

Hambleton VALLEY

Group Magazine



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June 2026



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



Cover: Floral Letterbox, Ferry Lane, Medmenham. This page: New baby.

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Weekday Services

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

Emergencies:

If you are unable to contact the Group
 Priests, please get in touch with your
 churchwarden. (see pages 26 and 27)

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All contributions are welcome, to the
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Group Letter

Don't we all love the month of June? It symbolises summer, and arrives with a certain kind of magic. Lighter mornings, sun-warmed evenings, and a gentle invitation to slow down. It's a season for living a little more freely, time outdoors, and the joy in simple everyday moments, as a friend of mine recently said.

Have you noticed that many of the events in June are based on sports, such as the World Cup football, Wimbledon, followed closely by Henley Royal Regatta?

But have you also noticed how many of those events are supplemented by music, and it is in the summer months that all the great music festivals are enjoyed, Glastonbury, Glyndebourne and Garsington, Henley and later Reading Festivals, and so much more.

Sunday 14th June is 'Music Sunday'. It is a good opportunity to pause and remind ourselves how much music gives us. Nearly all our church services are enhanced by the singing of hymns and anthems and the playing of the organ and bells as we enter. In the same way the three physical dimensions are supplemented by an invisible spiritual dimension, so, somehow, music seems to take us out of the everyday mundane. Look out for local outdoor concerts, and musical accompaniments to our Sunday teas at Hambleden.

Having in May celebrated the notable life of our beloved late Director of Music, Christine Wells, with a funeral service of which she would have been proud (see elsewhere), so in June we are so grateful for her successor, Jo Hutchins. She continues our tradition of excellence in music, and offers an open invitation for all to join our choirs, play our organs, and ring our bells. Jo would also be delighted to hear from those other instrumentalists who would like to feed into church worship. There is no doubt music helps us to worship God in a mysterious way, in just the way people often feel closest to God when outside in nature, hearing the birds sing.



If you are blessed with musical talent, please, please use it! Those of us less blessed, love to hear music and we join in when we can, and doesn't the glory of June and summer deserve a musical accompaniment?

Andy

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GROUP NOTES

Prayer for our new Associate Priest

Loving God.

Guide us as we prayerfully seek to discern the right person to serve as our Associate Priest. Be at the centre of all our conversations and decisions. Open our hearts to the leading of Your Holy Spirit.

Reveal to us the person whom You are calling. Help us to trust in Your Love and in Your provision for all that we need.

We lift these prayers to You in Jesus name.

Amen

Hambleton Valley Prayer Group

Memories of Christine Wells by members of the Hambleton Valley Choir



Liz has known Christine since she was 9 years old and joined the junior choir. Christine played at her wedding and children's christenings. Then Liz was back again 22 years ago and in the adult choir and Christine was just the same!! Liz is sure Christine will still be watching over the choir, checking that they are singing to their best ability.

Christine asked **Ben** to join the choir and sing Tenor. After two weeks trial he told her that it was impossible as he could not sing the high notes! Christine said that he

had not tried for long enough! Ben says that he is still struggling to sing Tenor after 30 years but enjoying it despite this. Thank you Christine.

Tony recalls one of Christine's favourite sayings was "In Tudor times, England led the world in music, but from then onwards everything went downhill!"

Christine's enthusiasm for the choir, says **Shirley**, gave you a sense of belonging and love of choral music, and **Annie**

Continued on page 7

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recalls Christine had the most wonderful smile and magic in her fingertips.

Gillian thinks Christine's knowledge of music was so ingrained that in later years she could detect a wrong note sung by the choir - even with her back turned!!

Graham's memory was Christine's inspirational organ playing and directing of the choir.

Nothing to do with music, but Christine was always complaining that her hands were cold at Frieth church. So, every Christmas **Ginny** would buy her hand warmers which she loved.

Christine invited **Nigel** to join the choir many years ago and it has been a wonderful opportunity to make music under such a talented director.

Jim says Christine's support over the years for *Sight Savers* Charity, with the choir's help, has been exceptional, while Christine invited **Jo T** to join the choir, too, and she is so glad that she did.

Pat described Christine as a multi-talented

musician and warm and generous person and **Monica** discovered the joy of singing at 7 years of age because of Christine. She was an extremely talented musician and someone Monica had the utmost respect for.

