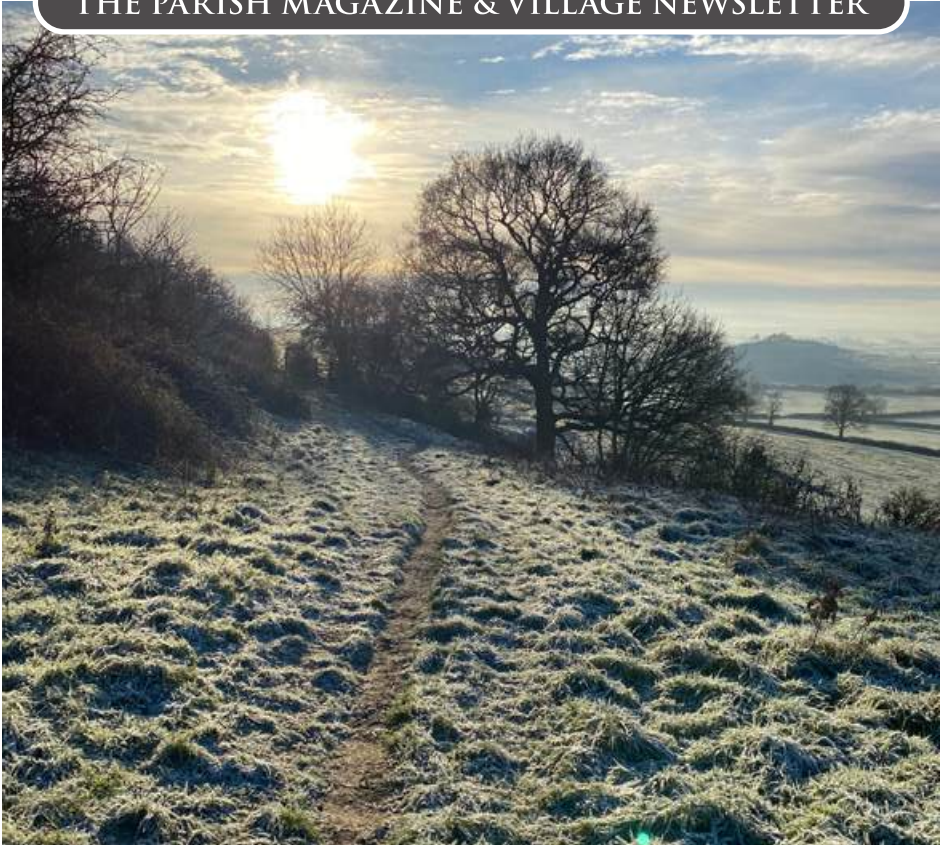


QUAINTON ·NEWS·

THE PARISH MAGAZINE & VILLAGE NEWSLETTER



Merry Christmas Everyone!

Although this photo was taken up Quainton Hill earlier in the year, we did have our first smatterings of snow of the season in the middle of November this year!

It's nearly Christmas and there's loads going on in Church and around the village this month. Enjoy the festivities and see you next year!

Photo by Pete Miller

ISSUE NO. 606

DECEMBER 2025

WELCOME FROM HOLY CROSS & ST MARY'S CHURCH



Dear Friends,

I get very bored with the predictable but seem to get caught out every time. For instance, I usually get the only table in the café with one leg shorter than the rest. I'm the one who grabs the trolley at the supermarket with wheels that go in opposite directions! I love iced buns, but whenever I remove the cellophane packaging, the icing sticks to it! If I'm in a hurry to get somewhere, I always get stuck behind a slow vehicle!

The Christmas story is all about an unpredictable God, doing something outrageous that no-one suspected – apart from a few wise men. The God who created the universe, decided to

break into time and space as a fragile baby, born in a backstreet stable in an obscure town called Bethlehem. No grand entry. No red carpet. No stretch limo. No formal cavalcade from the airport under police escort. Why would God do that? It wasn't long before the big plan became clear.

God arrived on planet earth in the person of Jesus Christ to bring the greatest gift ever known in the history of the universe. The gift of a new start and life beyond the grave to all who would put their trust in him. It's an outrageous proposition. Seems unreasonable, it's not logical. And yet for countless millions throughout history, whose lives have been utterly transformed by the words of Jesus, it all makes perfect sense. What he offered defies scientific explanation. You can't put God in a test tube.

The well known story of the famous stuntman Blondin, attempting to cross Niagara Falls pushing a wheel barrow on a tightrope has become an illustration of faith in action. His challenge to the spectators that anyone who really believed in him would be prepared to sit in the wheelbarrow adds a pertinent comment to our own approach to life and faith. You might believe it, but will you put your belief into action. The same allegory is illustrated in the Indiana Jones film, "Last Crusade" where our hero must step out over a ravine of death with complete faith that his foot would connect with an invisible bridge. I know it's really annoying – but God never shows up on our terms, only on his. He's not an "access on demand" kind of God, because love works both ways, and he wants a relationship with us based on mutual love and respect.

The surprising story of Christmas grabs my attention every year. It gives me hope, that even in a broken and uncertain world, there is a God who longs to break in to our lives in surprising and unpredictable ways, to enable us to see a bigger picture.

God bless you and yours this Christmas time, and give you hope, happiness, security and peace in the New Year ahead.

Blessings,

Rev Steve

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

The Rectory

27 Church Street

Quanton HP22 4AW

Phone: 01296 655237 Mobile: 07950 000910

Church Websites: www.quentonchurch.com

www.ovingchurch.com

WELCOME TO THE DECEMBER ISSUE



Louisa Richards, Editor
quaintonnews@gmail.com

Hello everyone,

I love the front cover photo this month, mainly because I love our hill – I walk up most days with the dogs – but also because it made me think... I would normally be drawn to photos like this with the church, or the windmill or the beacon in the foreground. But this photo is proof that we are surrounded by such beauty everywhere here in Quainton and we don't necessarily need to have the windmill, the church or the beacon in the photo to show it – as photogenic as they may be!

