



The Window

November
2020



Woodhouse Farm: Past and Present



My grandfather, Glynne Williams, built Hailey House in 1914, replacing a TB sanatorium, and then acquired a thousand acres of farmland around the house; this is now known as Woodhouse Farm.

Glynne lost two sons in the Great War; my father, Adrian, having joined up in August 1914, was the only surviving sibling. He came back to

Hailey in 1940 to farm with his wife, Betty, where they brought up their four children.

Today we still farm about the same area in Ipsden, together with 400 acres rented in Checkendon and Woodcote. Of the total of around 1,400 acres, 900 are in the arable rotation, 100 acres have been taken out of arable and put into environmental features, 200 acres are permanent pasture, and there are 150 acres of woodland. The Farm is managed with a single employee, Steve Atkinson. The pasture is let to Alex Bunce for his flock of sheep. The arable operations are undertaken by HBH Farming based in Ipsden.



Arable crops consist of winter wheat (much of which is contracted to Warburtons for breadmaking), winter and spring barley, beans and peas, and maize mainly for Guy Hildred's anaerobic digester. Oilseed rape has this year

been discontinued due to the lack of an effective deterrent for the cabbage stem flea beetle, and we decided against growing opiate poppies again.

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Woodhouse Farm (Continued)

Some environmental features are permanent grass mixes, others are resown every two or three years such as pollen and nectar mixes which vary in colourfulness, but all are free of insecticides etc and

provide good feed for songbirds and safe areas for ground-nesting birds such as skylarks.



In recent years we have planted one and a half miles of hedgerows, which act as wildlife corridors, and several thousand trees. In addition to the public Rights of Ways, over the last 25 years we have created three and a half miles of permissive bridleways.



There is a shooting syndicate now in its 53rd year which was written up in the Shooting Times on the occasion of its 50th anniversary.

The Farm is jointly owned by several members of the Williams and Hart families. For 30 years until his death in 2006 my brother-in-law, Stephen Hart, ran the Farm including his flock of 1,000 Hartline ewes. Stephen was recognised as a true countryman and conservationist with a wide range of rural interests.



This year's harvest may have been lean, but farming is full of ups and downs, and the rolling downland, beech woods and glorious views help to make up for any setbacks.

Vaughan Williams

Caption Competition Time

It's competition time and this one can be entered from the comfort of your armchair, sofa, hammock or any other restful item. So leave your trainers, tracksuits, anoraks, walking boots, bicycles, skate boards and all other energetic gear in the shoe box, locker or shed because all you need is a crystal clear, imaginative, creative mind!



This photograph, with the Berkshire Downs in the distance, was taken a few weeks ago up the hill from Hailey and shows breeding ewes coming up to two years old on Woodhouse Farm land in a field known as "Lovers' Patch".

The challenge is to suggest a caption for the photograph. Multiple entries are permitted. There is no age limit and family entries are welcome.

Entries, confirming name and/or family, should be emailed to The Window email address ipsden.window@gmail.com to be received no later than midnight on Sunday 15 November. All entries will be anonymised and sent to the judges, Anne and Steve Atkinson.

The best entries will be published in the December edition of The Window. Good luck!

David Coldwell

Food Banks Need Us More Than Ever Before!

Please remember those who have to rely on food banks at this very difficult time. Many in our communities have been adversely affected by loss of income and the risk of unemployment. Families, the elderly and disabled also turn to food banks for support.

Each case must be referred by a GP, Social Services or the Housing Department for assessment before food parcels are issued. At half term and during school holidays, many children may not have a main meal each day.



In North Stoke and Ipsden the church supports the Wallingford Food Bank and also "Readifood", the food bank in Reading, where there is serious hardship. The number of food parcels requested and delivered has increased considerably since the lockdown.

Above: Volunteers working in Readifood's warehouse

The items most needed are all kinds of tinned food – meat, fish, vegetables, beans, soup, rice pudding etc. Also breakfast cereals, long life milk, pasta and sauce, and baby food, baby milk and nappies. Toiletries such as toothpaste, soap, shampoo, and loo rolls.

