

QUAINTON •NEWS•

THE PARISH MAGAZINE & VILLAGE NEWSLETTER



THE GEORGE AND DRAGON **BIG** CHARITY FUNDRAISER

SATURDAY 21ST FEBRUARY
Bucks Railway Centre | 7pm - 11.30pm



George's **BIG** Charity Fundraiser

Have you bought your tickets for the village event of the year yet?! It's going to be a fab evening dancing the night away to Alvin singing Elvis and pub regular Soundproof. Plus, food and bar provided by George. See more on p.7 & 17.

WELCOME FROM HOLY CROSS & ST MARY'S CHURCH



Dear Friends,

It was Alfred Tennyson who famously said, "In the Spring a young man's fancy lightly turns to thoughts of love." February, the month for pancakes and Valentine's Day!

It was also in the month of February, in 1990, that Nelson Mandela, at the age of 71, was released from prison in South Africa after serving 27 years of a life sentence on charges of attempting to overthrow the apartheid government. In April 1994, he was elected president in the first all-race elections.

There have been many notable events that have happened in the month of February including in 1952, when King George VI died.

One of many extraordinary stories of bravery which happened in the month of February was in 1943, when, off the icy waters of Greenland, the US transport ship Dorchester was hit by a German torpedo and began to sink rapidly. When it became apparent that there were not enough life jackets to go round, four Army Chaplains on board, removed theirs and handed them to frightened young soldiers, choosing to go down with the ship while praying.

On February 14th we celebrate St Valentines Day. Not much is known about this man and there are various stories floating around. The most reliable goes like this: Valentine was under house arrest in Rome because of his Christian faith, during the dictatorship of the Emperor Claudius. The person assigned to guard him was Judge Asterius who had a blind daughter. Asterius challenged Valentine to prove that his Christianity was true by healing his daughter of blindness. Valentine touched the eyes of the child and her sight was restored. There are other accounts of Valentine standing up for people who were being oppressed and conducting marriage ceremonies to enable lovers to be together in a union recognised by the law. Not popular with the emperor, because the men involved became exempt from military service. Valentine ended up losing his life because of his faith.

I once ran an humanitarian agency, taking hundreds of volunteers to build clinics, feeding centres and schools in some of the poorest parts of the world. A catch phrase we used was: Making Waves. Stirring Hearts. Fighting Back.

May you know God's blessing upon you as we move into the season of Spring.

Rev Steve

Holy Cross & St Mary's Church, Quainton
& All Saints Church, Oving with Pitchcott
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Phone: 01296 655237 Mobile: 07950 000910

Church Websites: www.quaintonchurch.com and www.ovingchurch.com

WELCOME TO THE FEBRUARY 2026 ISSUE



Louisa Richards, Editor
quaintonnews@gmail.com

Hello everyone!

It's that time of year when our new advertising year begins. We say goodbye to a few advertisers, welcome some new ones and remain ever thankful to those who stay with us year after year!

Please take the time to look through the adverts (usually on the left hand pages) and see who's new and who's continuing; and, of course, please support them if you can, like they support the production of our parish magazine. I may do my role voluntarily, as do Rachel, Melanie, Beth and Mike and all of our deliverers, but it does still cost several thousand pounds a year to print it, so we certainly wouldn't be able to do it without the advertisers – huge thanks to them all!

Now, go and buy your tickets to George's BIG Charity Fundraiser! It's going to be a blast!

Enjoy the read,

Rachel

NEWS FROM OUR CHURCH

**Quainton Church
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WADDESDON POLICE STATION

Happy New Year!

We would like to let you know that the Police Station will be open on a regular basis from the 19th January on the following mornings:

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday and occasionally on a Saturday morning.

If you have any queries or questions or would like to sign up or get further information on the Thames Valley Alert system feel free to come in any time and have a chat.

Rosemary Robinson

Sadly, Rosemary died in December aged 92. She married Brian and together they moved to Winwood Drive in the 1960s.

They had children who all grew up here and went to the village school. More recently she lived at Scraggs Hill.

Give up the couch for Lent

Join us for Sunday Lent Walks. Starting at 2:30 from a Church near you and linking the communities of the Schorne Team

22nd February	Upper Winchendon – Waddesdon
1st March	Quainton – Oving (2.4 miles)
8th March	Oving – Granborough (2.4 miles)
15th March	Granborough – Dunton (4.2 miles)
22nd March	Dunton – Whitchurch (2.2 miles)
29th March	Whitchurch – Weedon (2.4 miles)

Whilst HS2 continues to restrict “public right of way” along the Waddesdon to Quainton footpath, we’ll start at Upper Winchendon Church on Sunday 22nd Feb.

The walks are suitable for most ages. We walk at a leisurely pace, keeping to footpaths across fields and avoiding roads whenever possible. Each walk takes between 1½ to 2 hours. Participants should also think about co-ordinating transport to enable “safe” transfers back to the start of each walk. A great way meet some new and old friends.

