



The Window July 2026



Every Stone Has a Story

It's easy to think that the stones in our fields and gardens just sort of happened. But each stone has a history. That's because they are fragments of old rocks which have been broken up by geological processes. For example, the most common stones around here are flints which were formed as layers in the chalk rock which surrounds us. Over millions of years, some of the chalk, which is 90 million years old, has become exposed and eroded, and dissolved by acid rain leaving the rock-hard flints behind. Rivers and glaciers moved the resulting stones hundreds of miles, each fragment becoming smaller and smaller, resulting in a stone that we see in our soil.



Recently I found a stone in one of Ipsden's ploughed fields which was different. It's not the usual flint; it is rusty coloured and very heavy. It is what is known as ironstone, probably of Jurassic age and about 180 million years old. It has a very high iron content, which is why it is so heavy. This fairly small stone

weighs about half a kilogram. Where has it come from? And how did it get here?

The nearest possible source of ironstone is around Hook Norton (where it was quarried for its high iron content). Here the glaciers of the last ice age (which ended only 15,000 years ago) may have ground their way over ironstone deposits like a bulldozer, picked up our stone, possibly as a boulder, and transported it southwards. At the

edge of the glacier somewhere north of Oxford, the glaciers stopped and began to melt. When the vast ice sheet over most of Britain melted, there were huge torrents of meltwater rushing down the Chilterns to a huge lake, where the Thames now is. These torrents probably carried our ironstone rock southward until its heavy weight meant that it stopped.

This long-distance transportation of rocks by glaciers and rivers is well-known and in fact, rocks originating from the Lake District have been found around here. This is not the end of the story though. All stones will be on the move again in about 20,000 years when the next ice age comes. But for now, our simple stone-in-a-field has already got quite a tale to tell!

Robert Booth

Social North Stoke

Thank you to all those who came to our Summer Social event on Sunday 14 June. We were so lucky with the weather, not too hot , not too cold and definitely not wet. The village hall garden looked beautiful with all the bunting, tables and chairs and delicious picnics that people had brought. It was also lovely to welcome two friends from Ipsden!

Many thanks to all the cake makers, we certainly had a wonderful choice!

The raffle was a huge success thanks to Karen Tong-Jones, who donated the hamper and organized everything. Thanks also for our other donations. Seamus Hoare is the stalwart of our committee and beavered away in the background. As always in North Stoke, we had many willing helpers on the day and an afternoon of chatting, catching up with neighbours and watching the children play was very special.

**Angela Stanton on behalf of
North Stoke Village Hall Committee**

From Watercress to Les Miserables



Ewelme archivist Carol Sawbridge shares stories from Ewelme throughout the centuries

Nestled nearby in the Chiltern Hills, Ewelme counts a medieval royal power broker and a famous Victorian writer among its notable former residents, notwithstanding its centuries-old watercress beds and an appearance in a blockbuster Hollywood movie. Ewelme is indeed a village with a past and is proud of it. So much so, residents have created a history trail through the village. We took a step back in time for a snapshot of its historical highlights.



The 6½ acre watercress site is owned and managed by The Chiltern Society and volunteers. Ewelme was a hub of the watercress industry until the early 20th Century

In the centre of the village, the bridge that crosses the Ewelme Brook is surrounded by leafy green rows in its flowing "sweet waters". Watercress has been grown by villagers in the chalk stream for centuries, with the stable water temperature creating the perfect conditions for what is now known as a superfood. Commercial production began in the 1800s when beds were constructed by the Smith family, transporting the watercress to London on the new railways.

David Solomon, chairman of the Friends of the Ewelme Watercress Beds, lives in a house overlooking the site. He said: "It's just an incredible facility The watercress beds area is home to hundreds of wildlife species.



Thomas Chaucer is buried in a tomb in Ewelme Church St John Baptist's Chapel with his wife Maud

Medieval poet Geoffrey Chaucer reputedly called the waters of Ewelme Brook "ever freshe and newe". Chaucer's son Thomas, a politician and soldier, came into possession of Ewelme Manor through his marriage with Matilda, or Maud, Burghersh, a daughter of a wealthy and well-connected Lincoln dynasty.