You can also donate money to Readifood via their website www.readifood.org.uk/ or to Wallingford food bank via their website www.wallingfordfoodbank.org.uk/support/

Ipsden church has a food collection box in the porch, and North Stoke inside the church facing the door. North Stoke church is now open on Wednesday 10am -12 noon and Ipsden church on Thursday 10am-12noon. Please consider donating to the food bank. Just an extra tin or packet (from Shirley's shop or the supermarket) will really help when added to other donations.



Right: "The Bedroom Store" at Wallingford Emergency Food Bank

If you have any questions, please contact me on telephone 01491 680718 or by email at heatherl12410@hotmail.com. Many thanks for your help.

Heather Llewellyn

Support Ipsden Village Hall with AmazonSmile!

amazonsmile
You Shop. Amazon Gives.



Many of us are aware of and use Amazon, but do you know about AmazonSmile? AmazonSmile generates donations to registered charities from your purchases, at no cost to you or the charity. As our memorial hall is a registered charity, perhaps you might consider using AmazonSmile and choosing Ipsden Village Hall as your charity? It offers the same products and services as amazon.co.uk and recognises you as an Amazon Prime member if you are one.

Simply go to www.smile.amazon.co.uk or use the link below to set up your account, which will mirror your existing account: <https://smile.amazon.co.uk/ch/304321-0>. Please note that donations are raised every time you use the www.smile.amazon.co.uk site, but not if you use the regular Amazon site. Ipsden Village Hall is the charity name and has been set up, so it's all ready to go.

Ipsden Village Hall Committee

From Oxfordshire County Council



Street Tag is a family-friendly game app that rewards primary school pupils, communities and schools for their physical activities such as walking, running, cycling. The app turns physical activity into a game and converts steps or exercise into Street Tag points known as tags, turning the streets and parks in Oxfordshire into a giant virtual playground. The technology of the app also means that players can remain safely socially distanced from one another. See OCC's website for more details.

Used Postage Stamps

We are still collecting for the charity "Dogs for the Disabled". Please bring your old postage stamps to Shirley at Ipsden Village Store.

Shirley Small

View From the Vicarage: **November, a Month of Remembrance**



In the Christian liturgical calendar November is entirely devoted to the deceased. That is why it is dubbed the "Month of the Dead", or the "Month of Remembrance". *"The living owe it to those who no longer can speak to tell their story for them"*. [Czeslaw Milosz, who survived the German occupation of Warsaw during World War II to win the 1980 Nobel Prize in Literature]

We remember those who have left the world we still inhabit. We no longer hear their voices, but memories of them speak to our hearts. They have lived their lives on earth but now exist where time no longer dominates. *"To look backward for a while is to refresh the eye, to restore it, and to render it the more fit for its prime function of looking forward"*. [Margaret Fairless Barber]

The death of loved ones highlights for us the reality that everyone's human journey is moving forward. We are on pilgrimage headed for a place it is good for us to reach, and in the ordinary course of events, death comes more frequently as years add on to years. Age, illness, and unscheduled events highlight the precarious nature of our journey. When the pilgrimage is over the pilgrim will rest in the sanctuary of eternity. The Celts called it "peregrination", a wandering, a prolonged and spiritual journey towards our personally significant destination.

Knowing that our earthly passage is only temporary causes us to recognise that we are bound to something that is fleeting, that carries us along, whether we like to or not, every hour of every day, to a sacred meeting place where God awaits. Life is short and inevitably reaches its conclusion. In remembering those who have gone before us maybe we will receive the message from them, for ourselves: that *"The Spirit we have received is not the world's spirit but God's Spirit, helping us to recognize the gifts God has given us"*. [I Cor 2:12]

The whole month of November is an interesting time filled with the feast days of great saints, but also subtle portents of eternity. It begins with All Saints Day (established by Pope Gregory IV in AD 837), and is followed by 2 November, All Souls' Day (the Commemoration of the Faithful Departed).

Saint Odilo in AD 998 established 2 November as the date on which the monks at his monastery at Cluny would hold commemorations for their deceased members. And from Cluny, this date eventually won acceptance as "the" date for All Souls in the universal Church. November ends with the great feast of Christ the King, which is a reminder of the end of days and the second coming of Christ in glory.

