

Hambleton VALLEY

Group Magazine



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& Skirmett
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Findest
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Turville*

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Aug 2024



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



Cover: Medmenham Abbey taken from the river. This page: Fragrant Orchid, Homefield Wood.

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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



'How's the commute going, Sue?' asked one of my neighbours one Wednesday morning as I headed half a mile down the road from Turville to Fingest for the midweek service, Turville church being closed for conservation work.

As someone who used to commute to London daily - with the challenges of cancelled trains because of 'leaves on the line' or the 'wrong kind of snow' - commuting (if you can even call it that!) around the villages of the Hambleden Valley is an absolute joy! One of the many things that I notice on my travels is the creative ways that villages find to get together to support each other and our churches.

For example, in Turville, while the church is closed, people are getting together in the churchyard on Saturday mornings to create a Community Patchwork Tapestry to hang in the church on its reopening. The tapestry squares are being designed and stitched by the young and not-so-young, by those who live near and not-so-near, with a pause for some simple prayers interwoven into the sewing session.

Then in Hambleden churchyard there is tea and cake each summer Sunday afternoon while Fingest has its own church teas on Sunday 25th August, plus the much-loved annual outdoor service on Sunday 4th August at 10am.

In Fawley, people gather for Friday noon prayers in the churchyard, which was such a blessing while the church was closed; in Medmenham, on third Sundays, the Village Service continues to take place at 11am, followed by inviting refreshments! And Frieth flings open its doors to welcome in the School, and often parents, for several services throughout the year; the result is that children feel at home in its pews or confident standing at the front to speak.

So, I wonder how good are you at commuting? Could you jump in the car, walk, cycle, ride your horse to another village to join in with something new or to try a different church service? It's a great way to share ideas and support and, in August at least, there shouldn't be leaves on the line or the wrong kind of snow!

God bless,
Sue

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GROUP NOTES



Wild End of Term Party, Sunday 14th July 2024

Following in the footsteps of Jesus, Wild Church held its first outdoor baptism by the waters of the Brook in Skirmett. Read on for more details...!

Well, what a gathering we all had together! It was joyous - very relaxed yet had much purpose to all who attended...

The Wild Choir was in good voice as were the assembled Wild Church folk - those who regularly attend complemented by eager guests keen to explore our Valley 'Wild Church' initiative. Within the field in Skirmett a couple of 'fire pits' were readied for some end of season celebration and like usual there were

some delightful crafting tasks emphasising several 'Christian values'. With the brook at its babbling best we were reminded that our faith has the power to ease the world's woes and support us in delivering a better being for all.

It was a first-time event to have a 'Wild Church' baptism interwoven within this service format and we are pleased to report that Maisie Marshall is now starting her own Christian living journey.

There was much to enjoy and learn together under constant guidance of the Rev Sue Morton and it suited all ages and uplifted all who attended. A big 'thank you' to the kind field owners who permitted all to share their land's beauty on this 'special day'. Hopefully, it will encourage ever more followers to do likewise, to take little steps one by one,

Continued on page 7



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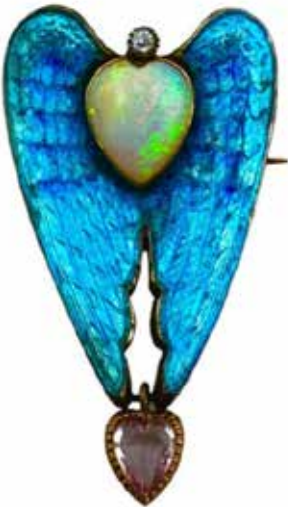
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to reach an ever fuller understanding of all that our Hambleden Valley Churches together do and can offer.

Jolyon Marshall

Future Wild Church dates for your diary:

August – Wild Church is on holiday!

Sunday 8th September 3pm: Wild Church at Oaken Grove Vineyard, Fawley.

Sunday 13th October: Wild Harvest TBC

Sunday 10th November: Wild Church at Remembrance.

Chiltern Vintage Tractor Run in aid of Thames Valley Air Ambulance

A Vintage Extravaganza - described the fabulous Fawley Hill weekend event which this year's tractor run was based around. Many of the vintage tractors taking part on the run were also displayed for the three days of the Fawley Hill Show. Plenty of steam trains and traction engines were on show and running; plus, as Lady Judy McAlpine pointed out, anything else that constituted being a vintage or classic form of transportation. Edd China was even driving around in a road legal double bed!

