

the Clarion

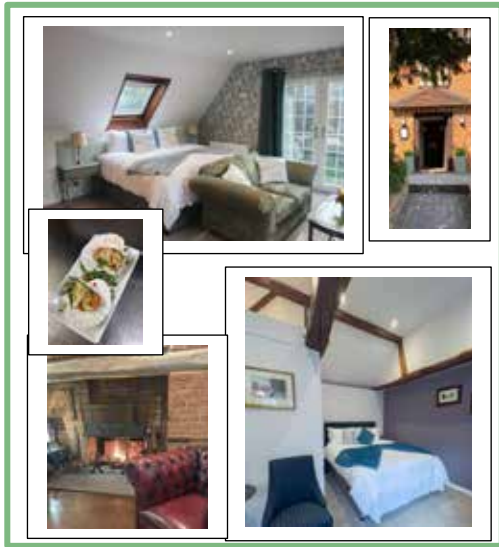


Your parish magazine with news and views from Bolter End,
Cadmore End, Lane End, Moor End and Wheeler End



14 tips for a superb
spring inside...

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»From the Editor

These are exciting times for Lane End as the sale of Chalky Fields finally looks set to come to fruition, releasing funds for local groups to create great things for our community. Expressions of Interest to bid for a proportion of the funds had to be submitted by the end of January and the parish council is currently carefully assessing every bid. We're looking forward to hearing what schemes will be taken forward.

In this issue, you can find out from Kyle why we should all upgrade to Windows 11 (p58) and how to create a garden for less with Anya (p60). We've an unintended raptor focus as Bill gives us a potted history of the resurgence of the red kite in the Chilterns (p16) and Jerry's column is all about the peregrine falcon (p42).

Our local farmers are having a tough time on all fronts at the moment with climate change (Charlie and Alex's column p56) and the effects of Government legislation (Will's column, p52). However, there was some lovely news from Laceys with a new addition to the family at the end of January in the form of little Finn. Congratulations to Will and family

Finally, check out p19 for 14 great things to do in March to get your spring off to a flying start.

Katy Dunn, editor katyjdunn@btinternet.com

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Lane End



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Your Parish Council



laneendparishcouncil.gov.uk

Parish Clerk

Hayley Glasgow

Tel: 01494 437111

clerk@laneendparishcouncil.gov.uk

PO Box 1616

High Wycombe

Bucks HP12 9FS

Councillors

Chairman: Cllr Graeme Coulter

Vice Chair Cllr Callum Stewart

Cllr Mandy Dunning

Cllr Colin Harries

Cllr William Hunt

Cllr John Nicolson

Cllr Jane Osborn

Cllr Keith Wright

Cllr Donna Graham

Cllr Anne Bolton

Cllr Sophie Enright

We would like to welcome our newest councillor, Sophie Enright. We are sure that Sophie will bring her fantastic skills to the Parish Council and be a real asset for the community.

Up-coming Meetings for 2024

Parish council meetings take place on the first Monday of the month at 7.30pm unless otherwise stated.

Members of the public are welcome to attend the meeting, but may only participate during the 15-minute Public Participation segment.

Monday 3 March – Cadmore End Village Hall

Monday 7 April – Lane End Sports Pavilion

Monday 28 April – Annual Parish Meeting – Rackleys Chiltern Hills

Monday 12 May – Annual Parish Council Meeting & Normal Meeting – Lane End Youth and Community Centre

Facebook

Follow us on Facebook to keep up to date with relevant information about what's going on in the parish.

<https://www.facebook.com/LaneEndParishCouncil/>

Website

www.laneendparishcouncil.gov.uk

You can read parish council minutes, find archive copies of The Clarion, check on local planning applications and there's even a footpaths map.

Allotments

We have three allotment sites: Chalky Field, Marlow Road. Bunkers, Church Road. Sandyfield, Marlow Road. Prices range from £21-40 per year, depending on size.

Planning Applications

The Planning Applications relevant to Lane End Parish Council are updated on the Parish Council's website

www.laneendparishcouncil.gov.uk

Whilst the Parish Council does not have the power to determine applications its local knowledge is sought on each and every application.

Street lights

To report a faulty street light please note the column number, the road where the street light is situated and the nearest property and report to the Clerk - Hayley Glasgow 01494 437111 /

clerk@laneendparishcouncil.gov.uk

If a street light is shining directly into your windows, you can apply to Scottish and Southern Electricity for a shield to be put on the light.

FixMyStreet.com

If you want to report anything to the council such as things which are bro-

Elections 2025

Report by Hayley Glasgow

The next scheduled council elections will be on 1 May, with the nomination period starting on 18 March and ending on 2 April.

Buckinghamshire Council elected members will reduce from 147 to 97, covering 49 wards.

Nomination papers must be hand-delivered to the designated area at the Gateway between 10am and 4pm on working days.

Candidates are responsible for ensuring they are eligible to stand for election and are not disqualified. Guidance is available on the Electoral Commission website. For any questions about elections please contact Electoral Services via:

Electoral Services, The Gateway,
Gatehouse Road, Aylesbury,
HP19 8FF

elections@buckinghamshire.gov.uk

Or telephone: 01296 798141

You may also contact the Parish Clerk regarding questions about the upcoming elections.

parish clerk Hayley Glasgow

Tel — 01494 437111

or email

clerk@laneendparishcouncil.gov.uk

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Attention Residents of Cadmore End regarding Street Lighting

Report by Hayley Glasgow

The Parish Council are undergoing a process of changing the current street lamps to LED lamps. The new lamps will be energy efficient, saving costs and will be environmentally friendly.

We have received a request from the Cadmore End Residents Association to install timed photo cells in all of the street lights within the Cadmore End area. The request is as follows:

- The lights turn on at dusk until Midnight.
- The lights will be switched off between the hours of Midnight and 6am.
- The lights will go back on again at

6am/dawn until light.

This process would be for all street lighting in the Cadmore area, all year round.

Once the photo cells are installed they are very expensive to replace and therefore we would like to receive the opinions of residents living in Cadmore End before we commission any works.

Please contact the Parish Clerk by Tuesday 1 April 2025:

clerk@laneendparishcouncil.gov.uk

Phone – 01494 437111

Lane End Parish Council, PO Box 1616, High Wycombe, HP12 9FS.

Holy Trinity Music Fund
offers funding to young people to help with a wide range of musical ambitions.
Living in or connected to Lane End or Holy Trinity Church?
Apply now!



Purchasing an instrument?
Needing music tuition?
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South Chilterns Team
Ministry
01494 854045
parishoffice.scto@gmail.com

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The lowdown »

Lane End Conservation Group

Report by Clive Cruse

Our monthly Action Days in both December and January were hit by unfriendly weather but some of our members do get busy during the week, so work has continued.

You may have noticed that the pergola in the Harris Garden has been removed - it was increasingly unsteady, to the point of becoming dangerous. Discussions are ongoing with Lane End Parish Council about reworking the gardens.

Before the spring (when the foot-paths will start flourishing again), we will try to get some more tree planting done on the Four Fields and some more coppicing at Moor End Common.

A reminder that all are welcome on our monthly Action days - the first Saturday of every month, meeting at 10am at the Doctors Carpark, tools are provided.

For any additional information please contact me -

Clive Cruse, cruseclive@aol.co.uk.
Tel 01494 708646

U3a

Report by Sylvia Chadwick

New Year new challenge?

Join High Wycombe & District U3A and enjoy many groups on numerous subjects.

The local one is Singing for Fun at Lane End Village Hall every fourth Monday at 10-11:50am.

No previous experience necessary as it's just what it says; joining with others to have a jolly good sing. The benefits of singing are well known and make you feel better and puts a smile on everyone's face.

If you fancy trying a new skill join the Downley Ukulele group run by High Wycombe & District U3A. We meet on the fourth Monday of each month and happens at the Downley Community Centre from 10am to 12.