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A Month of Remembrance (Continued)



All over the world, people will make pilgrimages to the resting places of their relatives, tending their graves with loving care. In some countries wreaths and flowers are laid, and candles will be kept lit. As

night descends, graveyards in these places are aglow with the warm light of literally thousands of flickering candles, creating an eerie, incredibly evocative atmosphere that should not be missed by anyone with a heart that still beats.

Remembrance in the Church is much deeper than a mere recollection of history or recitation of scripture. There is something very profound in what we do. Something below the surface. Something lasting. Something mysterious. Something eternal. What that is is difficult to explain or to pinpoint within the limits of human reason. It is a subject best understood by the ascetics and mystics for whom time takes on a different character from our normal thinking.

"The Now in which God created the first man and the Now in which the last man will disappear and the Now in which I am speaking — all are the same in God and there is only one Now". [Meister Eckhardt]

This is the essence of remembering: the present moment contains all moments, past, present, and future. Here is a prayer that you may find helpful in your own remembrances:

Lord, the death of my loved one has hit me hard. Ours was a relationship built slowly, over years of shared experiences. A friendship of that depth is beyond value, and I find memories of my loved one in many places. This death has made me aware of my own mortality and has challenged my faith. Yet I hope in You. Your power over death and the rewards of Your promised kingdom are the only consolations I can find at this difficult time. Keep my faith and the faith of all who cared for my loved one strong. Let us always be a source of support and comfort to one another. Amen. [Taken from: "Prayers for Healing, Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate".]

"The legacy of heroes is the memory of a great name and the inheritance of a great example". [Benjamin Disraeli]

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A Month of Remembrance (Continued)



In 1994 I was invited to join a coach load of veterans of A Company 13 PARA, and their wives in Belgium to mark the 50th Anniversary of the Battle of Bure. The party was led by Major Jack Watson who walked us through the battle: you can read his account for yourselves at www.battleofthebulgememories.be/en/stories/british-army/814-the-british-at-bure-during-the-battle-of-the-ardennes.html

I drove across from Germany and joined them in their hotel the night before. We assembled at Bure the following morning - I dressed in cassock and the veterans in their blazers with berets and medals. We assembled at the "forming-up point" on the outskirts of the village and walked through the battle, stopping to recall where enemy tanks, mortars and rifle fire slowed the company's progress. My services were called upon where one of their number was killed, and we stood in silence while I said a prayer for the repose of the soldier's soul. And then we moved on, through the village and back round to the field where the dead were buried after the battle. And then to the church, where we I conducted a service of Holy Communion. These men were held in high esteem by the village of Bure, and when the War Graves Commission turned up to move the bodies to the (nearby) War Cemetery at Hotton, I believe the villagers were very upset because these men belonged to them! The graves in Hotton are lovingly attended by school children to this very day.

I am reminded of a conversation with a tour guide many years later in the tunnels and caves at Ales (Battle of The Somme). I noticed a map which showed the location of War Cemeteries in the area - each one a red spot, 500 of them (it looked like the map had measles!), and I remarked on it as I expressed my admiration for the young man's recall of detail. "Ah!" he said, "*we are brought up with the war-dead: every village has a Marie, a church, a bank if you're lucky, but more importantly its own war cemetery!*"

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Hotton War Cemetery, Belgium



A Month of Remembrance (Continued)



Here, at home, we have our village memorials to adorn with our poppies – across the channel Remembrance has a different dimension.

A pilgrimage is a journey, often into an unknown or foreign place, where a person goes in search of new or expanded meaning about their self, others, nature, or a higher good, through the experience.

Taking a pilgrimage is important for a variety of reasons. For those who fought on the battlefields, a pilgrimage provides an opportunity not only to visit their fallen comrades, but for closure that may only be possible through revisiting the site(s) of so many memories. For those who lost family and loved ones on the fields, a pilgrimage is a way to shorten the distance between home and the site of their loss. For people who only connect with the battlefields through history books and our national heritage, visiting these sites is an opportunity to more fully understand the sacrifices that were made by many for the freedom that we continue to enjoy today.



