

# Ampney Times

Ampney Crucis and Surrounding Villages

## Letter from Ampney Crucis Parish Council

The rather damp summer which seemed to coincide with the school holidays has passed us now and thankfully our local farmers have managed to harvest their crops, albeit not with the best of quality or yields. Being a farmer is not an occupation for the faint hearted but one that we should all appreciate and be thankful to those who take it on.

Community spirit always brings a cheer and has continued with the recent W I open invitation to all, that was very well supported followed by an equally successful MacMillan Coffee morning and will continue with the Communi-Tea events.

The younger members of our community continue to embark on amazing challenges to raise awareness and funds for charities, a big well done to Josh and Matthew.

Support for the completion of the Playground refurbishment and upgrade has continued and that should happen soon.

Similarly, the Village Hall has embarked on an ambitious fundraising campaign for solar panels which we are sure will be well supported.

There will be a Litter Pick and General clear up on 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> November, please meet at the Lych Gate in the Burial Ground at 10.00am and bring suitable gloves and gardening tools for cutting back shrubs etc.

An odd thing has happened.... one of the Vehicle Activated Speed signs has been stolen complete with its mounting pole on or around 28th September, we are not sure why, we don't think it's a Rag Week stunt.

Ampney Crucis Parish Council is progressing some issues with CDC over some planning matters in the village and will update you in the next edition.

Have a good autumn.

Best wishes

Cllr Doug Crook

Doug.crook@ampneycrucis.org.uk

Editor

clerk@ampneycrucis.org.uk



Photo by Ross Leadbeater

NOVEMBER 2023

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# Community news

## Ampney St Peter News

The annual charity Car Boot Sale was held again this year on August Bank Holiday Monday with around 40 sellers setting out their wares on the Moor. Our famous bacon butties and home-made cakes flew out of the tea tent to keep our shoppers energised and ready to spend. Despite an inopportune period of rain cutting things short, the event made over £1500 - to be donated to the village church and the Great Western Air Ambulance. Thanks to all the sellers, shoppers and of course our lovely volunteers from the village, without whom this event would not be possible.

We also held our Big Village Lunch in September - the church provided a welcome shelter from the rain (a theme seems to be emerging..) and an array of delicious dishes were brought up for all to share. A very enjoyable village get-together - and a particular welcome to Olga, Maria and Vanya who have joined us from Ukraine.

Thanks to all that rain we are very aware of flood management in the village and a crack team have been valiantly clearing vegetation from the pond, drains and ditches around the village to ensure that the torrential downpours have somewhere to go. More hands always welcome.

...for the diary:

Village Meeting: date to be advised.

Christmas Carol Service: St Peter's 24th December 5pm



### 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](mailto:clerk@ampneycrucis.org.uk)

You can visit our website:  
[www.ampneycrucis.org.uk](http://www.ampneycrucis.org.uk)

### NEXT MEETINGS

The next two

Council Meetings will be on  
Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> November and  
Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> January at  
7.15pm in Ampney Crucis  
Village Hall.

## Community news

### Ampneys Crucis Petanque Club

We celebrated some memorable birthdays in August with a wonderful afternoon tea of scones, birthday cake and champagne to mark the special day of our lovely friends. It would be rude to mention ages but it did add up to quite a lot! Thankfully we had a couple of grandchildren to reduce the average age and help eat up the cake.



At the end of August we held our annual fun competition with some close fought games and only one point separated the first, second and third position.

Marlene presented the worthy winners, Carol and Dave with their trophy.



As usual no afternoon would be complete without our delicious spread of food for lunch. Thank you to all who made it another special day.

We are continuing to play until the weather changes or light fails and we hope to see more people using the area next year. Ideally 12-16 people make for a good session and so a new group could be formed if there is enough interest. Please contact me for more info.

Liz Anderson  
07891525166

## Ampney Crucis Village clear up

It's on November 4th and 5th, meeting at the Lych gate in the burial ground at 10.00am.

We would like to ask that people bring garden gloves and tools for strimming, trimming, snipping, and litter picking. You never know what you might find!!



We would like to urge all residents who have footpaths or pavements bordering their property to take a moment to check whether any foliage from their property is encroaching on the paths, and to cut it back if it is.

Thank you.