Contact Sylvia Chadwick 01494 482085

Finings Wood

Report by Alastair Broom

Along with many other community groups, we submitted our Expression of Interest to Lane End Parish Council for a proportion of the settlement of the sale of Chalky Fields. When a

significant share of the funds needed to purchase Finings Wood for the community of Lane End are secured, doors open to further funding.

Finings Wood Community Group (FWCG) was established when Finings Wood and Long Copse went on the open market. This put the woodland at risk from purchase by woodlotting companies which fence off woodland into small lots for sale, limiting public access. It was also at risk of being bought by a shooting enterprise, thereby reducing the biodiversity in favour of game rather than native birds and animals and again, restricting public access. Finings Wood has been unmanaged for some time and requires work to bring it back into good condition.

If FWCG were successful in acquiring Finings Wood, it would halt its decline by conserving the ancient woodland, restoring the unmanaged areas, and improving its biodiversity for the long term.

We would also improve access to the woodland for recreation for people of all ages and background in the community with a wide range of activities. Suggestions include a woodland adventure trail, cycle trail, training in woodland management, archaeology, crafts, yoga and meditation, a secure dog exercise area and social prescribing for mental health benefits. We're excited about the possibilities.

Lane End Players

Report by Ceri Nicholson

Pantomime is over for another year. This year we delighted audiences with 'Dick Whittington' by Peter Denier, a traditional rags-to-riches story of a young man's adventures, battling against the evil Queen Rat (Boo! Hiss!) to become Lord Mayor of London (Hurray!)

This year's pantomime was originally directed by Eve Berry, but sadly, due to an injury, Eve was forced to withdraw. The production was then handed over into the very capable hands of Paul Brown who, with a great cast and crew, did a superb job at short notice. Well done all.

So what's next for the Lane End Players? This spring we will see the return of our fantastically popular Murder Mystery Dinner Theatre.

'Murder in Hollywood' written and directed by Tom Everitt, will bring you an evening of glitz, glamour... and death! All amateur sleuths welcome.

Our last murder mystery, 'The Groom Has Cold Feet', sold out in 48 hours flat!

Make sure you avoid disappointment this time by booking early. [Box Office opens on Saturday 29 March at 9am.](#) Look out for our social media posts and book online at laneendplayers.com

'MURDER IN HOLLYWOOD'

—

1,2,3 May 2025



MURDER IN HOLLYWOOD

*HOLLYWOOD IN THE 1950S, FULL OF GLITZ,
GLAMOUR...AND MURDER!*

*HELP SOLVE THE CASE AND UNRAVEL THIS
TINSELTOWN MURDER MYSTERY WHILE
ENJOYING AN EVENING OF GRIPPING
DINNER THEATRE.*

01, 02, 03 MAY 2025

"LIGHTS, CAMERA, MURDER"

Lane End Food Hub

Report by Katy Donaghue



With Spring bulbs blooming and birds busy building their nests, you may decide to give your kitchen cupboards a spring clean. Although here at the Lane End Food Hub we can't accept out-of-date food, we would really appreciate any food items (including pet food) that may still be in date, but which may have been languishing in your cupboards for months and you no longer want.

The Lane End Food Hub has now been running for two years, helping countless families each week. We're open on Fridays, 9.30am – 11am at Lane End Youth & Community Centre, Edmonds Road, HP14 3EJ, for **any** local resident in need of a top up to their weekly shop. We don't means test, we really are open to any local resident who needs help, support and a friendly face.

We often get asked if we have a 'wish list' of specific food items for people to donate. The easy answer is 'yes we do'. Please scan the QR code, or download the free app on: www.bankthefood.org, search for the Lane End Food Hub using the post-code finder (HP14 3EJ), follow us and it will tell you what we need the most.

There's also a collection bin outside

the front door to LEYCC or alternatively the Centre is open for drop-offs:

Monday: 10am – 1pm

Thursday: 10am – 1pm

Friday: 9.30am - 11am

If anyone would like more information or would like to volunteer, please email: leycc@hotmail.co.uk or contact us via Facebook or Instagram.

Thanks so much for your support, every donation you give will make a difference to a local family in need.



**FOOD & TOILETRY
DONATIONS URGENTLY
REQUIRED for the Food Hub.**

Email - leycc@hotmail.co.uk

if you can help
or need some help.

THE LANE END LITTER MAGNETS

My report this month is devoted to Callum Webb.

Wow what an achievement.

Callum won this Proud of Bucks Award for his consistent work litter picking in Lane End. This wonderful young man not only regularly turns out for the monthly litter picks but also litter picks during the week. He is an example to us all. His award is justly deserved.

Well done Callum and thank you

from me and all the Lane End Litter Magnets.

Come and join Callum and other Lane End Litter Magnets at our monthly clear-ups. These are on the first Saturday of each month. We meet at 9.50am in the Doctors' Surgery Car Park.

If you would like to know more then please contact me:

Linden Porter
email: linden@porter.net



35 years of the red kite

Report by Bill Dunn

How the red kite went from near extinction to become the Chilterns' famous avian success story

We'd just moved into the area from Brixton and were taking a walk, revelling in our new-found green spaces. Suddenly a huge reddish brown bird of prey descended to the ground, picked up something and flapped off, revealing an impressive wingspan. Our city-dweller senses were totally scrambled.

'Did you see that? Is it an eagle?'

'How big is it... How far away is it? *What* is it?'

It was of course, a red kite. And if you go for a walk anywhere in the Chilterns today, you'd be very unlucky not to see one, either wheeling in the breeze above your head or descending to snatch an unlucky vole or piece of carrion.

But if you'd gone out round here in the 1980s, you wouldn't have seen a single one. That's because red kites have suffered a rollercoaster ride in popularity in the UK matched only by certain political parties.

In the middle ages, they were protected by Royal Decree because

their scavenging powers helped keep the streets clean of rubbish.

It wasn't to last: improvements in public hygiene and waste disposal led to them being made largely redundant, and their public image wasn't helped by their predilection for stealing washing off clothes lines to pimp their nests. As Autolycus, in Shakespeare's *A Winter's Tale*, warns: 'When the kite builds, look to lesser linen.'



By the 16th century red kites were persecuted as vermin – they had become the bandits of the skies with a bounty on their heads.

The Victorians weren't keen on them either, and by 1871 they'd become extinct in the UK apart from a handful of breeding pairs in Wales. By the 1980s, the red kite was one of only three globally threatened species in the UK.

That was until 35 years ago, when one of the most successful wildlife reintroduction programmes happened on our doorstep.

As Natural England's Ian Evans remembers: 'On 10 and 19 July 1990, two Welsh birds and 11 Spanish birds from the region of Navarra

were released in the Chilterns Hills on the Oxfordshire/Buckinghamshire border. It was the beginning of a tremendously successful species reintroduction programme.'

The Spanish fledglings were flown over on a British Airways flight, and several more followed. Billionaire philanthropist John Paul Getty II was instrumental in their reintroduction, welcoming them onto his Wormsley Estate at Ibstone.

So next time you take a walk, be sure to appreciate one of the Chiltern's most elegant natural wonders. And if you listen very closely, you might still hear them screeching in a Spanish accent.

Thanks to Hugh Mothersole for pics



RED KITE FACTS



Wingspan: 175-195cm (over 6 feet)

Weight: 800-1,300g (about 2 bags of sugar)

Diet: Carrion, worms, the occasional small mammal

Voice: 'Weoo-weoo-weoo '

Lifespan: oldest recorded, 29

Collective noun: A 'wake', 'roost', 'husk', 'soar' or a 'kettle '

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14 great things to do in March

Report by Katy Dunn

From garden jobs now, to planning your summer, here are 14 things to be getting on with this month

Spring is here! Even if it doesn't feel like it right now, there'll be days when the sun comes out and you feel its warmth on your face. You'll scent a whiff of fresh earth and new grass, or catch a flash of yellow flowers on the roadside and you know it's coming soon.

With it comes a feeling of optimism. We're shaking off the cosy cocooning of winter and are ready to get out and re-emerge into the world. Here are a few things to do to make the most of your spring energy and set yourself up for the year ahead.

