**Ampney Crucis Church 100 Club**

Are you interested in winning £100, 4 times each year?

If so, join Ampney Crucis Church 100 Club

For every share that you buy in the Ampney Crucis Church 100 Club, you will have:

- 4 chances to win £100 or
- 8 chances to win £25

Prize Draws will take place at Village events four times each year

An extra prize of £100 may be awarded at each December Prize Draw

ALL surplus proceeds will be used to help with the upkeep of our old and much loved parish church.

The cost of EACH share will be £12 per annum, payable in advance.

There is NO limit to the number of shares each member can buy and the more shares you buy, the greater your chances of winning a cash prize as well as helping to maintain our church.

If you are interested in taking part PLEASE contact any of the following:

Neil Holt ☎️850007 ✉️holt.neil@btinternet.com

Rev’d Canon John Swanton ☎️851309 ✉️john@swanton.plus.com

Roger Meadows ☎️851999 ✉️meadows5@btinternet.com

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**Village Defibrillators & CPR Training**

**Thursday 9th April**

Ampney St. Mary has a defibrillator in the telephone box, and Ampney Crucis has two defibrillators, one located outside the Village Hall, and the other on an external wall of the Village School.

These machines are very easy to use and provide automated instructions as soon as they are opened.

The South West Ambulance Service Trust (SWAST) provide a free annual training session on the CPR (Cardiopulmonary resuscitation) techniques, including use of the defibrillator and how to place a patient into the recovery position.

The training is designed to provide basic first aid until arrival of the emergency services, in the event that you are with a person who suffers a heart attack.

Taking part in the training will not result in you being listed as an emergency “go to” person but it does provide valuable skills and advice in the event that you happen to be with a person who suffers a heart attack and are waiting for the emergency services to arrive.

We have arranged a training session for Thursday 9th April, starting at 7.00pm in the Village Hall.

Participation is free and is open to all residents of Ampney Crucis, Ampney St Peter and Ampney St Mary, as well as to any visitors or friends who wish to take part.

If you are interested in taking part, please register or reconfirm your interest with Jayne Webster ✉️clerk@ampneycrucis.org.uk

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**Help!**

**Ampney St. Peter, Ampney St. Mary and Ampney Crucis.**

Do we want 'The Ampney Times' to continue? Do we benefit from the information it circulates? How do we want modern village life to look like? Just some things to consider. The reason for posing these questions: one of our lovely team members is needing to leave, so we need new people able help with producing 'TAT'.

Do you have the time to help with printing and collating six times a year? If so, attending committee meetings each time would be helpful (it is fun too). We would welcome help from any of the three villages.

If you want to help keep things going, please email Sharon Buckley on ✉️editor@spaceplanner.co.uk in the first instance. We look forward to meeting you.
AMPNEY CRUCIS CHRISTMAS BAZAAR - 30TH NOVEMBER 2019 – Neil Holt

The organisers of this year’s Christmas Bazaar would very much like to thank everyone who helped to raise £1,251.32 after costs.

This will be split between our village church and the village school.

We also want to acknowledge generous sponsorship or donations from the following

Beefeater Inns (Cirencester)
The Bull Hotel (Fairford)
CJ Hole Estate Agents (Cirencester)
CP Jefferies Heating & Plumbing Engineers
Cain & Fuller Estate Agents (Cirencester)
The Falcon (Poulton)
Jesse Smith Farm Shop (Cirencester)
Mr & Mrs Kingsley

Mole Valley Farmers (Cirencester)
The Organic Farm Shop (Burford Road)
Talland School of Equitation
Tesco (Kingsmeadow, Cirencester)
Trevor Carr’s Garage (Poulton)
Waitrose (Cirencester)

Grants for School Leavers – Martina Richt

Are you a student? Are you considering your next move? A levels? Degree? Apprenticeship? You may be eligible to apply for a grant from The Robert Pleydell Educational Charity.

The purpose of the Robert Pleydell Charity is to support Ampney Crucis Primary School and to provide a small number of grants to students and apprentices who live in Ampney Crucis. These grants are available to any 16 to 24 year old Ampney Crucis resident, who are intending to go to college or university or undertaking a vocational course or apprenticeship. Grants are also available to students already studying but not postgraduate students, sorry.

