



# The Window

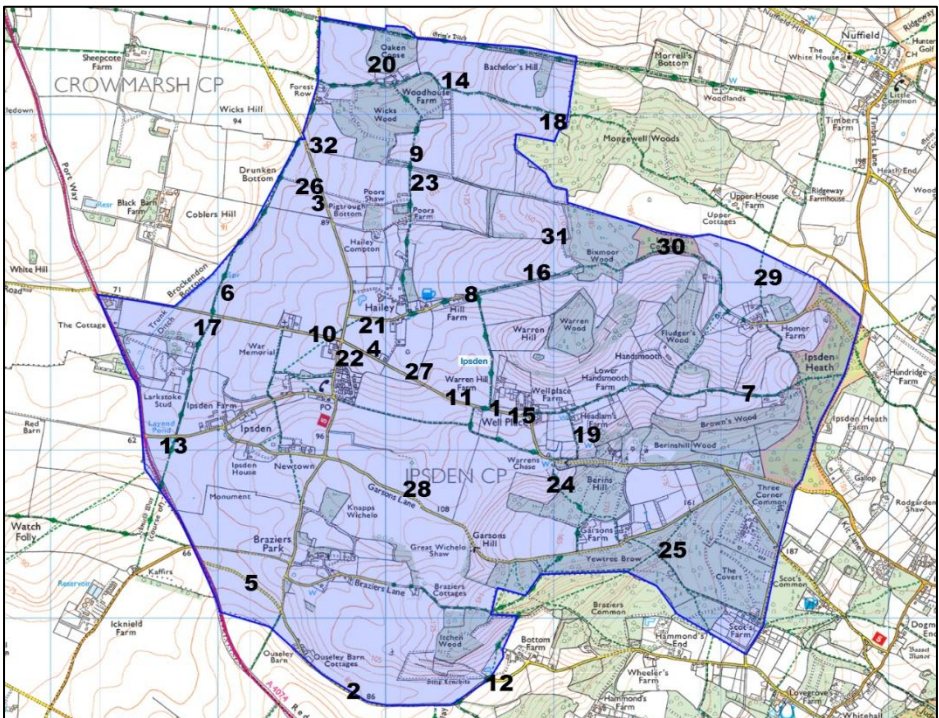
## May 2026



### An Ipsden Landscape Challenge

On the following four pages there are 32 landscape photographs taken throughout Ipsden Parish over the last few years, including this year. Each photograph is identified with a letter. On the map of the parish below there are numbers at the various locations where the photographs were taken. The challenge is to identify which photograph was taken at each location. You may use the table on the page after the photographs for your answers. No prizes though, for the answers are on page 18!

**David Coldwell**



# An Ipsden Landscape Challenge - Photos



# An Ipsden Landscape Challenge – Photos



# An Ipsden Landscape Challenge – Photos



# An Ipsden Landscape Challenge – Photos



## **An Ipsden Landscape Challenge – Your Answers**

<b>Map Ref</b>	<b>Photo Ref</b>	<b>Map Ref</b>	<b>Photo Ref</b>	<b>Map Ref</b>	<b>Photo Ref</b>	<b>Map Ref</b>	<b>Photo Ref</b>
<b>1</b>		<b>9</b>		<b>17</b>		<b>25</b>	
<b>2</b>		<b>10</b>		<b>18</b>		<b>26</b>	
<b>3</b>		<b>11</b>		<b>19</b>		<b>27</b>	
<b>4</b>		<b>12</b>		<b>20</b>		<b>28</b>	
<b>5</b>		<b>13</b>		<b>21</b>		<b>29</b>	
<b>6</b>		<b>14</b>		<b>22</b>		<b>30</b>	
<b>7</b>		<b>15</b>		<b>23</b>		<b>31</b>	
<b>8</b>		<b>16</b>		<b>24</b>		<b>32</b>	

### **“Arise, King William”!**

The South Oxfordshire branch of the Campaign for Real Ale has awarded the King William IV pub in Ipsden its coveted “Pub of the Season 2026” title. Congratulations to Emma Righton, who has run our local pub for the past 2½ years, and her team.