1/ Aerate your lawn. If you've got a patch of grass around your home, now is a good time to get out there with your garden fork and poke some holes in it. This will open up the thatch and break up the compaction that has built up over winter and allow water and oxygen in to the roots.

2/ Join Lane End Conservation Group on the first Saturday of the month for some friendly chat alongside tree planting, path-clearing or community gardening in the fresh air.



3/ Commit to spring cleaning one room or one item. It's a bit daunting to think about spring cleaning the whole house, more realistic goals are committing to cleaning your kitchen from top to bottom, or all the windows on the ground floor, or taking the curtains down room by room and giving them a wash.

4/ Sing for fun. Head to Lane End Village Hall on the fourth Monday of the month at 10am for a fun, no-judgement, singalong to backing tracks.

5/ Research your family history. Stokenchurch library holds Genealogy

sessions every 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month from 7-9pm. Chat to the library's volunteers as they have lots of enthusiasm and experience and there is Ancestry access on their public computers.

6/ Go and see the daffodils at Cliveden. Hundreds of thousands of daffodils carpet the estate at Cliveden in March. There are also displays of different narcissi cultivars showing a surprising range of colour, size and shape. Free to National Trust members, but non-members pay an entry fee.

7/ Give your car a good clean. The winter months in and around Lane End create a lot of mud on the roads and it gets into every nook and cranny. Don't neglect the underside to rinse off any salt that has accumulat-

ed from upsplash from the roads over the winter. Salt can accelerate corrosion.

8/ Appreciate the spring blossom
To me, it always feels like spring has arrived when the cherry trees come into bloom either side of the road into West Wycombe from Piddington. As you're simply driving around, there are so many beautiful blossom trees to give you a little lift on your journey.

9/ Volunteer for the Scouts. Lane End Scout group, based at Wheeler End, are looking for volunteers to help out at activities and events and help maintain their HQ. The roles are very varied and flexible. Or if you've a skill you can pass on to an enthusiastic bunch of youngsters, get in





touch with Ian Harris at ian.harris@chilternvalescouts.org.uk.

10/ Check out the National Garden Scheme website and plan some garden visits with friends. There are lots of beautiful gardens to visit around here, some with open days in March. There's usually a small fee which goes to charity.

11/ Remove dirt and algae from paths and patios so that they're not slippery when you're regularly wanting to get back outside in the garden. Use hot soapy water and scrubbing brush, or a powerwasher—these can be rented (or borrowed) if you've not got one.

12/ Plan your summer events and festivals. Most festival organisers are releasing tickets around now. Do an internet search for those that suit your interests and budget and get in quick for those early-bird offers.

13/ Take a walk in the fields and woods. In Lane End and surrounding villages, we're so lucky to be surrounded by beautiful Chiltern woodlands. At this time of year the first tender shoots are emerging and tree branches are hazy with citrus green as leaf buds start to unfurl. There's a footpaths map on Lane End Parish Council's website if you're not sure where to start.

14/ Upgrade to Windows 11. (See Kyle's column as to why on p58)

Thanks to Hugh Mothersole for the pics



When the year wasn't the year

By Andrew MacTavish

Have a look at this weird date on a church memorial. Did someone make a mistake? On their annual outing at the remote Charlton-by-Malmesbury church in Oxford, our Lane End church bellringers were puzzled by this plaque.

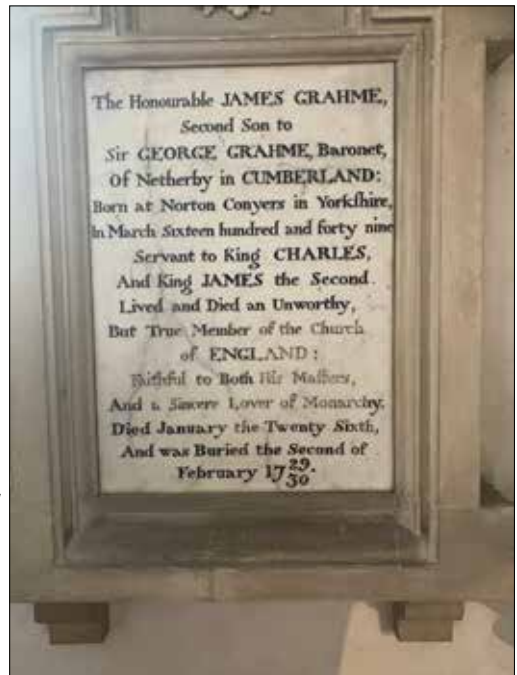
The answer is intriguing and needed some historical research. It goes back to 1582 when Pope Gregory XIII reorganised the calendar. Things had gone wrong with the dates, and the seasons were getting out of line. Easter was moving towards mid-summer. So Pope Gregory adjusted the dates and also decreed that the new year would start on 1 January instead of 25 March which it had been up to then.

Protestant countries like the UK didn't like being told what to do by the Catholic pope, so they paid no attention and carried on in the old way and still changed the year on 25 March. For example, the day after 24 March 1720 was 25 March 1721.

Sounds weird to us, but that's how it used to be. This country didn't change until 1752 when an Act of Parliament said that 1 January was the first day of the new year.

People travelling and trading with the continent began to use the continental calendar more and more. If they had to write a date between 1 January and 25 March they began to write both years because the continent would be one year ahead of the UK. It was called 'Double dating'.

Sir James Grahme was buried in this period so he gets both years - 1729 and 1730. As far as we are concerned today, 1730 is correct.



RACKLEYS

Chiltern Hills

Rackleys have had a rather busy 2024, hosting over 70 events this year! This includes weddings, filming, corporate Christmas Parties and our first ever Christmas Market! Thank you to all of those who have joined us this year.

2024 has also seen us win 4 awards: The Hitched Wedding Awards, Winner of the Bucks & Oxon Muddy Stilettos Best Event Venue, Guides for Brides Customer Service Award and Best of Bridebook Award.



Keep an eye out for plenty more events upcoming in 2025. We can't wait to welcome you through our beautiful Barn doors!

"I don't even know where to start with this review; trying to put into words how phenomenal our wedding day was is not going to be easy."

Contact the team today on 01494 412 515 or hello@rackleys.co.uk for more information about hosting your event with us.

Rackleys Chiltern Hills, Marlow Road, Cadmore End, HP14 3PP

Dog training tips

By Melanie Mathews, Puppy School Tutor and
Member of the Association of Pet Dog Trainers



Dominance in dogs, true or false? The myth about dominance in dogs has been perpetuated for decades, so it's no surprise that many puppy parents worry when they think their puppy is starting to show signs of dominant behaviour.

First of all, let me reassure you that the dog dominance myth has now been debunked and is widely acknowledged to be out of date and irrelevant to the domestic dog.

The dominance theory arose from research carried out on wolves in captivity. The wolves came from different family groups and the social dynamics were therefore unnatural from the outset. Add to that an artificial living environment causing stress and competition for resources and you end up with the distorted view that has led to the dominance theory. In stark contrast to the captive wolves, wolves in the wild form natural social structures not dissimilar to a family unit. This natural social structure is based on cooperation rather than dominance.

So now let's look at the type of puppy behaviour that might wrongly be associated with dominance.

First of all, when your puppy growls

over possessions. This is not a sign of dominance, rather a sign that the puppy feels the need to protect its resource for fear of losing something they see as valuable if not vital. The way to address this is to build trust around your puppy's resources by trading the item for a tasty treat and giving them back the item immediately.

Photo by [Darinka Kievskaya](#) on [Unsplash](#)



If your puppy is in a rush to get through the door before you, this is not the sign of a power struggle. Puppies are curious and excitable

and eager to explore the outside world. Teaching your puppy door manners is a simple solution to make sure you are able to go through first, simply from a safety point of view.

Humping or mounting is a behaviour mostly displayed during puppy play as they practise adult reproductive behaviour, or as a result of over arousal. Instead of labelling it dominant, be concerned about preventing the over arousal in the first place or by finding them a way to settle and relax when over excited.