# News from Ampney Churches

## Church Services for November & December

<b>Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> Nov</b>	<i>All Souls Day</i>	
6pm	A Service to Remember those whom we love yet see no more	Ampney St Peter
<b>Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> Nov</b>	<i>4th Sunday before Advent</i>	
8am	Holy Communion	Ampney Crucis
10am	Parish Communion	Down Ampney
<b>Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> Nov</b>	<i>Armistice Day</i>	
10.55am	Act of Remembrance	Driffield War Memorial
<b>Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> Nov</b>	<i>REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY</i>	
8am	Holy Communion	Poulton
10.55am	Act of Remembrance	Ampney Crucis
10.50am	Service of Remembrance	Down Ampney
10.50am	Act of Remembrance	Poulton
<b>Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> Nov</b>	<i>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday before Advent</i>	
8am	Holy Communion	Ampney St Peter
10am	Parish Communion	Ampney Crucis
<b>Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> Nov</b>		
2pm-3.30pm	Christmas Bazaar	Ampney Crucis Village Hall
<b>Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> Nov</b>	<i>Christ the King</i>	
8am	Holy Communion	Harnhill
10am	Parish Communion	Poulton
3pm	Choral Evensong <i>with sermon by</i> <i>The Rev'd Canon John Swanton</i>	Gloucester Cathedral

# News from Ampney Churches

## Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> Dec

4pm Advent Community Gathering Ampney St Mary

## Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec *Advent Sunday*

8am Holy Communion Ampney Crucis

10am Parish Communion Down Ampney

## Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> Dec *2<sup>nd</sup> of Advent*

8am Holy Communion Poulton

10am Parish Communion Driffield

## Friday 15<sup>th</sup> Dec

6-8pm Christmas Community Gathering Driffield

## Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> Dec *3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent*

8am Holy Communion Ampney St Peter

10am Parish Communion Ampney Crucis

5pm Carol Service Poulton

## Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> Dec

9.30am School Christmas Service Ampney Crucis

5pm The Harnhill Nativity Harnhill

*Join in the Nativity Story when Harnhill Church is turned into a stable!*

## Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> Dec

7pm (30 mins) Community Carols by the Old Chapel Bench Ampney Crucis  
*Near the school. Wrap-up well and bring a torch!*

## Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> Dec *4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent and Christmas Eve*

10am Parish Communion Poulton

3pm Crib Service Down Ampney

5pm Carol Service Ampney St Peter

8pm 'Midnight at Bethlehem' –  
First Communion of Christmas Driffield

11.15pm Midnight Communion Poulton

## Monday 25<sup>th</sup> Dec **CHRISTMAS DAY**

10am Family Carols Ampney Crucis

10am Family Communion for Christmas Day Down Ampney

11.30am Classic Holy Communion (BCP) Ampney Crucis

## Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> Dec *The First Sunday of Christmas*

10am Parish Communion Harnhill

# News from Ampney Churches

## RECTOR'S LETTER

We enter a season of endings and beginnings. As we leave October, the harvest comes to an end and fields are ploughed in readiness of new crops for the coming year. We enter November with its invitations to 'remember'. We shall remember those whom we love yet see no more at a special quiet, reflective service on All Soul's Day (2<sup>nd</sup> November) at Ampney St Peter at 6pm. It is a bittersweet service keeping in our hearts, minds and prayers those with whom we shared beginnings and endings. Those who come, tell me it is a helpful time in our journey of love and loss and memories.

Then to Armistice Day and Remembrance Sunday as we recall all those who have given their utmost for the safety and freedoms we enjoy so blithely today. I am struck each year as we read out the list of names, held in trust for the whole community by our churches of those who were killed, that these lists represent not just the deaths of individuals, but of a way of life. So many were lost from communities like ours. So much good came from their sacrifice, yet we still pay a price to this day. Sadly, over a century of remembering seems to have done little to diminish our human folly when it comes to war.

And then the mad rush preparing for Christmas – when the church celebrates a new beginning with the birth of a special child in a stable in a shabby little town of Bethlehem. A new beginning, a new era, a new kingship. After the futility of humanity straining to reach God through religious laws and holy kings and lands, God finally breaks through to humanity and a new story begins.

November and December: A time of endings and beginnings. And, a time to remember and give thanks to and for those who have made these transitions possible; thank you then to all who farm our lands and bring us food to eat; thank you to all who decorate our churches for these celebrations; thank you to all who have touched our lives for good and whom we remember; thank you to the many who went to fight for our freedoms; and thank you God for sending Jesus – the Christ – into the world to offer us all a new beginning.

