; these will further enable us to extend our cruising routes in the future, as well as improving the canal infrastructure for other electric boats. So we are all very much looking forward to meeting some of you on our trips in 2025.

Best wishes from the Electra team.

•For further information contact:

Christian Taylor
MK Community Boat Electra. E-mail: christian.taylor@bmkwaterway.org.
Tel: 07952 339738.



Electra moored by the new charge point in Fenny Stratford © Adrian Court

ACORN COMMUNITY BANK

This article explains a little bit about Acorn Community Bank. We are a community-based 'not-for profit' organisation that I have been involved with for the past 20 years, and which helps residents of Milton Keynes and elsewhere with safe ethical savings accounts and affordable small loans. Although I am a Board member of Acorn Community Bank, this article represents my personal views and perspectives, and does not seek to present an official organisational view.

Acorn Community Bank was formed following a merger of Swan Credit Union (which covered Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire) with Wiltshire and Swindon Credit Union Ltd in April 2023. As of December 2024 we had 8,500 members, with total shares or savings of £3.5 million and outstanding loans of £3.1 million.

What is a Community Bank or Credit Union?

Acorn Community Bank is a 'Credit Union'. This means we are a not-for-profit financial co-operative, owned and run by our members. We offer ethical savings and loans at affordable rates, to help our members save and manage their money ethically and responsibly. We have paid staff running our operations, but all our Board of Directors are unpaid volunteers. We also have volunteers helping to promote the organisation in the communities in which we operate.

All credit unions have what is called a 'common bond' which defines who can join. In our case, it is all who live, or work, in the cities of Milton Keynes, Swindon and Oxford, as well as the counties of Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire,

Berkshire and Wiltshire. There is a one-off lifetime membership fee of £2.00, and a requirement for just £1.00 minimum saving.

We exist to provide financial services to all residents in the areas of our operation, but we have a particular focus on assisting those who are not served well by commercial banks. For example, those who find themselves in financial difficulty and who also often face excessive interest rates from high street and internet lenders. We are not a charity, but a community-based financial co-operative with social objectives. We return any financial surplus, above that required for reserves, to our members through annual dividends. Unlike normal limited companies we are a democratic organisation, and all members get one vote at our AGM regardless of the size of their shareholding/savings.

We can offer a safe place to save because all members' savings are protected, like banks and building societies, by the government organisation known as the FSCS. Member savings are known as 'shares' (similar to building societies). The maximum share holding is currently about £50,000, but our average savings are more like £100 per member – we are a place for small savers, not large investors. Members can withdraw their savings at any time without restrictions. Dividends are paid once per year from any financial surplus to our members – last year we paid dividends at 1% of each member's savings.

Members' shares are used as funds for granting small loans (usually from £500 to £5,000) to other members, at rates below those offered by commercial high

street and internet-based consumer loan companies. We cannot and do not try to compete with rates for loans offered by the large banks as we are generally offering smaller loans than they are interested in, and also offering loans to higher risk low-income members of the community. Our interest rates on loans vary for 3% per month (42.6% APR) for the highest risk borrowers down to 0.5% (6.2% APR) per month for longer term members who have a good saving and repayment history with us.

Unlike commercial lenders there are no fees or additional penalty charges for those borrowers who fall into arrears. We pride ourselves in looking after our members who experience financial problems. As long as members engage with us and attempt to repay some of what they owe, we would never initiate legal proceedings against them for their debts.

Some people are unfortunately forced into borrowing from illegal money lenders, known as 'Loan Sharks'. As well as charging very high interest rates, these lenders often use intimidation to obtain their repayments. The Government has a regional network of teams (known as the Illegal Money Lending teams – IMLT) working to find and prosecute such illegal lenders. They also distribute, back into the community, funds confiscated by the Courts from such lenders. Acorn, for example, has a special small savings scheme which pays 100% bonus after three months funded by IMLT.

A brief history of Credit Unions in Milton Keynes

My first involvement with credit unions was in 2005, when a colleague in the Co-operative Party asked me to help with a business plan for a new credit union in Milton Keynes. After getting approval from the financial regulators, we first

started our operations in 2006 as 'Milton Keynes Credit Union' with only about 50 initial members. At that time our costs were covered by free accommodation and free admin help from the Milton Keynes Christian Foundation based in Wolverton, but we gradually moved over to funding these costs ourselves from interest income.