Emma said: “It was quite funny, as we were celebrating National Farm Animal Day. We always do a dress-up day on a Friday, so we were all wearing t-shirts with a farm animal on for the award.”



## **Homer Joy**

*"Ne'er cast a clout till May be out"*

This English proverb was first penned in 1732 although it may have existed by "word of mouth" before then. It does set a conundrum: does it refer to May blossom (Hawthorn) or the month of May when one should store winter thermals in their moth-proof bags? May can have very changeable weather, so I leave it up to the individual to decide.

Garden centres already selling summer bedding also include a frost warning, so best to leave planting out until the end of May, unless one has a greenhouse.

Homer Woods are beautiful with bluebells (or wild hyacinths) in full bloom; with sun on them, their heady scent will soon be apparent. Beech show off their new green leaves and in places provide a canopy over the lane.



Along with bluebells we have also welcomed six lambs, who are soon rushing around playing "tag" with their mothers bleating for them to behave.

Being surrounded by woods, rotten trees often fall, or if we see one that is likely to, it is cut off before any damage can be done, particularly in the lane or top road. Occasionally a tree will fall over a fence so that means extra work to get it repaired quickly, not least to keep any stock in. We will enjoy warmer days soon and a chance to enjoy the countryside all around us even more.



**Diana Jackson**

## **Table Top Sale**

There will be a Table Top Sale in Ipsden Village Hall on Saturday 9 May in aid of the St Mary's restoration fund. It is £10 for a table, and all enquiries should go to me, Shirley Merrett, on 07895 391028 or [shirleymerrett614@gmail.com](mailto:shirleymerrett614@gmail.com)

Other attractions include a Tombola and a cake sale. Please tell me if you can donate a cake or two! The church is running a jumble sale too, please let me know if you have anything to donate. And for the children .... There will be "Name the Teddy Bear" and "Guess how many sweets are in the jar" competitions.

Doors will be open at 10am until 3pm and there is a small entrance fee of £1.

**Shirley Merrett**

## **Games Café!**

The inaugural Games Café took place on Wednesday 15 April. Young and (only slightly) less young enjoyed a lively couple of hours of friendly competition, playing old favorites and trying out new games too.

Tea and biscuits, plus homemade cakes, went

down a treat – hence the instant rebrand: 'Games Café', an event that is as much about the socializing as the games. Our stalwart first-timers stayed the distance, but you are welcome just to drop in for a few minutes or stay for the whole afternoon.

Our next date is Wednesday 20 May, from 3pm, at Ipsden Village Hall. We would love North Stoke residents to come too – do spread the word and let us know if you need a lift. Any questions, email [katemoberly@hotmail.com](mailto:katemoberly@hotmail.com). Many thanks to David Coldwell and Jesse-May for the photographs, and to Hamish Cassels for ordering excellent new round tables, which made for a more convivial set-up and hopefully will be an asset to the hall.

**Kate Moberly, Lottie Rundall and Jesse-May**



## **Dates for Your Diary**

Thurs 30 April	IPC Meeting	
Sat 9 May	Table Top Sale	See page 8
Sat 9 May	Frog Racing at Woodcote	See page 17
Wed 13 May	Ipsden Coffee Morning	See page 10
Sat 16 May	Cholsey Repair Cafe	See page 17
Wed 20 May	Games Café	See page 8
Wed 10 June	Ipsden Coffee Morning	See page 10
Sat 25 July	Music at the Barn	See page 19

## **May at Braziers**

Saturday 2 May - Monday 4 May and Friday 8 May - Sunday 10 May:  
Oxfordshire Art Weeks

Monday 4 May, 11am – 4pm: Braziers Park May Fayre

Sunday 10 May, 11am – 1pm: Braziers' Glaister Lecture

Sunday 10 May, 10am – 12 noon: Kids Go Wild!

