

QUAINTON ·NEWS·

THE PARISH MAGAZINE & VILLAGE NEWSLETTER



Happy New Year Everyone!

Doesn't our Christmas tree on The Green look especially wonderful this year!
Huge thanks to the Bonfire & Fireworks boys and their helpers for organising it
once again. Happy New Year everyone!

ISSUE NO. 607

JANUARY 2026

WELCOME FROM HOLY CROSS & ST MARY'S CHURCH



Dear Friends,

There's no doubt about it, we are living in uncertain times. Blaise Metreweli, the newly appointed head of MI6, the Secret Intelligence Service, said in her first major public speech on 15th December, "Let's be in no doubt. Our world is more dangerous and contested now than it has been for decades. Conflict is evolving and trust eroding..." highlighting the broad shift in global security challenges.

As we enter 2026, there will be new challenges, new opportunities and the usual ups and downs of life. What we should not do however, is live in fear. There is a lovely verse in the Bible that goes like this: "Perfect love casts out fear," 1 John 4:18. It is in finding and dwelling in the secure love of God that we find security, hope, fulfilment and purpose. Without God in our lives, we live in a vacuum of hopelessness, insecurity and ultimately, despair because we are simply travelling into a black hole of nothingness. Wow! That's heavy – but true.

C. S. Lewis (1898–1963) was a scholar, literary critic, philosopher, and writer, and in his brilliant book "The Great Divorce," in which he argues for the authenticity of the Bible and Christian faith, he says, "There are only two kinds of people in the end: Those who say to God, 'Thy will be done,' and those to whom God says, in the end, 'thy will be done.'"

You may remember that in October 2024, fifty of us gathered on Mill Hill, lit a bonfire and blew a shofar (ram's horn) as we pronounced God's blessing on Quainton and all the villages around us in preparation for 2025, a year of hope. We were following the ancient Biblical tradition of Jubilee – historically, God's call to celebrate service, sharing, peace and hope. And last year that's exactly what we tried to do in a variety of ways.

This new year of 2026, we are celebrating "A Year Of Light", when we will explore ways of shining a light in the darkness of despair and hopelessness and find ways of bringing love, practical support and hope into the lives of the many people with whom we have contact day by day.

Will you join us? Some people say to me, 'you don't have to go to church to be a Christian.' I profoundly disagree. God never made us to be free lance Christians. We were made for community, or as the Bible describes it, to be 'the body of Christ,' part of the family of God. Christianity without church is like a Fish Out Of Water. A great album title by Chris Squire, bassist with one of my favourite bands, YES, but no way to nurture faith, grow in community and share the adventure of faith together.

May you know real blessing this year as you step out in faith.

God bless,

Rev Steve

Holy Cross & St Mary's, Quainton & All Saints, Oving with Pitchcott

The Rectory

27 Church Street

Quainton HP22 4AW

Phone: 01296 655237 Mobile: 07950 000910

Church Websites: www.quaintonchurch.com

www.ovingchurch.com

WELCOME TO THE JANUARY 2026 ISSUE



Louisa Richards, Editor
quaintonnews@gmail.com

Hello everyone,

Another year is upon us. I hope you all enjoyed the festive season with those you love.

January is always a quieter month here in Quainton but we have the annual Wassail at the community Orchard to look forward to (p.15) and then Quaintwood Players' panto, which is always a huge hit, hilarious, and usually sold out, so get your tickets asap!

George is organising a big charity fundraiser at The Railway, on 21st February – see his poster on p.19. I am devastated to be missing this one as I am away, but it sounds like it's going to be a great night! Get your tickets soon!

Enjoy the read!

A handwritten signature in dark ink, which appears to read 'Louisa'.

NEWS FROM OUR CHURCH

Churchyard Clear Up Thank You !

A big thank you to all those wonderfully supportive people who helped achieve such an amazing job at the Churchyard Clear up on 6 December.

I don't think we could believe how lucky we were with the weather. There are too many to name but they know who they are!

Malcolm and I are very grateful.

Thank you!

Margaret

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Quainton Coffee Mornings



HAPPY NEW YEAR everyone!

I hope Christmas time was what you wanted and not too stressful. Why not come to the weekly Thursday Coffee Mornings to relax, unwind and have a chat while enjoying a coffee or tea with homemade cake served by our volunteers. It's just £2.

Where: Quainton Memorial Hall

When: Restarting 8th January 2026, 10.30 to 12 noon.

All proceeds to the upkeep of the Hall. Further enquiries from Sheila 01296 655382

Hope to see you there

The Over 50s Monthly Lunch!

Our first lunch of 2026 will be at 12.30pm
on Wednesday 21st January

£15.00 per head for two courses and coffee or tea

Mains:

Toad in the hole, mash and vegetables onion gravy GFA

Veggie sausage mash and vegetable onion gravy GFA



Puddings:

Apple crumble and custard GF

Selection of ice cream

It is essential to book and choose your menu by Wednesday 14th January

Contact Mary McDermott on 01296 658128 or mmcdermott2712@gmail.com, please do not contact the pub.

