

Hambleton VALLEY

Group Magazine

Annual Subscription £18

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June 2024



The Hambleton Valley Group of Churches
"To see our lives and communities transformed by the love of God"

*#Hambleton
with Frieth
& Skirmett
Fawley
Findest
Medmenham
Turville*



Cover: Marsh Orchids (Early?), Medmenham. This page: 'SLOW Ducklings Crossing' sign, Skirmett Road.

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Weekday Services

Wednesday - 9.30am, Zoom
Daily Prayer - 10.15am, Holy
Communion, Fingest

Emergencies:

If you are unable to contact the Group
Priests, please get in touch with your
churchwarden.

All contributions are welcome, to the
Editor, Penny McLeish
hambledenvalleyeditor@gmail.com

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Please keep articles within 350 words. Copy
deadline is 15th of the month.

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Group Letter

One of the joys of rural ministry is the variety of events and services that take place throughout the year, many of which carry their own unfolding stories, touching us both locally and nationally. Take June, for example. This month we have the opportunity to celebrate the 175th anniversary of the consecration of Frieth Church on 5th June.

And then on 6th June the nation will commemorate the 80th anniversary of the D-Day Landings, described as the 'largest seaborne invasion in history.' Perhaps surprisingly, despite being a long way from the sea, the D-Day Landings also touched the people of the Hambleden Valley on a local level.

Local families have shared stories of 1944 when, along either side of the Avenue in Turville Heath, dugouts were created to train soldiers. That long straight stretch of road, lined with trees, replicated French roads.

I wonder how many people took refuge in our ancient churches as a result of that day, to give thanks to God or to seek his comfort and compassion.

While we reflect on those stories that link with our past, we have the privilege of being part of new stories as June heralds a sprinkling of weddings in our churches, with couples starting a fresh chapter in their lives and new anniversaries in the making. And many a proposal is made in the beautiful surroundings of the Valley on that journey to the marriage service!

And what about us? What are the stories that are, or have been, or will be unfolding in our lives? Wherever we are in our journey, our churches continue to offer a refuge where everyone is warmly welcome to slip inside - or to join us at a service - and to surround themselves with those ancient prayer-soaked walls; here there is a sense of the God who loves each one of us, and who will continue to lovingly hold our own unfolding stories of our past, our present and our future in the palm of his hand.

Sue

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GROUP NOTES

Wild Church!

Wild Church Celebrates World Milk Day!



DID YOU KNOW THAT WORLD MILK DAY is an annual event established by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations to raise awareness and highlight the significance of milk as a vital food source worldwide?



So! Where would you go to celebrate this day? Why Lacey's Farm in Lane End of course! Six generations of Laceys have farmed in Lane End since the 1880s, specialising in Guernsey cattle since the 1930s.

So, Wild Church celebrated this event at the farm on 12th May, together with 32 adults and 9 children.



Sue Morton opened the afternoon in the orchard with an explanation of what we would see, then a prayer and hymn with support from the Wild Choir. Gid Lacey continued to tell us briefly about the farm and explained



that the cows had to be pregnant to produce the milk; we were then led through the fields overlooking the Valley where Fingest Church nestles, with a skylark flying high overhead singing to us. In one field there were cows getting ready to be milked, which coincided nicely with our return to the farm. The cows were very aware of what they had to do – two rows of ten all standing neatly facing a little feeding trough while the cow's udders and the milk clusters were cleaned and then fitted to the cows. It took no time at all, and the cows knew exactly when the job was finished! The



cows followed each other out of the milking parlour and back to the field. All very civilised! Gid explained to me that occasionally milking didn't go to plan and that was why he was occasionally late for the Wednesday Zoom Service. Quite understandable. Each cow is milked twice a day and produces about 6,500 litres of milk annually which is then bottled and either sold in the farm shop or goes to local cheese makers.