The grants are to help with essential expenditure on books and /or equipment, though applications will also be considered for help with essential course work training or fieldwork.

To qualify you must be between 16 and 24 years old on 1st September 2020 and you must have attended one of the local schools in the past. Additionally, either you or your parents must live in the parish of Ampney Crucis and be recorded on the Electoral Roll as at 1st September 2020. You may apply for the grant up to 3 times.

Please contact me either by email or by post for an application form to be considered for a grant.

The closing date for applications is 30th September 2020. The trustees will allocate grants at their meeting in October 2020 and all the applicants will be contacted within the following 7 days.

Should you require any further information please email me on martinaricht@hotmail.com or write to Martina Richt, 2 May Trees, Lansdown Crescent, Cheltenham GL50 2LE

VILLAGE HALL EVENTS – Anne Bridges

Film nights
Wednesday 26 February 7.30pm
Downton Abbey. The continuing story of the Crawley family, wealthy owners of a large estate in the English countryside in the early twentieth century. Refreshments served. Tickets £3

Wednesday 25 March 7.30pm.
See posters in village for details. Tickets £3

A.G.M.
Wednesday 11th March 2020 at 4pm.
Note The Time!
Nominations for the three elected positions on the Committee to Anne Bridges 652471.

Jumble Sale. Many thanks for your support, we raised over £800 for the Hall and Church.

Bookings for Ampney Crucis Village Hall
-Linda Devine 851773 or email acvillagehallbookings@gmail.com

When contacting Linda our Booking Secretary please do so between 9am and 5pm on weekdays. Leave weekends and evenings free! Emails can of course be sent at any time.

Hiring the village marquee – Rosanna Armitage

We are away for three months from 1 February - 1 May. I can only be contacted via email during that time at rosannaarmitage@gmail.com.

However the marquee is still available to be used and booked. If someone needs it urgently, then telephone Simon Holt who has a key on 07989 494455 or email stjohnholt@yahoo.co.uk
Friends of Ampney Crucis School - Report

Even though the excitement of the festive season has faded as the children head back to school, midwinter doesn't need to be bleak - because the Chilli Quiz is back!

The Friends are pleased to confirm that this year’s popular Chilli Quiz Night is being held on Saturday 8th February in the village hall.

The quiz is hosted again by the phenomenal Phil James and his team, and there will be a raffle and a Heads and Tails game, so bring plenty of change as well as the usual BYO bottle(s).

The evening is always a lot of fun, and is a great fundraiser for us, so we look forward to welcoming our regular and new teams for 2020. Contact ampneychilliquiz@gmail.com for more information or to book your spot (usually a team of 6 - but a single or couple of players can always be found a team to join!).

Thanks again to all from the local area who attended our Wreath Making Workshop in early December, it was a great success.

As a small school and group of parents, we are constantly thinking of the next function to ensure that we are always in a position to help the school.

We have got some other fundraisers in the pipeline for this year, from a car boot sale to the Summer Exhibition so keep your eyes peeled for information surrounding these later on in the year!

We continue to focus our fundraising efforts for 2020 on improving the outdoor space at the school so that the children can really utilise the space in a creative and safe way.

We are very happy that we have already been in a position to offer the school some funding to start the wheels in motion with this playground upgrade, and we hope be able to give more throughout the spring to ensure that other important resources aren't lacking.

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

Note that the last date for inclusion in our next issue is 13 March

AMPNEY CRUCIS
C. of E. SCHOOL

Early Spring Ampney Crucis Burial Ground Clean-Up

Following on from a very successful Autumn Clear-Up it was decided that it would be very useful to have one in the early spring so that the Burial Ground will look in good shape for the spring and summer.

Hence, please can I ask for volunteers to attend on Sunday 23rd February from 09:30 onwards. I will try and organise some refreshments this time.

I look forward to seeing you all there.

Doug Crook
Chair of AC Parish Council

AMPNEY CRUCIS Neighbourhood Development Plan

The NP Steering Group (SG) would like to thank everyone who has expressed interest in the formulation of the neighbourhood plan. All interest is hugely appreciated and welcome.

