

Ampney Times

Ampney Crucis and Surrounding Villages

Letter from Ampney Crucis Parish Council

Welcome to all our residents of the Parishes of Ampney Crucis, Ampney St Mary, Ampney St Peter and Driffield and Harnhill to the revitalised Ampney Times after a break of three years.

Thanks to all who have helped and contributed to the many activities in and around our Parishes over the past three years, including all the neighbourly support and help with Covid, Ukraine, the wonderful efforts to fund raise for the renewal of much of the equipment in the Children's Playground, the late Queen Elizabeth's Platinum Jubilee, Chapel Seat Party, Communi-tea and currently the cost-of-living crisis.

Please can I ask for volunteers for the annual Ampney Crucis Village Clean up on Saturday 4th and Sunday 5th March, and I am sure the other Parishes have similar initiatives, and they would appreciate offers of help.

Please remember the Ampney Crucis Annual Parish Meeting is on Thursday 11th May at 7.00pm and all are invited.

There is some important information on the next page relating to elections this May.

I hope you find the magazine of interest and its future success will obviously be helped greatly by receiving articles that you may feel are of interest to others such as history of the parishes, granny's favourite recipes and a companion to our First World War serviceman booklet to cover those from the Second World War.

I have been lucky enough to be given a previous incarnation of the Ampney Times known as The Ampney Magazine from 1870, which I have a bound copy of 12 issues. Snippets to follow.

My thanks to all who have contributed including Roz Morton who has composed this edition and look forward to many articles for the next.

Best wishes

Cllr Doug Crook
Doug.crook@ampneycrucis.org.uk

Editor

clerk@ampneycrucis.org.uk



Snowdrops by Ross Leadbeater

MARCH 2023

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Community news Elections in May

For the first time, residents in Cotswold District will need to show photographic ID to vote in person at this year's local elections which are being held on 4th May.

Residents are being urged to make sure they are ready to vote in May by checking they have an accepted form of ID. Accepted forms of ID include a UK, European Economic Area (EEA) or Commonwealth passport; a UK, EEA or Commonwealth drivers' licence; and some concessionary travel passes, such as an older person's bus pass. Voters will be able to use expired ID if they are still recognisable from the photo and the name on the ID should be the same name as appears on the Electoral Register.

Anyone who does not have one of the accepted forms of ID will be able to apply for free ID online at www.voter-authority-certificate.service.gov.uk or by completing a paper form which is available from Cotswold District Council.

More information is available on the Cotswold District Council website, including details of how to apply for the free ID. Anyone not able to visit the council website, or apply for a Voter Authority Certificate online, is being encouraged to contact the Council by calling 01285 623002 or emailing elections@cotswold.gov.uk.

The changes do not affect postal votes but do affect proxy voters who will be required to show their own valid ID when voting on behalf of someone else.

Commenting on Planning Applications

Residents are encouraged to visit the Cotswold District Council Planning Portal at www.cotswold.gov.uk/planning-and-building to regularly check for planning applications that may affect your village. You can search for *current* applications and choose your village or use the map search function to see what applications have been made near you. Parish Councils are statutory consultees and will make representations, but your views as residents are just as valid as submissions made by Parish Councils. Applications are not routinely posted on Psst or via a village WhatsApp group.

Keep up to date with Ampney Crucis Parish Council news

Visit our website for the latest news, Minutes & meeting information.

Ampney Crucis Parish Council,

31 John Tame Close,
Fairford,
GL7 4NP

Tel: 07771 946627

If you would like to contact us then please email: clerk@ampneycrucis.org.uk

You can visit our website: www.ampneycrucis.org.uk

NEXT MEETINGS

The next two Council Meetings will be on Thursday 9th March and 11th May at 7.15pm in Ampney Crucis Village Hall.

Annual Meeting of the Village is at 7.00pm on 11th May.

Community news

Time to get walking again!

With Spring on its way we start to think about getting out to walk in the beautiful English countryside again, but where to find new and interesting walks?

Walking in Gloucestershire

www.walkinginengland.co.uk/glos has loads of walks to download and print, free, it also has books of walks, details of all the walking groups in the county and much more. Whether you want to walk on your own or with a group all the information is there in one place.