Enjoy the festivities around the village this Christmas and I hope you all get to enjoy special time with loved ones.

Enjoy the read!

NEWS FROM OUR CHURCH

ANNUAL CHURCHYARD CLEAR UP

Saturday 6 December
10am -12 noon

Open to all, please come and help us clear the churchyard for winter. If you could bring your own rakes that would be great. If you have large pruners then they may be useful too. Refreshments will be available, so time for a chat and catch up, which is one of the best parts of the gathering, apart from being a good workout!

Please just come along and support us and help keep our churchyard looking so good!

Margaret Willoughby 655606
Malcolm Wearn 655484

Quainton Church Presents

A NEW YEAR'S DAY CONCERT

Thursday 1st Jan 2025
at 11.00am

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More information:
Rev'd Steve: 07950 000910

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Christmas

AT QUANTON CHURCH

**SUNDAY 30TH NOVEMBER AT 6.00PM
ADVENT SUNDAY CAROLS**

**SUNDAY 7TH DECEMBER AT 4.00PM
CHRISTINGLE FOR ALL THE FAMILY**

**SUNDAY 14TH AT 6.00PM
CHRISTMAS WORSHIP**

**SUNDAY 21ST AT 4.00PM
CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE**

**CHRISTMAS EVE
3.00PM CRIB SERVICE WITH LIVE NATIVITY
11.30PM MIDNIGHT COMMUNION**

**CHRISTMAS DAY
9.30AM CELEBRATION WITH HOLY
COMMUNION**



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Remembrance Sunday

Many people gathered when the Last Post was played at 11.00, followed by two minutes silence.

The Last Post was played by Martin Dorrell from the balcony of the windmill.

People gathered respectfully to listen on The Green and in the grounds of the windmill.

What a poignant moment it was, as the sound carried around the village.

All those attending, were grateful to the Bonfire & Fireworks committee and their helpers, for their hard work in clearing The Green by mid-morning, especially after their exertions setting up, and running their event the day before.





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!

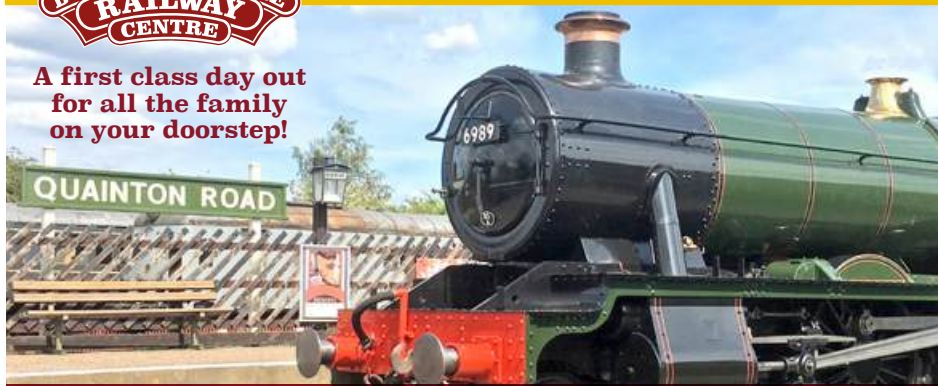
We pride ourselves on our friendly welcoming atmosphere and believe this is key to ensuring children feel 'at home' and have the best chance at thriving in our care.

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!

Did you know? Union Jack v Union Flag

It was lovely to see the Union Flag on the church over Remembrance, but did you know the origins of the flag's name?

The Union Flag, or Union Jack, is the national flag of the United Kingdom. 'Union' because it combines the crosses of the three countries united under one Sovereign – England and Wales, Scotland and Ireland (although since 1921 only Northern Ireland has been a part of the United Kingdom). The Welsh dragon does not appear because when it was created in 1606, the Principality of Wales by that time was already united with England.

The origin of the term 'Union Jack' is uncertain. One possibility is that Charles II said that the Union Flag should be flown only by ships of the Royal Navy as a 'jack', a small flag at the bowsprit. It has been claimed that the Union Flag should be described as the Union Jack only when flown on the bows of a Royal Navy ship. However, in 1902 an Admiralty Circular announced that either 'Union Flag' or 'Union Jack' could be used officially for a flag used on land.

Also, did you know that it is possible to fly the Union Jack incorrectly by displaying it upside down? The official meaning of flying the flag upside down is a signal of distress, especially in a maritime context, but it's often done by accident because many people do not know! To display it correctly, the thicker white diagonal stripe should be in the top-left corner, closest to the flagpole.

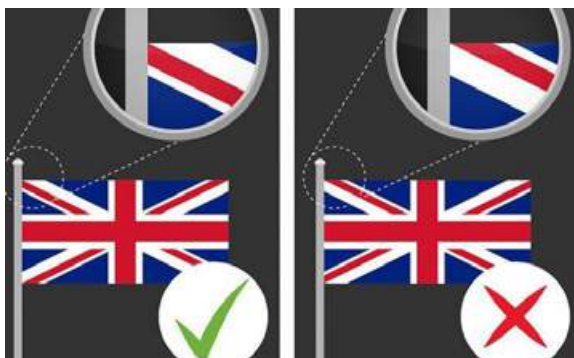


Photo above by Judy Ostrowicz taken in 2019!

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 13th November 2025

NEXT MEETING: 10th December 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,

Winter has well and truly settled in. My mornings now begin with the traditional ritual of pretending I'll leave the house on time, followed swiftly by the realisation that my windscreen apparently freezes faster than anywhere else in Buckinghamshire. If you see me scraping away at 7am, just nod knowingly.

Despite these challenges, we remain resolute in providing good governance at Quainton Parish Council during this winter period.