Come and join us, anyone over 50 is welcome!
We get together on the third Wednesday of every month.



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Doors open 30 mins before start times



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



We offer all day childcare to 2, 3 and 4 year olds as well as after school care. We have a wonderful outdoor space with a variety of resources to keep children stimulated, learning and having fun!

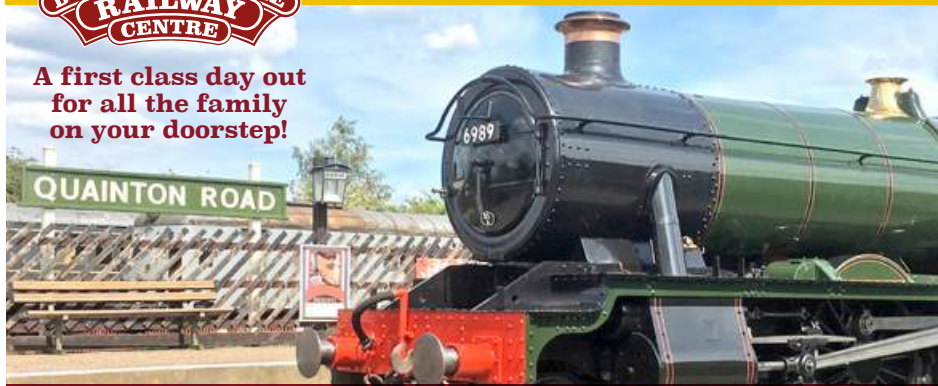
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Contact Kerry or Pam on 07495 030325

★ gumbootsandroots@gmail.com ★



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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!

Can you help our Primary School?

You could become a School Governor at Quainton School and make a New Year's Resolution that truly matters — help your local school and its pupils be the best they can be.

Quainton School is looking for enthusiastic and committed individuals to join our Governing Body. As a governor, you'll play a vital role in shaping the future of our school, supporting staff, and ensuring every child has the opportunity to thrive.



Why become a Governor?

- Support children's education — help raise standards and celebrate success.
- Strengthen your community — make a real difference in Quainton.
- Develop new skills — gain experience in leadership, finance, and strategic planning.
- Work with a dedicated team — collaborate with staff, parents, and fellow governors.

What we're looking for:

- Passion for education and children's wellbeing.
- Full training is provided and the expectation is just three meetings a term and a school visit.
- Your commitment to supporting the school's vision and values.

If you'd like to make 2026 the year you give back to your community, we'd love to hear from you.

• Contact us at

Quainton School Tel: 01295655242 Email: office@quainton.bucks.sch.uk

Members of the current Governing Body are happy to meet for an informal chat/coffee/phone call.

Does anyone know of a link between Isaac Newton and our church?

I have been asked to write a piece about the link between Sir Isaac Newton and the Church of England here in Quainton. I am interested to hear from anybody who has any information, fact or anecdotal, about such a link. The story so far...

The Reverend Jeffrey Elkins was the local vicar from 1732 to 1765. He was the executor to Lady Lymington, to whom he was related. Her mother was the nearest relation to Newton when he died and inherited his estate, which included manuscripts and writings. When the Rev Elkins died in 1773, these papers passed to his son who was then our local vicar. The linen-fold carved chest/coffer in the church belonged to him. A lockable-coffer like this would have been the equivalent of a safe in those days and may have stored valuables such as the Newton papers. It was most likely located in the rectory at that time. In 1882, the Ekins family bequeathed the papers to New College, Oxford.

Thanks, Paul Turnbull. Email: pdtturnbull@btinternet.com Tel: 07767 138444

QUANTON 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://quinton.org.uk/contact-us> or contact the clerk by email

on: parishclerk@quinton.org.uk

Parish Council lines of Communication:

Quinton Village Website: <https://www.quinton.org.uk/>

Physical message boards on The Green and at Quinton Memorial Hall

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

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

The last Meeting of the Council was held on 10th December 2025

NEXT MEETING: 8th January 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 Residents,

I hope you had a relaxing and restful Christmas and May I wish you a very Happy New Year ahead for 2026.

I firstly wanted to highlight to you that the Parish Council will now no longer be known as Quinton Parish Council. It was resolved at full council that from the 10th of December the council henceforth will be known as Quinton Rural Community Council and your parish councillors will now be known as Community Councillors. This is a push in the direction of modernity and a fresh look on the council's work. We want to be inclusive and move away from the parochial sense. This was backed by council, and we have now started the legal process with Buckinghamshire County Council to official change our name. This comes alongside our work to launch a new refreshed website which improves on our accessibility and our facilities. So, from now on the Council will now be styled as Quinton Rural Community Council (QRCC).