Puppies like to get on furniture because it's comfortable, they want to be near us and because it offers a good vantage point to see what's

going on through the window for example. If you don't want your puppy on your furniture, make sure they have a comfortable alternative and that you build value in being on the floor by spending time alongside them, either playing a game or offering a tasty treat for being in their bed or on their mat.

Hopefully this very short article demonstrates that we do a disservice when we compare our dogs to wolves. Through thousands of years of domestication and selective breeding, and in the words of Barry Eaton, author of *Dominance in Dogs, Fact or Fiction*: 'dogs are now as far removed from their ancestors as we are from ours.'



Classes are held on Saturday mornings at:
Lane End Youth and Community Centre,
Edmonds Road, Lane End HP14 3EJ

9am Puppy School
10.30am Dog Club

Please go to the Tip Top Training website for further details of Puppy School and other services.

Melanie Mathews
Member of the Association of Pet Dog Trainers (01569)

www.tiptopdogtraining.co.uk

Four Ends flower club

By Margaret Croxson

Four Ends are a long running flower club and belong to NAFAS. We have a demonstration or talk every month-except August. The demonstrations are held in the main hall at the Lane End Village Hall starting at 12.45 pm. We are a small friendly club and everyone is most welcome to join us.

The misconception often is you need 'to do something' but you don't! Just watch amazing flower arrangements come together from our demonstrators with great interactive chat along

the way. We finish each meeting with tea and cake.

We have a great programme for Spring/Summer 2025. In March we have the brilliant Alison Gillott demonstrating for us with Jackie Page in April and Sandie Draper in May. All amazing demonstrators. For our mini show in July the great Graham King will be there to entertain us.

Don't worry if you come along on your own, we are a very welcoming group.

If you would like more info email:- margaret@ihcvenues.com – or turn up and enjoy a great afternoon.

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Locals reach Army finals in Nordic skiing

By Lieutenant David Nally

When you think about the British Army, it would be fair to assume that cross-country skiing would not be top of the list. Yet two locals, Lieutenant David Nally from Lane End and Lance Corporal James Donovan from Marlow did just that this winter, representing their Battalion in the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (REME) team.

Now I know what you're thinking: why on earth does the Army send its troops away skiing? Put simply, the Army is keen to introduce Nordic skiing to as many of its soldiers as possible as it develops their leadership, marksmanship and fitness, while also preparing them for operating in cold environments.

Biathlon, a sport which includes both skiing and shooting, originates from Scandinavia, where armies train their soldiers to ski as part of their military manoeuvres. During both world wars, armies on both sides had skiing units to fight in extreme conditions.

It trains individuals on the transition between arduous physical effort and

the keen mental focus required to shoot targets successfully while under pressure. As such, it has been adopted by the Army as one of its best tools for training regular troops for the future operating environment.

The season began with a training camp in Norway which saw the team skiing and shooting in temperatures as low as -20°C. The first three weeks of training were successful,



and in week four, the team competed in the REME Championships. After gruelling hills and visits to the range with sky-high pulses, the team won the competition before heading back to Lane End and respective homes for a well-earned Christmas break.

In the new year, the team headed to France for the Qualifying Championships. The final event was the Military Patrol Race, a 20km trek across the Serre Chevalier valley carrying 40kg, including rifles, across the four-man team. The team placed second in the patrol race and seventh overall in the championships securing qualification for the Army finals in Germany.

At the time of writing, the team are soon to begin their first race at the home of the biathlon World Cup stadium. It is an extraordinary honour to race here and will top off a very successful season. The stadium includes multiple steep hills which will be exhausting to ski up and nerve-wracking to ski down. Let's hope the team have, as they say here in Germany, 'Viel Erfolg!'

Should you wish to learn more about this opportunity or have any questions about Army careers, contact Lt David Nally – david.nally100@mod.gov.uk.



Lane End Youth and Community Centre

Report by Emma Savory

01494 883878

leycc@hotmail.co.uk

www.leycc.co.uk

We currently have availability for a regular Monday evening hire and lots of space on Tuesday and Wednesday daytime. We also offer amazing facilities for parties/celebrations at the weekend, hire as low as £15 per hour for Lane End residents.

Email leycc@hotmail.co.uk for availability.



EASTER AFTERNOON TEA

Are you a senior member of our community and would like to socialise with others in our Village? Then come along to our Afternoon Tea on Thursday 17 April 2025 at 1pm.

All places must be booked and paid for in advance.

Only £12 per person.

EASTER PLAYScheme

9 & 16 April 2025

Primary School aged children

10am – 3pm £20 per day

Price includes a hot dinner, pudding, snacks and drinks

Look out on Facebook for more forthcoming events –

Quiz Night

Cash Bingo

LEYCC's 21st Birthday Ball –
Saturday 7 June 2025

Summer coach trips and so much more!

Please add 'Lane End Youth & Community Centre' on Facebook,

Remember the Centre is here for the community, please support it!

On at Lane End Youth and Community Centre:

Monday	Coffee morning 10am—12noon Jenny's fitness class 2.30—3.30pm
Tuesday	Self Defence Ultra Krav Maga 7-8pm
Wednesday	Self Defence Ultra Krav Maga 8-9pm
Thursday	Coffee morning 10am-12noon £1 Zumba Gold 10.30—11.15am Drop-in lunch 12noon
Friday	Lane End Food Bank 9.30—11am Dog Training tea-time
Saturday	Puppy training 9am /older dogs 10.30am
Sunday	Self Defence with Ultra Krav Maga 9am
Sat and Sunday afternoons available for party hire	

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Ridley Manor care home, Land End

Community café

Last Tuesday of every month, 3pm - 5pm

Join us for our monthly community café where you can meet likeminded people in the community for a chat over a hot drink and freshly baked treats.

Dementia caregiver support group

Last Wednesday of every month, 3.30pm - 5pm

This valuable support group is aimed at those who are caring or living with friends/family members with dementia.

You'll have the opportunity to meet other people, freely share your experiences and get advice and support. There will be complimentary light refreshments and freshly baked treats, prepared by our Head Chef.

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hayley.devereaux@careuk.com



Martha's baking column

By Martha Foster-Will

Goopy double-chocolate cookies

A truly traditional sleepover recipe: chocolate chip cookies. My friend and I made these as just cookie dough together and then I cooked them when I got home, my family said that they were the best cookies that I had made. So here we go...

Ingredients:

- . 125g butter
- . 175g light brown sugar
- . 1 large egg
- . 175g self raising flour
- . 50g cocoa powder
- . 100g chocolate (either chips or chopped)
- . Pinch of salt
- . Milk (optional)

Method:

1. Preheat your oven to 190° C/170° fan/gas mark 5.
2. Cream together the butter and sugar with a pinch of salt until fully combined. Then beat in the egg (it makes a very runny mixture).



3. Sift the flour and cocoa powder over your wet ingredients and stir together until completely mixed in. Once the ingredients are joined, fold in your chocolate chips. If your mixture is too dry, then add 2-3 tbsp of milk.
 4. Spoon mixture in blobs onto your tray (I used large teaspoons and got 15 cookies).
 5. Cook for 11-14 minutes until crispy on the outside but making sure that you don't dry them out in the centre.
- Once out, leave to cool for 5 minutes, but remember that they are very yummy warm. Enjoy!

Include your
events here.

Email details to:
katjdunn@btinternet.com

What's On?

To include your event or group meeting (free) email: katjdunn@btinternet.com
Please also be sure to inform me of any changes on katjdunn@btinternet.com

Church Services



Sundays 10.30am Elim Hope
Church

Sundays 9.15am Holy Trinity
church, Lane End

Sunday 11am St Mary le Moor
church, Cadmore End

Jump for Joy

Church service at Holy Trinity
Church for children and their fami-
lies on the second Sunday of the
month at 10am. This is a shorter,
more informal service, often with a
craft activity. Everyone welcome.

Lane End Conservation Group

First Saturday of every month—The
Lane End Conservation Group
meets in the village (doctors') car
park at 10am. No previous experi-
ence necessary, everyone wel-
come, young and old.



Lane End Litter Magnets

Litter-pickers also meet in the doctors' car park at 10am on the first Saturday of the month.

