

The Ampney Times

JUNE / JULY 2019

"Tool Shed" stall

- Patrick Thody

This year we are having a "Tool Shed" stall at the village fête on the 15th June.

The idea is to sell more blokey things than jam and cakes etc!

We are asking for donations of used but serviceable tools of any sort and technical items (computer bits tablets phones etc). This can include working electrical items.

Please have a look around to see if you have any spare stuff that fits this description.

If you have something to donate please call or email Patrick Thody ☎01285-850892 or email

✉ pat.thody@zen.co.uk and we can collect it. Proceeds will of course go to the fête charities

Toffs Car Boot Sale Ampney St Peter

Bank Holiday Monday 26 August sees the return of the Toffs Car Boot Sale on the Moor in Ampney St Peter.

More details to follow but the sale will start at **8am** - everyone is welcome, and as usual a fantastic selection of sausages, bacon and cakes will be available to keep energy levels up. Why not start sorting through the garage and attic now?!



Pop up Pub

Ampney St Peter Church

Friday May 31st
from 5.30pm to 9pm

All welcome

Ampney Crucis Summer Fête

- Neil Holt

Saturday 15 June 2019 1pm - 3.30 pm

Wanted for this year's Village Fête!

- Bottles for the Bottle Tombola - deliver please to Michelle Evans at Pound Tree Cottage, or call ☎851449
- Books for the Book Stall - deliver please to John Ducker at Wych Elm, or call ☎851524
- Old plates and crocks for the Plate Smashing Stall - deliver please to the Rectory, or call ☎851309
- Cakes for the cake stall - deliver please to the Rectory, or call ☎851309
- Plants for the Plant Stall - deliver please to the Rectory, or at the Fête or please bring them along to the Cricket Ground on the day.

And if you have a classic, vintage or interesting car or vehicle - please bring it on the day for people to admire!

Can you spare an hour on the morning of the Fête to help set up the stalls, or after the Fête to take it all down again?

We have the village marquees, but pop-up gazebos are always welcome - do you have one you can lend to us for the day? If so, please call the Rectory on ☎851309.

Community Garden Breakfast

As we enjoyed our first Ampney Crucis **Breakfast in the Garden** last year, we thought we would try again!

All residents of the Ampneys are welcome including children.

**Saturday 3rd August
at Harnhill Cottage,
Waterton Lane**

9.30am to 11.30am

No dogs please, and no parking available for cars this year. Residents bicycles welcome!

Please let us know if you would like come by **18th July** to allow us to estimate the catering .

Free for all, but donations to Ampney Crucis Church or local Air Ambulance would be welcome.

We can arrange transport for any villager who has difficulty getting to Harnhill Cottage

Patrick and Denise
☎01285-850 892

Ampney Crucis Parish Council Elections - update

- Doug Crook

Following on from the elections on Thursday 2nd May the Parish Council is now as follows.

Doug Crook (Chair), Andrew Raphael (Vice Chair), Tracy Oosthuizen, Tony Williams and Benedict Eccles.

Firstly, as the new Chair, may I offer, on behalf of all the residents of Ampney Crucis, a big thank you to our retiring councillors, Neil Holt, Rosanna Armitage and David Hardy, for all their efforts over the past four years and more to help make our village such a nice place to live.

Secondly may I warmly welcome Benedict Eccles to the Council, I am sure he will add much to the proceedings.

The election was for 7 seats but unfortunately only 5 candidates stood.

This means that we are now in the position to co-opt 2 additional councillors. Consequently if anyone is interested in helping with the various responsibilities and representing the wider interests of the village and its residents, please contact myself or other members of the council, whose details are on the AC Website, or contact our Parish Clerk, Jayne Webster at ac.parish.clerk@btinternet.com

Formal Notices will be posted on the village Notice Boards and the AC Website.

Should you be interested please advise by **Friday 28th June** and if possible also be able to attend the next Parish Meeting on Thursday 11th July at 7.15pm, though not essential, as it is nearing the holiday period.



Suspicious Drone Activity around Ampney Crucis

Police received a report of a Drone flying around the Ampney Crucis area.

Anyone who may have any information is asked to call ☎101 quoting incident 102 25/04/19.