All are welcome

Martin Wright – martinhwright@gmail.com



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Gumboots and Roots Pre-school is based in the Saye and Sele Hall in Quainton.



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★ gumbootsandroots@gmail.com ★

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QUAINTON ROAD

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Quainton Family Pass: £45

Quainton Residents can buy our special Quainton Family Pass (2a+4c). It includes entry all events except Halloween, Christmas, Thomas and any evening events. Call 655720 to buy yours or find the form on our website and bring it in when you next visit. Proof of address required.

Quainton residents can also get a 25% discount on ALL events, INCLUDING Halloween, Thomas & Christmas!

Message from Callum Anderson: MP for Buckingham and Bletchley

Happy New Year! As we step into 2026, I want to share my hopes for Quainton and the surrounding villages – and the exciting opportunities ahead for our community.

This year will bring real change and growth for our region. North Buckinghamshire is set to play an important role in the Oxford Cambridge Growth Corridor, which is fast becoming one of Europe's most dynamic economic areas. This isn't just about big cities: it's about our villages contributing energy, talent, and innovation to drive prosperity.

Buckinghamshire already has a £19.2 billion economy, and by 2035, we're projected to have more high-growth businesses than the national average. With advanced technology clusters at Silverstone and thriving local enterprises, Quainton will be part of this future – connecting skills and ambition to new opportunities. And of course I'm looking forward to getting out and about across the village even more this year.

In 2025, I had the pleasure of stopping by Quainton Primary School, Quainton Parish Council, and Bucks Railway Centre – and I had a lovely pint with our local CAMRA group!

Thank you for everything you do to make Quainton such a special place. As always, please do get in touch with me at callum.anderson.mp@parliament.uk if there is anything I can help you with.

Kind regards,

Callum Anderson



QUAINTON PARISH COUNCIL REPORT



Chair: Ben Harris **Vice Chair:** Sue Weldon

Councillors: Nick Butler, Peter Woodliffe-Thomas, Martin Pacetti, Sarah Smith

Clerk: Helen Hudson

To contact the council use the Contact Form on the website: <https://quainton.org.uk/contact-us> or contact the clerk by email on: parishclerk@quainton.org.uk

Parish Council lines of Communication:

Quainton Village Website on <https://www.quainton.org.uk/>

Physical message boards on The Green and at Quainton Memorial Hall

Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/QuaintonParish> and we will endeavour to share important updates onto **Quainton Village Life**.

Subscribe to the **Quainton Alert** email list to receive up to date weather warnings and other important information via parishclerk@quainton.org.uk

The last Meeting of the Council was held on 8th January

NEXT MEETING: Thursday 5th February at 6.30pm in the Memorial Hall

This will be an Ordinary Meeting of the Council. Parishioners are invited to attend.

The Chairman's Report:



Dear Resident,

I trust that the New Year is treating you well and that you have had a positive start to 2026.

With the days now gradually drawing out, there is a renewed sense of activity returning to Quainton. While winter still has its grip, it is encouraging to know that spring is not too far away and that village life will soon feel that little bit lighter again.

As many of you will already know through our social media channels, I recently had the pleasure of meeting with our local MP, Callum Anderson. We discussed a wide range of issues affecting Quainton and the surrounding area, and I am pleased that we will continue to work closely with him on these matters. A key topic was the proposed Rosefield Solar Farm, which remains a significant concern for many residents. I made clear that such a development would intensify existing challenges, including increased traffic and heavy haulage, alongside the ongoing deterioration of our local roads, with little evidence so far of meaningful improvement.

The meeting also provided an important opportunity to raise concerns around local crime and speeding within the village. These issues continue to affect residents' sense of safety and wellbeing. The Parish Council will be working with Thames Valley Police, Buckinghamshire Council, and Callum Anderson MP to push for practical and meaningful change. We are currently exploring ways in which we can help address low-level crime, and we would welcome further discussion with residents on these matters.

I have also been made aware that the planning application for 535 houses at Littleton Farm, Waddesdon, has now gone to appeal. The Secretary of State will appoint an inspector to determine the outcome. Residents have five weeks, from 14 January 2026, to submit any further comments. I can confirm that the Parish Council will be submitting additional representations objecting to what we believe is an unsustainable and damaging development.

In other parish business, I can confirm that our request to change the council's name from Quainton Parish Council to Quainton Rural Community Council has now been formally submitted to Electoral Services at Buckinghamshire Council. We are awaiting a response and will update the community as soon as there is further news.

New Councillors Needed: We still have two casual vacancies on the parish council and would love to see some of you come forward and fill these roles. This is an opportunity for residents to play an active role in local decision making, raise issues that matter to the community, and help shape the future of Quainton. Parish councillors are involved in matters such as planning, community safety, highways issues, local projects, and working with partner organisations.