Friday 22 May, 4pm - Monday 25, 4pm: SOIL Wider Community Gathering

For more information on each of these events, and how to book them,  
please visit our website [www.braziers.org.uk](http://www.braziers.org.uk)

**Caroline Vitzthum**

## **Ipsden Village Lottery Winners**

28 March	J Plaisted	18 April	Many Small
4 April	No winner	25 April	See next issue
11 April	Jane Penney	2 May	See next issue

**This newsletter is edited, published, printed and distributed by the churches of Ipsden and North Stoke. The copy deadline for the next issue will be 19 May please.**

## **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. We regularly average attendance of over 20 people of all ages, and even occasionally passing cyclists or workmen in Ipsden for the day! Everything is free and it's a wonderful opportunity to catch up with our neighbours. Ipsden Coffee Mornings are held in the Memorial Hall on the second Wednesday of each month, the next one is on 13 May, from 10am until 11.30am. All are welcome!

**Clare Davis**

## **"Eyes Were Down"!**

Following the great success of The Bingo Night last October, on Saturday 21 March Shirley Merrit organised another very enjoyable Bingo Night in the Village Hall in Ipsden. Again Simon Pritchard, in his glittering golden jacket was the Caller, guiding everyone through the evening with great patience and good humour. Sixty-five people, their ages ranging from under 5 to over 90, came along to enjoy playing Bingo together and raised £973 for the St Mary's Ipsden church restoration fund.



Thank you to Shirley for arranging such an enjoyable evening, and thanks to everyone who helped make the evening such a success: Clare and Tim Davies for running the bar, Siobhan Bennett for the raffle, and to all those who helped by giving donations and raffle prizes. And thanks to David Coldwell for the photographs. Oh, and congratulations to the winners too!

**Kate Moberly**

## **This Cemetery Is Full**

At 6am on Sunday morning we (Guy Hildred, Phil Merson, Liam Boughey and I) set off. We crossed France, Belgium, the Netherlands, Germany and Poland. We arrived at Lviv in Ukraine on Tuesday afternoon. When we got to Lviv we went to Driving Ukraine's workshop; there they undertake works on the cars that need a mechanical touch up or other straight forward wearing parts replacing, before being sent to their respective units where they'll be used at and around the frontlines.

Whilst at the workshop we met the people who were going to utilise our vehicles; the VW Amarock Liam Boughey and I had driven out was going to be assigned to an artillery unit. Back in early 2023 this same unit had received some vehicles from Driving Ukraine such as L200's, and Ford Rangers. The recipient of those vehicles was Taras Tselyuk, who later rose to commander of the self-propelled artillery unit. He soon became a well-known friend of the Driving Ukraine organisers and other convoy drivers, as he was a glowing character and came back to Lviv often on leave as his family is there. On the 14 December 2025 Taras's heart stopped in hospital due to critical injuries that he sustained after a Russian FPV drone strike. The war for him began in 2014 in the Donbas region, having been amongst the first to volunteer without hesitation.



Later on Tuesday we visited the Field of Mars, the largest cemetery in Lviv that holds more than 700 graves and is tragically now full. Taras had been  
*Continued on page 12*

## **This Cemetery Is Full (Continued)**

laid to rest at a cemetery a short journey from the Field of Mars. They were still digging the graves whilst we paid respects to the ones that were there already. Many of the fallen were from a variety of the last 4+ years because many bodies had recently been exchanged between the Ukrainians and the Russians.



Our vehicle was given to Yuliia, who was Taras's sister, to pass it onto Taras's unit in the not-too-distant future so they could continue their work. Shortly before handover all 15 vehicles that had been part of the convoy were all blessed by the local priest. Yuliia also runs an Air-B'B in Lviv for veterans of the war who come to Lviv. Before the vehicles were handed over, we had a demonstration of an Unmanned Ground Vehicle (UGV), which are used for supply runs to forward units and to evacuate the injured; occasionally they can even have mounted machine guns that can deliver effective fire on targets. After talking with Yuliia and her husband for some time about Taras, we parted ways for a tour of a very impressive pig farm to add a bit of diversity to our otherwise very sombre trip.