The 4-year plan for Quinton has now been officially approved; this remains an active and open document which can adapt to the needs of the community if there is further appetite to change the direction of the Community Council if necessary. There are a range of community projects that are laid before us, and a more digestible document will be published shortly with a leaflet hitting your doorsteps/mailboxes in February. Anyone wishing to see the full 29-page document, please contact the clerk who can provide a digital/printed version.

The council is also now in the process of putting together the Budget for 2026/27 financial year. Changes to your precept charge will be communicated with you through your Buckinghamshire County Council Tax Bill. Currently a typical Band D household in Quainton pays £48.32 annually to the Community Council (Formerly Parish Council). This equates to 92p a week. Due to a no real terms increase in funding for devolved services from Buckinghamshire County Council and further costs rising inline or faster than inflation, the position of the Community Council would be that it will be unlikely that we will freeze our precept this year again and that in fact decisions will have to be made that may see an increase in that precept. However, all this will be communicated to you once we have finalised our budget for the next financial year.

As many of you will have seen in the local press or on social media, that Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes Fire Authority are currently going through their on-call Improvement Programme consultation. As chair of the community council, I announced my support for the recommendations made by the fire authority in a statement made at full council on the 10th of December. QRCC will now consider the information and data provided in the consultation and will submit their consultation before the deadline in January. This is a full council decision like any normal consultation, so the onus is on all councillors to read and come to a final view before submission.

As outlined in my statement to full council and of which I will iterate here – I am disappointed this has been used as a political football and I hope that those who have used it as such reflect on the inflammatory language used and comes to the table to negotiate a fair deal for all residents.

You can have your say here: <https://bucksfire.gov.uk/public-plans/on-call-improvement-programme-consultation-2025/>

We are as a council still needing to fill a vacancy for community councillor on the QRCC. If you want to serve the community of Quainton and our rural clusters, do come forward, we are at an exciting time in our history and would welcome new faces to our community council. As a reminder you will need to:

- At least be 18 years old on the date of co-option.
- A British citizen, an eligible Commonwealth citizen, a citizen of the Republic of Ireland, or an EU citizen with retained rights.
- Your name is on the local government register (electoral roll) for Quainton.
- You don't need specific qualifications, just a passion for your community and a willingness to contribute.

If you are interested in joining contact the clerk at Parishclerk@quainton.org.uk or write us a letter.

Thank you again for all of your efforts within the community and I wish you all the very best of luck and health into 2026.

Kind Regards,

Cllr Benjamin Harris



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Quanton FC Report

As we return from the festive break and step into a new year, Quanton FC reach the halfway point of the season with plenty to reflect on and even more to look forward to. Twelve games in, we sit fourth in the table on twenty three points, with six wins, five draws and just one defeat. It is a record that shows both the progress being made and the growing belief within the squad. For only our second season back, the foundations being laid are strong and the ambition for the months ahead is clear.



The first half of the campaign has seen the team show real resilience, consistency and togetherness. There have been tight battles, big performances and moments of real quality across the pitch. What has stood out most is the collective spirit. The squad continues to grow in confidence, the work rate never drops and there is a genuine sense that the players are building something that will last beyond a single season.

None of this would feel the same without the support we receive week after week. Whether home or away, the encouragement from the sidelines makes a huge difference. We are incredibly grateful to everyone who follows us, offers kind words or simply takes time to be part of what the club is becoming.

We would also like to give a special mention to our club sponsor and local village pub, The George and Dragon. Their continued support, generosity and involvement within the community play a vital role in helping the club move forward. We are proud to have them alongside us.

At the time of writing our upcoming fixtures have not yet been released. As soon as they are confirmed, updates will be posted on our social media pages, so please keep an eye out if you want to follow the team's progress in the weeks ahead.

We wish everyone in the village a happy and healthy new year. Thank you for your support so far and we look forward to hearing you cheer us on throughout 2026.

January fixtures:

3rd January – Home Vs AFC Chesham: 1:30pm KO – Sheffield Jackman Cup

10th January – Away Vs Aylesbury Vale TT Reserves: 2pm KO

24th January – Away Vs Hemel Rovers Reserves: 2pm KO

Division Two

POS	Team	P	W	D	L	GD	PTS
1	Steeple & Ludgershall FC	12	11	0	1	34	33
2	AFC Chesham	11	8	0	3	34	24
3	Aylesbury Royals FC	11	8	0	3	7	24
4	Quanton FC	12	6	5	1	8	23
5	Cheniesley FC	12	7	2	3	7	23
6	Hemel Rovers Reserves	11	6	0	5	-2	18
7	Aylesbury Hornets Reserves	13	5	2	6	0	17
8	Wingrave Reserves	12	4	3	5	9	15
9	Aylesbury Penguins Reserves	13	4	1	8	-8	13
10	Thame United C	11	3	2	6	-6	11
11	Rivets FC Reserves	13	3	2	8	-22	11
12	Aylesbury Vale Toqueers Titans Reserves	11	2	1	8	-1	7
13	Wendover Colts	12	0	2	10	-60	2



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WASSAIL: Community Heritage Orchard & Wildflower Meadow

Saturday 10th January 2026 at 4pm

A return of the Quainton Wassail and we are delighted that the Owlswick Morris Dancers are willing to visit again to dance and sing Wassailing songs.