Tai Chi

Tuesday 2pm in Lane End Village Hall, £6 per session. Contact Dr Sue Stuart, 01494 532088
sastuart@globalnet.co.uk

Lane End Players

Murder Mystery Dinner theatre is back! 'Murder in Hollywood' brings an evening of glitz, glamour... and death! All amateur sleuths welcome. May 1,2,3. Book online at laneendplayers.com, box office open on 29 March at 9am.

Self defence classes

Self defence classes are Tuesday evenings and Sunday mornings with Ultra Krav Maga at the Community Centre. Contact Marc on 07774 633209
email raretalent@me.com

Coffee morning

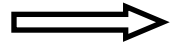
Mondays 10am – 12noon for coffee and homemade cakes, and Thursday 12noon for drop-in lunch. LEYCC Community Centre. Tel 883878

Drop in lunch

Anyone welcome to join us, Thursdays 12 noon at LEYCC community centre. Tel 883878

Dog training

Saturday mornings at LEYCC Community Centre - 9am puppies, 10.30am-12noon older dogs.
Tiptopdogtraining.co.uk



Little Fishes baby group

Baby and toddler group for children aged 0-4 years and their parent/ carer at Elim Church Lane End every Wednesday morning in term time. 9-11am. Free, with coffee and snack provided, songs, bible crafts, toys and stories.

Zumba Gold

Low-impact classes, on Thursdays 10.30am-11.15am in Lane End Youth and Community Centre. £7 or buy 5 classes and get 6th class free. Contact Jennifer, 07595869012, jennifer.morais.zumba@outlook.com

Joy café at Ridley Manor

Last Tuesday of every month 3-5pm. 25 Mar, 29th Apr, 27 May. This café is open to all ages bringing the younger and older generation together, a chance to meet the residents and other members of the local community. Free refreshments.

Dementia caregiver support group at Ridley Manor

Last Wednesday of every month, 3:30pm-5pm, 26 Mar, 30 Apr, 28 May. This is for family or friends of someone who is living with Dementia and would like a safe space to meet



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other people who may be experiencing the same as them.

Hearing screening clinic at Ridley Manor

Monday 3 March – World hearing day drop-in clinic offering hearing screening and checking ears for wax for the local community 1.30pm-4.30pm

Lane End food bank

Every Friday 8.45-11am. Everyone welcome, take what you need or donate what you can. LEYCC—leycc@hotmail.co.uk

Frieth Natural History Society

Monday 10 March, meet at 10.30am. Guided walk to find and identify mosses and other bryophytes.

Sunday 27 April, meet at 4.30am. Local walk to hear the dawn chorus, followed by bacon butties.

Saturday 31 May, meet at 10.15am. Exploration of Finings Wood and its varied wildlife.

Everyone welcome, but for non-members we make a small charge. For full details and to book your place, please contact; Mary 01494 881501, Andy 01494 881586, FNHS2023@gmail.com.

Four Ends Flower Club

Demonstrations are held on the fourth Thursday of the month starting at 12.45pm in the main hall in the village hall. £8 for visitors. No meeting in August and the December meeting is the second Thursday.

Singing for Fun

Singing for Fun in Lane End Village Hall. We sing to pre recorded backing tracks. It happens on the 4th Monday of each month from 10-11:45am. Ring Sylvia on 01494 482085 for details, leaving a message if not answered.

Lane End Pub Lunch Club

Reminder: We meet on the first Monday of each month (unless this is a bank holiday when the lunch is moved to the following Monday) at around 12noon for a 12.30 lunch. The cost is £20 per head for a two course meal including coffee/tea. Contact: linden@porter.net

VE day 80th Anniversary at Ridley Manor

Thursday 8 May 2:30pm – 4:30pm VE Day 80th Anniversary. Win a luxury hamper (all proceeds to Royal British Legion). Open to the local community. Live entertainment and sparkling afternoon tea – collection for RBL.

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It has been a strange start to the New Year for the Oléronaise. Everyone is extremely worried about the coastal erosion around the island caused by both past severe weather and higher tides. Many of the superb beaches are being affected.

Furthermore the trawlermen based in the harbour at Le Cotinière have been asked to cancel all fishing in the Golf of Gascony for two months in an attempt to improve fish stocks. Will it work? Nobody knows!

Also worrying everyone is the news that the drinkable water on the island contains measurable quantities of polyfluoroalkyls (PFAS). It is hoped that the local water company will resolve this issue soon.

For those who may wish to visit Oléron and use Accor Hotels please note that the Novotel Thalassa will be closed all year. It will re-open in April 2026 after a complete refurbishment.

This year is also the French census, conducted during February. It will be interesting to see how the population

on Oléron has changed since the previous census in 2015.

Finally, it was sad to hear in Lane End, that the tree planted in memory of Roland Papineau has been lost after recent storms. Perhaps the Twinning Association will replace it!

With every good wish from a cool but dry France,

Terry Dennett

A Twinning footnote

Roland Papineau was the Chairman of the Twinning Group of St Pierre. It was he who led the way to Twinning between St Pierre and Lane End.

He was a Director of the Hennessy Group in Cognac but he lived on Isle d'Oléron. His family have lived on the island since the 1700s. His father used to be the Chief of Police. His second wife is still living in Arcachon on the coast near Bordeaux.

Royal British Legion

Report by Andrew MacTavish

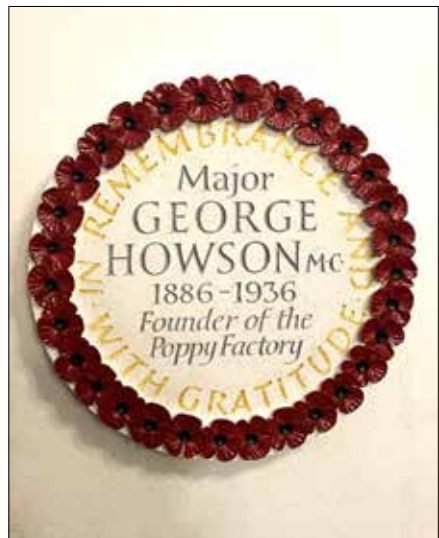
Hambleton Church's bells rang out on Sunday 26 November as local people crowded in for a unique service. They came to honour the memory of Major George Howson MC who founded the Poppy Appeal and who lived and is buried in our neighbouring village.



A veteran of the First World War, he wanted to help disabled servicemen and he set up a small workshop for five of them. In 1922 the British Legion offered him £2000 to make a trial batch of poppies. He took on the job with hesitation, but incredibly by 1931 he had a purpose-built estate for 300 people making 30 million poppies a year. His tiny beginning had grown into the huge charity we are so familiar with today.

The climax of the inspiring service was the unveiling of a commemorative plaque. Carrying the inscription 'In remembrance and with gratitude', it is surrounded with a circle of traditional poppies, intricately carved in the Portland stone and painted a glowing red.

Among the full congregation were members of the Royal British Legion Headquarters, the Poppy Factory at Richmond, the Howson family and retired members of Howson's regiment. There were also representatives of Legion Branches from Marlow and Henley, and, of course, from our own Lane End who had received a special invitation as the nearest local Branch. The final hymn 'Jerusalem' was sung with such fervour that it may have been heard back here over the hill.



Here in Lane End on Remembrance Sunday over 300 people gathered for the 11 o'clock open air service on Ditchfield Common in front of All Saints Church. This congregation, which grows in numbers each year, afterwards enjoyed the hospitality of the Elim Church in a packed Village Hall. Our Poppy Collection itself raised a magnificent £7200 from Lane End and the surrounding area. Many thanks are due to our collectors, to Lacey's Farm Shop and to the Classic Landrover Rally organised by Henry Anderson and Tom Stuart.

This year sees the 80th anniversary for the end of the Second World War in Europe, known as VE Day, on

Thursday 8 May. There will be national events and the Lane End Legion will be holding a lunch. After the splendid event we had to commemorate D-Day, we anticipate another memorable session. Details will be circulated closer to the date but there is nothing to stop singers practising now.