Who can apply:

To be eligible to become a parish councillor, you must be:

- Aged 18 or over
- A British citizen, an eligible Commonwealth citizen, an Irish citizen, or a qualifying EU citizen

You must also meet at least one of the following criteria:

- Be registered as a local government elector in the parish
- Have occupied land or premises in the parish as owner or tenant for the past 12 months
- Have your main or only place of work in the parish for the past 12 months
- Have lived in the parish or within three miles of its boundary for the past 12 months

No previous experience is required. Full training and support are available.

How to express interest:

If you would like to be considered, or would like further information about the role, please contact the Parish Clerk or speak to any current parish councillor. More details overleaf...

Finally, the Parish Council has submitted its budget request for the 2026/27 financial year. Some of the decisions required have been difficult, and we will communicate further details in the March edition of this newsletter. Our Portfolio Holder for Finance, Cllr Peter Woodliffe-Thomas, will be setting out our spending priorities shortly. I would like to place on record my thanks to our Parish Clerk and to Cllr Woodliffe-Thomas for the considerable work involved in preparing the budget.

Kind Regards

Cllr Benjamin Harris, Chairman of Quainton Parish Council

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QUAINTON NEEDS NEW PARISH COUNCILLORS

Could this be you? Make a real difference in your community. Quainton Parish Council (soon to become Quainton Rural Community Council) is inviting residents to step forward and help shape the future of our community.

What does a Parish Councillor do?

- Represents local residents
- Helps make decisions on village services and projects
- Supports planning, community events, and local initiatives
- Works with partners to improve parish life
- Attends monthly meetings and occasional working groups

No experience needed — just enthusiasm and commitment.

Who can apply? You must be:

- 18 or over
- A British, Commonwealth, or EU citizen
- IT literate - email, whatsapp, spreadsheet
- Living in, working in, or within 3 miles of the parish

Find out more: Useful guides for prospective councillors:

- The Good Councillor's Guide <https://www.nalc.gov.uk/library/publications/801-good-councillors-guide/file> (nalc.gov.uk in Bing)
- Becoming a Parish Councillor (NALC) <https://www.nalc.gov.uk/our-work/be-a-councillor> (nalc.gov.uk in Bing)
- Interested? Get in Touch! If you'd like to find out more or express your interest, please contact Helen our Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer: Email: parishclerk@quainton.org
- You're also welcome to attend a council meeting to see how things work in practice.



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Quainton FC Report

You can see the team dressed for some festive action in the photo below, taken at our Christmas training session in December!



After the festive break, Quainton Football Club were itching to get back into action, but football had other ideas. Our scheduled return on 3 January was unfortunately called off thanks to a frozen pitch, proving once again that winter football is as much about battling the elements as the opposition.

A fixture reshuffle then saw us thrown straight in at the deep end on 10 January, welcoming league leaders Steeple Claydon & Ludgershall FC to Quainton. With little time to dust off the festive cobwebs, we faced a tough afternoon against a very strong side and, despite plenty of effort, the match ended in a 5–1 defeat. There were still positives to take, though. Adam Perna grabbed our only goal of the game, and special congratulations go to Joe Williamson, who marked his debut with a Man of the Match performance. Not a bad way to introduce yourself.

At the time of writing, we have played 13 games and currently sit 5th in the league. There is plenty still to learn, lots of room to grow, and a real sense that progress is being made. We're looking forward to attacking the second half of the season with fresh energy and a point to prove.

Upcoming fixtures:

- 31 January – AFC Chesham (Home) – 1:30pm kick off (Sheffield Jackman Cup)
- 7 February – Wingrave Reserves (Away) – 2pm kick off

You can keep up to date with all the latest news, results and matchday updates by following us on social media: Facebook: Quainton Football Club and Instagram: QuaintonFC

If you're interested in joining the club, whether you're new to the area or fancy a fresh challenge, please get in touch with manager Mike York at mike.york@btinternet.com or send us a message through our social channels. The second half of the season awaits – and we're ready to get stuck in.



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What's on at The George in February

Dry January is done... well done to everyone who made it through the full month! Now it's time to make up for it.

If you haven't visited us since Christmas, pop in and see our fresh new look in the bar. We were closed for a few days at the beginning of January for a spruce-up – huge thanks to Lyn-Louise from A Final Touch. February is a big month at The George & Dragon, with the return of the Six Nations, special events and our major charity fundraiser.



Six Nations Rugby: All Six Nations games will be shown live in the pub.

Six Nations Offer: For every Six Nations game, wear your official national team shirt while your team is playing and receive a FREE pint (lager, ale or cider).

Thursday 5th February: France v Ireland – 8:10pm

Saturday 7th February: Italy v Scotland – 2:10pm England v Wales – 4:40pm

Saturday 14th February: Ireland v Italy – 2:10pm Scotland v England – 4:40pm

Sunday 15th February: Wales v France – 3:10pm

Saturday 21st February: England v Ireland – 2:10pm Wales v Scotland – 4:40pm

Sunday 22nd February: France v Italy – 3:10pm

Bingo Night: Monday 2nd February: Pub opens 6pm. Eyes down 7pm. The more players, the higher the prize money! Please arrive in good time to buy drinks and bingo cards.