It was brilliant to see such an incredible turnout at the Harvest Auction, and the fundraising total was even better news. I'm delighted that the proceeds will be put to good use supporting our valued community groups.

Quainton Bonfire Night was once again a huge success. It was fantastic to see the village lit up against such a glorious backdrop, and the music certainly helped set the scene as we welcomed the colder months with a spectacular fireworks display. As Leader and Chair of the Parish Council, I want to give my wholehearted thanks to the team for putting together yet another smashing evening; it really was a night to remember.

Of course, events like this always come with their challenges. We'll be reviewing the parking arrangements for next year, though I have to say, watching people attempting to park while juggling hot chocolate and sparklers certainly added to the spectacle! Plenty

of notice was given, and arrangements were in place, but it seems some of us prefer to test our parallel parking skills under pressure.

I am thrilled to officially confirm that a contractor has been appointed and that all the formal mechanisms are now in place to get the MUGA construction underway. When I became Leader and Chair, I promised that we would have the logistics sorted before the end of the year and I'm delighted to say we've kept that promise!

Residents can now look forward to seeing the MUGA take shape, with completion expected, hopefully, by next summer. It's exciting to think that very soon, our community will have a fantastic new space for sports, activities and plenty of fun.

I recently announced the launch of a new community support fund. The Council has now resolved to rename it to avoid confusion with another scheme, and it will be known as the Quainton Parish Council Community Fund. The fund will open for applications in January, with up to £1,400 available to successful applicants in its first year. This fund will rise with inflation and be topped up over time, starting at £7,000 in year one and growing to around £12,500 by the end of this Council's term. We will be releasing further information about the fund, including guidance on how to apply, before the Christmas holidays.

I would like to provide an update on the Parish Council's opening hours over the Christmas period. To give our hardworking Clerk a well-deserved rest over the festive season, Quainton Parish Council will be closed from 19th December to 6th January. During this time, only emergency matters will be acknowledged and normal services will resume in the New Year.

Wishing you all a very warm winter.

Kind regards,
Cllr Benjamin Harris

Photo taken by Pete Miller up Quainton Hill in a heavy frost looking across to North End Road.



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Quanton FC Report

Quanton FC reached the nine game mark still unbeaten and sitting second in the league, a position built on consistency, hardwork and a squad that simply refuses to back down.

The last few weeks have brought strong wins, tight battles and the kind of spirit that is starting to define this team.



It has also been a deeply emotional time for the club following the passing of Angela York, a hugely influential figure in getting Quanton FC back on its feet. The togetherness shown by players, supporters and the wider community has been a reminder of just how much she meant to everyone. Our thoughts remain with Mike and his family and we hope they take comfort in how fondly Angela is remembered.

On the pitch, the lads have shown exactly the kind of response she would have been proud of. The goals have flowed, the work rate has never dropped and the belief has grown with every performance. From quick starts to resolute defending and moments of real quality in front of goal, this team has kept finding a way.

Match winning saves, leadership at the back, creativity in midfield and goals from all areas of the pitch have played their part, and the support from the village continues to make a real difference every week.



Nine games in. No defeats. Second in the league. Plenty to be optimistic about as we move towards the end of the year.

Remaining fixtures for 2025:

29th November – home to Wingrave Development

6th December – home to Rivets Reserves

13th December – away to Wingrave First in the Oving Cup (1:30pm KO)

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Quainton Bonfire Night

Quainton PC Bonfire & Firework Committee would like to thank all those who came to the Village Green to enjoy the bonfire and firework display, we hope you enjoyed yourselves and agree that Illusion Fireworks provided yet another spectacular village display.

This is one of the main village events of the year and gives a great opportunity for the community to come together. It is also a forum for the School PTA, Sports Club, and, this year, the Netball Club, to raise precious funds for the forthcoming year.

If there are any other local groups or organisations who might want to run a stall next year, please contact us at quainton.bonfire.fireworks@gmail.com and we would be happy to consider how we can accommodate you.

We would like to sincerely thank all of the residents of The Green, especially those who kindly give us power; James and Susie Christopherson for the generous use of their garden for the firework; the Village Shop for their huge support in selling advance wristbands (and also the Coffee Shop); Buckinghamshire Railway Centre for opening their car park on the night; and of course The George & Dragon. We would also like to mention our partners Class Act who provide the lighting and music systems, together with our DJ Phil Gomm and North End Nursery who provide the pallets for the fire year after year.

We also had a fabulous team of volunteer helpers on the night – Chris Huggy, Malcolm and Jane Vowles, Beth and Richard Vining, Clare, Ben and Emily Bragg (and friends), Martin and Diane Curtis Knight, Heidi Dickman, Louisa and Matthew Richards, Martin and Barbara Dorrell and Max Green (and friends), all of whom worked extremely hard to try and keep everyone safe and to ensure an enjoyable evening for everyone.

The Fireworks Committee

Ian Hammond, Pete Bragg, Tim Massa, Steve Green and Warren Richards



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What's on at The G&D in December

Wow, where has the year gone! I would like to take this opportunity to say a heartfelt thank all of our customers a very happy Christmas and we look forward to welcoming you all over the festive period. If you haven't booked your Christmas meal yet there are limited weekend tables available but weekdays have a bit more availability.



Throughout December, I will be cooking on a Thursday night! I will also be reviewing opening hours in January and food service days may change.

December kick starts with **Bingo on Monday 1st**: Eyes down 7pm. Pub open from 6pm. There will be a raffle with proceeds going to Florence Nightingale, our December Charity.

Monday 15th: the last **Brush Party** of 2025. The pub will be open from 6pm. Please book online at www.brushparty.co.uk confirmed dates for next year are 9th Feb, 13th April, 15th June, 10th Aug, 5th Oct and 7th Dec.

Sunday 28th: **Quiz Night** in aid of Florence Nightingale Hospice. 7pm start. As usual we will have a raffle to which donations are always greatly appreciated.