Continued on page 7

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The day finished with a return to the orchard with the promise of tea and cake, a prayer and milk experiments using food dye and washing up liquid, and 'milking' using a pierced rubber glove for udders, and water! The final hymn's words reminded us that God has Lacey's Farm together with the "Whole World in His hands".

Brian Barnes



Sunday 9th June 2024 at 3pm

Wild Pottery at the Turville Studios
RG9 6QL (opposite the Bull and Butcher)



Join us to create wild pottery with the help of our local potter, visit the creative Turville Studios and spend time alongside goats and ponies in Turville's beautiful countryside!

**We meet outside, so please do dress for the weather and bring a fold up chair, flask of tea/coffee/drinks; there will be cake! **

Some parking available on site – look out for the Wild Church banners!

Future Wild Church:

Sunday 14th July 3pm : Hambleden - TBC

August – Wild Church takes a holiday

Sunday 8th September: Wild Church returns!

Wild Church Team: Rev Sue Morton 07808 517347 or suemorton131@gmail.com

Mary Campbell

grandma.marycampbell@googlemail.com

Mardi Wilkins WhatsApp: 07988 030519;

Magdalena Dabrowska magda@rmb.london

Organist Vacancy Prayer

Loving God, we thank you for the wonderful power of prayer that you placed in our hands.

We give you such gratitude for Christine Wells, our former Director of Music, and now pray together for a new Organist and Choir Leader, who has a deep sense of calling to join us here in the Hambleden Valley.

Loving God thank you that you use ordinary people, equip them, and guide them to do great things for your glory.

We offer you this prayer in Jesus' name and in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Community Matters

As well as giving a palm cross and a voucher for Easter eggs as mentioned in last month's bulletin, we were also able to enrol some of the families' children onto the very popular play scheme which operates from Lane End Community Centre over the Easter period. As always, the children loved it and especially the day out which was a visit to the Goat Centre.

Something families find hard to manage is the cost of attending hospital for treatment/tests following a diagnosis. Most of the hospitals they have to attend are some distance away so we have been able to help with money towards petrol and car parking charges. Also, we have paid for a prescription to a father on a very low income which, nevertheless, precludes him from claiming benefit. This would be included if he was not working!

All of the above and including, of course, the food bank would not be possible without the generosity of so many people and we are indeed blessed to have such great support from the Hambleden Valley Group of Churches – so as always, a huge thank you to you all.

Judy Taylor

WILDLIFE

WILDLIFE

Frieth Natural History Society

Following last year's successful orchid viewing walk, FNHS have arranged a visit to Greenfield Farm, Christmas Common on the morning of Tuesday 18th June.

Andrew Ingram will welcome us to his 10-acre wildflower meadow surrounded by woodland, established 28 years ago under the Countryside Stewardship Scheme. A traditional Chiltern chalkland meadow in a beautiful peaceful setting with 100 species of perennial wildflowers, grasses and ten species of orchids. ½m walk from parking area to meadow.

Anyone is welcome to join us, but for further details of the start time, where to park and to book your place, please make contact.

Andy 01494 881586, Mary 01494 881501 or email FNHS2023@gmail.com

Mary Webb

A Naturalist's Reminiscence No.7

Just before I passed out of Eaton Hall Officer Cadet School in Chester, the War Office indicated that there was a requirement for an attachment to the British Gurkhas in India and Nepal as a Recruiting Officer. They should have stipulated that this posting was for Regular rather than National Service officers.

Since the Suffolk Regiment was serving in Germany, a country I already knew, I felt the India and Nepal posting was much more interesting. Another more cogent reason was that the CO (Commanding Officer) of Eaton Hall was investigating damage to the anatomy of Hugh Lupus's brass horse together with complaints from the Duke of Westminster's gamekeepers of poaching allegedly by an officer cadet.

I thought a language qualification would be useful but I didn't know what the Gurkhas spoke. It might be a variant of Hindi. So, on the Friday before the Monday interview

I nipped into Chester to one of the oldest bookshops in the UK to enquire whether the bookseller had any books on Hindi? 'Oh, no sir', he said 'I do not have much call for them since the end of the British Raj'. Obviously, I must have looked very disappointed so he invited me to come into his display room at the back.