As a choir member **Judy** feels privileged to have been a part of that life and enjoyed many happy years of singing together. Christine devoted her life to church and music.

Jo Mc was singing in the congregation at Turville. After the service Christine asked her to join the choir. That was 39 years ago and she is still enjoying it now!

We have wonderful memories of Christine and she has left an incredible musical legacy. Her dedication to the people of the Hambleden Valley Group of Churches will be sorely missed. We have lost a good friend. Rest In Peace Christine.

Please see centre pages for Christine's nephew, Andrew Wells' Eulogy which he gave at her funeral.

Hambleden Valley Church Sandwich Family Service



Top Slice = Introduction: Song & Scripture Reading (by children)

Meaty filling = Age-appropriate activities: art & craft, socialising & food

Bottom Slice = Closing: feedback on theme, song & prayer

Following the success and positive feedback from our first Family Church Service in March, Rev Andy Storch and the Youth 9 Group were delighted to hold our second Family Service on Sunday 3rd May. It is now becoming a regular event in the Hambleden Valley Church calendar.

As an 'all-inclusive multigenerational' event, we were thrilled to see the attendance increase, welcoming many families from the very young to our super-adults. We have called the new Family Service '**Church Sandwich**' for the

reasons described above. Again, all parts of the service were very much enjoyed by attendees, this time offering insights to **The Parable of The Prodigal Son.**

Starting promptly at 3pm, it was an utter delight to see so many happy children gathering on the new soft jig-saw rug to enjoy the initial ice-breaker sensory interactive game, designed to help focus their agile minds on the bible story ahead. Following the enthusiastic singing of *Amazing Grace* (led by our organist Nigel), Rev Andy led us in the opening

GROUP NOTES



prayer and three of the children (Eric, Evie and Felicity) volunteered to read the story of **The Prodigal Son**. Then to help the children better understand the many important lessons - God's unconditional love, his grace, forgiveness, and the joys and benefits of feeling and saying sorry - the children chose their preferred activity of Drama or Arts and Crafts, or other age-appropriate games. Meanwhile the adults enjoyed meeting new families over a well-deserved cuppa and hearty refreshments and reflected on the 'Theme of the Day'. Naturally, the children also tucked into the delicious sandwiches, biscuits and cakes. A big thank you to all the volunteers who made so many culinary delights.

It was very apparent that the children thoroughly enjoyed taking an active

role in scriptures, completing puzzles, colouring templates, cutting out, writing prayers, learning more about the lessons associated with The Prodigal Son, singing, and sharing important developmental time with other children and their parents/carers.

Rev Andy closed the service with a beautiful prayer and another song: *Father God I wonder* accompanied not only by Nigel on the organ but rather drowned out by the children's enthusiastic playing of percussion instruments.

Armed now with such positive feedback, the Youth 9 Group are planning the next Church Sandwich Family Service for **Sunday 7th June at 3pm**. This time at **St Mary's Church, Fawley** (each month it will be at the same church as the 10am Group Service) where there will be plenty of signposted car parking. We will be reading **The Parable of the Wandering/Lost Sheep** (Matthew 18:10-14 and Luke 15:3-7), reinforcing the message that every person is important to God who persists in loving us.

Please do come and join us and encourage others to accompany you.

Kim Walker



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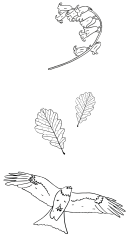
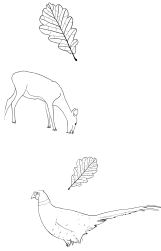


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Community Matters

A member of one of our families has a serious medical condition and has to attend a hospital in London for investigation and treatment. This man is unable to work, but his wife can. However, the train fare for both of them eats into their income considerably so, thankfully, Community Matters has been able to help with the cost of the travelling expenses. At present they have three more medical appointments. When one person who is normally working is unable to do so through sickness, the statutory sick pay doesn't go far so again we were able to help them with the fuel bills etc. It just demonstrates how tightly people have to manage their budgets with so little room for emergencies.

Recently we took four families to a church in Booker (Christ the Servant King) who were offering good quality clothes for children 0-14 years. These families were

delighted to obtain lovely clothes for their children and also received refreshments from the staff. Thank you Christ the Servant King.