Brush Party: Monday 9th February: The first Brush Party of the year – if you haven't attended one yet, grab a friend and get booking!

Valentine's Weekend: Friday 13th & Saturday 14th February: Special Valentine's Menu available 6– 8:30pm. Booking essential. It doesn't have to be your Valentine – bring your best friend, or treat someone who deserves a little luxury.

Pancake Night: Tuesday 17th February: Enjoy a special selection of sweet pancakes. Booking essential.

Ladies Night – National Drink Wine Day: Wednesday 18th February: Our first Ladies Night of 2026! £10 per person including a glass of wine and nibbles. Non-wine drink offers available in the top bar. Bookings essential.

BIG CHARITY FUNDRAISER: Saturday 21st February at Bucks Railway Centre, 7-11.30pm. Live music, hot food and great times. Dress to impress! To book tickets, please email: pub@georgeanddragonquainton.co.uk. See poster on p.7.

Quiz night: Monday 23rd February: Pub open 6pm, quiz 7pm, in aid of Parkinsons UK.

Pub Opening Hours

Tuesdays: 5pm–9:30pm. Food 5pm–8pm

Wednesdays: 12pm–3pm & 5pm–9:30pm. Food: 12pm–2pm & 5pm–8pm

Thursdays: 12–3pm & 5–10pm. Food: 12–2pm. Friends & Flavours Burger Van (evening)

Fridays: 12pm–3pm & 5pm–10:30pm. Food: 12pm–2pm & 5pm–8:30pm

Saturdays: 12pm–10:30pm. Food: 12–2pm & 5pm–8:30pm

Sundays: 12pm–9:30pm. Food: 12–2pm & 5–7pm. All opening hours are at staff discretion.

Please book tables in advance and notify us of any dietary requirements. We look forward to seeing you in February! The George & Dragon Team.



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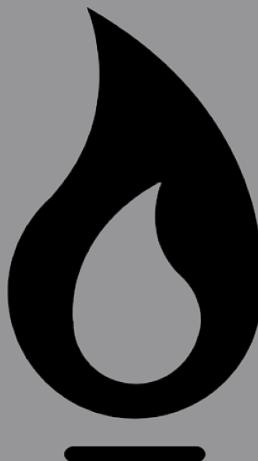
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Update from Philip Gomm

Bucks Unitary Councillor representing you in Quainton

February 2026 Update

BLACKGROVE ROAD: We all know its frustrating regarding the state of this road, but my hands are tied rebuilding now with Station Road and Shipton being closed. I will say the repair team are in there weekly and I understand many are still not satisfied but you are not being ignored. Discussions and plans are to rebuild that road, not a small task, which hopefully will include changes to the crossroads.

STATION ROAD REALIGNMENT: This is on target to open at the end of May and, to top it off, I've been working on traffic calming schemes for Station Road, which is looking very positive, plus other projects around the village... I will update on all this ASAP.

UTILITIES ROAD CLOSURES: Most residents know I'm a strong advocate in getting our road closures opened asap. Some good news is that we have finally been notified that we've been successful in our bid to introduce a new 'Lane Rental' scheme next year, the aim of which is to speed up the time it takes to complete roadworks, a source of much disruption and frustration I know. The new Lane Rental scheme means utilities and other firms who need to dig up the roads to make repairs and improvements will effectively have to 'rent' the section of road they need to access.

It will allow the council to charge up to £2,500 a day for works carried out on the busiest parts of the road network at peak times, encouraging companies to plan smarter, work together and finish jobs faster. The money raised will both pay for the scheme and be re-invested into other initiatives that reduce disruption from roadworks. We have long-pressed the government for greater powers to manage roadworks so this is really positive.

BUCKS COUNCIL BUDGET: These are not easy times financially and our attention is firmly on our budget as we come to finalise our spending plans for the next financial year. This is particularly challenging with central government's recent Fair Funding Review which directs money away from places like Buckinghamshire to other parts of the country. We have only been told in the last week of how much funding central government is providing Buckinghamshire; it amounts to an overall loss of £44.4 million for our county which we will have to make up through further savings and efficiencies.

We are experiencing a 'double whammy' here in Buckinghamshire with further cuts to other funding streams too. For example, we had news last week that a critical SEN school that we had secured government funding for has now been cancelled. Overall, the Fair Funding Review will see our core spending power funding increase by just 8.1% over the next three years, which is well below the national average increase. This level of increase is only made possible by increases to our local Council Tax, that the government calculations include; without it, we would have faced a further £30m budget gap.

We continue to make representations in the strongest possible terms to government about how unfair this is for Buckinghamshire and I will continue to fight for the best possible deal for our county and my Ward.