Wednesday 31st: **New Year's Eve!** The pub will be open from 6pm until 1am. The theme for this year is Around the World, there is no requirement to dress up at all, just a hat if you want or go all out its entirely up to you! Bubbles and nibbles at midnight as ever! As always, there is no charge. We look forward to welcoming 2026 in with you, so get your friends and family together and come and join us.

Christmas and New Year Opening Hours:

** Please book tables for food at all times **

Christmas Eve: 4pm-close NO FOOD

Christmas Day: 11.30am-2pm NO FOOD

Boxing Day: 1pm-8pm BAR SNACKS

27th December: 10.30am FOOD AVAILABLE 12-2pm/6-8pm

28th December: 12noon-9.30pm FOOD AVAILABLE 12-2pm/5-7pm

29th: CLOSED

30th CLOSED

New Year's Eve: 6pm-1am NO FOOD

New Year's Day: 1pm-6pm NO FOOD

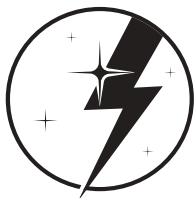
2nd January: 4pm-close

3rd January: 12noon-10pm

4th January: 12noon-8.30pm

5th, 6th, 7th & 8th January: CLOSED

Please pre-book your tickets for our **Charity Fundraiser at The Railway** on 21st February. It's £45.00 per person and includes music and entertainment from Alvin and Soundproof and a hot main course. Dietary requirements must be notified at the time of booking. Please email for tickets: pub@georgeanddragonquainton.co.uk



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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 Sessions

IF THERE IS SUFFICIENT INTEREST,
seated and supported exercise classes will
run in **January , Thursdays 12pm-12:45pm**
for 4 weeks, in Quainton Memorial Hall.

The cost of each class is likely to be £7.50

The classes will be run by Kim Venters, a
qualified fitness and health coach (see KJV
Health and Wellness [https://www.kjv-
wellness.com/](https://www.kjv-wellness.com/))

If you are interested in this class, email:
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COMMUNITY CHOIR CHRISTMAS CONCERT



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2025 Harvest Auction Smashes All Records

What we believe to be the 60th Quainton Harvest Auction was held at The George and Dragon on 17th October. A record amount of £4,130 was raised (not quite the £4,200 that we estimated for last month's article – sorry!) but beating last year's record of £3,300. A fine dry evening and a good crowd of both regulars and newcomers led to some competitive bidding, overseen as usual by our resident auctioneer, John Blanchard.



This year we have brought together the funding and management of the Harvest Auction team, the Father Christmas Float team and the Senior Citizens' Lunch team. These previously separate teams now operate as one, under the name of 'Quainton Community Group Support' (logo above). We also introduced bidding via numbered paddles and easier credit card payment that helped speed up the whole process.

As ever, the total raised, together with the proceeds from last year's Christmas Float has been divided up between local charities, groups, clubs, societies, and good causes that support the people of Quainton, with recognition of those organisations who donate sale items or generally support the event. This year the following groups and activities have benefited:

| | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| Senior Citizens' Christmas Lunch | Christmas Float | Windmill Society |
| Time for Lunch and a Chat | School PTA | Netball Club |
| Kissing Gate on public footpath | Monday Day Centre | Royal British Legion |
| Community Orchard | Football Club | Guides |
| Brownies | Art Club | Scout Group |
| Remembrance Day Memorial | Bonfire & Fireworks | Table Tennis Club |

Thanks as ever go to George, Darren and the team at the George and Dragon for hosting the event, John Blanchard auctioneer extraordinaire, Brian, Liam, and Mike, bid recorders and money collectors, Rachel, and John Quigg for posters and, of course, to all those who donated items including, in no particular order:

The George and Dragon pub and Coffee Shop, North End Nurseries, Signature Flowers, Affinity Hair Design, Quainton Windmill, Quainton PTA, Scout Group, Monday Day Centre, Pete Laybourne, Parrott Bros Butchers, Oving Logs, Community Orchard, Quainton Garage, Holland Chiro, Catherine Ceramics, Brush Party, EFKB/HS2, Nash Bakery, Chiltern Brewery, Tring Brewery, Vale Brewery, St Austell Brewery, Timothy Taylors, Majestic Wine, Dayla Drinks, Five Arrows Hotel, Coors, Budweiser, James Pettit, Avara Hatchery, and several individuals and societies.

If we have missed anyone, please accept our apologies. The biggest thanks of course go to all the people who attended and who gave so generously.

Please remember to look out for, and support, the Father Christmas Float on Christmas Eve and look forward to seeing you all at next year's Harvest Auction.

Mike Evans

On behalf of 'Quainton Community Group Support'

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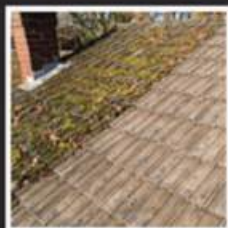
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Tots, Toys, Tea & Toast Toddler Group

All little ones are welcome to a relaxed playtime in a small friendly group at Holy Cross & St Mary's Church in Quainton on a Tuesday morning. Conversation and tea for the grown ups! Please note that we only meet in term time. Further details from Jane 07739 985 440



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

Team practice and County/District league matches for competitive players

Individual and group tennis coaching available at Quainton contact James Woodward
07834 826130 or info@jwcoaching.com

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Philip Bernard Cook 1945-2025

Philip Bernard Cook was born in Quainton on the 22nd February 1945 to Annie Rose and Eric Stanley who was formerly the village Coal Merchant. His grandfather was Edwin, well known and involved with the Baptist Church.

He lived at 42 Upper Street, with his three sisters and one brother. They are all now passed, Philip was the youngest. He was involved in village life: he was Captain of the Reserves Football team; he acted in the Drama Group and, in his youth, he delivered the milk around the village. His ancestors in Quainton go back to 1840. Our brother in law, David Warner died last year.