As always, our most grateful thanks for all your support and to Diane Dobson who collects and delivers contributions from the Hambleden Valley to Lane End.

**Blessings,
Judy Taylor**

WILDLIFE

Frieth Natural History Society

For our June event we have organised a guided walk on the morning of Wednesday 3rd June to explore a local common.

A common is an area of land, designated by an Act of Parliament, which has special legal protection. There are nearly 200 commons in The Chilterns covering more than 2000 hectares. We will explore the flora and fauna of just one, learning how the site is managed to protect the wildlife habitat.

Anyone is welcome to join us, but for non-members we make a small charge. For further details of meeting place and timings, please contact; Mary 01494 881501, Andy 01494 881586 or FNHS2023@gmail.com.

Mary Webb

A Local Treasure

Hopefully, by the time this magazine lands on door mats, news of last month's Chilterns-focused episode of Countryfile will have filtered through to most readers. For those unaware of this celebration of the Chilterns' nature-friendly initiatives, however, it will, happily, still be available to view over the next several months on BBC iPlayer:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m002w0tz>

Amongst the excellent array of positive and inspiring Chilterns-based projects

WILDLIFE AND HAMBLEDEN



showcased, the restoration work, and ongoing monitoring, of our local winterbourne chalk-stream, The Hamble, received a warm and appreciative response from the Countryfile team. Under the auspices of the Chilterns Chalk Streams Project, our nationally important, local brook has benefitted hugely from carefully considered, expert channel restoration along 1.3 km of its catchment, which has enabled the reinstatement of natural flow processes, the re-meandering of the channel and the creation of 2,500 square metres of wetland habitat – all of which has improved river connectivity with the surrounding landscape and helps reduce flood-risk downstream.

Ongoing monitoring of the health of our brook to track changes in ecological status (for better or worse), is, of course, essential, and has been taking place both pre- and post-restoration works. Much of this has been undertaken by volunteer citizen scientists - and it's fun to do! Training and oversight is given via the Chilterns Chalk Stream Project and covers two options for peaceful, health-giving, out-of-doors contribution: Riverfly monitoring (specifically, their water-dwelling larvae), which takes place once a month (while the brook's water is visible and above ground) and 'Morph' (Modular Physical River) surveys which are conducted twice a year and log such features as the height and condition of the

banks, the speed and nature of water-flow and in- and outer-channel vegetation. Contact chalkstreams@chilterns.org.uk if you would like to get involved.

As explained on Countryfile, current trends for the future health of our naturally intermittent, globally rare chalk stream and its unique fauna and flora look promising - a space to watch, therefore, as well as to treasure.

Kate Hussey

HAMBLEDEN



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Allela Cochrane-Dyett RIP

The death of a valued contributor to church life always saddens the community. Never more so than Allela Cochrane-Dyett who died on 21st March aged 86. She was a Moyses Stevens trained flower arranger. For many years with others, she arranged the Troughton vase which is on a pedestal

Continued on page 17



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Church Services and Events

From The Registers

Rest in Peace

April 17	Timothy Roach	Burial of Ashes, Hambleden
May 1	Lily Lyn Maddix	Burial of Ashes, Frieth
May 11	Christine Wells B.Mus, FRCO, LRAM, BEM	Funeral, Hambleden and 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:

hambledenvalleyprayergroup@gmail.com

Hambleden Valley Tea Club

Tea Club is for anyone over 50 looking to make new friends whilst playing board games, watching a film, listening to a speaker or going on the occasional outing. We finish off with delicious tea and cakes.

The meetings are every Tuesday afternoon at St Katharine's, Parmoor or Frieth Village Hall and transport can be provided.

If you would like to join us please contact:

Wendy Deurden on 01494 638297 wendy.deurden@tachademic.net or
Sue Dawkes on 07787111993 susandawkes@icloud.co.uk



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Christine Wells BEM BMus FRCO LRAM

11th December 1936 – 17th April 2026

Eulogy given at her funeral by her nephew,
Andrew Wells



My aunt Christine was born in Purley on Thames, between Reading and Pangbourne on the 11th of December 1936 at about 1pm. At 1.20pm King Edward VIII signed the Act of Abdication - there was no connection! And George VI constitutionally became King in that moment. Later in the evening of Christine's birth day, Edward went on the wireless to announce the news to the nation. Thus, Christine lived her life through the reign of four monarchs, even if in the case of one of them it was only for 20 minutes. She always enjoyed telling people that!