What is a Wassail? It is an ancient ceremony to bless fruit trees and a chance to sing a few songs in a field followed by mulled cider or mulled apple. Please walk along the path on Lee Road so as to leave car parking for those who might find it difficult to walk from the village.

*Wassail the trees, that they may bear
You many a plum and many a pear:
For more or less fruits they will bring,
As you do give them wassailing.*

What you will need:

- Boots, lantern or torch, a decorated hat to wave, a cup to drink from
- Something to make a noise if you wish, small drum, pot and spoon
- More information will be sent to those who are attending

There are toilet facilities at the football pavilion – ramp if needed. The Owlswick Morris Dancers will dance on the flat part of the car park then lead us in a procession down to the orchard. Please let Michelle or Claire know if you are coming along to join in this slightly strange traditional ceremony to bless the orchard. We need to know for catering purposes, mulled cider/apple and biscuits.

Claire 01296 655552

Let it Snow, Let it Snow

The winter of 1981-82 was one of the worst in recent times starting in early December and lasting to mid-January with temperatures often below freezing.

Quainton residents were able to take advantage of the snow with many enjoying themselves tobogganing on Mill Hill, as can be seen in the photo. The photo being taken along from the Green and just before No. 4 Upper Street, where there was a field, before the four new houses were built.

Peter Harding



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What's on at The G&D



A New Year at the George and Dragon: As we welcome in a brand new year at the George and Dragon, I would like to extend my warmest wishes to everyone for a happy and prosperous New Year. It has been truly wonderful to reconnect with so many familiar faces during the festive period. My heartfelt thanks go out to the phenomenal team at the George and Dragon—your dedication and tireless hard work have made everything possible. The camaraderie and commitment displayed by the staff, not only over Christmas but throughout the entire year, have been nothing short of outstanding.

Dry January at the Pub: With many people participating in Dry January, I want to reassure everyone that the pub remains as welcoming as ever. Whether your preference is for a crisp dry white wine, a classic London dry gin, or simply a generous helping of dry humour, we have it all. Our offering includes a comprehensive range of alcohol-free options, from 0% spirits, ales and lagers to traditional soft drinks—ensuring there is something to suit every palate.

January Opening Hours and Events: Please note that our opening hours will vary throughout January, as our hard-working team takes a well-deserved break after a busy five weeks of festive menus and celebrations. We greatly appreciate your understanding and encourage you to keep an eye out for any updates regarding our hours.

- 1st January: Open from 13:00 to 18:00 (no food service)
- 2nd January: Open from 16:00 until close
- 3rd January: Open from 12:00 to 22:00. Friends & Flavours Burger Van 17:00 to 20:00
- 4th January: Open from 12:00 to 20:30
- 5th, 6th, 7th & 8th January: Closed
- 17th January: No food service in the evening, but Lorenzo Pizza will be here from 17:00

Fine Dining Event: The highlight of January is our fine dining evenings, scheduled for the 23rd and 24th. Both evenings are now fully booked. However, we are considering adding an additional fine dining evening on Sunday 25th January. If there is sufficient interest—specifically, bookings from at least six couples—I would be delighted to create a special menu for you. This presents an excellent opportunity for those who missed out on the original dates, so please reserve your table soon if you would like to join us.

Upcoming Events and Announcements:

- **Quiz Night – 26th January:** Our first quiz of the year! Open from 18:00, quiz starts at 19:00. Charity is MS Society UK. Entry is £5 per person. Teams up to six!
- **Bingo Night – 2nd February:** The first bingo night of 2026 is set for Monday 2nd February. The pub opens at 18:00, and eyes down is at 19:00. Join us for an evening filled with fun and excitement as we launch another year of bingo.

Throughout January, keep an eye out for new menu releases, including special offerings for Valentine's weekend, as well as the possibility of more exciting news to come. Stay tuned so you don't miss any delicious menus or special announcements.

Charity Fundraiser at Bucks Railway – 21st Feb: If you haven't yet booked your tickets yet, please get in touch asap: email pub@georgeanddragonquainton.co.uk.