There were book shelves up the walls stacked with volumes coated in dust. I remember him saying 'you take that shelf and I'll take this shelf' and in no time we found a book of Hindi exercises and a Hindi dictionary. I spent the entire weekend swotting up the language. On the Monday there was nobody there who could speak Gurkhali so I added a few Urdu words for good measure.

If I secured the posting I knew I was entitled to a 3-week embarkation leave so I could learn whatever they spoke in Nepal. They kept asking me whether I was sure I wanted this posting to which I responded in the affirmative so I was offered it with the proviso that I was required out there immediately. So, a week later I arrived in Calcutta.

In my next reminiscence I will describe my travel up to tiger territory in Nepal.

Alfred Waller

The Beautiful Blue

The full programme of events taking place can be seen and booked on the River and Rowing Museum's website <https://rrm.co.uk/event/the-beautiful-blue/>

Highlighting one event, which involves local volunteers - **Saturday 8th June at 2.15pm**, a screening of 'SLOW: Toad Patrol'. A poignant, inspiring, and soul-stirring documentary that delves into grassroots wildlife conservation efforts. The 30-minute screening will be followed by a Q&A discussion with Henley Toad Patrol volunteers and the two directors.

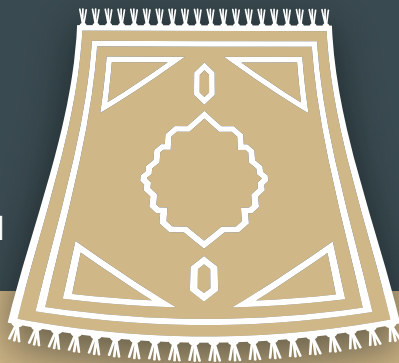
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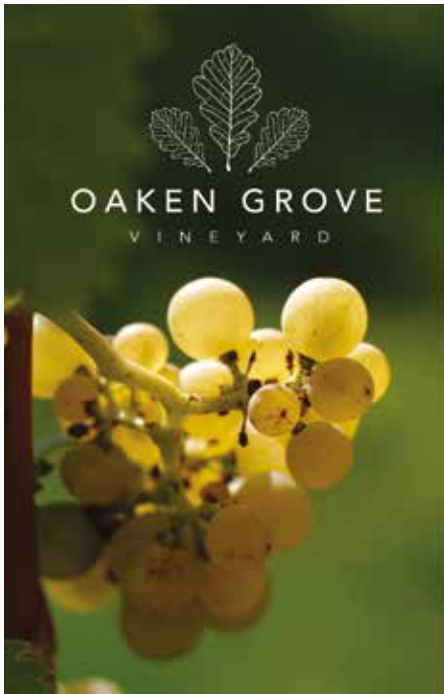


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The session will last between 60 - 90 minutes,
all are welcome to attend including children
over 9



Transport may be available - please contact the Clerk on
01494 881 483 or clerk@hambleden.org.uk to discuss or for
further information

How It All Began

Over 100 of us gathered in the Village Hall on 26th April to hear my talk on the early years of Hambleden. At £5 a head, we were able to put over £500 into the Village Hall funds.

Has the Village Hall ever housed more people?! It was an old-fashioned village event!

Thank you all for turning out to listen to my ramblings. Another presentation is on the drawing board.

Chris Whitehead

Art Exhibition



Howard Birchmore hosts a diverse and eclectic artistic group in Hambleden Village Hall over the weekend of Saturday 1st and Sunday 2nd June (10am to 5pm). Refreshments are on sale with a collection for Great Ormond Street Hospital.