Contact me via email Philip.gomm@buckinghamshire.gov.uk

Or emergency 07778 177647



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Please book, with your menu choices, by Weds 11th February. Contact Mary McDermott on 01296 658128 or mmcdermott2712@gmail.com (please do not contact the pub.)

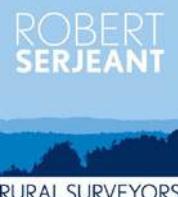
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Further details from Jane 07739 985 440





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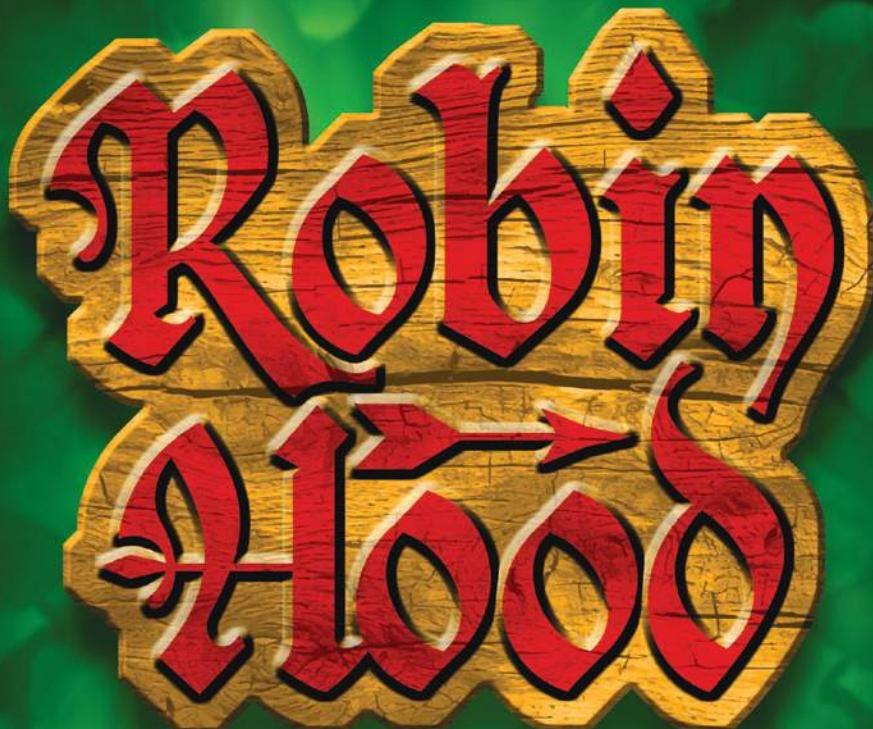


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Although we are officially closed until the end of March, we will be opening for a special volunteer recruitment day and for February half term - see dates and details below. Also, our Railway Cafe remains open Monday to Friday all year round.



Railway Cafe: Open every week, Monday to Friday, 9.30am-2pm for delicious hot breakfasts, lunch, made-to-order sandwiches, paninis, snacks, hot and cold drinks.

Sunday 8th February: Volunteer Recruitment Day, 11am-1pm, see poster p.23

FEBRUARY HALF TERM

Sunday 15th February: Peter Rabbit is visiting The Railway!

Weds 18th February: Steaming Day. Visit for steam train rides and lots more!

Saturday 21st February: George's Big Charity Fundraiser, 7pm, see poster p.7

Sunday 22nd February: Museum Day. NEW: reduced ticket prices for those wanting to visit on a quieter day when the whole site is open but there are no full-size train rides.



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Quainton Golf Society

The event for December was the Christmas Shield at Whipsnade Park. We were blessed with a fantastic turnout of 30 and the conditions were good with only a few minutes of light drizzle and only the slightest of breezes. The scoring was however pretty modest overall with only 5 players making 30 points or more. The winner on the day was Vince Hemsley winning by 3 shots from Mike York, who was 1 point in front of Mick Simmonds and Brian Cuddy.



This year's concurrent 'Pink Ball' Team competition was won with a very low score of 27 points by Vince Hemsley, John Lucas, Graham Long and Dave Clouting. The runners-up with 26 points were Neil Mack, Roger Simms, Mark Hughes & Gary Nangle who were a point in front of the third placed team of Terry Curtis, Alan Marks, Joe Ward & Neil Richards.

There was a Santa Sweep competition where every player draws out another competitor from the hat and whoever draws the winning player from the hat (which cannot be themselves) wins the £30 pot. The lucky winner who drew Vince out of the hat was Mark Hughes.

	Christmas Shield	Stableford Points
1st	Vince Hemsley	35
2nd	Mike York	32
3rd =	Mick Simmonds	31
3rd =	Brian Cuddy	31
5th	Chris Rymer	30

Our next event is the Scratch Cup at Northampton Golf Club on Friday 27th March 2026.

For more information about joining the Society please contact Vince Hemsley on 07427555656 or vince.hemsley63@virginmedia.com



The February event: AGM and Review of Resolutions

WI members can join us at St. John's Church Hall, Whitchurch on Tuesday 3rd February for the AGM beginning at 19:30. For further info contact: whitchurchwibucks@gmail.com.