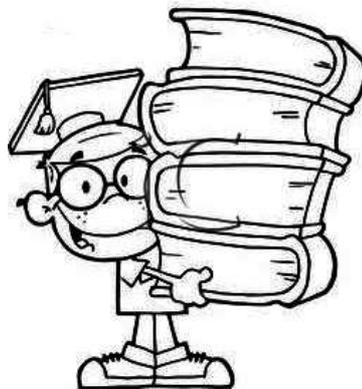
They remind all Drone users to follow the simple Drone code:

- ◆ **ALWAYS KEEP YOUR DRONE IN SIGHT**
- ◆ **STAY BELOW 400FT (120M) TO COMPLY WITH THE DRONE CODE**
- ◆ **YOU MUST FOLLOW THE MANUFACTURERS INSTRUCTIONS WHEN FLYING YOUR DRONE**
- ◆ **KEEP THE RIGHT DISTANCE FROM PEOPLE AND PROPERTY (150FT), & BUILT UP AREAS (500FT)**
- ◆ **YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR EACH FLIGHT - STAY WELL AWAY FROM AIRCRAFT, AIRPORTS AND AIRFIELDS**

For further information please visit dronesafe.uk

Many thanks

Fairford and Lechlade Neighbourhood Policing team



Deadline approaching!!! Grants for Students!

- Martina Richt

Are you a local 16-24 year old student?

Are you studying A Levels, BTEC, NVQ, an apprenticeship, or an undergraduate course?

You may be eligible for a grant from the Robert Pleydell Educational Trust of up to £200 to help with your studies. If you attended a local school, and either you or your parents live in Ampney Crucis, and are on the electoral register please contact me on

[✉martinaricht@hotmail.com](mailto:martinaricht@hotmail.com) for further details and an application form.

Hurry! - The closing date for applications is 30th September 2019

Readers' Advertisements

All personal advertisements from readers resident in our three villages are free of charge and should be sent to Sharon Buckley

[✉ editor@spaceplanner.co.uk](mailto:editor@spaceplanner.co.uk)



Bookings for Ampney Crucis Village Hall

Linda Devine

☎851773

or

[✉bookings@ampneycrucisvillagehall.org.uk](mailto:bookings@ampneycrucisvillagehall.org.uk)

To Hire the Village Marquee - Rosanna Armitage

☎850005

Now is the Month of Maying

- Olwen Watson

A light exchange with church-flower-arranging colleagues in the Ampneys prompted a little research on the May Tree which, as I write, appears to tumble out of the woods and hedgerows in a riot of joyous, frothy whiteness. The reason for the chat was whether we could at last let go of the superstition that it is bad luck to bring the May blossom indoors. We agreed to remain with the status quo, even though the graceful boughs, we thought, would look fab in our homes and churches.

The reason for this is the legend that the Hawthorn's (official name of the May Tree) branches were used as the crown on Christ's head on Good Friday. Surprisingly, the Middle East does have its own 'Spiny Hawthorn' whose growth habit is a little different to ours, and whose fruit is yellow instead of our familiar Autumnal red. However, I found something else which might also contribute to the reluctance to share our indoor spaces with this beautiful blossom. Its smell. This is a most unpleasant odour when sniffed up close, and in Medieval times popular opinion had it that the May blossom smelled of the Black Plague. In more recent times, botanists have found this to be scientifically correct, given that one finds the chemical, trimethylamine, present in both may blossom and decaying animal tissue. Who knows: our medieval forefathers may have thought the one caused the other, so why would they, or their descendants, bring it indoors? Anyway, the myth continues whatever the reason.

There are also more cheerful associations with this tree. Indigenous variations may be found in Europe, Asia, and North America. The hawthorn is also known as quickthorn, thornapple, or hawberry. It was also nicknamed 'bread 'n cheese' for its daily nutritional contribution to the midday meal of farmhands who picked the leaves off the plant in the hedges to add to their bread and cheese (ploughman's lunch).

The Hawthorn is known, in the Celtic tradition, as the Faery tree, which must be respected as such, or there will be unpleasant consequences. There are plenty of 'true' stories to support this idea. Glastonbury still boasts a descendant of the Hawthorn said to bloom overnight from the staff of Joseph of Arimathea, in mid-Winter. Sprays of this blossoming tree are sent to the Queen for Christmas every year, and it is said they are placed in the table centre-piece on Christmas day.