Yours as ever

John. The Rectory, Ampney Crucis

**Ampney Crucis Church** : We have permission to sell four pine bench pews – if you are interested please let the Rector know. We can deliver! (Thank you, Terry)

**Driffield Church** : Two stained-glass windows are in the process of being repaired.

**Ampney St Peter** : We are in the process of fund-raising for repairs to the north nave roof and tower roof.

**Harnhill Church** : We are seeking funding for the re-roofing of the tower; nave and chancel.

The Rector can be contacted on 01285 851309 or [ampneyrector@gmail.com](mailto:ampneyrector@gmail.com)  
[www.ampneychurches.info](http://www.ampneychurches.info)

## Local Parish Council contact details

Driffield & Harnhill Parish Council

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

Ampney St Mary Parish Meeting  
Eric Partington  
01285 850131  
ampneystmary@gmail.com

Ampney St Peter Parish Meeting  
Annabel O'Sullivan  
ampneystpeter@gmail.com

### Do you still wish to receive the Ampney Times through your door?

The Ampney Times is published on the Ampney Crucis village website, [www.ampneycrucis.org.uk](http://www.ampneycrucis.org.uk). If you no longer want to receive a paper copy, please email [clerk@ampneycrucis.org.uk](mailto:clerk@ampneycrucis.org.uk) and your address will be removed from the distribution list.

### Macmillan coffee morning

A huge thank you to everyone for donating their time and talents, generous gifts of so many different cakes and for the absolutely wonderful atmosphere this morning at our Macmillan coffee morning. Together we have raised a staggering £791.51 plus 2 anonymous donations. What a result. Also, the recycle men passing who gave a donation for 3 x Victoria slices added to the fun of it all.

Heartfelt thanks to everyone.



## Defibrillator locations

Ampney Crucis now has 4 24hour accessible defibrillators at the following locations:

- Village Hall.
- The Primary School
- Opposite Dudley Farm
- Hilcot End

The cabinets are not locked, but there is a plastic seal that is easily broken in order to access the defibrillator.

# Ampney Crucis C of E Primary School

We have started off the new year revising our school vision and values something which is the very foundation on which our school is built upon. We now have 3 values (as voted for by parents, children, and staff):

**Respect**

**Courage**

**Compassion.**

We are looking forward to embedding these deeply into everything we do.

We are already flying through the half term at school and the summer holidays seem a distant memory. We have been delighted to welcome 13 new children into our Reception Class and several more across the school. We have also been very fortunate to appoint a new class teacher, Miss Cross and a new Teaching Assistant, Mrs Gardener, who are both already an integral part of the Ampney family.



Days have been packed full of learning, forest school, sports and a renewed focus on music, with Year 1 and 2 having weekly violin lessons. We have a large number of children who learn the guitar, piano and drums from across all the classes, 30 children who will be learning songs in preparation for taking part in Young Voices – a massive concert of 6,000 children at Birmingham Resorts World and a separate choir. On a

daily basis the school is full of music and singing and it is wonderful to hear.

Roles and responsibilities for the children have been increased this year. We have a head boy and head girl, Guy and Ella, House Captains, Sports Captains, School Councillors, Reading Ambassadors, a Worship group and Science Ambassadors. We truly believe in letting the children be leaders in our school and being role models for others to follow. It provides many of the skills they will need later on at Secondary School and beyond.



We are already looking forward to our Harvest Festival Service at church on 13<sup>th</sup> October at 9:30 and then preparation for Remembrance when we return from half term.

Life in school never stops!

From the children and staff at Ampney Crucis C of E Primary School

**Open Morning for parents looking for places for Reception 2024**

**Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> October at 9.30am**

**Open Evening for parents looking for places for Reception 2024**

**Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> November at 5.30pm**



## Community News

### Ampney Crucis Church Flower Rota 2024

Would you like to volunteer to join our flower arrangers at our church? No experience is necessary.

Thank you to all the lovely volunteers who have arranged flowers and to those who have donated flowers to the church. We appreciate your support and kindness.

Please get in touch if you'd like to help in any way. Thank you.

Michelle Evans 07912230021

[evans.michelle@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:evans.michelle@hotmail.co.uk)

### Communi-tea

The next Communi-Tea 's will be held on Tuesday November 7th and December 5th @ 2.00pm in the Village Hall. If you'd like to help or bake a cake, please get in touch with either Michelle, Linda or Chris.

Look forward to seeing you. All welcome

## LOGS FOR SALE

The Cotswold Canals Trust provides a delivery service of seasoned Ash logs for wood burners and open fires

Delivery is available within a 16 mile radius of Driffield

The Trust is a charity and exists to progress the restoration of the Cotswold canals. If you support this ambition, or would just like some logs, please visit [www.cotswoldcanals.org/support-us/log-sales](http://www.cotswoldcanals.org/support-us/log-sales)

or call 01453 752568 for details

Your support will directly help the restoration of the Thames and Severn Canal and Stroudwater Navigation



Cotswold Canals Trust

Working Safely for Restoration

# Village Hall Rural Cinema

**Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November 7.30pm.** See details on village noticeboards or on Ampney Crucis website.