John Harris (who maintains the website) said 'There is so much walking information on the web but it is difficult to find. Walking in Gloucestershire (part of the Walking in England website) has brought it together in one place so whether you are walking from home, or away on holiday, you will be able to find a walk suitable for you'.

With walks from half a mile to twelve miles plus long, and a note of suitability for pushchairs and wheelchairs, everyone can find a walk to enjoy.

So home or away, check out the websites and get walking!

Cutting back overhanging foliage

All residents are urged to ensure that footpaths and pavements are kept clear of overhanging foliage.

Please cut back hedges, trees and overhanging foliage to ensure that people of all mobilities can pass safely through our villages.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Ampneys Gardening Club

The Gardening Club AGM will take place on **Thursday 16th March 2023** at 7.00pm at the Village Hall Ampney Crucis. All are welcome to attend.

There will also be a photo quiz and refreshments for the membership.

For more information on the Gardening Club, please contact:

Barbara Fullick on
01285 851151
or Ursula Evans on
01285 239629

Marquee Hire

The Ampney Crucis village marquee (9m x4m) is available to villagers to hire for £50. You will need to collect and erect it yourself. For more information, please email Rosanna Armitage on rosannaarmitage@gmail.com

News from Ampney Churches

Church Services for March

Sunday 5th March *Second Sunday of Lent*

8.00am	Holy Communion	Ampney Crucis
10.00am	Parish Communion	Down Ampney

Sunday 12th March *Third Sunday of Lent*

8.00am	Holy Communion	Poulton
10.00am	Parish Communion	Driffield

Sunday 19th March *Mothering Sunday*

8.00am	Holy Communion	Ampney St Peter
10.00am	Parish Communion	Ampney Crucis
2.00pm	Baptism – Rosie Borg	Ampney Crucis

Saturday 25th March

12 Noon	Baptism – Barnaby Valentine	Ampney Crucis
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Sunday 26th March *Fifth Sunday of Lent*

8.00am	Holy Communion	Harnhill
10.00am	Parish Communion	Poulton

Wednesday 2nd March

2.00pm	ISingpop Concert	Ampney Crucis
6.00pm	ISingpop Concert	Ampney Crucis

Saturday 4th March

2.30pm	Memorial Service for Jane Lomas at Poulton Church	
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The Rector can be contacted on 01285 851309 or ampneyrector@gmail.com
www.ampneychurches.info

News from Ampney Churches

Church Services for April

Sunday 2nd April ***PALM SUNDAY***

8.00am	Holy Communion	Ampney Crucis
10.00am	Parish Communion	Down Ampney
6.00pm	Evensong	Ampney St Mary

Thursday 6th April ***Maundy Thursday***

6.00pm	Holy Communion	Harnhill
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Friday 7th April ***Good Friday***

10.00am	At the Foot of the Cross	Down Ampney
2.00pm	The Last Hour	Ampney Crucis

Sunday 9th April ***EASTER DAY***

8.00am	Holy Communion	Ampney St Peter
10.00am	Easter Communion	Down Ampney
10.00am	Easter Communion	Harnhill
10.00am	Easter Communion	Poulton

Sunday 16th April ***Second Sunday of Easter***

8.00am	Holy Communion	Ampney St Peter
10.00am	Parish Communion	Ampney Crucis

Saturday 22nd April

6.00pm	Robina Sabourin and Friends in Concert at Ampney Crucis Church	
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Sunday 23rd April ***Third Sunday of Easter***

8.00am	Holy Communion	Harnhill
10.00am	Parish Communion	Poulton

Saturday 29th April

7.30pm	Moonrakers Folk Concert at Poulton Church	
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Sunday 30th April ***Fourth Sunday of Easter***

10.00am	Parish Communion	Ampney St Peter
12 Noon	Baptism – Raef McCloud	Ampney Crucis

News from Ampney Churches

RECTOR'S LETTER

March and the start of April this year cover the church season of Lent. It's a time that recalls the time Jesus spent in the desert being tempted in the wilderness. Wilderness times are often periods of reflection and development. Churchill experienced time in the political wilderness and became a statesman through it; and I guess we all can have wilderness periods in our lives. Though we may not always enjoy them while we are deep in their midst, they can help us recognise what is really important in life and what we really need to make time and space for.