Next events: (Visitors warmly welcome on the night for £5)

Tuesday 3rd March: Bees: The Gardener's Best Friend

Dr Sara Churchfield, academic researcher of small mammals and keen gardener.

Tuesday 7th April: Horseback Safari in Botswana

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February in the Garden – Quainton Tips

As we move towards spring, there's plenty you can be doing in the garden this month, even while the weather is still cold.

Planting & Early Sowing

- Start broad beans, sweet peas and chillies indoors or in a greenhouse.
- Plant bareroot fruit trees, roses and hedging while they're still dormant.
- Add snowdrops "in the green" to brighten future years.

General Garden Care

- Tidy borders and cut back old growth before new shoots appear.
- Mulch beds with compost or well rotted manure to prepare for spring.
- Divide snowdrops after flowering if clumps are getting crowded.

Trees, Shrubs & Hedges

- Prune apple and pear trees now.
- Check stakes and ties after winter winds — especially useful in more exposed parts of the village.

Veg Patch Jobs

- Weed and prepare beds for the season ahead.
- Warm the soil with fleece or cloches if you want an early start next month.
- Chit seed potatoes ready for planting in March.

Wildlife Care

- Keep bird feeders topped up and provide fresh water daily.
- Take care when tidying borders — hedgehogs and frogs may still be tucked away.

Looking Ahead

February is a great month to plan your planting, order seeds and think about any changes you'd like to make before spring arrives.

And a quick reminder... The Quainton Plant Sale will take place on Saturday 16 May, a perfect chance to pick up locally grown plants and support the community.

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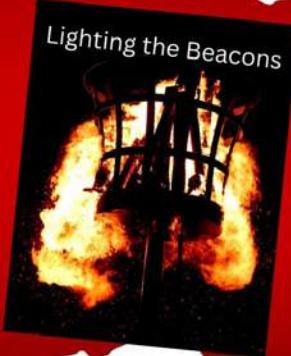
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Ramblings from Finemere Wood by Charlotte Karmali, Volunteer Warden

With the dawn of another year, it's remarkable to realise that the Finemere Wood Volunteer Work Party is now into its thirteenth year. Over time, we move around the wood, cutting back areas in rotation. Eventually, we return to areas previously cleared. The return to these sites is a measure of the group's longevity.

We revisit an area last cleared ten years ago, where the hazel coppices have developed long, upright stems, blackthorn and hawthorn have formed dense, interwoven thickets, and birch stands straight and prominent. Several of the woodland workers were present for the first clearance. Although time has added a few wrinkles and grey hairs to the mix, they still show up with boundless energy.

Few tasks are as satisfying as completely clearing an area of vegetation. Brutal though the work may appear, it brings a renewed vitality to the wood. Light will reach the woodland floor, allowing species adapted to open conditions to thrive; the coppiced hazel stools will, in turn, provide shelter and protection for invertebrates and small mammals alike. Over time, hazel, blackthorn, and other species will regenerate, and the canopy will gradually close over once again; the wildlife will move on to a more recently coppiced area.

I had remembered this area as only a third of its actual size, imagining it could be cleared in a single day. The woodland workers gave it their all, yet even they recognised it would be a long task. Felling a coppiced hazel, with its many stems, is slow and exacting, each stem taken carefully in turn. The work demands constant judgment, unfolding like the solution to an intricate puzzle. Blackthorn and hawthorn, by contrast, require full protective gear to withstand their sharp thorns, as the tangled stems are cut and hauled apart. Birch responds to a well-placed felling cut, falling in a controlled motion and landing precisely where intended.

Huge piles of cut vegetation and trees are heaped into mounds, much of it stacked onto one or two dead hedges. There, the wood will slowly decay, returning valuable nutrients to the soil. We light a small fire, which provides warmth and comfort on what is a cold, grey day, and offers entertainment for those who cannot resist the draw of the flames. Long hazel whips are gathered by a volunteer to use in a hedge-laying project in his home village.

The heavens open and the promised heavy rain comes tumbling down. We make a hasty retreat to the shelter of our cars. Behind us, the woodland waits; the workers will return.

For further information about volunteering opportunities at Finemere Wood, and other BBOWT reserves, please email volunteering@bbowt.org.uk.





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Calendar of Activities

Detailed below are the regular weekly activities in Quainton Memorial Hall. As there may be breaks for holidays etc, please check the online calendar first at :<https://booking.quaintonmh.co.uk/>

If you are interested in joining one of these groups, please contact QMH and your enquiry will be forwarded to the relevant contact. New members are always welcome.