Howard Birchmore



Open Gardens

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Saturday 8th June 12-4 pm

Tickets : Adults £5, children free
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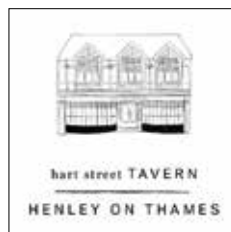
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CHURCH SERVICES AND EVENTS

From The Registers

Holy Baptism

April 28 Minnie Alice Allegra Sassoon and Kit Arthur Alfred Sassoon Hambleden

Rest in Peace

April 22 Eric Dawson Funeral and Burial, Hambleden

May 8 Elizabeth (Lizzie) Arnott Cremation



Hambleden Valley Prayer Group

We have formed a contemplative listening and confidential prayer group, forming a circle round the valley with God at the centre. If you would like prayer please send a request to the email below:

hambledenvalleypriergroup@gmail.com

LOCATION

POP - UP COFFEE MORNING IN HAMBLEDEN!



The Hambleden Village Hall Coffee Morning has invited the Location team from Grand Leo Productions UK Ltd to the Wednesday 5th June gathering running from 10am to 12:30pm.

Deborah and Esther are eager to meet the local Hambleden residents to discuss any questions or queries you may have about the filming occurring this Summer! If you are not able to make the coffee morning, please send any and all queries to 3bf.locationdept@gmail.com

We hope to see you there!

CALENDAR FOR JUNE 2024

Sunday Services

Pattern of Worship June 2024

Please see below for Sunday services. There will also be Zoom services at 9:30am, Wednesdays and 12noon, Churchyard Prayers at Fawley on Fridays. The 10.15am midweek Holy Communion on Wednesdays has moved, temporarily, to Fingest, and there are no services at Turville for 5/6 months owing to ongoing conservation works. Please check our website www.hambleden-valley-churches.org.uk for latest updates or contact our administrator Jenny Neagle on 07769 599616 – hambledenvallyoffice@gmail.com with any query.

www.hambleden-valley-churches.org.uk

	Fawley	Fingest	Frieth	Hambleden	Medmenham	Turville
2nd June	10am Group Service					
9th June	11am Holy Communion	9am Holy Communion		11am Holy Communion		3pm Wild Church, The Studios, Turville
16th June			9am Holy Communion	8am BCP Holy Communion 10am Lay-led Morning Worship	11am Village Service	
23rd June	11am Holy Communion	6pm Compline	9am, Holy Communion	11am Holy Communion		
30th June			8am BCP Holy Communion		11am Holy Communion	
7th July					10am Group Service	

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FILMING DATES (14 days, no weekends)

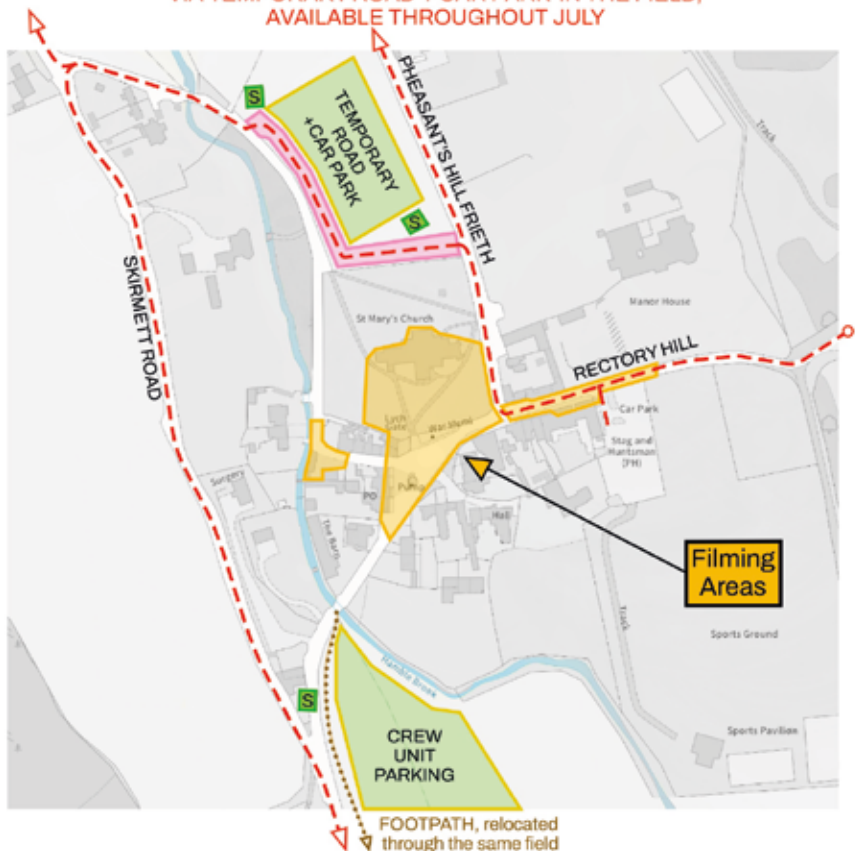
Wed 3rd July - Wed 17th July + Tues 23rd July - Thurs 25th July