Local historian Prister Cruttwell wrote in her book, "Ewelme, A Romantic Village", that the couple "appear to have lived happily" at the Manor. Chaucer was High Sheriff of Oxfordshire in 1400 and 1403, and five times

Speaker to the House of Commons. He also began enlarging Ewelme Church, St Mary the Virgin, in 1420, where he and his wife were later buried.

In 1430, the Chaucers' daughter, Alice, married the then Earl of Suffolk, William de la Pole, a descendant of wealthy wool merchants. Their role in arranging Henry VI's marriage to French princess Margaret of Anjou made them a very powerful couple and in 1448 the king awarded William the Dukedom of Suffolk. Alice is buried in the same chapel as her parents.

But William's title also earned him many enemies, and he was impeached on charges of treason, corruption, extortion and bribery and was banished from the realm. While trying

to cross to France on a small boat, he was seized by the crew of a "great ship" and brutally killed with a rusty sword.

According to village archivist Carol Sawbridge, Alice was "a shrewd woman" and sought protection from the king for her and her son. She was allowed to keep all their properties and lands and Sawbridge says she returned to Ewelme "and hid away". "She was a celibate lady of society ... and that's why she's buried here."



Humourist Jerome K Jerome was known to love Ewelme and lived in a large house called Troy. His 1889 book "Three Men in a Boat" captures the joys of rowing on Thames on sunny summer days.

In her book, Cruttwell remembered him being "a very quiet man", although "one felt that his little twinkling blue eyes missed nothing, and that he was

storing up incidents for his next book". The book led to a surge in popularity of boating on the Thames at the time. "He had these friends on the skiff and they'd hire a rowing boat on at Kingston, and they'd wear boaters and striped blazers, take a hamper and row for their Sunday afternoon amusement there. "It was very precious to him."

Jerome died in 1927, his ashes were brought back to Ewelme and were buried in the churchyard.

Just like Jerome, TV and film productions have also been attracted to the village's quaint charm. Villagers were extras in the 1986 TV mini-series "Paradise Postponed" and in 1998, it was the location for an episode of ITV's Midsomer Murders entitled "Beyond the Grave". Sawbridge says Daniel Casey, who



played Sgt Troy, was "sweet" and showed her that the murder weapon was hidden in a skip outside the school. "His girlfriend had a dachshund and I used to walk my dachshunds down and he'd talk to me." Villagers also remember seeing guest star Prunella Scales coming down Burrows Hill "on a bicycle going quite fast".



Sawbridge also remembers tight security around the filming of the 2012 film version of *Les Misérables*. "All we saw were all these trucks and cars parked on the Common and the big crane above the church." She was told the old church tower had been made into an inn and the churchyard had been altered. "They put up a lot of wooden crosses, apparently, looking at some of the photographs in the press, and then even the stone ones had to be covered up."

Galya Dimitrova



*Editor's Note:
With thanks to
the BBC; this
article first
appeared on
their website
earlier this year*

Weeding, Pruning and De-Mossing

A motley band from the village met in mid-June to give a belated spring clean to St Mary's Ipsden churchyard.

There was some emphasis on access, Peter Beaumont performing a grand job, cutting the lower branches of a large cherry tree that was forcing people to crouch to get down the main path to the North of the church. Richard Moberly and I cleared many years' worth of moss from the path. This was fine when dry but hazardous in the winter. At the far end Vaughan Williams cleared around the gate which leads to the compost heap and bonfire.

Visitors to the churchyard will see that some areas are being left in a more natural state, without regular mowing. This is overseen by Emma Magill and, with Robin Hart, she organised a group to remove more pernicious weeds,



thistles and ivy etcetera. Amongst these were Siobhan Bennett, Dilys Beaumont and Gary Magill. Andrew Darke made a grand job of clearing vegetation growing in the brick gulley to the South of the church; he also arranged this fine group photograph.

Many thanks to all who got involved. We got a lot done in a short time and I was so pleased that people were asking when the next work party will be! If you would like to join us, keep an eye on The Window and the Village WhatsApp Chat Group.

David Kelley

Haven of Peace

What a beautiful haven of peace and tranquillity our lovely churchyard is! It is a credit to all those who work so hard to tend the graves of loved ones, and particularly to the church council, who organise and pay for the mowing, strimming, and hedge cutting. The church council also takes care of all the boundaries, gates, walls and fences.