*Blessings,
Canon John*

A Poem by Archibald MacLeish:

*The young dead soldiers do not speak.
Nevertheless, they are heard in the still houses:
who has not heard them?
They have a silence that speaks for them at night
and when the clock counts.
They say: We were young. We have died.
Remember us.*

*They say: We have done what we could
but until it is finished it is not done.
They say: We have given our lives but until it is finished
no one can know what our lives gave.
They say: Our deaths are not ours: they are yours,
they will mean what you make them.
They say: Whether our lives and our deaths were for
peace and a new hope or for nothing we cannot say,
it is you who must say this.
We leave you our deaths. Give them their meaning.
We were young, they say. We have died; remember us.*

November Church Services

In November we will continue to open our churches for brief periods each week for private prayer and Holy Communion. The churches will be open from 10am until midday, as follows:

Wednesdays 4, 11, 18 & 25 November at St Mary's North Stoke
Thursdays 5, 12, 19 & 26 November at St Mary's Ipsden
Said Holy Communion will be celebrated at 1030am (except at N Stoke on 11 November, when it will be a little earlier—see below)
Masks or face coverings must be worn and social distancing rules observed. Please follow the directions posted at the church door.

Scheduled Zoom Services will continue - www.zoom.us

Ipsden & North Stoke Sunday Worship Sundays at 10am

Meeting ID: 188 513 761, Password: 019797

Ipsden & North Stoke Evening Prayer Wednesdays at 5pm

Meeting ID: 410 935 129, Password: 028369

Ipsden & North Stoke COMPLINE Fridays at 8pm

Meeting ID: 726 350 423, Password: 005873

Remembrance Sunday and Armistice Day

The Zoom Service at 10am on 8 November (**Remembrance Sunday**) will be a Service of Remembrance with a focus on our two War Memorials, but there will be no gathering arranged at the memorials themselves. The service will end in good time for you to switch on BBC to join in whatever is happening in London.



There will be abbreviated (Covid-secure) Wreath Laying ceremonies at the memorials on Wednesday 11 November (**Armistice Day**), as arranged and controlled by the Churchwardens. 10.45am at North Stoke (after Holy Communion which will start a little earlier than usual) and 11.05am at Ipsden.

Poppy Appeal and Remembrance Collections

Sadly, the local door-to-door poppy appeals around the villages will not take place this year. Poppies, gift-aid envelopes and collection boxes will be available at the Ipsden Store, the Blue Tin shop, the King William and Early Days Nursery. In normal times, the collections for Remembrance Sunday services would be made by the churches and then donated in total to the Royal British Legion (RBL). This year, if you wish to make a donation to RBL, we encourage you to do this direct to RBL via their website <https://www.britishlegion.org.uk/get-involved/ways-to-give/donate>. Of course, donations can still be made direct to each church as detailed in the "In Lieu of Church Collection" panel opposite but the money will not then be forwarded to RBL.

In Lieu of Church Collections

As you know, at present we have no weekly church collections, so if you would like to make a financial contribution to one of our churches please do so online at <http://langtreechurches.org/donations>.

Or scan the appropriate QR Code to your mobile phone, which will take you to the "give-a-little" webpage for your church.

St Mary's NORTH STOKE



Or you can make online payments to
North Stoke PCC 20-01-09 10726400

St Mary's IPSDEN



Or you can make online payments to
Ipsden PCC 30-99-03 00153548

Or, for a regular contribution, you can set up a standing order with your bank using the same bank details. Please pass the word!

John Blair

The Window Needs *Your* Help!

Please remember that The Window is about your villages, so we are always on the lookout for articles that will interest people in Ipsden, Mongewell and North Stoke. Without your help The Window would not exist. In these times in particular, with very few events taking place, we need short articles, say between 100 and 400 words, with supporting photographs or a graphic if possible. You do not have to be a good writer but just be able to identify a subject of local interest; we will help with the exact wording if you need it. You'd be surprised: what may appear mundane to you could well be news and of interest to others. Please send your contributions to ipsden.window@gmail.com; they are encouraged and welcome from anyone!

The Editor

Ipsden Parish Council 2020 Annual Summary

Your Parish Council has largely been able to continue with its duties as normal during the global Coronavirus pandemic. The only noticeable change has been the requirement to cancel the usual bi-monthly public meetings in the village hall. However, we transitioned to holding the meetings via Zoom.