In 2013, MK Credit Union merged with 'Aylesbury Credit Union' and was rebranded as 'Swan Community Bank'. We chose this name because the term 'credit union' was not well understood by our target membership; and the new name better reflected our community based focus. After the 2013 merger, we had 3,600 members with savings of £2.1 million and loans of £1.1 million.

In 2021 we had a further merger with Oxford Credit Union. However, at that stage we ran into financial difficulties due to a combination of factors: the COVID pandemic; the increasing financial distress of many of our members; and, perhaps worst of all, a failing computer system. We therefore had to look for a more successful credit union with the same ethical and community-based objectives as ourselves to take over our business and protect the interests of our members. We were fortunate in finding Wiltshire and Swindon Credit Union.

In April 2023 they took over Swan members and our business, as well as most of our staff and some of the Swan Board, including myself, under the new name of Acorn Community Bank.

International comparisons

Although relatively small in Britain, credit unions worldwide are a large and growing part of the financial sector. They operate in 104

countries with membership



of 411 million and total savings of over three trillion US dollars.

In Great Britain, credit union membership is only 4% of the adult population, but worldwide the average is 13%. In many countries the ratio is very large, for example 66% in the USA and over 100% in Ireland. One possible reason for it being smaller in Britain is that, until the 1980s, there was a large and significant mutual banking sector in the UK represented by the building societies; most of which were subsequently converted into commercial profit-making banks. However, the British credit union movement is now growing significantly year by year; and is supported by all political parties and, indeed, many commercial banks.

Why do I volunteer?

Having worked in the financial sector before my retirement, I had been aware for a long time that the banking system in the UK, while profitable and providing a good service for most customers, does not always provide the kinds of service many people want. It is often not sufficiently customer orientated, especially for those on low income or what might be termed by the banks as 'high maintenance' customers.

More than one million adults in the UK do not even have a bank account, and there are many more who do not like to use such accounts because of high charges or who are turned away for loans. In 2024, it was estimated that 20.3 million people were living in financially vulnerable circumstances across the United Kingdom, up 16%, from 17.5 million in 2022.

Many of those with bank accounts are refused loans by banks because they have poor credit history, or only want to borrow small amounts at a time. They then have to seek other more expensive

forms of credit, often paying more than 100% of their original loan amount in interest charges and fees or penalty payments. 'Buy now – pay later' schemes are currently very popular; and they often seem to be 'too good to be true'. In reality, failing to pay back on time incurs huge extra costs in penalty payments.

Credit Unions can fill this gap in the market without exploiting the financially vulnerable and without seeking to make profit out of people often in desperate need of short term credit – for example, funds for a new washing machine or a rent deposit on somewhere to live. We meet this gap in the market by encouraging our members to save, and offering affordable credit to our members when they need it. A very real difference between us and a bank is that all our members must be savers. Saving for a rainy day is part of our organisational ethos.

We still have to turn down many requesting loans from us, but if they join and save regularly then they will become eligible for a loan at a later date.

Philip Turnbull

Joining is easy – you can do it online at www.acorncommunitybank.co.uk You can then complete the membership form online. Once you are a member you can use the website member area or our smartphone app to manage your account online – check your balance, withdraw savings and apply for a loan. You can save any amount regularly by standing order or by bank transfer. For more information about joining and all our services go to our website, telephone our office at: 0303 030 0147 (national rates apply); or by e-mail to office@acorncb.co.uk Acorn Community Bank, Unit A, George Hall Court, Cavendish Square, Swindon SN3 2LZ.

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I hope you have all had a good start to 2025. There is very little to report this time as the winter months are usually very quiet, but our last two events of the year in 2024, the Christmas Bingo and the Wreath Making, went well and we hope all those attending enjoyed themselves. We also decorated a tree for the Church Christmas tree festival, and it was good to see so many members of the community decorating their trees. The Church looked very festive.

At our recent Events meeting we looked forward to the events we want to run for 2025. The Social Centre plans to organise a core programme of events for the year that will include:

Quiz night on Saturday March 8th – this year, instead of curry, it will be bring your own refreshments. It will be 10 rounds with a break at half time plus a raffle

Easter Bingo on Saturday March 29th – with refreshments and a raffle

Village Show on Saturday September 6th

Fireworks Display on either Saturday November 1st or 8th

Christmas Bingo at the end of November or early December

Wreath Making Workshop on Friday December 5th

We are also looking at holding a Car Boot and Table Sale in May but I don't have any details yet.