From time to time I (as Rector) receive requests in connection with the graveyard, and folk are sometimes surprised by the degree of legislation that covers what may or may not be possible. So, I thought it appropriate to rehearse here a few of the “ground rules” which pertain to the churchyard of your parish church.

One important right granted is that anyone who is resident in the village at the time of their death may be buried in the churchyard. You don’t have to attend church to get this right, you just must live here at the time of your death. This right does not extend to being able to choose where your grave is to be – this falls to the incumbent (Vicar) and Churchwardens and is normally simply in the next available plot.

If you move away your right of burial moves with you to your new parish churchyard and ceases here, unless (i) you are on the electoral roll (membership) of St Mary's Ipsden or (ii) you have a relative (such as a spouse or parent) already buried in Ipsden churchyard and there is room in that particular grave. In this instance a new (different) grave is not possible.



It is important to realize that the right of burial for parishioners does not extend to the burial of ashes, which is at the discretion of the minister. It is a good idea to talk through with your next of kin what your wishes are in relation to your funeral, and then they (or you) can always ask questions of the relevant people to clarify what options may be possible.

The churchyard and its curtilage are legally owned by the incumbent, and their care is the responsibility of the Churchwardens and church council. This "ownership" doesn't mean the incumbent has the right for example to sell the churchyard, but it gives him and the churchwardens the right to eject people (or their pets ...) who are behaving inappropriately.

One important distinction between a Church of England churchyard and a civic cemetery is that in the churchyard you don't own, and can't buy, a "plot". You just "borrow" it for fifty years. Everything "under the ground" remains held in trust by the vicar and churchwardens, and is the responsibility of the Parochial Church Council. Even if you have a right to be buried in the churchyard, there is no corresponding right to erect a memorial. Permission to erect anything or do any works whatsoever in the churchyard has to be given in writing, either by the incumbent, or by a church lawyer. Most churches have a document which outlines simply what is or is not permitted. You can inspect ours on the Team Ministry website <https://langtreechurches.org/langtree-team-ministry/churchyards/>

Once a memorial has been erected, it remains the property of the next of kin, who also have a duty to maintain it, and ensure that it is not a hazard to other users of the churchyard. Please can I use this opportunity to gently remind everyone that artificial flowers of any kind are not permitted in the churchyard, apart from Remembrance Day poppies. It is quite acceptable to plant bulbs in the soil of any grave, but trees, shrubs and perennials need written permission before they are planted.

The Church Council is aware that our churchyard is a very important local amenity, used by Christians and non-Christians alike, not only as a final resting place for loved ones, but also as a sanctuary of peace and quiet, for both people and nature. It is consecrated ground, which means "set apart for God". We'd like to thank all those who help to maintain and care for it, and to ask all of you for your co-operation in keeping it as lovely as it is.



***With my best wishes
Rev'd. Kevin Davies***

Dates for Your Diary

Wed 8 July	Ipsden Coffee Morning	See page 22
14-18 July	Corn Exchange Underdog	See page 17
Wed 15 July	Ipsden Games Café	See page 16
Sat 18 July	Cholsey Repair Café	See page 22
Sat 25 July	Music at the Barn	See page 24
Fri 15 Sept	Bridleway 31 Inquiry	See page 21

See also page 16 for events in July at Braziers Park

Ipsden Village Lottery Winners

23 May	No winner	13 June	B Parkinson
30 May	Martin Small	20 June	B Parkinson
6 June	Jenny Booth	27 June	See next issue

The Window

The Window is edited, published and distributed by the churches of St Mary's Ipsden and St Mary's North Stoke. The deadline for contributions to the next issue is 19 July please.

Thanks to Vaughan Williams and the team of volunteers who deliver paper copies to homes in Ipsden, Mongewell and North Stoke. The Window is also available on the Ipsden village website and some paper copies are held in the Ipsden shop for individual collection.

View from the Vicarage

When Tyrants Reach for the Chisel (and God Reaches for the Light)

"Those who will not be governed by God will be ruled by tyrants" - William Penn, late 17th century.