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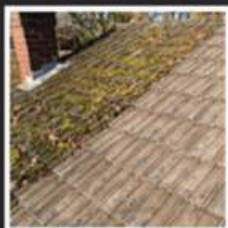
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Quainton Tennis Club

Lee Road, Quainton, HP22 4BH (at the end of the village, next to the football pitch)

Friendly social tennis for all ages and ability

Members can book a court whenever they want or come along to any of these sessions:

Tuesday mornings: Mixed Social Tennis 9.30am - 11.00am
Tuesday evenings: Group Coaching 7.00pm - 8.00pm (all welcome)
Thursday evenings: Ladies Social Tennis Ladies 6.30pm - 8.00pm
Men's Social Tennis 8.00pm - 9.00pm
Friday evenings: Men's Match Practice 7.00pm
Saturday mornings: Mixed Social Tennis 10.30am

Non-members: Courts available on pay and play basis, contact John Lucas
01296-655552 or e-mail quaintontennis@gmail.com

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After an incredible four weeks of Panto Express with Father Christmas, we closed for the rest of the winter season. We will re-open briefly for February half term, when we have a visit from Peter Rabbit on February 15th and a Steaming Day on Wednesday 18th February. The season then starts fully on March 22nd. We then have a special visit from The Gruffalo – who has also never been to Quainton before - on Sunday 29th March! Remember – Quainton residents get a 25% discount off tickets – just bring proof of address on the day.

The Railway Cafe

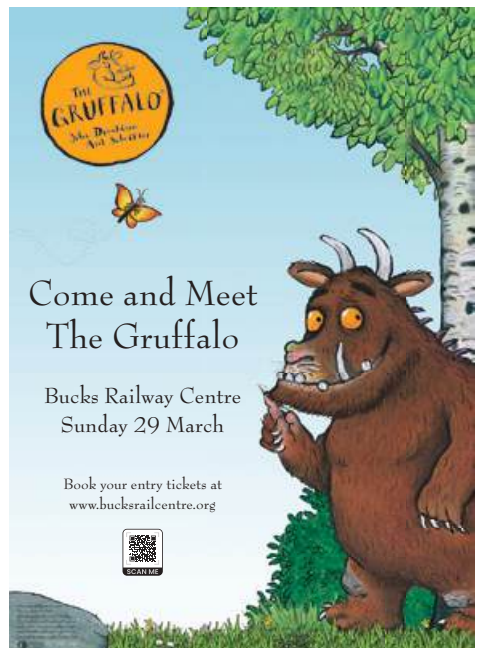
The Railway Cafe, located inside our stunning Visitor Centre, remains open 9.30am-2pm Monday to Friday all year round. Why not pop down and see what we've got to offer? Our Gift Shop is also open.



The Quainton Pass

We have a Quainton Pass especially for Quainton residents, which is just £45 for the whole family (up to two adults and four children) and includes entry to all our Steaming Days, Museum Days and Special Events. It just doesn't include Thomas or Christmas or any evening events. Pop along with proof of address anytime Monday to Friday 9am-4pm or on Sundays when we are open.

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Quainton Memorial Hall: Can You Help?

Treasurer Wanted

Invoice Support Wanted

Practical Help Wanted

The hall is run by a committee of unpaid volunteers with support from a small group of helpers. Due to a combination of factors, including family circumstances, health and retirement, we need more people to help as a matter of urgency. The most important roles are listed above.

Have you had a child's party in the hall, enjoyed a play, seen a presentation, visited the garden show or joined in the many regular activities? If so, would you think about helping out? You could join the committee or join a group of 'hall buddies' who we can call on for practical help such as checking the hall after parties, tidying up, weeding and other small maintenance tasks.

If you are interested, please get in touch as soon as possible.

Contact Kath Heirons, Chair of QMH email: quaintonmemorialhall@gmail.com or mobile 7825001620

Time for Lunch and Chat

Venue: Holy Cross and St Mary's church, Quainton

Tuesdays from January 13th 2026... 12pm to 1.30pm.

Free soup lunch followed by cake and hot drink

Everyone welcome. Travel arrangements also available.

Please let us know if you have any allergies or intolerances.

If you are willing to help for an hour on a rota basis, welcoming, serving and washing up (and a free lunch) please let us know.

Supported by Quainton PC, the John Laing Charitable Trust,
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For more information phone John and Claire on 01296 655552 or 07564086949

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Buckinghamshire Best Kept Village Award

As we are all aware, Quainton is a fantastic village and a lovely place to live with great amenities and a rural Buckinghamshire location. Quainton Parish Council has decided to enter the village into the Buckinghamshire Best Kept Village competition in 2026 as it is an excellent reason for everyone in the village to join together with a common goal and make the village look its best.

The Bucks Best Kept Village Competition was founded in 1957 as an initiative driven by Sir Francis Dashwood and the Local Councils' Association. The Competition's objective is to encourage entrants to work together as a community, involving all age groups, to make villages and towns more attractive places, not only for residents but also for visitors.

Judging normally takes place between 1st June and the middle of July. The results are usually announced at the end of July or early August. Judges inspect villages for overall neatness, cleanliness and community effort. They look at a wide range of public areas and facilities, which include:

- Children's play areas, village greens and parks
- Community facilities like village and church halls
- Condition of verges, ditches, and ponds
- Litter and environmental presentation
- Floral displays
- Local shops and pubs
- The War Memorial
- Noticeboards and public seating

We will be announcing further details along with a dedicated Facebook Group very soon. If you or anyone you know would like to be part of the steering group for the competition, please get in touch.