One of the things that faith holds out for us is hope. However much we may feel there isn't anything left to live for, it can remind us that even in the darkest times we do have a future.

Sometimes others have to hold that future for us – I know during my dark times I've not been able to see much beyond that darkness – but hope is always there, even when we can't find it on our own.

Fortunately, most of us are not at rock bottom most of the time, though I'm sure we all have good days and less good ones: days when we feel on top of the world and that life is going well and others when we'd rather just curl up and stay in bed all day.

We can help to build our resilience when things are good for those times when we are struggling. Lent is a time when we can make our lives simpler by stripping away some of what is not necessary and paying more attention to what is.

We can make more time for prayer which will help to root us more deeply in our faith and trust in God. We can practise generosity which provides for those in need and helps us to be more grateful for what we have. We can consciously take time to add in rest and a bit of self-care to our days. We can set time aside each day for those things which are life-giving – even ten minutes a day can make a difference. That might be ten minutes in the garden, conversation with a friend, a brisk walk, a relaxing cup of tea or a bit of crafting.

Lent might seem to be a depressing time because it has a connection with giving up things we enjoy, but we relinquish them only to allow more space for the restorative gifts that God longs for us to have.

News from Ampney Churches

What will be your Lenten aspirations this year? Whatever you choose, I hope they will bring you closer to God and provide strength for whatever life throws at you in the coming days, months and years.

As ever - John

See our website for more details of events and activities.

The Rector can be contacted on 01285 851309 or ampneyrector@gmail.com
www.ampneychurches.info

Ampney Crucis War Memorial Conservation

Thanks to a grant from War Memorials Trust, Ampney Crucis Parish Council engaged Wells Masonry to clean and conserve damaged parts of the base of the War Memorial.

More information on War Memorials Trust can be found at www.warmemorials.org



Mothers Union

Wednesday 1st March 2.30pm

Speaker: Rev. Canon Graham Morris

Ghanaian Experience

Watermoor Church Hall.

Friday 3rd March

World Day of Prayer.

Sunday 2nd April

Cake Stall for Palm Sunday

Parish Hall Watermoor.

Wednesday 5th April 2.30pm

Speaker: Rosemary Franklin

Lent

plus a bring & buy stall

Watermoor Church Hall.

For more info please contact

Rosemary Franklin on

revrmf@btinternet.com or call

01285 654282

Local Parish Council contact details

Ampney St Mary Parish
Meeting

Eric Partington
01285 850131
ampneystmary@gmail.com

Ampney St Peter Parish
Meeting

Annabel O'Sullivan
ampneystpeter@gmail.com

Driffield & Harnhill Parish
Council

dhparishclerk@googlemail.com
www.driffieldandharnhill.org.uk

Olwen's Occasional Observations

Floods and Ditches

Our villages bask in one of the most beautiful and food-productive parts of the country, keeping us, the inhabitants, steeped in a peaceful, natural environment. Here in Ampney St. Mary, we are lucky – we do not seem to be plagued by flood waters reaching our doors when the weather turns torrential for a few weeks. However, in recent weeks, we have experienced heavy downpours, with a frequency that has left fields and lanes under water in many places, and the Ampney spreading into wide mirrors to the dull grey sky.

Splashing through standing water in the car, left me pondering about some of the ditches in our area which have never been cleared, in my memory, since I moved here nearly nine years ago. Coming from a family of generations of farmers, I remember the discussions in the Winter season, of ditch clearing – 'hedging and ditching' – and the importance of these Winter activities.

As we all know, the creation of ditches was to allow excess rainwater to find a 'standing' place other than the fields and lanes, which were needed for the activities of growing food. Without asphalt, wagons and carriages would have struggled in deeply rutted, muddy roads, and all field space was needed to grow food for a growing population, in a time when crop were less intensely productive. Now though, we import a lot of food – perhaps that is why so many fields appear surplus to growing requirements. My point is, many, apparently, neglected ditches.