There's a moment in every would-be autocrat's life when they look at a perfectly good building and think, *"You know what this needs? My name. In gold. Preferably illuminated."* Some leaders build statues of themselves. Some rename airports. Some, it seems, would happily stick their name on the Kennedy Centre if the caretakers turned their backs for five minutes. It's a very particular personality type: the sort of person who sees a blank wall and thinks, *"That's not a wall, that's a missed opportunity."*

Behind the comedy, though, lies something darker. While vanity reaches for plaques and neon, cruelty reaches for erasure. Tyrants have always loved not only to sign their work but to scrub out the signatures of others. Holy sites have long been prime targets: destroy the temple, and you hope to destroy the memory; raze the shrine, and you hope to raze the story that keeps a people together.

Take the Kyiv Pechersk Lavra, the great monastery in Ukraine. For nearly a thousand years it has been a place of prayer, pilgrimage, with astonishingly beautiful golden domes rising above the Dnipro like a hymn cast in metal. In recent years it has found itself caught in the crosswinds of political ambition and military aggression. When tyrants cannot control a holy place, they often try to silence it. When they cannot silence it, they try to claim it. And when they cannot claim it, they sometimes try to destroy it.

This is not new. The Temple of Bel in Palmyra was blown apart by extremists who feared its beauty. The Timbuktu Shrines were smashed by those who could not bear the memory of saints. The Serapeum of

Alexandria was torn down by an emperor who wanted one faith, one empire, one story - his own.

William Penn's pithy warning helps explain our central theme. If a society refuses the governance of conscience and charity, if it neglects the moral and spiritual habits that bind people together, then something else will rush in to govern: fear, force, and the appetite for domination. Penn's line is not a political slogan so much as a pastoral diagnosis: spiritual neglect creates a vacancy that tyrants are only too happy to fill.

And here the ancient world starts to look uncomfortably familiar. Nebuchadnezzar may have commissioned a giant golden statue; modern tyrants seem to prefer a different demolition project. Instead of tearing down temples, they go for tower blocks, schools, hospitals, and the ordinary places where ordinary people try to live ordinary lives. It's as if some leaders have decided that if they can't control a people's worship, they'll simply attack their washing machines, their stairwells, and their Tuesday-evening leftovers.

There is, tragically, a similarity. Ancient tyrants destroyed holy places because they knew that if you crush a sanctuary, you crush a people's spirit. Modern tyrants, or those who behave like them, seem to think the same logic applies to blocks of flats. If you can't break a nation's faith, perhaps you can break its plumbing. If you can't silence its prayers, perhaps you can silence its children. It is the same old cruelty.

And yet, even here, the pattern holds: holy places are stubborn. They have a habit of rising again. Even when the stones fall, the stories do not. Even when the walls crack, the prayers continue. Even when the name is scraped off the sign, the memory refuses to die. You can knock down a building, but you cannot knock out the human capacity for hope. You can shatter concrete, but you cannot shatter the stubborn, shining belief that life is worth rebuilding

This is why the Kyiv monastery matters so much. It stands not only as a holy place, but as a reminder that sacredness is not confined to churches. A block of flats where families laugh, quarrel, cook, and dream is also sacred. A playground is sacred. A classroom is sacred. A hospital ward is sacred. These are the places where God's image-bearers live their lives, and that makes them holy ground, even if no one has ever carved a saint into the lintel.

Scripture gives us the theological backbone for this stubbornness. In Daniel, a king builds a giant monument and demands worship; three young men refuse and find that faith is not a thing to be manufactured by decree. Jesus puts it even more plainly: *"Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul"* (Matthew 10:28). Tyrants can command ceremonies and rename plazas, but they cannot command the heart.

Even in our quieter corner of Oxfordshire, in our parishes, we see the same truth. Our churches have weathered wars, plagues, and more than one PCC meeting that felt like a minor apocalypse. They remain because people kept coming back to light candles, to sing, to forgive, and to feed one another. There lie the real monuments: not plaques with a names, but communities that remember how to love.

So let the would-be namers have their gilded letters. Let them try to flatten neighbourhoods and rewrite histories. We will keep doing what Christians have always done: we will remember, we will pray, we will rebuild, and we will refuse to let fear have the final word. Tyrants may stamp their names on buildings. But God writes His name on people. And that, in the end, is the name that lasts.