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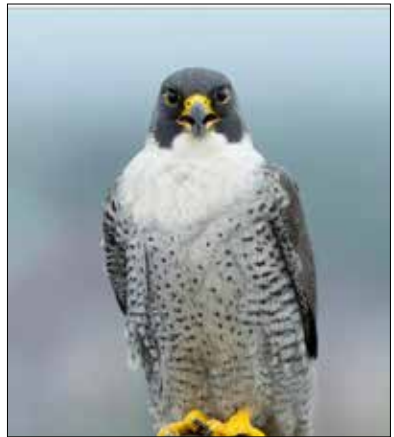



Email-
aspectdf@aol.com

The Peregrine falcon

When I started becoming fascinated with birds, it was the late 1960s and the effects of the widespread use of the chemical DDT were just becoming understood. This man-made compound was developed as a pesticide and first used in the Second World War by our military to control insects, in particular mosquitoes, and resultant diseases, especially malaria.

After the War, it was widely used in agriculture, liberally sprayed over our fields to protect crops. Unfortunately, it was absorbed by small mammals and birds and where these became prey for larger birds, such as the Peregrine falcon. It led to catastrophic consequences: their eggshells became thin and fragile and over a number of years, Peregrines (and other birds of prey) declined hugely in numbers as they struggled to produce any successfully hatched chicks.



The other issue for the Peregrine is that one of its favourite foods is grouse, so it was mercilessly shot and trapped by gamekeepers protecting their masters' shooting-grounds. I checked a Bird Field-guide from that time, and it showed Peregrines breeding only in Scotland. Thankfully, once the scientists had proved the disastrous connection, DDT was immediately banned, and birds of prey have recovered.

Today, the Peregrine is a great success-story for the UK. It has proved cleverly adaptable, both in habitat (spreading from tradi-

tional nesting sites in mountains and sea-cliffs into the 'new cliffs' of tall city buildings) and appetite. Many now favouring the abundant supply of feral pigeons found amongst these man-made canyons.

It is not unusual to catch sight of Peregrines both in the country and in the towns. Indeed, Marlow has its own resident pair nesting in the church steeple, complete with attendant webcam! If you are lucky enough to see one 'stooping' on prey, you will be amazed by its diving speed: the fastest mammal on earth has been recorded at 240mph.

Footpath Report

Report by Jane and Roger Jansen

Good news. In the last issue we encouraged people to come on board as our ninth Footpath Helper. This call didn't fall on deaf ears! We not only got a ninth helper but a tenth as well!

This will certainly provide further relief to our tasks which, by the way, we really enjoy. However, as said in previous issues, if you want to do it properly – and that is our aim – being a Footpath Representative involves quite a bit of work: clearing undergrowth and overgrowth within the proper width of paths and bridleways, repainting faded painted way-

markers and replacing damaged or missing waymark discs. Major vegetation clearance has to be avoided during the breeding season. We cover 55 paths and bridleways with a total length of length of 21.5 miles, at least twice a year.

More good news. Following up on what we have reported in the previous issue, we have had a very successful meeting with Donna Graham, Lane End Parish Councillor, and the regional Community Payback (CP) Placement Coordinator of the Probation Service in early January. The outcome can be summarised as follows:

> A trial will start running from April-September on the first or fourth Thursday of the month.

> The CP Team will consist of a maximum of eight people and a supervisor.

> They will work in a designated area between 9am and 4pm.

> The team will clear paths and bridleways following council environmental guidelines.

> Serious issues, eg. a tree blocking a path or a gate that has fallen over will be reported to us. We in our turn will inform the Buckinghamshire County Council.

As soon as possible after the trial period has ended, an evaluation will be held. If the outcome is positive,

the co-operation will be continued in 2026.

At our next meeting in March we will agree on the designated area and which Thursday of the month the CP team will be helping us.

Donna Graham: 'What makes the involvement of the Probation Service a real fit here is that they have their own wet gear as well as the necessary equipment. Last but not least: they also have insurance in place.'

It goes without saying that we are very pleased with all the above.

Also worthwhile referring to is that we got an email from a Wheeler End resident informing us that a way-marked path on the common was very hard to negotiate unless one

would bend right down. We went there the next day and it took us almost one hour to clear the path completely. See the photos.

We encourage people to report blocked paths to us at

– rogerbjansen@gmail.com - so that we can take action as soon as possible.

Last but not least, thank you to the West Wycombe Estate for clearing the fallen tree on Handleton Common.

That is it for now. We hope that you feel inspired to step into your walking boots soon. Don't forget to pop a pair of secateurs in your pocket to clip back brambles and branches as you walk along!



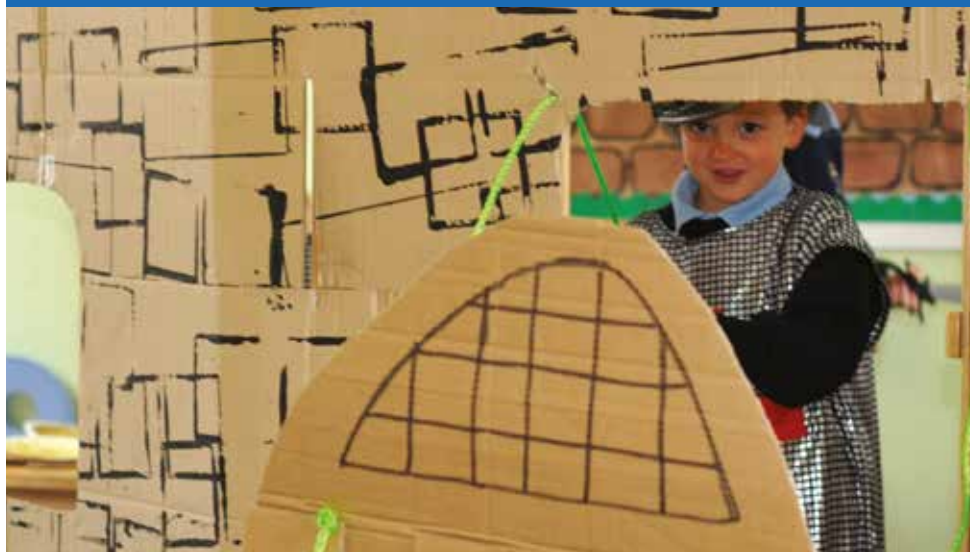
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The Nursery is led by a qualified teacher supported by experienced and qualified staff. Full or part-time places for rising 3 and 4 year olds. Call us to arrange a visit on 01494 881169 or email us at office@laneendprimary.co.uk

"Children make a good start in the Early Years Foundation Stage because of the good provision." OFSTED March 2012

Little Explorers Nursery at
Lane End Primary School
Edmonds Road, Lane End
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Beekeeping in Lane End

By Richard Hicks



This winter has been very wet, and it is damp, not cold, that is the enemy of overwintering honeybees. Ensuring an unrestricted flow of air from the hive entrance, through the brood body and then out through the ventilation holes in the roof is essential keep the inside of the hive dry.

Bees do not hibernate in the winter, they merely slow down their activities to a point where they are nearly comatose and form a cluster, packing together in a rugby ball shaped mass. In the middle is the queen.

As the bees consume their stores of honey, heat is generated, maintaining a temperature of 35°C in the centre. In response to the lengthening daylight in early January, the queen starts to lay again with the brood being reared on stores gathered the



previous autumn.

Bees will fly on bright days to perform 'cleansing' flights even in the middle of winter. They are clean creatures who will not willingly foul the hive, so their bodies have become adapted to storing waste matter in their gut until the weather improves and flying becomes possible.



A sunny day results in the air around the hives being full of flying bees and a beekeeper standing close by is likely to be peppered by a few unwanted presents!

Last autumn I decided to buy some Buckfast queens to head up some of my colonies. The story of these bees is fascinating and worth telling.

Brother Adam joined Buckfast Abbey in Devon in 1909 at the age of 11 and became a Benedictine monk. Beekeeping in monasteries was important because large amounts of wax was needed for candles and eventually he took over the running of the Abbey's apiaries.