We are delighted that further parishioners have offered their support and will be joining the steering group. A full list of interested parties is being compiled and if you would like more information please contact Lis or Charlotte (see below) to provide email or address to which we can send information.

Please look at the NDP webpage on the community website for Ampney Crucis (http://ampneycrucis.org.uk) for updates and information (we are to be found under the Parish Council (PC) tab.) The web page is under construction and will be available shortly.

Charlotte Pink (Chairman) acpndp@gmail.com
David Fowles (Vice Chair) johnfowles@btinternet.com
Lis Courtown (Secretary) lisndp@gmail.com
Ampney Crucis Parish Council Report - Doug Crook

The Parish Council met on 9th January 2020 and of note were discussions over planning applications that had been received in November and December, and the Appeal Decision over the Backs Lane Grain Dryer proposals.

Finalising the 2020 Precept Budget took place, followed by a presentation on the progress of creating a Neighbourhood Development Plan for the village. A separate meeting was held in the village on 16th January for which there will be a specific report from the Steering Group.

A proposal for a bus shelter opposite the Crown was discussed and sources of funding will be explored.

The defibrillators in the village are due for renewal soon and investigations will take place as to whether there are other arrangements to provide them. There is a National Database of all defibrillators and until we have appropriate monitoring in place, we cannot be included. This is something we will address as part of the renewal of the existing units.

District Councillor Lisa Spivey presented her report with topics covering the public consultation on the budget, local plan review and changes in the Green Waste Service. A copy of Lisa’s report will be published on the village website.

Discussions took place on the proposed VE75 commemorations, and it is likely we will have a vintage-themed tea party followed by a Rave!

The minutes of the meeting will be posted on the village website.

Hedges and Ditches - Doug Crook

There is a constant battle in maintaining our roads and lanes by the County Council. In order to help and keep them on our side, and act as responsibly as we can hope for, it would be great if we could show some positive action.

Please cut back hedges hard so that they do not overhang or protrude onto the highways, or hang over verges and footpaths. Many of our verges have become so overgrown that it is not possible to step off the highway onto them to avoid oncoming traffic.

Some of our footpaths also suffer from excessive overhanging hedges, shrubs and trees. Please cut these back severely. They will quickly grow back, and it will often help to make a hedge thicker.

Ditches are again the responsibility of the land or home owner and they need clearing to provide a good example. The County Council advises that ditches that run alongside a highway generally do not form part of the publicly maintainable highway (since they do not assist the free passage along the highway), and the presumption, in the absence of rebutting evidence, is that they are the responsibility of the adjoining (riparian) landowner or occupier, and the highway boundary lies on the highway side of the ditch. Likewise for boundary walling and hedging.

New to the village? Get Psst!

Residents of Ampney Crucis can receive email notification of parish council notices, urgent police messages, and local events in Psst that can’t wait until the next regular issue of the Parish Newsletter or Ampney Times.

Subjects covered last year included school & village hall events, revised bus times, waste collection dates, Rural Cinema films, burglaries, and road closures.

To get your name on the system, just send an email to the Psst! email address above saying ‘Include me in’; or you can Google ‘Ampney Crucis’ and click on the web link.

Changed your email address? - Frank Skinner

Are you still receiving your Village Emails? No? Could it be that you have changed your email address and have forgotten to tell us?
Mothers Union
Meets monthly at various venues and times; everyone is welcome. All meetings (unless stated) are held in Watermoor Church Hall.

Monday 3rd February – 2.30 pm: Watermoor Church deanery Candlemas service. Bring and Share Tea
Wednesday 5th February – 2:30: AGM. Bring and Buy. Pauline Farman – Posie of Poems
Monday 24th February – 10:00 – 1:00 pm: Member’s Day, St. Phillip and St. Ames Church, Hucclecote

Women’s Institute
Usually meets monthly on fourth Thursday at Ampney Crucis Village Hall, 7.00 for 7.30, unless otherwise noted.

Thursday 27th February: Time Travel in Cirencester – Alan Welsford.
Competition: A Useful Gadget
Thursday 26th March: Meeting organised by Members
Skittles, visits, theatre trips to be arranged throughout the year. Suggestions welcomed!