*Blessings All,
Canon John*

Church Services in July and August

Date	Ipsden	North Stoke
Wed 1 July	5pm Evening Prayer Zoom Meeting Id 410 935 129 (Please wait to be admitted)	
Sun 5 July	9.30am Holy Communion	11am Holy Communion
Wed 8 July	5pm Evening Prayer Zoom Meeting Id 410 935 129 (Please wait to be admitted)	
Sun 12 July	10am Service of The Word. Zoom Meeting Id 188 513 761 (Please wait to be admitted)	
Wed 15 July	5pm Evening Prayer Zoom Meeting Id 410 935 129 (Please wait to be admitted)	
Sun 19 July	9.30am Holy Communion	11am Holy Communion
Wed 22 July	5pm Evening Prayer Zoom Meeting Id 410 935 129 (Please wait to be admitted)	
Sun 26 July	9.30am Morning Prayer	11am Morning Prayer
Wed 29 July	5pm Evening Prayer Zoom Meeting Id 410 935 129 (Please wait to be admitted)	
Sun 2 August	9.30am Holy Communion	11am Holy Communion
Wed 5 August	5pm Evening Prayer Zoom Meeting Id 410 935 129 (Please wait to be admitted)	
Sun 9 August	10am Service of The Word. Zoom Meeting Id 188 513 761 (Please wait to be admitted)	
Wed 12 August	5pm Evening Prayer Zoom Meeting Id 410 935 129 (Please wait to be admitted)	
Sun 16 August	9.30am Holy Communion	11am Holy Communion
Wed 19 August	5pm Evening Prayer Zoom Meeting Id 410 935 129 (Please wait to be admitted)	
Sun 23 August	9.30am Morning Prayer	11am Morning Prayer
Wed 26 August	5pm Evening Prayer Zoom Meeting Id 410 935 129 (Please wait to be admitted)	
Sun 30 August	10.30am Team Service (location to be decided)	

Church Opening

As well as for services, the churches at Ipsden and North Stoke remain open during daylight hours for private worship and visits.

A Stitch in Time

The Games Café – held on the third Wednesday of each month – has now expanded to include crafts, thanks to Sylvia Beeton (whose needlework skills ensured the pantomime cast was exquisitely dressed this year!). We again welcomed newcomers from beyond Ipsden last week for a fun afternoon of gentle competition as well as knitting and crocheting.

Plans are also afoot to introduce an evening Games Café when the nights start drawing in, but for the time being our next date is Wednesday 15 July, at 3pm, at Ipsden Village Hall. Feel free to email katemoberly@hotmail.com or thewordbird@yahoo.co.uk if you'd like any further details.

Kate Moberly, Lottie Rundall & Jesse-May

Braziers Park in July

Thursday 9 – Sunday 12 July: Communities Conference 2026: Growing the Movement

Saturday 18 July, 10.00am – 11.00am: Children's Clay Club – Tile Painting Workshop

Sunday 19 July 10.00am – 1.00pm: Reed Pen & Ink Workshop

Monday 27 July 3.00pm – Friday 31 July 3.00pm: The Braziers Park Reunion 2026

For more details, prices, and booking visit <https://web.braziers.org.uk/events>

Caroline Vitzthum

Who Doesn't Love an Underdog?

"*Underdog: The Other Other Brontë*" is a comedic play that takes an irreverent look at the lives of the Brontë sisters, focusing particularly on the often-overlooked Anne. It's a play which manages to be both hilarious and thought-provoking, offering a contemporary lens on three very talented and competitive sisters with three very different personalities, rubbing along in a parsonage in Haworth, in the middle of the Yorkshire Dales.

The Sinodun Players' production is being directed by Goring's own Dorothy Hirsch, better known for directing wide open farces. This is a somewhat more thoughtful offering, but she's greatly enjoying the challenge! The producer for this extravaganza is another Goring local, BAFTA award winner Guy Gilks.