Philip married Diane in the Baptist Chapel in 1969. Philip's last thoughts were of Quainton, which was always in his heart until the end. He leaves two sons and four grandchildren.



Time for Lunch and Chat

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

Tuesdays 12pm to 1.30pm.

Free soup, cake and hot drink

Everyone welcome

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

Supported by Quainton Parish Council to start with
and the John Laing Charity fund and Quainton Church

For more information phone John and Claire on 01296 655552 or 07564086949



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Alan 07775 315788

What's on at The Railway:

The 2025 Steaming Season has come to a close. We start up again for four weeks for our Christmas event (which is now pretty much sold out) and for February half term, when we have a visit from Peter Rabbit on March 29th - it's the first time Peter Rabbit has been to Quainton! Then, the 2026 season starts fully on Sunday 29th March with a visit from The Gruffalo - who has also never been to Quainton before! Remember - Quainton residents get a 25% discount off tickets - just bring proof of address on the day.

The Railway Cafe

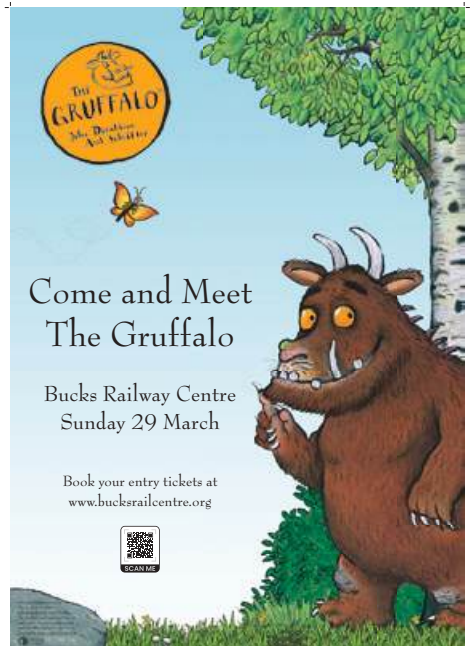
The Railway Cafe remains open Monday to Friday all year round. As well as our hugely popular breakfast menu, we have just launched our new Christmas lunch menu; which includes brie and cranberry panninis and pigs in blankets! Why ot pop down and see what we've got to offer?



The Quainton Pass

We also have a Quainton Pass especially for Quainton reaidents, which is just £45 for the whole fmaily (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.

More info at: www.bucksrailcentre.org





Angela York 10th January 1975 - 21st October 2025

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Angela York, who left us peacefully on 21st October 2025, at the age of 50.

A lifelong resident of Quainton, Angela's deep love for her village and its people was evident in everything she did.

Angela was a devoted member of her community, always ready to give her time, energy and warmth to the causes she cared about. Her enthusiasm for local life saw her involved in many village activities over the years, where her positivity and dedication left a lasting mark.

Most recently, she played a vital role in re-establishing Quainton Football Club, where her passion and leadership were instrumental in the club's renewed success and growth.

In her professional life, Angela was deeply respected in her work as a funeral director, a role she found profoundly meaningful and rewarding. Her compassion, professionalism, and empathy brought great comfort to the families she supported.

Angela also dedicated much of her time to the Royal British Legion, serving with distinction on the county committee and as Deputy County Parade Marshal for several years. Her sense of duty, respect, and pride in this work reflected her character perfectly.

Angela's greatest joy was her four sons and her loving family, who meant everything to her. She will be remembered for her kindness, sense of humour, and generous heart, her influence will live on in the community she cared for deeply.

She will be profoundly missed and fondly remembered by her family, friends, colleagues, and the entire Quainton community.



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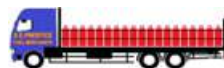
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The Over 50s Monthly Lunch for Christmas!

Starting at 12.30pm on Wednesday 17th December

£18.50 per head for two courses, coffee and mince pies

Mains:

Traditional roast turkey & all the trimmings; or
Vegetable roast & trimmings

Puddings:

Traditional Christmas pudding & brandy butter or custard; or
Treacle sponge & ice cream
All gluten free adaptable.

It is essential to book and choose your menu
by Wednesday December 10th

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

Come and join us, all welcome, on the third Wednesday of every month.



December Gardening Tips – Wind Down, Wrap Up and Wonder!

As the year draws to a close, there's still plenty to do in the garden — even if it's just dreaming ahead!

Here are a few December tips to keep your green fingers busy:

- Protect tender plants with fleece or cloches
- Prune apple and pear trees while they're dormant
- Mulch borders to insulate roots and suppress weeds
- Plan next year's planting – seed catalogues make great fireside reading!
- Feed the birds – they'll repay you by keeping pests down come spring

Take a moment to enjoy the stillness of the winter garden — and don't forget to compost those festive veg peelings!

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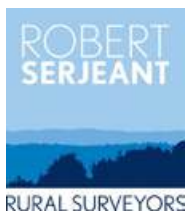
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Sunday 7th Dec, from 10.30 – music by the Ukulele Band.

Sunday 14th Dec, from 10.30 – music by the Clarity Clarinets Quartet.

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Community Spirit in Action

Across our local villages, a growing number of community living projects are being set up to help to make everyday life easier for struggling families and to protect the environment for future generations to enjoy. In case you weren't aware of our fantastic projects and the opportunities they bring, read on. If you'd like to get involved, please get in touch!