The turn out for the tractor run was simply amazing. 75 vintage tractors took part, with many trailers holding family and friends on tow. Our event this year was on Sunday 19th May and, despite the wet weather leading up to the weekend, we were blessed with warm sunshine. Louise Meakes and her wonderful team provided breakfast refreshments while the tractors and participants got themselves ready for the run.



Photo by Paul Austin

It was great to have many Ferguson Club Committee and members taking part. The reliability of these tractors is second to none. In fact, there were no breakdowns at all this year. We must all be getting better at tractor preparation and maintenance!

The **80th Anniversary of D-Day** was this year's theme and it was well supported in terms of dress and decorations. Ben Hargreaves kindly made up the D-Day Signs which were presented to all the tractor drivers taking part.



GROUP NOTES

The Rev Andy Storch provided the blessing of the tractors prior to the start of our run.

The route of the run this year was designed so that we had a good long morning section and then ended up back at Fawley Hill. Before parking up for lunch, we did a parade lap of the show ring. As always, a raffle took place with some memorable prizes.

There was no afternoon run and this allowed all the participants to enjoy the spectacle of the vintage festival. Live music and lots of show attractions soon filled the afternoon.

The tractor run raised £7,938.38 for the TVAA. Plus, proceeds from the Fawley Hill Vintage Event were split between the TVAA and MacMillan Cancer Support, raising another £3,411.32 for TVAA. The generosity of all participants is very clear. Thank you to all of you who generously gave, sponsored, took part and supported with your time. It really is appreciated.

It was TVAA Officer and Volunteer Marshal Laura Sanchez's birthday and she was presented with an appropriate t-shirt and a rousing "Happy Birthday".



THANK YOU to everyone, but of course nothing would be possible without the terrific support of the Land Owners, Volunteer Marshals, and Catering teams. We look forward to seeing you again next year, please remember to save the date - Sunday 1st June 2025

Gary Anderson
gaa104@outlook.com 07740 173225

Diva Opera at The Great Barn, Fingest



Diva Opera will be performing again in The Great Barn at Manor Farm in Fingest in September. This year's operas will be *La Traviata* on Saturday 7th September and *The Barber of Seville* on Saturday 14th September. Diva Opera are currently on tour and the performances have been delighting audiences in Jersey, Devon and France.

Tickets are available for Rossini's *The Barber of Seville* at Fingest, but Verdi's *La Traviata* is almost sold out. The operas will again be raising funds for charities for children: Action Medical Research for Children and Child Bereavement UK.

Please see the website for details:
www.fingestgreatbarnopera.co.uk
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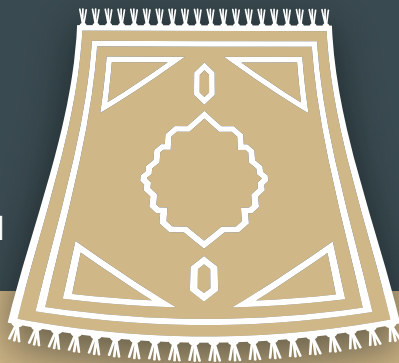
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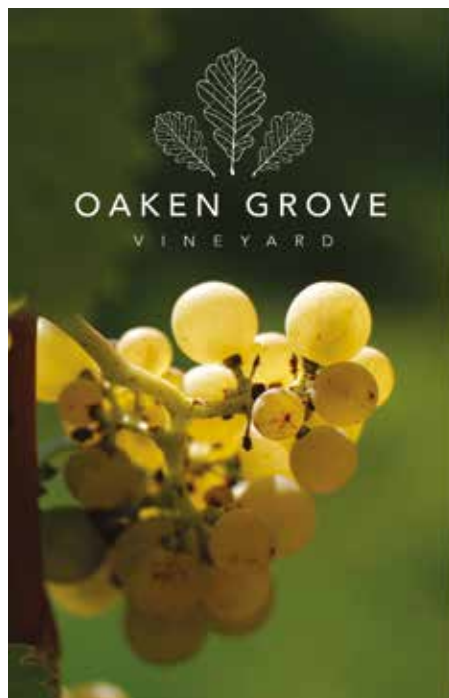


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Community Matters

At our last food bank, Tom, (not his real name) came to get the items of food etc. he needed. Whilst almost all those who attend are families with children who have been referred, we do occasionally receive a request to help single people. In Tom's case, a man on his own, lonely, who can no longer work because of a degenerative illness which has added to his poor sense of worth and a degree of depression.