It's a very exciting cast with Anne being played by Sorrel Gibson, in her Corn Exchange debut. Sorrel is finishing up her current round of professional training with every intention of building a career as a working actor. Completing our trio of female Brontës are Holly González Smithson playing the pithy poet, Emily, and Natalie Davies

as our forceful Charlotte. The final Brontë, playing their brother Branwell, is another new actor debuting with the SP's, Heather Banyard.

"*Underdog: The Other Other Brontë*" by Sarah Gordon will be at the Corn Exchange Wallingford, on 14-18 July. Tickets are on sale now at <https://www.cornexchange.org.uk>

Guy Gilks

Bees and Butterflies

The children at Early Days Nursery had an incredibly busy May, celebrating World Bee Day, World Endangered Species Day and Hedgehog Awareness Week. They released their butterflies; we had five successful hatches and five butterflies who flew off into the sunset - or at least, the sunny 10am! The children were absolutely entranced by watching them as they adjusted to their surroundings and were incredibly quiet - before squealing in excitement as the first tentative flaps of wings became fully fledged flight



As a staff team we talk a lot about the benefits and disadvantages of this practice; the children are spellbound by the process and as a result, learn so much. We hatch caterpillars native to the area and ensure the children learn and practice what butterflies need. However, we're also keen to emphasise to them not all caterpillars are raised in classrooms with mango and strawberries to snack on!

We always welcome feedback and ideas about how we can teach the children about Ipsden and the wider world around

them so if anyone has more planet-friendly ideas to teach our children: we're all ears!

The children have just helped to install their wormery in the Growing Garden and are extremely excited. Our worms are doing an excellent job of eating all the leftover vegetable and fruit scraps from our kitchen. All our food is prepared from scratch so we have lots of peelings. The children have observed that our worms don't seem to like bananas very much; hopefully they'll change their minds soon!

Mara comes to see us every Friday; she works in the gardens at Braziers and is teaching us a lot about how to garden. We have planted our sunflowers with her and even more excitingly, the tiny acorns we planted last Autumn have actually taken! We would love a spot in the village to properly plant one of these so if anyone is reading this and knows somewhere that might be a good home, please do email us and let us know.



1905



2026

Recently our wonderful Jo has been teaching us how to felt; this was very tricky but we persisted and have made some absolutely beautiful creations. Our topic during May was "Where We Live and Play", which included lots of fun activities around maps (we love a map - even more so if it is a treasure map!) and buildings.

We visited the well at Ipsden and our grown-ups explained the story behind the well. We've talked about this a lot since and now love pointing it out. We have been showing the children some photos of the nursery a long time ago,

prompting lots of questions about black and white photographs!

We made fairy doors and practiced lots of numeral recognition as we all decided (and occasionally debated) who should have which number door. We had a brilliant time at our now-annual Paint-The-Town event: our grown-ups spent a day or so behaving rather suspiciously, drawing the curtains of one of our chalets and saying that the door was broken, so we couldn't go in. The day after this, we finished our lunch and went outside to a complete cardboard village, with white houses all around the garden for us to paint. We had a wonderful time creating these before playing in them during the days that followed.



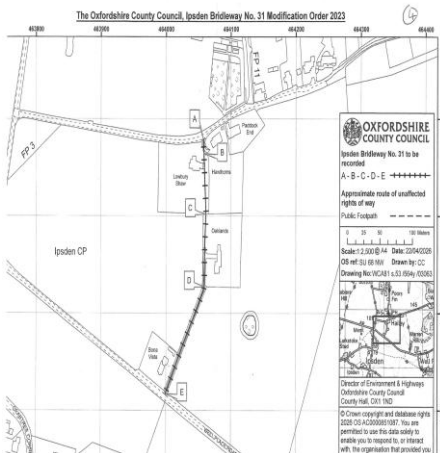
At the time of writing this, the children have just completed their Sports Day and we could not be more proud of them. They competed in five races - including a very tricky agility race - and were absolute stars. We were delighted to be joined by so many parents for the day - and even more delighted that the rain held off! Over the next month our focus will turn to Pets, along with preparing some special gifts for Fathers' Day.