We publicised the arrangements and access to link codes on the website and can happily report that the meetings have been attended by all Councillors and our Clerk as normal, as well as good numbers of members of the public. Government advice is to continue to hold meetings in this way for the foreseeable future, so for those interested in attending, please keep an eye on the village website at www.ipsdenvillage.co.uk for announcements regarding forthcoming meetings.

Please also keep an eye on the website for Coronavirus news and seek help via ipsden_support@btinternet.com or phone David Coldwell on 01491 681857 if you are required to self-isolate and need assistance with supplies.

Many Parish Council activities and duties are routine and rarely hit the headlines, they range from planning submissions to SODC through to arrangements for dog bins! A few of the more public matters attended to this year have included:

- completion of a phase of safety measures on the A4074 (see the full report on the website in the April edition of The Window)
- playground repairs to the timber wall, goal posts and picnic benches
- modification of the playground to enable re-opening and safe use during the pandemic
- maintenance of certain ditches and paths (in the absence of Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) attendance)
- a donation to the church of £1,000 to help with funding for the new WC
- new employment arrangements with our litter-picker to empty dog waste bins. Note that this was to avoid an eightfold increase in charges from Biffa because SODC have stopped subsidising this service at short notice
- replacement of the failed Armistice Oak and its broken inscription plate



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IPC 2020 Annual Summary (Continued)



Parish councillors have also considered and supported a number of requests from residents, one of which included opposition to a proposed Definitive Map Modification Order at Hailey requiring research and attendance at meetings with OCC officers.

A sad piece of news is that our Clerk, Amanda McCrea, will be leaving us after 5 years of dedicated service. Amanda has carried out her duties with an extremely high level of care and professionalism. She has also been a pleasure to work with. Councillors are sorry to see her leave, but we wish her well and are pleased to welcome Moira Holloway who will take over the role of parish clerk from 1 October 2020. Contact details for the Clerk remain the same ipsdenpc@gmail.com

Should residents wish to see more detail regarding parish council activities, minutes of meetings are published on the village website and on the noticeboard at the village shop. All villagers are also invited to join the village group email list in order to receive notices regarding county, district and parish council information; please email ipsdenpc@gmail.com stating Village Group Email in the subject line if you wish to be included. All addresses are held in confidence by the Clerk, and outgoing mails will not show any other addresses.

Finally, whilst potholes are a big problem for all of us, the parish council is forbidden to deal with them. Only the OCC roads contractors are allowed to attend to them. Please use the following link to have potholes attended to www.fixmystreet.oxfordshire.gov.uk. It generally works within 10 working days.

Ipsden Parish Councillors thank all in the village for their support. Your Councillors are: **Nick Miller, John Jeffery, Heather Llewellyn, Wendy Clark, and David Coldwell**



Citizens Advice Needs Volunteer Advisers

We can all face problems that are too stressful or complicated to sort out alone. Last year our 150 volunteers advised over 11,000 people. We helped three quarters resolve their debt, benefits, employment and housing problems.

We now need more advisers to help us during and after the Covid-19 crisis. Our main offices are in Abingdon, Didcot, Henley and Thame. Since March, 90 volunteers and staff have been advising the public from home on our Adviceline service. Recently we partially re-opened our offices, in part to train new advisers.

What will you get out of it? You will join a friendly team, meet new people, develop your skills and make a real difference to people's lives. You'll need to have good listening and interpersonal skills, a willingness to learn and be confident with computers. Full training will be provided. If you have eight hours a week to spare for the next two years or more and are looking for a satisfying and stimulating volunteer role in your local community, please contact us at:

www.citizensadvice.org.uk/local/oxfordshire-south-vale/volunteer/

Darius Halpern

Job Redundancy: Check Your Rights and Talk to Citizens' Advice

One of the most serious outcomes of the current pandemic problem is that thousands of people in the UK are losing their jobs. If you are one of these people, and are made redundant or offered voluntary redundancy, it is important that you thoroughly understand your rights and options.