I'd Like To Borrow: Our lending library helps neighbours share what they have and borrow what they need; from tools and garden gear to home essentials. It's all about saving money, reducing waste, and supporting one another. We're always happy to welcome new volunteers and accept donations of decent-quality items. We can even collect directly

from house clearances and help with sorting, so nothing useful goes to waste. If you'd like to be involved or donate items please get in touch via Ashley (details below) or visit www.idliketoborrow.com



I'd Like A Bike: This winter we're running our "New Year, New Bike" appeal, collecting unwanted bikes to repair and rehome with families who need them most. Families on low incomes, care leavers, or those in vulnerable situations can trade in their child's old bike and receive a discount on the next size up. Please consider donating your old bike and helping another family enjoy the independence and fun of cycling. If you are unsure if you would qualify for the scheme, please

still get in touch to check, as we assess families on a case-by-case basis.



I'd Like A Bus: Our community buses provide a vital link for residents, running trips to shops, garden centres and social outings. We're currently fundraising through JustGiving to cover ongoing maintenance and repairs so the buses stay safe and on the road, this is the link... if you are in a position to contribute, please do consider donating and ensuring the longevity of this valuable community resource: <https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/id-like-a-bus-donations...>



We're also looking for volunteer drivers and organisers in each local village to plan local trips for social groups. If you enjoy helping people stay connected, we'd love your support, just get in touch. We will help you advertise and organise!

North Bucks Food Drive: A heartfelt thank you to everyone donating to the North Bucks Food Drive. Your contributions go straight to

Aylesbury Vineyard's Storehouse, supporting families across the region. We'd love to hear from anyone able to spare just an hour a month – particularly those with transport - to help collect or deliver donations between villages.

Get Involved!

None of this would be possible without our volunteers and supporters, and of course, our fantastic community organiser Cllr Ashley Waite, who keeps everything running smoothly. To find out more, to volunteer, or to donate, call or text Ashley on 07977 401548.



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Jan's trek to Camino de Santiago

As many of you know, I walked 115km of the Camino in Spain on behalf of Florence Nightingale Hospice. Although it was challenging, I had put in plenty of training sessions beforehand which helped me maintain a good pace every day. I did get a couple of blisters, but apart from that, all was good. I bonded well with my fellow walkers from Florence Nightingale, there were nine of us, and the weather was kind to us.

We enjoyed plenty of good Spanish food and wine over the course of the week and it was quite emotional at the end when we walked under a stone archway, where a bagpiper was playing, then we continued into the main square where the Cathedral lies.

We were each given a pilgrim passport at the start, which we had to get stamped along the way, to prove we had completed each section of the route. On arrival at Santiago, the passport was shown to the special official, who then gave us a personalised certificate.

The Camino de Santiago is a network of ancient pilgrimage routes leading to the tomb of St James the Great in Santiago de Compostela in Spain and many people walk it every year for a variety of reasons. It is a very well worn route and there were always other pilgrims along the way from countries all around the world.

I'm delighted to announce that I raised over £2,000 on behalf of Florence Nightingale, and would like to thank each and every one of you who donated and helped me achieve this total, including George of G&D pub for hosting my fundraising pub quiz and also to the people who supported my garage trail sale.

For anyone wishing to add a donation to my page, here is the link: https://www.justgiving.com/page/jan-stiegeler-1?utm_medium=FR&utm_source=CL



PHILIP GOMM Buckinghamshire Unitary Councillor representing you in Quainton

Please accept my sincere apologies for not updating you all since I got elected in May but it has been very busy with less councillors, more work for those that keep to their pledge. I would like to THANK all that supported me and I will continue to deliver the best for Quainton with your help. Remember, this is now the NEW Quainton Ward, which consists of Granborough, North Marston, Oving, Whitchurch, Hardwick, Weedon, Pitchcott, Hogshaw and yes, Quainton. My focus whilst in post remains on delivering for local families, rural businesses, and for future generations.



Highways resurfacing so far, in the Quainton area and more in the pipeline.

The Willows & The Strand: Plane & Patch
The Strand: major drainage issues fixed
Lower Street: Plane & Patch (Prep for Resurface)
Lee Road: Plane & Patch with some rebuild
Shipton Lee Road: FULL resurface in collaboration HS2
North Farm Lane (Failed) rebuilt, FULL resurface
Snake Lane: FULL resurface in collaboration HS2
Half of Station Road: FULL resurface in collaboration HS2
Carters Lane (to North Marston): Rebuilt and FULL surface
Upper Street: side street (pictured right)
Torbay



Farming and small rural businesses are the backbone of our Rural community, we are the custodians of this greenspace of Great Britain, we have a duty to preserve the best we can. Many of you have been very vocal about protecting the natural beauty of our area, so on your behalf, I strongly challenge large-scale developments like, BESS Granborough or Rosefield Solar Farms, plus housing developments because they threaten the rural landscape and local wildlife.



I personally believe in a balanced approach that supports green energy while respecting the needs and concerns of your local community. In my opinion, as an example, large solar projects should be found on many of our large-scale industrial areas and shopping precincts, at present they are not.

Keeping you informed I engage on your behalf:

- 1) Various Planning applications locally for BESS - Battery Energy Systems
- 2) Rosefield Solar Farm. I'm already directly engaged, especially with transport concerns in mind.
- 3) HS2/EKFB. Continue with a close engagement that I have developed over the last couple of years.

There is much to report from over the last few months and I promise with the help of this magazine and Facebook to keep you informed best I can.

I would like to thank those that engage with me on a regular basis, which helps make our community a better place. If you need me then email: philip.gomm@buckscc.gov.uk or in an emergency call 07778 177647. Have a lovely peaceful Christmas and I wish you all well.

Quaintwood Players: Robin Hood

Save the Date!

Get ready for panto season! We are busy rehearsing our next production which promises to be great fun for all the family, so please save the date!

We are performing Robin Hood in Grendon Underwood on 30th and 31st January and in Quainton on 13th and 14th February.

Full details in January and February Quainton News!

Tickets on sale soon!