Rebecca Fern

Bridleway 31 Update

Public Local Inquiry to determine the Oxfordshire County Council, Ipsden Bridleway No. 31 Modification Order 2023

The Public Inquiry that sat in Ipsden village hall in April of this year, and was adjourned until Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) had arranged for the route from Hailey down to Well Place Road (A to E on the map below) to be pegged out, reconvened online shortly after 10am on Thursday 11 June 2026.



OCC had appointed a surveying company to set out the line of the bridleway. There was considerable discussion about its effect on property in particular the brick boundary wall to Bona Vista. Robin Carr, OCC's barrister, said that if the Order was confirmed then OCC would publish a further modification order such that the wall would not be affected.

Elsewhere the inspector was interested in understanding how accurate the marker points were i.e. what was the setting out tolerance. OCC said they would obtain a statement on this from their surveying company. The inspector adjourned the inquiry around midday to be reconvened in Ipsden Village Hall at 10am on Friday 18 September 2026.

Ipsden Parish Council

Cholsey Repair Café

The next Cholsey Repair Café will take place on Saturday 18 July at the Cholsey Pavilion. Doors open at 10am and close at 12.45pm.



Talented fixers offer help and advice free of charge, to get a wide variety of broken household items back into working order, although donations to cover operating costs are always appreciated. Excellent refreshments are available next door, in the Cholsey Community Café. Further details can be found at www.cholseyrepaircafe.com or you can email repaircafe@cholsey.com

Ian Wheeler

Ipsden Coffee Mornings

A huge thank you to the many people who take it in turn to run the coffee mornings, and to the many others who donate their delicious cakes. Everything is free and it's a wonderful opportunity to catch up with neighbours. Ipsden Coffee Mornings are held in the Memorial Hall on the second Wednesday of each month, the next one is on 8 July, from 10am until 11.30am. All are welcome!

Clare Davis

Hospital Gardens

The next step in our fundraising to renovate the gardens at Wallingford Hospital is a summer raffle! So any raffle prizes would be gratefully received. You can of course take them straight to the hospital reception, or I would be happy to take them off your hands and can collect from you if you prefer. Thank-you! Tel: 07921 298357 or

siobhan.bennett28@btopenworld.com

Siobhan Bennett



The Window Needs You!

Thank you to all those who contribute and help to make The Window inclusive to those who dwell in Ipsden and North Stoke. We always need articles. And that's where all of you can help. You might be surprised: what seems mundane and everyday to you may be interesting and new to others. And don't forget to include news about forthcoming village events; and photographs always add interest. Please don't be shy and leave it to the "regulars"! Just let us know if you need help or guidance, and send your contributions to The Window, ipsden.window@gmail.com or to me, Peter Bennett, peter.bennett28@btopenworld.com

Ipsden Village Lottery Tickets

There are numbers available for the Ipsden Lottery, which helps fund our Village Memorial Hall. A ticket is £1 per week, payable in 10-week blocks. The winning number (the Saturday night bonus ball number in the National Lottery) is £25 each week. Please talk to Shirley in the shop to arrange payment and choose your number. Good luck!

Clare Davis

Music at the Barn

We're so pleased to announce the return of Ipsden's Music at the Barn 2026 – Live Music on a summer's evening in the beautiful 18th Century barn courtyard at Ipsden Farm, with thanks to Nick and Kate Miller, on Saturday 25 July. Music will be from 6pm until about 9pm, and gates will open at 5.30pm.



This year's event is specially dedicated to Ken Fitt, sadly passed away in late May aged 98 and, for so many years, stalwart of "Music at the Barn", arranging, compering and, of course, performing. My, how we will miss him.

Bring your own picnic, drinks, blankets and tables/chairs. Please - no BBQs to comply with insurance regulations. Come and relax, enjoy a varied programme of acoustic music by local musicians and singers who provide their time and talent for free.

Entry tickets are £8 for adults at the gate and from The Ipsden Village Shop, or £9 from Ticketsource. Under 16s are free. Online tickets from [PCC of Ipsden Entertainment Committee event tickets from TicketSource](#). On the gate and throughout the evening, there will be raffle tickets for sale as usual. Donations to the raffle are very welcome, please contact siobhan.bennett28@btopenworld.com. Net proceeds will this year go to Bluebells Day Centre Respite Care, for People Living with Dementia, a charity actively supported by Ken.



Kate Moberly