'Who is responsible for road drainage?'

*Road drains are only designed to deal with water from the road and pavement. It is the responsibility of **the landowner** to ensure that measures are put in place to prevent flooding from their fields.*

Ampney Crucis Petanque Club

After 20 years playing at the cricket pitch, it was in need of some TLC. We set to and with the help of some skill and brawn from the members, we refurbished the playing surface, as well as fitting a winter cover.

Our thanks goes to Ampney Crucis Parish Council for supporting us and giving us the funds to do a proper job.

We are a small group - pitch size limits the numbers who can play at any time - who meet on Wednesdays at 4.00pm. The pitch is available at any time so please contact me if you want to play.

Liz Anderson

07891525166

Olwen's Occasional Observations Cont'd

Who is responsible for keeping ditches clear?

*Common law imposes a duty on the owner of land adjoining a highway to maintain these ditches that provide natural drainage for both the land and highway. In the majority of cases the responsibility for ditch maintenance rests with **the adjacent landowner.***

I cribbed these quotes from the internet, given that we had short notice for writing, and I assume the writer did his research. The information does sound familiar, and logical. I also know that there are small complications to just cleaning out ditches, given that great crested newts enjoy inhabiting an agreeably soggy ditch, and enjoy legal protection for the privilege, which complicates things for landowners.

This subject of countryside maintenance is always one dear to me, as is a tidy environment. Perhaps clear ditches is an old-fashioned notion, and I have written about it before, but I sometimes imagine that if we were in the state of affairs that we found ourselves in during WWII, our ditches would be cleaned up pronto, given the need for every field to be pulling its weight in food growth, arable or livestock.

Spring is coming, along with the glorious season of blossom, bees, and butterflies, not least of which are often found most copiously in our neglected ditches and are a sunny delight – always two sides to a coin.

Olwen Watson

Coronation Picnic in Ampney Crucis



Please note the new date of Sunday 7th May (not Monday 8th May as originally planned) as the King would like the country to gather on this day to celebrate.

Theme for the Coronation lunch is to be red, white and blue. It would be wonderful if you can turn up sporting these colours. There will be some tables and chairs available to sit on, but it is advised to also have your own in case they are already filled.

Please remember your own picnic.

Tea and coffee will be available in the Cricket Pavilion (self service).

The timings are to be 12 noon - 4.00pm

Many thanks,

Rosanna

rosannaarmitage@gmail.com

Community news

On 13th September the Police Community Support Officers visited Ampney Crucis and spent time talking to residents.

Below you will find a summary of the issues raised and the police response.

1. It had been suggested that signs be installed throughout the village street and all approach roads and lanes. The signs should read something such as "CCTV CAMERAS IN USE ACROSS THIS VILLAGE."

Answer: It would be necessary to consult with the Highways Agencies for this to be done through the proper channels. It would be unlikely for such signs to be given the go ahead. If similar signs were to be put up without permission by the relevant authorities, they would most likely be removed by the Highways Agencies.

2. Is it a good idea to install cameras on individual properties?

Answer: Yes, the use of such cameras is to be encouraged.

It's important to bear in mind current privacy laws when positioning such cameras.

It's helpful from the police's point of view that the cameras aren't wiped after say 24 hours, so that footage can be viewed to help solve crime.

3. What about RING and BLINK?

Answer: RING and BLINK doorbells and cameras are a good way to help protect property and the village as a whole. Gloucestershire constabulary doesn't work with RING in the same way as some constabularies. It has no preference for BLINK or RING.

4. What about community alerts?

Answer:

These are worthwhile and as many parishioners as possible should be encouraged to sign up to them.

5. How should I report crime?

Answer: In an emergency or if a crime is in process, always ring 999.

Otherwise, report any crime on 101 online.

Please report any crime, however small, to the police. It helps them to build a picture of what is happening in an area.

6. What about lighting in the village/parish?

Answer: Lighting is not liked by burglars!! Police patrol vehicles have commented on the darkness and quietness of Ampney Crucis after dusk.