Of course, the subsequent 89 years of her rich life was a world full of music and dedicated service to the parish of Hambleden and Frieth, as organist and Director of Music, and also at Fingest, Turville, Medmenham and Fawley.

Christine's talent for music was obvious at an early age. Among her papers I found the manuscript of a *Birthday Melody* that she had written for her father in February 1946 at the age of 9. It wasn't any ordinary birthday melody – it was an ensemble piece written for piano, violin and 'cello with separate scores for each instrument. There is also an intriguing 34 bar composition for piano – written at the same time – entitled *The Spider* and proudly signed 'C M Wells'.

Her first instrument was the 'cello. She joined the Reading Youth Orchestra as a 'cellist at the age of 10 or 11. By 1948 she was writing letters to home from Copenhagen, Cologne and Dusseldorf touring several times with the orchestra in a brave new Europe still finding its feet after the War. The orchestra clearly worked hard. In 1951 – when Christine would have been 14 – she played in 47 concerts in Berkshire in six weeks, often four concerts a day, and she was paid 35 shillings per concert. So, I think we can say that she became a professional musician in her early teens.

I'm not wholly sure where Christine's musical talent came from. Her father – my grandfather – was Ralph Wells, son of Sir William Wells, who was amongst other things founder of The College of Estate Management. The Wells' side of the family produced a long line of surveyors, property professionals and town planners. Christine's mother, Angela, was from the Fiennes family – I'm tempted to say dynasty – who produced, in contrast, a long line of writers, actors, film producers and a polar adventurer. Hardly a professional musician in sight.

Christine was certainly given much encouragement as a young 'cellist and went up to London first to the Royal Academy of Music and then to the Royal College of Music, one diploma to teach and the other to perform. She also took an external Bachelor of Music degree at the University of Durham.

In her teens, her mother had suggested that learning the organ might be beneficial because, and I quote "They are always short of organists at funerals". And so, she took an organist's post at 17 at a small church in Tilehurst and her organ career began. Christine was made a Fellow of the Royal College of Organists at only 22, examined by Herbert Howells and Harold Darke – a quite remarkable achievement.

Whilst in the reading room at Reading library she spotted an advertisement in the Bucks Free Press for an organist at Hambleden Parish Church. Her mother insisted she apply because – again in her words – "It was the village where all the Royals went!". I think in actual fact, Princess Margaret had been spotted here once.

Apply she did and I have the letter dated 8th April 1957 from Rector Wilfred Watts which reads "Dear Miss Wells, This is to inform you that the position of organist is offered to you at £100 per annum plus fees". He had also returned the reference from her tutor at the Royal Academy of Music which, apart from singing her praises as a musician, noted, "At first you will probably find her to be a little shy, but this is often a great asset with a choir, and I am confident that when she gets to work with them she will gain their confidence and do good work". I understand that in 1957 there was a little nervousness among parishioners that the Rector had appointed someone so young and a woman at that, but of course they need not have worried. She stayed for 67 years.

Christine lived in Henley in her 20s and combined her organist and choir duties with some teaching and working in the record department of Hammants which you may remember in Bell Street. No doubt because of this, surprisingly, Christine knew a lot more about pop music than you would have given her credit for. That's not to say she liked it, but she could tell you who was, say, No. 5 in the charts in any given week. She was always very proud of the fact that one year in the mid-1960s she was awarded a bonus or prize by Hammants for overseeing exceptional record sales. I'm not sure anyone had the heart to tell her that what was making the till go in and out was probably The Beatles or The Rolling Stones rather than Christine's sales and marketing skills! She taught generations of pupils at many schools in the area including Reading School, Reading Blue Coat School, the old Henley Grammar School, Wycombe High and Wycombe Abbey.

I read in one of the many anniversary commendations she received, that Christine has played the organ at over 2,000 weddings and perhaps not surprisingly, at the weddings of grandchildren where she had also played at the wedding of their grandparents. But it's a matter of record that she would cheerfully agree to more unusual organ requests by the likes of Procol Harum, The Beatles, Elvis, the theme tune from *Match of The Day* and the Nintendo Gameboy signature. I like to think that nowhere else in the world has there been a transposition to church organ of Coldplay's *Fix You*, but here in Hambleden. She wasn't fazed either by playing the organ for TV, adverts and films, notably in *The Vicar of Dibley*,

and with Eric Idle, Rowan Atkinson and also Catherine Zeta Jones in *The Darling Buds of May*. She was of course far too reserved to think of herself as the 'Organist to the Stars'.