Peter Woodliffe-Thomas, Quainton Parish Council peter.woodliffethomas@quainton.org.uk



Seated and Supported Exercise Taster Session £7.50

Thursday January 22nd

12:15 – 1:00pm

In Quainton Memorial Hall

The class will be run by Kim Venters, a qualified fitness and health coach (see KJV Health and Wellness

<https://www.kjv-wellness.com/>)

For further information:

email: quaintonmemorialhall@gmail.com

or phone Kath on 01296 651886.

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Update from Philip Gomm

Bucks Unitary Councillor representing you in Quainton

Backing Our Farmers: Conservative Leader Kemi Badenoch visited Fleet Marston for an Emergency Food & Farming Summit in November, listening directly to farmers from across the county. Farmers raised urgent concerns over rising costs, rural crime, and the threat of Labour's Family Farm Tax, which puts family run farms at risk. Locally as rural communities face growing pressure, Phil tabled a motion at Buckinghamshire Council, which passed overwhelmingly to protect local farming, secure food supplies, and defend our countryside



Delivering additional housing: This Government is now ordering Buckinghamshire Council to deliver 95,000 new homes over the next five years, plus additional employment areas, that figure is colossal compared to many other areas in the UK, plus we have solar and battery storage farms popping up all over our lovely rural countryside at the same time... as Unitary Councillors we will continue to challenge hard against unwanted applications on your behalf.

Protect our Fire Service: The fire team are under plans backed by opposition councillors on Bucks & MK Fire Authority. Buckinghamshire could lose 25% of their fire engines and two fire stations, just as the Labour government pushes for even more housing across the county, over 95,000 houses. I sit on the Fire Authority and strongly disagree with these unnecessary and potentially dangerous cuts, especially in our rural area and would urge you to make your voice heard in the consultation which is open until 28th January: <https://bucksfire.gov.uk/have-your-say-consultation-launched-on-the-future-of-on-call-fire-cover/>



Quainton Golf Society

The results of the Christmas event at Whipsnade Golf Club will be published in the next edition.

We are a friendly Society of golfers of varying standards, and we meet monthly for events at local courses.

An event usually consists of tea/ coffee and bacon butties on arrival, 18 holes of golf in the morning, lunch and then a further 9 holes in the afternoon.

The golf days usually take place on the last Friday in the month from March to October, with the exception of the Christmas event in December.

At each event we play for a trophy, which is awarded at the end of the season.

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



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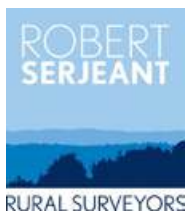
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QGS Garden Tips for January

Pruning & Plant Care

- Prune apple and pear trees while they're dormant to encourage healthy growth later.
- Cut back gooseberries and currants, leaving three buds on side shoots.
- Remove old hellebore leaves with black blotches to prevent disease.
- Continue pruning climbing roses while they rest.



Planting & Growing

- Plant bare-root roses, shrubs, hedging, and fruit trees if the ground isn't frozen.
- Establish new colonies of snowdrops and hellebores by planting them in flower now.
- Sow broad beans, onions, and early lettuce under cover for a head start.

Garden Maintenance

- Clear away collapsed perennial stems and compost them.
- Tidy lawns and paths by removing fallen leaves.
- Repair fences, trellises, and raised beds while growth is slow.
- Clean pots, seed trays, and tools ready for spring.

Soil & Planning

- Add well-rotted manure or compost to improve soil health.
- Mulch beds to protect soil structure and cover bare soil.
- Sort seeds, discard old packets, and plan your crop rotation for the year.
- Order seed potatoes, onions, shallots, and garlic bulbs for spring planting.



Whitchurch WI

Illustrated Talk:

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Tuesday 6th January at 7.30pm

Horseback Safari in Botswana: Join us for an inspiring illustrated talk by our very own Ginny Stollery, as she takes us deep into the heart of wild Africa on horseback.

Please join us: St. John's Church Hall, Whitchurch. Visitors warmly welcome (£5) but please contact whitchurchwibucks@gmail.com in advance for catering arrangements.

Forthcoming event: AGM, Tuesday 3rd February at 19:30



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Ramblings from Finemere Wood by Charlotte Karmali, Volunteer Warden

As another year draws to an end, the woodland workers gather in the ancient meadow in the heart of Finemere Wood to celebrate a year of hard work, fun, and friendship. It is a mild day, and the sun shines brightly as a bonfire is carefully constructed. The only task that is essential today is to produce a fire with fiery embers, in which potatoes can be cooked to perfection, our Christmas tradition.

Fortunately, amongst us are many who delight in playing with fire. There is something primal about it: coaxing it into life, tending to its every need. It requires a quiet, mindful focus, clearing the mind of all other thoughts.