During filming, businesses will remain open as usual.

As there will be Traffic Management in the village during our filming hours, we ask that visitors and residents use the free, 24hr temporary car park or the "Stag & Huntsman Inn" car park for your ease.

If you, or your visitors, need assisted access into the village, please speak to security - the green **S** points on the map below.

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FRIETH

Frieth School

A few weeks back, Frieth pupil, Mabel Bruce was our headteacher for the day. Miss Bruce proved to be extremely popular among pupils and staff alike having added an extra play time in the afternoon and loaded the staff room with biscuits and cakes! It was a busy day for her with gate duty, parent emails, leading an assembly and health & safety issues to sort, although she did manage to squeeze in some hot chocolate and biscuits in the staff room!



Congratulations to the children who were the winners of our ECO writing competition. Their work is now being collated along with Illustrations from children across the school and turned into a presentation book by Lynda Brown of 'Greener Frieth'. This will then be hand delivered directly to Coca-Cola head office! It's great to work with the local community on such an important issue and we are very much enjoying



building a close relationship with our local environmental group.



Over the last few weeks our children have visited Lady Ryder Memorial Garden at Parmoor. They have had an amazing time learning about the different plants and planting sun flower seeds. We can't wait to watch them grow!



Continued on page 21



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Well done to our netballers in their doubleheader against Robertswood. In a very close encounter, the girls team lost 10-7 before the mixed team won 20-1. All children played brilliantly and showed great sportsmanship.



Well done to our footballers for their performance against Spinfield. Despite the 2-0 loss, the children played with great skill and determination and deserved more than the result would suggest. Under Mr Burn's leadership, the footballers have come so far this season and should be proud.

A few weeks back, Owls class joined Mole, Ratty, Toad and Badger on a wild adventure filled with motorcar madness, exciting escapes and plenty of messing about in boats at the River and Rowing Museum in Henley-on-Thames. They had great fun and were fine ambassadors for the school.



Martin Gosling
Headteacher

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MEDMENHAM

MEDMENHAM

Medmenham Camp Iron Age Hill Fort

The following is taken from an information board in Gillman's Wood, Medmenham. If anyone knows more about this, please let me know. Penny McLeish (Editor).

In 2004, Archaeology in Marlow (now part of Marlow Archaeological Society) successfully applied for a grant from the Local Heritage Initiative, through the Heritage Lottery Fund, to survey for local earthworks. One of which was Medmenham Iron Age Hill Fort.

Medmenham Hill Fort is known as Medmenham Camp or Gillman's (Guilleman's) Wood. In mediaeval times there was a Chantry Priest who lived in a building within the Fort, a Guilleman or hermit. The Hill Fort dates from the Iron Age between 2,000 and 2,700 years ago. In 1959

a knife blade, believed to be Bronze Age in date (2,700 to 700) years ago, was found on the south-west rampart.