Hambleden Concerts were started by Christine in 1987 and ran for over thirty years. This church became a concert venue for professional soloists, choirs, chamber groups and orchestras. She persuaded musicians to come to Hambleden from all over the country and Europe including St Petersburg and Bulgaria, the administration of which was quite onerous (whilst clearing her house out, I found cupboards full of correspondence, programme notes, suggestions, bills and the occasional rejection). She seeded the concerts initially from her own funds, but they were well attended and often sold out. In rare years when they made a loss, she covered it from her own pocket. In years when they did well, all of the money went to the PCC. In time, she used her powers of persuasion to engage a series of backers as sponsors of the concerts and Hambleden Concerts became a much-loved part of this valley's annual cycle.

In 2006 she took on Handel's *Messiah* here, directing 45 singers and soloists and a professional orchestra led by violinist, and her lifelong friend, Susan Thompson. It was so good, so enjoyable, they did it all again in 2009.

Like us all, she was not good at everything. As indicated earlier she was shy and it could prove difficult to get to know her well. She was never one for small talk, unless it was about music. She was also a terrifying driver. When we sold her car last year it had the battle scars of driving around these narrow lanes at speed - front, back and both sides. My theory was always that she treated a car much like the organ because they both had pedals. In her car, the clutch was the acoustic bass and the accelerator the flute. The difficulty was that she never quite appreciated what the middle one was for!

There were things she loved other than music. Her cats! She had a succession of black cats, all named beginning with the letter Z. As I recall there was Zinzan, Zachariah and latterly, Zebulan. All from the bible, except Zinzan which is a street in Reading. And then sport. Christine could get glued to rugby, athletics, football and particularly tennis. She was a good tennis player and a member at the club here. She always entered the ballot for Wimbledon tickets via the club and often succeeded. I remember her taking me to the McEnroe / Connors final on a sweltering hot day and us both hoping that it would all be over soon.

When you did know her well, her sense of humour could come to the fore. She often visited us in north Wales and I took her several times to the football to watch my team, Wrexham. On one occasion, we were sat amongst a particularly boisterous lot of Wrexham fans - seemingly not Christine's thing at all - and the swearing was terrible. At half time I apologised for all the swearing and she simply leant over and said, "Don't worry, I will just assume it's Welsh". Subsequently, she always looked out for Wrexham's results and those of Reading and Wycombe Wanderers.

For many years since the 1950s Christine was an enthusiastic member of the Berkshire Organists Association, serving at times as secretary and as President. This gave her opportunities to share music with like-minded musicians and trips around the country to

take turns in playing in the organ loft of vast cathedrals and abbeys, something she loved. Of course, her other great love was Bach, she chose all the music for her funeral and BOA member John Halsey, organist at Windsor parish church, played in Christine's memory.



Two honours stand out in Christine's life. In 2013 the parish nominated her to receive the Royal Maundy money from Her Majesty at Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford. And then in June of the same year, she received a letter from the Palace to say she had been awarded the British Empire Medal for

'services to music and the community in Hambleden, Buckinghamshire', presented by the Lord Lieutenant of Buckinghamshire. Again, this was nominated by you here in this valley. She was thrilled and immensely proud. And I know you were proud of her too.



When the time came to hand over the organ keys and the baton to Jo in 2024 in her 67th year of service, Christine was honoured by the Diocese to be made Emeritus Organist here at a special service with Archdeacon Guy, a suitable tribute for all that she had contributed to the musical life of the Hambleden Valley. In all of those years she added wondrous music to the regular services, weddings, funerals, concerts, carolsinging, midnight masses, open air services and choir visits to other places, always with her enthusiasm for doing things properly and to a high standard. She was always conscientious, kind and did everything with enormous integrity.

She spent her final two years at Chiltern Grange Care Home up at Stokenchurch and staff always commented to me on her unstintingly cheerful outlook and contentedness at having time to herself. This painting was done in the last couple of weeks of her life by another resident of the Home, Bert Wright. Christine last played the organ here in February. She had regular visitors at the Home, which she appreciated greatly. She passed away in the night of 17th April in her sleep, I hope dreaming of playing Bach.