As dates are confirmed or as details are known we will of course update you via our Facebook page at:

www.facebook.com/havershamscc

Posters will also be on the noticeboards around the Parish.

As always, we depend upon your support for these events, both to help with set-up but also by coming along and taking part – and we know there is always room for improvement. If anyone in the Parish has an idea for an event they would like to see take place, then they can contact the Trustees of the Social Centre and they will where possible give help and support to put the idea into practice. Our general contact e-mail is:

contact@havershamsocialcentre.org.uk

Our AGM will be held this year on Monday 28th April at 7.30pm. Every resident over 18 in the Parish is a member of our Charity and can come to the AGM; and this will be your opportunity to show your support for the Charity, ask questions of the Trustees and to suggest ideas and improvements as we move forward into 2025. We will share some of our own ideas for 2025 and update you on the finances of the Charity, which look to have improved slightly over the last year. More details including our annual update will be in the next magazine that you will receive in two months' time.

Jackie Brown
Chair



Family Easter Bingo

An evening of fun for the whole family!

Haversham Social & Community Centre

Saturday 29th March

Doors open 6.00pm ~ Eyes down at 6.30pm

Lots of Easter Eggs to be won



Seasonal Refreshments Hot Cross Buns Tea & Coffee

Haversham Social & Community Centre

Registered charity no. 300276

COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH

Our Community Speedwatch has been in existence since November 2022. After a slow start, we have been running regular sessions in both the old village and the new.

Our session reports help inform Thames Valley Police regarding not just speeding, but also volumes of traffic through the two parts of the village. This information can also be helpful to Milton Keynes City Council's Highways Department when liaising with Thames Valley Police regarding traffic safety measures.

Thames Valley Police also check whether vehicles reported for speeding have current tax and MoT and, if not, take appropriate action against the owners.

It is easy to forget that Community Speedwatch is a nationwide initiative, and those motorists who are recorded speeding are entered onto the national database. When vehicles are recorded as speeding, Thames Valley Police send a letter to the owner requesting they slow down and observe the speed limit. If the same vehicle is caught again by any Speedwatch team, a follow-up final letter is issued.

If it is identified that the vehicle has been caught speeding through any Speedwatch area for the third time within 12 months, the background of the vehicle will be checked and information passed to the appropriate local policing team who will organise for the vehicle keeper to be visited and warned.

Our Speedwatch sessions can have their lighter moments. On one occasion in the old village, a car approached the team very, very slowly then stopped alongside them. The driver said the vehicles going out of the village were flashing their lights at him which made him think there was something wrong with his car, so he slowed right down. It was only when he saw the team that he realised the other motorists were trying to warn him of the Speedwatch session!

The last session which took place in the old village saw a novel way of educating motorists regarding speeding. Not one, but two, oil tankers were making deliveries to properties on The High Street and it was impossible for any motorist to even reach 30 mph, never mind exceed it.

In the new village there was the session during which a taxi driver, having passed the team, turned round further up the road and came back. He approached the team to insist he hadn't been speeding, then apologised profusely if he had been. He drove away, but returned with his young daughter to again apologise if he had been speeding and to assure the team that his daughter was also very sorry! The team were quite bemused by this!

The main focus of the Speedwatch sessions, though, is to educate motorists, so it is to be hoped that he and all others reported for speeding try not to offend again.

The makes of vehicle in our Wordsearch have all been reported for speeding in our village. Can you find them all?

COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH

Words can be found in any direction (including diagonals) and can overlap each other. Use the word bank below.

V I X X F M B F I D F J O G V T F M N C
 O L X C R L U L H O U S I G T R I M B K
 L B N Z X K G C S G G K K E B N M W T T
 K T J I S G Y V I R I V U X I B T L W B
 S P F O H W W U B Z Q C Z A Y H U I F P
 W Q N U H G M A U D I X U B E A P R H O
 A D J H W K B O S B I I S U N H J V B R
 G T A F I P G E T S E B T E N T B I O S
 E O F A O C B R I W A Y R F X R U T L C
 N E O F B A J O M A A X M W N A V J S H
 C G R R S S E A T M Q W F O D B U D C E
 I U D R U E O O A N K Q M D U A U N L B
 T E P B B M E H N O F M O N Y C K O L L
 R P T Q A P A H Y U N D A I A A Z U L N
 O L C N R P U N O P F H O T T M S L A I
 E N R A U G A J K C N O I O V N E N H S
 N D S Z S E D E C R E M Y S I X M M X S
 K R E V O R D N A L E O B S U U N A U A
 C V X F M V V T E H T X I S Q R S I A N
 U W L W S K O D A N Q A L B E L W N V G