A robin sings above the crackling fire, its winter song so beautiful: soft, wistful, and a little mournful. This iconic bird sings all year round, its tone changing with the seasons – from mellow and soothing during the cold months, when testosterone levels are low, to powerful and vibrant in the summer.

Robins have autumn and winter territories, which are protected ferociously by a single bird. It is about individual survival, securing resources, food, and shelter. In summer, their territory expands as a pair of birds defends their breeding territory assertively

I love the sparkle and togetherness that Christmas brings, but it is a poignant time too, as we remember those we have loved and lost. Folklore holds that the robin is a spiritual messenger, hence the saying, “When a robin appears, a loved one is near.” I, for one, find this comforting and grounding. A robin watches as I tend my garden or sings while I work in the woods, and in those moments, I feel my deceased father’s presence deeply.

With ruddy, sooty faces, the caretakers of the fire extract our lunch from the red-hot embers. There is nothing like a potato baked in a bonfire; it is simply delicious, and this year they were the best yet.

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





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QUINTON MEMORIAL HALL

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)	10:00 - 14:30
	Craft Club (Conference Room)	14:00 - 16:30
Tuesday	Ukulele Group (Conference Room)	09:30 - 12:30
	Pilates (Main Hall)	10:30 - 11:30
	Art Club (Conference Room)	13:30 - 16:30
	Pilates (Main Hall)	17:30 - 18:30
Wednesday	Core Circuits	9:15 – 10:30
	Somatic Core Restoration	10:45 – 12:00
	Bridge (Main Hall)	13:00 - 17:00
	Carpet Bowls (Main Hall)	19:00 - 22:00
Thursday	Coffee Morning (Main Hall) *	10:30 - 12:00 – just turn up!
	Badminton (Main Hall)	19:00 - 21:30
Friday	Community Choir (Main Hall)	10:00 - 12:00
Saturday		
Sunday	Table Tennis (Main Hall)	17:00 - 20:00

* Coffee mornings restart on 8 January 2026.

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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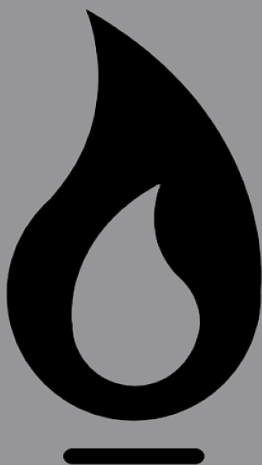
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Our journey began with the dream of building a space where stylists could thrive and clients could feel at home. From humble beginnings as a home salon, The Room at Number Four quickly grew thanks to the overwhelming support of our wonderful clients. In 2020, we expanded to The Room at Berryfields, a larger salon designed to provide a welcoming environment for both our team and our clients.

Our team members are the cornerstone of our success.

Each stylist brings their own unique flair and expertise, working together to ensure that every client leaves feeling confident and cared for. We believe in nurturing creativity, fostering growth, and providing a supportive environment where our team can achieve a healthy work-life balance.

At The Room at Berryfields, we believe great hair isn't just about looking good, it's about feeling incredible. Our highly skilled stylists are passionate about creating stunning, bespoke looks that enhance your natural beauty and reflect your personality.

Whether you crave a daring transformation or a subtle refresh, we take the time to listen, advise, and craft a style that's uniquely YOU.



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GARDENING AMBITIONS

January Edition 2026 – HS2 in Quainton

Construction works updates

We were delighted to witness the installation of the first steel bridge on our 50-mile stretch of construction works at the Waddesdon Greenway on December 3. During the 45-minute lift of the 40m structure, we spoke to a number of local cyclists and pedestrians using the temporary alignment who were all looking forward to the bridge being open for public use next Summer.

Progress on all other structures, roads and earthworks has continued at pace during November and December.

The 880m long Thame Valley Viaduct, which will carry HS2 across the River Thame now has almost 65% of the concrete deck poured and 291 of the 716 concrete parapet sections that form the barriers have now been installed.

The permanent road signage installation on the A41 started in October, with many of the new signs being erected. The remaining signage will be completed in January 2026.

In the north of Waddesdon, reinforcement works for the wing wall slab for the WAD/4 footpath crossing have been cast (currently closed as it crosses our construction site), whilst top soiling of the Bicester Road West Embankment continued during November.

EKFB Christmas shut down

All EKFB sites will close from Friday 19 December 2025 and reopen on Monday 5 January 2026. Some site offices will remain open until Wednesday 24 December, including the A41 near Fleet Marston. A limited amount of activity will still take place such as, servicing of vehicles and machinery, rainwater storage management, office cleaning and security patrols.

The HS2 Winter Newsletters are now available on the HS2 website for the Aylesbury and Calvert areas. We've taken a look back at this year's achievements across the project in the Aylesbury area including construction progress and planned works over the next few months. We've also been shining a spot light on community investment and reviewing the social value initiatives completed during over the last 12 months. You can download a copy of the latest newsletter online:

Aylesbury: <https://www.hs2.org.uk/work-items/hs2-update-aylesbury-winter-2025/>

Calvert: <https://www.hs2.org.uk/work-items/ca-newsletter-winter-2025/>

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

Upcoming and ongoing works

- 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 20 October 2025 - 31 May 2026.