DAY	ACTIVITY	TIME
Monday	Day Centre (Main Hall) Craft Club (Conference Room)	10:00 - 14:30 14:00 - 16:30
Tuesday	Ukulele Group (Conference Room) Pilates (Main Hall) Art Club (Conference Room) Pilates (Main Hall)	09:30 - 12:30 10:30 - 11:30 13:30 - 16:30 17:30 - 18:30
Wednesday	Core Circuits Somatic Core Restoration Bridge (Main Hall) Carpet Bowls (Main Hall)	09:15 – 10:30 10:45 – 12:00 13:00 - 17:00 19:00 - 22:00
Thursday	Coffee Morning (Main Hall) Badminton (Main Hall)	10:30 - 12:00 – just turn up! 19:00 - 21:30
Friday	Community Choir (Main Hall)	10:00 - 12:00
Saturday		
Sunday	Table Tennis (Main Hall)	17:00 - 20:00

If you'd like to book the hall for an ad hoc event or new regular activity, please either book online at: booking.quaintonmh.co.uk or contact our bookings clerk, Deb Barker Boyd, on **01296 655379**. Alternatively, contact us by email at: quaintonmemorialhall@gmail.com

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GARDENING AMBITIONS

January Edition 2026 – HS2 in Quainton

Construction works updates

We completed the installation of the permanent road signage and street furniture around the area of the A41 in mid-January. The works included the reinstallation of the historic Bicester Road heritage mile marker that was restored at the Buckinghamshire Railway Centre.

Progress on other structures, roads and earthworks has continued at pace during December 2025 and have continued into 2026:

Thame Valley Viaduct – the work on the 880m long viaduct, carrying HS2 across the River Thame is continuing throughout 2026. Currently 326 of the 716 concrete parapet sections that form the barriers have now been installed and over 70% of the concrete deck poured.



WAD/4 footpath crossing – steel reinforcements for the wing wall slab and supporting piers for the footpath crossing to the north of Waddesdon have been built ready for concrete. This bridge will open in 2027 and will carry to WAD/4 footpath over the HS2 mainline.

Needles Farm overbridge – earthworks underneath the bridge to continued through December and January. Clay soil was removed and stored for use in permanent landscaping features. It was replaced with aggregate and compacted to provide a stable base for the mainline.

Bicester Road Embankment – track drainage got underway in December, involving laying large concrete pipes. This work will continue throughout 2026 in the Waddesdon area.

The HS2 Winter Newsletters are available on the HS2 website for the Aylesbury and Calvert areas. They review the projects achievements in the Aylesbury area for 2025, including construction progress and planned works for early 2026. We've also been shining a spot light on community investment and reviewing the social value initiatives completed during 2025. You can download a copy of the latest newsletter online:

[Aylesbury newsletter Winter 2025 – HS2](#)

[Calvert newsletter Winter 2025 - HS2](#)

One of the best ways to see the progress we are making on site is from our aerial footage. Scan the QR code below to view the latest HS2 works in your area.



Upcoming and ongoing works:

Details of the works in your area are shown on page 43:



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- The Grendon Underwood Public Right of Way (GUN 28) will remain open every Sunday as follows: 1 October to 31 March 8am to 4pm, and 1 April to 30 September 8am to 7pm.
- Station Road South, closure in place to enable works for the western tie-in to the new alignment until 31 May 2026.
- Station Road North, 2-way lights in place to safely manage the traffic flow and will continue until the realignment of the new road opens on 31 May 2026.
- The closure on Shipton Lee to enable the alignment of the new road over the new Edgcott Road overbridge will be completed by end April 2026.
- Fiddlers Field will remain closed until the new Station Road re-alignment opens on 31 May 2026.
- In the Waddesdon area, on the A41 Bicester Road (opposite the EKFB compound) 2-way lights will be in place to safely manage the traffic flow, for gas utility works from 23 February to 8 March 2026, 9am to 3pm.

Please check the HS2 website for regular updates and note that dates for planned works may change.

Community Engagement activities:

We will resume our programme of engagement events in early Spring 2026. You can check the HS2 events page for more information on future engagement events.

In early January we started our community engagement programme with the reinstallation of the historic cast iron Bicester Road mile marker after consultation with local community stakeholders including Buckinghamshire Council. The marker was removed from the verge of the old A41 near Waddesdon, when the A41 realignment was built. Community volunteers from local charity I'd Like to Borrow, based at Buckinghamshire Railway Centre in Quainton gave the marker post a light restoration in January prior to reinstallation. EKFB covered the cost of the restoration and carried out the reinstallation.



Did you know that funding for community projects is available through the HS2 Community and Environment Fund (CEF) and the Business and Local Economy Fund (BLEF)? In December 2025 the average grant awarded to a range of community projects, was just over £55k. You can find out more about this by following this link [Community and business funding - HS2](#).

We recommend signing-up to our mailing list and checking the HS2 events page for future events in your area. Alternatively, if you would like to book onto a site tour then please contact the HS2 helpdesk, HS2Enquiries@hs2.org.uk.

If you would like to read more about the works and view the advance works notices and maps, then please go to HS2 website www.hs2.org.uk and click the 'in your area section' to view the interactive map or simply scan the QR code provided.