Ideally, outdoor lights should be left on. Sensor lights on individual properties are to be encouraged. As well as areas on a property, try to set them up so that they pick up anyone walking outside the property as well as any car driving on the road outside the property.

7. What about police patrols?

Answer: The number of police controls coming through the village/parish at night is being stepped up.

8. Vigilante groups?

Answer: The police don't encourage these and highlighted that individuals should not approach anyone who they consider suspicious.

9. Are Neighbourhood Watch Groups a good idea?

Answer: Yes, these were thought to be a good idea. It was recommended that individual groups be kept small and that liaison between groups be active.

Community news

Village Hall Rural Cinema

Wednesday 22nd March 7.30pm

Wednesday 26th April 7.30pm

Details of the film will be on the village noticeboards, on the village website and a few days beforehand on Psst!

No need to book seats.

Tickets £5 with refreshments.

A friendly social evening.

We break for a hot drink and a Kit Kat in the middle.

The Rural Cinema is organised by CDC so the choice of film may not always be what we voted for but come and give it a try!!

Village Hall

Can I use this opportunity to thank everyone for supporting us recently through chipping your Christmas tree, playing Bingo, buying a bird box, jam or an apron. Our expenses as you can imagine are on the up!

AGM Wednesday 15th March 7.30pm. All welcome.

Nominations for the 3 elected positions on the Committee to be sent to Anne Bridges. bridgesae@aol.com

Ampney Crucis WI

Thursday 23rd March

7.00 for 7.30pm .

Lady She's Wardrobe.

Speaker:

Sheila Lloyd Graham.

Competition: An old piece of jewellery.

Thursday 27th April

7.00 for 7.30pm.

Meeting run by members in order to give the Committee a rest!

We are a friendly group, you are most welcome to come along to meet us.

On **Sunday 23rd April** we shall be serving tea and cakes at The Coach House, Garden Open Day.

Enquiries Anne Bridges
bridgesae@aol.com

Car Boot Sale

Monday 29th May, on the Cricket Field.
Open 9.00am for buyers.

Please think about booking a place or donating items for our sales table.

Contact Linda Devine for details:

lintra@tiscali.co.uk

Raising funds for the Village Hall

Fairford & District Choral Society

Performing Stainer's Crucifixion and Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis in B flat on Saturday 1st April at 7.30pm
St Mary's Church, Fairford.

The conductor is Marysia Gorska-Saj.
The organist is Robin Baggs. The soloists are David McKee (tenor) and Nicholas Drew (bass).

Tickets cost £15 and on sale at Fairford Opticians.

Useful contact details

Village Hall	Mark Gluning	07922036826	
		acvillagehallbookings@gmail.com	
	Anne Bridges	01285 652471	bridgesae@aol.com
Toddler Group	Ella Milligan	07815502463	
		daniellaceliarmorris@yahoo.co.uk	
	Sofia Richie	07540198151	sofia.kluge@hotmail.com
Social Bridge	Carol Thompson		carol@richardandcarol.net
WI	Anne Bridges	01285 652471	bridgesae@aol.com
Gardening Club	Barbara Fullick	01285 851151	
	Ursula Evans	01285 239629	
Yoga			iammenowyogo@hotmail.com
Yoga	Rosanna Armitage	01285 850005	07773 474717
Adult Ballet	Jenny Gaden	07713 044702	purplejen11@hotmail.co.uk
Pilates	Jenny Gaden	07713 044702	purplejen11@hotmail.co.uk

Village Network

Keep up to date with village events and important notices by subscribing to the Village Network, otherwise known as Psst!

Simply email psst@ampneycrucis.org.uk

The Ampney Crucis village WhatsApp group was initially set up at the beginning of Covid but is used as a village information exchange group for sharing info and news. If you want to join, please WhatsApp Jennie Haden on 07884118050 asking to be added to the group.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this edition of The Ampney Times. If anyone would like to contribute to future editions, please email Roz Morton at clerk@ampneycrucis.org.uk. Copy to be received by 27th March for May edition. Contributions and photos are welcome and are included at the Editors discretion.