The earthwork is roughly pear-shaped and occupies an area approximately 6.5 hectares. Its height varies from 100 to 125m above sea level and it stands about 25m above the floodplain of the River Thames below. The earthwork consists of a substantial rampart or bank running round the west, north and east flanks of the Hill Fort, although the east flank has almost been ploughed out over the millennia. At the north-west corner of the Hill Fort a second rampart can be seen adding to Fort's defences.



A profile was taken here with the dotted line indicating the probable heights and depths of the original banks and ditches, as well as a wooden palisade which would have probably been constructed upon the inner bank improving the defensive capabilities.

The southern face of the Hill Fort is a chalk cliff which rises from the floodplain of the river below.

Iron Age Hill Forts seem to have several uses. Some contained grain stores, some had settlements or might have been trading posts or toll stations, while others showed no signs



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

For further details of Puppy School and other dog training services, please go to the Tip Top Puppy and Dog Training website or contact Melanie direct.

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

melanie@tiptopdogtraining.co.uk
07711 807109

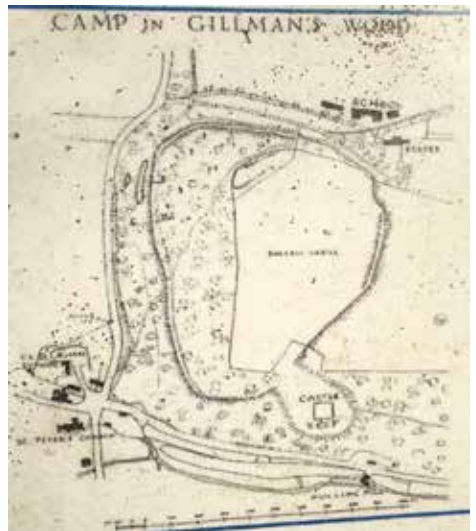
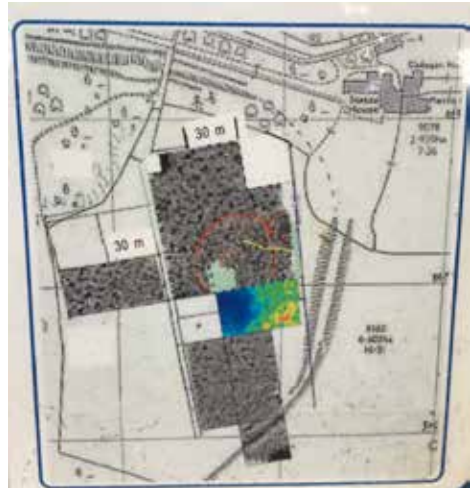
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of habitation at all. Their roles appear to be defensive or protective.

The tribe which occupied this area before the Roman invasion were the Catuvellauni. The tribe which occupied the south side of the Thames were the Atrebatas. Therefore, the Fort may have defended the frontier of the Catuvellauni's territory. Medmenham Camp is situated very close to Danesfield Camp another Hill Fort. The close proximity of these two structures may be coincidental as they may have been active in totally different periods within the 700 years of the Iron Age. Between 2005 and 2008, Archaeology in Marlow investigated this site. As the Hill Fort is a Scheduled Monument, Archaeology in Marlow was not permitted to conduct excavation work so a plan of non-invasive action was devised which included the gathering of research information, profiling, dowsing, plus theodolite and laser level surveying.

One of their tasks, was to try to locate a Norman castle built for Hugh de Bolebec. The map above is reproduced from a book written in 1958 by the Reverend Arthur Plaisted entitled *The Romance of a Chiltern Village*. Although Plaisted's map shows the castle and the castle's keep, despite extensive investigations, neither were located. However, a possible Iron Age enclosure (in red) and a probable dew pond (in blue) were recorded.