However, when Tom comes to the food bank, I think it's fair to say he enjoys the company of our two volunteers, Barbara and Lucy, as much as replenishing his food cupboard! The last food bank was at the height of the Euros football games when he discovered to his amazement that Barbara and Lucy were interested and actually watched the matches on television. Some great discussions and good-natured conversations took place enjoyed by all!

As the long school holidays approach, we know it will be a time that our families have more pressure on their finances to provide extra meals for their children and find ways of entertaining them. Because of the generosity of the financial donations from people, including you who are reading this, we have been able to offer places for four children on the Holiday Play Scheme

which runs for a week and is organised by Lane End Community Centre during the summer holidays. We are also giving a small financial donation to those families with children to help with extra food or possibly towards a day out.

Once again, many, many thanks for all your contributions whether through food or finance, it is so appreciated by those of us who run the food bank and of course by the recipients too.

God bless,
Judy Taylor

The West Wycombe Chamber Music Festival

The West Wycombe Chamber Music Festival was established thirteen years ago by the internationally acclaimed viola player Lawrence Power. Lawrence was born and brought up in High Wycombe and is now recognised as a performer of the very highest calibre on the world stage.

Each September Lawrence returns to the area to direct and perform in this three-day music festival which offers audiences five attractively programmed concerts. He brings with him an array of top flight musicians who join him to perform in this exclusive series of concerts. The festival has firmly established its place as one of the key



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)

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GROUP NOTES AND WILDLIFE

musical events in our locality. It was hailed by the Guardian newspaper as “One of the top ten classical music events of 2021”.

After last year’s success in Hambleden, where we received a very warm welcome from the community and our audiences, we are delighted to be returning to the village this year. The festival will take place from Thursday 19th September to Saturday 21st September. Five concerts will be given, all in the beautiful 12th Century Parish Church of St Mary the Virgin, Hambleden, RG9 6RX. In addition to three evening concerts, there will also be a lunchtime concert on the Friday and a late morning concert on the Saturday. Fuller details of the five concerts will be available very shortly and, in the meantime, we would encourage everyone to reserve the dates in your diaries.

For further details, ticket sales and enquiries please contact the festival organisers by e-mail tickets@westwycombechambermusic.org.uk or phoning 01494 528659 or 07948 897148.

Richard Morbey

WILDLIFE

Frieth Natural History Society

Frieth Natural History Society do not organise a meeting in August. Past experience has shown that most of our members are either away on holiday or enjoying the many outdoor events which this area has to offer.

Did you take part in the Big Butterfly count which runs from 12th July to 4th August? Please send us a picture or tell us what you discovered. We look

forward to meeting again in September. Contact details remain, Andy01494881586, Mary01494881501 or email FNHS2023@gmail.com

Mary Webb

A Naturalist’s Reminiscence No.9

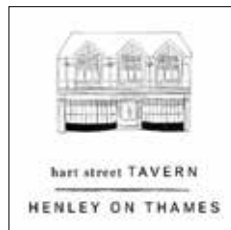
When I finally reached Phusri in Nepal, once again I inherited a leaking tent. The War Office had decided it should be a temporary camp for the small contingent of Gurkha officers. There were two Recruiting Officers of which I was one; two Pension Paying Officers whose prime function was to tour Nepal with large sums of money to pay the pensions of retired British Gurkhas and a Lieutenant Colonel who was our CO. When I arrived the War Office seemed to have forgotten our existence and we were forced to ‘live off the land’ for several months. We persuaded our CO to become ‘Gardens Officer’ and grow or purchase vegetables and to obtain fresh fruit at the local bazaar. I managed to purchase an Indian equivalent of a 12 bore shot gun and my primary function was to shoot wild game – venison, ducks, Jungle Fowl etc until the War Office remembered where we were.