Cont'd overleaf

*Waddesdon Greenway installation
steel bridge deck – December 2025*





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- 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, there will be series of overnight road closures from Monday 12 January to Saturday 17 January 2026 for the completion of permanent signage installation works on the A41. The new A41 Bicester Road, the old narrowed section of Bicester Road and a small section of Blackgrove Road will be closed. Dates for these works are to be confirmed.

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

Community Engagement activities

The final community drop in events for 2025 were held during November, at Edgcott and Grendon Underwood village halls, The Railway Club in Aylesbury and a coffee morning at Twyford. 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.

During December, we were able to support various community Christmas activities:

- **Sacks of Hope** – volunteering to unwrap the magic of giving; unpack groceries, packing 500 Christmas sacks and helping to load them onto delivery vans. Sacks of Hope alleviate food insecurity and improve the quality of life for underprivileged families, by receiving a little festive sparkle this season.
- **Waddesdon Hall Christmas afternoon tea** for over 100 older residents – volunteering to serve food, drinks and Christmas cheer.
- **Inspire Bucks Christmas Toy appeal 2025** – EKFB have made a £500 donation, supporting care leavers in Buckinghamshire.

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 Aylesbury, three organisations have successfully applied for CEF funding. They received a total of £199k – Citizens Advice Buckinghamshire, Buckinghamshire County Museum and Buckinghamshire Cricket CIO. You can find out more about this by following this link <https://www.hs2.org.uk/about-us/community-and-business-funds/>

We recommend signing-up to our mailing list and checking the HS2 events page for future events in your area. If you would like to talk to us and find out more. 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



Sacks of Hope packing sacks ready for distribution – December 2025



Waddesdon Hall Christmas afternoon tea – December 2025



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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 JANUARY

Tuesday 6th January	Green refuse wheelie bin and food bin
Monday 12th January	Blue-lidded recycling wheelie bin and food bin
Monday 19th January	Green refuse wheelie bin and food bin
Monday 26th January	Blue-lidded recycling wheelie bin and food bin

**** Brown Garden Waste Bin collection resumes 2nd February 2026 ****

Please make sure your bin is out for 6:30am

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.



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SERVICES AT HOLY CROSS & ST MARY'S CHURCH

- Sunday, 4th January: 6.00pm "2026 A Year of Light": a service for Epiphany, the arrival of the Wise Men
- Sunday 11th January: 8.00am NO BCB HC
9.30am NO PRAYER BREAKFAST
3.00pm Joint Plough Sunday Service in Oving at Buttermilk Farm, Meadway, Oving HP22 4EY1 with guests, The Whitchurch Morris Dancers!
(No services in Quainton)
- Sunday 18th January: 6.00pm Praise & Worship Service with guest, the new Bishop of Buckingham, Dave Bull, and including our worship band and singers.
- Sunday 25th January: 9.30am Family Service "I Am the Light of the World"
6.00pm Evening Prayer for our Year Of Light

PARISH REGISTER ENTRIES

Wednesday 10th December: Funeral – Avril Bignell

CHURCH ROTAS FOR DECEMBER

	1 Dec	8 Dec	15 Dec	22 Dec	29 Dec
Evening Reader					
Evening Sidesman					
Altar Flowers	ADVENT				
Pedestal Flowers					
Church Cleaning	Kate Dalton Fiona Ginger		Carolyn Turnbull Helen Ratcliffe Cicely Davies		Sarah Williams Debbie Ormerod Jayne Williamson



Thank you to Pete Miller for sending in this snowy picture of the church taken last season! If you would like to see your photo printed here, email your favourite photos of our church and/or its surroundings to me at quaintonnews@gmail.com Thank you, Louisa

VILLAGE CALENDAR – JANUARY 2026

For pub dates see p.17 and Church services p.47

- 8th January:** **Quainton Coffee Mornings** re-start, QMH, 10.30am-12, p.5
 Parish Council meeting, QMH, 6.30pm, p.10
- 10th January:** **Wassail**, Community Orchard & Wildflower Meadow, p.15
- 13th January:** **Time for Lunch & Chat** in church, 12-1.30pm, p.27
- 18th January:** **Praise & Worship Service** in Church, 6pm, p.47
- 21st January:** **Over 50s Lunch**, The G&D at 12.30, p.7
- 26th January:** **Charity Quiz** at the pub, 7pm, p.17

Coming up in February:

- 13/14th February:** **Quaintwood Players Robin Hood** in QMH, p.7
- 15th February:** **Peter Rabbit visits The Railway**, p.25
- 21st February:** **Pub Charity Fundraiser** at The Railway, p.19

Quainton News – The Parish Magazine and Village Newsletter

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