The first thing to do if you are at risk of redundancy is to look at your contract of employment, which will spell out your basic rights. Make sure that your company abides by these conditions. Also, consider other sources of help such as your union if you belong to one. Bear in mind that if you have been in the job for less than two years you do not have as much job protection, but if for more than two years, your employer has to follow certain procedures, e.g. find you another job in the company if possible. You can check that your redundancy pay is fair by using the calculator at <https://www.gov.uk/calculate-your-redundancy-pay>.

All the implications of redundancy are helpfully described on the Citizens Advice website at <https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/work/leaving-a-job>. The website also gives advice about claiming benefits or dealing with your debts if you need this. You can talk to an adviser on our Adviceline, 0300 330 9042. Visit www.ca.org.uk to find your local Citizens Advice office.

Darius Halpern

Our Local Hospital – Busy as Usual!



It is business as usual at Wallingford Community Hospital, and a busy time with flu jabs in particular (hope you have had yours!).

For those of you unfamiliar with the hospital, it has room for 30 beds but present staffing levels mean we are open to just 16 beds; this may well change as winter pressures start to build. The

winter can be a challenging time for our older population, with many of our patients suffering from falls, sometimes related to infections, and all are in need of a period of rehabilitation. This may take several weeks and a major part of what we do at Wallingford, in common with other community hospitals, is arranging a discharge package. It is a complex process requiring much co-ordination with different services, so involves sourcing various care services, district nurses, specialist nurses and provision of equipment. Discharge Planning is a full-time job and it is essential to get it right if patients are to go home safe and comfortable within their own homes.

Our medical cover (in hospital-speak that means doctors!) is provided by the partners at the Wallingford Medical Practice. They visit the wards daily and do a full round once a week, this is on top of their patient load at the practice. They are not always on the ward and although patients coming to us are not acutely ill, they can and do become so from time to time. Without a doctor at the end of a “bleep”, you must think on your feet at times! Our nursing staff are fully trained to deal with acute situations.

One of my main roles is nurse training and I am delighted that we can now welcome back our Student Nurses from Oxford Brooks University. It is such a joy to have them back after Covid restricted their placements.

Now, as I write, we have no patients or staff on the ward with Covid-19. All our patients are tested weekly and when we take patients from the acute sector, they go into quarantine for 14 days. We have a simple but effective traffic light system which denotes the Covid status within a bay or side room. Red = Covid positive, Amber = incubating and Green = safe. Staff wear the level of PPE appropriate to the colour.

There are other steps as well that we are taking to minimise the spread of potential infections: wider spaces between beds and restrictions on visiting to name a couple. Our preventative procedures are reviewed weekly by an independent infection consultant. And while none of us know what this winter might bring, I am sure that we have learnt lessons and developed procedures which will help us manage and contain a second wave.

Siobhan Bennett

Welcome Corner

Thank you to Jill Yates for her idea to say a big hello from the villages to all new residents, or those who've been here a while, who, because there have been no village events since lockdown began, have not had the chance to meet. Normally our villages are very friendly with lots to be involved in, but with not much happening at present, Jill felt people should have the opportunity to introduce themselves. If any of you are newish to Ipsden, Mongewell and North Stoke and would like to send a short introduction of yourselves, plus a photo if you are willing, please email details to ipsden.window@gmail.com.

As you might expect, there are no forthcoming events to report.

Ipsden Village Lottery Tickets

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

Clare Davis

Ipsden Village Lottery Winners

26 September	No winner
3 October	Barbara Holtom
10 October	Barbara Holtom!
17 October	Colin Hives
24 October	Katrin Llewellyn
31 October	See next edition

Distribution of The Window

With effect from this edition, we are re-commencing delivery of paper copies to individual homes in Ipsden, Mongewell and North Stoke. Thanks to Tammy Bast, who now takes over arranging distribution from Gillian Kelley, and her team of deliverers, doing a great job of it for so long. We will follow Government and Church of England advice and take necessary precautions on the printing and distribution to minimise the risk of infection. Access to The Window also continues to be via the Ipsden village website. Some paper copies are available in Shirley's shop in Ipsden for individual collection. Alternatively, if you would like to print your own copy in A5 booklet form, please send a request email to ipsden.window@gmail.com and you will be sent a pdf file in the correct format for double-sided A4 colour printing.

Please note that the copy deadline for the next edition is 20 November