This coincided with the appearance of a strange new disease in 1916 which spread throughout the country. Named Isle of Wight disease for the apparent origin of the malady, it was thought to be caused by mites which blocked the bees breathing tubes and killed them.

This disease decimated the native British bees and the only ones to survive at Buckfast Abbey were those crossed with bees from northern Italy.

With this original stock, Brother Adam set about a lifetime of breeding a honeybee which was gentle, less prone to swarming, industrious and more resistant to disease. He reared these bees in a remote valley

in Dartmoor which was completely isolated from wild bee colonies so the queens, which mate in the air, could only mate with drones selected for the purpose.

He travelled throughout Europe, Asia and even the oasis of the Sahara collecting local subspecies of the honeybee and bringing them back to Devon. By the time of his death aged 98 in 1996, the Buckfast bee had been introduced around the world and the purity of the line maintained by specialised breeders.

I shall be watching their progress closely through the year.

If you'd like some of the wonderful Lane End honey drop me a line on Richard.hicks50@btinternet.com





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Bill – my toilet was starting to get difficult to flush, taking two or three pulls on the handle to make it work. Now it won't stop flushing and the water is running constantly into the toilet bowl. What can be done?

This is quite an unusual problem and one I've only encountered once before.

The problem here is the plastic sheet in the bottom of the syphon (the bit that makes it work) has started to fall apart, making it difficult to flush. Part of the plastic has lodged in the base of the flush pipe, partially blocking it. This slows the water flow out of the cistern and, with the fill valve constantly filling the cistern, the cycle keeps running. By closing the fill valve, the cistern can empty, and everything stops. Then all you have to do is clear the plastic blockage and fit a new syphon.

If this ever happens to you, you simply hold the fill valve* in the closed position until the flushing stops.

*Fill valves are also called float-operated valves, and used to be known as 'ballcocks'

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Ian Harris
Group Lead
1st Lane End Scouts

Lane End Scouts
(est 1909)
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Volunteering at Scouts offers an incredible opportunity to make a meaningful difference in young people's lives while developing personal skills and experiencing community engagement. The Scout Association provides diverse volunteer roles that cater to various skills and time commitments.

Who Can Volunteer?

Scouts welcome volunteers from all walks of life, emphasising that you don't need to be an outdoor expert to contribute. The organisation values diversity, with volunteers ranging from all professions and walks of life. Today's Scout membership is more inclusive than ever, with over a quarter of Scouts being female.

Types of Volunteer Roles

Volunteer opportunities in Scouts are incredibly flexible and varied:

Section Leaders who work directly with young people

Adult Helpers supporting meetings and activities

Parent supporters assisting occasionally

Trustee Board Members managing group operations

Background support roles like camp management or administrative tasks.

Personal and Community Benefits

Volunteering with Scouts offers remarkable advantages:

Skill development in leadership, teamwork, and communication. It's a great addition to any CV

Comprehensive training and support

Building confidence and personal growth

Making a lasting impact on young people's lives

Creating strong community connections.

Impact and Motivation

Scouts aim to help young people develop life skills, confidence, and resilience. A study by universities of Edinburgh and Glasgow found that Scouts are 15% less likely to suffer mood disorders by age 50. The organisation's mission is to provide

life-changing opportunities through adventure and structured learning. With over 640,000 Scouts and volunteers in the UK, there's never been a better time to get involved and help shape the next generation's future.

At Lane End Scouts we are particularly interested in flexible volunteers who may wish to be involved as trustees or as part of a working group to assist with the maintenance and governance of our wholly owned and very lovely Victorian School HQ, and the development of our five-year group plan.

You don't need to be a uniformed member to help. We can offer flexi-

ble positions to suit your own circumstances and to top it all, we're a real friendly bunch.

If you'd like to volunteer or would like some additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me @ ian.harris@chilternvalescouts.org.uk.



Ian Harris
Group Lead Volunteer



yes you can
with
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Contact your local Slimming World Consultant and join a friendly and super-supportive group today!

Your local Slimming World group meets every Tuesday at 6pm at Lane End Village Hall
Contact Marion on 07887 607987 for further information

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Milk Men

with Will Lacey



Fitbits for the cows

At Laceys, we pride ourselves on our dedication to quality and animal welfare, and are always looking for ways to embrace innovative technology to further enhance our cow management. This winter we have invested in pedometers for our cows. Like a Fitbit for cows, the pedometer is worn as an ankle bracelet, giving us valuable insights into herd health and behaviour, leading to improved overall management.

These pedometers continuously track each cow's activity levels, providing crucial data on movement patterns. How much walking a cow does, the number of times she sits and stands and for how long all help to build a picture of the cows' habits. The data is live, and we can monitor it all on an app on our phones. This information is invaluable for detecting signs of heat, allowing for more accurate and timely breeding management. Early heat detection opti-

mises breeding efficiency, leading to improved calving rates and milk production.

Beyond reproduction, the pedometers also play a vital role in monitoring cow health. Changes in activity can indicate potential health issues such as lameness or illness. By identifying these changes early, we can intervene promptly, providing necessary treatment and minimising discomfort for the animals. This proactive approach to healthcare reduces stress and discomfort for the cow. We are really excited by this development for us, and are already seeing the benefits of embracing this technology.

In the previous issue of *The Clarion* I mentioned the upcoming budget and our fears for what might be coming. Unfortunately, those fears were realised when Rachel Reeves made her budget announcements. I am by no means an expert, and definitely not a

politician, but will try and explain the implications of this budget for farmers as simply as possible (it gets extremely complicated).



Family farms are different to most businesses as they tend to be sole traders or partnerships as opposed to companies. This means the person is the business. The equipment used to produce food and farm is all incredibly expensive (land, machinery, livestock) and it would not be possible for an individual to come along and set up a farm today without having huge financial backing.

Our business is only where we are today because multiple generations of my family have worked for decades to gradually build up the farm. All the profits we make are reinvested in the business, (including

things like the pedometers mentioned above) and I hope to one day become the 'guardian of the land' to manage and farm, and hope that my children can do so after me. If I were to sell off the land then there would be a big tax bill to pay, and rightly so.

What the Government is proposing is that every generation would be taxed on the paper value. This money is never realised, and so does not actually exist. The tax bill would be more than a farming business's entire profit for 10 years. For a partnership, the profits are not what money is left after everyone has been paid, it is the money that is there before any reinvestment, debt repayments, business partners' income. What they are suggesting would kill off family farms, whilst farms owned by big companies would not be affected.



You may well think: 'So what?' If we lose a generation of farmers, who will replace them? Where will that knowledge of the land and the envi-

ronment come from and most importantly where will our food come from?

We have had meetings with our MP, Emma Reynolds, and although she sits in the Treasury, she was completely unaware of the implications of these changes. There has been no consultation and this idea has been rushed through without researching the possible implications. Even the Government's advisors have backtracked, saying they got their numbers wrong!

We have joined the thousands of farmers rallying in London to raise this issue. Rather than blocking roads and causing a public

nuisance, we are trying to raise the issue in a peaceful way. To the rally in London on 19 November, every farmer took a food donation of local produce. This was the biggest ever food bank donation in the UK.

In December we took tractors in to Westminster along with toys for the Children's hospital ready for Christmas. The message from the farming community is: yes, farming businesses need to pay our fair share of tax, but the plan they have come up with penalises family farming businesses, whilst letting the companies and wealthy investors off the hook. We can only hope that they will do a full consultation and review the policies they are suggesting.



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On the land

Report by Alex Nelms and Charlie Edgley

The hidden threat beneath our crops: root-knot nematodes

Farming has always been full of challenges, but this past winter brought us a new one that my late father Bryan never encountered in his 69 years at Kensham Farm: root-knot nematodes.

These microscopic pests, known scientifically as *Meloidogyne naasi*, have caused some of the worst crop failures in living memory, all because of the exceptionally wet conditions we experienced.