Word Bank

- | | | | |
|-------------|---------------|----------------|--------------|
| 1. seat | 2. ford | 3. lexus | 4. toyota |
| 5. yamaha | 6. man | 7. hyundai | 8. kia |
| 9. audi | 10. bmw | 11. ducati | 12. mercedes |
| 13. subaru | 14. peugeot | 15. citroen | 16. vauxhall |
| 17. porsche | 18. skoda | 19. mitsubishi | 20. suzuki |
| 21. mini | 22. nissan | 23. renault | 24. abarth |
| 25. jaguar | 26. landrover | 27. volkswagen | |



COUNCILLOR NEEDED

YOUR PARISH COUNCIL HAS A VACANCY AND WOULD LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN THIS REWARDING ROLE

If you would like to make a difference and improve our community please contact the Clerk to find out more:
clerk@havershamlittlelinfordpc.gov.uk

WWW.HAVERSHAMLITTLELINFORDPC.GOV.UK



HAVERSHAM SOCIAL & COMMUNITY CENTRE

Trustees:

Jackie Brown	(Chair)
Holly Sains	(Vice Chair)
Richard Pryor	(Treasurer Interim)
Fiona Viney	(Secretary)
Barry Clift	
Louise Reid	

Events Committee	
All Trustees plus	
Shula Holt	Events Co-ordinator

For bookings, e-mail: bookings@havershamsocialcentre.org.uk

NEXT ISSUE OF MAGAZINE

Our next issue is for April/May 2025. Copy date will be 14th March 2025 and the magazine should be ready for distribution on or around 31st May 2025.

All contributions welcome. Please pass them to:

Carol Langham, 108 Wolverton Road, Haversham. Tel: 01908 316450. Mob: 07961 047142

E-mail: carol.langham@havershamlittlelinfordpc.gov.uk

C. P. Locks

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Your local key cutting and DIY store stocks a wide range of home decorating materials as well as a good range of gardening products, including potting compost and garden pots.

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Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 9:00am -4:00pm;
Saturday 10.00am to 4.00 pm. Closed Wednesday & Sunday



When replying to this advert please quote ref: HCLL10

HAVERSHAM VILLAGE SCHOOL



The year is already off to a fantastic start, and school life has been bustling with activity. To those I don't see every day, I'd like to wish you a very Happy New Year! I hope you all had a chance to enjoy some special moments with family and friends over the holiday season.

As part of the school's Christmas celebrations, we were delighted to welcome parents into school to enjoy the children's performances. Our Foundation and KS1 children presented their own wonderful versions of the traditional Nativity story, embracing the chance to perform for an audience with enthusiasm and charm. Meanwhile, the KS2 children put on a fantastic show with their rendition of Top of the Pops through the decades, offering both an educational and nostalgic journey for parents, grandparents, and families. It was a thoroughly enjoyable experience for everyone, and as always, it was a pleasure to have families join us in school for these special moments.

The student council had a wonderful time participating in the Christmas tree competition at the church again this year. As you might recall, each class in our school is named after an animal, and the children created unique baubles to represent their class animals. With great care and enthusiasm, the student council took on the important task of decorating the tree in the church. This event has truly become a beloved annual tradition, and we are already excited to take part again next year!

The Friends of Haversham School (FOHS) once again organised

a special Christmas treat for our students, continuing what has now become an annual tradition!

Our FS and KS1 children were thrilled when a special visitor, dressed in a bright red suit, arrived to spread festive cheer. He left each of them with a small, thoughtful gift, making their day extra special. In addition, FOHS hosted the popular Christmas craft afternoon for all KS2 students, where they were treated to a festive hot chocolate while creating beautiful crafts and decorations. The event was a wonderful success, and the children had an amazing time, filled with creativity and holiday spirit. I would like to thank FOHS for making this festive tradition such a highlight of the season!