In Victorian language of flowers the hawthorn represented 'hope', and its blossom the only one in the English language named for the month in which it blooms. Before the Gregorian Calendar was introduced in 1752, the first of May fell during the height of may blossom season, and May day celebrations included the cutting of may branches which were pushed, in clusters, into the ground round the outside of the house, and known as 'may bushes'.

From the hawthorn, the word 'thorn' is the most frequently found in English place names, one of the most useful and popular plants in hedging, and therefore, the most frequently mentioned in Anglo-Saxon boundary charters.

The haws (berries) were believed centuries ago to give a man heart, meaning a bit more vigour, or liveliness. Again, modern science has found this to be the case. The berries have the effect of normalising heart health, 'with the ability to balance blood pressure, bringing it back to its optimum'. Also, carry a few of these red berries in your pocket: they serve as excellent 'worry beads' when a little extra courage is required.

There are many more facts and legends about this lovely plant, but what caught my eye is the one that says that Westminster Abbey (c. 1090) is built on the site of Thorney Island, so named for the sacred stand of thorn trees growing there. If I remember correctly, it was first a Benedictine monastery, later turned over to the new Anglican Church under Henry VIII, altered, and extended. Perhaps the hawthorn is not so unlucky after all - Westminster Abbey still stands, and represents much that is English.

Ampney Crucis Toddlers

Welcoming: bumps, babies, toddlers and preschoolers

Join in with craft, play, singing, stories and refreshments

Every Tuesday 9.30am-11am
(term time only)

Find out what is going on.

Facebook '*Ampney Crucis Toddler Group*'

£1.50 per family - just turn up and have fun

We also welcome volunteers to help run sessions
Contact: Andrea ☎07946-391798

ALSO -

Butts Farm Trip
meet

10.30am Tuesday 25th June

Bring a picnic and sensible clothing. If weather forecast is poor, regular session will resume at **9.30am** in the Ampney Crucis Village Hall.



News from Ampney

St Peter

- Steve Larcombe

Here's a rare letter from our long-lost Ampney St Peter correspondent, home of the golden post box.

The village adopted the now-decommissioned telephone box late last year and a village team, led by the Duracell-powered David Winstone, has been refurbishing it. It has been repainted, the glass panes are being replaced and it is intended to fit it with the fashionable village accessory, a defibrillator, as well as perhaps, a disco ball.

A revised change of use planning application for the Red Lion was withdrawn in December in the hopes of a possible purchase as a pub but, at the time of writing, there had been no further news on this front.

At the village meeting in early May, there was a thoughtful discussion about keeping the village dark in the face of the growing number of security and decorative lights. It was felt that darkness at night should be a characteristic of a rural village particularly to allow villagers and visitors to enjoy the beauty of the night sky.

There have been two new arrivals in the village: in January, Jules and David Winstone produced Otto Charles, a brother for Henry. Otto was christened in St Peter's church in early May. And in April, a baby boy, Jack Mark, was born to Lara and Billy Butler. Both children and parents are doing well although they may not always feel as if they are.

Finally, two village events: the pop-up pub will be held in St Peter's Church on **Friday 31st May** from **5.30pm until 9pm**, and **August Bank Holiday, the 26th**, will see the return of the Ampney St Peter car boot sale. Volunteer helpers for this are more than welcome!

Ampney Crucis School - Friends Report

With not much time between a late Easter break and the May half term, we still managed to cram an awful lot in!

Fundraising continues in order to provide the children with every extra opportunity that we can.

The end of term saw a successful Easter egg hunt from the school down to the cricket pavilion. The lovely weather helped make this an enjoyable event and the children seemed to have a lot of fun not only searching for clues and playing with friends but mainly leaving with a chocolate egg!

The school disco was held in the village hall in early May, which gave the students a chance to cut loose with pals in a safe environment and for our eldest Y6 students, take a moment to forget about their SATs and have a good time!

Planning is taking place by the Friends to show support to the village fête by organising some fun stalls on the 15th June.

As many from the school community as possible make this annual event and we hope to see a good turnout again this year; to take part in the combustible combination of sweetie prizes followed by bouncy castles...

We are also pleased to remind you that our annual Silent Auction will take place again this summer. The bidding runs from the 10th-24th June.

There are some AMAZING lots already offered, from Air Tattoo tickets, a mini break in a Devon seaside cottage, a photography shoot, brewery tours, alternative therapy sessions, tickets to events, and much, much more.