Quainton Golf Society



Our first event of the new 2025/26 season was for the Hammond trophy at Buckingham GC. This was the first event for the Society's new Captain Darren Knibb, who rose to the challenge of the Captain's Drive-in with a pretty good effort at driving the par 4 first hole. His tee shot was pin high 25 yards right, but a nice chip shot from the 18th tee box left him a birdie putt which he didn't make.

The weather certainly played its part in a very difficult scoring day as there was a healthy wind, rain showers, and the bane of all golfers this time of year, fallen leaves which caused a fair few lost balls that would not otherwise have been lost. And so the scoring duly proved to be a real struggle with 24 of the 28 not managing to get into the 30's.

We had another excellent turnout of 28 players for this Stableford format. The winner on the day was John Jones with 32 points, with Darren Knibb second on 31 points and Mick Simmonds third with 30 points. Special praise needs to go to guest Ed Lush who also had 32 points and walked off with 3 of the 4 nearest the pins.

The top five results were as follows (guests not eligible for the Hammond Trophy):

| | Hammond Trophy | Points |
|-------|----------------|--------|
| 1st | John Jones | 32 |
| 2nd | Darren Knibb | 31 |
| 3rd | Mick Simmonds | 30 |
| 4th = | Chris Rymer | 28 |
| 4th= | Joe Ward | 28 |

Our Christmas event will be at Whipsnade Park Golf Club for the Xmas Shield on 12 December 2025.

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

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News from Waddesdon Surgery

There are exciting changes happening at Waddesdon surgery. Over the next couple of months, we will be creating a new clinical room. In the future, we wish to establish the surgery as a training practice for new GPs. This will enable us to increase our appointment capacity and support the future of Primary Care.

We hope to have minimal disruption but please bear with us.



The NHS App gives you a simple and secure way to access a range of NHS services. You can download the App from Google play or the App store. You must be aged 13 or over to use the NHS App. If you need support using the NHS App, please get in touch with the surgery.

Christmas Opening Hours

| | |
|-----------------------------|---------------|
| Monday 22 nd December | OPEN AS USUAL |
| Tuesday 23 rd December | OPEN AS USUAL |
| Wednesday 24 th December | OPEN AS USUAL |
| Christmas Day | CLOSED |
| Boxing Day | CLOSED |
| Monday 29th December | OPEN AS USUAL |
| Tuesday 30th December | OPEN AS USUAL |
| Wednesday 31st December | OPEN AS USUAL |
| Thursday 1st January | CLOSED |
| Friday 2nd January | OPEN AS USUAL |

Merry Christmas from all the staff at Waddesdon Surgery!



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This service is just for medical or dental appointments.

If you have time to spare and would like to volunteer please contact Claire or Alison for further information. More drivers are needed to continue this service. Thank you,

Claire and Alison

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Christmas Celebration
with music from Cantlos!
Tuesday 2nd December
at 7.30pm



Cantlos are a song and instrumental duo specialising in the traditional songs of the British Isles and Ireland, with an emphasis on those from the Celtic cultures within these islands. Cantlos are Kirsty Morris and James McCafferty and play Celtic harp, cittern, dulcimer, guitar, melodeon, bodhran and keyboards. Their repertoire spans more than five centuries of song, including medieval carols, Elizabethan tavern songs, folk music and contemporary songs within the folkroots and Celtic traditions.

Please join us: St. John's Church Hall, Whitchurch.

Visitors warmly welcome (£5) but please contact whitchurchwibucks@gmail.com in advance for catering arrangements.



Next event: Horseback Safari in Botswana, Tuesday 6th January at 19:30



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Ramblings from Finemere Wood by Charlotte Karmali, Volunteer Warden

The winter tools are out, and the work of clearing scrub and trees begins again. Bit by bit, with determination and the quiet joy that only a sharp saw can bring, woodland workers will start opening up the targeted areas, making space for new growth when spring returns. They're so efficient and quick in their work that I challenged the team to take on two tasks in our latest session. The first task was to cut a new scallop along the woodland edge, an area we last tackled seven years ago. By rotating the sections that are cut, a mosaic of vegetation at different stages of growth is created, a pattern that supports a rich, resilient biodiversity.

On the woodland floor, hidden amongst the autumnal leaf litter, a remarkable variety of fungi emerge as the small trees are skilfully cleared away. I've become fascinated by fungi, though I can still identify only a few species with confidence. Their world is astonishing: over 15,000 species have been recorded in the UK, with many more yet to be discovered. Mycorrhizal fungi form vital partnerships with trees, helping them absorb nutrients in exchange for sugars. The fruiting bodies we see are just the surface of a vast underground "wood-wide web", linking plants and trees in a network that shares resources and passes on signals.

The cut wood is stacked into a dead hedge around the newly opened area. Here, saprophytic fungi, the woodland's decomposers, will break down the timber, releasing its nutrients back into the soil where plants and countless creatures can use them. And so the cycle of life begins again.

We move into Long Close Meadow, at the heart of the wood, to prepare the ground for our Christmas gathering of bonfire and potatoes. I normally refuse to think about Christmas before December, but this tradition is the exception, something that all look forward to. The grass is cut and raked around the bonfire site, and sections of birch and blackthorn are trimmed back to prevent them from encroaching into the meadow. The wood is chopped into manageable pieces. We're ready to go.

Stepping back, we admire the cleared spaces, stacked wood, and ready bonfire site. Each cut and cleared patch contributes to the woodland's health, supporting its hidden networks of fungi, roots, and wildlife. The Christmas bonfire in turn will support the team's wellbeing, providing a shared moment of warmth and togetherness in the heart of our special wood.

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 |

* No Coffee morning on 4 December. The last coffee morning before Christmas is on 11 December. 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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GARDENING AMBITIONS

December Edition 2025 – HS2 in Quainton

Construction works updates

During October the steel bridge deck which will carry pedestrians and cyclists travelling along the Waddesdon Greenway between Aylesbury and Waddesdon was delivered to our site. A huge logistical operation was required, with street furniture being removed and traffic management to allow the 5 metre wide sections to fit along the A41 delivery route. The two 20 metre long sections will be lifted into position between the bridge abutments in late November.