When I visited Beaconsfield register office to register her death, the Registrar asked me what Christine's occupation was. I said 'musician'. The registrar answered, 'presumably retired musician'. I said, no, she never really retired.

Music was her life, right until the end.

Andrew Wells

CALENDAR FOR JUNE 2026

Pattern of Worship June 2026

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 is at Turville. Since we are short staffed while awaiting a new Associate Priest it may be that not all services will go ahead. 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.

Sunday Services

	Fawley	Fingest	Frieth	Hambleden	Medmenham	Turville
31st May			8am BCP Holy Communion		11am Holy Communion	
7th June	10am Group Service 3pm Church Sandwich					
14th June	11am Holy Communion	9am Holy Communion		11am Holy Communion		
21st June			9am Holy Communion	8am BCP Holy Communion 10am Lay-led Morning Prayer	11am Village Service	
28th June	11am Holy Communion	6pm Evensong	9am Holy Communion	11am Holy Communion		9.30am Holy Communion
5th July					10am Group Service 3pm Church Sandwich	

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at 11 o'clock as you enter Hambleton Parish Church. The size of the church and vase requires some serious structural arrangements. With her husband Rory, who died last Christmas Day, she tended an allotment at Coombe Terrace where purposefully she grew flowers destined for the Troughton vase all the year. Summer flowers were dried and used through the winter months. Ah - those were the days!

Alan Armstrong

Bucks & Berks Young Ringers Do It Again!



The South East England Contest (SEECON) came to Hampshire last weekend — and Buckinghamshire and Berkshire's young ringers absolutely smashed it.

Hosted by the Winchester and Portsmouth Guild young ringers' team in the Winchester area, this year's contest saw Bucks & Berks arrive as reigning champions with a point to prove — and two teams to prove it with.

The **Swans** (the more experienced method ringers) and the brand-new **Cygnets** (making their contest debut ringing call changes) both turned up flying the county colours, accompanied by returning mascot Clapper — the swan who unites the two counties separated only by the River Thames — and this year, for the very first time, Clapper's very own Cygnet mascot joined the team too.

The day kicked off in Basingstoke — a little



chaotic, a little rushed, but with a wonderfully light ring of bells to ease everyone in. Then came Cheriton, a picture-postcard Hampshire village with crystal-clear streams bubbling through it, where the whole team got to ring together and someone produced a frisbee. Thus began a theme that would define the entire day.

Old Alresford followed, where the team rang call changes called by Theo in preparation for the looming contest — then more frisbee. Sensing a pattern yet?

Rather than piling back into cars, the group chose to walk into New Alresford along a beautiful chalk stream, passing the famous watercress beds that clever local farmers irrigated for generations using the crystal-clear water. Lovely scenery, good company, and the growing nerves of a contest approaching.

New Alresford was the contest tower, and this is where it gets really exciting.

The **Cygnets**, ringing in their very first contest, came a brilliant **joint 8th place** — a fantastic result for a team of beginners stepping up for the first time. But the headline news? The **Swans placed FIRST**. First place. Winners. Champions. *Again*.

That's back-to-back SEECON titles for Bucks & Berks Young Ringers.

Huge credit goes to James, who conducted a flawless 120 changes of Plain Bob Doubles — and who deserves extra recognition because this will be

HAMBLEDEN AND FRIETH

his last SEECOM, as he ages out of the competition next year. He and teammates Sam, Becky, Jack, Raz and Charlie delivered a performance that earned every bit of applause they received. County-level achievement doesn't get much bigger than this.

Between performances, the organisers had laid on a feast of activities. There were three mini rings to have a go on: one made from different-sized flower pots (genius), one professionally installed in someone's actual garage complete with carpet, ceiling and pictures on the walls, and one out in the sunshine. There was a delicious lunch prepared by local ringers. And of course... frisbee.

After the results ceremony, the group had a very special treat: ringing at Winchester Cathedral. Fourteen bells. Three hundred and eight steps. A ringing chamber so vast it was almost hard to believe. The team rang Plain Hunt on eleven of the bells — no small challenge — and gave a well-earned round of applause to the ringer who hauled the enormous tenor up. That

bell doesn't move itself.