The list will be available to view at the fête on the 15th, or by request via the school office so please do take a look and help us raise some vital money for the school whilst treating yourself!

On that note, it won't have escaped your notice in the news that funding in state schools in England is in crisis.

The fundraising we do as Friends helps enormously to offer the pupils of our small, but thriving, school every opportunity we can to enhance their time with us.

These days, this can be as simple as funding coaches for school trips that wouldn't otherwise be viable as well as supplies for each class as they need it.

As a school community we appreciate and acknowledge your help in supporting our efforts.

One final point as we race towards the summer is that the Friends would like to acknowledge our great interim headteachers, Mr Bob Pattenden and Mr Ian Moore.

They've been with us since the start of this academic year, and their combined teaching and leadership experience and warmth and wit, have kept the school moving forwards to the appointment of our new headteacher.

We wish them well in the future and thank them for everything.

The Friends.

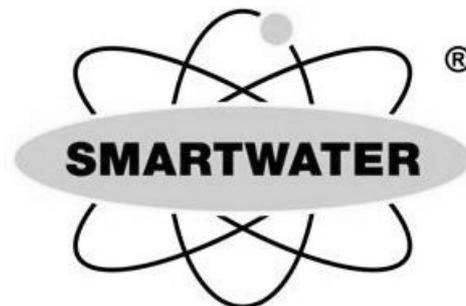


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The innovative SmartWater fog cannon was launched to help combat crime in communities. Once activated, the canon releases a fog which obscures the intruder's vision and covers the criminal in a spray containing SmartWater's unique forensic signature.

Charlotte Pink and Lis Courtown are co-ordinating the newly set up Holy Rood Neighbourhood Watch (NW) Group. They have been advised by Keith Handley, a retired police officer and overseer of local NW groups, that there is a NW SmartWater discount code available. This should enable individuals to purchase a domestic kit for £25 (plus P&P no doubt). Please contact Charlotte or Lis if you are interested and a NW member, and they will give you the code.

Some useful links: <https://www.smartwater.com> <https://shop.smartwater.com/>

Social Events

Mothers Union:

Meets monthly at various venues and times; everyone is welcome. All meetings (unless stated) are held in Watermoor Church Hall.

Wednesday 5th June - 2.30pm:

Adrian Barnard, 'Benjamin Generation Child Care Centre, South Africa'. Bring and Buy stall

Friday 21st June 10am-12 noon: Parish Church for Coffee

Monday 24th June - 12 noon: Cathedral Prayers

Wednesday 3rd July - Holy Trinity Church, Watermoor - Closing Service led by Rev. Julian Wilson, followed by Bring and Share Tea

Friday 19th July 10am - 12 Noon: Parish Church for Coffee

Wednesday 7th August 2.30pm: Tea and chat

For more information, or to join, please contact Rosemary Franklin on ☎654282. Anyone is welcome to join.

Women's Institute:

Usually meets monthly on **fourth Thursday** at Ampney Crucis Village Hall, **7pm for 7.30pm**, unless otherwise noted.

Thursday 27th June: An insight into the life and changing work of the National Star, Sally Gillespie. Hostesses: Sandra and Kitty. Competition: Stars

Thursday 25th July: An introduction to fused glass, Elizabeth Spurway. Hostesses - Janet and Joan S.

For more information, please contact Anne Bridges on ☎652471. Anyone is welcome to join.



The Ampneys Gardening Club:

Usually meets monthly on the **third Thursday** at Ampney Crucis Village Hall, **7.00pm for 7.30pm to 9.00pm** unless otherwise noted.

Friday 21st June: Club outing to Blenheim Palace Flower Show. Coach will leave Ampney Crucis Village Hall at **9.15am**

Thursday 18th July, 7pm: Summer Social Evening at Harnhill Cottage (by kind permission Of Denise Medley and Patrick Thody). Summer competitions (see members programme)

For more information, please contact Tony Ross ☎851410 or Ursula Evans ☎239629. Anyone is welcome to join.

ADVERTISEMENTS

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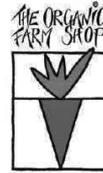
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This is your newsletter; contributions from individuals, clubs etc always welcome.

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Send to Sharon Buckley ✉ editor@spaceplanner.co.uk

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Ampney Crucis Village Website at ampneycrucis.org.uk (or Google 'Ampney Crucis')