Progress on structures, roads and earthworks is continuing at pace.

In October and November, the permanent signage installation began for the A41 realignment, with all new signage posts installed. Some signs are yet to be fitted to the new posts and we are working with our contractor to complete these works in the new year.

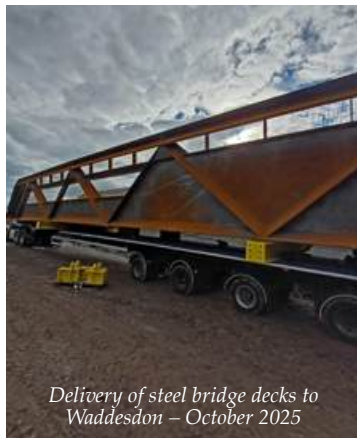
The 880m long Thame Valley Viaduct, which will carry HS2 across the River Thames now has almost 60% of the concrete deck poured and 225 of the 716 concrete parapet sections now installed.

In the north of Waddesdon, the WAD 4 footpath crossing abutment pilecaps have been cast this month.

The HS2 Autumn Newsletters were published in October on the HS2 website for the Aylesbury and Calvert areas. A Winter newsletter focused on our legacy and social value projects will be published in early December, focusing on our school engagement and social value projects we have completed during 2025. You can still download a copy of our current Autumn newsletters online:

[Aylesbury newsletter Autumn 2025 - HS2](#)

[Calvert newsletter Autumn 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 to view the latest HS2 works in your area.

Upcoming and ongoing works – details of the works in your area are shown below:

- 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 continues to be closed until 19 December 2025 for the western tie-in



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of the new alignment of Station Road.

- Station Road North, 2-way lights in place to safely manage the traffic flow and will continue until the eastern side of the new road realignment which leads onto Fiddlers Field Road, opens at the end of January 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 in April 2026.
- In the Waddesdon area, there will be overnight road closures in late January 2026 for the completion of permanent signage installation. The roads affected will be the new A41 Bicester Road, the old narrowed section of Bicester Road and a small section of Blackgrove Road. Dates for these works are subject to confirmation.

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 event for 2025 will be held on Tuesday 25 November at The Railway Club in Aylesbury from 10.30am to 2.30pm. It will be our last engagement for this year with a programme of events being planned for 2026. Check the HS2 events page for more information.

We have been working with our supply chain partners CMT to distribute a total of over 100 500g tins of coffee across the Aylesbury area. The recipients were Waddesdon Community Centre emergency food supply, Aylesbury Vinyard Church Food Bank and Southcourt Baptist Church Food Bank, and finally Quainton councillors for distribution to other worthy local causes.



*Waddesdon Community Centre
emergency food supply – October 2025*

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)? Schools, sports clubs, youth groups and community organisations have all successfully applied for this HS2 funding. 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. 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

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QUANTON NEWS

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Quainton News by Post: We can send *Quainton News* by post for £15/year. Please send orders with payment to: Venetia Dalton, The Barn, 1 Canons Orchard, Quainton, HP22 4DA. Cheques payable to: Quainton PCC (QN). Email: venetiadaltont@gmail.com

Quainton News Online: <https://quaintonnews.wixsite.com/quainton-news>

• • • **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 DECEMBER

| | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Monday 1st December | Blue-lidded recycling wheelie bin and food bin |
| Monday 8th December | Green refuse wheelie bin and food bin **FINAL Brown Garden Waste Bin** Next one: 2nd Feb |
| Monday 15th December | Blue-lidded recycling wheelie bin and food bin |
| Monday 22nd December | Green refuse wheelie bin and food bin **Brown Garden Waste Bin** |
| *Tuesday 30th December | Blue-lidded recycling wheelie bin and food 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.



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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.

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SERVICES AT HOLY CROSS & ST MARY'S CHURCH

| | | |
|----------------------|----------------|---|
| Sunday 30th November | 6pm | Advent Sunday Carols |
| Sunday 7th December | 4.00pm | Christingle for all the family. |
| Sunday 14th December | 6pm | Christmas Worship |
| Sunday 21st December | 4pm | Christmas Carol Service |
| Christmas Eve | 3pm 11.30pm | Crib Service with live nativity Midnight Communion |
| Christmas Day | 9.30am | Christmas Celebration with Holy Communion |

PARISH REGISTER ENTRIES

| | |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| 26th October at 9.30am | Baptism of Jason Turner |
| 25th November at 1pm | Funeral of Angela York |

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 Jan Stiegeler for sending in this photo taken during Remembrance with the Union Jack (see inside for name debate!) flying from the top of the church. 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 – DECEMBER 2025

For pub dates see p.17 and Church services p.55

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| 4th December: | Senior Citizens' Christmas Party , QMH, 12 noon. |
| 6th December: | Churchyard Clear Up , 10-12, p.3 |
| | Community Choir Concert , QMH, 5pm, p.19 |
| 7th December: | Mince pies, mulled wine & music at the Windmill , 10.30am p.35 |
| | Christingle Service in Church, 4pm, p.5 |
| 10th December: | Parish Council meeting , QMH, 6.30pm, p.10 |
| 14th December: | Mince pies, mulled wine & music at the Windmill , 10.30am p.35 |
| 17th December: | Over 50s Lunch , The G&D at 12.30, p.7 |
| 21st December: | Christmas Carol Service in Church, 4pm, p.5 |
| 24th December: | Crib Service , 3pm; Midnight Communion , 11.30pm, church, p.5 |
| 25th December: | Christmas Day Celebration with Communion, 9.30pm, p.5 |
| 1st January: | New Year's Day Concert , 11am, in church, p.5 |

Quainton News – The Parish Magazine and Village Newsletter

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