Alternatively, if you have a question about HS2 please contact our HS2 Helpdesk team on 08081 434 434 or email hs2enquiries@hs2.org.uk



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QUAINTON NEWS

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• • • *Quainton News* copy deadline: 16th of the month • • •

VILLAGE SERVICES

Quainton Website: Quainton Parish Online: www.quainton.org.uk

Quainton Village Life: This is a very active Facebook page for Quainton residents. Photos shared, local history discussed, questions answered, advice given, recommendations, plus lots more! There is also "Quainton Buying and Selling" Facebook page.

Quainton Support Network: A team of volunteers to help residents, for example, needing a lift to a doctor's appointment. Call Alison on 01296 655033 or Claire 655552.

Quainton Oil Group: Residents can receive regular deliveries of heating oil on group negotiated terms from Lovells. T: 01844 202777 and ask to join the Quainton Oil Group.

Quainton Dog Warden: Lost your dog or found someone else's? Call Jan, our local contact point, on 655800 or 07941 946870 for help reuniting lost dogs with their owners.

Memorial Hall Bookings: <https://booking.quaintonmh.co.uk/> or contact Deb Barker Boyd on 655379, E: quaintonmemorialhall@gmail.com.

Saye & Sele Hall Bookings: Call John Knox on 655275.

Winwood Almshouses: For enquiries contact: winwoodalmshouses@outlook.com

REFUSE & RECYCLING COLLECTIONS FOR FEBRUARY

Monday 2nd February	Green refuse wheelie bin and food bin ** Brown Garden Waste Bin collections re-start**
Monday 9th February	Blue-lidded recycling wheelie bin and food bin
Monday 16th February	Green refuse wheelie bin and food bin ** Brown Garden Waste Bin **
Monday 23rd February	Blue-lidded recycling wheelie bin and food bin
Monday 2nd March	Green refuse wheelie bin and food bin ** Brown Garden Waste Bin **

Extra recycling items collected at 13 Winwood Drive: Batteries, light bulbs, water filter cartridges, printer ink cartridges, spectacles, bras, used postage stamps, coffee pods, empty medicine blister packs.



Waddesdon Hall

Nestled in the heart of the Rothschild Estate, Waddesdon Hall is the perfect setting for weddings, parties, community events, and more.

Built in 1897 and renovated in 2020, the hall combines period character with modern amenities:

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SERVICES AT HOLY CROSS & ST MARY'S CHURCH

Sunday 1st February	8.00am 9.30am 6.00pm	BCP Holy Communion Breakfast Church Informal Praise
Sunday 8th February	9.30am 6.00pm	Morning Worship for Everyone Choral Evensong
Sunday 15th February	9.30am 6.00pm	Morning Worship for Everyone Holy Communion
Weds 18th February	7.30pm	Ash Wednesday Service at Granborough
Sunday 22nd February	9.30am 6.00pm	Morning Worship for Everyone Evening Service
Weds 25th February	7.30pm	Lent Course starts at The Rectory, 27 Church Street

PARISH REGISTER ENTRIES

No entries this month

CHURCH ROTAS FOR FEBRUARY

	1 February	8 February	15 February	24 February
Altar Flowers	Venetia Dalton	Nicola Thomas	Emily Crook	LENT no flowers
Pedestal Flowers	Carolyn Turnbull	Carolyn Turnbull	Jane Lydall	LENT no flowers
Church Cleaning	Helen Ratcliffe Sarah Fenemore	Sharyn Buck Linda Chapple Nicola Thomas	Sheila Hammond Claire Lucas Greta Nicolls Natalie Carlisle	

HOLY CROSS & ST. MARY'S CHURCH - OUR FAVOURITE PHOTOS



Thank you to Chris Hammonds for sending in this photo of the Alms Houses and church under the sprinkling of snow that we had in December.

If you would like to see your photo printed here, email your photos of the church and/or its surroundings to me at quaintonnews@gmail.com

Thank you,
Louisa

VILLAGE CALENDAR

For all pub dates see p.17

5th February: Parish Council meeting, QMH, 6.30pm, p.10
Six Nations Rugby tournament begins, watch in the pub, p.17

7th February: Quainton FC away match v Wingrave, KO 2pm, p.15
Six Nations, England plays Wales, 4.40pm

8th February: Volunteering Recruitment Day at The Railway, 11am-1pm, p.23

13/14th February: Quaintwood Players Robin Hood, QMH, p.25

14th February: Six Nations, England plays Scotland, 4.40pm

15th February: Peter Rabbit visits Quainton Railway... p.27

18th February: Over 50s Lunch, 12.30pm at The George, p.21

21st February: George's BIG Fundraiser at The Railway, 7pm, p.7/17
Six Nations, England plays Ireland, 2.10pm

Save the date: The Gruffalo comes to The Railway on Sunday 29th March

Quainton News – The Parish Magazine and Village Newsletter

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