The camp overlooked the Kosi River which carried fresh water from the Himalayas. Local deer and even tigers regularly came there to drink. A tall clump of reeds some 15ft tall conveniently overlooked the river and provided a good site to shoot passing duck and other river birds. One day I was squatting there with my Gurkha batman behind me loading my shot gun when some large animal approached us through the

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CHURCH SERVICES AND EVENTS

From The Registers

Holy Baptism

July 14 Maisie Isla Marshall Wild Church, Skirmett

Holy Matrimony

June 22 Philip Prosser and Alice Keown Hambleden

June 29 Thomas Bunn and Alicia Wiltshire Hambleden

Rest in Peace

June 19 Walter Byatt Burial of Ashes, Turville

June 25 Nova Williams Cremation

June 25 Joan Norbury Plint Burial of Ashes, Turville

July 3 Geoffrey and Joan Hearne Burial of Ashes, Hambleden

July 5 Tony Brice Burial of Ashes, Fingest



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:

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CALENDAR FOR AUGUST 2024

Sunday Services

Pattern of Worship August 2024

Please see below for Sunday services. There will also be Zoom services at 9:30am on Wednesdays with Churchyard Prayers at Fawley at 12noon on Fridays. The 10.15am midweek Holy Communion on Wednesdays has moved, temporarily, to Fingest, and there are no services at Turville for 3/4 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 – hambledenvalleyoffice@gmail.com with any query.

www.hambleden-valley-churches.org.uk

	Fawley	Fingest	Frieth	Hambleden	Medmenham	Turville
28th July	11am Holy Communion	6pm Compline	9am, Holy Communion	11am Holy Communion		
4th August		10am Outside Group Service				
11th August	11am Holy Communion	9am Holy Communion		11am Holy Communion		
18th August			9am Holy Communion	8am BCP Holy Communion 10am Lay-led Morning Worship	11am Village Service	
25th August	11am Holy Communion	6pm Compline	9am, Holy Communion	11am Holy Communion		
1st September				10am Induction of the Rev Andy Storch as Rector		



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reeds. It was a tiger. I had been advised in that situation you should walk up to it and stare into its eyes. As I was never sure I believed that procedure, I reached round for my shotgun to discover my batman had already fled with it. I rapidly caught him up. Fortunately, that tiger was obviously not hungry or perhaps he/she preferred venison.

That was not the end of the tiger saga. Several weeks later when the War Office remembered us, I was twice required to travel down to Calcutta docks to pick up two Land Rovers for our use. I recall driving back at night through the jungle area of Nepal when suddenly several deer jumped over the bonnet and something struck the bar on the back of the vehicle. It had been a long drive so I didn't stop but when I drove down the same track the next day there was the body of a magnificent tiger. I would have tried to skin it but already the local Jackal had found it and had eaten parts of it.

One summer many years later I was showing my family round Blenheim Palace and stopped to look at a picture when I caught my sandal in the mouth of a stuffed tiger skin on the floor. I swear it bit me but my family thought Dad was being his usual eccentric self! Eccentric? Rubbish.

Alfred Waller

HAMBLEDEN

Hambleden Open Gardens

In an otherwise cold, wet, and generally unseasonal month, Saturday 8th June delivered sunshine in abundance for the Annual Hambleden Open Gardens. Over 350 people visited to enjoy nine stunning gardens around the village that were open for all to share. Those who



took the time to shop at the indoor market went away with beautiful handmade gifts, plants, paintings, delicious Indian delicacies, and carefully crafted knits.

Of course, no day out is complete without coffee and cake and Charlie's pop-up café saw people queuing out of the door. We ran out of milk. We ran out of mugs. And eventually we ran out of cake. At the end of a long and successful day just over £2,500 was raised with all proceeds going to the village hall funds.

A huge thank you to every single person involved in organizing and running the event; nothing ever happens without a dedicated team of volunteers working behind the scenes. The biggest thank you – of course – goes to all those who so kindly opened their gardens for others to enjoy. We could not have done it without you. Until next time!

Sara Horner

HAMBLEDEN AND FAWLEY

More Music in Hambleden Churchyard on Sunday 25th August - the Ukulele Band return

The Ukulele Band '**The Chukes**' have agreed to perform again this year in Hambleden churchyard on Sunday 25th August during the Sunday afternoon Teas. Last year they played a range of music that was much enjoyed.

A reminder that on Sunday 11th August - the extremely talented Violinists, **Adrian Shaw and his son Matthew** will be playing for the second time this year at Teas.