That evening we had arrived back at the hotel where we were staying. Not long before 8pm Lviv set off the air raid sirens, albeit fairly brief. Nothing made it through to Lviv but tragically Odesa, Kyiv, Dnipro and other regions had suffered strikes that resulted in deaths and injuries. Yet the air defence of Ukraine still worked for the most part over that period; out of 659 drones and missiles launched, 636 were shot down or suppressed.

**Eddy Hildred**

## **View from the Vicarage**



### **Three Teams and One Hole - A Trinity Sunday Reflection**

If you live in our corner of the parish, you may have noticed a small drama unfolding recently outside my neighbour's new house. It began, as these things often do, with a hole. One bright morning, two men arrived in high-visibility jackets. They set out cones, barriers, and signs (an impressive display of civic choreography) and then dug a neat, purposeful hole. Their task was not to

fix anything, nor even to connect anything, but simply to prepare the way. They left the hole open, ready, expectant.

A couple of days later, a second team arrived. These were the specialists, the ones who knew how to join the new house to the waiting mains. They descended into the prepared space, worked with quiet concentration, and after two days of careful labour, the water was flowing. The house was connected. The job, however, was not yet complete. And so we waited. My neighbour waited. The hole waited.

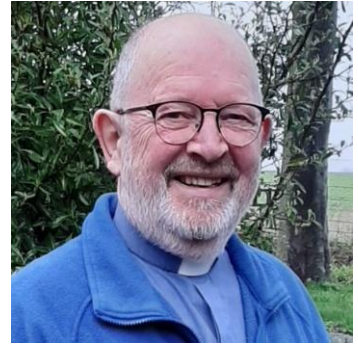
Finally, a third team arrived - different men, different skills. Their task was not to dig, nor to connect, but to restore. They filled the hole, tamped down the earth, and left the road looking as though nothing remarkable had happened at all. Three teams. One hole. One purpose.

As Trinity Sunday approaches, I find myself seeing in this at the unexpected parable that unfolded on our street. The Church has spent centuries trying to articulate the mystery of God as Three-in-One: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit: distinct, yet united in purpose and love. No analogy is perfect (and the theologians would rightly warn us not to push this one too far), but there is something quietly illuminating in watching three different groups, each with their own role, contribute to one shared work. The first team prepared the way. The second brought connection and life. The third restored and made whole. In the life of faith, we meet God in these different movements.

There are times when God prepares us by digging out space in our hearts, clearing what has become cluttered or compacted. There are times when

Christ meets us directly, connecting us to the living water that sustains and renews. And there are times when the Spirit gently fills the gaps, restores what has been broken, and leaves us steadier than before. Three movements. One God. One love at work.

My neighbour now has running water, and the road looks perfectly ordinary again. But each time I walk past that patch of tarmac, I'm reminded that beneath the surface of our streets, our lives, and our faith there is a deeper work going on. A work that prepares, connects, and restores. A work that is, in its own quiet way, holy.



*Blessings to you all,*

*Canon John*

## **From the Rectory**

### **Worship**

Do you ever have moments when you wonder what the point of it all is? Most people do. And from time to time we make life choices based upon our best guess to the answer to this question.

For example, some people will say "the point of it all is to look after your health." Others might say "the point of it all is to get as much money as possible." Still others might say "I'm going to try and be happy and have lots of fun before I die."

All of these are fine and dandy; however, they are somewhat self-centred. And, as we've just seen with the views from the Orion space craft, somewhat trivial. "Kevin's life choices" look mighty insignificant from 200,000 miles away. There's a much bigger picture. It's easy to understand, looking from space, how "living our lives in peace with one another", or "living so that the Earth stays as beautiful as it is" make slightly fuller answers to the question "what's the point"?