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

The Ampneys Gardening Club:
The club usually meets monthly on the third Thursday at Ampney Crucis Village Hall, 7.00 for 7:30 to 9.00 unless otherwise noted. On January 16th the club met for their annual New Year’s Lunch at Stratton House Hotel. It was a very jolly gathering in a new venue with good food and was much enjoyed by everyone there.

Thursday 20th February: A practical demonstration by Mr. A. J. Pedrick on “Composts – how to make and use them”
Thursday 19th March: A.G.M.

For more information, please contact Ursula Evans 239629 or Barbara Fullick on 851151. Anyone is welcome to join.

Ampney Crucis Village Clear-Up – Jayne Webster
This year’s village clear up will take place on Sunday 29th March, 9.30 am meeting at the Village Hall.
Litter pickers and sacks will be available as will limited numbers of hi-vis waistcoats and gloves.
Please come and help if you can!
Jayne Webster Clerk to AC Parish Council
Ampney St Mary News – Virginia Isaac

Often the start of the New Year provides the incentive to find the ‘New You’. This time, however, the New Decade, may be the opportunity to develop a ‘New Us’!

In that vein the Open Meeting of the Friends of Ampney St Mary held at the beginning of January did just that. It was wonderful to see so many people (25 all told) turn up to discuss new village initiatives, potential recipients for charitable donations (raised through local social events) and ways in which we can work more closely with the other Amneys.

Living in a small village is not without its challenges; (one can’t please everyone all the time!) but there was no shortage of enthusiasm – or ideas! Six charities – the Oaks and Furrows Wildlife Centre, the local Air Ambulance, Cirencester Housing for Young People (CHYP), The Big Yellow Bus Project, Ampney St Mary Ivy Church and the Ampney Crucis Village Hall – were voted to be recipients of a donation this year.

The last (which is often used by Ampney St. Mary residents one way or another) was very much in keeping with villagers’ wishes to support wider initiatives (such as the Car Boot Sale in Ampney St Peter) rather than to try and support things just within our own Village.

There was also an impressive list of Village Projects that will get off the ground in 2020. The Ampney St Mary Cookery Book initiative (following on from the one produced over a century ago) was launched and people were also invited to join the newly created Village History Group. The latter will meet in different peoples’ houses and explore the history of individual dwellings as well as the Village as a whole. This would also give us the opportunity to talk to some of the older (and sometime housebound) residents who may well take pleasure in sharing their memories and experiences of the past.

Other suggestions included the setting up of a Book Club within the village and a series of coffee mornings, potentially attracting those who are retired or live on their own and would like to get out more. The idea of offering lifts to those who do not have access to transport to help was another proposal that was well received.

There was also great enthusiasm for seeing if we could find a spot in the Village where we could create a small ecological ‘haven’ or reserve, to put up bird boxes and bug boxes, to cultivate wild flowers and help support and attract bees, hedgehogs, butterflies and any other endangered species. Given the size and agricultural nature of the Village, this may be a big ask – but if any landowner thinks that they might be able to oblige, the Committee of the Friends would be delighted to hear from you.

We are hoping that the new decade will bring a new sense of ‘Agency’ to the Communities in which we live. Many of us may feel that we have lost that, whether by living in big towns being a part of a large corporation, relying on struggling public services or simply the political uncertainty that has dogged us for the last few years. But when one is a part of a small community, one can make things happen.

Getting involved is empowering. It can make a real difference – and it is also fun!

Virginia Isaac   Chair of the Friends of Ampney St Mary
✉️virginia@isaacmail.com
📞07769175995

Ampney Crucis Playgroup - Andrea Fielder

Tuesdays (term time only) 9.30-11.00am
Welcoming 0-5 years and their families/carers
Craft, Messy Play, Toys, Snacks, Singing, Storytelling and kick about with the balls.
Keen to welcome new faces to join in the fun.
Or if you are looking for some volunteer work we are always keen to have an extra pair of hands to help
(even if you haven't got children). Join our Facebook page
or call Andrea Fielder 07946 391798
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This is your newsletter; contributions from individuals, clubs etc always welcome.

Copy deadline for next issue (April/May): 13 March 2020
Send to Sharon Buckley ✉editor@spaceplanner.co.uk

Production Team:
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Frank Skinner, Olwen Watson, David Wells, Tracey Barham

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