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HAMBLEDEN VALLEY GROUP OF CHURCHES

Priest-in-Charge: The Revd. Andy Storch, 07811 430898, Revandystorch@gmail.com

Associate Priest: The Revd. Sue Morton, 01491 639286, suemorton131@gmail.com

Organist Emeritus: Christine Wells BEM, 01491 571588, c@wells.vnworks.net

Group Treasurer: Stephen Sidders, 01491 639271 stephensidders@sky.com

Group Administrator: Jenny Neagle, 07769 599616, hambledenvalleyoffice@gmail.com

Weddings and Blessings: Jenny Neagle, 07769 599616, hambledenvalleyoffice@gmail.com

Tea Club: St. Katharine's, Parmoor, Tuesdays, 3 - 4.30pm
Wendy Duerden, 01491 638297, wendy.duerden@techademic.net

Barney's Toddler Group: Frieth Village Hall, Currently suspended

Hambleden Valley Garden Club:
Meetings October-March on the first Tuesday of the month, Frieth Village Hall.
Clair Honnor 07773 387195

Website:
www.hambleden-valley-churches.org.uk

FAWLEY (ST MARY THE VIRGIN)

Churchwarden: David Napier, 01491 574230, david_napier@btopenworld.com

Clerk to Fawley Parish Meeting and Village Hall booking:
David Burton - davidburtn83@hotmail.co.uk

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Jill Dean, 01491 638678, jill@sundawn.uk.com

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website www.friethvillagehall.org
email friethvillagehall@gmail.com
Tel 01494 880737

Frieth Natural History Society:
Mary 01494 881501, Andy 01494 881586, FNHS2023@gmail.com

Frieth Village Society: Caroline Walker 01494 882333

Frieth Cricket Club:
Ben Smiley
friethcricket@btinternet.com

Frieth Lunch Club: meets on last Friday of the month at the Yew Tree Pub.
Judy Hunt, 01494 882227
ajh.claypit1@btinternet.com

HAMBLEDEN (ST MARY THE VIRGIN)

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Jill Steward 01491 571320
jillsteward@hambleden.com

Deputy Churchwarden:
Sharon Smith 01628 487458
sharonsmith0505@btinternet.com

Bell Ringing: Fri 6.45pm practice, Helen or Karen, hambledenbells@mycomputer.email

Village Hall Bookings: Jamie Baker, 01491 410669, www.hambledenvillagehall.org

Pilates: Mondays 11 – 12 Fran Presho, 07951 019594

Bridge Club: Fridays 1.30 – 4.30
Frances Cugnoni, 01491 576409

Hambleden Social and Sports Club: Open daily from 8pm Pat Eldridge, 01491 576067

Tennis Club: Heather Symons, 01491 577344, heathersymons16@hotmail.com

Tennis Coaching: Chris Marshall,
07801 999230, chrismarshall20@hotmail.com

MEDMENHAM (ST PETER AND ST PAUL)

Churchwarden:
Vacant.

Village Hall Bookings: Emma Tentori,
07759 014396

Uniformed organisations:
1st Danesfield Scouts, Cubs and Beavers: leader Nick Currie,
enquiries@danefeldscouts.org.uk

Medmenham News:
medmenhamnews@icloud.com

SKIRMETT

Village Hall Bookings: Mandy Heller, 01491
638355 www.skirmettvillagehall.org

Tai Chi: Friday 9.30am - 10.30am.
Contact: junekingsburytaichi@gmail.com

TURVILLE (ST MARY THE VIRGIN)

Churchwarden:
Caroline Sants, 01491 638994
turvillechurchwardens@gmail.com

Bell Ringing: Wed practice,
Rachel Wallace, 01494 883025
rachel@markjwallace.com

Artists' studios: Turville Studios open the
first Sunday of every month 11am-4pm.
Angela Fois turvillestudios@aol.com
www.turvillestudios.co.uk

TURVILLE NORTHEND

Village Hall Bookings:
David & Susan Faragher 01491 638960 or
07563 903678, davidfaragher@fastmail.fm
smfaragher@fastmail.fm

Yoga: Tuesdays 7pm, Andrea 07496 281341

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www.hambleden.org.uk

Medmenham: Parish Clerk Carole Burslem
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Turville: Parish Clerk Lorna Coldwell,
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www.turvilleparishcouncil.org.uk

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