So, there can be "corporate" reasons for existence, as well as self-centred ones. Sometimes, our responses to the world as we find it can include living in ways that are not totally selfish but are recognitions that we share this planet with others. However, even this larger view can be yet greater. What happens when we travel so far that the earth becomes just the "pale blue

dot”, and eventually too small to view at all? How are we to respond to the vastness and grandeur of space, the enormity of scale of the Universe? Do we “fit,” or are we “freaks”?

When we bump into the mystery and majesty of the infinite we struggle to find the words. But throughout the ages humanity has tried to respond – perhaps in a painting or other work of art, perhaps in a poem or song, or piece of music, sometimes even in a great building.

When you sit in stillness before a picture in the National Gallery, when the hairs on the back of your neck go up at a certain place in a song or symphony, when words bring you to tears, or when a sunset leaves you speechless, you are responding to that which is greater than you, and you are touching the edge of worship.

The “I see it now” moments that surprise you, the love that holds you even in the midst of loss, the awareness of the Spirit that gives you life, and breath, and the gift of time, fleeting, in which to share, and to see, and to learn, and to begin...something. The revelation that, despite your utter insignificance, you are known, and loved, and that you matter.

There is an older answer to the “point of it” question, found in one of the Church’s teachings. It says, “the chief end of man is to glorify God, and to enjoy Him forever.” On this count, worship is the whole point. It is our response to everything, a small scrap, something we give back to God. This can be both joy, and sorrow, hope and despair. It can be both Art and Science. It is probably the most human thing we can do, in that it fulfils one of our deepest needs, which is to acknowledge that there is a great Truth, something we can only partly see.

(1 Corinthians 13:8-13)



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

## Church Services in May and June

*The churches at Ipsden and North Stoke are open during daylight hours for private worship and visits.*

<b>Date</b>	<b>Ipsden</b>	<b>North Stoke</b>
<b>Sun 3 May</b>	<b>9.30am Holy Communion</b>	<b>11am Holy Communion</b>
Wed 6 May	5pm Evening Prayer Zoom Meeting Id 410 935 129 (Please wait to be admitted)	
<b>Sun 10 May</b>	<b>10am Service of The Word. Zoom Meeting Id 188 513 761 (Please wait to be admitted)</b>	
Wed 13 May	5pm Evening Prayer Zoom Meeting Id 410 935 12 (Please wait to be admitted)	
<b>Sun 17 May</b>	<b>9.30am Holy Communion</b>	<b>11am Holy Communion</b>
Wed 20 May	5pm Evening Prayer Zoom Meeting Id 410 935 129 (Please wait to be admitted)	
<b>Sun 24 May Pentecost</b>	<b>9.30am Morning Prayer</b>	<b>11am Morning Prayer</b>
Wed 27 May	5pm Evening Prayer Zoom Meeting Id 410 935 129 (Please wait to be admitted)	
<b>Sun 31 May Trinity Sunday</b>	<b>10.30am Team Service at Ipsden</b>	
Wed 3 June	5pm Evening Prayer Zoom Meeting Id 410 935 129 (Please wait to be admitted)	
<b>Sun 7 June</b>	<b>9.30am Holy Communion</b>	<b>11am Holy Communion</b>
Wed 10 June	5pm Evening Prayer Zoom Meeting Id 410 935 129 (Please wait to be admitted)	
<b>Sun 14 June</b>	<b>10am Service of The Word. Zoom Meeting Id 188 513 761 (Please wait to be admitted)</b>	
Wed 17 June	5pm Evening Prayer Zoom Meeting Id 410 935 129 (Please wait to be admitted)	
<b>Sun 21 June</b>	<b>9.30am Holy Communion</b>	<b>11am Holy Communion</b>
Wed 24 June	5pm Evening Prayer Zoom Meeting Id 410 935 129 (Please wait to be admitted)	
<b>Sun 28 June</b>	<b>9.30am Morning Prayer</b>	<b>11am Morning Prayer</b>

## Charity Frog Racing

Join us for an exciting and fun packed Charity Frog Race evening on Saturday, 9 May 2026 at Woodcote Village Hall.