A winter like no other

From October 2023 to March 2024, we had twenty-eight inches of rain—nearly matching the average annual rainfall of the past decade in just six months. The fields were water-logged, and while some of our winter wheat and barley came through looking promising, other fields were complete failures.

Fields behind the Walled Garden and either side of the Bradenham Road were particularly bad. It has been a long time since we have had

crops fail to make it through the winter like this.

When we sent soil samples to a specialist plant clinic, the results were shocking. The root-knot nematode levels in our worst field were 2,285 in a 200 ml sample of soil—well beyond the normal range of 1 to 67. These pests attack the roots of cereal plants, and with the wet conditions helping them spread, they left parts of our fields barren.

Adjusting to the damage

The damage forced us to make some tough decisions. On 19% of our winter wheat fields, we had no choice but to spray everything and kill it off—both the surviving wheat and any grassweeds—so we could reseed with spring wheat. In other fields where patches of winter wheat survived, we over-drilled with spring wheat, hoping both crops will mature around the same time. It is not an ideal solution, but it is the best we can do under the circumstances.

Rethinking farming practices

This infestation caused us to ques-

tion some of the farming practices we have adopted over the years. For three decades, we have grown continuous milling wheat and moved toward shallower tillage to save on diesel and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. But these practices, combined with the loss of neonicotinoid seed dressings, have created conditions that seem perfect for nematodes during a wet season.

Now, we are considering a return to deeper tillage to break up the soil and disrupt the nematodes' breeding grounds. It is frustrating because the push for reduced cultivations came with good intentions—cutting fuel use and being kind to the soil. But if it means losing crops to pests like these, we may have to rethink our approach.

Fighting back

We are not giving up though. This autumn, we have tried something new: planting a special oil radish

variety from Germany. The idea is that the radish will trick the nematode larvae into hatching prematurely, breaking their life cycle before they can do more damage. Of course, this brings its own challenges. In the spring, we will need to manage the radish carefully, incorporating the whole plant into the soil to release a fumigant and ensure it does not provide a bridge for any surviving nematodes.

Lessons learned

This experience has been a tough reminder of how unpredictable farming can be. We are constantly adapting to weather, pests, and changing regulations, but this year has been especially difficult.

Still, I am hopeful that with some adjustments we can learn from these setbacks and adapt—whether it is changing our tillage practices or experimenting with cover crops like oil radish.



Remote IT Rescue

Report by Kyle Allard



Windows 10: Why You Need to Upgrade Now

Windows 10: The End is Near

Windows 10 has been a trusted operating system for millions, but its time is coming to an end. On October 14 2025, Microsoft will discontinue support, meaning no more security updates, bug fixes, or technical support.

What Does End of Life (EOL) Mean?

Once Windows 10 reaches EOL, users will no longer receive updates, leaving systems vulnerable to security threats and performance issues. Without support, hackers can exploit outdated software, and new applications may not function properly.

Why Upgrading is Essential

Sticking with Windows 10 after its EOL poses serious risks:

Security Risks – Without security updates, systems become prime

targets for cyberattacks and malware.

Software Compatibility – New applications will favour updated operating systems, making older programmes obsolete.

Performance Issues – Windows 11 brings better efficiency, an improved interface, and enhanced multitasking.

Compliance Concerns – Many industries require up-to-date software to meet cybersecurity and regulatory standards.

Your Next Steps

Preparing now will save you from last-minute issues. Here's what to do:

Check Compatibility – Ensure your device meets Windows 11 requirements.

Back Up Important Data – Protect

your files before upgrading.

Upgrade to Windows 11 – Eligible users can upgrade for free via Microsoft's website.

Consider Alternatives – If Windows 11 isn't suitable, explore Linux or MacOS options.

Don't wait until it's too late

October 2025 may seem far, but upgrading now ensures security,

efficiency, and future-proofing.

Windows 10 has served us well, but it's time to move forward. Upgrade today to stay protected and ahead of the curve!



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Anya the garden fairy

Follow me on Instagram
@anya_thegarden_fairy



I created my garden at a fraction of the cost and today I would like to share some of my money-saving tips to help you create a garden of your dreams for less.

Keep quirky tins and boxes and use them as planters.

Lovely tins, wine boxes and other containers that can be repurposed and used as planters, instead of spending money on expensive pots.

Quirky planters are great for growing spring flowers, herbs and other edibles or ornamentals. Some shallow dishes and containers can be used for growing succulents.

Buy bare root plants to save more!

The most cost-effective way of buying plants is by getting them bare root. Most popular plants are availa-



ble bare root and they include hedges, roses, peonies, trees and more.

They are often available from supermarkets. If you are too busy to plant your plant straight away, you can place them in a large container or dig up a hole in your garden, place and cover your plants with some topsoil or compost, water well and leave for a few days or even weeks until you are ready to plant them in their destination.

Keep branches of pruned hedges and use them as your free plant support.

Prunings from hedges and fruit trees can supply you with some lovely, natural plant support for free. Many branches can be used as plant support for seedlings and some spring flowers in pots.

Spiky branches from roses and hawthorn can be used for protecting pots from squirrels. They like to dig up our expensive bulbs and the branches can create a useful and cost-effective protection.

Take cuttings of your favourite plants. Most plants are easy to propagate without a greenhouse or expensive equipment.

The process of propagation is very straightforward and does not require any special equipment or experience. Depending on the plant you propagate, cuttings will turn into garden-ready plants within a year and



some as soon as a month.

Finding pre-owned garden treasures.

Look for good quality pre-owned tools, pots and other garden equipment online. Good platforms to look at are eBay, Facebook Marketplace and in our local Facebook groups.

It's all about timing and starting your search in early spring will make a difference, as later in the season you'll have to compete with a whole army of gardeners who will be looking for the same items as you. It's amazing what can be found for free by proactively asking for specific items in your local Facebook groups in January.

Go on a free seedling hunt in your own garden.

Many plants such as hellebores, forget-me-nots, verbena bonariensis and even some lavender varieties self-seed around the garden,

supplying you with seedlings for free.

They can be moved to other parts of the garden or potted up and grown in pots. TOP TIP! If you struggle to identify small plants, don't waste your money on expensive Apps. Most phones can identify plants. All you need to do is to take a picture and press the 'i' icon at the bottom of the image to find out what you have. This is very easy and free.

For more inspiration, please follow me on Instagram at [anya_thegarden_fairy](https://www.instagram.com/anya_thegarden_fairy) where I share lots of practical and easy to follow advice on how to create a beautiful and productive garden for less.

MY new book, *The Money-Saving Garden Year*, is a month-by-month guide to a great garden that costs less. It's available now.



Protecting your wealth and loved ones

- Everyone should have a Will, but 2 out of 3 people have not yet made one, and those that have may not have the correct Will in place.
- If you own a business or a share of a business, your spouse/partner and children may not necessarily inherit your share.
- An estimated 70,000 people per year have to sell their homes to pay for care.
- Effective planning can also protect the inheritance of future generations from divorce or separation settlements.
- By setting up lasting powers of attorney you can rest assured that your finances and personal welfare are in safe hands.

In association with Countrywide Tax & Trust Corporation Limited, I provide a professional, tailor-made service to help individuals to safeguard assets, regardless of their value and protect their loved ones.

My decision to get involved in Wills and Estate Planning was a result of personal experience. I learnt first-hand how unpreparedness adds to the stress of dealing with long-term illness and death. Get in touch for advice that can guide you to make informed decisions that suit your needs.

Visit www.personalestateplanning.co.uk for further information.

Judy Bonfanti, FCCA, STEP Affiliate judy.bonfanti@hotmail.com 07810 642505

The Clarion is the Parish of Lane End's non profit-making magazine, for the sharing of information about Parish activities. Neither the editor nor the Parish Council, whilst sponsoring the magazine, takes responsibility for the statements and/or views expressed herein.

Any copy submitted to The Clarion may be edited for space, content or style. By sending information or articles to the editor for inclusion, you are accepting these terms.

We welcome any news or diary dates from community organisations and letters from individuals. The next copy deadline is 1 May and the next issue will be delivered in June.

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