The school continues to go from strength to strength both academically and pastorally, and I am thrilled to share that, for the second year in a row, our excellent academic results have been recognised in the MK Citizen as one of the top-

*'2. Haversham Village School
This is a village primary school in Haversham, just north of the city. It was formerly rated 'good' overall by Ofsted, and has a roll size of about 160. In the 2022/23 academic year, 87% of its pupils met the government's expected standards in reading, writing, and maths – compared to averages of 59% locally and 60% nationally.'*
MK Citizen 29th November 2024

supporting our children's academic achievements and overall wellbeing.

performing schools in Milton Keynes. This consistent recognition is a testament to the hard work and dedication of our entire staff team, who do an exceptional job every day

As I write this entry, our Year 6 children have just returned from an inspiring visit to the Network Rail head office, where they learned about STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Maths) career opportunities and the diverse work carried out by Network Rail. The children



were particularly motivated by meeting Network Rail's latest cohort of A-level graduates, who have joined the company's apprenticeship scheme and are now gaining hands-on experience while studying for their degrees. The visit encouraged the children to think critically about careers in science and opened their eyes to the wide range of opportunities available as they progress on their educational journey. As always, they asked insightful questions and were excellent ambassadors for our school. The spring term is packed with exciting educational visits and activities that

promise to inspire and engage our students. This year, I've made a New Year's resolution to keep our X page updated with all the fun and enriching things we do. From trips to hands-on workshops, there's so much to share, so please be sure to check our page regularly to stay up to date with all the amazing experiences we have planned!

Best wishes,

**Mr David Ley
and all of the Staff at Haversham
Village School**




LEO ANTIQUES

**1 Rose Court,
Olney MK46 4BY
Tel: 01234 240003**

It's the start of our 22nd year in Olney and our 2nd year in Rose Court. Just in case you're not sure where we have moved to Rose Court is the passageway between Woosters Ladies wear and the Wine Shop situated on the Market Place.

From January our new opening times will be Thursday to Sunday
11.00 am to 4.00 pm

We have stock of small occasional furniture, mirrors, pictures and a large selection of glassware and beautiful pre-loved jewellery, silverware and ceramics.

With prices to suit all budgets from as little as £3.00.

As always we look forward to welcoming you.

When replying to this advert please quote ref: HCLL06

BUSY CORNER

YOUNG PEOPLE OF HAVERSHAM – WHAT'S BEEN KEEPING YOU BUSY?

Are you a young person who has something to share with the village? This page is for YOU. Whether you're 18 months or 18 years old – or anything in between – we want to hear about what you've been up to.

Have you been somewhere amazing on a school trip, day trip, or holiday...

...or achieved something incredible at school or with your sports team?

Have you learnt about a fascinating subject recently...

...or created a masterpiece you're really proud of?

Do you have a hobby you'd like to share...

...a book you'd love to shout about...

...or an impressive idea you just have to impart?

If so, we want to hear from YOU!

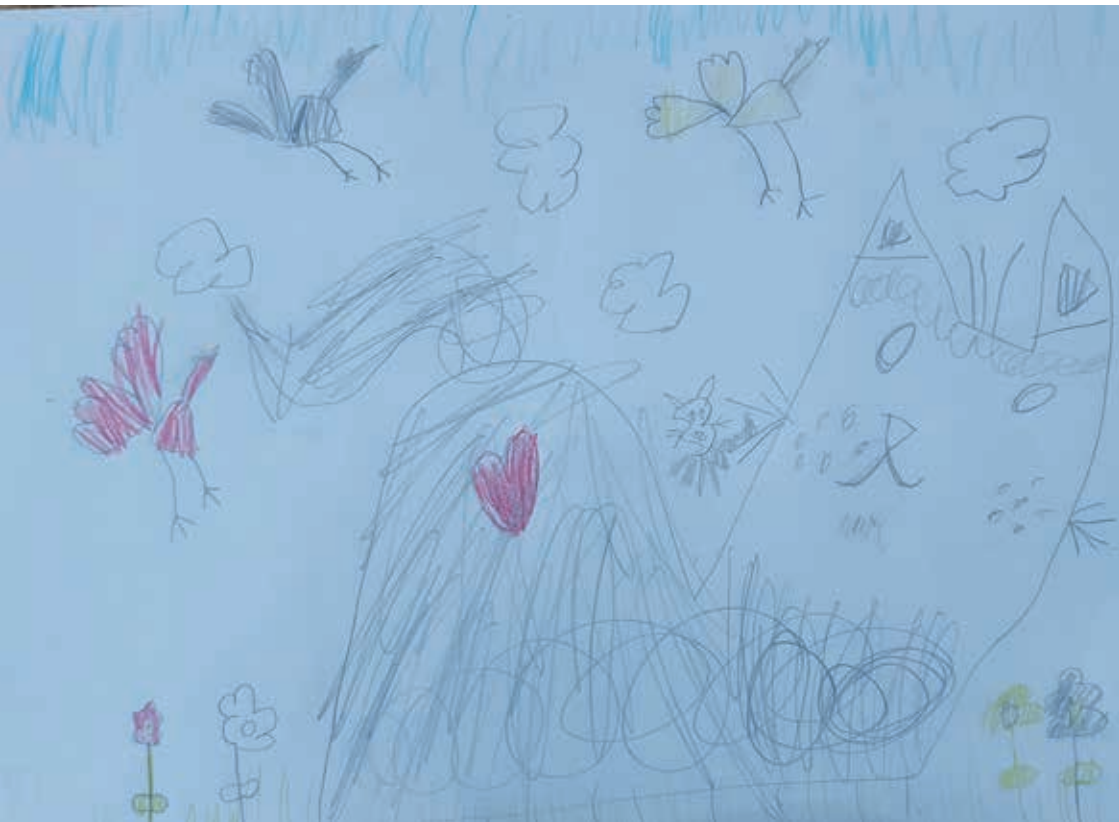
Send your write-ups, stories, poems, paintings, photos, craft projects, recipes, reviews