Get ready to cheer as the jockeys race their look-a-like amphibians down the course, hopping (*and hoping!*) to reach the finishing post and victory. It's harder than you think! Why not bring your friends, make up a table, and enjoy an hilarious evening filled with opportunities to back the best jockeys and their frogs. Better still, experience the thrill of the race first hand and participate in this exhilarating and fun showdown. Want to be a race owner and/or jockey? Don't delay, slots *now up for sale!* Also available for local traders, 1/8<sup>th</sup> advertising slots in the race card.



Doors open at 7pm for exciting racing, tote betting, bar and raffle. Tickets £15 (inc. supper). To purchase race owner, jockey slots, advertising or tickets contact [Robsan.evans@btinternet.com](mailto:Robsan.evans@btinternet.com) or text 07715 136326. Proceeds raised will help to install toilets and upgrade facilities at St Leonard's Church, Woodcote.

**Robsan Evans**

## Cholsey Repair Café

Saturday 16 May will be the date of the next Cholsey Repair Café at the Cholsey Pavilion. Doors will be open from 10am until 12.45pm and you can bring along all manner of domestic items, including bicycles, for the expert attentions of our volunteer fixers, who will do their best to help you repair them. If the session is busy, you can make the wait more pleasant with a good "cuppa and cake" from Cholsey Community Café, right next door. We are one of the longest-running and most respected repair cafes in Berkshire and Oxfordshire. More details can be found at [www.cholseyrepaircafe.com](http://www.cholseyrepaircafe.com)



**Ian Wheeler**

## An Ipsden Landscape Challenge – David’s Answers

Map Ref	Photo Ref	Map Ref	Photo Ref	Map Ref	Photo Ref	Map Ref	Photo Ref
1	K	9	U	17	1C	25	Z
2	Y	10	O	18	G	26	I
3	P	11	M	19	S	27	H
4	W	12	A	20	L	28	1A
5	F	13	N	21	Q	29	1E
6	B	14	X	22	E	30	1D
7	R	15	V	23	T	31	1B
8	J	16	D	24	C	32	1F

### Any Old School Photos?

I am very keen to put together a photo board of the Old Ipsden School as it was many years ago, before it became the home of Early Days Nursery. I have one delightful Victorian photo of the school children and school mistress – and this much more recent one pictured here, though it is still over 60 years since it was taken! If anyone has any old photos that they could kindly let us have, we would be extremely grateful. We can take copies and return any originals to you.



Please have a dig around and see if anything comes to light. Thank you.

**Nicola Murphy**

## **Yet Again ... Music at the Barn Is Back!**

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 18<sup>th</sup> 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.



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 will be available soon: £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](#). There will be a raffle as usual. Donations to the raffle are very welcome, please contact [slobhan.bennett28@btopenworld.com](mailto:slobhan.bennett28@btopenworld.com). Net proceeds will go to the Restoration Fund for St Mary's Church, Ipsden.

**Kate Moberly**

## **Compost Is Back Too!**

This is simply to let you know that Shirley will have bags of peat-free compost again, in Ipsden Store, as in the last three years.

**Mandy Small**

## **An Easter Egg Hunt? Of Course There Was!**

The children from Early Days Nursery had the most wonderful adventure last Thursday before the end of term. The sun came out and we had a lovely walk up to the church for an Easter Celebration Service and egg hunt

Rev'd John Blair told us about why we celebrate Easter and that it is always celebrated in Spring. He showed us a video about the Gruffalo's Child making a garden in Spring and also a very funny video about the Easter Bunny and how he hid his eggs. As usual, John was very patient with our many questions and slight diversions from the topic at hand, making our learning all the richer.



We then went to the church grounds and had a very exciting time hunting for eggs. We were each allowed one egg (it was very close to lunch, after all!) before going back to nursery. The children had a brilliant morning and the Nursery would like to again extend their thanks to John for welcoming them so warmly. We know these visits give them very special memories.

By the way, we are always trying to link the children with the history and community of the village. So, if anyone knows of anything within the village that they would benefit from seeing or learning from, please do let us know!

**Rebecca Fern**