The day ended at Easton, ringing a lovely light six with the Kent team — this time calling changes in *Spanish*. Because why not? (Apparently this group has previous form on this, having once rung by colours on a previous trip.) The local horses watched on from a nearby field, looking like they very much wanted to join in.

Massive thanks to all the adult helpers who drove everyone there and back, to coaches Peter and Simon, and to the Winchester and Portsmouth Young Ringers for hosting such a brilliant event. Bucks & Berks — champions 2025 and 2026. See you next year.

Theo Boughton

FRIETH Frieth School Netball

Another great win for the netball team. Please see below the write up from our player of the match, Tabby:

Continued on page 21



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Regular care plays a vital role in prevention. Vacuum rugs frequently, including edges, fringes and—occasionally—the back of the rug. Rotate rugs & lift those

that sit under furniture so light & airflow can reach the fibres, making conditions less inviting for larvae. Keeping surrounding areas clean, especially skirting boards & corners, also reduces the risk, as moths often spread between nearby textiles.

Despite good housekeeping, moths can still take hold, particularly in valuable Persian, Oriental & natural fibre contemporary rugs. In these cases, professional rug cleaning is the most effective solution. A specialist clean removes larvae, eggs & the embedded soiling that attracts them in the first place. Depending on the rug, this may include dusting, washing, controlled drying & the application of an approved moth-prevention treatment.

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“On Tuesday, we played a netball match against St Paul’s. Our team showed excellent footwork and created plenty of space, leading to a 26–2 victory. Everyone scored at least two goals, and amazing sportsmanship was shown by both teams. Awesome match everyone!” **Tabby**



Football

Frieth put in a fantastic performance to secure their place in the semi-final of the Under-11s Cup. Despite a challenging pitch, the team stayed focused and worked hard throughout the match. Arron opened the scoring with an excellent strike, and the boys continued to build on their lead, finishing the game 3–1. A brilliant effort from the whole squad and a well-deserved result. Well done, Frieth!



Hawks Class Trip:

Hawks visited Oxford Castle and Prison to finish their history unit on crime and punishment. They had a great day, starting with a tour up to the top of a turret and around the prison, where they heard stories of real prisoners. They then took part in a workshop exploring the castle’s history and crime through the ages. Thank you to our lovely volunteers who joined them.



Owls Class Visitors

Owls Class have been learning all about people who help them, and they were very lucky to welcome two special visitors. The children met a soldier and a police officer, who talked to them about the important ways they help others in their jobs. The children absolutely loved hearing about their roles and the highlight of the visit was definitely getting to try on some of the uniforms! It was a brilliant hands on experience that brought their learning to life.

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FRIETH AND NETTLEBED



Martin Gosling
Headteacher

NETTLEBED

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taking place on Saturday 1st and Sunday 2nd August 2026 at Nettlebed School — a wonderful weekend celebrating local creativity, talent, and a great slice of cake. Come along to enjoy a wide variety of artwork, handmade crafts, and exhibits from local artists and makers. Refreshments will be available, and everyone is warmly welcome to browse and maybe fall in love with a painting.

We are also keen to welcome new local artists and craftspeople to exhibit their work this year. Whether you are an experienced exhibitor or showing your work for the first time, we would love to hear from you - please email Nettlebedas@gmail.com for more info and entry forms.

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

Group Administrator: Jenny Neagle, 07769
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Tea Club: St. Katharine's, Parmoor,
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Barney's Toddler Group: Frieth Village Hall,
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Hambleden Valley Garden Club:
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Website:
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FAWLEY (ST MARY THE VIRGIN)

Churchwarden:

Vacant

Village Hall Booking:
David Burton - davidburtn83@hotmail.co.uk

FINGEST (ST BARTHOLOMEW)

Churchwardens:

Brian Barnes, 01494 882613,
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Jill Dean, 01491 638678,
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FRIETH (ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST)

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Bridge Club Barbara Pooley
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Parish Council Contacts

Hambleton: Parish Clerk Lorna Coldwell
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www.hambleton.org.uk

Medmenham: Parish Clerk Carole Burslem
01494 449215, mpc.clerk@gmail.com

Turville: Parish Clerk Lorna Coldwell,
01494 881483, turvilleparishcouncil@gmail.com,
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