**No film in December.**

Start 7.30pm.

Tickets £5 to include mid-way refreshments.

For details of film see posters in the village or on the village website.

We now have quite a collection of DVD's. You are very welcome to borrow any for a small fee! Happy to deliver.

## The Village Hall Solar Panel Appeal.

We started our campaign to raise funds for the installation of solar panels through Crowdfund Cotswolds on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> September. The challenge to raise such a large sum is on! I would like to thank those of you who have already pledged money but if you have not done so we would really appreciate your help. Information on the project and how to donate can be found at [www.spacehive.com/amneyvillagehallsolar](http://www.spacehive.com/amneyvillagehallsolar). Details are also shown on all Village Noticeboards. The Hall is a valuable amenity for the village, and it is vital that we keep it running as efficiently as possible. The panels will help reduce our energy costs, and ensure it is available for all in the locality to use at an affordable rent. Any queries to Anne [bridgesae@aol.com](mailto:bridgesae@aol.com) 01285652471

### CHRISTMAS



**Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December.**

**Doors open 7.00pm Eyes down at 7.30pm.**

**Lots of prizes, raffle and a money flyer.**

**All proceeds to the village hall.**

## Ampney Crucis WI

Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> November.  
AGM. Beetle. Supper will be provided. Please arrive at 7.00pm for a prompt start.

Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December.  
A sharing buffet lunch around the Christmas tree in the village hall! 12 midday until 2pm.  
Seasonal attire welcomed!

Contact Anne Bridges  
01285 652471  
[bridgesae@aol.com](mailto:bridgesae@aol.com)

Gloucestershire Constabulary will be holding a Crime prevention event in Ampney Crucis on the evening of 9<sup>th</sup> November. They will have the Community Engagement vehicle, Police Cadets and will be knocking on doors and giving out advice. Further details will be sent out on Psst and on [www.ampneycrucis.org.uk](http://www.ampneycrucis.org.uk)

# The Ampneys Gardening Club

## Visit to Thenford Arboretum

On the 4<sup>th</sup> of August, 22 members of the Ampneys Gardening Club visited Thenford Arboretum and Gardens near Banbury. Despite a long and sometimes bumpy coach journey everyone had a very enjoyable day. Thenford House and its gardens have been owned by Michael and Anne Heseltine since 1976. They have carried out extensive restoration and development of the gardens and woodlands since then.

The gardens are spread out over 70 acres and feature over 3,000 different trees and shrubs together with extensive herbaceous borders, water gardens, an alpine trough garden, a rill, a sculpture garden, and a rose garden. The rill was particularly impressive having a spectacular water feature.

After seeing as much of the gardens as we could, we then made our way to the main pavilion for Tea and Cake. Michael Heseltine was there and was happy to chat to anyone who wanted to meet him.

After a tiring but enjoyable day we made our way home.



The Ampneys Gardening Club currently has over 40 members who enjoy a very active programme of meetings with guest speakers, an annual plant sale/coffee morning and trips/visits to well known gardens. In addition, it is fun socially with members being able to chat and exchange thoughts and advice on gardening matters. We are always looking out for new members to join us so if you are interested, please contact myself or Doug Benham for more details.

Barbara Fullick 01285 851151

or Doug Benham 07920 010372

## Useful contact details

<b>Village Hall</b>	Mark Gluning	07922036826	
		acvillagehallbookings@gmail.com	
	Anne Bridges	01285 652471	bridgesae@aol.com
<b>Toddler Group</b>	Ella Milligan	07815502463	
		daniellaceliamorris@yahoo.co.uk	
	Sofia Richie	07540198151	sofia.kluge@hotmail.com
<b>Social Bridge</b>	Carol Thompson		carol@richardandcarol.net
<b>WI</b>	Anne Bridges	01285 652471	bridgesae@aol.com
<b>Gardening Club</b>	Barbara Fullick	01285 851151	
	Doug Benham	07920 010372	
<b>Yoga</b>	Daria	07732 529297	lammenowyoga@hotmail.com
<b>Yoga</b>	Rosanna Armitage	01285 850005	07773 474717
<b>Adult Ballet</b>	Jenny Gaden	07713 044702	purplejen11@hotmail.co.uk
<b>Pilates</b>	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](mailto: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](mailto:clerk@ampneycrucis.org.uk). Copy to be received by **20th Nov for Jan** edition. Contributions and photos are welcome and are included at the Editors discretion.