A perfect way to spend a Sunday afternoon, and no matter what the weather decides to do, Teas on these dates will still happen, they will just take place inside the church instead of in the churchyard. Teas start at 2pm, and finish at 5pm.

So do come along and support the musicians.

Karen Musgrave Hill

FAWLEY

Fawley v Stumblebums annual cricket match report



Congratulations to Fawley who retained the Beck-Burrige trophy in their annual social cricket match v the Stumblebums on Sunday 23rd June. The match was played at Harpsden CC.



Hilary Beck-Burrige presenting the trophy to Philip Maskell (on the left) as winning Fawley captain.

The Stumblebums are a charity side and have been playing Fawley since 2002.

Fawley scored 221 for 5 in their 30 overs and won in the last over by restricting the opposition to 217 in a tight finish. There was sunshine and smiles all round and the match was played in a great spirit. Next year's match is on Sunday 22nd June if anyone would like to play!!

Philip Maskell
Captain

Fawley Cricket Club

The Beck-Burrige Cup is a perpetual Cup in memory of my husband Martin who died in 2012. He was a founding member of the Revived Fawley Cricket Club in 1997, as I was when they were short of men players. In one early match I actually carried my bat as all my colleagues appeared to run themselves out!

The Original Club started in 1887, about the same time as the Harpsden Club, whose ground they now use for the annual match for the trophy. It ceased after the War but was revived 27 years ago. Fawley's ground, with its magnificent view, was always opposite the Village Hall but, sadly, as numbers

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dwindled and the difficulty of maintaining it, it is now a sheep field.

The Stumblebums originally were a nomadic side with a distinct medical flavour, gathered together by Paul Smith, a surgeon, who used to live at Kimble Farm. Post matches at Fawley were initially celebrated at the Walnut Tree (which subsequently lay derelict for over 20 years and then burnt down in 2023). After its closure we had to go down the hill to The Rainbow at Middle Assendon which I believe is currently up for sale.



This photo was taken in 1997 on the cricket ground by Martin Beck-Burridge.

Players list (incomplete) comprised Alan Bowett, Pat Cheriton (our long-term Umpire), Ed Waller, Simon Bellinger (Captain), Lincoln Elias, Nick Sargent (President), Hilary Beck-Burridge, Hugh, David Napier.

Hilary Beck-Burridge

FRIETH

Frieth School Sports Week

What an unbelievable Sports Week we had culminating in a magical Sports Day. During the week, the children enjoyed a host of enrichment activities including a DigiWall (a fusion of low-level climbing wall and game console), cricket, freestyle football, tennis, a visit from a GB athlete and much more. I was incredibly impressed with everyone's effort on Sports Day and, although Attenborough House were the winners, every child should be proud that they gave their all in every run, throw and jump. The singing,

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FRIETH

dancing and drumming was amazing and of course the day wouldn't be the same without Mr Burn on the mic! As the teachers and governors said, Frieth, you're simply the best!



Pyjama Day

Amelia from Buzzards Class let her light shine by writing me a super letter. It was a fantastic suggestion that we raise money for the Air Ambulance by allowing the pupils to wear their pyjamas to school for the day. A great cause and I think the children enjoyed it too! Well done.



Sir Tim Rice

We had the honour of welcoming Sir Tim Rice to Frieth CEC School. Over the past few weeks, the children have enjoyed a sequence of assemblies on Joseph and

The Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat and Rev Andy managed to arrange for Sir Tim himself to join us for a Q&A with the pupils!



Year 6 Residential to Devon

What an amazing week we had down in Devon with our wonderful Year 6 pupils! They threw themselves into caving, high ropes, canoeing, raft building, rock climbing and much more. An absolute pleasure to take away!



Martin Gosling
Headteacher

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CHURCH AND VILLAGE ACTIVITIES AND CONTACTS

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

FINGEST (ST BARTHOLOMEW)

Churchwardens:
Brian Barnes, 01494 882613, brianbarnes346@gmail.com

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

FRIETH (ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST)

Churchwarden: Judy Hunt, 01494 882227, ajh.claypit1@btinternet.com

Village Hall Bookings:
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)

Churchwarden:
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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Medmenham: Parish Clerk Carole Burslem
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Turville: Parish Clerk Lorna Coldwell,
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Fawley: Clerk to Fawley Parish Meeting
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