– anything you like – to:

carol.langham@havershamlittlelinfordpc.gov.uk

and we'll publish the best ones in future editions.

Our Busy Bee this issue is Ava, aged five, who has sent in this fabulous picture of her cat, Smudge.



A fun quiz suitable for all ages and expertise

Haversham Social & Community Centre

Saturday, 8th March

Doors open 6:30pm, Quiz starts at 7.00pm

TICKETS £5

in advance from

Jackie Brown, 39 The Crescent. 01908 313388

or on the door (cash only, please)

Teams of 4-8



Bring your own food and drinks.

There will be a break for refreshments.

Haversham Social & Community Centre—Registered charity no. 300276

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Register of Animal Musculoskeletal Practitioners

THE PARISHES OF HAVERSHAM-CUM-LITTLE LINFORD AND TYRINGHAM WITH FILGRAVE

Area Dean Priest for the LAMP group of churches

Rev. Adrian Low 07883 717642 rev.adrian.low@gmail.com

Churchwardens for St Mary's, Haversham, and St Leonard's, Little Linford

Joe Geary 01908 510289 joegeary100@gmail.com
Fi Jones 07946 615218 fipwmum@gmail.com

Churchwarden for St Peter's, Tyringham with Filgrave

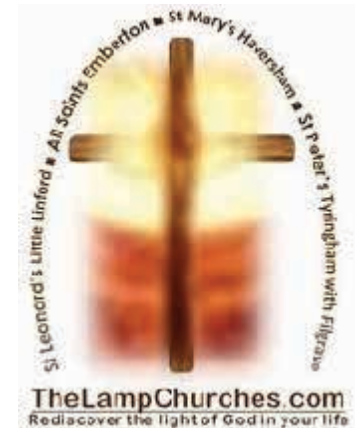
Marion Hansford 01234 711566 mariford@btinternet.com

BAPTISMS, MARRIAGES, FUNERALS AND PASTORAL NEEDS

For information about Christenings, weddings, funerals, or if you would like a visit for any reason, please contact Rev. Adrian Low, The Rectory, High Street, Haversham, Milton Keynes MK19 7DT. Telephone 07883 717642 or e-mail: rev.adrian.low@gmail.com

ST MARY'S CHURCH BEREAVEMENT GROUP

Please contact Fi Jones on 07946 615218 or by e-mail at fipwmum@gmail.com



FOR UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION ON CHURCH SERVICES AND EVENTS

Check out the LAMP group website at <http://the.lampchurches.com> or our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/stmaryhaversham where you can find lots of other details about our worship.

HAVERSHAM MORNING WORSHIP

After each 11 o'clock service, members of the congregation are invited to stay for refreshments.

LAMP GROUP CHURCH SERVICES

A MESSAGE FROM ADRIAN LOW

February

02 February	9.30am	Holy Communion	Tyringham
	11.00am	Morning Worsip	Haversham
	6.00pm	Something Else on Sunday	Emberton
09 February	9.30am	Morning Prayer	Little Linford
	11.00am	Morning Worship	Haversham
	3.30pm	Holy Communion	Emberton
16 February	9.30am	Morning Prayer	Tyringham
	11.00am	Holy Communion	Haversham
	6.00pm	Evensong	Emberton
23 February	9.30am	Holy Communion	Little Linford
	11.00am	Morning Worship	Haversham
	11.00am	Café Church	Emberton

March

02 March	9.30am	Holy Communion	Tyringham
	11.00am	Morning Worship	Haversham
	6.00pm	Something Else on Sunday	Emberton
09 March	9.30am	Morning Prayer	Little Linford
	11.00am	Morning Worship	Haversham
	11.00am	Holy Communion	Emberton
16 March	9.30am	Morning Prayer	Tyringham
	11.00am	Holy Communion	Haversham
	6.00pm	Evensong	Emberton
23 March	11.00am	LAMP Joint Service	Emberton
30 March	9.30am	Holy Communion	Little Linford
Mothering Sunday	11.00am	HAV (MW)	Haversham
	11.00am	Café Church	Emberton

***Change and decay in all around I see,
O thou who changest not, abide with me.***

The hymn, often sung at funerals and still, sometimes, sung at football matches, was written by Revd. Henry Lyte, an Irish poet who ended his ministry in Cornwall. He lived during a turbulent time in the early 1800s which was plagued with Dickensian poverty, industrial revolution, slavery, French revolution, Crimean wars, Napoleonic wars and an average life expectancy of 40 years. I can understand why 'change and decay' became a key phrase in his thinking.

I admit to apprehension over the new leadership of the United States, the peace process in Israel and Palestine, continuing support for Ukraine, our relationship with Europe and the rise of the far right. I fear that the new generation of children will not know unconditional love, truth, simplicity and the moral legacy of Christianity. I fear that, in places, we are losing our Christ-based selfless care for humanity because we are losing faith. Democracy is apparently under threat, fact checking is no longer valued, and AI is able to create videos so realistic that one can't see they are fiction. I wonder, with Pilate at the trial of Jesus, 'What is truth?'

But in this world of change and decay,

there are absolute truths. 2+2 still make four, and Henry Lyte's reminder that God remains in place whatever you or I think, believe or do is critical. If you choose, you can hold on to something/someone immovably solid and uncompromisingly loving – and you can do that right now.

Other writers of the time had that experience. 'Rock of ages' reminds me of Jesus's story about the houses built on sand or on rock. Give me rock every time! And 'It is well with my soul' reminds me that whatever the world might throw at us, the relationship with God is valuable for a stronger and steadier life. My mother would quote another hymn: 'With Christ in the vessel, I smile at the storm'.

Finally, in Swindon, at the funeral of a friend in January, Joanna and I sang, with tears welling up:

The storm may roar without me, my heart may low be laid, but God is round about me, how can I be dismayed?

Pray with me: O Lord of all power and might, creator of the universe, redeemer of humankind, help me to hold on to you through these turbulent times and to be honest, selfless and faithful to all I meet.

Amen.

Adrian Low

Area Dean and Priest for Haversham, Little Linford, Tyringham and Filgrave



NEWS FROM THE PEWS MEMOS FROM ST MARY'S

At this particular time of year, with the ending of all festivities and the dark cold weather, things can sometimes seem a little flat. However, there is still much to look back on and look forward to.

On Sunday 2nd February, Candlemas is celebrated which marks the conclusion of the Christian Christmas and Epiphany season. This particular day celebrates Jesus being presented at the temple and being acknowledged as the Light of the World. The first people to recognise his Divine status were Simeon and Anna and their words are still used in the Church service today, more than 2,000 years later!

Looking back on our December celebrations, we had our own baby naming service at St Mary's on 2nd December. The Rev John Berry's Great Granddaughter was named Jenna Jean. She was supported by her parents Hazel and Stephen Holmes and Grandparents Matthew and Rachel Fransch. The baby was presented with a Candle to symbolise the light of Christ entering the life of the child. The service was followed by a bring and share lunch at the Social Centre.

During the weekend of 14th and 15th December the popular Christmas Tree Festival took place. The Orphean Singers produced an entertaining and wide-ranging selection of Christmas songs, including Chrissie Cliff as Mariah Carey and some wonderful dancing from her granddaughter. A total of £31.25 was able to be sent to Willen Hospice from the refreshments. On Sunday 15th December our Christingle Service collection of £67.61 was sent to the Church of England Children's Society. £278.81 was given to MK Storehouse from the Christmas Tree Festival and Christmas Carol Service

collections.

Following a very wet Carols around the Green on 18th December, some wet and hardy souls were made welcome at the Greyhound to conclude the Carol singing. Once again thanks to Lucy Smith for allowing her kitchen to be dripped on! £83.31 was sent to MK Storehouse.

At St Leonard's, Little Linford, £352.26 was sent to BBC Children In Need collected from the Christmas Carol Service and Wassail Services.

Looking ahead, **the next Open House Lunch** will be on Monday 20th January 2025 from 10.30am.

There is no charge for Lunch and you will be warmly welcomed. Julia and Ian, on behalf of St Mary's Church, provide the lunch for any member of St. Mary's and St Leonard's Churches and residents of Haversham and Little Linford. Coffee is available from 10.30 a.m., a light lunch from approximately 12.30 p.m. and tea and cake on offer in the afternoon until 3.30 p.m. Maureen White on 07889 654906 has kindly agreed to provide transport for those who need help getting to The Old Forge.

Date for your Diaries: On the afternoon of **Saturday 1st March** (2.00-5.00), we are hosting an **Eco-Fair in the Haversham Social and Community Centre**. Further details will be released over the coming weeks and entry will be free. Charities benefiting include Willen Hospice, Tearfund, and the Bucks, Herts and Beds Wildlife Trust. The aim of the event is to think about **'reducing, reusing, recycling, repairing' and to encourage one another in easy and cost-effective ways to protect the world we enjoy for future generations.**

There will be opportunities to bring along any books, jigsaws, or clothes no longer required and in good condition. They can be donated or swapped. There will also be an opportunity to swap oddments of wool, threads and fabrics. We are hoping to include a homemade preserve stall and to offer home-baked goodies at the refreshment stall but that depends on you. If you can help with baking contact Julia Cheetham or one of the team. Similarly, if you can help in any other way on the day then please speak to one of the team.

Thank you from Kimonie and the Eco-Team (Fi, Sara, Joanna, Wendy, and Julia)

So, looking back and looking forward there is plenty to be thankful for, and to look forward to with hope. Let's keep the candle of hope burning to bring us through these dark days into the promise of Spring.



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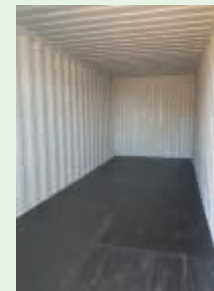
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NEWS FROM ST PETER'S

What a change in the format of the magazine; recipients at St Peter's took a moment or two to realise it was the Haversham and Little Linford December edition.

We had our Carol Service on the 15th December with the great and much loved Advent and Christmas traditional carols; the festive refreshments which followed put us all in good spirits. The church looked lovely with the twinkling lights and the glow of the candles. We thank Alban Hill Nurseries for the magnificent 8ft tree and the person who decorated it with all things silver. Sadly the euphoria was damped by the very poor attendance at the Midnight Communion. It was most disappointing that so few church members from within the Group supported this service.

We all grumble about Easter eggs in the shops before we have taken down the Christmas cards and I feel a little guilty mentioning our services in the lead-up to Easter, but with the way the magazine dates and Easter falls it has to be. Special services over the coming months will be:

2nd February 9.30 a.m.

Our regular Holy Communion but will also include Candlemas.

13th April 9.30 a.m.

Palm Sunday Morning Prayer with the distribution of palms.

18th April 11.00 a.m.

Good Friday followed by Coffee and Hot Cross Buns.

We alternate with Little Linford for the 9.30 a.m. Easter Day service and this year it is St Leonard's turn; however, the church may be closed for refurbishment in which case it will be held at St Peter's. Details will be on Church Notice Boards.

We are missing our Organist and Friend, Jean, who has taken a sabbatical whilst undergoing her cataract surgery. We wish her well and look forward to her return in the spring. Our organ does have a facility to record music in advance. If anyone knows how this is done and could record our hymns for each of the forthcoming Sundays we would be most grateful. The services would be the 2nd February, 16th February, 2nd March and 16th March. Please call Marion on 01234 711566 if you can help.

Lastly, thank you to our ladies on the cleaning/flower rota for keeping the church spick and span and for the flowers, at their own expense, during 2024. Several compliments have been received on the cleanliness of the church.

Thank you, ladies.

A belated Happy New Year to LAMP Group members and the residents of Haversham-cum-Little Linford.

Christopher THE LOCKSMITH

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Haversham Village School	Headteacher: David Ley	01908 312673
Haversham Sailing Club	commadore@havershamsc.org	
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